

Chapter 40

Sierra

"I can't thank you enough for taking the time to teach me all of this." I said, gesturing to all of the books and folders scattered across my desk.

"It's an honor. It is nice being needed again." Sylvia smiled, closing the practice budget report she had just had me compose.

It has been over a week since the former Luna and Queen, who was also my mother-in-law, Sylvia, started teaching me how to fulfill my new role. There was so much more to it than I had anticipated. I guess seeing my mom do it growing up, I neglected how much work she put in. In my childish mind, all I saw was my mom getting us ready for school and making dinner and helping us with homework

afterwards. I missed the part where she accompanied my father to meetings, visited the hospital to check on the injured, planned events, handled finances, and was basically a mother figure to all of the pack, plus more. It was a bit daunting. Being that I was not only going to be Luna to a pack of mostly of lycans, I was also going to be Queen of the entire Northern territory. That came with a whole new set of expectations I was wildly underprepared for.

"I have three more books for you to read. I regret to tell you that they are less than interesting. All about diplomacy, you'll need to know it for when you meet the other kings. There are certain unspoken protocols that are followed." She said, setting the stack of books on my

"Thank you. I've almost finished with the others you gave me." I smiled, picking up one of the books.

"Already?!"

"I love to read, it hardly matters what."

"Well, goddess bless you, I could hardly get through the first cheaper of that one your holding. I wish you luck." She laughed.

"Knock knock!" Ella said from the doorway. "Sorry to interrupt, but I was hoping we could send out the invitations for your Luna ceremony today? Its only three weeks away now."

"Yes! Lets get that out of the way." I nodded and waved her in.

"Come sit." Sylvia said from the couch, scooting over to make room.

I got up from my desk and waddled over

to the other side of the couch where there were two recliners. I decided to take Edward up on his offer to let me redecorate, but only for my office. Although Hope's style was well, gorgeous, it lacked comfort. And being pregnant as I was, I needed comfort.

"Okay so, here are the invitations, per your request." Ella said, handing each of us an invitation.

"Ella, these are gorgeous!" I said, looking over the silver and gold invitation.

"Classy yet sophisticated, well done," Sylvia complimented. Ella beamed with pride at the praise.

"I have already asked Edward for his guest list, which I have here. I just need yours." Ella said, looking at me expectantly.

"Let me go grab it." I said, standing up

Let me go grab it." I said, standing up awkwardly from the chair. I reached inside my desk, grabbing the sticky note that was my guest list. "Here ya go." I said, passing it to Ella.

"Only two?" Sylvia asked.

"I thought that was good, all things considered." I shrugged.

"Well, alright then. I'll have these sent out today." Ella smiled.

"Can I look at Edwards guest list?" I asked.

"Sure." Ella said, handing me the list.

There were far more than two, but not as many as I had anticipated for a king. His immediate family, obviously, the other kings, the council, his Gamma and Delta, and a few dozen others who I didn't know.

They were probably someone very important though to have made the list.

We weren't inviting the entire pack. We had decided to forgo the massive Luna celebration for summertime, when things would be calmer and warmer and I would be less pregnant.

"If you haven't found a dress yet, I would like to offer my services to you." Ella said, taking my attention away from the list.

"You sew?" I asked.

"She does, and her work is exquisite! You should take her up on the offer." Sylvia exclaimed.

"How could I refuse? I would love it if you made my dress Ella!" I smiled.

"Edward may have given me some inspiration already. I would like to surprise you with it if that is alright?"

"Absolutely!"

"Perfect, then if you don't mind me grabbing some measurements," She asked, pulling out a tape measure. She quickly started wrapping it around my body, jotting the numbers down on her notepad. "I won't finish the dress until the night before, your baby is going to grow a lot in the next three weeks and I want to make sure the dress fits perfectly."

"I am huge already, I cant believe I still have about three weeks to go." I sighed.

"Edward was quite a large baby, and given the fact that you are a werewolf and he is a lycan, that doesn't help your cause. I wish you luck with labor and delivery." Sylvia chuckled.

"Is it as bad as they say?" I asked, scrunching my face up.

"Worse. But you forget all about it

afterwards." Sylvia laughed.

"Great." I said, feeling uneasy.

"You'll be fine, you'll have your mate by your side and a well-trained team ready to go and all the pain meds you could ask for." Ella laughed.

"Speaking of which, when will you be giving me grandchildren Ella? Its been quite a few years since you and Jackson have marked each other, I would have thought you would have a whole litter of pups by now." Sylvia asked.

Ellas's face fell, her eyes welling up with unshed tears. "Whenever the Moon Goddess will allow it, we are more than ready." She said, taking another measurement.

"Ella, I don't mean to pry, but how long have you been trying for?" I asked, stopping her from continuing

stopping her from continuing.

"Over five years." She wiped a rogue tear from her face. "We have tried everything. The doctors can't explain why we can't conceive. They said we should look into adoption or a surrogate at this point."

"Oh, Ella, I had no idea, I'm so sorry for bringing it up." Sylvia said, looking mortified.

"Can I try something?"

"Are you sure about this?" Ella asked as she watched me flitter around my kitchen.

"Well, I have never actually tried this on a person, but I practiced it when I was at the coven." I looked through the cupboards in search for a mortar and pestle. Our kitchen was state of the art

with all the fun toys. I was sure there would be one somewhere.

I had just spent the last hour looking for specified plants in the garden, knowing Edward would probably flip if I went any further on my own. After successfully finding all the components I was looking for, I got to work. Sylvia left to go see Abby, giving us some privacy, and Edward was out somewhere doing something. With it being just me and Ella, she opened up to me a lot more about her fertility struggles. She had gone through so many treatments and testing and exams it wasn't even funny. She and Jackson wanted a pup so badly. I knew what I was doing, but my confidence fell a bit. I worried if this didn't work for some reason and I just got her hopes up for nothing, she would resent me forever. She probably secretly does already. I wasn't even trying to get pregnant and now here I

even trying to get pregnant and now here I am approaching my due date. It didn't seem fair.

"What is all the stuff anyway? You look like a mad scientist." She said, looking over the items on the counter. Adaline had packed my bag full of everything I needed to cast spells of all sorts, including some less common ingredients.

I had a small cauldron heating up on the stove, along with half a dozen apothecary jars filled with all sorts of base ingredients. I pulled my spell-book out just to double check my work as I went, making sure I followed every step perfectly.

"I kinda feel like one." I laughed. "Its basically a witches spell casting starter pack." Ella laughed and watched me intently. I tried to narrate everything I was doing. "Im breaking down the plants into

intensity. I tried to narrate everything I was doing. "I'm breaking down the plants into a paste before I put them into the cauldron to cook." I said, scraping the contents into the cauldron. "While that boils, I will grab my base ingredients which are what help the magic along."

Ella asked me a lot of questions, fascinated by it all. Half an hour later, I was pouring the cauldron out, the liquid being strained through a cheesecloth into a teacup, reciting the old incantation. "High priestess take favor, grant this family a child sooner than later." I stirred it to help it cool down before handing Ella the teacup. "Drink up."

"Is-is it safe?" She hesitantly asked.

"Definitely." I laughed. I squeezed the majority of the liquid out of the remains held in the cheesecloth and put it into a bowl while Ella drank the tea.

bowl while Ella drank the tea.

"Wow, that is bitter." She scrunched her face up but continued to drink.

"Sorry, I wish I could make it better."

"Do your eyes always light up purple when you cast spells?" She asked.

"They lit up purple? I never knew, that's interesting." I said, coming around the kitchen island to where Ella was sitting with what looked like a bowl of mud. "Lift your shirt please." She hesitated but eventually stood up and lifted the hem of her shirt up slightly. I scooped up some of my muddy looking paste and spread it over her stomach just under her belly button before saying the last part of the spell. "So does this child grow in love and in harmony."

"They lit up again." Ella smiled, taking a sip of her tea while I started cleaning

sip of her tea while I started cleaning up.

"Really? It must be a witch thing I never knew about. I guess I never really watched someone cast a spell, I was just given instructions and followed along.... Oh, one last thing, you and Jackson need to get down to business tonight. You have twenty-four hours before the spell is null and void." I said, wiggling my eyebrows.

"But I'm not in heat..."

"That doesn't matter, the spell will take care of that. Now go find your man and have fun!"

"That shouldn't be a problem." She said downing her tea. "I'm going to go find him right now." She smirked and gave me a wink before saying her goodbyes and leaving to find Jackson.

"....."

wink before saying her goodbyes and leaving to find Jackson.

"Good luck!" I laughed.

Ella

"Good luck!" Sierra's words kept ringing in my head. I don't understand much about magic or spells, nor do I pretend to, but I hoped this worked. I didn't feel any different, except maybe a bit queasy from drinking what tasted like dirt water. I swear I thought I saw her add dirt to it.

"Jackson, where are you?" I linked my mate when I couldn't find him in our home.

"Patrol, I have an all-nighter. Seth's mate just delivered so I'm covering for him. Don't wait up for me."

Don't wait up for me."

No! No! No! Are you kidding me right now?! Of all the times! I growled in annoyance.

"I need you to come home tonight. Find someone else to cover", I shot back.

"Is everything okay?"

"I-we need to try tonight."

"Ella, I thought we had talked about this, I thought we were going to take a break from trying and just focus on us? You know how depressed you got last time. I don't want to see you like that again."

"Jackson, please. I promise this will be the last time. Please just come home tonight."

He didn't answer me for a few minutes. I paced the house contemplating if I should go out looking for him.

should go out looking for him.

"Alright, I got someone to cover. I'll be home in an hour."

Yes!! I was practically bouncing out of my skin in excitement. To distract myself, I made Jackson and I an aphrodisiac dinner. Oysters to start, steak with asparagus for dinner and chocolate covered strawberries for dessert. I lit a few candles and even changed into a sexy little teddy I had tucked away for special occasions. Anything to try to set the mood.

"Eloise, is it hot in here?" I asked my wolf. Fanning myself with a magazine. This almost felt like my heat cycle.

"No, I think we are going into heat." She answered, confused herself.

"That dirt tea works fast, I guess."

"That dirt tea works fast, I guess."

"Hey Baby, I'm home." Jackson said, strolling through the elevator door that led to our floor of the palace. His scent hit me like a brick wall, igniting my libido. As soon as he stepped over the threshold, I jumped him, taking him by surprise. "Its nice to see you too". He laughed. "Wait, are you in heat?" He asked in disbelief.

"Mhm." I continued to kiss him, barely able to let him get a breath in.

"I thought you weren't due for another month?" He said, setting me down on the couch and yanking off his shirt. "You look f*****g gorgeous." His eyes were now black, filled with lust, his extra appendage noticeably hard even through his jeans.

"Its a long story, just focus." I said, unbuckling his belt and pulling his pants and boxers to the ground. I grabbed his manhood and took it in my mouth, giving it a few good bobs before Jackson practically ripped me off of him and tore my lingerie off. He pushed me back onto the couch and kissed his way down my body, stopping when he came across the mud on my skin.

"Why is there mud on your stomach?" He said, pulling away, probably to get a towel.

"Never mind that! f**k me!" I hissed. Jackson looked at me in shock. I almost never use swear words.

"Yes ma'am." He smirked and continued kissing my body, avoiding the dried patch of mud on my lower belly. His tongue played with my clit while his fingers did

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Jackson looked at me in shock. I almost never use swear words.

"Yes ma'am." He smirked and continued kissing my body, avoiding the dried patch of mud on my lower belly. His tongue played with my clit while his fingers did what they did best. He brought me so close to my peak but stopped short, slamming his manhood into me instead in one foul swoop. My body readily accepted him, my walls clenching down on him. He threw my legs over his shoulders and slowly thrust in and out of me, driving me wild.

"Faster" I begged.

He grunted and picked up the pace, putting more of his weight into it as well. I could feel myself reaching my climax and Jackson getting harder within me. I vaguely remember screaming out his

and Jackson getting harder within me. I vaguely remember screaming out his name when he swiped his thumb over my clit. We came at the same time, our bodies melding together. Our pants filled the otherwise silent room. Another reminder of just how much I wanted a pup. Jackson pulled out of me and I kicked my legs up onto the back of the couch, hoping that if nothing else, gravity would be on my side.

"Ella..."

"Shut up." I said, a tear streaming down my face. Years of disappointment welling up within me.

Jackson wordlessly sat down next to me and held my hand. I hoped I could give him a pup. I prayed that this time would be different. We sat there for a good ten minutes before I finally sat back up,

and held my hand. I hoped I could give him a pup. I prayed that this time would be different. We sat there for a good ten minutes before I finally sat back up, leaning into my mate's embrace.

"I love you no matter what," he said, kissing my head.

I nodded at my supportive mate, grateful that the moon goddess gave me him. Another wave of heat soon came over me, making me hot and bothered all over again. I guess we weren't done.



SassAss

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I honestly didn't think I would get this posted tonight. My little guy went to bed late and hubby called me to do math at 1am 0_o lord help me.

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21/22



Chapter 41

Edward

"I had no idea they were trying." I said, looking over the mess in the kitchen.

"Jackson never said anything to you?" Sierra asked, packing things away and into her backpack.

"No."

"Huh. Well please don't mention it then, Ella wasn't exactly open to talking about it right away either."

"Not a problem. You can leave all that out if you'd like. You don't have to hide it away." I said picking up one of the many apothecary jars filled with red powder.

"Really?" Sierra said excitedly, taking the jar away from me. "Careful, that will give you hiccups for a week."

"Of course. In fact, take one of the spare

"Of course. In fact, take one of the spare bedrooms and make your own brewery, or whatever you'd like to call it." I said looking over my hand carefully, making sure I didn't get any powder on me.

Sierra smiled and went around the counter to give me a hug, her bump getting in the way. "Thank you." She said, adjusting herself so we were hip to hip. "When do I get a date night with you again?"

"I wish I could say soon. There is just so much to do before your Luna ceremony and before the pup comes. How have you been feeling?"

"Tired. Hips ache. My feet are swollen. Acid reflux. But everyone says I'm glowing." Sierra chuckled softly.

"I have an hour before I need to return. How about a foot rub?" I suggested.

"That would be amazing." Sierra said

"That would be amazing." Sierra said, visibly relaxing.

"Come, sit with me." I sat on the couch, Sierra following along. I pulled her legs onto my lap and began massaging her very swollen feet.

"Goddess, that feels amazing." She hummed in appreciation.

"Happy to help." I smiled, though her eyes were closed. "I think most everything is in order and booked for your Luna ceremony."

"Yes, Ella and Sylvia have been a huge help. I don't know how I would have done it without them, and you, of course. Which reminds me, you had a suggestion for my dress?" She cracked open one eye to look at me.

"Perhaps," I shrugged. "I think you'll like it. Its fitting."

"Perhaps," I shrugged. "I think you'll like it. Its fitting."

"I can't wait to see it." She paused for a moment before speaking again. "Hey, wanna talk pup names?"

"Ha, I almost forgot about names with everything else going on. Yes, what are your thoughts?"

"Peter?"

"Pass. John?" I suggested.

"Too common, pass. Ian?"

"Boring. Blake?"

"Na...how about Oliver?"

"Na-uh...Chester?"

"King Chester? I don't think so babe."

Sierra laughed. "This might take more time than we thought,"

"I guess so." I gave a small laugh before glancing at my watch. "Speaking of

"I guess so." I gave a small laugh before glancing at my watch. "Speaking of which, I had better get going. I'm needed in the throne room!" I said, standing up, carefully placing Sierra's feet back onto the couch.

"What's in the throne room?"

"William informed me today that a group of rogues came seeking asylum from King Bruno. It happens every so often. I typically take them all in as long as I can't find anything heinous in their records. King Bruno is a d**k and treats his people like garbage, his own family too. A lot try to get away but die trying from what I understand. If it wouldn't have caused a war, I wouldn't have put him on the guest list for your ceremony."

"Can I come with you?"

"You really want to? Its not for the faint of heart. Most have a horror story to share."

"Then I definitely want to be there. If anyone understands a horror story, it's me. Help me up."

I grabbed Sierra's hands and pulled her up and we walked hand in hand to the throne room. "Please have a seat." I said, pointing to the throne next to mine. It was basically the same except mine was boxier and more masculine and hers was rounded and more feminine.

"Actually, I am going to stop at the restroom first, this pup is dancing on my bladder. I'll be right back, don't wait for me." She said, scooting out of the room.

"*Bring them in William.*" I linked. A moment later, a group of five rogues came walking in, surrounded by guards and all wearing handcuffs as a safety measure. Their clothes were all torn and ragged looking. They smelled like they hadn't bathed in weeks. A few had

hadn't bathed in weeks. A few had bandages. What a f*****g mess.

"What brings you to the Northern Kingdom?" I asked the group with a booming voice.

"We seek asylum, your majesty." The oldest looking male answered, bowing his head in respect. He looked like a hobo with his overgrown hair and beard. Thin too.

"Where do you come from?"

"We were taken captive by the Southern King. We come from all over the map." He answered again.

"Your name and original pack?" I looked at the furthest wolf to my left first.

"Clyde Smith of the Blue Spruce Pack in the West," he said with a shaky voice. He was a very tall wolf, he had a fresh looking scar running alongside his throat.

"Do you, Clyde, have any transgressions that would prevent me from granting you asylum?" I asked using my Alpha command. If he were lying I would know.

"No your majesty." He bowed his head.

"Then you are welcome onto my land. My men will take you to your temporary housing. I wish you the best." One of the guards took his cuffs off and escorted him out. "Next?"

"Maria Walter of the Rushing Falls Pack in the East." She tried to sound confident but her voice squeaked, showing me just how nervous she was. She had vibrant blue eyes and fiery red hair.

"Maria, same question. Do you have any transgressions that would prevent me from granting you asylum?"

"No, King Edward."

"Then you are clear."

"Then you are also welcome onto my land." I nodded to the guards. "Next?"

"Gary Moore of the Black Fur Pack in the South." Gary looked like a wet cat someone dragged inside. He looked like he had some rash going on with his skin.

"Gary, do you have any transgressions that would prevent me from granting you asylum?"

"Not unless turning my back on my king the same way he did to us is considered a transgression." He practically spat.

"I won't turn my back on you Gary. You are welcome on my land."

He gave me a curt nod and walked out with his head held high.

"Olivia Yarrow of the Snow Den Pack in the East." Olivia was a beautiful young woman with an old scar running alongside her face and her arm was bandaged.

"Olivia, do you have any transgressions that would prevent me from granting you asylum?"

"No Alpha."

"Welcome to the Northern territory." I looked at the guard who was uncuffing her. "See that she and the others get the medical attention they need."

"Yes Alpha."

"Thank you." She said, crying tears of joy.

"And last but not least, please?" I said, looking at the hobo-looking wolf.

"Former Alpha Andrew Wilson of the Clear Waters Pack in the North. And before you ask, I do have some transgressions."

"Did he just say he was who I thought he said?"

"Oh shit." Edmund said.

A shattering noise caught my attention, my mate standing in the doorway, her glass of water spilled and broken on the ground, her expression of pure shock.

"Daddy?" She whispered.

I looked back at the man standing in front of me, his eyes were glued to my mate, as if he was seeing a ghost. "Sierra?" he croaked. "Is it really you?"

"Oh Goddess." She ran to Alpha Andrew, throwing her arms around him, sobbing on his shoulder. He was equally emotional, but struggled to hug her back with the handcuffs.

"Release him." I said to the guards, approaching my mate and...father-in-law?! After Sierra peeled herself off of him, the guards uncuffed him and he gave his daughter a proper hug.

"I'm sorry I smell dolly." He said into her

"I'm sorry I smell dolly." He said into her hair.

She let out a shaky laugh. "I'm just so happy you're alive. I thought you were dead, I thought-" she started sobbing even harder.

"I know sweetie, me too." He kissed her head again. "You look just like your mother. She would be so proud of you." He said, looking her over.

"Thank you daddy." she smiled with tears in her eyes.

"Who got my little girl pregnant? Is he a good man? Does he treat you well?" He asked.

She laughed and wiped her tears. "King Edward." She pointed to me. For a split second, I thought he looked like he wanted to kill me. "He is my mate, I'm going to be made Luna and Queen soon."

Chapter 41

"My little girl a Queen? And a mother! The goddess is surly good." Andrew said, hugging Sierra again.

"Sierra, Alpha Andrew, why don't we take this somewhere more private?" I suggested after a few minutes of seeing staff members taking too long of a look. They both nodded. Andrew wiped one of Sierra's tears away, doting upon his daughter. "I have a guest room that should suit your needs. Please, follow me."

Sierra and I sat in the living room on our floor, waiting patiently for Alpha Andrew to finish showering.

"I just cant believe it..." Sierra said, holding a box of tissues close to her.

"It is something." Although I had no reason to not trust this man I found it strange that he managed to survive all

these years. Maybe it's just my own paranoia getting the better of me. I rubbed Sierra's back reassuringly.

"Or you're just jealous that mate is giving her attention to another man," Edmund chipped in.

"He is her father. I have no reason to be jealous. But I can be cautious." I defended myself. Though he might have a point, up until now, I have been Sierra's one and only. Now I will be sharing her attention.

A few minutes later, Sierra's father emerged from the bathroom. He looked like a whole new man. With the layer of dirt and grime gone, I could easily see his tan skin, highlighted by the black shirt and blue jeans I had brought up for him.

He cut his hair short and trimmed his beard, looking like a civil man of society.

He was actually quite good looking. As I mulled over his appearance, I began to

find the similarities between him and

muller over his appearance, I began to find the similarities between him and Sierra. Same hair color, same eyes, same ears and same forehead. It was undeniable that these two were father and daughter.

"You clean up nicely." Sierra smiled, getting up and sitting next to her father who had taken a seat on the far side of the couch.

"Ha, thank you. It was well overdue." He smiled at Sierra. "When is my pumpkin due?" He asked, carefully placing his hand on her stomach. "Goddess, it's weird asking that."

"A few weeks, on the winter solstice. The same day as my Luna ceremony."

"I'm going to be a grandpa. I never thought it possible." He said, lost in thought.

"So, shall we address the elephant in the room? How did you make it out alive?"

"So, shall we address the elephant in the room? How did you make it out alive? Sierra said your pack was attacked." I asked bluntly.

"Edward.." Sierra started to interject.

"No, no. Its alright. You need to know." He said, clearing his throat. "I remember it like it was yesterday. My father had warned me about being mated to a hybrid, but I didn't want to listen. The day those men came, they wanted one thing. Your mother." He said, looking at Sierra.

"They knew she was special and wanted her gone. When I refused them and told them to leave, they retaliated. We were outnumbered by a landslide. Flames came up from every direction. It was a mess. I had told your mother to take you and Seth and run, but only a few minutes later, Seth was by my side and your mother following closely behind. They separated us, but not before beating me

later, Seth was by my side and your mother following closely behind. They separated us, but not before beating me within an inch of my life in front of her and your brother. I was taken prisoner, moved to the Southern Kingdom where no one bats an eye about slavery. I spent years trying to escape, only to end up in some other monster's grasp. It was a fluke that I managed to escape."

"How did you escape?" I asked.

"There was a fruit delivery truck, believe it or not, that came to our master's house one day. It was a busy day and the driver was new. We hid amongst the melons and stayed like that for hours. When he stopped driving, we jumped the poor boy and left him on the side of the road. He was pissed. But we couldn't afford to waste the opportunity. We kept driving until we came across your borders. Your men were quite impressive with their

men were quite impressive with their response time. I didn't even have the car in park before they were yanking us out and patting us down for weapons." He chuckled.

"What about mom?" Sierra asked, a glimmer of hope in her eyes.

"I felt our bond break many, many years ago. It nearly killed me. I'm sorry to say that she has been gone for a while now."

"Oh..." Sierra sighed sadly. "And Seth?"

"I wish I knew." He hung his head. "I spent years trying to send messages to the other slaves, seeing if anyone knew of him. No one knew anything. I would assume the worst happened when they realized that Seth was a hybrid like your mother. But I thought the same about you."

"I'm so happy you're alive." Sierra started crying again.

"Its okay dolly." He hugged her. "My only hope was that if you were still alive, that life treated you better than it did me."

"I had a rough start, but then I found Edward and now I know it will all work out." She said, staring at me with big doe eyes.

"I'm sorry I couldn't protect you." He said with a shaky breath. Sierra tucked herself under his arm and gave him a reassuring hug.

"Alpha Andrew, were there any other survivors in your pack?" I asked carefully.

"Not to my knowledge. Those men burnt everything to the ground."

"What men?"

"The Black Forrest Pack, or at least that's their cover name. I don't know what they actually go by." He shook his head. "They are an elite group of highly trained men

are an elite group of highly trained men and women who believe in only having a pure bloodline. My father warned me about them. He said they would stop at nothing to find my mate. He was right." Andrew said, a scowl on his face.

"How did they know mom was a werewolf/witch/vampire hybrid?" Sierra asked.

"Just a werewolf/witch. You got the vampire gene from me." He said, flashing his vampire teeth. "I'm surprised you found out about it actually. It's a more recessive gene carried down from your grandfather." He sighed.

"We only found out when we marked each other." Sierra said nonchalantly. My father-in-law looked like he wanted to kill me again but chose to bite his tongue. I'll never apologize for marking my mate, though if I had a daughter I'm sure I would be the same as him right about

would be the same as him right about now.

"Your mother was extra special. We never told you this but she was a twin. Her sister died in a rogue attack that happened in her pack when they were only pups. Your mother was so little when it happened, she never really spoke of it."

"So what does being a twin have anything to do with it?" Sierra asked.

"Oh, there is an old fable that your grandfather would go on and on about. A set of hybrid twins who would come to be the most powerful beings this world has ever seen. They would rule in unison, bringing together all races. The fable hints towards it being male twins, but I guess for an extremist group, better safe than sorry. Birth records are public records even in the werewolf community, so really all they would have to do is look and see what twins were born and if they

records even in the werewolf community, so really all they would have to do is look and see what twins were born and if they had any hybrid genes in them. Twins are so rare among werewolves, to begin with, it wouldn't be hard to wipe them all out.

And you know your mother practiced magic openly, it was only a matter of time really." Andrew sighed.

"What else do you know about this group?" I asked.

"They all have matching tattoos and no one really knows where they operate out of." He shrugged. "Not much else to tell. Not much for you to worry about though, as long as you don't practice your gifts, if you even have any."

"They know about me daddy, I have been running from them for years. They have seen me use my powers."

"And you plan on becoming Queen?!" He

"And you plan on becoming Queen?!" He looked at me angrily. "Why would you let her become a public figure if you know they are after her?! They'll surely kill her!" he yelled.

"It's not his fault, I accepted the responsibility and I know the risk. I am done running daddy, I'm ready to face them." Sierra said confidently.

"Goddess, Sierra! How could you be so naive!?" He stood and threw his hands up.

"Watch your tone with *my* mate." I stood up, meeting him eye to eye.

"She is *my* daughter!"

"And you weren't there for her! She has done everything on her own up until now. Your daughter is the most capable person I know and you owe her some respect!"

"That's enough!" Sierra yelled. Silence filled the room, a palpable tension

"That's enough!" Sierra yelled. Silence filled the room, a palpable tension spreading amongst us. "Ah!" Sierra yelled out, grabbing her stomach.

"Are you okay?" I asked.

"What's wrong?" Andrew asked at the same time.

"Braxton hicks." She said, rubbing her sides. "I am supposed to be having minimal stress in my life right now because I'm supposed to keep this pup in until my Luna ceremony or the council will be pissed off and it could cause Edward his title as king, so if you two will please excuse me I am going to go lie down." She said storming out of the room.

"*Jackson I need you.*" I linked. I didn't want to leave Sierra, but I also wanted my father-in-law to go. I needed someone to escort him to his guest room on the first floor.

11001.

"Ella is in heat, I cant right now." He answered immediately, sounding out of breath.

s**t. Who else could I ask that would keep this quiet? Abby would blab to anyone, and William and Oliver are on patrol and training respectively....

"Hey mom? Can I ask a favor?"

"Sure honey, what is it?"

"It's a long story but I have a guest on our floor who needs to be escorted to a guest room downstairs. I would like to keep his presence quiet for now. Until I know more about him."

"Always so trusting..." Edmund snorted.

"Sure, I'll be right up!" She said happily. Her mood has been much better since coming back to the palace and feeling needed again.

"I have a room ready for you downstairs. I have someone coming to get you and escort you to it. If you'll excuse me, I am going to go check on my mate." I said, heading in the direction of our room.

"She just means so much to me. This feels like a second chance and I can't bear the thought of something happening to her." He said, his age showing in his sad expression.

"That's one thing we can agree on," I said. As much as I wanted to say more, I knew I needed to get to Sierra and calm her down. The doctor specifically said to keep her stress free and family drama wasn't going to help that cause.

The elevator's ding grabbed our attention and out stepped my mother.

"Alright, where is this guest..." Her words fell short the moment they landed on my father-in-law.

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The elevator's ding grabbed our attention and out stepped my mother.

"Alright, where is this guest..." Her words fell short the moment they landed on my father-in-law.

"Mate" they said in unison. They held each others gaze, their eyes turning black with lust and shimmers of silver from their wolves peaking through.

f**k me.



SassAss

"

Surprise! Daddy's home! XD

"



15

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Chapter 42

Andrew

"Mate." We said together as one.

I didn't think it was possible, after my precious mate Lorraine was taken from me, that I would ever be able to find another partner, let alone be blessed with a second chance mate! What a whirlwind of a day it has been!

"Hi, I'm Sylvia." My morning dove introduced herself. "Edwards' mom." She blushed.

"Andrew, Sierra's dad. It's a pleasure to meet you," I said, taking her hand, giving it a quick peck.

"I'll show you to your room." She said, leading the way to the elevators. I followed her like a lovesick puppy.

I would be lying if I said I never thought

"I'll show you to your room." She said, leading the way to the elevators. I followed her like a lovesick puppy.

I would be lying if I said I never thought about finding a new mate. I missed Lorraine dearly, but many years had passed since she was taken from me and, if I was being honest, I was lonely. I longed for a partner. I never thought it possible, being a slave for so many years, let alone my second chance mate being the former Northern Queen. My daughter's mate's mother, oh goddess, this was the start of a terrible soap opera.

"I can have someone else take him, *mom*." Edward interjected.

"Nonsense, I'll make sure he is well taken care of. Come along Andrew." She glided into the elevator, eyeing me up the moment she turned around, giving no regard to her son who was standing right

"Please tell Sierra I'm sorry. Maybe we can have lunch tomorrow? Talk things over?" I asked Edward.

"That would be good. We will see you then." He gave me a curt nod.

"Make it dinner!" Sylvia called. She reminded me of a tiger waiting to pounce.

Edward looked mortified. I turned and headed into the small space. The s****l tension between us was pliable. We somehow kept our composure as we rode the elevator down to the first floor.

"Your room is just around the corner here, its right across from mine, actually," Sylvia purred.

She opened the door, letting me go in first while she waited in the doorway. It was more than just a room, it was more like a mini apartment. It was more than I had since my pack went up in flames.

since my pack went up in flames.

"Does this room...suit your *needs*?" Sylvia purred.

"Its perfect, thank you." I said, looking around. "Would you like to stay and chat for a bit?"

"I would love to," She said, closing the door behind her.

I went to the table just off the kitchen and pulled out one of the chairs for her to sit down on. She gracefully sat down, crossing one ankle over the other, her hands rested on her lap. She looked so poised. I sat down across from her, appreciating the view.

"So, tell me about yourself." I said, trying to break the ice.

"Are we going to act like pups about this?" Her attitude seeped through her voice.

"Excuse me?" I frowned at her sudden

change of tone.

"I had a mate once, he was the love of my life. If I could have changed anything about our relationship, it would be to have more time together. I trust the moon goddess's judgment. If she says you should be my second chance mate, then I accept it. I'm not looking for games, Andrew." She said with her head held high.

I stood from my chair, circling the table and coming up behind Sylvia. I moved her hair to the side, brushing against her marking spot, and grabbed her by the throat gently, using what was left of my Alpha tone, my breath fanning her neck.

"Make no mistake, woman, I do plan on doing things to you tonight that will leave you shaking." She shifted in her seat, goosebumps covering her soft skin. "But I

about my second chance mate." I released her from my grasp and headed into the kitchen, pouring us both a glass of water. I handed her the beverage and she gulped down half the glass immediately.

"What would you like to know?" She asked, taking a steadying breath.

.....

Sylvia

"What are your interests?" He asked me.

"You," I said, trying to regain my composure. "In all seriousness though, I have had a hard time coping since my first mate was killed. I had to move away from here, the memory of him hurt so much. I spent a lot of time traveling and sight seeing. Now that I'm back, it doesn't
but so much. It doesn't feel like home.

composure. "In all seriousness though, I have had a hard time coping since my first mate was killed. I had to move away from here, the memory of him hurt so much. I spent a lot of time traveling and sight seeing. Now that I'm back, it doesn't hurt as much, it doesn't feel like home anymore. Especially since I have a grandpup on the way and a Luna to train, I feel as though I have purpose again."

"I am sorry for your loss, I understand more than you know. My first mate was taken from me as well." He admitted, his expression serious, focused even.

"Sierra never mentioned you, yet here you are." I said as more of a question.

"I was once Alpha of the Clear Water pack. We were attacked and I shamefully lived as a slave for many years. I managed to escape and ended up here

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"I was once Alpha of the Clear Water pack. We were attacked and I shamefully lived as a slave for many years. I managed to escape and ended up here just this afternoon. I didn't know my daughter was still alive all these years."

He looked so broken. My heart hurt for him. He had everything and it was all taken away. Maybe this was why the moon goddess put us together, redemption. I got up from the table and skirted around to where Andrew was seated. He looked up at me, his blue eyes boring into me. "I'm sorry for your past." I said and pulled his head against my chest. He wrapped his arms around my center and pulled me onto his lap in a straddling position.

"Ditto." He mumbled into me, I could feel

"Ditto." He mumbled into me, I could feel his chest rise from taking a deep inhale. I ran my fingers through his short hair, savoring the moment. Andrew stood to his feet a minute later, taking me with him.

"Oh! Where are we going?" I laughed.

"To the bed," he growled into my chest.

"I thought you wanted to talk" I chided.

"f**k it, we can talk more tomorrow."

Sierra

"What do you mean they are mates?!" I practically shouted while Edward and I laid in a spooning position on the bed. He had been massaging my hips for a while, giving me some relief from the constant aches. He had gotten me to calm down a

...ones. He had gotten me to calm down a bit but decided to rip that bandaid off, dropping that massive bomb on me.

"I saw it myself, though I wish I hadn't." Edward mumbled into my hair.

"Does that mean we are gonna be step-siblings now?" I half cringed, half smirked.

"Goddess Sierra, please don't make this worse." He said.

"I'm mated to my stepbrother..."

"Sierra," Edward warned.

"...who also got me pregnant."

"Goddess, it sounds like a bad porno." He said, groaning into me. We broke out into a fit of laughter, making light of the otherwise awkward situation.

"As long as they are happy, I guess." I

"As long as they are happy, I guess." I sighed and snuggled closer to Edward. "This is nice, bumming with you." I hummed.

"We should be bummy more often."

"I couldn't agree more."

"How about Levi?" Edward asked.

"Levi?"

"Baby names?"

"Levi....I like that." I said, rubbing my bump.

"Middle name?"

"Hmm, Alexander?"

"Levi Alexander...I think we just picked our pup's name."

"Did you sleep well last night?" I stupidly

"Did you sleep well last night?" I stupidly asked my father.

"Oh I don't think he got much sleep last night." A disgusted looking Abby said while she moved her food around the table, refusing to make eye contact.

"You could have moved to another room further away." Syliva rolled her eyes.

"So dad, what would you like to do tomorrow? I have the day wide open for us." I asked, trying to change the subject. Both of our parents had fresh markings, a clear indication of what happened last night.

He and Sylvia exchanged a heated glance before he cleared his throat and answered, "I would like to take my wolf for a run, it's been a while."

"I don't think I should be shifting while I'm this pregnant, but I'll happily walk with your wolf." I smiled.

"Sounds perfect to me." He smiled.

"Andrew, Mom, perhaps it would be ideal for you two to move into the lake house."

Edward suggested, obviously still bothered by what Abby had said.

"That's a great idea!" Abby lit up.

"Ella and I can help you move," Jackson suggested.

"The lake house?" My father asked.

"Oh, it's a lovely home, plenty of space, and right on the water. The sunsets are just gorgeous," Sylvia raved.

"Well, as long as you are okay with it dear." He shrugged. "I'll happily go with you."

"It's settled then. We can start moving tonight." Sylvia said.

"Thank Goddess." Abby sighed in relief.

Dinner moved along smoothly, the rest of the week did too, in fact. I was able to reconnect with my father, him with his new mate, Edward and I had more time together, my Luna ceremony was just around the corner and guests were responding, my pup was growing big and strong, Sylvia's Luna training was running smoothly, everything was well, perfect. For the first time in forever, everything was perfect.

I was in my office, searching for somewhere to put my spellbook that Adaline had given me. It seemed too important to just leave sitting out. The bookshelf didn't seem quite appropriate either.

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"Hey Sierra?" Ella said, knocking on my office door.

"Hey, whats up?"

"I was wondering if I could borrow you for a few minutes. I need your opinion on the centerpieces for the banquet before your Luna ceremony."

"Sure thing, I'm just trying to find a safe place to put this. I don't want to leave it out." I huffed in defeat.

"What about the vault?"

"What vault?"

"The one behind the bookshelf." Ella pointed. "Didn't Edward show you?"

"There is a hidden vault?!" I asked, both excited and confused.

"Let me see if I remember where it was...."

Ella approached the pre-existing bookshelf behind my desk. She looked at it intently for a moment before taking all the books off of the second shelf from the top, then pushing the shelf inward. A few clicks sounded and the entire bookshelf creaked open. "There you go!" She smiled, pulling the bookshelf open like a door.

"No kidding..." I said, stepping into the small room behind it. There wasn't much space at all, just enough for a single bookshelf and a small table and one chair. On the desk was a notebook and a pen. The floor also had a few boxes

pen. The floor also had a few boxes stacked in the corner. The bookshelf had a handful of old-looking framed photos and one or two books as well. "I feel like I'm invading her privacy." I said to Ella, who was still standing in my office. "Aren't you coming?" I asked.

"If Hope had things stored away, I doubt she wanted just anyone to see them." She declined.

"I'll come back to this later. Lets go pick out those centerpieces." I smiled and let her lead the way.

"Its just through this room here," Ella said, opening the door to one of the smaller banquet rooms. The lights were all off, I blindly felt for the light switch, flicking it on the moment my hand landed on it.

"Surprise!!" A multitude of voices yelled

"Surprise!!" A multitude of voices yelled out. I nearly jumped out of my skin.

"What is all of this?" I said, looking around. The room was decorated in pale blues and greens, there was a gift table and a cake also.

"Your baby shower!" Abby said, putting a sash over my head and arm that said 'mom to be'

"You really had no idea?" Sylvia asked, giving me a hello hug and escorting me to a table.

"None at all. I actually hadn't thought much about buying baby supplies with everything else going on." I said, sitting down.

"Well, it's certainly a good thing Ella threw this together! Your due in less than two

"Well, it's certainly a good thing Ella threw this together! Your due in less than two weeks!" Abby laughed.

"Yeah, haha." I half laughed. The thought of having to deliver soon was daunting. I looked around the room, catching glimpses of some familiar faces and some unfamiliar ones. In addition to Ella, Sylvia, and Abby, I also saw Lauren, Anita, Williams' mate Rachael, Council woman Leslie, and a few other palace staff members who I had grown close to.

"Sierra, allow me to introduce you. This is Kelly, she is the eldest daughter of King Carson from the West, and Queen Amber, who is mated to King Jesse in the East." Sylvia introduced.

"Its a pleasure to formally meet you both," I said, awkwardly standing from my seat.

I said, awkwardly standing from my seat. Goddess, this pup made it hard to look graceful. "I cant thank you enough for making the long journey on my account." I smiled and we shook hands.

"Anything for King Edward." Queen Amber smiled softly. She was a stunning looking woman, probably around my father's age. She had beautiful black braided hair and chocolate skin. She wore a pale yellow romper that complimented her hazel eyes.

"We wish you all the best." Kelly added, her smile not quite meeting her eyes. She looked to be around eighteen or so. She was also stunning, her perfectly done hair and makeup with her perfectly fitting dress making me feel vastly underwhelming.

"Thank you" I nodded to both of the

"Thank you." I nodded to both of the women before Sylvia escorted me around the room, introducing me to the rest of the guests I hadn't met yet.

"Luna Sierra, why don't you come and eat before your food gets cold." Ella swooped in after half an hour or so, saving my introvert ass from all the socializing.

"If you'll excuse me" I said, making a beeline for my seat.

"Thought you might need a break" Ella said, taking a seat next to me.

"Thank you!" I said, practically inhaling my food.

"You look like you dropped, any signs of labor yet?" Ella asked.

"Just some Braxton hicks here and there. I have an appointment tomorrow and

Just some Braxton hicks here and there. I have an appointment tomorrow and pretty much every other day until my due date."

"Only a week away." She smiled. "You could go into labor anytime now."

"This pup needs to stay put until after my Luna ceremony." I laughed. "Speaking of which, how is the dress coming? I'm so excited to see it."

"Almost done, just a few finishing touches and alterations, of course."

"Time for gifts!" Abby exclaimed. She practically dragged me to the front of the room where there was a chair and gift table. One by one, I opened each gift, thanking each person along the way. This child was going to be spoiled, there was no doubt about that. He already had

everything he could ever want or need and he wasn't even born yet.

"Last one." Abby said, handing me a small box. I unwrapped it, confused when I saw that the small package looked like a jewelry box. I cracked it open, awestruck by the beautiful pendant within.

"Who is this one from again, Abby?" I said, pulling the delicate necklace out of its box. The pendant was pear shaped with a halo diamond boarder surrounding a blue topaz gemstone.

"Me." My mate's voice took me by surprise. I turned to see my tall muscular man dressed in a button-down shirt and dress pants and holding a bouquet of flowers. "Its his birthstone." He said, setting the flowers down and helping me with the clasp. I could hear the other

setting the flowers down and helping me with the clasp. I could hear the other women buzzing with excitement.

"Its beautiful." I started to tear up, my raging hormones getting the better of me.

"Thank you all for coming, we are beyond grateful for your love and support and can't wait for you to meet our pup."

Edward said, saving me from the job of speaking while crying. He rested his hand on my shoulder and gave it a reassuring squeeze.

"And on that note, time for cake!" Abby announced gleefully. Goddess, to have her energy.



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