

Chapter 27

Sierra

"Can we talk?" He asked.

I nodded and crossed my arms, taking a few steps towards the table that Edward was sitting at.

"I'm sorry for how things happened today."

"You didn't seem sorry earlier." I stuck my chin out defiantly.

"Please try to understand from my point of view. You are my mate. You were missing. I found you in a f*****g field passed out with a witch standing over you surrounded by burnt grass and trees on fire. Not to mention her cryptic words, and to top it off, you have been doing this behind my back for I don't even know how long. How sorry would you have been if the roles were reversed."

"I'd be pretty upset." I sighed and hung my head.

"I don't want to lose you" he said solemnly. "I can't."

"I know," I answered. I knew he didn't want me to go, I knew he wanted to protect me. But I also knew one way or another someone was going to find me one day. And I prayed that I was the only casualty. What I wouldn't give to have a normal life, to have a chance at a life with my mate. If only.

"I want to make your dreams come true." He spoke softly.

"Edward, you know that can't happen, its not saf-"

"Stop saying that!" He snapped, making me jump, and stood to his feet. "I don't care Sierra! I cant live without you." He set the now empty bottle down on the ground, stalking towards me. I instinctively took two steps back, my back hitting the side of the house. "If I stay with you and something happens to me, that is on me. But if you reject me, I will probably die."

And if I'm not lucky enough for something as merciful as death, I will end up a mindless drunk trying to numb the constant pain that will come with losing you. And that's on you." He was in my face, only a breath away.

"Don't make this harder than it needs to be." I said with a shaky voice, tears streaming down my face.

"It doesn't need to be hard." His eyes were filled with unshed tears. "Say you'll give us a chance."

"Edward..."

"Please" His breath fanned against my face. He brought both hands up to cup my face. I grabbed hold of his arms, sparks erupting over my skin where we touched. "Give us a chance. Give me a chance." He rubbed his thumbs over my cheeks, wiping away my tears.

"I'm so tired of running." I broke down crying.

"Then stop running. Stay here, with me. I'll be by your side. I'll protect you. I'll run with you if that's what it takes." He kissed my forehead. "Please. You are everything to me."

"You are everything to me too," I said hoarsely. "I love you Edward, more than anything." I met his eyes that were filled with shock and awe at my admission. He craned his neck down, planting a kiss on my lips which I eagerly returned. It was gentile and cautious, but filled with want and need.

"Stay." He whispered between kisses. "Please."

I broke our kiss then closed my eyes and took a steadying breath. He kept rubbing his thumbs over my face while I held on to his forearms. I didn't want to leave him. If I could train hard enough, I might actually stand a chance against those who are seeking me out. We could have a life together. We could be happy.

"Please Sierra", he kept chanting.

"Okay"

Time seemed to freeze at that moment. We met each others gaze. I think we were both shell-shocked, still trying to process my answer.

"What did you just say?" He asked in disbelief.

"Okay, let's give us a chance."

Without another word, Edward crashed back into me, frantically kissing me and grabbing hold of my body like he didn't believe my answer. I hardly believed my answer, I didn't think my mind could be changed. I guess anything is possible.

"Our room, now." I said, moaning into his mouth when he bit my lip. It was clear I needed him and he needed me, kissing wasn't cutting it.

We broke apart, fumbling with the door and almost tripping up the stairs in our hurry. Edward made it to our room first, quickly ridding himself of his socks, shirt, and pants. I followed suit, discarding my shirt and peeling off my socks. I made it as far as the bed when my vision went blurry...

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We stood in a beautiful lush garden surrounded by tables and chairs with white table cloths and bouquets of blue and white flowers as the centerpieces. There was a banner that said "Congratulations Sierra and Edward"

"Happy Anniversary! Thirty years now? How have you put up with him for all these years?" An older looking Jackson asked, giving me a quick hug and patting Edward on the back before taking a seat with a group of people I didn't recognize.

"Mom, Dad, congratulations." A handsome man who looked just like Edward said, holding a little girl.

"Co-grat-lation gram and gramp!" A little boy said, giving my leg a quick hug.

"Daddy! Mom!" A beautiful woman greeted us, she looked just like me and was very pregnant looking. "Is everyone here?" She asked.

"No, still waiting for your older brothers," Edward answered.

"Ha, figures the ones that live closest are always fashionably late." She laughed and gave an eyeroll, making her way over to a table.

"What a perfect life we have." Edward said, kissing my cheek.

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My vision soon returned and I let in a sharp breath, bracing myself against the bedpost.

"Everything okay?" My mate asked.

I could feel fresh tears streaming down my face. That was definitely a vision, no doubt this time. Edward and I had a chance at a lifetime together. We had children and grandchildren. We were happy. We were safe. I looked at Edward in pure awe. We had made it. I nodded to him and closed the distance between us.

"Everything is perfect." I said, crashing my lips onto his.

"Then why are you crying?" He pulled away and wiped my tears away with his thumbs.

"It doesn't matter." I pulled him back for another desperate kiss, which he returned in favor. I pulled at the waistband of his boxers, letting them drop to the floor before shimmying out of my own pants and underwear.

Edward unhooked my bra and walked us back to the bed, the back of my knees hitting the mattress first before we climbed onto the bed together, our limbs a tangled mess. He lifted me up with one of his arms and scooted us to the middle of the bed, never breaking our kiss. I wrapped my arms and legs around him and in one fluid motion he sank himself into my soaking wet p***y, and we both let out a satisfied moan. He moved purposefully within me, pulling out slowly and then back in quickly, hitting something deep inside of me and making me breathless all at once. I wasn't sure where my body stopped and his began. It

felt as though our very souls were connected. He used one hand to support his body so as to not completely crush me, while the other gently pinched and rolled my n****e between his fingers.

"Dont stop..." I begged. I was soon reaching my climax and I could feel Edward getting harder within me, his movements becoming more erratic, our moaning desperate. I moved my hair to the side and said the words I never thought I would hear come out of my mouth. "Make me yours. Mark me."

He broke away from me, his eyes glimmering, his canines extending. He licked my marking spot, making me shiver in anticipation. The blinding pain came as soon as his teeth pierced my skin, making me cry out, but it was short-lived and replaced by pleasure soon after. I climaxed at that moment, coming harder than I ever had before. I felt delirious, like I was high on something. He retracted his canines and licked my marking spot, sealing the wound. I felt my own canines extending and seized the moment. I licked his marking spot and sank my teeth into him. I felt him tense for a second, but only for a second. Goddess, he tasted so good. He shuttered and stilled inside of me, finding his own release and filling me to the brim. I kept my teeth in him, lapping up all the blood I could. It tasted like liquid s*x. It fueled me, I wanted more.

"Sierra..." Edward said, still trying to catch his breath.

I ignored him and I sucked harder, taking more from him, humming in appreciation.

"Sierra, what are you doing..?" He started to ask.

I reluctantly pulled myself away from him and licked his wound, sealing it up with my saliva. He looked at me curiously and gently grasped my jaw, looking at my teeth intently.

"What kind of a hybrid did you say you were?" He asked carefully.

"A werewolf-witch hybrid." I answered like it was a stupid question.

"Well, you might wanna add vampire to the list," he said.

"What?!"

"Your canines, they aren't that of a werewolf. They look like a vampire's set of teeth. And since I'm feeling light-headed right now, I'd say you did more than just bit me." He laughed.

I instinctively reached for my teeth, and to my utter disbelief they weren't long or thick like a werewolf. They were sharp and thin like a vampire.

"I guess that's why you tasted so good to me." I blushed. "I wonder if my parents knew or if it was a recessive gene."

"Dr White is gonna have a field day with this." Edward laughed and carefully pulled out of me. My body immediately felt empty without him.

"Goddess finally!!" Sienna chipped in.

"Your back! What happened to you?" I asked.

"I'll get the shower ready." Edward said, giving me a smouldering kiss before hopping off the bed and heading for the bathroom in all his naked glory. His d**k was dripping from our mixed juices, I could feel myself getting ready for round two already.

"I don't know but you need to get us outside, NOW!"

"What? Why?" I stood up and headed towards the bathroom to go shower with my mate.

No sooner did I think it, I felt a wave of pain come over me, sending me crumbling to the ground. "Aaahhhh!!" I yelled out, grabbing my stomach.

"Sierra?! Whats wrong?!"

"I don't know.." I barely managed to grit out past the pain. I howled out, surprising myself. I felt my spine snapping, sending fresh waves of agony through me.

"s**t, your shifting! We need to get you outside now! Hang on!" He scooped me up into his arms and ran outside of the house in the dead of night. There was a full moon out tonight but I didn't have time to appreciate it before another bone snapped and I cried out again.

"I'm right here with you, you are doing great. Dont fight it, it will be over soon." Edward encouraged me, gently petting my hair while I laid on the grass.

It was a slow and painful process, it felt like every nerve in my body was on fire. Every crack of a bone made me practically beg for death. It felt like venom was running through my veins. The other times were never this intense. Fur started to sprout from my hands first, eventually covering my entire body.

"Almost there..." Sienna said, her voice was louder than ever before.

One final crack and the pain disappeared. Thank Goddess. I panted for air, catching my breath.

"Hey beautiful", my mate said, petting my fur. It was hard to tell the color in the moonlight, nevermind the fact that I was now in the back seat and Sienna had the reigns for the most part.

Sienna nuzzled into his touch and carefully stood us up, her legs a bit shaky. Edward shifted into his wolf form and let us lean on him for support while we learned to walk on all fours. Once Sienna had more balance, she and Edmund rubbed up against each other, scent marking one another. It was so nice to finally see Edward in his wolf form. He never shifted around me. I think he wanted to wait until I got my cast off for our wolves to meet, not knowing I couldn't shift. He spoke a lot about Edmund in our casual down time, so part of me felt like I already knew him.

We let our wolves take the lead, seeping into the deep recesses of our minds to give them their own privacy, though we still knew what was going on. They ran together, played in a stream, went hunting, and, at no surprise to me or Edward, they f****d. All. Night. Long. It was dawn when they finally started heading back home. When we could finally see the house, I felt myself being brought back forward and my bones snapping again, less painful this time, but still not easy.

"I got you." Edward said, carefully picking me up off the forest floor bridal style and walking us back home. My body ached in every sense of the word. I hoped every time wouldn't be like that. "Shifting will get easier with time." He said, as if reading my mind. I leaned my head into him and felt myself dozing off. I briefly remember us getting into the house and Edward bringing me to the bathroom where he took a washcloth and cleaned me up before tucking me into bed.

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Edward

The past twenty-four hours had been a whirlwind of a day. First I find out that Sierra is practicing magic behind my back with a witch she has never spoken about, then we fight, we make up and finally seal our mate bond, only to find out she also has some vampire genes in her, and then she shifts! Edmund was beyond over the moon, as was I. I think we were in a different galaxy at this point. Sierra never ceases to amaze me.

Sienna, her wolf, had a unique coat. It was primarily silver, but when the moonlight caught her fur it shone with an iridescent blue, pink, and purple colors. It was unlike anything I had ever seen before. Maybe it had something to do with her magic? I would have to have Dr White look into that.

I carried my mate inside and took her upstairs to sleep, but not before trying to clean her up a bit. She had twigs in her hair and was covered in dirt, leaves, and c*m. I was quite proud of the last one. Sienna was a feisty wolf, she liked to challenge Edmund. No surprise considering Sierra is of alpha descent. But Edmund liked the chase, he liked the challenge that came with taming our wild mate. Needless to say, he eventually got her to submit.

"Only took a few thrusts." Edmund snickered to himself. He was triumphantly prancing around in my head like he had just won the lottery. f**k, having Sierra was way better than the lottery.

I couldn't wait for Sierra to wake up, but she needed to rest. I remember I slept for more than a full day after my first shift. She was considered elderly for her first real, non-life threatening shift, and she stayed shifted much longer, doing much more strenuous things than I had been. She would probably be out closer to two days. I gently tucked her in, carefully climbing in behind her, spooning her, skin on skin. Direct contact should help her recover faster and feel safe. Win win. Not to mention, after having freshly marked and been marked by one another, we wolves craved being close to our mate, more than ever. It was like a drug. The possessive neediness would eventually lessen, but only slightly. The best thing for both of us right now was to be around one another. When she wakes up, I will tell her about her unique-looking wolf and her new job. Until then, I planned on blocking out the world and simply breathing in my mates' perfect apple scent.

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Chapter 28

Sierra

I stood outside of the small looking building on the edge of town, hand in hand with my mate. After my shift, I slept for two full days. My mate stayed by my side the entire time. Once I woke up, we couldn't seem to keep our hands off of each other. We learned that I am able to shift freely now, which is extremely liberating and a major confidence boost for me and my wolf. We chalked it up to having marked one another. It must have released something in my crazy-messed up hybrid body that prevented me from shifting prior.

"You don't have to do this." Edward started for the one hundredth time today.

"I want to, it's just new and new is exciting, but its also scary for me." I said, turning to face him.

"You can link me anytime or text me if you are too far. You have your phone, right? I'll be by your side in an instant." Edward reassured me.

We still didn't know the range of my linking abilities. Typically, the stronger the wolf, the further they can transmit a message. Pre-shifting, I didn't have much of a range. But now it feels different, almost limitless.

"Thank you love." I kissed him. He deepened the kiss and I followed suit for a minute before I reluctantly pulled away, knowing if I didn't I would be late for my first day.

"I'll pick you up at five."

"See you then", I waved goodbye and headed into the shop.

I walked through the front door and was pleasantly surprised at how nice it looked. I'm not sure what I expected but this wasn't it. The floors were black and white checkered tile, the walls a beautiful lavender color. There were a few small black sets of two-person tables that were made of metal with an intricate design on each. It almost looked like lace but not quite. Further in was a fully stocked pastry display case with a cash register and a counter next to it. Behind the counter there was a massive chalk board menu written in a variety of colors. The biggest lettering being "Lauren's Bake Shop".

"I'll be right with you!" A voice called from the back. I could hear some pots and pans clattering like something had just been dropped.

"I'm actually here to work?" I said tentatively, heading in the direction of the noise. "Do you need any help?" I had to stifle a laugh at the scene before me. There in the middle of the massive kitchen sat a woman around my age, surrounded by flour. It was in her hair, all over her clothes, on the ground, and in the air.

"You're the new girl?! Thank Goddess! You couldn't have come at a better time!" She exclaimed. I extended my hands and helped her up, brushing flour off of her while she talked. "I have six orders to complete by noon today and I'm dangerously behind. Can you make brownies?!" She began to pace, grabbing another bag of flour.

"Ugh, yeah." I laughed, helping her with the massive sack of flour.

"Great!" She dropped her right hand, shifting the weight of the flour, extending it to shake my hand. "I'm Lauren by the way, this is my shop. It's a pleasure to have you here."

"Nice to meet you, I'm...Sierra." I shook her hand, careful not to drop the flour, then helped her set it down on the stainless steel island in the middle of the kitchen.

"Sierra, what a beautiful name!" She said in a bubbly voice.

"Thank you." I felt uncomfortable giving my name but I was sure Lauren wasn't any trouble. Edward said this place was safe for me to work and I trusted him. Not to mention she was Ella's sister. Ella texted me and said if she caused me trouble, to let her know, which I found amusing.

"There is one other girl who works here, Nina. She is on vacation right now but will be back in two weeks. She is awesome and is usually here to keep me balanced and on task more than anything. Hopefully you don't mind taking up that torch. Ha!" She laughed.

Ella and Lauren couldn't be any different. Ella was refined and relaxed, where Lauren was a klutzy fire cracker. It was amazing she had been able to keep her father's business open and make a profit off of it the way she worked. Everything was completely disorganized. I wasn't an OCD person, but Goddess I wanted to reorganize this place from head to toe. The baked goods must be really good to have kept her afloat because it didn't look like anything else was well managed here.

Lauren basically threw me into the kitchen while she ran around like a chicken with her head cut off manning the register and taking phone orders, not to mention handling the finances in between. I asked her where a few things were but found most of what I was looking for amongst the mess. By the time lunch had rolled around, I was covered in flour myself. But I managed to complete all the orders by some miracle. None were too big of an order and most were just simple cupcakes, so I lucked out there.

"Nice work so far! Im impressed!"

"Thank you for the opportunity." I smiled at her while I washed my hands at the sink. "Hey, would you mind if I moved a few things around here? Make them a little more accessible?"

"Not at all! Have at it! There isn't much left to do today except prep a few things for tomorrow, though I usually don't get that far, so no big deal if it gets pushed." She laughed.

I envied her lack of f**k's given. I wish I could be so relaxed about everything like she was. But I lived a very different life from hers, I'm sure. We spent the rest of the day talking shop. She showed me how everything worked. I took to it quickly thankfully. Overall, I enjoyed working there. Edward did a great job picking this place out for me. I don't know what strings he had to pull to get me in here, or if it was a favor of his extended family, but I was grateful. My life was starting to turn up.

Edward

I linked Lauren throughout the day to check on Sierra. I didn't want to distract her. From the sounds of it, she was doing great. I instructed Oliver, my Delta, to keep an eye on Sierra, making sure no one suspicious came or went. I loved my mate but there was some trust we still needed to build. We may have marked one another after our fight, but that didn't mean we handled her witch situation.

Werewolves and witches typically avoid each other. We don't have a history of playing nicely together. But apparently someone in her family played more than nice with one for her to have the genes. It was a delicate situation. Part of me wanted to forbid her from interacting with witches, but on the other hand, she was one. I didn't want my mate to think I was shunning her. I loved her for who she was, race didn't matter.

Oliver was appointed as my Delta officer a few years ago after my previous Delta, Lance, stepped down. He and his mate were struggling with the time commitment that came with the position,

especially with having five pups of their own, all under the age of seven. Werewolf pregnancies were about four and a half to five months long, making it easy to have more than one pup per year. Oliver hasn't found his mate yet, nor does he have pups, so he is always readily available. He checked in with me three times today, letting me know that there was no suspicious activity. Maybe overkill, but it was the first time she wasn't stowed away at the lakehouse. She was in a public setting now. The girl who lived on her own for years was now with people. The very same girl who hangs out with witches and is being hunted down.

I didn't tell her Oliver was watching over her in my absence. I asked him to dress and act casually from a distance. He was rougher looking, having seen his fair share of battles, he had a scar over his left eye and was loaded with tattoos and shaved his head bald. I normally had him in an enforcer position or in interrogations, not 'babysitting detail' as he phrased it. He was less than happy about it, but he was protecting his future Luna. That was the most important job.

"Brother. You wanted to see me?" Jackson asked, strolling into my office.

"Yes." I felt my smile creeping up on me already. "I have some news." I pulled back the collar of my shirt, revealing my fresh marking.

"No s**t! Congratulations dude! When are you having her Luna ceremony? Ella is gonna be thrilled, the whole kingdom is actually," he said excitedly.

While Hope was well missed, a pack needed an Alpha and a Luna. Without both, the pack would suffer in one way or another. The council had pushed me to choose another suitable mate, which I was running out of excuses to give them. Thankfully, Sierra was in the picture now, but she still had no idea I was the King.

"Um..." My face fell.

"You did tell her, right?" His eyes narrowed. "Because I know you wouldn't be stupid enough to mark her without telling her that you are one of the most powerful people on the planet, who holds a lot of responsibility, that people will look up to her for direction just as much as you. And let's not mention we still don't know what happened to your late mate. Does she know the position she will be stepping into by being your mate? The expectations? The danger?" Jackson was fuming.

"I will, soon."

Jackson threw his arms up and ran his hands through his hair, obviously irritated with me. "You'd better hope it's not too late, she is a loner, Edward. You don't think she would run for the hills when she finds out? You better pray it's from your mouth and someone doesn't beat you to the punch. If she leaves, you may never find her."

"Dont you think I've thought of that?" I shot back at him.

"I'm giving you two weeks, Brother. You have two weeks to tell her or I will. You might be king, but she is our Luna and I will not stand by while you lie to her."

"Who are we lying to?" Our sister Abby said from my doorway.

"Abby," Jackson gave her a hug. "So good to have you home."

"What are you doing back so soon?" I asked, greeting her with a hug also.

"So nice to see you too, Edward." She smiled and rolled her eyes, returning my hug. "My semester finished earlier than I thought, so I decided to come back home for a visit." She pulled away but not before spotting my neck. Her eyes narrowed and she yanked my shirt back, fully revealing my marking. "Oh my goddess! You have a new mate!" She squealed. "When were you going to tell me? Who is she!?" She said as she shoved me, obviously irritated.

"It's complicated, but you will meet her soon." I said, fixing my shirt. I could hear Jackson scoff and I threw him a disapproving look. "Why don't we go see what Anita has in the kitchen and we can catch up?" I suggested, trying to take the attention off of me.

"Yes, definitely. Jackson, why don't you grab Ella too? I miss my sister-in-law."

We made our way to the kitchen and spent the better part of the afternoon catching up with one another. Abby still hadn't found her mate, although she is always saying she isn't actively searching for him, its hard to not. It's practically prograded in us werepeople to find our mates. It was nice to see my sister again. Although she knew how to dance on every nerve I had, she was my little sister who I loved dearly.

"Lauren is so funny, she is so different from Ella, I can't even!" Sierra animatedly told me every detail of her day on our drive to our date she didn't know was about to happen. She loved her job, thank Goddess. I turned in the opposite direction from home, which soon caught Sierra's attention. "Where are we going?" She asked.

"Today was your first day, I thought we could celebrate." I grabbed her hand and gave it a kiss.

"That's so sweet!" Her eyes got teary.

I pulled up in front of the botanical garden which I rented out for the night just for us. I asked Anita to prepare us a five-star dinner and from the smells of it this afternoon, she nailed it. We walked inside the glass-domed building, and immediately were met with a wall of humidity and lots of greenery.

"Wow", Sierra looked around in awe. "I have never been to one of these but have always wanted to, it's beautiful in here."

"It gets better." I said, flipping a switch, turning on all the white lights that had been perfectly placed throughout all of the plants.

Sierra gasped in amazement, her eyes hardly blinking, trying to take in the beauty before her. We walked through the entire place. Sierra carefully examined each and every plant in each of the gardens. Her favorite were the succulents. Her reasoning was because they seemed to have the least maintenance, otherwise she couldn't pick a favorite plant. She loved them all. We eventually came across our table setting in the middle of it all.

Anita made us stuffed mushrooms and cesar salads to start, filet mignon with garlic mashed potatoes and asparagus for our main course, and cheesecake for dessert. We happily inhaled our meals, talking about everything and nothing at the same time.

"I'm sorry it took me so long." Sierra apologized.

"What took you so long?" I asked.

"Accepting you as my mate. And being honest with you." She wiped her mouth with her napkin before continuing. "I'm ready to tell you everything, if you want to listen, that is," She said seriously.

"I want to hear everything you have to say, Sierra." I beckoned her to continue.

She went on to tell me about everything that has happened to her since her pack was attacked. She believed a Lycan was involved when her pack was attacked. She gave me names of the people who spent years abusing her, which I engraved in my head, promising myself to rid of them immediately after this. She told me about the group who was after her, she told me about how she received special training by a vampire, why she killed the doctor, her new teacher who just happened to be a witch, her visions. Everything. It was overwhelming, the life she had lived. I sat in stunned silence, just processing everything.

"You think I'm a freak, don't you?" She asked shyly.

"No, not at all. It's just...a lot for one person to go through. I'm sorry I wasn't there for you."

"There's nothing you could have done." She shrugged. "But thank you for being so transparent and letting me into your life so easily. It means a lot."

This was it, this was my moment. Now or never. I took a big gulp of water and cleared my throat. "Sierra, about that, there is something I wanted to talk to you about..."

"Edward, there are rogues in the kingdom." Jackson linked me.

"Where?" I asked, standing to my feet.

"Edward?" Sierra asked.

"Headed East. Border patrol is handling it but something is off about it."

"How so?"

"They aren't putting up any sort of fight, and we don't know how they got in."

"Meet me at the lake house."

"We need to go. There is a situation I need to handle. I will have Jackson stay with you in the meantime." I grabbed Sierras' arm and led her towards the exit.

"Edward, whats going on?" She asked frantically.

"Rogues."

Chapter 29

Sierra

"Rogues."

"In the kingdom?!" I asked as Edward practically dragged me to the car.

"Yes. But something is off with them. You'll be safe at the lake house, no one knows you are there." He jumped in the driver's seat after making sure I was in and fastened, taking off into the darkness laid out before us.

"I worry about you. Can't someone else go?"

"No baby, I need to go. I'll come back to you. Don't worry." He squeezed my hand.

Although his words were reassuring, he radiated fear and anxiousness. I could feel it through our mate bond. He was leaving something out. No sooner did we arrive at the house, Jackson met me at the car and escorted me to the house where he locked everything up and turned the majority of the lights off.

"Will you stop already, you're making me nervous." I huffed at Jackson, who had checked out the window for the one hundredth time in the few hours we had been here.

"Sorry, habit." He said, moving his fingers so the blinds would close.

"Shouldn't he be back by now?" I sat on the couch, my knee bouncing nervously.

"He probably won't be back until morning. I wouldn't hold your breath." He answered deadpan. My face fell at the thought. "He is just really important in all of this, so he needs to be there. It's...personal to him." He said, taking a seat across from me.

"Oh?" I c****d my head.

"Yeah. But it's his story to tell. And when he does, please be understanding. My brother is top notch, best of the best, great guy, but he can be a real i***t sometimes. Go easy on him. He only ever does what he thinks is best."

"Okay..." I answered hesitantly.

He gave me a curt nod and stood to his feet, heading back over to the blinds again. Goddess help me.

Edward

After dropping Sierra off, I drove off to where my warriors had taken down the rogues. Although a rouge vs. a lycan was an easy feat, there was something too easy about them, all of my men agreed. When I looked over the bodies, they seemed smaller and weaker than I would have expected. What bothered me most is that no one knew how they got in. After Hope was killed, I had security cameras and trip wires set up around the entire perimeter of the kingdom's pack borders, along with doubling down on the number of patrollers. Everything came up blank.

"I don't like this." I said, thinking out loud. I used my foot to flip over one of the dead bodies. Goddess, they smelled like rotting flesh.

"King Edward, do you think it was an inside job?" William asked.

"I don't know. If it is, we just need to find the culprit. If it's not, we have bigger problems on our hands." I sighed.

It was just past four in the morning when I finally returned to the lakehouse. Jackson was still standing guard, but my mate was asleep wrapped in a fuzzy blanket on the couch.

"I let her know you were safe and on your way back. She just drifted off half an hour ago," Jackson said.

I grunted in acknowledgement and carefully lifted her from the couch, tucking her into our bed, before returning downstairs to Jackson. I ran my fingers through my hair before diving into details about tonight's attack with him.

"You think it's the same people who came for Hope?" Jackson asked.

"I can't say for certain, but the people who came for Hope got in and out without a trace and so did these rogues."

"Witches?"

"I wouldn't doubt it. They are our natural enemy. And they are more than capable of creating their freaky portals."

"You think Sierra can do that?" He put his hands in his pockets and flicked his head in the direction of our bedroom.

"Make portals? Goddess, I have no idea. I'm not ever sure I want her practicing magic. It's dangerous."

"If she could learn, maybe she could help. Maybe she could see if that Adaline witch knows anything."

"I don't want her involved with any of this. It's my job to keep her safe and that is what I'm going to do." I shot him a look.

"You might not have a choice, brother. We've gone years without even a scrap of information. Now, the very first day your mate goes out into public by herself, rogues are on our land?"

"You think someone is watching us?"

"You don't?" He scoffed.

The idea was unsettling. I hate to admit it, but he was right. Why else would rogues come now?

"Goddess, my head has been cloudy since she came into my life." I sighed.

"That's why I'm here. I've got your back." He placed his hand on my shoulder. "But you need to talk to your mate. Have the hard conversation. Tell her who you are so she can understand the dangers and you can find a solution together."

I sighed and nodded in agreement.

"On that note, I have a very worried mate of my own I should be getting home to." Jackson said, heading for the door.

"Give her my regards." I shot back, as he continued on his way, waiving his hand in acknowledgment.

I took a quick shower in the downstairs bathroom so I wouldn't wake Sierra, washing away the awful lingering stench of rotting flesh, then headed up to bed. Slowly, I climbed into bed and wrapped my arm around her middle, pulling her close to me.

"I was worried about you." She mumbled.

"I'm fine. Go back to sleep, my love."

She flipped positions, now facing me, then wrapped her arms around me and tucked her head under my chin. She kissed my chest and tangled her legs up with mine before her breathing evened out again, telling me she was fast asleep. Exhaustion and frustration took over and I eventually drifted into a restless sleep.

My eyes slowly cracked open, finally accepting that it was time to get up. A ray of sunshine had been peeking through the blinds, blinding me for the better part of the morning. I yawned and stretched, reaching out towards my mate. When I didn't feel a body, only cold sheets, I looked over to see the bed was empty. She must be downstairs.

My morning wood was straining painfully against the sheets. I know someone who could help fix that. "Sierra?" I called out. No answer. I reluctantly got out of bed, threw on a pair of sweatpants, and headed downstairs. The lights were off, the house dark and empty feeling. "Sierra?" I fruitlessly called out again. My eyes settled on a pink sticky note lying on top of a plate of blueberry muffins covered in saran wrap.

Good morning handsome,

I made you blueberry muffins for breakfast. I didn't want to wake you this morning, so I walked to work. I get out at three. I will see you later...hopefully naked ;)

I love you,

Sierra

She f*****g walked to work!? Is she crazy!? We literally just had rogues in the kingdom and she is f*****g walking by herself! My eyes snapped over to the coffee pot where the time was displayed. 1:37pm. f**k! She left hours ago!

"Sierra! Where are you?" I linked, not bothering to hide my irritation. "Lauren! Is Sierra with you?" I linked not a moment later, trying not to sound as panicked as I was.

"At work, everything okay?" Sierra answered tentatively.

"She is with me at the shop, she is doing great." Lauren answered just as quickly.

Thank Goddess. I let out a breath I didn't know I was holding. Refusing to waste anymore time, I ran upstairs and quickly got dressed, grabbed my keys, and headed out the door. The drive over felt much longer than it probably actually was. Edmund and I were both on edge. I haphazardly parked in a handicap parking space, leaving the engine running while I headed inside.

"Sierra?" I called out.

"Alpha, what a nice surprise! Sierra asked if she could leave early after you linked her. You probably just missed her." Lauren said.

I growled in frustration, heading back out the way I came. I floored it and headed back home, searching for Sierra on the way. When I arrived back at the house, I could just see her shutting the back door and lights being turned on. Thank f*****g Goddess. I slammed the car door shut and made a beeline for the house. My blood was boiling by the time I reached the back door, whipping it open so hard the door almost came off the hinges.

"Hey babe-" Sierra started to greet me, her face falling when she looked at me.

"What were you thinking!" I yelled, grabbing her upper arms.

"I don't understand-" Fear in her voice.

"We were just attacked last night and you thought it was a good idea to go out by yourself!"

"I didn't want to wake you.." Her eyes welled up with tears.

"Do you have any idea how worried I was?!"

"I'm sorry..." She stammered

"You are not to leave this house alone ever again!" I released her from my grasp and stormed outside. I needed to let my wolf out before I completely lost all control. I ran out the back door and shifted, letting Edmund take us deep into the woods.

Sierra

What the f**k just happened? Was that really real? I ran to the bathroom, slamming the door behind me. Finally, alone, I let my tears fall freely. I don't know if I was more upset or enraged at my mate. How dare he speak to me like that! I am a grown woman who can make her own decisions! I weighed the risks, I decided it was safe enough for me to go out. For him to come in here like a mad man was absolutely uncalled for.

"Let me out" Sienna growled.

I looked in the mirror and saw my eyes glowing red. Yeah, I needed to burn off some steam. Without another thought, I took off out of the house, shifting mid-air. The second Sienna's paws hit the ground, she broke out into a full-blown sprint. I watched from the backseat as Sienna practically flew through the forest, breaking through tree limbs and bushes as she went. I'm pretty sure she almost ran down a deer along the way too. She was f*****g pissed, and she was on a mission. It didn't take very long for me to figure out her motive. I knew it the moment I smelled him. He may have walked away but she was not letting the argument end there.

I could see Edmund looking up at the last minute before Sienna came barreling into him, sending them both tumbling into the stream he was drinking from. They climbed out of the water, both snarling and baring their teeth, circling one another ready to fight. This didn't seem good.

"Sienna, shift us back, I got this." She hesitated but obeyed, letting me take the reign. I shifted back to human form, standing stark naked in the middle of the forest. Edward followed suite, looking just as pissed as me.

"What are you-"

"No! Its my turn to talk!" I yelled. "You have no right to treat me, your mate, like you just did back there. Your behavior was completely unacceptable and I will not tolerate it."

"You could have been killed!"

"But I wasn't! I wasn't Edward! If you really thought it was that unsafe out here you should have made it more clear to me. And secondly, I'm a f*****g Alpha female hybrid for Goddess's sake! I lived on my own just fine for years! I am completely capable and I will not let you keep me locked up because you are afraid."

We stood only a matter of millimeters away from each other, our breath visible from the dropping temperatures closer to the mountain where we happened to meet.

"I can't lose you," he said darkly.

"You wont." I hissed back. "I will always come back to you Edward."

We both breathed heavily, our anger still pliable. I shoved his chest, pushing him back into a tree, my lips crashing into his, taking him by surprise. He recovered quickly, his arms gripping my hips roughly, pulling me flush to him. "I still don't want you going out alone."

"I'm not asking your permission." I pushed him down onto the ground, his c**k already hard and ready. I mounted him, aggressively riding his member. "I am your equal Edward."

He flipped us around, setting me on my hands and knees before entering me from behind in one swift thrust. "I never said you weren't", he said, pounding into me, his thrusts just as erratic as mine. His hand came around my neck, applying just the right amount of pressure, pulling me back up towards him. "You mean too much to me, you are too important for me to loose."

"I'm not as fragile as you take me for."

"I don't think your'e fragile" He thrust harder, making me cry out in pleasure. "Our enemies aren't either though."

We finished our angry-aggressive-kinda-sorta-makeup-sex, finding our much needed releases. "Lets finish this at home." He said just before shifting. We trotted alongside each other, listening to the sounds of the forest as we went. Edmund and Sienna seemed to be on better terms, nipping and licking at one another on the way home.

As soon as we got home, we headed to the bathroom to wash off all the dirt that stuck to our skin. We stood in the shower in silence together, our pouting continuing.

"I'm sorry for how I acted. But I meant what I said. I don't want you going out alone."

"I'm not going to let anything or anyone hold me back anymore, Edward. I have been running for too long. I will be smart about my safety, it will all be within reason though."

He hesitated but nodded in agreement and pulled me in for a hug, which I gratefully returned.

"Are we good?" I asked.

"Yeah," he said, his chin resting on my head. "We're good."

Chapter 30

Sierra

"So, tell me about your new job." Ella said, planting herself down on one of the barstools at the kitchen island, digging through a few bags she had brought.

Between work and the rogue attack that happened, Ella and I didn't have a chance to see each other, just the two of us at least. Today it just so happened that we were both off but our mates were otherwise busy.

"Well, I have been there two weeks tomorrow and it's amazing! I love your sister! She is so much fun! And I enjoy the work too!" I smiled happily.

"That's wonderful! I'm glad you like it there." She answered. "Personally, I don't think I could work with my sister." She snorted and we laughed again. "I brought Chinese again if you are hungry." She slid me a container across the table.

"Starving! Chicken and broccoli?" I asked excitedly.

"Ugh, duh." Ella laughed.

I cracked open my container and dug my fork into the still hot food. My nose caught a whiff of the aroma and scrunched up in protest, stopping me dead in my tracks.

"Something wrong?" Ella said before taking another bite of her meal.

"Does this smell funny to you?" I shoved my container her way.

"Smells fine to me." She shrugged.

My stomach growled, demanding to be fed. Reluctantly, I started eating my meal.

"So how are you and Edward doing? Jackson told me you two marked each other and you got your wolf." Her eyes wiggled suggestively.

"Mhm" I hummed while I slowly chewed my food. I pulled back the collar of my shirt to reveal his markings.

"Wow! Its huge! Actually, it looks like it covers the old one you had." Ella came closer to take a look.

"It does actually. We didn't plan it either. It just happened that way. I noticed it a few days later when I looked in the mirror," I said after finally swallowing my first bite.

"That's amazing! And you think marking each other triggered your shift?" Ella said, going back to her food.

"It's the only thing I can think of. Why else would I have shifted then and not sooner, ya know?" I could feel my stomach turning in a bad way.

"I remember my first shift, Goddess, it hurt." She rolled her eyes and shuddered at the thought.

"Its no joke." I tried to take another bite of food when a wave of nausea took over me.

"Are you okay?"

"Yes...no. I think I'm going to be sick." I stood from my seat and ran to the bathroom, just barely making it to the toilet before emptying the contents of my stomach into the porcelain bowl.

"Sierra!" Ella called after me. She came up behind me and held my hair back while I continued to vomit.

"I'm so sorry." I said between gasps, trying to settle myself down.

"Its okay. Get it all out."

"Ugh." I moaned, sitting back onto the edge of the bathtub. "I think the Chinese food was bad."

"I ate the same food and I'm fine." Ella said while handing me a wet washcloth.

"Maybe I have the flu? I have been feeling sick all week."

"All week?" Ella questioned.

"Yeah, why?"

"Werewolves don't get sick, not at your age at least. Its very rare. You don't think your..."

"I'm what?"

"Pregnant?"

"Ha! Not a chance."

"So you and Edward are having safe s*x? You're using protection?" Ella pushed.

"Well, no. But I haven't had a heat cycle either."

"Sierra, I think you should get checked out. You are a hybrid and you literally just shifted after your mate marked you, things seem to work differently with you."

"I mean, I guess it wouldn't hurt to go. Figure out why I'm feeling sick anyway." I said, taking a steadying breath.

"I'll set you up an appointment. Tomorrow morning okay for you?"

"Yeah, Laurne and I have a slow day tomorrow. I'm sure she'll be okay if I come in late."

"Okay, I'll call Edward and let him know."

"No! Please don't. He has had a lot on his plate lately and I don't want to worry him over what could be a stupid summer cold."

"Alright..." She answered hesitantly. "You should tell him though."

"I will when I know what this is." I said, gesturing to myself.

"Claire?" The same nurse from my last visit called my name from her laptop.

I stood from my chair in the waiting room and made my way over to her. She led me down to the same room I had been in every time so far. I felt like I knew the place like the back of my hand now. She took my weight and blood pressure in the room then sat down and began typing on her laptop.

"So our surgical nurse Ella tells me you haven't been feeling well? Care to elaborate?"

"I've been feeling really nauseous lately and even threw up yesterday and this morning."

"Any chance you could be pregnant?"

"I mean, I'm not technically having safe s*x, but I have never had a heat cycle, so..."

"Okay, I'll need a urine sample. There is a bathroom just across the hall. Here is a cup. You can leave it on the sink when you are done. Then, if you could please change into the gown on the counter over there, nothing from the waist down. The doctor will be in with you shortly." She smiled warmly and left the room.

I felt awkward leaving a cup of pee in the bathroom, even more awkward waiting for the doctor to come in while I was half naked. I know last time he wanted to check me and I refused. I guess I wasn't avoiding it this time.

"Claire?" Dr White knocked at the door before entering.

"Yes" I answered instinctively.

"Good morning, how are we today?" He said, putting his laptop down and digging into a few drawers, pulling out random items.

"Could be better." I laughed nervously.

"Vomiting, nausea, any other symptoms? Tender breasts? Mood swings? Increased s*x drive?"

I thought back to the past two weeks. Edward and I couldn't keep our hands off each other, even when we were angry with each other. My breasts were sore, but it could just be from all of our shenanigans. Mood swings? I did find myself tearing up more often, even from a few movies we were watching, which was very unlike me. "Um, yeah actually."

"And you also told my nurse you never had a heat cycle? It might look different for you since you weren't shifted at the time and also are a hybrid. Any cramps, bleeding, body aches, hot flashes?"

"Hot flashes? I did have them for like a solid week once."

"When was that?"

"Three, maybe four weeks ago?"

A quick knock at the door sounded, making me jump slightly.

"Pardon me." Dr White excused himself for a moment, sticking his head out the door to speak with someone. "Your'e sure?" I heard him whisper. "Okay, thank you Judy."

I looked at him expectantly, completely unprepared for the words that were about to come out of his mouth.

"It appears congratulations are in order, your pregnancy test came back positive."

I blinked a few times, my jaw bobbing, not knowing how to find words. Finally, I snapped out of it and said the only thing I could think of. "Excuse me?"

"You are going to have a baby." He smiled.

"That's impossible..." I said, still in shock.

"I'll prove it. Heels in the stirrups, and scoot down to the edge please." I immediately obeyed, feeling as though I was on auto pilot. He grabbed the same ultrasound wand as last time, though this time around it seemed much less daunting. "Deep breath in, and exhale." On my exhale he quickly inserted the device, his monitor coming to life. It looked like static on a TV screen. "Where are you..?" He said to himself, adjusting the angle of the wand. It took him a minute but he eventually found what he was looking for. "Ah-ha! There you are." He smiled victoriously and turned his monitor to face me more. "See this little blurb? That's your baby."

I stared in shock and awe, completely taken back by the little blurb on the screen. My heart almost exploded when he turned the sound on and I could hear my pups' heartbeat. I'm going to be a mom? I'm going to be a mom! Oh Goddess, how would I keep my pup safe? What were we going to do? Would there be a we? Did Edward even want pups? Did he want them with me? How was I going to tell him?

"There seems to be a lot of extra fluid, now it's nothing to worry about, but I would like to keep an eye on it." He said while handing me pictures of my pup.

"Uh-hu." I half answered, completely mesmerized by the pictures.

"Your pregnancy is going to be at higher risk with you being a hybrid, and having a lycan as your mate, but you should deliver in about four months, which falls right around the winter solstice. Wouldn't that be an interesting delivery date?"

"Four months?" My jaw dropped. That was no time at all.

"Yes, I would like to see you every two weeks. Make sure mom is healthy and your pup is growing big and strong. No drugs or alcohol during pregnancy, no deli meat either. No heavy lifting or straining." He removed the wand and packed up his things. "Any questions?" I shook my head no and he congratulated me again before leaving the room. The entire visit felt like a blur, like I was watching from the outside.

"I can't wait to meet you." I said, still staring at my pictures and rubbing my belly. I only hoped I could keep my pup safe. That's all that mattered now.

I got dressed and walked out of the clinic, headed back to Lauren's catering to help with orders. If Edward knew I was walking alone right now, especially knowing I was pregnant, he would probably kill me. He was still on edge about me going out, but trusted me enough to make decent decisions. Maybe it was my own paranoia now that I was responsible for the tiny life inside of me, but I felt on edge, like I was being watched. I couldn't get to work fast enough.

"Sierra! So glad you are here!" Lauren greeted me.

"Hey, happy to be here."

"Appointment go okay?" She asked.

"Oh, yeah, I'm great." I smiled.

"Great! Would you mind manning the register today? I have a lot of paperwork to sort through in the back and can't deal with distractions, my head will pop right off!" She laughed.

"Absolutely." I grabbed my apron she had made with my name printed on it and began wiping down tables and throwing on a fresh pot of coffee.

It was half an hour before the first few people came trickling in. They grabbed coffee and a pastry and went on their way. Nothing overly exciting, though I had my fill of excitement for one day. I rounded the corner and took my pups' pictures out of my pocket and looked them over again when I heard the door open.

"This is the place?" A snotty voice asked as she and another entered the cafe part of the building.

"Yes! Its the best!" A cheery voice answered.

I carefully put the pictures back in my pocket and made a beeline for the register. "Hi! Anything I can get for you ladies?" I asked.

"Hi! Yes, I want one of the cookies and also a vanilla cupcake and a brownie please! Oh and a large coffee!" The shorter, nicer Lycan woman answered. She had green eyes and beautiful golden blond hair. Her face was familiar looking, but I couldn't quite place it.

"You got it! And for you?" I asked the mean-looking one. She was on the taller side, taller than me and with the body of a model. But her face was so pissed looking. Like she hated being here. She wore a lot of makeup, highlighting her beautiful brown eyes. Her hair was long and lush looking. I secretly wished mine looked that good.

"Bottled water." She turned on one of her sharp-looking high heels and sat at one of the little tables.

"Okay." I gave a curt nod and began filling the orders. The happy one paid and I helped her carry her treats over to their table. "If you need anything, just let me know!" I smiled.

The mean one rolled her eyes and flipped her hair, ignoring me.

"Heidi, be nice." The happy one snapped. "Sorry about her, she hasn't gotten any in a while." She winked at me, her friend's mouth hanging open in shock.

"It's fine, I'll leave you both to it." I returned to my post behind the register and started to tidy up the spilled sugar and droplets of coffee that escaped me in my hustle, secretly listening to their conversation. It was a small place after all, its not like there was much privacy.

"So you haven't seen him in months?" The happy woman asked.

"No, he totally shut us down without any reason as to why. He ignored all my calls and when I asked him about it, he yelled at me and told me to leave. Word has it he hasn't even been sleeping at the palace either," Heidi said.

"That seems unlike him." Her friend said, taking a sip of her coffee.

"I don't know what's gotten into him, but when I find out, I'm putting an end to it."

"Well, I'm not supposed to say anything, but between me and you, he has a new mate." Her friend said quietly with a mouth full of food.

"What?!" Heidi exclaimed. "Who is she?!"

"I don't know, he hasn't told me. But whoever my brother took as a mate, she must be someone important. He is the king after all. And after Hope, I never thought he would pick another." She swallowed her mouthful.

Ha! I knew my vision was right! The king did find another mate!

"No one did." Heidi agreed angrily.

"And on that subject...I have a surprise birthday to plan." She got up from the table and made her way back over to me. "Can I actually place an order for two weeks from now?"

"Of course! What can I get for you?"

"I need a birthday cake fit for a king. Price is not an object." She smiled.

"Absolutely. How many people?"

"Ten-ish. I always add extra, just in case." The happy woman smiled.

"You got it. Any other deserts?"

"Ooo! Yes! Everything!" She lit up. "And actually, are you able to put photos on cake?"

"We sure can! I'll just need a hard copy of the picture."

"Let me grab it! I'm Abby, by the way, it's nice to meet you!" She ran to her purse she left at the table.

"Abby?" I said more to myself. It can't be.

"Here it is! It's an older photo, but one of my favorites." She said to both me and Heidi.

"Which one is it?" Heidi asked, walking over to us.

"Edward, Jackson and I at the lakehouse, well before Edward became King, when life was a lot simpler."

"Awe. How nice." Heidi said, less than impressed.

Abby handed me the photo, my stomach dropping the second my eyes laid on it. It was him. At the lakehouse, the one I have been staying at for almost two months now. This was his sister. And if my hearing serves me right, my mate, Edward, was the Northern King.

"These are your brothers?" I asked, praying that I was wrong. I could feel a lump in my throat forming.

"Yup!"

"And this one here" I pointed to a younger version of Edward. "He is the Northern King?"

"What, do you live under a rock?" Heidi scoffed.

"Yeah, that is my brother, King Edward." Abby answered sweetly.

I felt tears immediately run down my face, he lied to me. And worse, I was stupid enough to believe him! It all makes so much sense now. Why he would evade some of my questions, why he hardly ever talked about work, why he was so over-protective, the secretive linking between him and Jackson and Ella. He was the King. Which meant I would be his Queen. I can't be the f*****g Queen! I'm not cut out to be a Luna! To be a role model to thousands, to have the power to make big changes. And apparently he didn't want me to be Queen or he would have told me who he was from the start. And he already had a mate! Goddess, he already had a mate!! I was just his sloppy seconds apparently. I didn't mean anything to him. He already had it all. Except an heir, which, of course, I'm currently pregnant with!

"Hey, are you okay?" Abby asked. "You look a little pale."

Just as the words left her mouth, the door opened, revealing the devil himself with a bouquet of flowers. He smiled at me, but it soon fell when he saw me crying and his sister and her friend standing before me.

"Hey big brother!" Abby said.

"King Edward," Heidi greeted formally, only adding flue to the fire burning within.

I shook my head and ran to the back, going directly to the emergency exit. I needed to get out of here. I briefly heard my name being called but ignored it and broke out into a run.

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Chapter 31

Edward

I stared at my desk trying to will myself to do work. My wolf was agitated and I didn't know why. Sierra was acting a bit odd this morning, but if I'm being honest, she had been odd all week. Her moods were up and down, maybe she was going to go into heat soon. Maybe freeing her wolf caused a flood of hormones to be released. If it continued, I would see if she would be willing to see the doctor about it. For now, it was nothing major enough to worry about.

Jackson and I had finally finished reading through every single report my father had, creating a mountain of work for ourselves, and still not having any answers as to who might be after Sierra. There were so many things that needed my attention but Edmund and I couldn't get our mind off of our mate.

I decided now was as good of a time as any to look into Sierra's old pack. Silver Moon pack. Alpha Carl. I pulled out their information and everything I found was a red flag. Their financial reports, their pack numbers, all missing information and inaccurate to what I had in my file. Something was definitely amiss with this pack. Not very surprising considering what Sierra has told me. Not to mention they are near the southern border. The Southern King, King Bruno, did things much differently in his sector. I don't know how he has gotten away with it for all these years. The council should have rid of him a while ago. There have been more allegations of underground trafficking. It was disturbing. Anyone who sought refuge from him was welcome here. King Bruno's son should be taking the title in the next decade or so. If he willingly steps down, that is. That can't come fast enough. If her old pack was on the border, it wouldn't surprise me if some of King Bruno's toxic lifestyle seeped through to the Silver Moon pack.

I composed a formal summoning of the Silver Moon Pack to come to the kingdom for vetting. They were towards the bottom of my shortening list. I had gone through most of the packs in the kingdom over these past six years but there were still a few dozen more to do. Why not move them up? I sent the letter with my personal seal on it expecting to see them in a few weeks. That was one thing off my list.

"King Edward?" Oliver linked me.

"Yes?"

"I wanted to inform you that Sierra left the bakery almost immediately after you dropped her off this morning. I followed her and she went to the hospital. She was there for about an hour. Then she walked back to the bakery. Nothing else out of the ordinary."

"Thank you."

She went to the hospital? By herself? Why? Always more secrets with her. Goddess help me! I ran my hands through my hair, irritation and worry running through me. I looked at my phone, it was almost lunch time. I think I'll pay my mate a visit. If she was sick she shouldn't be working. Maybe I can convince her to leave. I didn't like her there anyway, not with the sudden rogue attack. I packed up my desk and made my way to the bakery, but not before picking up a bouquet of roses on the way. I wanted to come in peace, hoping that she would tell me on her own about her excursion this morning.

Nothing could have prepared me for the s**t show I walked into. My crying mate, my sister, and my ex hook up all together in one place.

"Hey big brother!" Abby said cheerfully. s**t.

"King Edward," Heidi greeted formally, as I had ordered her to. Double s**t.

The moment my eyes landed on Sierra, I could see hurt and anger in her eyes. She ran to the back, obviously upset. She knew. She f*****g knew. And it wasn't because I told her. f**k. I should have listened to Jackson.

"Sierra, wait!" I called and went after her, ignoring a very confused-looking Abby and Heidi.

"Edward, who is that?" Abby asked.

"Not now, Abby," I said.

"Sierra? Where are you going?" Lauren called out through the back door. Triple s**t.

"She knows." I said and scooted past Lauren, heading out the door after my mate.

"Oh dear..."

"Edward?"

I could hear voices behind me but ignored them, breaking out into a sprint to catch up to my mate who had gone quite a far distance in a short time. "Sierra stop, I can explain!" I yelled, gaining on her. She ignored me and continued to run. I was only a few feet from her now, my Alpha Lycan speed no match for her, even as a hybrid alpha herself. "Stop, please" I begged, my hand just barley touching her shoulder when she stopped dead in her tracks and turned to face me. I narrowly missed the punch to the face, ducking at the last second. She was pissed. I couldn't blame her.

"Leave me alone!" She screamed, red-faced and teary-eyed. My wolf howled in despair at our mates' anger towards us.

"I'm sorry I didn't tell you! I didn't know if you were really my mate at first and then I just-"

"You just what? Forgot to tell me? All the opportunities you had and I find out from your sister and ex-lover?" Her eyes began to glow red.

"I'm so sorry, please forgive me." I reached out to her but she turned and walked away. "I meant to tell you."

"But you didn't! You marked me without telling me who you really were, Edward! I'm obviously not that important to you for you to leave out such a major detail!" She yelled and continued to walk away with determined steps.

"You are everything to me!" I yelled back.

"Goodby Edward." She dismissed me.

"You cant go!"

"Watch me." Her voice was filled with venom.

"Its dangerous out there!"

"Not as much as it is here apparently! It might have been good to know that your previous mate was mysteriously killed! Here I was thinking I held all the baggage!" She laughed sarcastically.

"I order you to stop!" I regretted the words the moment they left my mouth.

She finally stopped and turned. "You order me? Ha! Nice try, now its my turn. I, Sierra Wilson, of the Clear Waters pack reject-" Before she could finish her rejection, a rogue came out of no where sprinting her way, teeth gnashing. She turned to look behind her, her eyes going wide when the rogue lept in the air, aiming for her neck.

"Get down!" I yelled, shielding her with my body, taking us both to the ground, narrowly missing the filthy animal. We scrambled to our feet, looking around to see a group of at least thirty rogues surrounding us seconds later. "Stay behind me." I yelled. We stood back to back, the multitude of rogue wolves closing in on us.

"Edward, they are everywhere..." Sierra said, her voice trembling.

"I know. It's gonna be okay." I knew I would be able to take them all down on my own. The problem was keeping them away from Sierra. I could only handle so many at once. Maybe I could keep five at bay, but that left Sierra open to the rest.

"I have an idea, but you need to trust me."

"What?" I could hear her reciting something in a language I didn't recognize. I looked over my shoulder to see Sierra's hands glowing purple. "What are you doing?!"

"Trust me." She turned around and kissed me hard, taking me by surprise, and then she shoved me. I landed hard on my ass. When I looked around, I saw myself inside the lake house, a portal connecting us.

"Sierra!" I scrambled to my feet.

"Im sorry. Goodbye Edward." She said sadly and closed the portal, leaving me in the lakehouse while she faced thirty rogues on her own.

"All warriors are to head to the west of Laurens bakery immediately. Rogues!" I linked to my warriors, frantically running through the house to get outside. I shifted midstride and bolted to my mate. I could only hope I wasn't too late.

I raced to the battlefield, ignoring the links that came in from my warriors. I had to get there. I just had to get there. I pushed myself harder than ever before. I arrived at where we had been, my eyes bugging out of my head at the sight.

"Alpha!"

"King Edward!"

"What the f**k happened?"

My warriors started to appear from all directions, taking in the m*****e in front of us. I shifted back and frantically searched through the sea of dead bodies, hoping that none of them were my mate.

"Sierra!" I called out in vain.

"Brother! What happened?" Jackson said as he ran to my side.

"I-I don't...I can't...She isn't here" I stuttered.

"Did she do this?" Jackson asked, kicking one of the dead bodies.

"I think so."

"Our Luna is a f*****g beast."

He wasn't wrong. I looked over the dead bodies, each was sliced perfectly in half. The vertical cut showed signs of burns. Whatever she did, the rogues didn't last a second. Although I was pissed beyond reason that she pushed me away to face thirty f*****g rogues, she may have saved my life. I

don't think I would have held up very well from whatever witchcraft she used. But the question still remained: where was my mate? I wasn't ready to give up on us yet and it was obvious that there were still some very real threats out there.

"Send search parties out. Sierra is missing."

"Missing or left?" Jackson asked sadly. "Lauren told Ella what happened earlier and Ella filled me in."

"She wasn't supposed to find out that way." I rubbed my hands over my face in exasperation.

"But she did. And now you're gonna have to fight like hell to find her and get her back. I don't envy you, Brother."

Sierra

I knew the only way we would make it out alive would be if I used my magic. Even if he was a king, he was only one person. There was no way we would be able to kill them all and keep me and himself scratch free. I gave him a final goodbye kiss before pushing him through the portal I had made, leading directly into our bedroom. I wish I hadn't seen the look on his face but I couldn't dwell on it. I had to keep our pup safe. Goddess, I hope I did this right. I only ever practiced on plants and shrubs.

Praying that my memory served me properly, I recited the weapon incantation, pushing my energy outward towards the rogue wolves. I felt a warm heat rushing through me, bursting out in purple rays that sliced through every single rogue surrounding me. I dropped to the ground in exhaustion, feeling very satisfied at my work.

"Not bad, but your form needs improvement." Adaline said, appearing in front of me.

"Of course you knew I would be here." I huffed out, still catching my breath. "Are you going to teach me now?"

"Yes, it is time. Come." She extended her hand and helped me up before opening a portal and guiding me through.

"What is this place?" I looked around, we were in a long hallway that seemed to stretch on forever. There had to be hundreds of doors. The floors were black carpet with matching black walls with purple trim accents. The doors were all a matching gold color, making it impossible to tell them apart.

"It is my coven." She led me down the hallway, passing door after door.

"Your coven?"

"To put it bluntly, it's a pack for witches. Some of us live here, others only come to practice their magic. You will be permitted to stay for three months. Then you must go."

"What happens in three months?" I asked.

"If I told you, it would change the course."

"Where are we exactly?"

"Believe it or not, we are not far from your mate's home. About a mile outside the kingdom's border."

"That's it?" I asked in disbelief.

"We have several entry points around the world, or we can come and go through portals. You will be safe here for the time being. You will have your own room. There are also a multitude of rooms for you to practice your talents in."

"I don't know what my talents are."

"Which is why we are stopping here first." She stopped at one of the cookie-cutter-looking doors and opened it, letting me go through first. "There are many different talents. This room will test your abilities and give you new insights as to what you are truly capable of. There are teachers readily available for your use and a library as well once we know what your strengths and weaknesses are."

"Wow." The room took my breath away. It was unlike anything I had ever seen before. It, like the hallway, was all black. Everywhere I looked, there were orbs suspended in the air. They each glowed, some more than others. Some not at all.

"I will be behind that door on the far side of the room. Grab as many or as few orbs that call out to you. Take your time. When you are done, bring them back to me." She said and glided across the room, closing the door behind her.

As soon as the door shut, I turned my attention back to the room. I counted at least twenty different floating orbs. I hesitantly approached the brightest glowing one. I reached out and grabbed it. The moment contact was made, it transformed into a bloodstone rock in the shape of a heart. I was secretly glad I paid attention to Cyrus's lessons on rocks, especially since the next one was also a rock, this time a jade stone in the shape of a leaf. The last orb was a lapis lazuli in the shape of an eye. They were all perfectly polished and smooth and fit perfectly in my hands.

When I got to the back room, another woman had joined her. She looked just as flawless as Adaline but she was wearing a light blue dress.

"Sierra, allow me to introduce one of our sisters, Gwendolyn. She will read your stones and decipher your talents." Adaline said.

"Nice to meet you." I gave her a curt nod. "Here ya go." There was an old wooden table in the smaller room where we were now in. Carefully, I set the stones down before both women.

They both gasped, seeming fearful of the stones. "Everything okay?" I asked.

"You're positive these are the stones that called out to you? They weren't just random picks" Gwendolyn asked.

"Yeah, I mean they were the only three that were glowing, so, yeah." I shrugged.

"I told you she was the one," Adaline cut in.

"Do you know how dangerous it was bringing her here!?" Gwendolyn whisper-yelled to Adaline, as if I wasn't standing right there.

"I have seen it, sister. Of course I know. But the girl needs to have some proper training, otherwise she won't stand a chance!" Adaline hissed back.

"What do these mean exactly?" I interrupted their feud, hoping to break the tension.

"Each stone represents a different talent. The eye indicates you have the ability to have visions. That could mean the past, future, or both. The lapis lazuli is a powerful stone, said to give wisdom and truth, meaning your visions will more than likely be completely accurate to what has or what will happen."

"We will train you to see what you are capable of." Adaline cut in, gaining a deathglare from Gwendolyn.

"The leaf, a good indicator that you are able to manipulate the elements. Which ones and to what degree, we don't know. Training will determine that. Jade stones are meant for balance and harmony, as well as healing. If Adaline is correct in her visions, you will bring balance to this world."

"If she is correct?" My brows furrowed.

"My visions are subject to peoples choices. I can see potentially thousands of alternatives. With you I only see two."

"Which are?"

"Life and death." Adaline reluctantly answered.

"The last one," Gwendolyn cut in, "the heart. Representing the fragileness of life. The bloodstone represents a courageous spirit. Warriors and soldiers would carry them to battle, because of its reputation for working on the circulatory system, strengthening your veins, toning your heart, and fortifying the blood." Gwendolyn said while looking over the stone.

"Its also great for fertility, balancing hormones and averting miscarriages." Adaline added.

"Oh good, I think I'll hold onto that." I said, taking the stone off the table. "Gonna need it to grow this Alpha Lycan pup."

"You're pregnant?! She's pregnant?! Did you know this?" Gwendolyn hissed, her head snapping between me and Adaline and my stomach.

"I may have seen it as a potential outcome," Adaline shrugged.

"I just found out this morning, actually," I said.

"If you'll excuse me, I need to go meditate." Gwendolyn got up from the table and left the room, mumbling angrily to herself.

"So now what happens?" I looked at Adaline expectantly.

"Now, we train."

Chapter 32

Sierra

"This is your room where you will be staying." Adaline said, opening another cookie-cutter-looking door.

Inside was another equally gorgeous looking room. Dark oak wood floors, pale green walls, brown leather furniture. It was an open-concept mini-apartment. The door leading in was deceiving. I thought I was going to be in a shoebox. My room was easily three times the size it should have been given how close the other doors were to each other. There was a small kitchen, a bathroom, a living room, and a bedroom with just enough space for myself and maybe one other person to live comfortably.

"This place is beautiful." I said, walking inside.

"If there is anything you need, just ask. Take tonight to get settled in and tomorrow we will start your training." Adaline said from the doorway.

"Thank you, I really appreciate you letting me live here."

"Dont thank me. It's only for a time, you will eventually return to your lover."

"But-" I began to protest.

"Goodnight." Adaline said, ignoring me and shutting the door behind her.

I stood in stunned silence in the middle of my new, apparently temporary, home. I would eventually have to go back? I loved Edward, even if the mate bond wasn't there, I would still love him. His personality and character were exactly what I wanted in a mate. But that didn't change the fact that I couldn't be his mate. I couldn't be queen, a Luna, to hundreds of thousands of wolves across the north. I wasn't cut out for that. And let's not forget the fact that Edwards' first mate was murdered and I was basically a rogue being hunted. Yeah, that is exactly who should be running the show.

"The moon Goddess doesn't make mistakes." Sienna chimed in.

"Oh, how nice to hear from you." I said with an eye roll. Sienna had been unusually quiet since the incident in the forest with me almost blowing us up. I had a feeling it was because of that, it was my fault for not taking the warnings seriously.

"Mate needs us. We need our mate. Pup needs both of you." She added.

Shit. I never told Edward I was pregnant. But why would I have remembered? I just found out and then I was about to reject him. Having a pup wasn't going to change that. Even if it was the next heir to the throne. s**t. I just ran away with the heir to the throne. Oh Goddess how do I keep getting myself into such a mess!

"You love mate. Nothing else matters."

"He lied to me." I yelled.

"Only because he knew you would flip. And he was right."

"Shut up."

As much as I hated it, my wolf did make some valid points. But between everything that had happened between us, the rogue attacks, my own anger, and raging pregnancy hormones, I wasn't ready to go back. I wanted to learn what I could here. I needed to, apparently. I'm pretty sure it's not often that a witch lets a wolf into their home. Hybrid or not, supernatural creatures were very distrusting of other races. Most thought humans were scum, witches were liars, vampires were the devil, wolves were filthy mindless animals, the list goes on and on. I refused to waste the opportunity.

I went to the kitchen hoping there was something to eat. I was famished. After digging through a few cupboards and the refrigerator, I found all the ingredients to make chicken parmisean, which didn't make me sick, thank Goddess. I took a long hot shower before bed, letting the steam relax my tense muscles. In the bedroom I found a wardrobe filled with a variety of clothes, all iridescent looking. They were beautiful. I slipped on a blue pair of pajamas and turned in for the night, hoping that tomorrow would be a better day.

The next day, Adaline came to my room bright and early to start my training. She explained to me that this was an elite coven that only took the best of the best. So for someone like me who knew nothing, this was a high honor. It also meant I would have to catch up on all the basics while also learning advanced spells.

The first thing she taught me though was how to tell the rooms apart. There was a spell cast on the entire coven to make everything look alike. If anyone ever got in, they couldn't tell anything apart and would have less of a chance of taking something valuable. All I had to do was cast a seeing spell over myself. Once I did, the doors all looked differently and there were even a third fewer of them. Each door had a sign on it, letting you know exactly what it was for.

The first place we went was the library, filled with thousands of books, though Adaline said I only needed the one she gave me, which she left back in my room this morning. She also taught me the spell to be able to read the book without needing to decode it, saving me tons of time. The next room we went to was the gardens where daily yoga and meditation classes would be held. I wasn't expected to attend, but it was highly recommended to connect with my spiritual side where my magic resided. After that, there was a private room, cluttered with everything you would imagine a witch would have in their home, where Adaline said she would meet me to teach me the basics, casting spells, brewing potions, palm reading, etc.

"Over here are our training rooms. Since you have three talents, you will have three separate rooms. Each is designed to help you master your talent. It will show you your strengths and weaknesses. Each person who enters has a different experience, even if the talents are the same."

"That's amazing. Who designed this?"

"Someone far older and wiser." She smiled for the first time. She opened the door closest to us. "This is the training room for seers. You will focus mainly on your visions. You want them to last long enough to gather information, you want clear images, loud voices. Sister Valerie will help teach you." She approached a short witch with silver hair and hazel eyes.

"Nice to meet you, I'm Sierra." I shook her hand.

"I know." She smiled warmly.

"Oh, right. Because of the visions." I blushed.

"I would like to see you daily for training. Your visions might just save your life." She said sternly, sitting cross-legged on one of a few available white-colored woven mats on the floor. There were no tables or chairs in the entire room, which was also completely white. Not a single thing in the room was any other color or shade, just white.

"She will be back to see you once our tour is over, sister." Adaline cut in.

"Perfect." I said, shifting uncomfortably. The room and Sister Valerie were intense to be around. It was almost overwhelming.

We left the room and headed a few doors down to my next training room. This one was for manipulating elements.

"This room can be a bit intense, fair warning."

"And the white room wasn't?" I laughed uncomfortably.

She gave a pitying smile before opening the door and guiding us inside. To my amazement, it was a lush forest, just like back at home. I was awestruck.

"Its beautiful..."

"This room goes for miles. So be warned, don't go further than you can handle. It has every type of landscape you can imagine."

"Got it." I said, traveling deeper in.

"Sister Helena will be your teacher."

"Where is she?"

"Somewhere deep inside, fret not, she will find you when the time is right. Now, onto the last room." She led the way out. "This room will be the most important to your learning. Dont take it for granted, spend as much time learning here as you can." She said, standing outside of the door.

"Okay." I nodded eagerly.

"I cannot follow you in. This room you will have to use on your own."

"Who is my teacher?"

"You are your own teacher. Only you can master this particular talent. You are the first in over a thousand years to possess the abilities that have been gifted to you."

"So how will I know if I'm doing it right?"

"Trust your instincts. And head inside."

I looked at her suspiciously before opening the door and stepping inside.

"Oh my Goddess, it's my old bedroom." I said, running my hand over one of the many soft stuffed animals that once cluttered my bed. Everything was exactly where I left it, down to the dirty laundry on the floor and hairbrush filled with hair.

"Why would this room look like that?" Sienna asked.

"I have no idea..."

I walked through my old bedroom, picking up old photos and keepsakes I had scattered throughout the pink and purple themed room. I felt myself tearing up, I needed to leave.

"Okay, let's go." I said, stepping outside.

"Alright then." Adaline nodded, ignoring my freshly fallen tears and leading me back to my room. "Let's have some lunch and then you can begin your training."

I nodded, grateful that she didn't ask what the last room was. I didn't know what kind of lesson I needed to learn, but I had a feeling it wasn't going to be easy.

Edward

I looked everywhere. I sent out search parties, I called the other kings, and even consulted a witch for help, every which way I turned up came up dry. It's been two weeks since Sierra left and I was beside myself. Edmund missed our mate too, but something about him was off. He was almost relaxed, like he knew something I didn't. I could only hope she wasn't in any danger.

"Edward, Dr White is here to see you." Jackson linked me.

Dr. White? What was he doing here? "Send him up." I made a futile attempt to clean my office so Dr White would have a place to sit amongst the mess. I had every one of my father's reports out, going through them all for a third and fourth time praying that there was some hidden clue we had missed.

A swift knock at the door caught my attention, I dropped my papers and opened my office door.

"Dr. White, you wanted to see me?"

"Yes, I have Sierra's lab results. I wanted to go over them with her but she missed her appointment. She doesn't have an address or phone number listed but she does have you as her emergency contact. Do you know where I might find her?"

"Lab results? For what?" I snapped.

"She didn't tell you?" He turned pale.

"She has been missing for two weeks!" I ran my hands through my hair, frustrated at all of this. It wasn't his fault, he didn't know she was missing. I only told my most trusted warriors and even with them I left out big pieces of information. Very few knew the importance she was to me. Most who knew probably thought she was in trouble with the king. None questioned me.

"Oh dear..."

I sighed, getting more agitated as time passed. "Come in, sit, you can review her labs with me." I said, moving to my desk.

"Maybe you should find her and speak with her first..." Dr White said uncomfortably, but still came in and sat down. He knew how this was going to go.

"Out with it." I barked.

"Yes, well then, her labs look good. The results do show her hybrid nature, but everything seems to be working cohesively. Iron levels are a little low, as to be expected. I wanted to start her on these." He said, holding up a pill bottle.

"What is that?" I asked, narrowing my eyes.

"Well, your majesty, its um...a prenatal vitamin." He handed me the bottle.

"Prenatal vitamin? Why would she-"

Dr White's face said it all.

"She's pregnant?!"

Sierra was pregnant?! That would mean I was going to be a dad? It was always a dream of mine, as well as an expectation from the kingdom. While I would normally be overjoyed at the news, the fact that my mate was missing killed the happy moment. I wondered if it was a boy or a girl? Traditionally, boys were born to alphas first, but Sierra was the first born to her alpha father. Would I ever get the chance to meet my pup? What if Sierra never comes back? What if I never find her? Will I ever see them again?

"Yes." He nodded. "I'm sorry this is how you are finding out. She is due in December, about four months from now, give or take, given her hybrid nature. She had some extra fluid which I wanted to check up on as well. It's probably nothing."

"Thank you for telling me. Will that be all?" My hands clenched together into fists, the knuckles turning white, trying to contain my anger.

"Yes, King Edward," he said, and all but ran out of my office.

"Mate is carrying our pup!?" Edmund said excitedly, sitting up tall and proud in my head.

"I guess so. Now if we could just find her."

"Mate was mad at us."

"I am well aware." I rolled my eyes.

"We need to find her." He huffed.

"I'm trying."

Sierra.

"Like this?" I said, placing my hands on the smooth crystal ball.

"Good, now focus on what you want to see." Adaline instructed.

It's been two weeks since I came to Adaline's coven and I have learned so much in such a short period of time. I was awestruck by the magnitude of power I possessed and never even knew it. I only ever scratched the surface of what I was capable of. I focused my thoughts, pushing my energy outwards to connect with the crystal ball. Inside the crystal, it began to swirl and colors and shapes started to take form.

"Very good. Keep it going." Adaline instructed.

The harder I concentrated, the better the picture came through. Soon I was looking at my mate, he was sitting in a room I didn't recognize, running his hands through his already tousled hair. There was a desk and a mountain of paperwork. This must be his office at the palace. My heart broke, seeing him and not being able to go to him. I missed him so much. I felt like part of me was withering away without him.

"Am I able to go see him?" I looked at Adaline, my crystal ball fading back to normal.

"No, you may not leave. Not yet. Its too dangerous.." She sighed, seeming at war with herself. "But you can write him."

"Yeah?" I smiled. Beggars can't be choosers.

Adaline got up from the table in our private training room and went over to the large wooden desk where we practiced making potions and special teas. She dug through one of the drawers and eventually pulled out paper, envelopes, and a pen.

"Letters?" I asked

"Not just any letters. You write your message, seal it in the envelope. You address it specifically where you want it to go and that is where it will appear. On top of my desk in the study of my house. In my sister's mailbox on the side of her house. On my mate's bed in the palace. You get the idea." She winked. "I'll leave you to it. Good work today, we will pick things back up where we left off tomorrow."

"Thank you Adaline." I smiled before grabbing the papers and taking off to my room.

Chapter 33

Edward

I sat in bed in the lakehouse finishing up some work on my laptop. Today had dragged on and I was missing my mate. Being wrapped in the sheets that still smelled like her helped, but I don't know how long I could go on like this. I was a f*****g Alpha, I should be stronger than this. But Goddess, I missed her.

I hit send on my email to Alpha Carl who, so conveniently, was out of the country and 'wouldnt be able to come to the kingdom for the next few months'. Coward. I sent scouts there and they confirmed that Alpha Carl was still very much present. But they also suspected something bigger, which they didn't know, but from what Sierra told me, they had involved themselves with some dangerous people. I decided to play dumb, hoping that the i***t would fall right into my trap and I could see what he was really involved in. I changed gears and invited him to dinner at the palace, alone with all the other 'exceptional' Alphas. It took less than five minutes for a reply to come through that he had accepted. I scheduled it for several months from now, keeping the facade that I believed him when he said he was out of town.

With that off my plate, I burrowed deeper into the sheets, hoping tonight I could finally get a decent night's rest. I pulled the blankets closer, a crinkling noise following the movement. Odd. I felt around and tangled in the sheets was an envelope with my name on it. I was sure I went through all my mail already. I tore into it, and out fell a note, an envelope, and a single dried daisy.

Edward,

Hi, its me, Sierra. I wanted to let you know that I am safe. I hope you aren't too upset with me. I have a lot to say but not sure how to say it, so I'll start with the day I left. I knew the only way for us to make it out of there injury free was if I took you out of the equation. I'm almost positive the blast would have killed you just as it did the rogues. I know that must have driven you crazy, and probably made you worry sick, but I was completely unharmed. Almost immediately after, Adaline showed up and told me it was time to go. I do truly believe I can trust her, so I went with her to her coven. It's not too far from the palace, though I'm not entirely sure where it is just yet. I'm not allowed to leave until my training is complete, which should be in a few months apparently. I have learned so much so far, I have only scratched the surface of what I am capable of. Now I feel like I could stand a chance against my adversaries. And yours too.

I'm still in shock that you are the king. I don't know if I fit into your world. I'm not even sure you want me to anymore. I will eventually return and I hope we can sit down together and talk. There is one other thing I need to tell you. I hate that I am telling you this way and not in person. The day I left, that morning, I went to a doctor's appointment. I had been feeling nauseous all week and thought I should get checked out. I didn't think it was anything, but boy was I wrong. It didn't take long for Dr

White to diagnose my symptoms. He had me take a pregnancy test and it came back positive. I'm pregnant, we are pregnant. If we are even a we anymore. I am due in December. I'm guessing it's a boy. Adaline assured me that my pregnancy would go full-term. She said she has seen it, though she won't tell me any details about my labor. I don't know if that's a good or bad thing.

I hope this letter hasn't been too overwhelming. I know it's a lot. I will see you soon.

Until then,

Sierra.

P.S. If you would like to write back to me, simply write a note and place it in the envelope enclosed inside. Once you seal it, it will come directly to me. Witches aren't so bad after all ;)

I had a mix of emotions rushing through me; relief, anger, joy, hope. Thank Goddess she was okay and didn't seem so pissed at me anymore. Although I didn't like her staying at a coven, it might just be the safer option at the moment. Hopefully, we can work things out and she will agree to become my Luna and Queen. For now, at least I can breathe a little easier. I held her letter close to me, I could faintly smell apples on it. My mate. I looked over the extra envelope. Written on it was "To the top of my mate Sierra's desk in her room at the coven." Witches were so odd.

I got out of bed and headed downstairs, looking for a pen. Eventually, I found a junk drawer full of pens in the kitchen. I sat down at the dining room table and began writing.

Dear Sierra,

I am overjoyed to hear from you. I am so happy that you are alright and over the moon that we are going to be parents soon. You are going to be a perfect mom to our little pup. I know we have a lot to discuss, but I want you to know I still want you in my life. I miss you more than anything and look forward to your return. I love you. I think you will make an excellent Luna and Queen. Not only is it your birthright to be in a position of power, but you have such a compassionate heart, it's exactly what we need in our Luna. I hope you will at least consider it.

I am working on eradicating Alpha Carl. I looked into his pack and there are so many discrepancies, it's not even funny. I am truly sorry I let you down all those years ago. When I became King, I took an oath to protect all those in the North. Everyone within my borders was promised safety and I failed you. I promise we will get to the bottom of all of this. We will stop them from treating anyone else like they did you. I will make it my personal mission.

I am anxiously awaiting your return. Until then,

Edward

Not a moment after I sealed the envelope, it disappeared before my very eyes. So weird. I got up and headed outside to let Edmund run, a new fire burning within me. Nothing was going to stop me.

Sierra

I returned from training to find a note on my desk from Edward that made me cry. We still had a chance. The more I learned in my vision class, the more I realized just how true mine were, I didn't have a doubt in my mind that Edward and I would live a long happy life together. We just had to get past all the junk first.

All of my classes were going exceptionally well, all except one, that is. I didn't know what lesson I was supposed to be teaching myself in my childhood bedroom. I spent the most time there, per Adaline's instructions, coming up fruitless each time. It was just my bedroom. There was nothing special about it. In my vision class, the entire room would change and reflect my visions across the walls, like a giant TV. It was easy to focus on making improving my visions much easier. In my element classes I was moving earth and water, even wind as of lately. Adaline was teaching me all the basics and I flourished, but every single time I went into my childhood room, nothing happened. I tried meditating, I tried casting spells, I even moved the furniture, only to find it back where it belonged in the next session. Maybe tomorrow will be better.

"I need help!" I practically growled, beyond frustrated that I still couldn't figure out what I was supposed to learn from my old bedroom.

"I told you, this is something you must do on your own." Adaline said calmly, sipping a cup of tea.

I have been at the coven for just over three months. My due date was fast approaching, a few weeks to a month at best before I delivered. My stomach was absolutely huge and I was starting to feel

uncomfortable from all the changes happening. And I still couldn't figure out the stupid f*****g room!

"Thats all you keep saying!"

She sighed and put her cup down. "If I told you the answer you would never learn. Go back when you have a clear head." She dismissed me.

I angrily waddled back to my room, slamming the door behind me. I needed chocolate. An hour later, I was sitting in the bathtub working on my second full chocolate bar, finally starting to relax.

"We needed this." I said to Sienna.

"I cant wait to run again." She said.

"After we deliver you can run all you want." I said, finishing off the chocolate bar.

I put my hand over my ever growing belly, feeling my pup moving around. Goddess, he kicked like no tomorrow. I picked up my book off the top of the toilet seat and flipped back to where I had left off. I read through the book Adaline had given me so many times I thought I was going to go crazy, so I stopped at the library and began reading everything I could on hybrids. What their strengths were, their weaknesses, and everything in between. The current book I am in was written by Sister Olag many centuries ago. She also had visions, accurate ones like me. It was interesting reading her work and comparing it to what we know of today. She spoke of wars and famines, kings and rulers, all of which are known in our world today. It was amazing.

Chapter 33 - The Great War.

Dear reader,

Today I had another vision, this one the most unsettling of them all. I have had my fair share of negative visions, but this one takes the cake. I was standing in the garden when it came upon me, nearly knocking me on my rear end! War was upon us. Every race was involved; witches, wolves, vampires, humans, fairies, even the merpeople. No one left unscathed. The hope of the world rested on one woman's shoulders. A hybrid. She would bring balance to the world, but it came at a price. Years would pass before there was finally order. Her children would go on to rule in the kingdom, keeping the balance she fought for.

I closed the book, an uneasy feeling settling over me. Just because I was a hybrid didn't mean it was me she was referring to. There were plenty of other female hybrids, I'm sure. But how many had a king as their mate? Feeling more frustrated and anxious than before, I got out of the tub and dried off. I caught myself in the mirror, my stomach was huge and I still had time to get bigger. Delivery is gonna be real fun, not.

I got into my pajamas and snuggled into bed, back to wondering what that room could mean. After tossing and turning for far too long, I decided to write Edward. We had been writing to each other regularly, slowly building back trust. Linking each other wasn't an option from the coven. I grabbed a pen, paper, and a stack of envelopes and got to work. Thankfully, my mate was up and restless just like me. We exchanged a few letters before I finally brought up what was bothering me most tonight.

I just cant figure it out! It's my old bedroom, that's it. Nothing special happens, not like the other rooms. I have tried using my magic and meditating and rearranging and nothing works! I don't think I'll be here much longer and Adaline made it abundantly clear that this is the most important room.

He responded a few minutes later, a letter popping up on my desk.

It's the room with the heart shaped stone? The bloodstone? The other two rooms are represented by the stones, an eye for visions, a leaf for nature, a heart for healing? Maybe it's not physical healing, like what you said Gewndolyn told you about warriors in battle. Maybe it's meant for emotional healing.

I read his letter, then reread it three more times before jumping out of my seat and heading straight to my training room, pajamas and all at almost three in the morning. The halls were eerily quiet. Quietly, I opened the door to my old bedroom. I climbed up onto the bed, sitting cross-legged. Emotional healing. It had to be the answer. Looking at my nightstand, I found a picture of my family and grabbed onto it, thinking about the last day I saw them. I tried to forget about that day, to shove it down somewhere deep where it wouldn't hurt me. I closed my eyes and began to focus on that day.

I remember being scared. I remember smelling smoke and hearing screams in the distance. I remember my mom pushing me away and chasing after my brother. I remember running. And I remember the anger that followed. For so many years I wished it had been me that was killed and not them. Why didn't I just follow my mom? Instead I was a coward. But why didn't she follow me? Seth chose his fate. Where was my father? Why didn't he leave with us? My veins started to turn red, my eyes also, seen from the mirror across the room.

"It doesn't matter," Sienna said.

Tears streamed down my face. "It matters to me!" I yelled back to her.

"Forgive yourself. Forgive them."

"I can't.." I cried, all the anger and pain rising to the surface.

"You have to. It wasn't your fault or theirs, you all responded differently to a horrible situation. You were only a child. Forgive."

I rubbed my thumb over the photo, my hands trembling. "I forgive them, I forgive me." An overwhelming feeling washed over my body, it felt warm and comforting. I looked in the mirror and my veins were glowing purple, my eyes as well. I felt in control. A click caught my attention, my head snapping to see what it was from. To my delight, my bedroom door, which was once locked, was open. Edward was right.

I all but lept off the bed, grabbing the door handle and swinging it wide open. I stepped through it, and looked around. This isn't my house anymore. Where was I? I could hear yelling and followed the sound. When I turned the corner, I knew exactly where I was. Luna Tammy stood over me. It was the first time I had gotten in any real trouble at the pack house. She was yelling and ordered one of the warriors to take me to get three marks. It was as if I was watching a movie but in real life. People walked past me and through me, I was basically a ghost in a past moment of time. How odd. Tonight was going to be a long night.

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Chapter 34

Sierra

Everything in me screamed for rest, but I wasn't giving up. I had relived just about every horrible moment of my life. I wasn't sure how long I had been in this training room, but I wasn't going to stop until I was done, which I guessed would be soon, since I had just relived my spat with Edward just moments before Adaline came to bring me here. I had to be near the end.

I walked through another doorway, bracing myself for what would come next. When I looked around, my breath was taken away. It looked like I was in a galaxy, the room was black with stars and planets and even a milkyway that illuminated the room. It was breathtaking.

"My child, you have made it." An ominous voice called to me.

"Who are you? Where are you?" I asked while looking around, memorized by the beauty before me.

"Your Luna." She said, a bright light appearing and blinding me. I could just barley make out her figure, she was a wolf....that would mean....

"Moon Goddess?" I questioned.

"Yes child." She said warmly.

Speechless, I quickly bowed as best I could with my growing belly.

"Stand dear child. You have come a long way," she noted.

I stood up straight, daring to look directly at her. "Am I dead?" I asked. No one ever met the Mood Goddess.

"No" She laughed softly. "I have great things in store for you, but it wont come easy." She sighed.

"What things?" I asked.

"Everything in your life has brought you to this moment. You will live a wonderful life, as you yourself have seen, but I must first use you to better the world. You are my chosen."

"What must I do?" I practically begged for information.

"Trust me." Her voice echoed.

The room began to spin and I slammed my eyes shut. When I opened them, I was back on my bed in my childhood bedroom. Woah. Goosebumps came over my arms and legs, making me shiver. I needed to tell Adaline. I finally figured it out. I got up from bed and left the training room, almost getting run down by several sisters on the way. What was going on? I hardly made it to my room without being trampled, finding Adaline waiting inside.

"There you are!" She exclaimed, relief and worry etched in her face.

"I figured it out!" I said excitedly.

"As I knew you would. But we must go, it is time." She said, handing me a bag and pushing me further into the room, all the way into the bathroom, then shutting the door behind us.

"Where are we going? What's happening?" I asked, feeling uneasy.

"Our coven is under attack. You must go." She said, opening a portal. "This is where we say our goodbyes."

"What?" I said. She pushed me through the portal. I could hear a loud commotion coming from my room.

"It has been a pleasure knowing you." She said, looking over her shoulder.

"Will I ever see you again?" I asked frantically.

"I'm afraid not." She smiled sadly. "You will do great things." She began closing the portal. I could see the bathroom door being flung open and a man in a black cloak entering with a knife in hand. Adaline turned to face him but she was too late. He immediately plunged the knife into her heart, ending her life.

"Adaline!" I screamed in horror. Her lifeless body fell to the floor, the portal shimmering about to disappear.

"I'll see you soon, Sierra." The cloaked man said wickedly, the portal closing a second later.

I took a few quick steps back, my foot catching on a root and sending me landing on my ass. I looked around, not knowing where I was. At a quick glance, I could see I was at the edge of a forest. Behind me was what looked to be a beautiful garden. Deciding to pick the safer looking of the two, I got up and headed towards the garden. There were many beautiful plants and perfectly trimmed tall bushes, not to mention a massive fountain in the center that I could just see over the bushes. A winding stone path made its way through the entire garden. I guess it was time to follow the stone slate road. It was dark outside but I could still make out the path with my werewolf eyesight.

Taking the bag Adaline gave me, I slung it over my shoulder and made my way through the garden. It took a few minutes, the path taking me every which way. It eventually spit me out at the back of a massive building. I practically broke my neck looking at the tall structure before me.

"Hey you!" Someone yelled. I looked to see a man in a uniform jogging my way. "You shouldn't be out here. No one is permitted on palace grounds without prior approval." He looked like a young wolf, probably just finished warrior school. He had short blond hair and was about six feet tall but his face still looked a little pudgy, giving away his age.

"This is the palace?" I asked, looking over the stone walls. His hyped up demeanor didn't phase me one bit, which seemed to irritate him even more.

"Who are you?" His eyes narrowed.

"Claire," I answered absentmindedly. Still not knowing who to trust.

"What's in your bag, Claire?" He eyed me suspiciously, trying to intimidate me.

"Honestly, I have no idea," I said bluntly, taking the bag off my shoulder and opening it. The very first thing either of us saw was a crystal ball. s**t.

"You're a witch! You're coming with me!" He cuffed my hands with silver, the metal biting into my wrists, then grabbed my arm harshly, dragging me along. "King Edward will be very upset when he sees you here, you'd better pray for mercy." He said in a cocky tone. If only he knew.

"It would be wise of you to uncuff me and loosen your grip. You wouldn't want to leave a mark on a pregnant woman." I said deadpan, trying to act relaxed while my feet struggled to keep up with him because of the height difference.

"Shut your mouth!" He yelled.

Soon enough, I was being escorted in through the massive front doors. There were guards posted on either side. Many Lycans bustled about the palace. Platters of food were being moved about. I'm assuming from the kitchen to the dining room.

"What perfect timing! He can make an example out of you in front of the council. Dinner and a show!" He laughed.

"The council?" I asked. Ignoring me, he took a few sharp turns leading me in the direction of where the food was being taken. I could hear Edwards' voice getting louder the closer we got. My heart began to race in anticipation. The guard stopped outside the door, whispering to another guard who quietly entered the dining room. I listened the best I could, the voices slightly muffled.

"It is time you take a chosen mate, Edward," one voice said.

"Its not healthy for your kingdom to be without a Luna for this long." Another reiterated,

"We have made a list of suitable prospects for you, King Edward." A woman said. "You have thirty days to choose one and make her Queen and Luna."

"I have an announcement actually, I have found my second chance mate." His voice echoed, it dripped power and authority. The room grew quiet but only for a moment before more questions came hammering in.

"Well then, where is she?"

"Why weren't we informed?"

"When is her Luna ceremony?"

"Can I help you?" Edward asked. He must be speaking to the guard. "Bring her in." He huffed in annoyance.

"Show time." The guard said to me, smiling wickedly.

"I hope you brought extra underwear." I said.

"What? Why?" He snapped.

"Because you're about to s**t yourself." I smiled back.

He snorted and dragged me inside. My eyes searched the room for my mate. It only took me but a second to find him among the crowd. His expression changed from stoic to shocked and relieved to angry in mere seconds.

"King Edward, I found this witch in the gardens." He said smugly.

"Unchain her immediately!" He growled, making his way to me.

"But I-" The guard began.

"Do you have any idea who this is?!" He snapped.

"No I-" The guard stuttered and fumbled with the keys.

"Go easy on him, he is only doing his job." I said, staring into my mate's vibrant green eyes. Goddess, I missed those eyes. I rubbed my wrists when the cuffs were finally off, my wrists burning from the silver eating away at my skin. Edward pulled me into his embrace and took a deep breath. I did the same, getting lost in his scent.

"Council, I would like you to meet my mate, Sierra," he announced.

I looked behind my shoulder at the guard who looked like he wanted to throw up and gave him a quick wink. "Luna! I beg for your forgiveness!" He said, dropping to his knees.

"We will discuss your fate later, Matthew." Edward practically spat.

"Its very nice to meet you." One of the councilmen said, "But why are we just finding out about this now when you have clearly marked each other?"

"Is the pup yours?" Another asked Edward, staring at my swollen stomach. Everyone's eyes shot to me, looking for answers.

"Its his." I said defensively.

"Edward, this is not how things are run. Why hasn't she been made Luna yet?"

"Is she even fit to rule?"

"She smells different, is she truly a witch like your guard said?"

The questions came flying in. I could feel my face getting redder by the second.

"Council, if you would please allow my mate and I a moment alone, I will be happy to answer your questions in an orderly fashion in a few minutes." He said, excusing us from the room. He led us down a hallway and into a small coat room, flicking on a light. "Goddess I missed you." His lips crashed into mine, devouring me.

"I missed you too," I said, trying to break our kiss and come up for air. "We have a lot to talk about."

He rested his forehead against mine, his hands rubbing up and down my shoulders. "Yeah, we do." He sighed.

"Let's start with the most pressing matter. Who were those people in there? Why do they want you to take a chosen Luna?" I almost growled.

"They are the council, they keep us kings in line according to their guidelines. There are eight of them. All as old as dirt. They have been bothering me about picking a chosen mate a year after Hope had been killed. I have managed to get by for the past five years but they sprung this meeting on me today. If I don't choose a Luna in thirty days, they will either choose for me or give my throne to another." He said, his hands resting on my belly. "You look really good pregnant." He said, his eyes pitch black.

"So what, if I don't become your Luna and Queen they will find a replacement or kick you out?" I questioned.

"Yeah." He sighed. His eyes closed. "Sorry to put you on the spot."

Talk about a rock and a hard place. I never wanted to be Luna or Queen. I had made that abundantly clear. But the thought of someone else with Edward made me furious. Or taking his title away? How was that fair? He was an excellent leader! Could I be a Luna to the kingdom? Could I be the Queen of the Northern territories?

"Whatever you decide, I will support you." Edward said, as if reading my mind.

If the past three months of training had shown me anything, it was that I was capable of more than I ever thought possible. I have been through hell and back on a number of occasions, I have survived abuse and came back stronger, I am beyond powerful, and the Moon Goddess has a purpose for me. I just need to trust her. She wouldn't have given me an Alpha Lycan King as a mate if she didn't think I could handle it.

"I guess I'm going to be Queen then." I said, a smile creeping over me.

"Wait, really?" Edward said excitedly, breaking away from me to look at my face. I nodded with a big smile plastered across my face. "Thank Goddess!" He picked me up and spun me around, careful of

my bump. We broke out in a fit of laughter, peppering each other with kisses, our hands wandering, things were starting to get heated.

"Lets not keep your fun guests waiting any longer." I reluctantly broke away from him. "We can finish this later."

He growled but eventually agreed. "Fine. But I'm holding you to it."

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"Thank you all for patiently waiting," Edward said, pulling a chair out for me and then sitting down next to me at the head of the table. "Please allow me to introduce you all to my second change mate, Sierra. Sierra, this is the council, Howard, Leslie, George, Robert, Josiah, Chester, Frederick, and Aurthur. My mate will be made Luna and Queen. We will have her ceremony in six months, giving her some time to acclimate to her new role."

"Unacceptable," Councilman Howard interjected.

"Councilman Howard, what might be the problem?" Edward asked politely, though I could feel his anger rising in our mate bond.

"Is it not staring you in the face?" He pointed to my stomach. "She must be made Luna before she delivers."

"Agreed." The rest of the council answered collectively.

"That only gives us a few weeks to prepare," Edward said sternly.

"Then you had better get to it then. We will not hesitate to choose another should you fail to complete the task." Councilman Aurthur said.

"I guess we'd better pick a date." I said to Edward. He was fuming. I didn't blame him. I don't know how much power these council members hold, but it must be something great to be able to command a king to do something. Although being made Luna in a few weeks scared the crap out of me, I wasn't going to let my fear cost Edward his title.

"The winter solstice. As long as you aren't in labor, that is." Councilwoman Leslie said, eyeing me up. "It is a rare occasion after all that someone, a king at that, finds their second chance mate. It deserves a date with just as much importance."

"I'll see that its done." Edward gave her a curt nod. "Now why don't we finish dinner?"

"There is still a matter to discuss. Sierra, the guard said you were a witch. Is this true?" Councilman Fredrick asked.

"Yes, I am a hybrid. My dominant race is that of a werewolf, but I am also part witch and vampire." I answered as confidently as I could.

"The legend could come true...." George muttered to himself.

The council exchanged glances between one another, making me feel even more uneasy. "What legend?" I asked.

"Its nothing you need to worry about. Unless you have twin boys, of course." Chester laughed uneasily. "You're not carrying twins, right?"

"No, not that I'm aware of." I blushed and laughed. "I'm not even sure about the gender just yet."

"Oh it must be a boy," Leslie jumped in.

"Not necessarily. Sierra was first born to an Alpha. She is a twin," Edward shared.

An uneasy silence fell over the room. Great, just when things were finally starting to lighten up.

"Leave it to you to kill the mood." Sienna snorted.

The rest of dinner was filled with light conversation or dead silence besides the occasional clatter of silverware against plates. Everyone was avoiding the elephant in the room that happened to be me. Many of the council refused to make eye contact with me and the few who did looked at me like I

were a God in the flesh. I, however, studied every one of their features. They were all much older wolves, probably over one hundred years old but no more than one hundred twenty. They still had some good years in them. Howard was bald and had a big long nose and many wrinkles next to his eyes. He looked the oldest. Leslie had long silver hair, it was put into a French braid over her shoulder, she was delicate looking. George was a short round werewolf, something I had never seen before among our species. Robert was just the opposite, tall and thin with a slight hunch in his back, probably from trying to talk to George all these years, ha! Josiah had fiery red hair that made it hard to look away. Chester and Frederick aged like fine wine, they were both very attractive even in their old age. Arthur made me uneasy. Something about him struck me the wrong way. He had a look in his eye that made me uncomfortable.

When dinner was finally over, the council immediately left, but not before reiterating that they would see us at the ceremony on the winter solstice, which was only weeks away and also happened to be my due date. Goddess help me.

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Chapter 35

Edward

What a f*****g night! As if the unexpected visit from the council wasn't bad enough, my guard drags my very pregnant mate into the meeting in silver handcuffs, announcing that she is a witch. I was absolutely overjoyed to see my mate, though it concerned me how she got here and if she was okay. But I couldn't ask that, not with all the eyes and ears. I didn't trust the council as far as I could throw them. They have been in power for far too long if you asked me. They spoke of a legend. I will need to look into that more later. But first and most importantly, I needed my mate.

"I missed you." I said when we were finally alone in the dining hall.

"Mmm, I missed you more." She said, snuggling into me, her belly creating a space between us.

"We have a lot to discuss, but I think it can all wait until tomorrow. What do you say?" I asked, wrapping my arms around her.

"Tomorrow is perfect." She spoke into my chest, her voice muffled.

"How about a bath and bed?" I asked.

"Yes please." She purred.

"Right this way." I took her hand and led her to the elevator that went to my floor.

"Its beautiful here." She said, admiring the palace as we walked through.

"You can change anything you'd like. I'll give you my card." I said, pressing the button to my floor.

"Thats not necessary" She frowned.

"As the furute Luna you are in charge of decorating how you see fit."

"We can discuss it more tomorrow." She said.

We rode in silence, listening to the hum of the elevator. Enjoying being next to each other.

"Mate is home!" Edmund exclaimed, practically running circles in my head.

"Mate is home."

"Sorry it's a bit of a mess." I started to apologize, already knowing I had neglected to take care of basic cleaning since Sierra had left.

"Nothing to be sorry for." She said, exiting the elevator and heading inside. "Its beautiful." She smiled softly. "Fit for a king."

"There are two bathrooms, one in the master bedroom and the other down the hall." I pointed, grabbing laundry off the living room floor as I went.

"Can you show me where the bed is? I'm exhausted." She asked softly.

"Right this way."

Sierra ended up taking a long bath and eventually went to bed in my-our-room. I meandered around the house, cleaning up and thinking things over. Sierra basically just got forced into becoming Luna in a few weeks. She could have said no but her decision would have affected the entire northern kingdom, no pressure there. She made it clear that she didn't want to be Luna when she left, heck, she was about to reject me if the rogues hadn't shown up when they did. I was honestly expecting her to decline the position. I hope she didn't have any lingering resentment towards me for how things played out. I hope she didn't feel cornered.

I flopped down on my couch, exhausted from the day. I would like to hope that tomorrow would be better, but we had a Luna ceremony to plan. Those typically take months to plan on account of how massive they usually are, not weeks. The elevator dinged, gaining my attention. "Brother!" Jackson called.

"Living room."

"Did I hear a rumor that a witch was in the palace?" He asked, flopping down on the recliner across from me.

"Is that what's going around?" I said with a half laugh. "I would have thought that the King introducing his mate to the council would have been bigger news, or the fact that she would be made Queen on the winter solstice."

"What the f**k did I miss..." Jackson got up and went to my mini-bar just off the kitchen. He made us both a gin and tonic, almost finishing his in one big gulp.

"Sierra is back. And she agreed to be made Queen and Luna. Past that is anyone's guess." I matched him, taking a big gulp of the zesty tasting liquid.

"That's great news, isn't it?" He asked.

"It would be if it didn't feel like she was forced into being Queen. She tried to reject me the day she left, now she is back for what, twenty minutes, and agrees to be made Queen?"

"Maybe she had an epiphany?" Jackson asked, pouring himself another drink.

"She would have had to meet the mood goddess herself to change her mind." I snorted, finishing off my drink.

"I did." Sierra's soft voice said from behind me.

I nearly spit out my drink through my nose at her sudden presence. What did she just say?!

"You met the mood goddess?!" Jackson asked, his jaw hanging on the floor while I tried to catch my breath from coughing.

"I did. She told me to trust her, and so I am. If my mate is King, then I will trust the moon goddess and be made queen, no matter the risk." She spoke with finality in her voice.

"How? When?" I started to ask.

"When I went to the coven I learned I had been blessed with three talents, or powers if you will." She sat next to me on the couch, "I can control the earth and its elements, to some degree. I can see visions of what the future will be. But the most powerful talent I have is the heart. There are several interpretations of what it means, but in my training, it's where I met the mood goddess. She was a beautiful but blinding light. I felt safe and comforted by her." She said, rubbing her belly.

"So you don't in any way feel forced into being Queen?" I asked.

"Not at all." She smiled softly "I have seen visions of the future, and we have a wonderful life ahead."

"You have seen our future?" I asked. She nodded and looked at Jackson.

"Jackson, if you wouldn't mind asking Ella if she could please help me plan this Luna ceremony, I would appreciate it. I know she will do a wonderful job planning it." She smiled.

"Absoulty!! She would be honored!" Jackson said with a broad smile. "I'll go speak with her now, give you two some alone time." He said and winked at me.

"Was that a vision?" I asked.

"One of many," Sierra laughed. "Ella is going to help throw the most beautiful party in decades, according to some of the guests."

"Wow. Thats amazing. What else have you seen?"

"So much." She sighed. "Some good, some bad, some I cant make sense of just yet. I can only see the future, not the past."

"Anything about the people who are after you? Or where the rogues came from?"

"No...but.." She hesitated.

"You can tell me." I pushed.

"The reason I'm here, the coven, it was under attack. They killed Adaline in front of me. I barely got away, she saved me." Her voice shook.

"Who did?"

"A man in a black cloak. He said I was next. He knew my name."

It was as if time stopped. A cold shiver ran up my spine. I remember the day Hope was killed, there were two men in cloaks who appeared out of no where. I haven't found them since, not a clue or anything. They knew who Sierra was. This was bad. It was only a matter of time before they came for her.

"Before you freak out on me, can I show you something?" She asked, grabbing my hand.

"Might be a bit past that, but okay."

She took her hands and placed them on both sides of my head, over my temples. She muttered something I couldn't understand and my vision went blurry, but then the crispest picture I had ever seen came into view.

"What is-"

"Shhh. Just watch."

I focused harder and could see a man and a woman. No, it was Sierra and I. We looked old. We were walking by the lakehouse. Three pups came running to us, they called us grandma and grandpa. Grandpa?! A group of adult wolves came walking over, They called us mom and dad and gave us a hug. Hold s**t. This was our family. My vision blurred again, coming back into focus in the living room.

"Was that?" I heaved for air. My mind reeling.

"Our future. We make it, Edward, despite everything, we make it."

"You're sure?"

"Yes" She smiled.

Holy s**t. Edmund was wagging his tail furiously at the thought of a long and happy life with our mate and the prospect of multiple children and grandchildren. It almost seemed too good to be true, but I saw it with my own eyes. It's hard to deny that.

"Come to bed with me?" Sierra asked, breaking my train of thought. "We can talk about the Luna ceremony and everything else tomorrow?"

"Yeah, lets go." I nodded.

We walked hand in hand to my, no, our room, getting settled into bed. I was just about to fall asleep when I heard her mumble out, "I love you Edward."

"I love you too."

Sierra

I woke up several times during the night, the pup kicking me in the ribs constantly. But even despite that, I still woke up feeling wonderful next to my mate. Today was going to be a busy day. Every day would probably be leading up to my Luna ceremony and our pup's birth. While Edward was still asleep, I got out of bed and took a quick shower, dressing in my mate's clothes I found when rummaging through his drawers in the dark. My bare feet padded against the hardwood floors that led into the kitchen, I poured myself a tall glass of water and drank down half of it before I started to explore.

Edwards' floor of the palace was stunning, to say the least. Everything was perfectly decorated with sleek modern-looking furniture and decorations, fit for a King. There were eight bedrooms, three bathrooms, a massive kitchen, a living room, a dining room, a pantry, a balcony, a few offices, a pool, a mini library, a gym, and even a home theater! It was amazing all of this was on his personal floor. But it made me sad for him. How long had he been here all alone? I was going about my snooping when I found a door I missed. When I tried to open it I was met with resistance. Locked? But why?

"That was Hope's office." Edward said from behind me, making me nearly jump out of my skin.

"Sorry, I was just-"

"Don't be, you live here now, you have every right to go about any part of the palace." He said, approaching the locked door. Reaching above the doorframe, he felt around, eventually landing on a key which he used to unlock the door. "I haven't been in here since shortly after she was killed. This will be your office now. Feel free to decorate it how you please. I will have someone come by and remove her things." He turned to leave.

"Wait, aren't you coming in?" I asked, halfway through the door.

"No." He shook his head. He came closer to me, placing his hands on my stomach and resting his head against mine. "Its a past I don't want to relive, especially since I have a bright future ahead." He smiled. Not a second later, our pup kicked Edwards' hands, his eyes lit up like a kid on Christmas. "It that..?" He started.

"Mhm, that's our pup. He loves to kick." I smiled.

"Its a boy?" He asked.

"I think it is, I just have a feeling. But I haven't confirmed it yet."

"We should probably have Dr White check on you and the pup." Edward said seriously. "Make sure everything is okay and progressing normally."

"You're right." I sighed. Another thing on the ever growing list.

"This morning perhaps?" Edward asked.

"Yeah." I nodded. He kissed my forehead before heading to his office across the way where I heard him on the phone with Dr White, undoubtedly making my appointment.

I hesitantly walked into my new office, feeling as though I was walking on eggshells. My hand felt along the wall until it landed on the light switch, flipping it on and looking around. Everything was covered in tan blankets. If I had to guess, everything was exactly as Hope left it. I began pulling the blankets off, folding them neatly in a pile as I went. Her office had crisp white walls and a beautiful hardwood floor. There was an area rug that had a multitude of colors on it, it almost looked like an abstract art painting instead of an area rug. Her desk was sleek looking, it was white with gold streaks cutting through it. It had a rectangular top with an abstract base. There wasn't any place to store anything though. Behind her desk was a large bookshelf that covered the entire back wall, an impressive collection of books cluttered the shelves. On the other side of the room there were two navy blue upholstered swivel chairs with a glass table between them. It was a smaller office than Edward's, but almost looked bigger on account of how she decorated it. There was one last decoration to reveal, a painting no doubt. I had to stand on a chair to get it down.

"Oh Goddess..." I said to myself as I looked over the painting. My heart hurt for my mate. Before me was a giant painting of Edward and Hope on her Luna ceremony and inauguration day. She was wearing a beautiful white dress, Edward a black suit. They both looked so happy. I suddenly felt very self-conscious. Would I ever be able to live up to her standards?

"The Moon Goddess wouldn't have made him our mate if we weren't meant to rule." Sienna reminded me.

"As true as that might be, what will the kingdom pack think of me? They are all lycans. I'm a werewolf and I'm basically sloppy seconds. Not to mention the entire northern territory, I haven't exactly made many friends in my travels, what will they think of me?"

"It doesn't matter. You were made for this. It will all work out."

I huffed in annoyance before heading out to the kitchen where I found my mate chomping down on an apple.

"Want one?" He held an apple out to me.

"No." I hesitated. "When Hope was Luna and Queen, how did everyone like her?" I blurted out.

"They loved her." He said, a far off look in his eyes. "Why do you ask?"

"I'm worried I won't live up to her standards." I admitted.

"You won't, you'll exceed them. I have no doubt. Hope was wonderful, but you are exceptional." He said, pulling me close.

"You really think so?" I snaked my arms around him.

"I know so."

Chapter 36

Sierra

"Hello Luna!" Dr White greeted me. I felt slightly betrayed by everyone knowing he knew who Edward was and kept it from me, but I swallowed it down figuring they were under Edwards' orders and had no choice. Time for a clean slate.

"Hello Dr. White." I smiled.

Dr White made quick work of reviewing all of my symptoms and measuring my ever growing belly.

"You are measuring quite big." He said, perplexed.

"Is that a bad thing?" Edward asked.

"Well, not necessarily. Lean back for me." He said to me. He squirted some jelly on my stomach and pressed his ultrasound wand into my stomach. "Hmm..."

"Everything okay?" I asked.

"There just seems to be a lot of extra fluid..." His brows were closely knitted together, trying to focus. "It could be because you're a hybrid and he is a lycan, your body just over produced fluid..."

"Is it something we need to worry about?" Edward asked.

"I cant say, but your pup looks perfect otherwise. It's something I'd like to watch though. On a separate, happier note, here is your pup." He turned his screen to reveal our sweet little pup in 3D picture.

"Wow. Our pup has gotten so much bigger since my first ultrasound," I said.

"Would you like to know the s*x?" Dr. White asked.

"Yes." Edward and I said in unison. We looked at each other and smiled.

"It's a boy, congratulations!" Dr. White said enthusiastically.

Both Edward and I lit up in excitement at the news. A boy! Although I would have been happy with a boy or girl, I always wanted a son first. Not to mention he would be made king. A first born daughter would probably have to fight her whole life to get and keep the title, now that was one less thing for me as a mom to worry about.

"Now he just needs to stay put until after the Luna ceremony." I laughed nervously.

"We'll see about that. I can't tell you when he will come but I'll be ready for ya. The best thing to prevent pre-term labor is to minimize stress and lots of bedrest." He said, turning off the ultrasound machine and handing me a towel to wipe off with.

"I don't think that's very feasible," I snorted, cleaning all the jelly off my stomach.

"We can make arrangements to make it happen." Edward squeezed my shoulder.

The drive back to the palace was quiet, we were both lost in thought. There was so much to do in such a short time.

"It'll be okay." Edward said, as if reading my mind. "You have me by your side and Ella. Everyone in the kingdom, actually."

"I don't want to be a burden."

"You won't be. It's a lot of work and planning, you can't do it all by yourself. You haven't even been trained in your duties as queen yet. No one will expect you to do it alone." He said, pulling in front of the palace.

"So where do we even begin?" I asked as Edward helped me step out of the vehicle.

"Well, I would like to start by formally introducing you to my palace staff so they know who you are."

"Edward!" An angry sounding voice yelled. My head snapped in the direction of the sound.

"Abby." Edward mumbled as she stomped her way over to us. "Sierra, allow me to introduce you to my sister Abby. Abby, this is my mate, Sierra."

"Well, it's about time! I've been waiting all morning to meet you!" She squealed, throwing her arms around me.

"Hi" I said with a strained voice. Abby had the same green eyes as Edward but, oddly enough, had the blondest of blond hair, unlike her brothers who had dark brown hair. She had a gorgeous figure and was perfectly tall. She looked a few years younger than me, she was still in college from what I remembered Edward telling me.

"Easy Abby, we don't need our pup coming early." Edward laughed.

"I'm so happy to finally meet you! I've heard such good things! You are going to be a wonderful Luna and Queen!"

"Ha, thank you." I said, feeling slightly uncomfortable.

"Anything you need, just say the word!" She smiled from ear to ear.

"Maybe some new clothes?" I looked at Edward. While I had some nice clothes at the coven, I left abruptly and had only been home one night. I stole some of Edwards' clothes last night and this morning Ella had let me borrow some of her clothes, which was nice, but they barely fit a pregnant she-wolf such as myself. It wasn't very Luna-like.

"Absolutely. You can take my card, spare no expense." He said, pulling out his wallet. He handed me a heavy gold credit card and Abby squealed in excitement again.

"Would now be a good time to go? I would personally like to meet everyone in some more appropriate clothes." I looked between Edward and Abby.

"Yes! Yes! Yes! We can take my convertible!" Abby grabbed my hand and began pulling me in the direction of her car.

"Just stay within the kingdom's pack territory," Edward called out. "And keep your phone with you!"

I nodded and waved goodbye, surprised at how easily he was letting me leave. "That was oddly easy," I said after climbing into the passenger seat.

"That's what he wants you to think." Abby said, checking her reflection in the mirror and applying some lipgloss. "We'd better be quick." She said, turning on the ignition.

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"My brother is a bit of a control freak." She zipped out of the parking lot and onto the main road. She reached into the back seat and pulled a sunhat and scarf out. "Here, put these on."

"Why-"

"Edward is going to have every warrior on high alert, watching our every move to make sure you are safe. I don't know about you but I would like to spend the afternoon shopping in peace while getting to know my new sister-in-law."

"He's having us watched?" I said, putting the hat and scarf on.

"Still so much to learn." She sighed. "I just have to get us out of the kingdom and we should be good to go." She hit the gas, heading straight for a few miles before we came to a guard station. There were several armed men on duty and a massive iron gate blocking our path. "Don't say anything." She whispered before rolling down her window. "Frank?! Oh Goddess it's been too long!" She exclaimed.

"Hey Abby." He smirked, eyeing her up. "Where are you headed off to?"

"Just taking my friend back home. I'm kinda in a hurry though. Do you think you can help me out here?" She batted her eyes.

"Well..."

"Please? Just this once? I promise I'll pay you back later." She winked.

"Alright, go on before I change my mind." He winked back and hit the buzzer for the gates to open up and let us out.

Abby wasted no time speeding through the gates, heading further and further from the kingdom's pack territory.

"Where are we going?" I asked, removing the hat and scarf now that we were in the clear.

"Human town. They have this adorable little town with some really cute shops filled with plenty of clothing fit for a luna."

"A human town? I don't know if that is such a good idea..."

"It'll be fine! They don't know any better."

"If you're sure..."

"I am. We are going to have a great time, so no more worrying." She flipped her hair over her shoulder.

"Come on! Say it!"

"Alright Abby, you were right, this is really nice." I said as we strolled down the cobblestone sidewalk of the quaint little human town. We had just spent the better part of the day getting manicures and pedicures, something new to me. It felt strange having nail polish on my fingers again. The last time my nails were painted was when I was still a little girl living in my home pack. I'd be lying though if I said I didn't like it. It was so nice being pampered.

"Told ya! Now, I know a few really good shops to stop at but there is one in particular I have never been to but should be perfect for you." She said, dragging me diagonally across the street to a small shop on the corner of the block.

"Mom's Maternity. Hm. I wonder what they sell." I smirked and shot Abby a look.

"After you give birth to my nephew or niece I will gladly go back out with you to buy normal clothes." She beamed.

"Well, after your nephew is born, I will gladly take you up on the offer." I smiled.

"You're having a boy! Awe how exciting! I bet Edward is over the moon! I won't lie, part of me hoped it was a girl so I could go buy her lots of cute dresses." She laughed. "But boys have some cute clothes too!"

"Oh Goddess, I have hardly even had time to think about baby clothes." I looked at my stomach. "You'd better stay in as long as possible! I need more time to prepare little boy!" I said, pointing to my unborn pup. Abby laughed along with me and we headed inside the shop.

"Oooo! Look how cute all of these are!" Abby said, riffling through a rack of clothes.

"They are cute, but a bit pricey, don't ya think?" I said while going through the clearance rack.

"Not for a Luna, definitely not for the Queen," Abby whispered, so none of the human workers would hear her. "Edward did say spare no expense." She said with an armful of clothes.

"Can I help you ladies?" One of the workers asked.

"We need a changing room!" Abby smiled, though it was hard to see her face past the mountain of clothes she had quickly accumulated.

"Right this way!" The worker chirped.

We spent the next hour going through just about every single piece of maternity clothing the store had to offer. Abby was very pushy, insisting that I needed every item for one occasion or another. While I, on the other hand, had gone years with just a few pieces of hand-me-down clothing. We racked up a sickening bill, and then headed to a few other stores for some accessories "I just had to have", according to Abby. It took us a few hours to get through all the shops and I finally understood the phrase 'shop till you drop'. My pregnant body wasn't used to going non stop with all this extra weight, not to mention while carrying a boatload of shopping bags. I also felt my stomach starting to eat itself about half an hour ago. I needed to eat before this little boy sucked me dry.

"Abby, I need food." I said bluntly.

"My thoughts exactly! There is this really good Greek place just a few blocks up, we can drop our stuff off at the car on the way too."

"Okay." I let out a deep breath. My pup had started kicking me senseless and I needed to sit. My hips were hurting too. Dr White warned me that could happen. It was my body getting ready for birth. A long walk later, we dumped our stuff in the car and finally made it to the Greek restaurant. Thank Goddess. I almost felt like I was having Braxton hicks. I needed to take it easy. This pup wasn't going to stay in otherwise.

"Table for two please!" Abby said to the hostess, who led us to a booth in the back of the restaurant.

"Hi! My name is Tiffany. I will be your server today. Please take your time looking over the menu, I'll bring over some waters. Is there anything else I can get you in the meantime?" She asked.

"I'm fine with water, thank you, what about you Sierra?" Abby said, looking to me.

"Water is perfect." I laughed slightly.

"Perfect, I'll be right back." Tiffany said sweetly.

"A werewolf working in a human town?" I questioned. I could smell her the moment we walked in.

"It happens way more often than you think, especially since humans keep expanding their territories and cutting down forests."

"Huh! Small world, I guess."

"So have you thought about what you want your Luna ceremony to look like?" Abby asked me.

"Honestly, I have no clue." I sighed, looking over the menu.

"Its not often one of the Kings takes a luna. This will be the event of the century!"

"No pressure.." I rolled my eyes.

"You'll do great, it's going to be perfect."

"You sound so sure. I wish I had your confidence."

"It'll come. Why don't we start planning now? It might make you feel better." She shrugged.

"Hmm. That's not a bad idea. What could we plan now though?"

"All set to order?" Tiffany came back to the table. We placed our orders and Abby asked for a pen and paper.

"Okay, so first things first, color scheme?"

"Well the palace is white and gold, so white and gold?" I laughed.

"That works!" She started scribbling ideas down. "Flowers or no flowers?"

"Umm.... Maybe just some greenery? It would go nicely with the white and gold in the palace. Is that okay?"

"Thats perfect! Its going to look stunning actually!"

We went back and forth for a while. Abby had lots of great suggestions to give. There was so much more involved with becoming Luna and Queen than there was a normal ceremony. Typically, a pack would hold their Luna ceremony outside, where the entire pack would stand and watch. After she took her oath, the pack would accept her as their Luna and then everyone would go for a run together. But Luna and Queen of the Northern territory, that was a different story. Apparently, I had to learn to dance and there was some ancient ritual that the council would perform. There were lots of formalities that I didn't feel prepared for.

"Where is our food?" Abby said after a while. It had been quite a long time since we ordered. The place looked empty too. What was taking so long?

"Sorry for the long wait ladies" Tiffany said, bringing over our food. Goddess it smelled good. Abby moved her papers to make room for the food but in her hurry, she tipped over her drink, getting water all over the table.

"Shoot! I'm such a klutz! Im sorry!" She said, reaching for her already soaked napkin in a vain attempt to dry the table.

"Its fine, happens more than you think." Tiffany said, grabbing a stack of napkins. She set them on the table and began wiping up.

"I do stupid stuff like this all the time. My brother keeps telling me I need to be more careful, but old habits die hard I guess." Abby laughed "Hey, that's a cute tattoo!" She said, pointing to our servers' wrist.

"Oh, thanks." She smirked. "I got it a few years ago."

I glanced over to see what she was looking at. The oh too familiar dread washed over me, my face dropping. A diamond with two crescent moons.

Fuck me.

Chapter 37

Sierra

She was one of them. My only saving grace would be that she didn't know who I was. That she couldn't tell I was a hybrid. My magic has gotten so much stronger recently. I used to be able to fly under the radar, now you could probably smell the magic wafting off of me. I needed to get us out of here immediately. I had to be subtle.

"Hey Abby, I'm not feeling very well, I would like to head home now." I said, putting a hand over my stomach.

"You probably just need to eat, here-"

"Abby!" I snapped, effectively gaining her attention. "Lets just pay and go." I said in a calmer voice.

"Okay..." She said, pulling out her wallet. I could hear her mumbling something about pregnancy hormones. "Hey, can we take this to go?" She asked Tiffany.

"Sure, let me just go get some boxes." She smiled and went to the back to fetch the takeout containers.

"Lets go." I said, grabbing Abby's arm and practically dragging her through the restaurant.

"Easy!" She squirmed. "Maybe Edward likes it rough but I don't." She laughed, trying to lighten the mood. "Plus, we still need to pay."

"Abby, its not safe here, we need to go. You need to trust me. As your future Luna and Queen, that is an order." I said with no room for debate, letting my Alpha command slip.

"Okay, sure." Her expression got serious and she seemed to finally understand.

"Not so fast." Tiffany said from behind us. "The building is surrounded. You're not going anywhere." Her expression contorted into an evil glare.

"Excuse me?" Abby said with an annoyed and confused attitude.

"This isn't going to end well....for you." I shot back. I glanced towards the front doors and saw a multitude of warriors surrounding the building. s**t.

"Two she-wolves against a small army? I think I like my odds." Her voice had a mocking tone to it.

"What?!" Abby yelled, looking around frantically.

"Depends on the two."

"Move in!" A voice yelled from the front entrance. The promised small army came flooding in through the front and back of the building. I only had a second to think. I grabbed Abby and pushed her behind me, backing us into a corner. Okay, this is what we practiced for. Its game time.

"Lets light em' up." Sienna growled.

Edward

"Hey, have you seen Abby? Ella was looking for her," Jackson said as I walked into the palace.

"She just left with Sierra, they are going shopping."

"And you're okay with that?" He asked with an amused look on his face.

"Quite the opposite actually, thanks for asking. But I want her to have her freedom." I continued walking.

"You're about to order everyone to look out for her aren't you?" He deadpanned.

"Only the on duty warriors." I shrugged, making a beeline to my office. Once settled, I called William and told him to send out a notice to all of our on-duty warriors to make sure Sierra is kept safe and in the kingdom's packlands. I could breathe slightly better knowing she was being looked after by about fifty of my best men. Onto my next order of business. I had put a hold on having packs come to the palace, with a Luna ceremony and inauguration to plan, as well as getting read for a pup, I didn't have much time to vetting packs and still help my very pregnant mate when she needed me. Not to mention the mountain of paperwork to go through. I guess I'll start there.

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After two hours of non stop, I finally found the top of my desk again. All the paperwork had been filed and put away, taking one thing off my list. And now I needed coffee. I made a quick pot and sat back down, almost ready to tackle my next project. I grabbed my phone and sent a quick text to Sierra asking how she was doing, as well as asking Oliver to find out where my mate was, a location check, so to speak. Just to make sure there was no funny business going on.

"Oh how nice of you to call! I'm doing well. How are you? You found your second chance mate?! Oh Goddess, what wonderful news! When can I meet her?" My mother said, strolling into my office.

She wore an unamused look on her face, ready for a fight. I wasn't expecting her to show up, but I had quite a bit of news to tell her. I'm guessing Abby told her the big stuff. Today was actually working out nicely.

"I meant to tell you..." I began.

"But you didn't! I found out from Abby! You haven't so much as called in over a month!" She chastised me. I stood from my desk and went to her to greet her with a hug.

"Its been a whirlwind, but you're right, I should have called and told you. Forgive me?" I beckoned her.

"Fine. I could never stay mad at you." She said, flipping her hair over her shoulder, she reminded me a lot of Abby. "So, where is she?" She asked, walking around the room before eventually planting herself down on my office couch.

"Out with Abby, she needed to get some maternity clothes."

"Excuse me?" My mother's eyes went wide.

"Oh. My mate, Sierra, is carrying my pup." I said, feeling a sense of pride wash over me. "I'm surprised Abby didn't tell you that bit."

"Edward Sullivan! What is the matter with you!? You never told me, your own mother, that I am going to be a grandmother!!!" She jumped up from her seat. "This is exciting news!"

"Again, I apologize. It's been a whirlwind of activity. You don't exactly call either." I eyed her.

My mother has never quite been the same since my father passed away. His death was unexpected, like Hope's. That's one thing we had in common. I always felt close to my mom for that reason even though we hardly spoke in recent years. She didn't agree with how I ran the kingdom, not to mention she was very lonely without her mate. She spent much of her time traveling to keep her mind off of him. We were lucky to see her once or twice a year.

"When is she due?" She softened. "When is her Luna ceremony and inauguration?"

"On the winter solstice."

"You're kidding?! That's just a few weeks away!"

"Like I said, a whirlwind. I've had a lot on my plate. It just doesn't seem to stop." I sighed.

"Such is the life of a King. How can I help?" She asked, now sitting on the corner of my desk.

"Sierra is different, a good different, but different. She was a rogue for many years, being hunted down by a group of extremists. She has had no real Luna training, and probably zero clue what she should be doing as Queen. I know she will do a fantastic job and exceed all expectations once she knows what to do. Think you could lend a hand in preparing her?"

"A rogue? That's new. It would be my pleasure!" She beamed with pride. "Also, have you two spoken about a baby shower?"

"No, she just got back yesterday." I scrubbed my hands over my face. "She was at a coven for a few months."

"A coven?" My mother's face scrunched up in disapproval. "What in the Goddess's name was she doing at a coven? I thought only witches could go into a coven?"

"Well, that's the kicker. My mate is an alpha born hybrid. Predominantly werewolf, but also part witch and vampire. We are trying to keep that under the radar though."

"Edward, if I were you, I wouldn't let that girl out of your sight. She is one in a million. If someone is after her, I can't imagine what they would use her for if they ever found her. Or what lengths they would go to find her. And you're about to put her on a pedestal in front of the entire supernatural world." She said nervously.

Shit. She was right. It was stupid of me to let her go out without additional security. I checked my phone. There was no answer from Sierra but one message from Oliver.

I couldn't find your mate so I checked security footage and saw Abby's car leaving the pack. I am assembling teams to search for her now.

"Shit." I said under my breath. I stood to leave, almost forgetting my mom was still there.

"What's wrong?" She asked, following closely behind me.

"Abby took Sierra out of the pack. I don't know where they are." I said, dialing Sierra's number. No answer. I tried Abby's phone next, same result. f**k! There were at least a dozen packs they could have gone to in the time that they had been gone! What was Abby thinking, taking her out of the kingdom's pack after I specifically told her not to!! I tried to link them both, gaining no results. They were too far for me to link. That was a problem.

I practically flew down the stairs, heading to our prisons where we had our security footage. I needed to see for myself. When I arrived, there was already a large group being led by Oliver. He was breaking everyone off into groups and assigning areas for them to search.

"Listen up!" I said with a booming voice, gaining everyone's undivided attention. "As you all know, my mate, your future Luna and Queen, who is also carrying the heir to the throne, has left our pack. While on any normal day, that wouldn't be much of a problem, today it is a problem. Hope's killers

are still out there and word is getting out that I have a new mate. My new mate also has her own entourage of fuckers after her as well. Stay alert, whoever finds her first is to report immediately and keep her hidden until more help and myself arrive."

"Yes Alpha!" The warriors said in unison. They flooded out of the building and went on their way.

"Where is the footage?" I asked Oliver, who was hanging back with another warrior. Frank, I think his name was.

"Its my fault, Alpha, I let them leave. I didn't know she was our luna." Frank blurted out, his neck bared in submission.

"Which way did they go?"

"South."

"Find her." I growled and burst out of the prison, hopping into my SUV. My head snapped to the passenger side when I heard the door open. Jackson jumped in and gave me a curt nod, knowing there was nothing he could say to make this better.

Three hours had passed and no sign of Sierra or Abby. I called and texted and linked with no answer from either. I was on edge, Edmund was stirring inside as well.

"We'll find them." Jackson said un reassuringly. His phone rang a moment later. "Hey mom....yeah? We'll check there. Thanks." He hung up the phone. "Mom said Abby likes to shop in a human town about half an hour from here."

I took a sharp left turn and floored it, praying that she was right. We eventually landed in a human town. It was quaint and expensive looking, right up Abbys ally.

"There! Thats her car!" I pointed, pulling over sharply behind where she was parked. I hopped out and took a deep breath. I could faintly smell my mates' warm apple scent. She was close. "You go left, I'll go right, we'll-"

KA-BOOM

An earth-shaking explosion came from a few blocks away, stopping us in our tracks.

"What the f**k was that?"

"My mate."

I took off into a sprint, Jackson right behind me. Smoke began to rise from what was once a building, now a pile of ash.

"Sierra!" I yelled, searching through the mess.

"Abby!" Jackson yelled in turn. Balls deep in the rubble, just the same as me.

"Over here." Sierra called, her voice sounded tired.

"Where?" I looked around frantically. Suddenly, the air itself started to shimmer by the sidewalk, my mate and Abby coming into view. Sierra supported most of Abby's weight. Abby looked out of it but otherwise they seemed fine.

"What happened?"

"They found me, so I had to." She was breathing hard, Jackson grabbed Abby and took her to the car. "And then," She pointed to the building and shrugged.

"Lets go, we can talk more in private." I said, scooping her up and getting her to the car. I called Oilver and told him we had found Sierra and Abby but we would probably need to do some damage control. I know I counted at least twenty dead bodies amongst the rubble. I sat in the back between both of them while Jackson drove. Abby was already asleep when we got to the car, Sierra was not far behind her.

"What happens next?" Jackson linked me.

"Oliver will be on damage control. He is especially good at covering up things like this. First stop, the hospital to make sure these two are okay. Then we find out what the f**k happened."

When we arrived back, Dr. White met us at the hospital and made sure Abby, Sierra, and our pup, were all in good health. Abby seemed to have recuperated thanks to her nap, while Sierra still looked especially worn out. I put Sierra to bed, deciding it would be better for her to get some rest and tell me what happened in the morning. Abby, on the other hand, was waiting for me in one of my conference rooms on the first floor with Jackson. I needed to have a few words with my sister.

"Edward I-" She began. I held up my hand, silencing her immediately. I took my seat at the head of the table, taking a deep breath in and slowly exhaling before I began.

"You directly disobeyed me. I told you to stay in the kingdom's packland and you immediately did the opposite."

"I know, I'm so sorry I-"

"Do you think, because I am your brother, you can do what you want around here with no consequences?"

"No but-"

"My mate, my second chance mate, your future Luna and queen, the woman carrying the heir to the throne, my unborn pup, your nephew, do none of those mean anything to you?"

Tears began streaming down her face, she used her sleeve to wipe her eyes, her head hung in shame.

"Abby, you are my sister and I love you. But this recklessness needs to stop. This is not the first time you have undermined my authority, nor the first time you have put a Luna in danger. But it will be the last. Should something like this happen again, you will be banished from the kingdom."

"What?!" Abby sobbed.

"Edward be reasonable," Jackson cut in.

"I am being reasonable." I shot back. "Know your place brother." I turned my attention back to Abby. "Now, tell me, what the hell happened today?"

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Chapter 38

Abby

Crap. I was in big trouble this time. I don't think I could talk my way out of it either. Edward wasn't even letting me get a word in. It wasn't that big of a deal. How was I supposed to know Sierra was a magnet for scummy people? I just wanted to go shopping and get to know my sister-in-law! If someone had told me 'hey she is being hunted down, better keep close to home' I would have f*****g listened! Now Edward is threatening to banish me if something similar happens?! Maybe s**t like this wouldn't happen if people weren't so secretive around here!

"Now, tell me, what the hell happened today?" Edward said.

"Oh now I can talk?" I shot daggers his way. "I didn't want your goons ruining our day together, so I took Sierra to the human town. We got our nails done and went shopping and then went for dinner. I spilled my drink and Sierra started acting funny and said she wanted to leave. Then, before I knew it, all hell was breaking loose. Dozens of men came flooding in, all armed and terrifying looking. Sierra told me to trust her and then there was a massive explosion. I woke up feeling dazed but was completely unharmed even though the building was collapsed around us. I felt exhausted though. Sierra looked tired too. We got to the sidewalk and then you guys showed up."

"Did you feel like you were being watched at all?" Jackson asked.

"No"

"Was there anything odd about your day leading up to the explosion?" Edward asked.

"Our food took forever but that was it."

"What is forever?"

"I don't know, an hour maybe? Sierra and I were busy talking about her Luna ceremony so it didn't feel like that long. We only ordered wraps though and we were the only customers left by the time our food came."

"They must have overheard the conversation and sent backup." Edward said to himself, his eyebrows scrunched together. "You said Sierra started acting funny, what happened leading up to that?"

"We were seated, ordered drinks, ordered food, talked Luna ceremony plans, the waitress came by a few times to check on us, I spilled my water when the food came, the waitress cleaned it up. I complimented her tattoo and then Sierra said she didn't feel well and wanted to leave. She grabbed my arm and was basically dragging me towards the exit before all the s**t heads came flooding in."

"What kind of tattoo?" Edward pushed.

"It was a diamond with two crescent moons on either side of it. It was really cute actually."

"Can you draw it?" Edward asked. Jackson left and came back with a pen and paper. I quickly sketched the tattoo and slid it across the table.

Edward took a picture of it and eventually dismissed me. I headed to the guest room I was staying in, totally over today. The only good thing about being back home, besides meeting my brother's mate, was the prospect of finding my mate. My wolf was convinced he was close. I just had to find him. I don't care how long it takes, even if it means transferring to another college closer to home, I'm going to find him.

Sierra

I could feel my mate stewing from a mile away. I just gave him my play by play of what had happened at the restaurant. He was pissed. I watched as he paced his office, absolutely fuming.

"Edward, you need to calm down." I said gently, hoping it would have some effect. "I am fine, our pup is fine, your sister is fine."

"Do you realize the danger you put yourself into?! How could you be so reckless!"

"I left to go shopping, that's not reckless, that's called living." I said with an attitude.

"Need I remind you that you are being hunted down by a calculated group. You can't afford to just go out and go shopping!"

"I am very well aware, thank you. I've been on the run for years, Edward. And I'm done running. I have had enough visions to know that everything is going to work out, so I plan on living my life. I am not going to be reckless, but if I want to go shopping outside the kingdom, then damn it that's what I'm going to do!"

"Why didn't you tell me about the tattoo?" He blurted out.

Any fight I had soon disappeared, my shoulders slumping. s**t. Abby must have told him. "I wasn't sure, not until this last time at least." I shrugged.

"Now we actually have something tangible to look for, but we wouldn't have had that if Abby hadn't told me." He huffed. "Is there anything else you'd like to tell me?"

"You already know there is a man in a cloak coming for me, and a group hunting hybrids. What else is there?" I scoffed.

His face fell, his anger dissipating into fear. I went over to him and rapped my arms around his middle. "It will all work out. I don't know exactly how, but it will work out."

"If he got into the coven..." He questioned, the wheels turning in his head, his arms holding me tighter.

"He is either a warlock himself or is getting help from someone who is," I confirmed.

"I've been searching the wrong places all along."

"Its okay."

"He could be anywhere, anytime. Why wouldn't he have come for you already? Why not me?"

"Maybe he knows he can't beat us. We just keep getting back up." I looked up to Edward and gave him a soft kiss. He returned it and more. I could feel his need for me through our mate bond and from his boner poking at my stomach. I broke our kiss and took one of his hands, gently pulling him towards the bedroom.

"We don't have to if-"

"Shhh." I hushed him. I grabbed the hem of his shirt and slowly brought it up and over his head. Goddess he was carved. I don't care how many times I see this man naked, I will never not be impressed. I ran my hands down his abs, landing on his belt. His pants and boxers were soon at his ankles, joining his shirt on the floor. He peeled off his socks and then started peppering me with kisses, removing layer by layer of my clothes until I was completely bare before him. I felt a bit self-conscious, I was very pregnant and had my share of stretch marks. While I didn't care, I didn't know how my mate would feel about my new body.

"Youre stunning." He whispered into my neck, sucking on my marking spot.

I pulled him to the bed, settling down next to him so we faced each other on our sides. I grabbed his throbbing c**k and pumped it slowly, Edward buried his face in my chest, teasing my n****s with his mouth.

"Ah-" I hissed when he nipped one gently. It felt way more sensitive than normal. Pregnancy at its finest, no doubt.

"Sorry, I'll be gentle." He soothed it with his mouth then gently massaged both of my breasts. I moaned in satisfaction, I could feel myself getting wet.

"How should we..." I started to ask. Edward eyed me up, seeming to just now remember the new obstical.

"Flip on your other side," he said in a husky voice.

I willingly obeyed, soon becoming comfortable on the other side. Edward fitted himself flush behind me in a spooning position. He lifted my top leg up for better access before gently slipping inside of me. Goddess, it felt way more intense. I reached behind me, grabbing onto Edward however I could, almost bracing myself. He pumped in and out of me at a tortuously slow pace, seeming to be on the edge of ecstasy just as I was. It didn't take long for me to clench down on him and find my release, Edward was only a few thrusts behind me, spilling his warm seed into me. At least we didn't have to worry about pregnancy this time.

Edward

"Today I would like to show you around the palace, properly, and introduce you to our staff and warriors. I also have something planned for this afternoon." I said to Sierra as we exited the shower and began drying off. We had some of the most amazing s*x last night and this morning. Her pregnancy was making things way more intense for both of us, and not in a bad way.

"Sounds good to me. What's this afternoon?" She smiled.

I didn't want to tell her. Not yet. I wanted to spend the morning buttering her up so she might actually go for the idea and not shoot me down immediately. "We are stopping by the security station, you'll get to see how things are operating." While it wasn't a lie, it wasn't the whole truth.

"Mate is gonna hate you." Edmund said matter-of-factly.

"I cant wait." She said, putting her hair up in a towel.

"This is where we will hold the banquet leading up to your Luna ceremony and inauguration." I said, leading Sierra into our largest banquet room.

"This is the room from my vision." She smiled. "Its so beautiful. The entire palace is."

"If you like that, you will love the gardens." I took her hand and led her outside, walking past a few workers who made zero attempt to hide their shocked faces. "Staff meeting in conference room

three in half an hour. Spread the word." I said over my shoulder. I could hear them scurrying away behind us.

"What's in half an hour?" Sierra asked.

"I am going to introduce you to our staff." I said as I held the door open for her.

"Wow, its so beautiful..." Sierra said, gawking at the gardens. In the center of everything was a massive fountain, surrounding that was a stone path that winded and curved its way through the elaborate maze made of waist-high shrubbs. A variety of flowers were planted throughout, giving pops of color every so often. At the very back of the garden there was a small cemetery where all the former kings were buried, as well as my first mate.

We took our time walking through. Sierra seemed to really be enjoying our casual stroll, she kept sighing in contentment. "Penny for your thoughts?" I asked.

"I wish I could have told my younger self what I know now. That things do work out for the better."

"Ha, I couldn't agree more." I squeezed her hand and kissed her forehead. "There is somewhere I'd like to show you." I began.

"The cemetery." She said, finishing my thought.

"How did you..."

"Visions, remember?" She playfully kicked at my shoe.

"Right." I nodded. I led her to the very back through a small rod iron gate that fenced in the cemetery. There were only four rows, with plenty of room to spare. The top left was the first Northern King, who was my too many greats to count grandfather, and his mate, and it followed through generation after generation. The last two headstones were my father and Hope.

"This place gives me chills." Sierra said, taking a seat on one of the stone benches. "So many powerful, influential people. Its almost like I can feel them." She said, rubbing her belly.

"It is remarkable," I said, sitting next to her. "But also a bit daunting."

"How so?"

"The next headstone will be mine."

Her peaceful expression fell, turning into a sad frown. "You don't know that for certain, it could be me."

"Let's make a deal. When we die, we die together. Problem solved." I said, trying to lighten the mood.

"Deal." She smiled, holding her pinky finger out for me. I took hers in mine and sealed the childish notion with a kiss.

"You haven't seen us die, have you?" I hesitantly asked, curiosity getting the better of me.

"Not us, no." She answered hesitantly, not giving any more information, and I didn't dare push.

"Let's go meet the staff." I said, standing to my feet.

"Everyone, Can I please have your attention?" I said with a booming voice from the front of the conference room. The place was packed. I'm pretty sure everyone showed up, even those who were scheduled off today. I guess no one wanted to miss this announcement. "I am sure many of you have noticed my absence in recent months, as well as a new face around the palace. I don't doubt that there are rumors as to what is going on, so I am here to tell you personally. I have found my second chance mate."

A fit of gasps and applause filled the room, as well as congratulations and whistling. It was deafening. They were far more excited than I had anticipated them to be. It was nice to see. I waived my hand to settle the crowd down, a stupid smile plastered across my face. "Everyone, I would like to introduce you to my mate, Sierra." I walked over to where she was standing and pulled her to the front with me. "If you couldn't tell, she is pregnant. She is carrying my pup, the heir to the throne, so please go easy on her."

"Hi everyone." Sierra said, turning a bright shade of red.

The room erupted once again, everyone surrounding my mate trying to say hello and introduce themselves.

"There is one last thing before I let you all go. Sierra is a very special wolf. And unfortunately, because of that, she has a target on her back. Not to mention we still have no lead on who killed Hope. I ask if anyone should have any information or see any suspicious activity to please inform me immediately so we can protect our Luna. Thank you."

My poor mate was flooded with people for over an hour, each so excited to meet their future luna. She handled it extremely well, which was good to see. I will need to tell her about my mom teaching her Luna duties soon. There was so much going on I had almost forgotten. Hell, I needed to introduce them first.

"Was the gossip right? Is she here?" My mom said, strolling into the conference room.

"Hey, I was just thinking of you," I said.

"Thinking and doing are two different things, my boy. Why is it that the staff got to meet my daughter-in-law before I did?" She practically hissed, her hands on her hips.

"Things just got busy and-"

"Daughter-in-law?" Sierra's voice cut in. I looked over to see the last group of staff leaving the room.

"You never mentioned your mom to me." she linked me, a bit of erk or hurt in her voice, I wasn't sure.

"She has been absent since my father died."

"Mom, this is Sierra, Sierra, my mother Sylvia." I introduced them.

"Its so nice to meet you." Sierra smiled sweetly.

"The pleasure is all mine!" My mom exclaimed, giving her a big hug. "How are you feeling?" She felt Sierra's stomach. "Is he treating you well? Are you excited about Luna training? I would like to start as soon as possible." She began to ramble.

"Feeling good, just big haha. Your son treats me wonderfully. You did a great job raising him, and what's this about Luna training?" Sierra said, somehow managing to keep up with her.

"I thought it might be a good idea for you to have some training prior to becoming Luna and Queen. My mom has offered to teach you what she knows." I chimed in.

"I would love that! Oh Goddess, that is such a relief! I have no clue what I'm doing", Sierra laughed, giddy with excitement.

"We can start tomorrow then!" My mom lit up with joy. This might be the happiest I have seen her in a while. Only more proof that the moon Goddess knew what she was doing, putting Sierra in our lives.

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Chapter 39

Edward

"Your mom seems so sweet, I cant wait to learn from her!" Sierra said happily as we drove to our next destination.

"She is a great mom, you might just be the thing to bring her out of her funk."

"It'll be nice having a mom in my life again." She said, staring out the window. I grabbed her leg and gave her a reassuring squeeze.

I pulled into the security office parking lot, a pit forming in my stomach. "Ready?" I asked.

She nodded and we headed inside. I gave her a tour of the facility, starting with the employee barracks and moving our way through all the way down to the prisons. I took her into an interrogation room where I had William waiting for us behind the glass window where he couldn't be seen.

"I have something I wanted to discuss with you." I said, sitting down in one of the cold metal chairs. "Please, have a seat."

"Oh? And an interrogation room was the best place for it?" She eyed me warily. She hesitated but eventually sat down.

"Kinda." I shrugged. "I hope you don't take this in any negative way. You know I am protective of you, as any mate is to their own. You have disappeared without a trace on more than one occasion. You are being hunted by many dangerous, powerful people."

"But I'm powerful too-" She began to defend herself.

"Please let me finish." I cut her off. "I know you are powerful. But that doesn't change the fact that you are capable of disappearing. I would like to change that." I looked over my shoulder and nodded. A minute later, William was walking into the interrogation room with a silver briefcase.

"What is that? What's going on?" Sierra asked, sounding uneasy, looking between me, William, and the briefcase.

"This is our most state of the art technology." William answered, unloading the case.

"Its a tracker, Sierra. I want to be able to know where you are at all times."

"You don't trust me?" She said sounding hurt.

"I don't trust anyone else," I answered.

William started putting the application device together. It was essentially a gun with a giant needle head on it that would shoot the tracking mechanism into her arm. Sierra watched him intently, her expression was unreadable.

"I don't appreciate you putting me on the spot like this." She huffed.

"I didn't see a better way to bring it up."

"Edward..."

"Please Sierra, I need this for me." I insisted.

The room grew quiet, minus William putting on his gloves trying his best not to be seen. Sierra closed her eyes and took a deep breath, slowly exhaling.

"Fine. If this is what you need to sleep better at night, fine. On one condition."

"Anything." I said seriously, hanging off her every word.

"You get one too."

"Deal." I rolled up my sleeve and nodded to William, who was set and ready to go. He carefully loaded the tracker into the implant gun, then wiped my arm with rubbing alcohol.

"Relax your arm." He said, lining up. He quickly inserted the needle and pulled the trigger, a loud bang filling the room. It took some willpower not to react in front of Sierra. I didn't want to scare her, but f**k, it hurt like a b***h. William gave me a cotton ball to hold over the fresh wound, then directed his attention to Sierra.

"Here you go Luna. This is King Edwards tracker. You can look at it anytime and see exactly where he is, the little blinking dot is him. When he moves, the dot will move. You can zoom in or out and use the grid to get exact coordinates." William said, showing Sierra how to use it.

"Thank you. Maybe this isn't such a bad idea..." She pondered while William left to get another tracking kit.

"Ready?" He said to Sierra a few minutes later.

"Hold my hand?" She asked, looking at me.

I nodded and jumped up from my seat, holding her free hand.

"Relax your arm please, Luna." William said.

A second later, I could feel Sierra squeezing my hand like her life depended on it, a loud bang and her scream filled the room, followed by a blast of red.

"What the f**k?!" William said, narrowly missing the blast.

"Goddess that hurt! Why!?" Sierra complained, grabbing her arm and looking between the two of us, not noticing the massive crater she left in our bullet-proof glass.

"Shit." I said, looking at the wall while trying to consol Sierra.

"Oopse..." Sierra said when she finally realized what had happened.

"Its okay." I reassured her. "We can fix it."

"Better double down on getting that new training center open." William chimed in.

"Training center?" Sierra asked.

"It was supposed to be a surprise." I shot William a look. "After you left, I had a lot of time to think about things and after hearing the witch say you needed to practice, and seeing how you destroyed part of the forest, I decided to build you a special training center in the hopes that you would return. One capable of withstanding well, you. And any hybrid children we end up having."

"Really?"

"Yeah, I wanted it to be a surprise for your Luna ceremony. My gift to you."

"Oh, Edward." Sierra cupped my jaw.

"I'm gonna leave you two to it. Alpha, Luna, nice seeing you." William said, dismissing himself.

"Where will it be?" She asked.

"Next to our regular training center. We are kinda combining the two, more aesthetically pleasing that way."

"Can I see?"

Sierra

Edward led us into the already existing training center. I could hardly keep my jaw off the floor at the enormity of it. It was basically a souped up gym. There was a massive pool, a football field-sized grass

area with a track going around it, all the equipment imaginable, including a wall of just handweights, and a multitude of smaller training rooms, probably for classes. There was a male and female lockerroom with showers and saunas also. It was amazing. A fitness junkie's dream.

"Wow." Was all I could keep saying. I wasn't personally a fan of going to the gym, I preferred just being outside, but this made me want to start.

"Over here is where I lead training twice a week. Jackson, William, and Oliver cover the rest of the time."

"I didn't know you led training. Am I allowed to join?"

"It will be expected, actually, after you have recovered, of course." He said, looking at my stomach. "Here is where we plan on expanding." He pointed to the back of the room. "We are going to knock down this wall and expand the room, as well as make a path to go to the specialty training center, meant specifically for hybrids. I would love your input," he said.

"Absolutely, though I don't know how much help I will be."

"Right now our greatest struggle is coming up with something that you can't level on impact. That blast earlier today, it went through bullet-proof glass."

"What if I just cast a spell over it for protection?" I said matter of factly.

"You can do that?" Edward asked, clearly shocked.

"Yes" I laughed. "And so much more. The only thing that would destroy the spell would be if a stronger witch broke the spell or if I died."

"Huh! I guess I can tell William to let our crew start moving forward with the build then. After you review the blueprints, of course, this is meant for you after all. I want you to have a say about it."

"I would love that!" I said excitedly. Maybe being Luna wouldn't be so bad after all.

Edward snuck a glance at his watch, his face falling for a moment. "I had better get you back. I have training in half an hour."

"Can I watch?"

"I mean, sure if you really want to. Tonight is for our men's group. They can get a bit rowdy, fair warning."

"Everyone, gather round. I have someone I would like you all to meet. This is Sierra, my second chance mate and your future Luna. She will be watching our training session today."

Mummers broke out amongst the group. There were about fifty men in total, all dressed in workout clothes, most topless. If I hadn't found my mate, this would be a she-wolf's dream come to life.

"Its nice to meet everyone, pretend I'm not here." I said, taking a seat on the sidelines.

I could feel multiple sets of eyes on me, and almost feel their energy. Excited, nervous, prideful, arrogant. Edward gave them a vigorous warm up. If I didn't know any better, I would have thought it was the actual workout. Edward was a literal beast. When it came to sparring, he took on three of his men at once, hardly breaking a sweat. Goddess, it was hot, he was hot. I had never seen Edward's strength on full display up until now. He was more than powerful, he seemed unstoppable.

"Remember to focus on self control. The more control you have the better you will be in a fight." Edward said in a commanding voice.

"Lets link mate dirty thoughts." Sienna said deviously.

"I don't want to distract him..."

"If he is as strong and as composed as he looks, he should be able to handle a distraction or two."

"Well, when you put it that way..."

I looked over at my mate who was currently inspecting the other warriors, correcting their form along the way. It took me a moment to think of what to say, my brain going into overdrive.

"What should I wear to bed tonight?" I linked him, staring directly at him. He paused and met my eyes, his lip twitched ever so slightly.

"Whatever you want." He linked back coolly, not taking the bait.

"Do better" Sierra huffed.

"Blow job after this?"

Edward stopped in his tracks, closing his eyes and taking a steadying breath before continuing on.

"Tell me your wildest fantasy."

"Keep up the good work. I'll be back in a moment. Sierra, a word?" He waited for me at the door and then lead us into a small back office room away from everyone.

"What's up?" I asked, a smirk playing on my lips.

"You're up to no good."

"I don't know what your talking about." I batted my eyes.

"Shut up and pull your pants down." He practically growled.

"Someone is feisty." I poked the bear.

"I'll show you feisty." He growled.

Edward pushed me back onto the desk, pulling my butt just off the edge before yanking my pants and underwear off just enough for him to access his goal. He dropped his own shorts and boxers onto the floor and, in one swift motion, plummeted into me.

"Goddess!" I moaned.

"Not so loud, everyone will hear you."

He ruthlessly pounded into my tight hole, his movements rough and jerky. With one hand, he pulled my shirt and bra down, exposing my breasts. He grabbed onto one of my soft mounds and began teasing my n****e. I could feel myself coming to a peak fast, my walls tightening around his hard member.

"Edward!" I cried out, my back arching on the desk.

Edward found his release a few thrusts later and came hard inside me with a roar, his massive load spilling out of me. We stayed that way for a minute, catching our breath and coming down from our highs. Edward fixed my shirt and gently pulled out. I awkwardly got up off the desk while he cleaned himself off.

"Here." He said, handing me a tissue box. "I need to get back and wrap up the class. Take your time." He winked.

"Okay." I hummed, feeling satisfied with our quickie. I quickly cleaned up and headed back to the training room, passing Edward on the way. He was speaking with someone I didn't recognize and I didn't want to interrupt, he looked like a contractor, probably for the new addition. When I went back into the room, I went unnoticed for a minute, picking up on some of the conversation.

"She is a fraud. She is nothing but a weak she-wolf." A cocky one said as he sparred with another.

"I don't know, the moon Goddess wouldn't have picked her for King Edward unless she was worthy." The other said, narrowly missing a right hook. "And King Edward certainly wouldn't pick just anyone."

"I bet she is nothing more than a good lay. I mean she is already pregnant and they haven't even had her Luna ceremony. Whose to say the pup is even his? Nothing more than a wolf in sheep's clothing if you ask me. She will never be my Luna. My Luna died long ago."

"Darren!" Edward roared behind me. The room fell deadly silent, the tension pliable.

"Edward, I got this." I said, placing my hand on his arm before approaching the shit-talking Darren.

"You obviously have a problem with me. Anyone else?" I looked around the room, noticing most of the men baring their necks in submission while a few stared at me defiantly. "I see. I'll make a deal with you, Darren. You and me in a sparing match. I win and I earn you respect and loyalty, never to be questioned by you again. Same for the rest of you." I looked to the other defiant warriors.

"You sure about this?" Edward linked me.

"I just put a hole through bullet-proof glass, Edward,"

"And if I win?" He shot back.

"Dont worry, you won't." I said, walking to the center of the room.

"You cant fight a pregnant shewolf!" Darren's sparring partner shouted.

I saw Edward pulling up a chair and taking a seat, a smirk on his face. "Don't worry Shawn, Luna Sierra will be just fine."

Darren scoffed, approaching the center of the room where a circle had formed. He spat on the ground, acting like hot s**t.

"Count of three?" I asked. He nodded and got into a fighting stance. "Okay, one....two...three!" The moment I said 'three', Darren came running at me full force like a bull. I quickly opened a portal, which he flew through, coming out like a bat out of hell on the other side, which just so happened to be a foot from the wall that Edward would soon be demolishing. He hit hard, unable to stop himself, leaving a Darren-sized shape on the wall. He fell to the ground, stunned by what had just happened, but got back up and came back at me unable to let go of his pride. This time I flicked my wrist and sent a blast of red energy soaring his way. A direct hit sent him tumbling to the ground. He got up again, slower this time, wiping blood from his nose onto his arm. He threw a sloppy punch. I stopped him mid-swing, using my powers to lift him off the ground and turn him upside down. I held him there, and patted his cheek. I was about to give a snarky remark when my vision went blurry.

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"Hope! Wait for me!" A young looking Darren said, chasing after a beautiful young teenage girl.

"Better hurry up little brother! I'm not waiting all day!" She laughed and continued to run.

A playground soon came into view, the siblings making a beeline for the swingset. They sat next to each other, seeing who could swing higher and successfully jump off. Their laughter was contagious, their love for one another undeniable.

"Kids! Time for lunch!" An older woman called. Hope and Darren jumped off the swingsets and raced for the picnic table next to the playground. They ate lunch together, snacking on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and chips. Darren had a juice pouch while Hope had a bottle of water. They looked so carefree and happy.

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"She was your sister." I said to him, my heart broken for the hurt little boy before me.

"How did you do that?" He said, a tear streaming down his face. "I could see her."

I slowly let him down onto the ground, a few of the other men helping him up, terrified to look at me after my little show. "I am very sorry for your loss. She didn't deserve to die." I said to him before addressing the room. "I am not Hope, I am not trying to replace her or be her. She was a wonderful Luna and sister from what I have been told and I'm sorry she is gone. I pray that one day I can amount to half of what she was. As your future Luna and Queen, please rest assure that I have your best interests in mind. I want this kingdom to grow and prosper in peace. I hope you will stand by my side in achieving greatness together."

"All hail Queen Sierra." Darren said out of breath. He looked worn out. Like how Abby looked after I used my magic on her. I will need to look into that.

"All hail Queen Sierra!" Shawn jumped in, yelling at the top of his voice. The room erupted, all chanting in unison. My face flushed red, I looked over to my mate who was also chanting along, a proud smile on his face.

"Thats my Luna." He linked me.

Edward wrapped up training shortly after our little show. The men approached me afterwards to ask me questions or just formally say hello and introduce themselves. Gone was the arrogance and condescending attitudes. These men were on my side, ready and willing to fight for their Luna. Ready to fight with me.

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