

Desert Nightmare Chapter 31 - Tips

{Jedediah's P.O.V.}

Four days have passed since I left the territory for my first mission with the team. Although it was an exciting way to start my new job, I had to admit, I hated how long everything was taking. We went to Brussels only to move destinations to Luxembourg one day into the job. Whoever this psycho was, he was good. The hardest part was the fact that we had no idea what this guy looked like.

Admittedly, it was for that same reason werewolves made some of the best trackers. We didn't actually need to know what this guy looked like, we were tracking him based on our sense of smell. It was Amos and his half of the team that ultimately followed his trail to the airport in Brussels. This guy had the nose of a bloodhound, and it was no wonder he was a team lead.

I accompanied Amy and her part of the team, and it was our turn to stake out the hideout Amos' team had tracked this guy to. Our job was to obtain solid confirmation that this was the guy the human authorities were looking for so Amos could make the call to Mikey back home. "Goddess, I didn't realize how boring stakeouts would be," I grunted to Amy.

"Seriously, you think this is boring? At least you have me and four others to keep you company. When I first got started, it was me and Amos, and that fucker doesn't talk during the stakeouts. Be happy he assigned you to my half of the team for this job."

"Yeah, I will totally make note of that," I said. We all sat around in silence for a few minutes before I spoke up again. "So, how long has Amos been team lead?"

"A couple of years now. He's been great too. He definitely is a natural-born leader," she responded.

"What happened to the team leader before him?" I asked. As soon as the words left my mouth, she and everyone else tensed up a bit and gave me a hard look. "What?"

"Sorry, talking about the previous team lead is a bit of a sensitive topic for us," a team member by the name of Albert said. I just furrowed my brows at them.

“Jed, you know what happened to the boss and Luna’s first baby right?” Amy asked. I nodded my head. She only lifted her brow and then lowered her eyes.

“Oh, no fvcking*g way,” I said softly. They all just cast their gazes down to the ground. “fvck, I’m sorry. I had no idea that guy was your previous team lead.”

“It’s okay, we know you didn’t know, but now you do,” Amy said. After that awkward moment, I decided to keep my mouth shut for the rest of the night. I already felt bad for Dorian knowing that someone in his pack had betrayed him that way. Hearing that it was someone that held such an important role within the pack and at this company really irked me. This guy didn’t simply betray Dorian and Allie, he betrayed his team. I saw how the guys followed Amos around and respected him as much as they would the ranked members. So, to find out that their previous leader betrayed them that way must have hurt, a lot.

We all took turns getting some shut-eye throughout the night and, by the time the sun was coming up, we never saw a single soul leave the building we were watching. Eventually, Amos and the others relieved us as they took the morning shift.

{Allie’s P.O.V.}

“What do you mean Dr. Quinn took a leave of absence!?” Dorian asked as he tried to make sense of our conversation. As soon as he got home, I bombarded him with the drama that unfolded today with Dr. Quinn, Avery, Celinda, and Leroy. When I finished telling him how Luther really died and got to the part that Celinda wasn’t actually his biological daughter, I relayed the fact that Dr. Quinn had requested time off for, goddess only knows, how long.

“Well, you can’t actually blame her for doing that, babe,” I replied while standing in the doorway of the bathroom as he washed his face to get ready for dinner. “Imagine finding out that your daughter-in-law broke your son’s heart because she was a gold digger, and that your only grandchild isn’t your grandchild.”

“I can’t even imagine, but she’s also the attending physician of the pack hospital.”

“She said that she’s going to transfer all of her active patients to Dr. Boyd and that she will find a suitable, temporary replacement.”

“Ugh ...” he sighed and groaned while rubbing his face vigorously. “Why is there so much fvcking*g drama just piling up on top of everything that we’re already going through?”

“Because our lives are anything but boring,” I said in response. I took one look at his facial expression, and I could visibly see the amount of stress that has been piling up on him. “Babe, what’s wrong?” I asked him while caressing his arm.

“It’s nothing.”

“Don’t give me that bullsh!t, Dorian, you’ve been in a pissy mood for the last few weeks, and it’s starting to show.”

“I’m not pissy, Allie.”

“Yes, you are. You yelled at Daisy the other day when she asked you to have a tea party with her after you got back from work. You never yell at her, and you’ve always looked forward to your after hour tea-time with her,” I countered. He looked at me and I could see he felt so defeated. “Dorian, I don’t need Sin’s power of mind-reading to know that something is wrong.” He let out a deep sigh and sat on the ottoman that was tucked under the counter between our bathroom sinks. He gestured for me to sit on his lap, which I had no issue doing. He held me tightly and rested his head on my shoulder.

Dorian wasn’t as clingy as he was when we first met, but when he was really stressed or feeling apologetic, he always seemed to want to be close. It was like having another child. Only he was soon to be 32 and three times my size.

“Remember when Amber mentioned that we had a distant relative in Michigan who was a high-level Alpha?” he asked, and I nodded my head. “He had called me that day asking for a favor.”

“Okay, is that a bad thing?”

“Under normal circumstances, it wouldn’t, but in this case, it might be,” he said. I just looked at him and waited for him to continue. “This is kind of hard to explain, but Wyatt’s great-grandfather is dad’s great-grandfather’s cousin’s cousin,” he explained, and I lifted my brow like he was speaking Martian just now. I hated when family trees were complicated like this. “He’s a few years

younger than me, and he has a mate who is a really rare wolf. Even rarer than you and the others. He and I had a falling out about ten years ago and, believe it or not, it had to do with Jessica.”

“Ew! Why are you bringing her up!?” I exclaimed. That b***h’s name left a bitter taste in my mouth, and sometimes I wish I could turn back time so I could have killed her myself instead of Eddie and Mitch.

“Wyatt slept with her while she and I were dating,” he responded. My mouth dropped at how scandalous this all was turning out to be.

“Wait, hold up,” I said waving my hands. “How long had you and Jessica been dating when Wyatt came in and put his d!ck inside of her?”

“About three months. It was one of the reasons she and I broke up,” Dorian replied. “I was already going to dump her, you know with the whole impotence bullshit I went through, but that was also when Wyatt decided to sleep with her after he visited one summer.” I watched as Dorian’s eyes flashed black. At first, I thought Dorian was having a jealous moment, knowing that his cousin had slept with his then-girlfriend, but then I knew it was something else.

“Wyatt didn’t sleep with her just to sleep with her, did he? He slept with her to rub in your face that you were having libido problems at 24.” Dorian nodded his head and cracked his neck.

“Wyatt was barely 18, and Jess was 22 or something like that. He had also just become Alpha of his pack.”

“That fvcker,” I responded. Dorian smirked.

“Yeah, so hearing from him because he needed a favor just brought up some bad memories.”

“I see, well, whatever issues you have with your man-slut distant cousin doesn’t give you the right to be a d!ck to everyone at home, especially your daughter who sees you as her hero.”

“I know, I’m sorry. I’ll try to check my attitude when I come home.”

“Good. Now that we have that out of the way, what the fvck are we going to do about Avery Quinn?”

"I don't think there is anything we can do. I can't banish her for having affairs. It's not like what she did was illegal per se. Distasteful and disgusting, sure, but not illegal. She didn't break up any mates, or commit statutory r.ape, at least not from what you've told me."

"What about the insubordination to me and Sin?"

"That's a week in the cellar at most, but that's not something that's punishable by banishment. Everyone disobeys us once in a while, but it's never so bad that we would have to banish them." I hung my head in defeat. "I'm sorry, baby."

"Don't be sorry, it's not your fault. She's toxic, and she ruined both the lives of her daughter and Dr. Quinn. I mean, you had to have seen her, babe. I don't think I have ever seen Dr. Quinn look so hurt, or lost. Her mate died over two decades ago, and to find out that her only son actually did die in vain, I can't even imagine what is going on in her mind right now."

"Well, we're going to just have to give her some time."

"What if she doesn't overcome this?"

"Then we may have to let her retire and find a more permanent replacement." I nodded my head and let out a heavy sigh. "How are Leroy and Celinda?" he asked.

"I honestly have no idea right now. Celinda was so heartbroken when Dr. Quinn practically told her that she wasn't her granddaughter anymore. Celinda basically lost her entire family, and the only person she has now is Leroy," I answered. "I gave him a few days off to help comfort her." Dorian nodded his head and k!ssed my cheek.

"Let's get the twins and go down to dinner," he said, changing the subject immediately. I nodded, and we went to the nursery to find Daisy and Demarco.

"Hi, mama!" Daisy shouted at me. I smiled and leaned down to k!ss her cheeks. Demarco came running over and almost made me topple over because he threw his entire body weight against me. "Dada!!" Daisy squealed when she saw Dorian. He picked her up and threw her in the air. I was happy to see that she didn't hold any grudges towards him being an a.ssh0le to her the other day.

“Oh, I almost forgot. Did you find a dress for next weekend?” he asked me. I smiled and nodded my head. “You bought shoes, didn’t you?” I smiled even bigger and nodded even harder. I rolled my eyes when he squinted his, and of course, Sylvia and Raquel just giggled.

“Girls, did the twins get washed up for dinner?” I asked, redirecting the conversation.

“Yes, Luna,” they replied in unison.

“Great, you two may have the rest of the night off. Dorian has some making up to do with Daisy, so we will play with them after dinner,” I told them both. They bowed their heads and left.

Although there were broken hearts and drama earlier in the day, that didn’t prevent Sin from getting her good news confirmed from Dr. Boyd. Sin decided that she didn’t want to wait and blurted the news at dinner, which had everyone in an uproar of excitement and congratulations. Mikey was jumping up and down like a little kid on Christmas, and he wasted no time in telling Helena and Ethan.

“Dude! We finally get to have our moment!” Mikey shouted at Dorian.

“Yeah, I guess so,” Dorian replied with a smile as he helped Daisy with her chicken wing.

“Okay, everyone has had or is on their second pregnancy, except for me and Dani,” Sam mentioned.

“Don’t forget about half-pint,” Brandon added.

“Nah! I’m good with one for now. Meredith is already a handful as it is,” she replied, shaking her head.

“Do you think our kids will be mates like Demarco and Danica?” Mikey asked as he sat back down.

“That would be exciting!” Leah exclaimed.

“How would that work? I mean, rank and all that?” I asked.

“Well, if we have a girl and she does happen to be the mate to Mikey and Sin’s new pup, then she would end up with a Gamma title, but she could

produce Alpha pups,” Dorian answered. “She would obviously be a second in line Gamma, but Gamma nonetheless.”

“But if you guys have another boy and we end up with a girl, which I’m really hoping for, then she would hold a rank just below Danica. Demarco being the oldest male in your family automatically puts him next in line for Alpha, and his mate, Luna. But if for whatever reason that doesn’t work out, then the title would transfer over to the next male in line. If you have a boy, it would be him, but if not Sawyer would get that title, and then the hierarchy would really change.” Mikey added.

“What? What about Daisy!?” I shouted.

“Sorry Giz, but females take the title of their mate, so even though Daisy is an Alpha wolf by blood, her rank would be Omega,” Brandon replied.

“Dad already explained this to you when they were born, baby,” Dorian reminded me.

“Yeah, but I didn’t think that Daisy would literally lose her birthright,” I responded.

“It’s the way it’s always been,” Sam told me. “Even I had no problem losing my rank when I met Lucas.”

“WHAT RANK!?!” we all shouted. Even Lucas was stunned at what she just said.

“Oops,” was all she could say to us.

“Babe, you were a ranked wolf?” Lucas asked. “Why didn’t you ever tell me this!? We’ve been married for almost ten years!”

“Because rank was never important to me. I love you for who you are, and I didn’t care that you were an Omega. It didn’t seem like it was necessary to tell you. I’m surprised you couldn’t tell when we became mates.”

“What rank did you hold?” Leah asked.

“Beta.” All of our mouths dropped. “Albeit; my parents were low-level.”

“What the crap!” I shouted. “Who else has a secret they want to share with the table!?” Everyone just looked around and didn’t want to say anything, but Dani looked like she needed to say something.

“Spill it, Dani,” I told her.

“Ummm ...”

“Amour, tell them,” Andre said to her with a smile on his face.

“We’re getting married?”

“WHAT!?!” Everyone at the table screamed, scaring all of the pups. Meredith started to cry and so did Danica. The older pups were surprised, but they didn’t shed tears. Daisy clung to Dorian, but that was about it.

“Where is the ring!?” Sin asked, grabbing Dani’s hand.

“I have to get it from my mother,” Andre replied. “It is a tradition that the family heirlooms be passed down from woman to woman in the Dubois family. She will be coming back with Vivienne after Jed returns, and I will do a proper proposal then.”

“Wait, so does that mean you got her dad’s blessing?” I asked him.

“Oui, that day we confronted them after the incident with Harry. We have just been so busy with work, drama, and of course, everything with Vivienne and Jed, that I have not had a chance to really say anything. But, Dani and I have discussed it, and we will be having the wedding in France. Mostly due to the fact that my father will be inviting his entire coven.”

“YESSSS!!!” I shrieked with pure happiness. I jumped out of my seat and ran to them, pulling them into a simultaneous h.ug by their necks.

“Allie, Dani can’t breathe,” Dani croaked out as she tapped my arm from h.ugging them too tight.

“Oh, my bad,” I said and let go, but h.ugged them again for good measure.

“Please tell me that we’re all invited!? I’ve never been to France!” Lacie said cupping her cheeks as her expression became dream-like.

“Duh, all of you are invited. Andre and I were thinking we could make this our annual trip?” Dani said more as a question than a statement. I looked at her and then at Dorian to gauge his reaction.

“We will have to table that for later, Dani,” he replied to her. “Unfortunately, with everything going on, I don’t think we can afford for all of the ranked members to leave the pack again the way we did last year.”

“Oh, okay,” she answered. “Would it be okay if us girls at least went to New York to buy my wedding dress next weekend?”

“Oh, no can do, babe,” I told her. “Dorian and I have a charity event that we have to attend next weekend.”

“You guys can go the week after, assuming Allie’s pregnancy doesn’t get in the way,” Dorian said with a smile.

“Sweet!”

“Dani, will my Vivienne be in your wedding party?” Andre asked.

“Of course. She’s part of this group now too.” Andre’s face darkened, knowing that meant he would more than likely have to put Jed in his wedding party as well. That just made us laugh at him because his disapproval of Jed was still so visible. He liked him, we all knew it, but he would never admit it.

I looked back at Dorian who wasn’t even paying attention anymore. His undivided attention was on the twins, yet his face was so dark. I didn’t know what was going on with him, but something told me it had to do with more than just his cousin calling. Or the fact that we still have drama after drama trying to take over our lives. Whatever it was, it was bothering him to no end, and I knew that I needed to do something about it before he lost his sanity.

Desert Nightmare Chapter 32 - Tips

{Dorian’s P.O.V.}

I hated lying to Allie, and I had to do my best to keep my thoughts a secret from Sin these days. Her powers tended to be more sensitive whenever she was pregnant, or for lack of a better term, hormonal. But in all honesty, I was fvcking*g terrified that all the drama and stress that our pack has been enduring or will eventually endure could cause harm to our unborn pup. Even

though the moon goddess swore that we would never lose another, I just couldn't help but worry.

It also didn't help that Wyatt had a situation on his hands and I knew that Mikey and I would have to go to his pack to help with the situation. It wasn't a matter of if, but rather a matter of when. These traffickers that were in his area were no joke, and these two new wolves that he's providing safe haven for being the sole reason behind their presence was a recipe for disaster. Also, the last thing I wanted to do was leave Allie when she's currently pregnant and vulnerable.

"Dorian?" I looked up from my desk when I heard the voice that made my heart stop every time. "Babe, what's wrong?" Allie asked as she sat on the edge of my desk in front of me. I just smiled and rested the side of my face on her stomach and listened for our pup moving around. Being almost two months along meant that we would be able to feel the pup moving a little bit. "Dorian, talk to me."

"Shhh ... Just let me listen for him or her really quick." She didn't say anything else and we sat in silence for a few minutes. After feeling small ripples of movement of our baby, I sat straight up again and looked into the eyes of my beautiful, yet, tiny wife.

"Dorian, I think I know what's wrong with you," she said. I furrowed my brows at her. "You're scared, aren't you?" she asked. I blinked once in shock and widened my eyes at her. "I can feel it you know. Dr. Quinn said that it would happen now that our souls are intertwined."

"She did?" I asked.

"Yup. She said that we would be able to feel each other's feelings whenever we're happy, sad, afraid, or even angry. And lately, all I'm getting from you is fear. Not even anger." I looked at her and didn't know what to say. "Baby, it's okay to be afraid. You don't have to put up a front with me. I'm scared too, but it's like you said that day Jed first came to you- we can't let the fear of the unknown dictate our lives. I'm sure the whole Demon King business, Michaela, and now your cousin reaching out really just did it in for you, but you're not alone. Yes, you're the Alpha, but you have me, the others, and all of the pack behind you. As of right now, there are no bad apples in this pack, and everyone who is anyone will do whatever it takes to keep our home safe. I need you to be strong, not just for us," she says as she places one hand on her stomach, and the other on the picture of the twins I had as my desktop

background on the computer, “but also for yourself. If you keep hiding the fact that you’re scared, it’s not going to do any good for anyone.”

I let out a deep sigh and nodded my head. Allie was right, and I needed to hear her say those words to me.

“Baby, you have no idea how much I needed to hear that. I’ve been so caught up in hiding the fact that everything happening has me scared sh!tless, I forgot to stop and think what my fear would cause everyone else. The truth is, I am scared. With Heather out there being helped by dark magic, and the fact that she showed herself at Lacie’s wedding, Andre’s dad telling us about the potential end of our kind, and personal drama occurring within the pack every other day has really started to take a toll on me,” I finally admitted to her.

“Dorian why didn’t just say something sooner?” she asked while hopping down off the desk and onto my lap instead. I held her close and kissed her shoulder blade.

“Because I didn’t want my fear rubbing off on you while you’re still in the early stages of the pregnancy. It’s not like last time with the twins. We announced this pregnancy and now the whole pack knows. Which means, it’s only a matter of time before our enemies find out. I can’t lose another pup, Allie. I’ll go mad and I’ll stop at nothing to kill anyone that harms you or our children.”

“I know, and that worries me. You avenged Lavender, just like you promised you would. Even though it wasn’t by your hands, Tucker died because of what he did, and Hank is burning in hell for helping him. Selene has promised to keep our family safe, and she will. Don’t lose the good part of yourself to anger and fear, Dorian.”

“I’m trying, Allie. I really am, but sometimes I feel like we can’t catch a break. All I’ve wanted in my life is you, and our kids. Being Alpha comes second to being your husband and a father and I just feel like I’m not meant for either.”

“What the fvck? Dorian, that’s nonsense. You’ve been the perfect husband and you’re an amazing father from what I can see. I didn’t have one, but the way you are with the twins makes my heart melt with pride and love. I hope that had my parents been given the chance to raise me, that they would have loved me the way you love our babies; unconditionally. Our lives are perfect, regardless of the drama, we endure along the way. Rome wasn’t built in a day, Dorian, but I think that once we get over the next few hurdles, we’re going to be okay. I don’t think Selene would have blessed us or Sin for that

matter with these beautiful babies if we couldn't handle ourselves or what's to come," she said while running her fingers through my hair as she spoke. "I love you, so much, Dorian. I always have and I always will. Our kids love you just the same, as well as, everyone else. You're not just the perfect husband or father, babe, but you're the perfect Alpha for this pack. You always put everyone else's needs above your own, and that's what makes you a leader and not just an Alpha."

"Damn, you just know what to say, don't you?" I asked while hugging her tightly.

"I learned from the best," she replied. I looked at her thinking she was going to say she got it from me, but I was wrong. "Your mom." She laughed the moment she saw my face falter. "We're going to be fine, Dorian. I know we are. As long as we stick together, we will get through it all," she said and pulled me into a passionate kiss. I half expected it to end there, but it didn't. Allie repositioned herself to straddle me, and I felt her project her lust onto me. I instantly pressed the lock button on my desk and proceeded to make love to her.

{Jedediah's P.O.V.}

"Holy fvck! What is this guy!?" I shouted at Amos. We finally caught a lead on the serial killer that human authorities were after, and we were hot on his trail. But this guy was fast, and we kept losing him, only to catch his scent in the opposite direction.

"I think he's a nine-tailed fox," Amy said as she was running up next to us.

"A what?" I asked as we turned down an alley and lost him again.

"fvck, now where did he go?" Amos asked as we skidded to a stop. "Team two, do you see him?" Amos said into his radio. It was late at night, and there was practically no one, so using our wolf-speed came in handy, but somehow, this guy kept outrunning us.

"No, we don't," came a response from Albert.

"What the fvck is a nine-tailed fox?" I asked.

"It's a rare breed of werefox. When they shift, their tail can turn into a weapon of nine different blades. I think that's how he's been klling his victims," Amy answered.

"What?"

"I know it's fvcking*g crazy, and hard to believe, but it's the truth. Now that I think about it, the police reports make a lot of sense now. Some of them mention finding fox fur at the crime scenes, and everyone was kllled with some kind of knife. All of the blades used to kll the victims were different," she continued.

"How do we catch him?" I asked with eagerness. "This guy is dangerous. Not just because he's a klller, but he can expose the supernatural."

"You're right, Jed. We need to stop him, but I don't think it's going to be the human way anymore. We're going to have to get a bounty hunter from the pack to help us take him out," Amos said. "Tracking and catching to turn him in is one thing, but if he is a nine-tailed fox, we have to take him out the supernatural way," he concluded.

"Amos, who do I call?" Amy asked.

"Call the boss and ask him to send the elite four," Amos answered.

"The who?" I asked.

"Carter, Poseidon, Fury, and Warlord."

"Never met them," I replied.

"You will soon enough. They're technically retired, but they still work for the pack and the boss' company like we all do. But those fvckers can track down and kll a target within a matter of days," Amos said.

"I just called the boss, and he's going to get them on a plane tonight, but he needs definitive location," Amy said holding the satellite phone.

"We're in Berlin now, so let's start out and work our way in. If he thinks he's lost us, then he won't go very far," Amos answered. I heard Amy relay the message to Dorian and then hang up.

"So, Jed, enjoying your first a.ssignment?" Amos asked.

“Sure am, but fvck, I miss Vivienne,” I replied.

“Jobs don’t normally take this long. We’ve never dealt with a werefox before, so this is new for us too. My wife is pissed off right now because I’ve never been gone for more than a week. It’s been ten fvcking*g days already.”

“Hopefully, Carter and the others can get this guy. I want to go home already,” Amy grunted. “Tracking shouldn’t be this hard. fvcking*g werefox.”

I was glad to know we were on the same page when it came to wanting to go home. I eventually got an email out to Vivienne telling her that since I’m in Europe, that I would fly to her when the job was done. Almost as if she had been waiting to hear from me, she replied instantly and said she is patiently waiting at her parent’s coven for me.

{Dorian’s P.O.V.}

This week went by slow as a snail, and the issue with the werefox that Amos’s team was tracking was taking longer than expected. Just like a real fox, werefoxes were cunning and knew how to maneuver around trackers and hunters. With Carter and the others going after him, I hoped that they would get him. Unfortunately, that wasn’t the case.

It was the weekend of the charity event, and Allie was in the bathroom getting ready with Sin and Leah. Though they weren’t going, Allie was too tired to do her make-up and hair due to the pregnancy.

“OW!” I heard Allie shout. “b***h, don’t burn me with the curling iron!”

“Hold still, Allie!” Leah shouted. “Unless you want me to poke you in the eye with the mascara!” I shook my head and smirked at them. Nothing ever changes with those three no matter what.

“Ugh!”

“Girl, I wouldn’t burn you if you didn’t squirm so much,” Sin said to her.

“Oh for the love of the moon goddess, give me that!” Allie shouted. I walked into the bathroom just as she snatched the curling iron from Sin.

“Everything okay in here ladies?” I asked with a smile.

“Oh, everything is just peachy,” Sin retorted while putting her hands on her hips.

“Dorian, your wife can be so snappy when she’s hormonal,” Leah said putting whatever was in her hands down.

“You b!tches love me either way,” Allie replied as she finished the front of her hair.

“Allie, stop using your hormones as an excuse to be snappy at people,” I tell her sternly. She just glares at me and goes back to doing the finishing touches to her hair and make-up with the girls’ help. “Baby, we’re going to be late,” I say to her.

“I’m done. Just got to get dressed and put on the shoes,” she replied and got up. She went into the closet with Sin and Leah behind her and I watched as she put on the dress she bought.

“Damn, that dress looks amazing on you,” Leah said as she pulled out the shoes from the box. “And these shoes! Can I borrow these?”

“Sure, but not right now,” Allie replied as she adjusted the dress to lay correctly on her body.

“Uhh ... Allie, is it just me, or does your baby bump look bigger than when you first tried this on last week?” Sin asked her.

“Yeah, it fits a little tighter,” Allie said.

“You look beautiful, baby,” I tell her from the door.

“Alright, you’re all set,” Leah said to her.

“Thanks for your help, you guys. I swear, I think this baby is taking more out of me than the twins or Lavender did.”

“What do you think you’re having?” Leah asked her while handing Allie her clutch.

“Honestly, just based on what I felt while pregnant with Lavender, I think I’m having a boy. Lavender didn’t drain me this much.”

“You think it’s a boy?” I asked her and she nodded I smirked at the thought of another boy. More protection for Daisy. “Alright, we have to go now, ladies. We’re going to be late if we don’t leave right this minute,” I tell them.

“Dorian, it starts at 7:30, and it’s barely six. We’ll be fine,” Allie replied coming up to me and straightening my shirt collar. “You look dashing,” she said to me. I leaned down for a chaste k!ss.

“Have fun you guys,” Sin and Leah said. We waved our goodbyes and went down to the garage. When we got to the car, I opened the door for Allie and made sure her dress didn’t get caught before closing the door. I went around to the driver’s side and got in myself.

“Hey, I haven’t seen Sam or Lucas today,” she said to me as she put on her seatbelt.

“They’re moonlighting for some extra cash.”

“Eh? But they make seven figures a year, why would they need extra cash?”

“No clue, but I authorized it.” Allie just shrugged and placed a hand on my leg. I pulled out of the garage and drove us to the Convention Center where the event was being held. When we go there, I made sure to use the valet. The valet guy opened the door for Allie before I got around to her side. I tossed him the keys and took Allie’s hand to help her out.

“Mr. Shaw!” I turned around and saw the paparazzi.

“What the?” Allie said when she saw all of the cameras. “Dorian, what kind of charity event has paparazzi?”

“The kind where famous and rich people show up to,” I replied. “Smile for the cameras, baby.”

“Ugh,” she grunted, and she immediately put on a smile while locking arms with me.

“Mrs. Shaw, it looks your expecting, how far along are you?!” a reporter asked. Allie paused a minute because she had to think on her feet.

“I’m about halfway there,” she said keeping the actual month count to herself. It would be kind of hard to explain a werewolf pregnancy.

“Any idea what you’re having!?”

“We’re going to wait,” I answered and pulled Allie away from the sea of reporters and paparazzi. When we got to the door, Allie and I both stopped in our tracks.

“LUCAS!?! SAM!?!” Allie exclaimed.

“Allie?!?”

“Boss?!?” Sam and Lucas exclaimed in unison.

“This is where you two are moonlighting?” I asked them.

“Yeah, we found out last night,” Lucas replied.

“Love the dress,” Sam said to Allie. Allie just smiled.

“Damn, why am I not surprised that you guys are here,” Lucas said.

“I know. 25k a plate. Of course, whoever is in charge would invite Dorian Shaw,” Sam retorted.

“Have fun moonlighting you guys,” Allie replied and waved at them as we went inside.

“Name please?” the hostess asked us.

“Dorian and Allison Shaw,” I replied. I watched as they flipped to the last page of the list they had.

“Welcome Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, please enjoy your evening,” he said.

“Thank you.”

“You can leave your coats and suit jacket with the receptionist to the left.” I nodded and we headed over to drop off things.

“Wow, this is quite a turnout,” Allie said as she looked around at the crowd. As her eyes wandered, she suddenly froze.

“What’s wrong, baby?” I asked her when I saw her eyes squint.

“Oh ... my ... God ...” when I saw her eyesight fixated in a specific direction, I followed her gaze and saw what caught her attention.

“Allie, aren’t those...”

“My maternal grandparents.”

Desert Nightmare Chapter 33 - Tips

{Allie’s P.O.V.}

I couldn’t believe what I was seeing. The two people who abandoned me solely based on the reason that my father didn’t come from money. Even though they were technically family, I hated them. They disowned me before ever getting to know me and had the nerve to label me as a mistake when I was born from true love. My parents didn’t care about each other’s background and loved one another wholeheartedly. I was a product of that love. They risked everything to raise me in America, only for them to tragically pass two years later.

“Baby, are you okay?” Dorian asked. “We can go home if you want.”

“No, I’m not going to run away from them. I’m honestly not okay, but I refuse to avoid them. They passed judgment on me because my dad was poor. Well, I’m going to shove it in their face that I’m anything but. My husband owns a multi-billion dollar security company.”

“Allie, don’t be spiteful,” he scolded me.

“I’m not going to be spiteful. I’m going to hold my head up high and show them that, no matter what they say about me, I’m proud of who I am. I’m the wife of Dorian Shaw, and the mother of two perfect kids with another on the way.”

“That’s my girl,” he replied and kissed my temple.

“Mr. Shaw!” We turned around to see an Asian gentleman that looked to be in his mid-thirties approaching us. “Welcome, it is an honor to have you here. My name is Alexander Kim.”

“Mr. Kim, thank you for the invitation. I assume you are the event coordinator?” Dorian asked him.

“Yes, I am, how keen of you to notice. I run a non-profit that helps fight human trafficking and se.x slavery. I hold one of these events every year. Normally it’s in Los Angeles; however, we decided that Vegas would be a good choice this year.”

“I see, well, it’s good to know that someone is working to fight the injustices of the world,” Dorian replied.

“And who is this lovely young lady?” Alexander asked.

“This is my wife, Allison.”

“Please, call me Allie,” I greeted him, shaking his hand.

“Allie. Correct me if I’m wrong, but you look of Korean descent.”

“You are, in fact, correct,” I answered with a smile.

“Mr. Shaw, will you and your wife be joining the auction this evening?”

“Auction?” we both asked simultaneously.

“Yes. That is how this event works. We pick some of the more attractive individuals and auction them off. All of the money collected is what helps fund our quest to stop the injustices we spoke of.”

“What do we have to do?” I inquired, cautiously.

“Nothing. You spend the evening with the winning bidder and then go back home to your spouses. It’s more of a business tactic. Most of the guests in attendance are also married but are willing to open their checkbooks for a good cause.”

“What are the rules?” Dorian asked.

“You cannot bid on your own spouse.” Dorian looked down at me and I just shrugged my shoulders.

“It’s for a good cause, babe. I think you should do it,” I told him.

“What about you?” he asked me.

“I’m pregnant. Who’s going to bid on a pregnant woman?”

“Please, Allie. You’re glowing, and you look marvelous. I’m sure we can get, at least, in the high five figures for you this evening,” Alexander told me reassuringly. He sounded genuine.

“Come on, Allie. You said it yourself. It’s for a good cause,” Dorian said.

“Oh alright, fine, I’ll join the auction,” I answered reluctantly.

“Wonderful! I will get your names on the list. We will start with men first, and then women.” We nodded our heads, and he took off.

“What did we just get ourselves into?” I asked Dorian, and he laughed it off and shook his head. We went around and mingled with a few individuals. A lot of people recognized Dorian, and I was surprised to sense a few other werewolves in the mixture. They all bowed their heads to Dorian and me as a sign of respect. We bowed in return.

Dinner was an amazing seven-course meal complete with wine pairings. Unfortunately, I had to settle for sparkling cider to accompany my food and was quite envious. The food was delicious though the fact that it cost \$25k a plate was outrageous. But, I did realize that everyone here had very deep pockets which is what I assume was Alexander’s goal. Those who RSVPed with a plus one could easily afford it and even had more to spare with the upcoming date auction.

“Babe, I’m going to use the bathroom, I’ll be right back,” I told Dorian and kissed his cheek. He nodded his head and went back to socializing with our table. I made my way to the restroom and ran into Sam.

“Hey, how’s it going in there?” she asked me.

“Ugh, it’s all mostly business and people wanting to get something out of Dorian.”

“You good? You seem a little out of it,” she said.

“Yeah, I’m just avoiding a certain couple in there. Thankfully, there’s a lot of people, so it’s making it easy,” I answered truthfully.

“Who?”

“My maternal grandparents.”

“What!? They’re here?”

“Yeah.”

“Wow.”

“Yeah.”

“I’m sorry. Do you need me to take you home or anything like that?” she asked.

“No, I’m good. I’ll be fine,” I said with a smile. I loved Sam and knew that she would always be there for me when I needed to get out of a jam. I was going to say something else when I caught the scent of someone familiar. I turned around and saw a woman walking into the restrooms. “Wait,” I told her and walked away.

“Hey, where are you going?” Sam asked as she began to follow me. I walked into the bathroom and concentrated on the scent. “Hey, what’s ...”

“Shhh ...” I shushed Sam right away.

Mind link only, Sam.

What’s going on?

The woman that just walked in here. She’s giving off the same essence I picked up at Lacie’s wedding.

What? You mean?

Yeah, I think it’s Heather.

No sooner had I finished my thoughts, out she came from the restroom stall; I was right. The moment this woman saw Sam and me, she froze, and I could see the fear in her eyes. “Oh, what a giveaway,” Sam spoke directly to her.

“Hello, Heather,” I said. She was disguised differently than she was at the wedding.

“Allie.”

“Wow, you’re not even going to try and deny it? Either you’re really c0cky, or you’re really stupid,” Sam said, closing the door to the bathroom and locking it.

“I’m going with the latter,” I replied.

“You can’t hurt me,” Heather declared insolently.

“Hurt you? b***h, I’m going to fvcking*g k!!l you!” Sam proclaimed and took a step towards her.

“Sam, stand down,” I ordered.

“What? But, Allie!?”

“I said stand down,” this time in my Luna tone.

“Yes, Luna,” Sam replied forcefully.

“Awww ... Too scared to come at me on your own. Don’t have any drugs or decoys to use on me?” Heather taunted.

“No, I’m just tired of letting your sorry a.ss dictate my life. Fine, you got away, but not on your own. I know you had the help of dark magic and, at first, your escape almost ruined my marriage. But then I realized that I spent too much time worrying about you. You’re worthless Heather. That’s why you’re in hiding.”

“Hiding? Who’s hiding? I’m fvcking*g standing right here!” she shouted.

“Yeah, you might be standing there, but you’re not you. You can’t be yourself anymore, well, because if the wrong person sees you, you’re going to be executed on sight. I mean, that is what an open bounty is for.” Heather clenched her teeth. “Heather, Heather, Heather. You may be alive, but you lose either way. Now you get to spend the rest of your sorry life witnessing everyone else be happy. Lacie, Deacon, and me, while you lurk in the shadows and constant disguise.” I watched as her jaw ticked in anger.

“You better watch yourself, Allie! I won’t hesitate to k!!l you for real this time!”

“How? You’re human now, Heather,” I postured, and she glared at me. “Yes, I know you’re human now. I’m protected by the moon goddess, there’s nothing you can do that can harm me. Not only that, but I’m also protected by good

magic. So, whatever dark magic is helping you remain hidden, just take it and stay hidden. You're only alive right now because I can't have my high-ranking officer arrested for the murder of a human."

"I don't care if you're protected, Allie! I'll find a way to get rid of you! Gideon will do whatever I ask!"

"Who the fvck is Gideon?" Sam asked. Where have I heard that name before?

"My mate is none of your concern!" Heather exclaimed and shoved past us. She opened the door and left the bathroom.

"fvcking*g b***h, I'm going to ..."

"No, Sam, you're not," I ordered, stopping her.

"Allie! We had her!"

"I know but, just as I suspected, pissing her off forced her to make a mistake," I answered.

"What?"

"Sam, she gave us the name of the person who is helping her."

"Oh ..."

"Yeah." We looked in the direction that she went, and I was surprised to see her go into the same convention hall I came out of. Whoever this Gideon guy was, he had money, and everything started to make a lot of sense. But where had I heard that name before?

"Allie, shouldn't you get back to the boss?"

"Yeah, I should." I did my business and went back to Dorian. He gave a look and I just shook my head. I didn't want to ruin the night with more drama and kept what happened to myself. I spotted Heather within the crowd, and she was with someone. I tried to get a lock on his scent, but there were too many humans in the mix. I would have to get closer, but something told me that man was Gideon, Heather's supposed mate.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you all enjoyed dinner," Alexander addressed everyone while holding a microphone and going up to the podium. "As is

tradition with any of these events, we will be holding our auction here in ten minutes. Gentlemen, if you are one of the entrants in the auction, please make your way to the back of the stage, and you will be given a random number. That will be the order in which you will proceed.”

“See you soon, baby,” Dorian said before parting ways with a kiss on the cheek. It was just my luck that I saw the man Heather was with getting up as well. I knew I had my chance to get close to him. I was going to have bid on him, and I was going to have bid high. Thank the goddess I still have money saved from our time in the Bahamas. I would gladly give up that money to get to the bottom of who this mystery mate is. “Ladies get those checkbooks ready, our male auction is about to begin,” Alexander declared.

“Chagiyah! Saranghae!” (Honey, I love you!) I heard someone shout from the crowd. I looked around and saw a young Korean girl waving at Alexander with hearts in her eyes. Then I saw who she was sitting with. My grandparents. She looked to be about my age, which meant she was their granddaughter. I also saw two others seated with them, also of Korean descent and they looked to be in their forties or so. The woman had an uncanny resemblance to my mother. Could she be my aunt? I wasn’t even aware that my mom had siblings.

“I love you too, darling,” Alexander crooned into the microphone. Everyone averted their eyes. “Alright, let the auction begin!” he announced, and all of the ladies squealed in delight. “Up first, we have Garret Thompson, owner of several high-end strip clubs in the Los Angeles area. Mr. Thompson is worth a whopping \$5 million, and ladies. He’s single ...”

“WHOO!!!” I heard women scream.

“Come to mama!” I heard another shout.

“Give us a striptease!” a different person hollered. I was shocked and entertained to see the lack of decency in the women here tonight.

“Alright, bidding will begin at \$25,000.”

“HERE!” someone placed a bid at once.

“I see \$25, do I hear \$30?”

“Me! Me!”

“To the lovely lady in green. Do I hear \$40?”

“Over here!”

“Ah-ha, right there to the miss in white. Do I hear \$50? ... No? ... \$40,000, going once, going twice, sold! To the lovely miss in white! Come and claim your date.” The woman looked to be in her sixties. I just shook my head and laughed.

This went on for about 30 minutes and there were at least a dozen men that had been bid on. Most were decent-looking and, as Alexander stated to us before, most of them were married. You could see the jealousy in the wives' faces when their husband was bid on. So far, the most anyone bid on was a real estate investor for \$100,000. I hadn't bid on anyone yet because I was waiting for Heather's mate.

I was hoping he would be up next but, to my surprise, it was Dorian. I wanted to smile at him when I saw him, but I wasn't the only one paying attention to him. The room of ladies fell silent the moment he stepped out on stage. I don't want to sound biased, but my man had to be the best looking in attendance by a longshot. The tattoos that were visible along his neck, and hands just gave him the dangerous look, and I know most women crave a man with that kind of look. He was easily one of the tallest, if not, the tallest man in the room. With his black hair and emerald green eyes, women were swooning and drooling left and right of me. I normally would be jealous, but in this case, I was proud to have him as my husband.

“Alright, ladies, second to the last is Dorian Shaw, CEO of Shaw Security and Surveillance. He's worth ... Holy crap,” Alexander cleared his throat. “Mr. Shaw is currently worth \$1.4 billion.” The crowd gasped and women started to whisper to themselves. Men were easily envious. Not only was Dorian one of the richest in attendance, but also one of the youngest. I peeked over at my grandparents and, I knew for a fact, they recognized him which meant they knew I was here as well. I turned my back to them so they couldn't see me. “We will start the bidding at \$25,000.”

“HERE!” I heard someone shout.

“Do I hear \$30?”

“Me!”

“Anyone for \$40?”

“Over here!”

“I have \$40! Anyone for \$50?”

“ME!!” someone else screamed. I glanced over and saw it was Alexander’s wife. I looked back up at the podium and Alexander just shook his head and smiled big. I guess he didn’t care his wife was a little overly excited about bidding for Dorian.

“\$60,000!” I knew that voice; sure enough, Heather was holding her plaque up.

“\$70!” Alexander’s wife bid again. Why am I not surprised that his family had that kind of money. I doubt she would bidding this way if she didn’t.

“\$85!” Heather countered. I looked at her in dismay. Where did she have that kind of money? Could her mate be her source of income?

“\$100!!”

“\$110!!”

“\$125!!” they kept going back and forth, but in the end, I was grateful that Alexander’s wife won with a final bid of \$175,000.

“Well, that was quite a spectacle. Sarah, come claim your date!” Alexander announced, sounding a bit envious himself. I studied my grandparents; their faces were dark and very unpleasant. This was going to be interesting.

“Alright ladies, onto the last gentleman of the evening.”

“Awww!!” the ladies bellowed in displeasure.

“I know, but the night is still young and we have ladies to be auctioned right after this. Now, our final gentleman for the evening is Gideon Sharp, CEO of Sharp Investments. He’s worth \$12.5 million and is currently single.” I furrowed my brows when Alexander mentioned Gideon was single. Heather was sitting right there, and her face contorted in anger. Something was off, and I was going to make it work in my favor. “Let’s start the bidding at ...”

“\$100,000!!!” I called out immediately.

“Oh ... Umm ...” Alexander was shocked. “I have \$100,000 right off the bat.”

“\$150!” Heather countered.

“I’m sorry, but you cannot bid on your date,” Alexander informed her. Her reaction was priceless.

“I’ll do \$150,” came another voice. I turned around to see a young woman about my age. She had black hair in a high ballerina bun and wore a very revealing dress. I swear, her t**s were about to fall out. She smirked, but it wasn’t geared towards me. I turned to see her vantage point, and it was actually directed at Heather. The expression on Heather’s face was one of pure shock, initially, which quickly gave way to absolute rage. Whoever this girl was, it looked like she and Heather had some beef going on and I wanted to know what it was.

Desert Nightmare Chapter 34 - Tips

{Heather’s P.O.V.}

I couldn’t fvcking*g believe it. It was bad enough that I ran into Allie here, of all places, and there was nothing I could do about it. And to add insult to injury, the event coordinator had announced Gideon as single. Single? He’s my mate, and he told them he was single. Then that fvcking*g cunt Aria had to show up. Who the fvck let her out of her hole in the first place?

“I ... Uhh ... I have \$150, do I hear—”

“\$175!” I looked behind me and saw Allie with her plaque. She was bidding on Gideon, facing off against Aria. The fact that I didn’t want either of them to win was driving me insane. I couldn’t bid on him, and none of the older hags in this place were bidding because it was too much.

“\$200!” Aria placed another bid. Allie appeared fl.ustered, but it didn’t stop her from pressing on with a higher bid.

“\$250!” I watched as Aria’s face darkened. She didn’t have that kind of money, and she soon realized she was out of her league. I knew why Aria was bidding on Gideon, but I had no clue why Allie was. What did she stand to gain by bidding on him?”

“I have \$250! Going once, going twice, sold for \$250,000!” I whipped my head back towards the front and then immediately back at Allie. “Mrs. Shaw, please come claim your date.” She stood and casually walked up to Gideon. He took her hand and kissed the back of it. I wanted nothing more than to rip this b***h’s head off. It was bad enough I lost Deacon because of her, but now she’s coming for Gideon!? I looked back at Aria who just had that stupid smirk on her face. She turned her heel and walked away.

“Mrs. Shaw, as much as I would love to enjoy your presence, I have to attend to some business that cannot wait. I do apologize,” Gideon informed her.

“Business? This late in the evening? All work and no play I see. We just met, why the rush?” Allie asked, all sweet. I wanted to hurl.

“Unfortunately, being the CEO of an investment company comes with its many flaws. Thank you for your bid. I’m sure the money will go to great use.”

“It was a pleasure meeting you, Mr. Sharp,” Allie said and bowed her head slightly.

“The pleasure was mine, Mrs. Shaw, and, please, call me Gideon.”

“Gideon. Have a great evening,” she replied and walked away. As soon as she was out of earshot, I turned to him.

“What the fvck! Single? Are you fvcking*g kidding me!?” I whisper-shouted at him.

“Not here, we need to go. fvcking*g Aria,” he responded and grabbed my arm. He dragged me to where they kept our coats, as soon as we got them we found a space away from prying eyes, and he shimmered us home.

As soon as we landed in the bedroom, Aria was waiting for us.

“OH MY GOD!” I screamed when I saw her.

“What the fvck?” she shouted and covered herself. This b***h was fvcking*g n.aked in our bed.

“ARIA, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS!?” Gideon blew up at her.

“My King, I was waiting for you. I didn’t expect you to bring the queen back with you,” Aria replied.

“Who said that you could leave the confinement of the house?” he snarled at her.

“My King, I was not aware that I was confined to the house. Since when have I been confined?”

“Since you tried to turn me against Heather!”

“My Lord?”

“Aria, do you take me for a fool?”

“No, of course not.”

“Then why do you constantly talk down to her when I’m not around. Did you think you could get away with insubordination towards your queen, and I wouldn’t find out about it!?”

“She’s not even the Queen yet, Gideon! She’s human! You were promised an impure wolf as your queen!”

“And she was impure when I found her! There is nothing in the prophecy that states she has to stay a wolf to conceive!”

“There is also nothing in it that states she has to remain the queen after she gives birth! Gideon, you don’t even love her! You said so yourself!”

“You what?!” I snapped at him.

“Don’t act surprised, Heather. I already told you that he didn’t love you. Did you think that I was lying just to get under your skin?” Aria sneered at me.

“Heather, go to the guest room and stay there until I sort this out,” Gideon instructed me.

“What?! This is my room!” I exclaimed. “Whatever you have to say to this backstabbing son of a b***h, you can say in front of me!”

“Gideon, are you going to let her speak of me that way!?” Aria whined.

“ARIA, THAT IS ENOUGH!” Gideon boomed. “I told you once, I’ve told you a hundred times. What we had was over ages ago. Heather is to be my queen, and she will always be my queen.”

“YOU DON’T EVEN LOVE HER!”

“Be that as it may, I have more feelings for Heather than I ever did for you. Now get out of my sight!” Aria’s face was one of pure shock and hurt. She turned her evil glare towards me and then shimmered out. As soon as she was out of the room, I turned Gideon around and slapped him across the face. “Did you just slap me?” he asked as he held his cheek in disbelief. Without answering, I slapped him again, only on the other side. “Heather!”

I completely lost it by that point. “Single!? You’re anything but single Gideon! I’m your mate, regardless of how that came to be, I AM YOUR fvcking*g MATE!” I railed on him. “I DIDN’T ASK FOR THIS, YOU TOOK ME, REMEMBER!? You came to get me, you called me all of those fvcking*g pet names, and now you’re telling your demons that you don’t love me. Telling humans that you’re fvcking*g single!?!”

“Heather, I don’t have time for whining and b!tching. I already have enough to deal with now that Desert Moon knows we were there.”

“Allie doesn’t even know who you are!?”

“Be that as it may, she knows that you were there. She knows you, and it doesn’t matter that you’re human now or magically cloaked when we go out in public. The fact of the matter is, she knows who you were. That’s why she bid on me. She was trying to make you jealous, and you played right into her hands.” I had nothing to say to that. He was right. The entire night all Allie had been doing was getting under my skin, and I let her. “Get cleaned up and ready for bed. I’m tired, and I don’t want to fight with you.” He said and went to the bathroom. I needed to get rid of Allie. I don’t care what it took anymore, I would make it happen at all costs.

{Allie’s P.O.V.}

After Gideon and Heather left, I released the breath I was holding in. This guy’s soul was pure evil, and it was the same essence I felt at Lacie’s wedding. I had never felt something so dark before when reading one’s soul. It literally sent chills throughout my entire body. I didn’t need to verify with Maxine or Claudia. They would already confirm it was the same evil they sensed in the cellar. Especially since Max felt it at the wedding when I did.

I shook off the willies I got from that guy and went to go find Dorian. I walked around, following his scent, and finally managed to find him. What I found made both Mercury and I stir in a jealous rage. This b***h that bought Dorian was doing a little more than just enjoying his presence. She was locked onto him like a koala bear on a tree. I searched around for Alexander, but he was nowhere to be seen. She was being overly fl!rtatious with Dorian, but I kept my cool and calmly walked up to them.

“Looks like someone is having fun,” I said sarcastically to Dorian as I put my hand on his shoulder and came around from behind him.

“Hey, baby,” he said with relief. I guess he wasn’t all that comfortable with this girl rubbing herself on him like he was some kind of flagpole.

“Um, excuse me, but we’re busy,” she said offhandedly to me.

“Yes, I can see that. And I don’t appreciate you rubbing yourself all over my husband. He’s supposed to keep you company for the duration of the event, not take you home,” I replied.

“Excuse me!?”

“You’re excused,” I said and took Dorian from her. “I’m tired, and my feet are k!lling me.”

“Okay, let’s go home,” Dorian said and put his arm around me.

“Ddoong ddoong haneeka bal-ee ahpeugee,” (Your feet hurt because you’re fat) she said under her breath. I immediately stopped in my tracks and wh!pped my head around.

“Cheosjjae, nugunga-eul yog hasilkkeomyeon geu salam-i geueon-eoleul al-adeudneunji mos al-adeudneunji meonjeo hwag-inhasiji. Dubeonjjae, ddoong ddoong hanguh anheeaeoyoh. Imshin hanguhaeyoh. Dangshin byeonmeyong mwohaeyoh?” (First of all, if you’re going to talk sh!t about someone, make sure they don’t understand the language. Secondly, I’m not fat. I’m pregnant. What’s your excuse?) Her jaw dropped at my insult and she scoffed.

“Nari, what’s going on here?” asked the woman I saw before, coming up to us.

“Umma! She called me fat and stole my date!” she whined.

“Stole your date? He’s my husband, and I’m ready to go home. I have every right to take him back as I see fit. Perhaps you should do the same with your husband, wherever the hell he is,” I snapped.

“I do not appreciate you talking to my daughter that way,” the woman said. When I looked at her, all I saw was my mom. The resemblance was too much.

“Perhaps you should teach your daughter not to hit on someone else’s husband or to speak ill of others in a language they can understand,” I retorted.

“You speak Korean?”

“Yes, quite fluently as a matter of fact. I understand that this was a charity event organized by your son-in-law, but that does not give your daughter the right to take advantage of my husband, nor disrespect me.”

“Minjungah, moosoon eereeyah?” (MinJung, what’s going on?) I looked behind her and saw my grandmother who froze when she saw me. Normally in situations like this, I would at the very least bow my head in respect, but she didn’t deserve it. “Nun ddoh mwoyah!?” (What do you want!?) she shouted at me.

“Umma, eeyujah ahsaeyoh?” (Mom, do you know this girl?)

“Algin mworara. Amohgotddo ahneeyah.” (Know her? I don’t know her. It’s nothing.) I scoffed at her answer.

“Sonnyeottal beolingeo mosjal-aseo, ije ttanim ege geojismalkkajihhaeyo?” (Isn’t it bad enough that you abandoned your granddaughter, but now you’re lying to your daughter as well?)

“Sonnyeottal-ilan-i? Umma, geuge museun mal-iya?” (Granddaughter? Mom, what is she talking about?) Was I being petty for outing myself as her granddaughter, sure, but at this point, I didn’t care. I’d rather let everyone know now because it would make that much easier to disown them to their faces after all the horrible things they said to me.

“Halmeoni, geuge museun mal-ieyo?” (Grandma, what does that mean?) Nari asked. My grandmother gave me the vilest look I had ever seen. At this point, our commotion had brought a lot of unwanted attention.

“Why are you saying that you’re her granddaughter?” Minjung asked me.

“Because I am.”

“Geu ib damulji mothae!?” (Shut your mouth!?) my grandmother yelled at me.

“Umma ...” Minjung knew then that I was telling the truth just based on my grandmother’s outburst. As if right on cue, my grandfather showed up.

“Please, tell me who you are?” she asked me.

“YOU WILL DO NO SUCH THING!!!” my grandfather screamed at me.

“Why? Are you afraid that if the truth comes out that it will tarnish your reputation? Or are you feeling stupid at the fact that I’m not who you thought I was when I went to find you last year?”

“Last year?” Minjung asked, and I nodded. “Oh my god, it’s you, isn’t it? You’re Suhjung Unnie’s daughter, Allison.”

“Yes, I am.” Without another word, she embraced me in a h.ug. I froze at the unwelcome affection and had no idea what to do. I looked up at Dorian who was just as shocked as I was.

“Umma?” Nari questioned as she saw her mother h.ugging me.

“Nari, this is your cousin,” she said as she pulled away.

“MinJungah, don’t be ridiculous!” my grandmother yelled.

“You lied to me,” my aunt confronted her. “You told me that unnie’s daughter died in the car accident with them! You lied! She’s been alive this whole time and you knew!”

“She does not belong to this family!” my grandfather shouted.

“Why!? Because hyungboo (older brother-in-law) was poor!? At least he treated unnie with respect, unlike that trash you were trying to marry her off to at the time!”

“MinJung, you’re making a scene.”

“Who cares!?” she shouted. “My sister died over 20 years ago, and the only thing left of her in this world is standing right there!” my aunt exclaimed,

pointing at me. “You said she died, but she’s been alive this whole time, and you let her grow up without a family! What kind of monsters are you!?” At this point, the crowd had grown and now reporters were filming the debacle. I didn’t expect this to happen, but I guess it was too late.

“Emo?” (Auntie?) I said and she turned around to face me. “Geuman haseyo. Da jinagan-il-ieyo.” (Please stop. What’s done is done.)

“Allison ...”

“Gomawoyo jeoleul injeong haejusyeoseo; hajiman, jeo geujog mos bad-adeulyeoyo.” (Thank you for accepting me; however, I can’t accept you.)

“What?”

“I’m sorry, but you’re 23 years too late. I have my own family, and I won’t subject them to those who care more about money and status than they do their own blood. I wasn’t aware that they lied to you, so I don’t blame you. But you could have looked into the situation on your own. If I had died in the accident, why wasn’t there a burial for me?” When I said that she had a look of shock and realization. “I’m sorry, but what’s done is done, and I’ve moved on.” I turned my heel to walk away when I heard Nari call out to me.

“Allison Unnie!” I turned to face her surprised that she would use that formality with me. “I’m sorry for hitting on your husband. And congratulations on the baby.” She was sincere.

“Thank you, Nari.” As Dorian and I attempted to leave, the paparazzi were taking photos left and right, and I could hear reporters questioning my maternal family members. I never expected it would turn into some family scandal, but karma’s a b***h and I would be damned if I let anyone dictate my life anymore. They made a deliberate choice to abandon me so I made a choice, to tell the truth to my aunt. She deserved to know and so did Nari, my cousin.

After we retrieved our belongings, Sam and Lucas were outside waiting for us. I figured they would have gone home, but I guessed wrong.

“We saw the whole thing. Are you okay, Luna?” Lucas asked me as he helped me with my coat.

“I’m fine, Lucas. I just want to go home.”

“Boss, you good?” Sam asked him.

“Yeah, we’re good,” Dorian replied.

“Mr. Shaw, your vehicle,” the valet guy alerted him. He passed Dorian the keys, and Lucas helped me get in. Dorian got into the driver’s side as Lucas closed my door, and the first thing Dorian did was take my hand into his and k!ss the back of it.

“Are you sure you’re alright, baby?”

“I will be. I can’t say the same for the Lee family reputation though,” I replied while looking back at the convention center.

“Well, if you ask me, they had it coming. They could have just left you alone, but they decided to throw an attitude at you. Plus, I know for a fact that they’re kicking themselves right now.”

“What do you mean?” I asked.

“When your cousin won the bid on me, the first thing your grandparents tried to do was ask for my business. They knew who I was, but they didn’t think I recognized them. I turned down their offer and called their business an abomination.”

“Dorian! You did not!?”

“Oh, I did. And they instantly knew that I knew who they were.”

“Well, I’m sure they are kicking themselves knowing that they missed out on a grandson worth billions,” I pointed out, shaking my head.

“I don’t need them, or their business. All I need in life is you and our kids,” he said to me and took my hand in his again and put my palm to his cheek and k!ssed it.

“Which is exactly why I turned down my aunt. She accepted me right away, but it’s as I said to her, they’re 23 years too late. I have my family—our family—and our pack.”

“I love you, Allie.”

“I love you, Dorian.” He hit the gas and we headed towards home with Lucas and Sam tailing right behind us.

“So, are you going to tell me who that guy was that you bid on?”

Oh sh!t.

Desert Nightmare Chapter 35 - Tips

{Dorian’s P.O.V.}

My pulse accelerated as Allie continued to disclose the events surrounding the couple at the convention while in our bedroom. I clenched my fists until they were numb and white before I couldn’t hold back anymore. “ARE YOU fvcking*g SERIOUS!?” I roared at the top of my lungs.

“Yes,” Allie answered flatly.

“That woman was fvcking*g HEATHER? She fvcking*g bid on me!?” I was shocked and disgusted all at once. She was obviously cloaked the same way she was at Lacie’s wedding so, of course, I didn’t recognize her. Learning that she bid on me for a date made me want to vomit. I had to swallow the lump in my throat to prevent myself from gagging, and I have anything but a weak stomach. Allie was rolling over, laughing at me while I glared back at her. “It’s not funny, Allie!”

“Yes, babe, it is. The fact that you were being bid on by Heather and my cousin is hilarious to me. Heather did it because she was attempting to get back at me and Nari, unfortunately, had no idea we were cousins.”

“That’s fvcking*g gross. Wait, I thought Alexander’s wife’s name was Sarah?”

“It is; her Korean name is Nari, and her western name is Sarah. Also, let’s get one thing straight, it’s not as gross as when I had to hit on Heather’s date or whoever the fvck he was. Do you know how hard I had to try to keep the goosebumps from taking over my body? It was bad enough just being in the vicinity of that guy, it had my insides twisting in all sorts of directions. He even hit on me,” I grimaced.

“HE WHAT!?”

“He. Hit. On. Me. In front of Heather. What’s even worse is that he announced himself as single when he went up on stage. Whoever this evil son of a b***h is, Heather was really jealous that I started to bid on him. It also didn’t help that some other black-haired slut bid on him too.”

“Black-haired slut?” I raised an eyebrow.

“My god, Dorian. Were you that distracted by my cousin that you didn’t see the tail end of the auction?”

“Technically, the tail end should have happened with us still there. You were supposed to be bid on too, remember?”

“Oh sh!t, I totally forgot!” she shouted in dismay. I just shook my head in response. “Dammit, now I feel bad.”

“It’s okay, Allie. I won’t lie; I’m relieved I didn’t have to witness any pervy old men bid on you,” I confessed and moved onto the bed to sit next to her. “Now tell me, why were you so engrossed in Heather’s date?”

“Something Heather said when I went to the bathroom. Sam and I had a run-in with her, and she said something interesting.

“What’s that?” I asked while making myself comfortable on the bed.

“She said she had a new mate, and that his name is Gideon. I assumed it was the guy she was with, and then, of course, his name was disclosed during the auction.”

“How can that be possible? Heather isn’t allowed to have a mate. Selene said so herself,” I replied, c*****g my head to the side.

“I know, but it wasn’t the fact that she has a new mate that had my brain on overdrive,” she continued, grabbing her hair.

“What is it then?”

“His name.”

“Huh? His name?”

“Dorian, doesn’t the name Gideon sound familiar to you? I feel like I’ve heard the name before but can’t remember where.”

“Gideon is a common name, Allie,” I pointed out and began to rub her shoulders.

“I guess,” she muttered.

“Try not to get too worked up about all of this. It’s not good for you or the pup,” I said as I finished massaging her neck. Allie readjusted herself and straddled me. I held her tight and laid down with her in my arms, drifting off to sleep while snuggled close to her.

The next week or so went by without any issues, and I was waiting to hear back from Mikey about Amos’ team. Vivienne returned to the pack since she was tired of being with her family in France. She was upset that Jed was still gone; it had been almost two weeks at this point. It wasn’t just Vivienne though, all of the mates and spouses of the team members on assignment were upset, wondering when they would be coming home.

Even I couldn’t answer them. The fact that they were after the nine-tailed werefox made this an extremely difficult job. Carter and the other bounty hunters weren’t having much luck either, and I was this close to sending Aries instead because I knew he would get the job done. And in the off chance he couldn’t pull it off either, then I would have sent Mikey as a last resort.

“Knock, knock.” I looked up from my desk, and Mikey was standing in the doorway of my office. “You busy?”

“Always. But what’s up?” I asked, signaling him to come in.

“Just wondering if you’ve heard back from Amos’ team yet?” he asked as he sat down and crossed his legs on the top of the corner of my desk.

“No, I haven’t,” I answered as I shoved his feet off of my desk. Just then, the satellite phone abruptly rang. “I guess that’s them now,” I said and picked up the phone. “Hello.”

“Holy fvck, are you serious?” Mikey exclaimed when I got him up to speed on everything Amy mentioned to me.

“I’m dead serious, and now I need to call Wyatt.” I picked up my cell to call my douche-of-a-cousin to explain the same thing I had just iterated to Mikey a moment ago. Wyatt was more than caught off guard by what I had to tell him, and he had every right to be. Knowing that this trafficking group he’s been investigating had a reputation for taking rare and special supernatural creatures made me go into full-on protection mode; Allie and the others could be at risk if they were ever found out.

When I hung up with him, I looked over at Mikey who was visibly upset. I watched his demeanor change when I mentioned that Allie and the others were possible targets to Wyatt. There was nothing Mikey wouldn’t do to protect Sin and Allen, especially now that Sin was pregnant again after three years of trying.

“I’m going,” he said immediately.

“We need to talk to the others when we get home,” I cautioned him.

“I don’t give a fvck, Dorian. You just said that my wife could be a potential target. Along with Gizmo, and Leah. That’s three very important women in my life, your life, hell everyone’s lives that could be sold off like some circus animal. We don’t need to have a meeting to know what Brandon and Andre are going to say,” Mikey snapped back. I hated it when he lost his cool with me, but he was right. Allie would always be the most important person in my life, but that didn’t mean that Leah and Sin were any less significant.

“Look, we have two hours left in the day, try to hold it together until we get home, huh?” I asked him while trying to keep myself calm.

“Fine. But my answer is the same. I’m going.”

“Good.”

{Mikey’s P.O.V.}

When we were all home that night, Dorian called for a round table that included all ranked members, high-ranked officers, and our parents. We even included Amber and Ronnie on the call via Skype. I thought that was overkill on Dorian’s part, but once he explained how Amber would probably k!ll all of us if we didn’t include her, I changed my tune.

Dorian finished explaining the situation to everyone and the first person to volunteer to help take down the traffickers was my dad. This caught all of us off guard, except for him and my mom.

“Ummm ... Is there something the two of you would like to share?” I asked them. My dad looked stunned for a moment, but Uncle Ben nudged him and nodded his head.

“Son, you may not remember this because you were very young, but I’ve dealt with traffickers before. Not like this group that Dorian just talked about, but traffickers nonetheless,” my father answered.

“Okay?” I retorted and c****d a brow at him.

“Mikey, sweetheart, traffickers leave a very sour taste in our mouths,” my mom told me. “The reason being is because when you were about four, you were kidnapped by traffickers.”

“I WAS WHAT!?” I exclaimed and Sin’s jaw hung open.

“We never told you because you were just so young at the time. So young, in fact, that when we were reunited with you several days later, you had completely forgotten about the whole ordeal. To you, it was a figment of your imagination, so we decided to leave it at that. There was no reason to traumatize you,” she explained. I looked at her in utter disbelief.

“It’s true, son. As you know, I was a bounty hunter long before I met your mother. Because I’m older than both Ben and Joe, even though we met your mothers around the same time, I was already 22 by the time your mother and I met. And when you were born, I had already been in the business for almost five years, and in those five years, I made a lot of enemies.”

“Knock, knock.” I looked up from my desk, and Mikey was standing in the doorway of my office. “You busy?”

“Are you saying I was kidnapped because of a personal vendetta someone took upon you?” I asked.

“That’s exactly what happened.”

“Mikey, when you boys were little, the pack was attacked in an ambush, and it turned out that the target wasn’t us ranked members or your mothers. The target was you,” Ben told me.

“Back then, the bunkers and nurseries aren’t what they are today. They weren’t fortified or hidden. It was easy for a few enemy combatants to get by without being noticed and take a young pup,” Joe continued.

“Wait, I remember that day,” Amber said from the projector screen. “I was 15 or 16 at the time, and I clearly remember Uncle Ethan leaving for about a week without any word.”

“Amber, sweetheart, you are correct. That’s how long it took me to find Mikey. I left a good trail of bodies in my wake while doing so, but I found him nonetheless before he could be sold to the highest bidder. Back then, selling a werewolf pup wasn’t uncommon. Allison and Dorian learned that last year,” my father said.

“This is something straight out of the movie Taken,” Sin pointed out when everything had been explained.

“The point is, traffickers are the scum of the earth. Whether they’re from our world or the human world. And the fact that someone is out there taking children, torturing them, and then selling them for profit disgusts me to no end, and I will gladly come out of retirement to take them down.”

“Dorian, you take whoever you need to take, and you go help Wyatt and his pack. Leave everything here to me, Joe and your mothers,” Ben reassured him.

“Mikey.” I looked at my father. “Son, I know that this is a lot of information to take in, and I’m sorry that we never told you the truth until now. However, I don’t regret it. You not knowing is what made you the man you are today. One of the best in the world. I would like to think that you not having remembered the trauma you endured all those years ago helped in some way prevent you from being afraid to take risks.”

“Honestly, dad, I became a bounty hunter because I wanted to take after you,” I said to him and smiled. Did it suck finding out like this that I had once been kidnapped as a young boy? Hell yeah, it did, but my dad was right. Had I known back then, I don’t think I could do what I do today.

“I really hope that this doesn’t become the Rays family business. I would die if Allen decided to do what you guys do,” Sin declared.

“You’re in good company, darling,” my mother said to her. “I just about had a heart attack when Michael said he would forego college and do what his father did. As a mother, it’s the last thing you want to see your child do. Put their lives in danger, but Ethan’s mother was there to help me through it, and I’ll do the same for you if Allen chooses that path.” Sin’s face darkened one shade knowing that there was a possibility of Allen taking after me.

“Okay, now that that’s settled. All in favor of going to the Blue Lake pack, raise your hands,” Dorian said. Practically everyone raised their hands, even the girls. I was about to dispute Sin going, but she gave me one look that said I’d better not, so I didn’t.

“Dorian, I think we should bring a guard each for the girls, and of course, Derek will have to come for Dani,” Brandon suggested, and Dorian nodded. I was glad he brought that up. Knowing that Nick or Paxton would be with Sin at all times made me worry less.

“Then it’s settled, it looks like we’re going to Blue Lake,” Dorian announced.

“Hey, we’re going too!” Amber shouted from the screen. “Henry and Melanie can watch over the pack. I haven’t seen Wyatt in ages, and I think having another Alpha and Luna pair will strengthen everything.

“Fine, we’ll meet you at Wyatt’s pack Monday afternoon. I need to call him and make sure he can spare enough rooms in that damn castle of his.”

“CASTLE!?!” Dorian dropped his head. Regardless if this was for work, this trip was going to be epic.

Desert Nightmare Chapter 36 - Tips

{Allie’s P.O.V.}

“Baby, why are you so nervous?” Dorian asked me while we jetted off towards his cousin’s pack in Michigan. I hadn’t even noticed that I was bouncing my leg and biting my nails.

“She’s nervous because she’s never met another Luna before,” Sin replied on my behalf. I glared at her for entering my mind without my permission.

“What? Allie, you know plenty of other Lunas,” Dorian needlessly reminded me.

“Uh, I know our friends that are also Lunas. I don’t know Wyatt’s mate. And you said she’s some kind of super wolf, that she’s more powerful than me, Leah, and Sin combined,” I answered before I resumed the nervous behavior. I was never one to shy away from meeting new people or new wolves, but when Dorian mentioned that Wyatt’s mate had powers that most wolves didn’t, I was shocked, to say the least. I wasn’t even envious of that fact since having that many powers came with a lot of rules and restrictions. I wouldn’t want that kind of stress on my shoulders.

Not to mention the fact that she’s apparently only 20 years old is insane. I mean, we’re by no means old, but hearing that she became Luna at 18 threw my mind for a loop. I knew that wolves found their destined mates at 18 if they were lucky, but becoming a Luna at that age? I couldn’t even imagine that being me. I had a big enough adjustment going from human to wolf at 22.

“Allie, stop projecting your anxiety. I can seriously feel all of your nerves,” Dorian sighed as he spoke and brought my hand to his mouth to calm me.

“This pack we’re going to is such new territory, like, literally. I mean, how are they going to react to all of us going there? There are already eleven of us on the jet. Then there’s Leroy, Paxton, Sylvester, Derek, and Aries on a commercial flight behind us. That’s a lot of people to take to another pack for a wild goose chase.”

“Wild goose chase!? Giz, have you forgotten that this trafficking group could come after you and the others if they ever found out about you?” Mikey snapped at me. I jumped back at the abrupt change. Mikey has never once used that kind of tone with me. Seeing my reaction, he bit his tongue. “I’m sorry, Giz. I didn’t mean to shout. I’m just on high alert with Sin pregnant as we journey to another pack with danger lurking around the corner.” He apologized.

“Mikey, Sin isn’t the only one pregnant,” Brandon told him. “Gizmo is too, and she’s further along. Allie honestly should have stayed home, but I already know that Dorian would be a mess without her.”

“I know, I’m just ... Ugh ...” Mikey grabbed his hair and put his head down.

“Honey calm down. We’re going to be okay. If anything were to happen, Leah would know,” Sin said reassuringly. Mikey nodded his head and hugged Sin. Ethan put his hand on his shoulder, but Mikey just shrugged it off. Everyone could feel the awkwardness coming from the two of them. I also felt guilty that my poor choice of words got him all worked up.

“Everyone just take a breather,” Dorian advised us all. “We’re going to be landing in about two hours. Amber and Ronnie will get there before we do since they took off before we did. Let’s all get some sleep before we arrive. As soon as we land, we’re going to get straight to work. Allie and Sin, I want you to familiarize yourselves with the pack hospital at Blue Lake. And Allie, try to be nice to Wyatt.” I scrunched my face at his insinuation that I wouldn’t be nice. I mean, yeah, he pretty much stabbed Dorian in the back to be an immature man-whore, but I wouldn’t be so petty as to bring that up and judge him for it. It was a decade ago. If Dorian could let it go, then I could too.

“Whatever, I’m always nice,” I sneered and turned my back to him so I could try to get comfortable. I heard him chuckle behind me and felt him slouch so he could get some rest.

We finally landed two hours later, and Grayson was, by far, the best pilot there ever was. His landings were always so perfect when we touched down. After parking the jet, we said our goodbyes to Grayson and Molly before the guys took off to retrieve our luggage. As we were waiting on the tarmac, three black SUVs approached us. The passenger window rolled down and I smiled when I saw Amber.

“HEY, YOU GUYS!” she yelled from inside the SUV.

“HI!!” we all shouted back in unison. Amber jumped out of the car and hugged me tightly.

“God, look at you. You’re glowing! And Sin, you are too!” she exclaimed when she saw us. Sin and I just smiled. Ronnie came out of the driver’s side and two others exited from the other cars. I had no idea who they were.

“Umm ... Who are those guys?” Leah asked, but I only shook my head since I didn’t know the answer either. One had light brown hair and tattoos up his arms and what looked to be across his chest as well. He was shorter than Dorian but just as big.

“Damn,” Sin whispered in my ear when she caught a glimpse. I just nodded my head in agreement. It was like the club incident all over again. The other guy had curly black hair with ocean blue eyes. He was kind of scruffy, and handsome too but not as built.

“Holy fvck, and here I thought Rylee was small,” the guy with black hair remarked when he saw me with the girls. All three of us scowled at him.

“Easy there Kendrick, that’s Dorian’s wife. And the other two are the Beta and Gamma females. Don’t make fun of their height. Especially Allie,” Amber warned him.

“Oh, sh!t, my apologies, Luna,” he replied and bowed his head to me. “Beta and Gamma,” he bowed again and greeted Leah and Sin.

“Allie, Leah, Sin, this is Kendrick. He’s Wyatt’s Beta,” Amber introduced us. My eyes widened with interest when she identified the tattooed hottie as Wyatt. “Believe it or not, Wyatt’s sister is Kendrick’s mate. Younger sister.” All of our mouths dropped.

“Oh sh!t,” Sin muttered. The scandal. Leah and I pursed our lips together.

“Wyatt, I see you met my wife,” Dorian said, coming up to join us.

“Holy fvck,” Kendrick blurted out when he saw Dorian, Brandon, and Mikey. He was, without a doubt, he was the smallest amongst the guys.

“Dorian ... you’ve ... gotten bigger,” Wyatt noted as they sized each other up, which didn’t do much since Wyatt was at least three inches shorter and maybe 50 pounds lighter when it came to size.

“Well, sh!t happened a little while back and I spent my days in the gym,” Dorian answered, crossing his arms. I looked up at Dorian who wasn’t moving, and I rolled my eyes. He was such a hypocrite, telling me to be nice when he’s the one being a d!ck. I smacked his arm with the back of my hand and reached out to shake Wyatt’s hand.

“Wyatt, it’s a pleasure to finally meet you. Dorian and Amber have told me quite a bit about you.”

“Well, I hope it was all good things,” he responded and took my hand.

“Not really,” I answered truthfully and raised my brows in jest. Wyatt looked at Dorian and glared at him. I looked back at Dorian who casually shrugged his shoulders.

“Alright, that’s enough!” Amber shouted, clapping her hands. “You two need to grow the fvck up. Dorian, it was ten years ago, and Wyatt did you a fvcking*g favor back then! And Wyatt, regardless of that, you still stabbed your own cousin in the back by fvcking*g his then-girlfriend!”

“Amber!” Wyatt exclaimed. Amber completely outed him to everyone.

“Don’t ‘Amber’ me, kid. I can care less if you’re an Alpha. What you did was shady and fvckindg up. But it’s the past, so the two of you need to stop measuring d***s, and let’s get down to business!” Both Dorian and Wyatt couldn’t say anything to her. “Let’s finish the introductions, shall we?” she said.

Dorian cleared his throat and introduced Brandon, Mikey, Ethan, Andre, Dani, Sam, and Lucas. As he was explaining that Leroy and a few others were coming, they showed up at the tarmac with their bags in hand.

“Oh perfect, here they are,” Dorian said and pointed behind Kendrick and Wyatt.

“What the hell!? Are all of the guys at Desert Moon humongous?” Kendrick asserted. Each guard went to stand by their respective female and gave their signature bodyguard facial expressions. Aries stood towards the back without saying anything. “Who’s the scary guy with the spiky hair?” he asked.

“That’s Aries, my head bounty hunter,” Dorian answered.

“Aries? Bounty hunter? Wait, are you telling me that’s the infamous Aries Callaghan!?” Wyatt uttered in surprise. Aries just nodded and lifted his brow in confirmation. Wyatt shook his head of his delirium. “Okay, now that we’ve got all of the introductions out of the way, let’s pack up the SUVs and get going. Jason is waiting,” Wyatt assembled everyone as he assigned us to our respective vehicles.

“Who’s Jason?” I asked Amber as Dorian and I got into their SUV.

“Oh, he’s Wyatt’s Gamma. His mate is pregnant and about to pop, so he’s not leaving the pack castle,” she replied.

“Okay, you and Dorian keep saying castle. Does this guy really have a castle?” I asked. Dorian and Amber just smiled at each other and gave me a look. What was all the fuss about?

“WHAT THE fvck!?! HE REALLY HAS A CASTLE!?” I screamed as I plastered my face and both hands flat onto the window like some kid arriving at Disney World. Dorian, Ronnie, and Amber were laughing at my reaction as if they already expected it. My phone rang and saw that it was Sin, so I placed the call on speaker.

“HOLY fvcking*g sh!t!! THIS GUY HAS A fvcking*g CASTLE!!” She and Leah both screamed with zero restraint into the receiver.

“Ahh!! My ears, you fvcking*g skanks!” I shouted back at them. I hung up the phone and admired the magnificent architecture in front of me. I had never seen a castle in my life before. The fact that he had one in the middle of nowhere was ridiculous. As soon as the car parked, I opened the door and jumped out. I looked up, to the left, and then to the right. This thing was fvcking*g ginormous.

I felt Leah and Sin walk up close to me, and I knew we all had the same expression on our faces. We were in shock but also very, very excited. As we gawked at the scenery before us, I felt the presence of more people joining us. I looked down and out of the front door came a dozen or so people to greet us.

“Easy there Kendrick, that’s Dorian’s wife. And the other two are the Beta and Gamma females. Don’t make fun of their height. Especially Allie,” Amber warned him.

“Dorian, Amber!” a woman in her fifties came rushing towards them.

“Hi Aunt Grace,” Amber replied back with a h.ug.

“My goodness look at you two. Dorian, you’re ginormous! What has your mother been feeding you!?” she asked him while squeezing his arms.

“Aunt Grace, it’s been a long time. Uncle Ronan.”

“Dorian.”

“Alpha Shaw, my name is Jason Lexington. I’m Wyatt’s Gamma. This is my mate, Milan,” he introduced the two of them. I loved Milan’s name. It was so exotic.

“Oh my goddess, is that Dot!?” Amber shrieked, looking past everyone. I followed her gaze and there was a girl around my age with purple and silver hair.

“Dot?” I asked, confused.

“A nickname we gave Wyatt’s sister, Melody, because she was so small growing up,” Dorian answered. “But, now that I am paying attention, you three are definitely the smallest here,” he continued. I c****d my head to the side when I noticed that someone was missing.

“I’m sorry, but Wyatt, where is your Luna?” I asked him.

“She’s currently staying at another pack while dealing with some unexpected business. I can explain in better detail later. Dorian, we’ve cleared out the west wing of the castle for you and your pack members. The fifth floor is for you and your wife. The fourth will be your Betas, third will be for your Gammas and Deltas. The second floor will be for your officers and guards.

“Fifth ... floor?” I asked and looked down at my pregnant self. How the hell was I supposed to walk up five flights of stairs?

“Oh, Allie, don’t worry. We have an elevator on both sides of the castle,” Wyatt reassured me. I let out a breath of relief. I looked over at the Gamma female and smiled.

“Twins?” I asked her and she nodded. “Boys? Girls?”

“One of each,” she replied with a smile.

“Oh, us too!” I took out my phone and showed her photos of Daisy and Demarco.

“Too cute! How old?!” she asked while swooning over the images.

“They’re going to be three in a few months.”

“It would have been nice to meet them,” Grace said while looking over Milan’s shoulder.

“Well, Ben and Eleanor put their feet down when it came to us taking them or them watching them,” I replied and laughed.

“Oh, Eleanor. How is she?!”

“She’s great.” I smiled.

“Oh, look at me diddling about. Melody, come help me in the kitchen. We have prepared a feast for your arrival,” Grace announced with excitement.

“We can help too,” Amber told her, referring to all of us girls.

“Nonsense!” Grace replied, not so playfully smacking Amber’s arm. “You are all guests, and I will not have you lifting a finger while you are here.” She turned her heel and went back inside with Melody following behind her.

“She does know that we’re here to work, right?” Sam asked.

“Damn, is it just me or does she remind anyone of Aunt Nor?” Brandon asked and we all nodded our heads.

“Dorian, before we all head inside, I have to ask,” Wyatt began to say which caught his attention. “Are any of your men unmated?”

“Just one, Sylvester.”

“Well, Sylvester, you might be lucky while you are here. I have quite a few unmated females,” Wyatt told him. This got Sly’s attention and fast. Leah started to elbow him excitedly. He tried to play off like it didn’t excite him too but failed miserably which made everyone laugh.

“Alright, how about we all head inside, and you guys can relax before dinner. Dorian, if you don’t mind, I’d like to speak with you in private in my office,” Wyatt said to him with all seriousness. Dorian nodded. All of the guys grabbed our bags, and we all headed inside. Before I made it to the walkway, a small cottage across the lake caught my attention. It looked run down and it was completely isolated.

I took a closer look and saw someone come out. Even though it was pretty far away, I could tell it was a girl, a young one at that. I c****d my head when I saw her moving about. It looked like she was gardening.

Mercury, do you feel that?

I do.

“Baby, is everything okay?” Dorian asked me.

“Huh?” I looked at him. “Oh yeah, I just saw someone across the lake and was a little confused.” Dorian looked up to see what I was talking about. His brows furrowed when he saw her.

“Wyatt!”

“What’s up?” he asked.

“Who is that?” Dorian asked, pointing at the girl.

“Oh, that’s an outcast of the pack,” Wyatt answered.

“Outcast?” we both asked him.

“Long story short— she should have been banished, but she ratted out her friends for their crimes and was spared banishment. So instead, she’s been outcasted to that cottage which is isolated and across the lake. She’s not allowed to roam the pack grounds or attend pack functions. Think of it as a half-banishment,” Wyatt explained. Dorian and I looked at each other and then back at the girl.

“What’s her name?” I asked him out of curiosity.

“Sierra.”

Desert Nightmare Chapter 37 - Tips

{Sin’s P.O.V.}

By the time Mikey and I got settled into our guest room, he wanted to take a nap before dinner, but I didn’t. I wanted to address the big fat elephant in the room. Ever since Ethan and Helena told us about Mikey’s kidnapping as a child, his attitude has been off. And I don’t just mean him snapping at Allie on the plane. It’s his attitude towards Ethan as well.

Mikey hasn’t said a single word to him ever since that night, even on the jet ride here. He was giving Ethan the silent treatment and it was time to nip this in the bud, especially with everything going on and considering we were

staying with a different pack. We couldn't afford to have any personal issues arise. It would only make things awkward and distracting.

"Honey, we need to talk," I told him as he laid down and closed his eyes.

"Later, I'm tired," he replied nonchalantly.

"No, mi Amor, now!" I demanded and shoved him hard. I hated whenever he tried to avoid confrontation.

"Sin, what the fvck!?"

"Don't talk to me that way, Michael Rays. You have had the worst attitude since the other night. I get that you're pissed off and hurt at your parents for not telling you what happened all those years ago, but don't you dare take your anger out on me!"

"I'm fine, I just want to rest a little!" he snapped back.

"Don't lie to me, Mikey. Have you forgotten that I can read your mind?" He gave me the look of disapproval for using my powers on him, but it was kind of hard when he was practically screaming with his mind. "If you have a problem with your parents, you need to let it out. Talk to Ethan!"

"There's nothing to talk about, Sin! My parents lied to me. Okay?! It's in the past. I'm over it!"

"Are you seriously going to sit there and continue to lie to me!? Your attitude is going to affect everyone here! You know that. I know that. Everyone knows that. You throw bigger tantrums than Allie does when your feelings are hurt. The only difference is that you get all bent out of shape and pissed off."

"What do you want me to say, Sin!? Huh!? My parents fvcking*g lied to me my whole fvcking*g life! I was fvcking*g kidnapped! I was a victim of werewolf trafficking!"

"I know that! I was there when they told you! When they told the entire conference room!"

"Not just them! Uncle Ben, Uncle Joe, Aunt Nor, and Aunt Bridge! fvck, even Amber knew more than any of us did! My family lied to me!" he shouted and stood to his feet, stomping like an angry child.

“Mikey, they didn’t lie to hurt you. They also didn’t actually lie. They just withheld the truth.”

“That’s the same fvcking*g thing, Cynthia!” Mikey rarely ever used my real name unless he was really worked up and trying to make a point.

“No, it’s not. People lie to conceal the truth and, the majority of the time, it’s to hurt the other person. Your parents didn’t lie to hurt you. They withheld the truth to protect you,” I comforted him and took his hands in mine. His eyes were black, and his gaze was fixated on the floor, avoiding me. “Look at me,” I told him and caressed his cheeks. “Mi Amor, you were four. You were just a baby. Think about it, you were only a year older than Allen right now. And you heard what they said, when Ethan got you back, your mind suppressed the trauma and tricked you into thinking it was all a bad dream. What parent would want to tell their four-year child that they were actually kidnapped by bad people to be sold to other bad people for money? If that were Allen or this baby, would you want to expose them to something that horrible and traumatize them? Or would you go along with them and say it was a bad dream and that it wasn’t real?” Mikey’s hard expression faltered, and his eyes reverted to their soft brown hue. “Answer me, honey. What would you have done if that happened to our children?” He paused a minute before facing me.

“I would have told them that it was a bad dream.”

“Exactly. Your parents did what they thought was best for you at that time. A four-year-old child.”

“They could have come clean sooner. Not when all this sh!t is going on. I’m not a fvcking*g child anymore. I’m a 31-year-old grown-a.ss man! I deserved the truth long before the other night!”

“I agree with you on that, baby. But have you thought about how much this had to have been eating away at your parents? There really is no right time in life to tell one’s only child that they were once kidnapped and almost sold. I doubt that’s something to bring up at a family dinner.” I pulled Mikey into a h.ug. He hesitated for a minute before wrapping his arms around me and resting his face into the crook of my neck and inhaling deeply.

“How am I supposed to forgive them?”

“Forgive them for what? They didn’t do anything wrong, Mikey. There’s no reason to be mad at them. They protected you the best way they knew how

back then. Any decent parent would have done the same thing. We would do the same thing. Do you know what I would give to have parents even half as loving as yours? Or Dorian's? Brandon's? Hell, even Allie's." He lifted his head and looked at me apologetically.

"I'm sorry, honey, I forgot that—"

"That I grew up without parents? Yeah, I know. Sometimes I forget too because my life has been blessed in far better ways than I could have ever imagined. Your parents are practically my parents too. But they're also not. I don't know my father. All I know is that he's a three-time loser, spending the rest of his life in prison. I don't even remember my mother. Just that she chose to shoot heroin into her veins instead of taking care of her own daughter."

"Sin, I—"

"You know I was four years old when she died?" I cut him off again and he nodded his head. "Look, I'm not trying to make this about me, but you also can't make this all about you. We're not here to get payback on your behalf. We're here to help another pack keep people they care about safe. And to bring down this group of very, very, very bad people to prevent them from hurting any other supernatural individuals. You're one of the best out there, along with your dad, and Aries. Plus we have Lucas and Sam, who are the best at what they do. If this Blue Lake Luna is as bada.ss as she seems in person as she is on paper, then we have a lot of powerful and talented people on our side, trying to fight this common enemy. If you won't talk to your dad right now, then at least try to remain professional and work with him." Mikey let out a frustrated sigh but reluctantly nodded anyway. I gave a curt smile and kissed his lips. He rested his forehead on top of mine as he pulled away and held me close.

"I love you, honey," he whispered into my ear.

"And I love you, mi Amor. Everything is going to be okay. Let's figure this shit out first and then we can fix our family drama when we get back home." He nodded his head.

After our talk, we went downstairs for dinner and were the first to arrive. When we saw the spread on the table, our jaws collectively hit the floor. This Grace woman definitely went all out in welcoming us.

“Wow, this is insane!” I exclaimed when I saw the number of dishes sprawled out everywhere.

“This is nothing,” the Gamma female, Milan, mentioned casually as she walked right up to me. “Auntie Grace knows that you and your Luna are also pregnant, so she wants to make sure that your pups grow happy and healthy in your wombs,” she spoke. She looked around a bit and then whispered in my ear, “I swear to the moon goddess, my pups are going to weigh 20 pounds each, given how much this woman feeds me!” I couldn’t help the snicker that came out.

“How far along are you?” I asked her.

“I’m just over four months. These pups are coming sooner rather than later,” she replied, rubbing her stomach.

“Forgive me for being blunt, but you seem to be on the older side of the spectrum. First pregnancy?”

“No worries, I am on the older side. I didn’t want to get pregnant for a while. I’m one of the head female fighters. Being pregnant would have meant I couldn’t participate in fighting and training, and I tried to put it off for such a long time. But after seeing everyone close to me have pups relatively quickly, I started to get jealous. I guess the moon goddess decided it would be best to give me two at once. It also doesn’t help that I, myself, am a twin.”

“You are?” I asked in shock.

“Yes, my twin brother Angelo is actually the head guard for our pack. He’s also our Luna’s guard, but she really doesn’t need one honestly.”

“Is she as powerful as she’s made out to be?” I asked cautiously. I didn’t want to insult their Luna.

“That and more. She’s one hell of a wolf, and she’s definitely not one to fvck with.” I made an O shape with my mouth and just nodded my head. I realized then that Mikey was no longer next to me. I turned to my right and saw him with the Gamma male, Jason, I believe his name was.

“So, how long have you and your mate been together?”

“Jason? Oh god, we’ve been mates since we were 18. We were actually best friends growing up. He and I are one year older than Wyatt, and three years older than Kendrick. The four of us grew up together, along with my brother. I was the biggest tom-boy alive, so I got along great with boys more than I did girls. For a while, everyone thought I was a lesbian because of how boyish I was,” she admitted with a laugh.

“How did it feel being mated to one of your best friends?” I asked her curiously.

“Honestly? It was love at first sight for me. I always found Jason to be attractive and wondered what it would be like to be with him, but never pursued it. Jason, Wyatt, and Kendrick were into the girly girls who wore skirts and dresses. I was always in baggy shirts and cargo pants. It took me a minute to get into the girly phase of my life. But even then, I preferred basketball shorts and tanks over bikinis.”

“Well, you have amazing style,” I pointed at her really cute floral romper. “What made you change your mind?”

“Aww, thank you. Being mated to Jason is what did it. He treated me with so much respect when we found out we were mates. After he marked me of course. He was animalistic at first. I turned 18 before he did, only by a couple of months, so I already had a feeling he was going to be my mate. As soon as I turned 18, I saw Jason in a new light, and boy did my s****I drive go up the wazoo every time I saw him. Hanging out with him became so hard because seeing him only made me that much hornier.” We both laughed when she said that. “But then he turned 18, and since he was the future Gamma, there was a huge party for him. When midnight struck on the morning of his birthday, it was game over. He practically jumped on me in the middle of the party in front of everyone and marked me immediately.”

“What!?! He flat out marked you!?”

“Yeah.”

“What did you do?”

“I punched him across the face, twice. Then took him to his room, fvckngd his brains out, and marked him back.” My mouth hung open at how forward Milan was.

“Wow ... that’s ... umm. Wow,” I stuttered.

“Yeah. Jason isn’t just my mate, he’s my best friend, and now we’re finally going to—” She stopped mid-sentence, and her eyes bulged.

“Milan, are you alright?” I asked her. Her eyes became even bigger, and then I heard the sound of splashing water. We exchanged nervous glances and both looked down at the same time. There was a tiny puddle between her feet.

“Uh oh, I think ... My water just broke.”

“Oh sh!t!!” I shouted. “Houston, we have a problem!”

“Honey, is everything okay?” Mikey came running up to me.

“Not me! Her!” I pointed at Milan.

“Milan, what’s wrong!?” Jason appeared by her side.

“Jason, it’s go-time!” she said.

“What?”

“THE PUPS ARE COMING, YOU fvcking*g i***t!!” she screamed at him.

“Oh, I like her,” I told Mikey after seeing what a bada.ss she was.

“Oh, sh!! Oh ... Umm ... Stay here, let me go get my mom!” Jason took off running in the other direction.

“Jason, where the fvck are you ... Oh, for fvck’s sake!” Milan grunted.

“I got you, Milan,” I said as I held out my hand to her. “Which way is your hospital?” I asked kindly. I took one arm and Mikey took the other, and she gave us the directions. I had no idea where Jason went, but he was nowhere in sight.

“fvcking*g Jason. We went over this a dozen times,” Milan muttered in annoyance.

“Don’t worry, at least he’s somewhere in the castle. When I went into labor with our son, Mikey wasn’t even at home. He was at work. Believe it or not, Leah and I went into the labor at the same time, and even gave birth 20 minutes apart,” I told her.

“No way, that’s awe—Ahhhh!!” she screamed when she was hit with her first contraction. “Okay, just breathe through it. You’re going to be okay.”

“Hey, what’s going on!?”

“Mel, I’m in labor, and Jason lost his marbles as soon as I told him,” Milan winced and kept walking.

“What the ... Oh my goddess,” Melody, the Beta female, rolled her eyes. “WYATT!!!” she screamed at the top of her lungs.

“Damn, b***h! You could mind link him, you know!” Milan gr0aned at her.

“Nah, that’s no fun.” Just then we heard rumbling coming from upstairs.

“What!?” Wyatt exclaimed, running up to us.

“Milan is in labor, and Jason is ... well ... Jason,” Melody told him.

“Ah, say no more,” Wyatt replied and picked up Milan bridal style.

“Thank you, Gammas of Desert Moon, but my brother and I will take everything from here. If you see Jason, tell him to get to the hospital,” Melody greeted us and bowed her head in respect. We smiled and wished Milan luck with her delivery.

A few minutes later, Jason came running down the stairs with a bag in hand and two women on his tail. Both of whom were yelling at him for being stupid and leaving Milan alone after her water broke. Behind them came our friends.

“What the hell is going on?” Allie asked.

“Their Gamma female went into labor, and her mate basically panicked,” I answered, making everyone chuckle.

Not much time passed before Grace came down and addressed us.

"I am so sorry everyone. Milan's sudden labor has caught all of us off guard. But please, don't wait for us. Go and enjoy dinner, and we will let you know as soon as her pups are born," she announced cordially.

"Don't worry Aunt Grace, we will be fine. Give her our best wishes and we look forward to meeting the future Gammas of your pack." Dorian said to her respectfully.

We all went to go eat and enjoyed ourselves. The food was superb, and Allie made sure to give thanks to all of the kitchen staff that prepared the food. As thanks, we all helped clean up when we were done, and Allie, Leah, and I asked a few of the Omegas to assist us in making plates for Milan and the others so they could also enjoy the food when they were able to. The Blue Lake pack members seemed genuinely impressed and grateful for this.

Luna Rylee could learn a thing or two from this Luna. I heard one of the kitchen staff say in a mind link to another.

I agree. Rylee is a good Luna, but she doesn't think about others the way this Luna does. I mean, she's a guest, and here she is thinking about our ranked members and Gamma Milan being in labor. She replied.

Have you seen the Alpha? He's huge! He makes Alpha Wyatt look small.

And the Luna. She's so petite, but her Luna aura is powerful.

I wonder who is more powerful, our Luna or her?

Our Luna more than likely, due to her abilities. But that would make her a powerful wolf, and not a powerful Luna.

I agree. This Luna is fit. Have you seen her arms and legs?

Oh, I know. I also saw her interacting with their guards earlier, and she just screams power. Our Luna doesn't. The Desert Moon guards want to respect their Luna. People of our pack only respect Luna Rylee because she's the Luna.

I know. That's how I am. She's nice and all, but I can't get over the fact that she left us two years ago.

Can you blame her though? The Alpha lost his sanity due to dark magic.

It's his own fault. Layla should have been banished long before the Luna ever arrived. That b***h Terrine too. I know plenty of Alphas who wouldn't have hesitated to put a she-wolf and her illegitimate pup on the streets for murder.

Our Alpha needs some lessons on how to be an Alpha, as well, as our Luna.

I couldn't take it anymore. I could not believe that these Omegas were talking sh!t about their ranked members behind their backs like that.

"Could you two be any more disrespectful!?" I shouted at them. They both paled and stared back at me in shock.

"I'm sorry?" one of them asked.

"I could hear your mind link conversation clear as day, and the blatant disrespect you have for your Alpha and Luna disgusts me!" I exclaimed.

"Sin, what's wrong?" Allie asked while coming up to me with Leah on her six.

"These two Omegas were talking sh!t about their Alpha and Luna," I replied.

"Out loud?" Leah asked. I didn't answer.

"Sin, you did not!?" Allie exclaimed. "We're guests here, you can't be reading people's minds like that!"

"What was I supposed to do, Allie!? Ignore the fact that these two were practically calling their Alpha and Luna incompetent?"

"They were what?" We heard a voice and turned to see the pack's Beta standing in the middle of the kitchen.

"Beta," they bowed their heads. He walked up to both of them and growled. They submitted immediately.

"I will deal with you two later," he warned them.

"Beta Kendrick, how is Milan?" Allie asked.

"She's fine, but we have a problem. Wyatt is asking for the ranked members of Desert Moon to join him in the waiting room, it's urgent." We all nodded our heads. Allie mind linked Dorian, while Leah and I mind linked Brandon and Mikey.

We arrived at the hospital waiting room, and Alpha Wyatt seemed to be on edge. He was biting his lip and pacing hard. Melody was there as well and had a concerned expression on her face.

“Wyatt, what’s the matter?” Dorian asked him as soon as we all walked in.

“It’s Milan’s pups.”

“Is everything okay?” Allie asked, looking distraught. “Are the pups ...”

“They’re fine, Luna,” Melody answered, but her face said otherwise. I c****d my head to the side when her thoughts came rushing out.

“Wyatt, what is it?” Dorian asked again, but Wyatt couldn’t answer, and his thoughts were the same as his sisters. I stepped in because I couldn’t take the silence.

“Okay, I’m sorry, but I can’t help myself right now. Blame it on my hormones, or me just being nosey, but what’s a jade wolf?”

Desert Nightmare Chapter 38 - Tips

{Third Person’s P.O.V.}

The Desert Moon pack members along with Kendrick and Melody slowly diffused the tension after Wyatt left to go be with Rylee. Kendrick and Melody both couldn’t deny the fact that Allie was right, no one handled this situation correctly, and as ranked members themselves, they also felt ashamed. Though, the Desert Moon members didn’t feel any better about it. Sin in particular. She acted hastily when the situation got out of hand and put her unborn pup at risk.

After everyone was calm again, Allie apologized for her outburst to everyone, and sincerely congratulated the pack on the birth of the Gamma pups, something no one had properly done yet. Ronan, Grace, Felix, and Zoe came as quickly as they could after hearing the commotion, or more like feeling the commotion. According to them, someone had shaken the entire castle and thought that it was Wyatt. But they were shocked to learn that it was Allie who had done so.

The Desert Moon Luna was stunned herself. She had no idea she had done that. It made sense as to why Dani showed up out of nowhere. It was then

everyone realized that they didn't contact Andre and Dani when Wyatt had requested the presence of Dorian's ranked members. Everyone forgot that they couldn't mind link. Dorian apologized for the oversight, but Andre waved it off saying he was glad he didn't have to see Allie so angry.

Once everything was explained as to what caused the hullabaloo, everyone was at complete ease. What they didn't know was that someone was watching and overheard everything. Even the fact that the newborn Gamma pups were Jade wolves. This information would come in handy for this person. They snuck away unnoticed and stopped by the Gamma's hospital room.

Jason and Milan were fawning over their new children, and Jason was consoling Milan over something. It was evident he explained everything to her when it came to their pups, and why he was so worried the moment he saw their birth. Milan, though a fighter and one tough cookie couldn't stop the emotions following the news that her children could possibly be at risk if the traffickers weren't caught.

The unknown person slipped away into the night to report this information to the one who hired them. A spy if you will. One hired to gather information and report back with anything that could be of use, and boy did this person have information. The spy made sure that they were secluded and away from prying eyes and ears before making the call.

"Hello? Have you learned anything?"

"I have. I have learned a lot."

"Tell me."

"First, you must keep your word. If I give you this information, you promise me safe haven."

"Done. Now tell me what you have learned."

"Well, the fact that Luna Rylee is some kind of powerful wolf with a lot of powers. Everyone was under the impression she could only read minds and move things with her mind. That's apparently not the case. Also, I've learned where the two individuals you were asking about went to."

"I already know where they are, they are at Golden Moon."

“Okay, well, the Gamma gave birth a few hours ago, and her pups are what everyone is calling Jade wolves.”

“What? Are you saying that both twins are a Jade wolf?”

“Yes. That’s what I heard.”

“Anything else?”

“Yes. There is a visiting pack of wolves. Desert Moon, I believe. Apparently, the three high-ranking females are hand chosen wolves by the moon goddess and also have powers of their own. Two are pregnant. The Luna and Gamma.”

“I see. This is very helpful. Very helpful indeed. Thank you for your service. You have my word that once this is all over, you will have safe haven at my pack.”

“Thank you, Alpha Xavier.”

“No, thank you, Sierra.”

{Dorian’s P.O.V.}

“I cannot believe you guys!” Allie shouted at all of us. We were in our guestroom on the fifth floor, and Allie was tearing into all of us for our behavior down in the hospital. I thought that we had buried the hatchet, but I guess that wasn’t the case for us internally. It didn’t help that Allie mind linked Ethan, Lucas, and Sam to come too, who in turn, brought Amber and Ronnie. Our guest room was quite packed.

“Gizmo, we said we’re sorry,” Brandon said. *Smack* “Ow!” he looked up at Amber who had slapped across the head.

“No talking,” she scolded him. Did I mention that Allie had us on our knees with our arms in the air? Lactic acid is no joke.

“Dorian, you’re the worst,” she said to me. “How could you belittle and practically insult Wyatt in front of his Betas that way!? And you told me to be nice!?”

“I wasn’t trying to belittle him. I was trying to help him.”

“He doesn’t need your help! He’s an Alpha himself! It’s as I said, he runs his pack the way he fvcking*g runs his pack! Not everyone has to do things the way we do at Desert Moon, Dorian! We’re not perfect either! We make mistakes too! It’s not like our entire pack likes us. It’s just not as obvious because our pack is literally half the size of Wyatt’s. Fewer people to hate us.”

“What started the fight anyways?” Ronnie asked.

“Wyatt growled at me, and I growled back. Then he shoved me, and well, that led to me shoving. Then the shoving turned into punching,” Dorian answered.

“Seriously, boss? You let the Alpha growling get you worked up like that?” Sam questioned while lifting an eyebrow at me.

“It doesn’t just have to do with Wyatt standing his ground. Dorian was using that as an excuse to get vengeance on Wyatt for sleeping with Jessica ten years ago when they were still together,” Allie said. How did she even know that?

“What? Seriously? You’re not over that!?” Amber asked me, but not before slapping me upside the head.

“Dorian, that was fvcking*g ten years ago! You didn’t even like Jessica!” Mikey scoffed at me.

“That’s not the fvcking*g point!” I shouted at them. “Yes! Okay!? I’m still pissed about Wyatt sleeping with Jessica. But it’s not because it was her, it’s because he belittled me for being impotent at 22! It didn’t help that it didn’t go away for another two years,” I said defending my actions. I looked around and everyone just glared at me.

“Dorian, do you realize that your actions could have cost Sin and me our pups!?” Allie shouted at me. I was suddenly filled with guilt hearing those words. I hadn’t thought about that. “Had that fight gotten any worse, and your wolves had come out, Sin and I could have had miscarriages from the stress alone! Not to mention getting hit by a wolf your size! Or any of your sizes for that matter!” she shouted pointing at Brandon and Mikey.

“Allie, calm down. Breathe little sister,” Amber rubbed her back and soothed her. Amber glared at me and shook her head.

“Dorian, Allison is right. You weren’t acting like an Alpha today. Brandon and Michael, you two weren’t acting any better. I’m sure your parents would be quite disappointed in your actions. Michael, I’m quite disappointed in you. What you three and the Blue Lake boys did was stupid and immature, to say the least. This goes to show that you have no place trying to coach Wyatt on being an Alpha, Dorian, as you yourself still have plenty to learn,” Ethan said to me. I had to admit that kind of sting coming from him.

“Grow the fvck up, Dorian,” Amber said to me bluntly. “Jessica is dead. You’re not impotent anymore. Far from it actually,” she continued and pointed to Allie’s pregnant belly. “We are here to help Wyatt and his pack and all you’ve done is make all of this personal. The only reason we are all here is to stop a group of bad people who are a risk to our kind the rest of the supernatural world. Let’s get this over with, and then we all go back to our respective packs. You guys still have Heather to fvcking*g deal with it, and Ronnie and I have six kids to raise, along with training a future Alpha in Cam. We do not have time for personal vendettas. Nor should there be any, period. Do I make myself clear!?” we all nodded our heads.

“Everyone go to bed. Tomorrow morning all of you who are not pregnant will be joining the Blue Lakes training regimen. Sin, you, Leah, Dani, and I will go down to the hospital to formally congratulate Gamma Milan on her twins. Then we will get checked out by their pack doctor and nurses to make sure our pups are okay. Then, we will go to the kitchen and help make breakfast. After we eat, we are packing up, and we are going to Golden Moon,” Allie said with authority.

“Hon, you go to training with the boys. I will go to Grace and Ronan and formally apologize for the ruckus my kid brother and his i***t friends caused tonight,” Amber said to Ronning and while gritting her teeth at me. Sometimes I hated having a sister twelve years older than me. We all nodded in agreement, and everyone went their separate ways.

Brandon, Mikey, and I struggled to get up since our arms felt like jelly. I have never had to keep my arms levitated for that long. I guess that was the downside of being as big as we are. We had more weight to carry. Allie and I got ready for bed, and that’s when I saw the clock. It was one in the morning which meant, I would get four hours of sleep before needing to get up for training. This was going to s.u.ck.

The next morning, I dragged myself down to the training grounds. I remember where they were from when we were younger, and I was stunned to see so many people.

“Dude, my arms still hurt from last night,” Brandon said walking up next to me. Mikey flanked me from the other side, and he looked like death. Mikey didn’t do well without a lot of sleep and I already knew that training would s.u.c.k. Andre and the others showed up not too long after, and we all made our way to the back of the group. I guess Wyatt also had men and women training.

“Good morning!” four people bellowed out.

“Morning, Angelo! Owen! Hugo! Maddox!” everyone said in return.

“Are these guys the trainers?” Mikey whispered. I shrugged.

“Where are Sam and Lucas?” Brandon asked.

“Up there,” Andre answered. We all looked. Sam and Lucas joined the four others on the platform.

“For those of you who are wondering, these are Lucas and Sam Hardwick. The head trainers of the Desert Moon pack. As many of you know, they are here visiting our pack, as guests of the Alpha. Today, they will be sharing their morning regimen with us. It will be nice to learn some new techniques from strong fighters such as them. Be courteous and respectful as these outrank all of you. Understood!?”

“Yes, Owen!” everyone responded in unison.

“Good morning, Blue Lake. As Owen was kind enough to introduce us, my name is Lucas, and this is my wife, Sam. Our normal regimen is similar to yours, but we do just a little more. Desert Moon’s regimen consists of a ten-mile run in human form, 200 sits up, 200 push-ups, and group sparring. However, we also have a five-mile run in wolf form. This not only allows you to shift first thing in the morning to let your wolf out, but it also gives them exercise.”

“The reason behind the wolf-run is to keep your wolf in shape too. Just because the human in shape, it doesn’t necessarily mean that your wolf is. The wolf run is just that. A run at your fastest speed. We hear the mumbles and the whispers. People talk, and others listen. You want to know why are

men are so big, even those that are not ranked?" Sam asked and a lot of the crowd nodded. "It's because we don't stop at morning training."

"Sam and I are both skilled in various extracurricular activities. Sam is trained in martial arts, and me, well, let's just say you don't want me to hold a rifle. I can hit a target dead center mass from over 1,000 yards away."

"We're not here to brag, but we're here to lend a hand. Let's see if the biggest pack in the central United States can keep up with Desert Moon. First, we're going to warm up," Sam added. Someone in the crowd raised their hand.

"What is it, Justin?" Angelo asked him.

"What is the warm-up?"

"Glad you asked," Sam replied with a smile.

"The warm-up today is going to be 100 burpees, 100 high-knees, 100 Russian twists, 100 mountain climbers, and 100 squat pulses!"

"What the fvck? That's double what we do in the mornings," Brandon whispered in my ear.

"I overheard Amber telling Sam and Lucas last night to punish you three," Andre replied.

"Why punish the Blue Lake pack?" I asked upon hearing this.

"That is something their trainers want," Ronnie replied. We all looked at him. "Apparently, a lot of their pack members had been skipping on morning training. And that Wyatt wasn't doing anything about it." I looked at him in shock and so did everyone else. Why in the world was Wyatt slacking? He knew better.

"Ready, Start!" Lucas shouted. Everyone grumbled and whined.

"Keep bltching and we will double it!" the man named Owen shouted. Everyone got started. This was going to be a long morning.

"Oh!"

“Gah!”

“Ugh!”

“Mmmm!”

“Help.”

Everyone gr0aned as they dragged their aching bodies through the castle or around it to go home after the morning workout. This was nothing new for us even if was double, but Wyatt’s pack looked like they were this far from collapsing.

“I think that five-mile run in wolf-form is what got them,” Sam said as she briskly walked past us with Lucas.

“Babe, I think some of them are hurting from you beating the living sh!t out of them,” Lucas said to her.

“Lucas, Sam! Hold on!” we all stopped when we saw Owen and Angelo running up to them. They seemed to most fit out of everyone. They were still breathing.

“Yes, Owen?” Lucas replied.

“That was intense. Do you think you can write it down for us? I mean, it’s like you said, it is pretty similar to ours, but that warm-up and the five-mile run in wolf form is what we really needed. Plus, putting advanced fighters against intermediate was a good idea. We always thought it would be dangerous,” he answered.

“Why? Are you afraid that your pack members would actually k!ll one another during morning training?” I asked him.

“Not at all Alpha, we just never want anyone in the pack hospital so early in the morning,” Angelo said.

“They’re werewolves, they heal,” Brandon said. Angelo and Owen looked at one another and nodded. I saw their eyes cloud over. They were mind-linking one another.

“Just between us, the Alpha has been slacking when it comes to training. After the whole vampire incident, he felt that we didn’t need to train as hard. In his

mind, he doesn't believe that anything like that would happen again," Owen explained.

"What?" we all said.

"Why would he think that? There's never a guarantee that packs are safe," Mikey said to him.

"We know, and we've said that to him," Angelo said.

"Our Alpha hasn't been the same that day. In all honesty, he hasn't been himself since our Luna left us two years ago," Owen replied. "We know that pack members have been talking about the incident that happened last night in the hospital." We all looked at him. "Sirena, the head nurse, she's my wife and she saw the whole thing." We all nodded our heads.

"We keep hearing things about the Luna having left. What exactly happened?" Sam asked.

"Well ..." Angelo and Owen spent the next thirty minutes explaining everything that happened between Wyatt and Rylee. We were all floored. I couldn't believe Wyatt had gone through something so traumatic, and he never once said anything. Sure I hated him for the sh!t he pulled all those years ago, but this was something he could have asked for help with. I couldn't even imagine the amount of pain Wyatt suffered being rejected by his mate while having no memory of her. Only to get his memories back while also recollecting everything he had done.

Had that been me, I probably would have killed myself for ever hurting Allie that way. Dark magic involved or not. That's hard for any wolf to go through, especially an Alpha. I finally understood why he was so dead set on protecting Rylee and forcing her to suppress her powers. He doesn't want to lose her again.

"Holy fvck," Brandon said.

"Sacre bleu," Andre gasped.

"Damn," Mikey retorted. Sam and everyone just scoffed at how absurd all of this sounded. Now I really needed to talk to Wyatt. I knew exactly what his problem was.

“Please, Alpha Shaw, we don’t want you to think that we don’t respect Wyatt. We do. We just want him back to his old self. The Wyatt Valencia who ruled our pack with valiance, pride, and honor. He needs to heal, and so does our pack. We just need him to realize it,” Angelo said with his head bowed.

“I understand, and I think I can help,” I replied. They both sighed in relief and turned their heels to leave us.

“I cannot believe that someone would do such a thing. That is horrendous and despicable!” Andre exclaimed.

“And I thought what Jessica did was bad,” Brandon said.

“It’s not surprising something like that happened,” Ethan said.

“Dad? You heard all that?” Mikey asked him.

“I heard it for the most part. Unfortunately, it’s not uncommon for a scorn she-wolf to turn to dark magic for help in getting what she wants. I just never heard of it actually succeeding,” he said rubbing his chin. “Anyways, I just came out here to let you all know that breakfast is ready, and Allison and Sin had their checkups with the pack doctor here. Your pups are fine, and Allison seems to have calmed down a lot.”

“Thanks, Uncle Ethan,” I replied. I dismissed everyone to get cleaned up so we could all eat. Before I went inside, I called Wyatt to check in on him.

“Hello?”

“Wyatt, did you make it to Golden Moon?”

“Yeah, I got here like four hours ago.”

“What? You left at like eleven last night.”

“Yeah, I uh ... I had to pull over for a bit.”

“What for?”

“I needed to think.”

“Are you okay? You sound off.” He didn’t answer. I looked at the phone and the line was still open, and I could hear him breathing. “Wyatt?”

“What makes you so special, Dorian?”

“What?”

“You and your wife. Why are you two so fvcking*g special?”

“Where the hell is this coming from?”

“Last night, I received a visit from an unlikely individual. Someone I never knew would ever show herself to anyone.”

“Oh ... The moon goddess showed herself to you.”

“Don’t you mean Selene? I mean, your pack has a relationship with her. What makes you and your fvcking*g pack so fvcking*g special that the moon goddess herself would protect you!?”

“Wyatt, I don’t know why Selene chose our pack to protect. She’s the mother of all werewolves. What she does with her powers is her choice. Who are we to question that?”

“Well, I did. I questioned her. I questioned her about a lot of things.”

“And did she give you answers?”

“In her own way, yes.”

“Then leave it at that.”

“What?”

“I said leave it. Whatever your conversation was with the moon goddess, it stays between you and the moon goddess. I don’t want to know, and you’re not going to tell me. But we are going to talk about something else when we see each other, and you’re not going to avoid it either.”

“What are you talking about, Dorian?”

“You’ll see. I need you to tell Alpha Griffin that we are going there, today. And you, Rylee, Allie, and I are going to talk.”

“Talk about wh—” I hung up the phone before he could finish his question. I rubbed my face and grunted in frustration.

“Dorian?” I looked up and saw Allie with a hand towel. “Is everything okay?”

“I think I know what’s wrong with Wyatt, and I’m going to need your help.” She nodded her head and walked over to me. I bent down and picked her up in a hug. I was careful not to squeeze her too tight. Her baby bump was becoming bigger. “I’m sorry, Allie. I was wrong, about everything. I never should have let my personal issues with Wyatt cloud my judgment. I never should have belittled him the way that I did.”

“I’m not the one you should be apologizing to,” she replied and kissed my neck.

“I know. I’ll apologize to Wyatt, but when I see him face to face.”

“I guess I’ll have to apologize too. I never should have lost my temper that way. We were both in the wrong.” I nodded my head and gave her a chaste kiss. Allie led me back inside after I put her down, and I went to go shower before going back down to breakfast.

After eating, we all packed up our things, and Kendrick and Melody were coming with us to Golden Moon. Along with a few of their guards that we met at training this morning. As we were packing our things into the very many SUVs, Allie paused and glanced around.

“What is it, baby?” I asked her.

“We’re being watched,” she answered. I looked around as well but couldn’t sense anything. But I knew better than to question Allie. She looked back towards the cottage across the lake and glared.

“Beta Kendrick?”

“Yes, Luna?”

“That girl Sierra, what do you know about her?”

“A lot.”

“Why is she an outcast? What did she do?” Allie asked. Where was Allie going with this?

“What didn’t she do?” Melody said coming up to us. “She assaulted Rylee when she first got here. Then she helped kidnap Keaton’s mate, Irene so that Keaton’s ex-lover could k!ll her. And she’s a straight-up b!tch.”

“And she wasn’t banished for any of that!?” I asked.

“She’s a whistleblower, in a sense, Alpha Shaw. Wyatt felt that being outcasted was showing her leniency for turning against her friends,” Kendrick responded. “Why do you ask?”

“If you can find a reason to banish her, banish her. And do it soon,” Allie said with all seriousness.

“Luna?”

“She’s scorned, and she’s angry. She’s going to betray your pack. If she hasn’t already.”

“Allie?” I looked at her.

“She’s watching us. Has been since last night in the hospital.”

“She’s not allowed to roam the pack grounds,” Melody said.

“Well, she is, and she’s been eavesdropping on us. All of us. She’s not to be trusted. Find a way to get rid of her and do it soon.” Allie walked away without another word. I followed after her, and we both got into the car with Amber and Ronnie.

“What’s wrong, little sis?” Amber asked her.

“Allie, there’s something you’re not saying,” I said to her and turned her to face me.

“That girl, Sierra. Her soul is dark,” Allie said with tears in her eyes.

“Baby?”

“She’s also Sly’s mate.”

Desert Nightmare Chapter 39 - Tips

{Allie's P.O.V.}

The drive to Golden Moon took a few hours but upon arrival, we were immediately welcomed. The territory was a lot smaller than what we were used to; it was definitely more natural-looking, given there was so much greenery in the area. It was off the beaten path yet looked homey at the same time.

As soon as we exited the SUVs, we received a lot of stares. I guess that was to be expected since it isn't customary for packs to travel with this many people.

"Alpha Shaw!" an older gentleman greeted Dorian with a firm handshake and bright smile.

"Alpha Griffin," Dorian greeted in return.

"Please, it's just Richard now."

"I'm sorry?" Dorian asked, shocked.

"Allow me to introduce you to my successor, our new Alpha. This is Chad McEvoy. I announced his induction last night," Richard said and brought forth an endearing young man in his early twenties. I looked at him closely and c****d my head back and forth, trying to get a sense of him. He had a broken soul, but he was strong and had a good aura about him.

"Alpha Shaw, it's a pleasure. And this must be your ... Why is she looking at me like that?"

"Hm? Oh, Allie does that when she's trying to get a sense of who you are. Allie? Baby?"

"Huh? What?" I looked at him. Dorian just shook his head.

"My apologies, Alpha McEvoy, but my wife has an ability to sense souls, so she likes to get a read on everyone she meets," Dorian explained on my behalf.

"I'm sorry, it's a force of habit. I don't mean any disrespect," I said, putting my hand out to shake his.

"It's quite alright, Luna Shaw. Tell me, what did you sense?" he asked genuinely.

"Well, your soul is broken. Heartbroken to be more exact, but something tells me you're on the mend. You're kind and have a good essence about you. I also assume that this beautiful blonde is the reason why your heart is healing?" I answered when I saw the young girl next to him.

"Wow, you're spot on. Yes, this is my second chance mate, Lanie, and the pack's future Luna."

"It's a pleasure to meet you," I said and extended my hand out. When she took it, I felt a sudden shock. I pulled my hand back abruptly and this caught everyone off guard.

"Baby, is everything okay?" Dorian asked.

"Y-Yeah. Sorry, umm she just shocked me and it surprised me, that's all," I replied and smiled.

"Alpha McEvoy, allow me to introduce you to my other ranked members," Dorian said. He went around and introduced everyone, and then moved to the guards, Ethan, and Aries. Amber and Ronnie quickly introduced themselves as well. Alpha McEvoy was stunned to see so many people; Dorian explained why and then his confusion turned into appreciation.

"Desert Moon, thank you for traveling all this way. As I've already mentioned, this is Lanie. This is Brent, my Beta, and his mate, Lexie, who also happens to be Lanie's twin sister."

"Wait, you're the ones that Wyatt told us about?" I asked. Both of them nodded. I looked at Lexie, and I felt the same aura coming from her that I did Lanie. I guess it would make sense, being twins and all.

"This is Maverick, my new Gamma," Alpha McEvoy continued. We all said our hellos and shook hands. Then, Wyatt showed up unexpectedly, accompanied by another blonde young lady. I had to assume that was Rylee, but something was off about them. They were both ... pissed off. Rylee's eyes were also swollen and puffy; it looked as if she had been crying.

“Dorian, you found it okay,” Wyatt spoke to him first.

“Yeah, your Beta led the way,” Dorian answered. He too looked at Wyatt and lifted a brow. I guess it was obvious that Wyatt and Rylee didn’t sleep that well.

“This is Rylee, my mate, and Luna,” Wyatt said flatly. What the fvck? It was almost as if he didn’t want to introduce her. I looked up at Dorian who looked down at me at the same time. We were feeling the same thing. There was no doubt that Wyatt and Rylee had been fighting, but something told me it was more than that.

“Alpha McEvoy, I would like to have a sit down with you, Alpha-to-Alpha, but I do need to speak with Wyatt first, privately,” Dorian said to him.

“Um, yes, of course. Be my guest. We have a conference room you can use. It’s soundproof, so you will have privacy.”

“Thank you.”

“Follow me, Dorian,” Wyatt told him.

“Allie, come with me, and Luna Rylee, I kindly ask that you join us as well,” Dorian said to her as gently as possible. Rylee rolled her eyes but followed Wyatt anyways. I mind-linked Dorian.

What the hell is up with them?

I think I have an idea. Allie, can you sense their bond by any chance?

Yeah, why? He gave me this knowing look and I knew immediately what he was getting at. I now understood why he wanted my help.

We got to the conference room and sat down at the table together. Wyatt and Rylee sat next to each other but seemed to be avoiding each other. Their actions reminded me of when Dorian and I were fighting over the whole Heather thing. But it was mostly me, not him. This was different though; they were both angry and both avoiding one another.

“What is it, Dorian? As you can see, we don’t really have time for this,” Wyatt said sharply.

“Well, you need to make time, because I think I know what’s wrong with you and your Luna,” Dorian snapped back.

“I’m sorry, but you haven’t spoken to Wyatt in over ten years. How the hell would you know what we’re going through? You don’t know us,” Rylee lashed out. This girl had a lot of kahunas to be talking to Dorian that way and in front of me. This girl was young, it was obvious, but she had spunk and I liked it.

“I know enough, Rylee.”

“Dorian, what the hell is this ab—”

“Why the fvck didn’t you tell me she rejected you two years ago!?” Dorian said out of the blue.

“What?!” I exclaimed and looked at them.

“How did you ...”

“People talk, Wyatt. Pissed off people talk loudly. Your pack members told me, along with my other ranked members this morning after training. They’re concerned that your rejection is why you’re not the same Alpha you once were.”

“Well, they’re wrong. That’s in the past. That has nothing to do with anything!” Wyatt defended.

“You sure about that?” Dorian asked and Wyatt nodded. Rylee was silent, but she seemed to be guilt-ridden after Dorian brought that up.

“Wait, why would you reject him?” I asked Rylee directly. She turned her head and didn’t answer.

“It’s a long story,” Wyatt said. He continued by giving me the cliff notes version of events, and to say that my mind was blown was an understatement. I looked at Rylee who now had tears in her eyes.

“Well, obviously this subject is still very raw for her, otherwise, she wouldn’t be crying,” I said to him. Wyatt turned his head to look at her, but she had her back towards him.

“Wyatt, I think that rejection is why things are the way they are right now,” Dorian said to him.

“What are you talking about?!” Wyatt shouted.

“Baby?” Dorian turned to me.

“Wyatt, you know that I have powers, right?” He nodded his head. “Well, one of those powers has to do with soul sensing. That power allows me to do several things. One, I can tell when a female is pregnant; two, I can help people find their mates; and three, I can sense if someone is good or evil.”

“Okay, and what does any of this have to do anything right now?” he asked me, clearly aggravated.

“My ability to sense mates is what has to do with it. Obviously, Rylee is your mate; I can sense it. But what I can’t sense is your actual mate bond.” They both looked at me like I was crazy. “I don’t just sense someone’s mate. I can sense their bond with each other. That’s how I know that people belong together. It’s like two parts to a whole. For the two of you, I can sense that you are mates, but not your bond. It’s there, but it’s weak. It’s like this,” I said and interlocked my fingers together completely. “A bond should be fully locked in like this. Once the mating process is complete and two mates have marked each other, then it should be unbreakable. But Rylee rejecting you broke that bond. Even though she technically came back and you re-marked her, your bond isn’t complete. It’s almost as if there is a tiny space,” I said while slightly separating my hands, “that needs to be filled before it can be what it was before her rejection,” I explained. They looked at me again; but this time, they were invested in what I had to say.

“Rylee?” She looked at Dorian. “When you rejected Wyatt and took him back, did you formally renounce your rejection?” Her eyes widened and, for the first time today, they looked at each other.

“Did I?” she asked him.

“I don’t remember,” Wyatt replied.

“Let me ask you this, where and how did you reject him?” Dorian asked.

“At the pack border, in front of the gate.”

“Okay, that makes a lot of sense now,” Dorian said and let out a deep breath. “Rylee, when you formally reject your mate after the mating process has been completed, the pain could actually kill the both of you. But since you’re some sort of super wolf, and your mark on Wyatt was gone because of the dark magic, it lessened the blow for him. It was still painful, obviously, but it didn’t kill him.”

“What are you trying to get at Dorian?” Wyatt asked. I was curious too. This was something I never knew.

“What I’m getting at is that Rylee not only rejected you as a mate but as her Alpha. But before she could do that, she would have to give up her Luna title as well,” Dorian said and looked at Rylee whose eyes were as wide as saucers. “Rylee, did you rescind your title as Luna that day also?”

“I did,” she replied while nodding.

“And according to your pack members, you brought her back as someone else right? Rylee was in some kind of magical cloak and looked like someone else?” They both nodded. “That’s also what’s wrong with everything.”

“I don’t understand,” Rylee said.

“Wyatt, you would know this had you paid more attention to your Alpha training classes, as well as, How to Handle a Mate 101,” Dorian told him. I rolled my eyes knowing that he was being a pompous d!ck right now. “If a Luna formally rejects her pack and her Alpha, in order for her to regain her rank and her mate, she has to formally revoke both rejections. But in Rylee’s case, she did it at the pack border. This means that her reversal of those rejections would also need to be done at the pack border before anything is solidified.” My jaw dropped hearing this, and I peered over at Wyatt and Rylee who looked like deer stuck in headlights.

“Wait, babe, are you saying that Rylee technically isn’t the Luna of her pack? And that her bond with Wyatt is weakened because she rejected him and didn’t formally take it back?” I asked, trying to make sure I understood correctly.

“That’s exactly what I’m saying.”

“And you didn’t know any of this!?” I asked Wyatt.

“I-I mean ... I did, but I didn't ...” he stuttered in confusion.

“You were too busy thinking about yourself as a man getting back his woman and son, rather than as an Alpha regaining his Luna and heir to his pack,” Dorian stepped in. “Wyatt, it's bad enough that you're constantly lying to your pack members, but it certainly doesn't help when their Luna isn't actually their Luna. The pack can sense when the bond between their Alpha and Luna is weak. That's why your pack members have been questioning your ability to lead, and why you've been so off your game.”

“fvck, that's what she meant!” Wyatt shouted and slammed his fists on the table.

“What who meant?” I asked.

“Selene,” Dorian answered.

“Selene!? She showed herself to you!?” I asked Wyatt and he nodded. “Damn, you either really pissed her off, or you really needed a wake-up call.”

“Selene?” Rylee asked. “As in the moon goddess?” We all nodded. “The moon goddess came to you? When!?”

“Last night, before I came here. She told me that our bond was weak but wouldn't tell me why. She also told me that I was making you a weak Luna by constantly holding you back. I questioned why Allie was stronger than you when it came to her Luna aura, especially since she was once human. Selene told me it's because she blessed Allie with that power, but that you don't need it. That you're born with it, being who you are. You're supposed to be the most powerful wolf of all time, but that my constant coddling is what has been holding you back.” Rylee stared at him and started to laugh. Dorian and I looked at each other.

“How ironic is it that I fvcking*g said all that sh!t to you last night!?” she shouted at him and shoved him. “And you had the audacity to tell me that I can't be trusted with the use of my powers because I'll use them on the wrong people and just cause more problems!”

“Wyatt, what the fvck!?” Dorian told him.

“Dorian and Allie, thank you for your advice and knowledge, but this is between me and Wyatt now. I kindly ask that you two leave,” Rylee spoke while trying to subdue her anger.

“Sure thing,” I answered. “Oh um, Rylee, before I go. I just want to tell you one thing.”

“What’s that?”

“You’re a powerful wolf. If Selene says that you’re supposed to be powerful in this world, then you don’t need anyone’s approval, let alone Wyatt’s. He shouldn’t be dictating you, as your mate, he should be supporting you.”

“Funny, I said that too,” she replied as she gave him the side-eye.

“I think you and I could be friends, but later. Come find me when you’re ready to,” I said lastly, and with that Dorian and I walked out. Before we even closed the door, Wyatt and Rylee started to scream at each other. We shut the door and made our way outside for some privacy of our own.

“Holy sh!t,” was all I could say once we got to a place away from prying eyes and ears.

“Yeah.”

“Who was the girl that used the black magic?” I asked.

“A girl whose cherry he popped. She was in love with him and even rejected her own mate to be with Wyatt. But, Rylee came and that started this whole circle of events. And according to Wyatt’s pack members, even though she was a loose cannon and showed a lot of disrespect to ranked members, Wyatt refused to punish her or banish her, even though a lot of people told him to otherwise.”

“So she used black magic to fvck up their lives?”

“Basically. Even when he got his memories back and found out exactly what happened, instead of taking that information and doing what needed to be done, he stalled to get personal revenge. That’s how Rylee’s alias came into play. Used her as a decoy, and then after all that was over with, Wyatt decided to have the dark witch, who eventually switched sides, create a clone of Rylee to deal with the vampire situation.”

“And all the while, Rylee’s rejection of Wyatt and her pack was never taken back,” I concluded, and Dorian nodded. “So, this whole nonsense where his pack members are questioning their leadership is because they can feel that their Alpha and Luna are not fully bonded and that she’s not actually their Luna?”

“Pretty much.” I just scoffed. “Let them hash it out. They need to. Something tells me that they buried their feelings too fast over everything and his hasty decisions are what led to this. They need to get it out of their system. Once Rylee formally renounces both rejections and Wyatt accepts them, things will slowly go back to normal for them. Maybe then, Wyatt can be the supportive Alpha mate that someone like Rylee needs to be who she’s meant to be.”

I let out a big sigh and nodded my head. Maybe this was why I needed to be here. One, to keep Dorian sane but two, to use my abilities to help Wyatt and Rylee. I mean, they had no idea that their bond was weakened, or at least why it was. I’m glad we could be of some help to them. I leaned into Dorian, who gently put his gigantic hand on my belly.

“I can’t wait to meet him,” I said and looked down.

“You sure it’s a boy?”

“I feel it in my bones, but it’s still a 50/50 chance, so we will see in two months.” Dorian leaned down to kiss me, but we were disrupted by Dani popping in front of us.

“AHH! Holy fvck Dani!” I shouted at her.

“We have a problem!” she shouted back.

“What is it, Dani?” Dorian asked.

“Leah had a vision of us being attacked, here.”

“What!?”

“But that’s not the big problem,” Dani added. “She somehow had two visions simultaneously.”

“Of what, Dani!?” I asked.

“The Blue Lake Gammas are in danger. They’re going to be attacked at the same time we’re going to be attacked here.”

Desert Nightmare Chapter 40 - Tips

{Allie’s P.O.V.}

I didn’t know which narrative Rylee needed to hear to soften the blow; she was certain the twins couldn’t be her sisters. Though there could be another explanation, based on their age gaps, them being half-siblings was the most likely scenario. Rylee demanded the lab technician draw another sample to run the test again, but I already knew her attempts would be futile. There was no denying it—one of her parents had an affair. But I couldn’t shake the feeling that there was more to it than that.

When the lab tech came in, I swear to all that is holy, I thought I had seen a fvcking*g ghost. Something wasn’t right though; he wasn’t transparent like ghosts are supposed to be. I’ve seen a ghost first-hand, I would know. This guy was no ghost.

“LUTHER!?!?” I screamed at the top of my lungs. The tech’s eyes doubled in size as he turned ghostly white. “LUTHER QUINN!?”

“L-L-Lu-Lun-Luna?”

“What the fvck!?! You’re supposed to be dead! The pack buried you! We named a fvcking*g fish after you!”

“Luna, wh-what’re you doing here?” he asked, still shaking. “How did you…”

“Luther, do you know the Luna of Desert Moon?” the doctor of Golden Moon asked him. Luther only bowed his head.

“If you will please excuse me, I have to—”

“DON’T YOU DARE MOVE FROM THAT SPOT, LUTHER QUINN!!” I roared at him.

“Allie, what did I say about screaming!?” Rylee scolded me.

“Rylee! This fvcker is supposed to be dead!!” I shouted back at her while pointing at Luther Quinn, guilt written all over his face. “We buried him over three years ago!”

“Can we deal with my crisis first, at least?” she implored. I let out an exasperated sigh and nodded my head.

“Fine, but we will deal with this, Luther. You have a lot explaining to do,” I gritted my teeth. I was absolutely livid seeing him alive and well, especially with the recent drama back home with Dr. Quinn, Avery, and Celinda. If he’s been alive this whole time, then who the hell did the pack bury?

“Luther, I understand that it appears you have a personal issue to deal with, but the Luna of Blue Lake has requested another bl00d panel be done,” the doctor of Golden Moon notified him.

“Sir?” Luther c****d his head to one side.

“Don’t bother,” I intervened. “Rylee, I get that you don’t want to believe it, but Luther Quinn was one of the best biochemists at Desert Moon. His mother is, actually, I should say, was the attending physician of our pack hospital,” I told her.

“What do you mean by was, Luna!? What happened to my mother!?” Luther exclaimed.

“Oh, now you care,” I retorted at him. He lowered his head and declined to say anything else.

“Allie, it can’t be true. As much as I would love to be sisters with Lexie and Lanie, my parents wouldn’t have done that to each other. They loved each other whole-heartedly. I watched that love every day. I may not remember a lot, but I do remember that much. My dad worshipped my mother,” Rylee said with tears pooling in her eyes.

“Maybe it’s not as easy as just stepping out on each other. Maybe you’re not half-sisters. I mean, you could technically be their aunt, or they could be yours,” I said, attempting to console her.

“Both of my parents were only children,” she answered with a disappointed whisper.

“Oh, well, it was worth a shot. The only other combination would be grandparent and grandchild, but that’s obviously not possible.” I scratched my chin, trying to speculate further.

“Luna, if I may ...”

“Luther, stay!”

“With all due respect, you’re no longer my Luna,” he snapped.

“Fine. Lanie, please tell Luther to stay right where he is,” I requested her. Since he was a Golden Moon pack member, and she was the new Luna, he would have to listen to her. Shady and immature, I know, but he had a lot of explaining to do and I’ll be damned if he thought he could get away with this. Especially not after what Dr. Quinn has gone through. He owed it to her, at the very least, to explain everything.

“Ummm ... Luther, stay. Please?” Lanie said. Luther looked at me like a petulant little child. I just snuffed him and gave my undivided attention to the larger situation at hand—Rylee and the girls.

“Look, I know you said you lost your parents at ten, but is there anyone else that knew either of them well enough to shed some light on this?” I asked.

“Grace and Ronan,” she replied, looking at me.

“Wyatt’s parents?” She nodded. “How would they know?” I questioned.

“Wyatt’s dad and my dad were best friends. Grace and my mom grew up in the same pack. My parents met at Grace’s Luna ceremony,” she answered.

“Come with me.” I grabbed her hand. As I opened the door, I turned back around. “You!” I shouted at Luther. “I will deal with you later. Don’t even think about running away. You owe it to your mother and daughter!” I watched as he gulped and nodded his head. I continued on my way and dragged her back up to the conference room with Lanie and Lexie following behind. When we got there, I didn’t even bother knocking and charged right in, stopping in front of the middle of the table and stared at Wyatt.

“Allie? What’s the matter? Why are you gripping Rylee that way?” he looked past me at Rylee. “Dearest, what’s wrong? What did you guys find out?” he asked even more concerned once he noticed that Rylee was upset.

“Wyatt, get your parents on the phone, please. Chad, do you have video call capabilities in this room?” I asked.

“Yes, Luna. Is everything alright?” he replied.

“I doubt it, but Rylee and the girls need answers,” I responded truthfully.

“Rylee, do you want me to stay or leave?”

“Please, stay. I need someone who is level-headed to stay with me,” she said, holding onto my arm. I nodded my head.

“Everyone, I know that we have battles to prep for, but this is important. Chad, Brent, Wyatt, and William, please stay. Everyone else, I kindly ask that you all leave the room for the time being. Get some rest or continue the preparations elsewhere. Without answers, Rylee won’t be able to function correctly.” I instructed them. Everyone nodded and stepped out in a single file line. Before he left, Dorian came up to me.

“Baby, do you need me to stay with you?” he asked while cupping my cheeks.

“No, I’ll be fine. This isn’t for me; this is for Rylee and the twins. I’ll mind-link you if I need anything,” I answered. He gave me a chaste kiss and was the last one to leave. I turned back to Rylee and double-checked that she wanted me in the room, and she nodded again. I sat her down next to Wyatt, and the girls went to Chad and Brent, respectively.

“Allie, will tell us what you all learned?” Wyatt asked me while holding Rylee’s hands.

“You’ll see, just please video call your parents,” I requested. Wyatt texted his parents the video conference number and, a few short moments later, a video call request came through.

“Wyatt, son, what is going on? Is everything alright?” Ronan answered while appearing on the screen.

“I don’t know dad. Allie asked me to call you,” Wyatt answered.

“Luna Shaw, what is the meaning of this?” he asked me.

"I'll get to that in a second, Ronan. Where is Grace?" I asked.

"I'm right here," she answered, appearing behind Ronan.

"Okay, so there is no easy way to say this, so I'm just going to flat out say it. Rylee, Lexie, and Lanie are related. A DNA test was done here at Golden Moon, and about half an hour ago, it was confirmed that the girls are half-sisters." An eerie silence took over the room. Yet it didn't seem that Ronan or Grace was all that shocked. "Okay, I don't need mind-reading capabilities to know that you two are hiding something," I told them.

"Dad? Mom? Do you guys know something we don't?" Wyatt asked them. Ronan and Grace looked at each other.

"Allie, will you please leave the room?" Grace asked.

"I'll only leave if that's what Rylee and the girls want," I said immediately. "This affects her directly, and I'll do what she asks of me."

"I want Allie to stay," she said without hesitation. They looked at each other again and nodded.

"Rylee, there is no easy way to tell you this, but we're not surprised that you have half-siblings," Grace said. "We're only surprised that it's Lexie and Lanie."

"What?" Rylee retorted.

"Sweetheart, when you were just over a year old, your mother went missing," Ronan said directly. My eyes widened. That I did not expect. "Your mother went missing for over seven months, but your father knew she was alive. The problem that he faced was that he could feel your mother being intimate with another."

"NO! MY MOTHER WOULD NEVER DO THAT!" Rylee screamed as she stood to her feet.

"Listen to us, Rylee, it's not what you think," Grace said calmly.

"Then what!?"

"After the seventh-month mark had passed, your father just about lost hope, because he thought the same thing you did. He thought she ran away with

another and broke their bond, but that wasn't the case. One day, while we were there trying to comfort Mitch, a guard came running into his office frantically and said that your mother had returned. Before the guard could say anything else, Mitch ran out to greet her. We followed after him, but instead of seeing the Megan he loved, what we found was a malnourished, beaten she-wolf. She had apparently been thrown from a car in front of the Silver Lake pack border," Ronan elaborated.

"What!?" we all exclaimed.

"Your father had her rushed to the hospital and after multiple tests, blood work, and scans, we found that your mother had been forced into sex multiple times and had given birth." I couldn't stop the gasp that came out of my mouth.

"And based on what you've told us, it appears the pups she gave birth to were Lexie and Lanie," Ronan concluded. I was right, there was a lot more to this, but this was not what I had expected.

"Hold on, I don't understand how that's possible. Lexie and Lanie are descendants of the moon goddess. I'm missing something," I said, looking around the room.

"Luna, allow me to fill in the blanks," William said. I nodded my head. William went on to explain the Lunar Kingdom, and how gods and goddesses born find their mates. They can either take a mate from within the kingdom or someone mortal. Kendrick's story about his mom made sense now.

"So, you're saying that the kidnapping of the girls, or treasure, occurred as soon as they were born in the kingdom. And when they were taken, their souls were reborn to a mortal, and in this case, Rylee's mom?" I confirmed and William nodded. "Okay, but still, you would need a sperm donor for that to happen."

"My assumption is that whoever took the girls from the kingdom was the donor. Powerful magic is needed to implant the souls of a god or goddess into a mortal, and the timing has to be perfect. I don't know all of the details on when, but I do know the how," William said.

"Wait, could Marvin be the donor?" Chad asked. Everyone's face contorted in complete disgust.

“We can’t speculate on who the father is, but now we know where their Alpha blood comes from. Not just from the moon goddess, but from Megan as well,” Ronan said. A very awkward silence fell over the room, and I felt that was my cue to leave. I quietly got up and removed myself. When I was safely outside of the door, I turned around and jumped back.

“Ah!” I screamed and held my heart as if it were going to explode out of my chest. “DON’T DO THAT!” I screamed at the group of people standing around. And people called me nosey.

“Well!?” All of the girls shouted, including Amber.

“Not my business to tell!” I answered.

“You share our sex lives with other people!” Sin clapped back.

“sex is sex! That...”—I said, pointing to the door behind me—“is different!” They all grumbled in disappointment. I glanced back towards the door, unable to even comprehend how messed up things were going to get for Rylee and the twins. But that’s when I remembered a very important dead person who wasn’t really dead. “Leroy, Dorian, come with me!” I said, grabbing both of them and dragging them down to the pack hospital. I went straight to the doctor’s office and pushed the door open. Thankfully, he wasn’t currently with a patient.

“Luna?” the doctor stood up.

“Where is he!?” I shouted.

“Ummm ...”

“Where’s who, baby?” Dorian asked me.

“I won’t ask again! Where is he!?”

“He asked that I give this to you. He said that he will be waiting.” He handed me a note, and it had directions to a cottage on the pack grounds. I didn’t think twice before I took off, following the directions and going towards Luther’s house.

“Damn, for being three months pregnant, she sure can move!” Leroy commented, trying to keep up.

“Allie, slow down! You’re going to fall!” Dorian shouted at me. I paid him no attention and kept going. We ended up at the cottage and I double-checked the number. It was the right one. I knocked on the door and a few seconds later, the door opened.

“WHAT THE fvck!?! LUTHER!?!” they both shouted as soon as he came into view.

“Alpha. Luna. Leroy. Please, come in,” he said and opened the door for us. We all walked into his very small yet spacious cottage and sat down on the sofa with me in between Dorian and Leroy. Luther sat down on the armchair directly across from us. We all just stared at each other. I know I already saw him earlier, but this was still freaky. “I’m sure you are all surprised to see me, alive,” Luther stated.

“Surprised is an understatement! I watched you die!” Leroy shouted.

“No, you watched a clone die,” Luther said.

“A what!?” we exclaimed in unison.

“It’s a long story, but the short version is that I enlisted the help of your Wiccan friends, Luna. The ones that helped you conceal your pregnancy with the Alpha twins. I told them what was going on with my family, and that I needed a way out without having to actually die.”

“Wait, are you saying that Maxine and Claudia helped you fake your death!?” I asked in shock.

“Yes.”

“Ooh! I’m going to k!!! those b!tches!”

“Allie, you’re not going to k!!! anyone,” Dorian said, rubbing my back. “Luther, if you needed a way out away from Avery and her betrayal, why didn’t you come to me? You could have rejected her, and I would have released you from the pack,” Dorian told him calmly.

“Alpha, it wasn’t that ... Wait, how do you know why I did what I did?” Dorian and I peered over at Leroy who just shrugged his shoulders. “Leroy, you told them?”

“Luther, I had to.”

“Why!? It’s bad enough you fvckingd my wife behind my back!”

“Luther, I didn’t know Avery was your wife. She lied to me and said her mate was dead. You never brought her to pack events. And I wasn’t the only person in the pack she slept with.”

“She told people I had died?”

“Before you even actually died. Ever since that night, I never went near her again. But then, fate had a funny way of bringing us face to face again,” Leroy responded.

“What do you mean?” Luther asked.

“Luther.” He glanced in my direction. “Celinda is Leroy’s mate.” His eyes widened in shock as he stared intently at Leroy.

“My daughter is your mate!?” he exclaimed.

“Yes. I actually think that’s why I was attracted to Avery in the first place. I was picking up on Celinda’s scent, and our future bond.”

“I see.”

“For what it’s worth, Luther, I truly am sorry. I know all of the males who wronged you are sorry. After the fiasco with Dr. Quinn, Celinda, and Avery, I ended up rounding up all of the guys that ever slept with her and told them everything. I told them the truth about her and about you, obviously under the impression that you were dead,” Leroy explained.

“What do you mean by what happened with my mother?” Luther asked. I took control of the conversation and explained the events that transpired not too long before we traveled to this side of the country. Luther was horrified that the truth had fully come to light, aside from him not being deceased and that Dr. Quinn disowned Celinda because of it.

“Celinda is hurting, but she’s trying to get through it. She’s strong. But she has no one now,” Leroy told him.

“She has you,” he shot back.

“Luther, having a mate and having a father are two different things. The only person in this world that Celinda knows to be her father is you. The only family she knows is the Quinn’s. She is a Quinn. YOU are her father. Leroy is her mate. That’s not the same thing. And the only grandparent Celinda has ever known is your mother. Now, she has no family. But here you are, alive and well!” I scolded him.

“Luther, come back to Desert Moon. Fix the relationship with your daughter. Whether she is of your blood or not, you raised her. You built that father-daughter relationship with her,” Dorian advised him.

“But she’s not my daughter,” Luther said, trying not to cry.

“Your DNA may not be the same, but she is still, in fact, your daughter,” Dorian replied very sternly. “Do you realize that your choices have not only affected yourself but your mother and your daughter? You are punishing both of them because you chose to run away from your problem instead of tackling them head-on!”

“We can’t force you to come back with us, but I would hope that you love your mother and daughter enough to make the right choice,” I admonished him.

“And if I don’t? Are you going to tell everyone that I’m alive?” he asked.

“No,” Dorian answered. “It’s not our place. But you will have to live with the fact that you’re selfish. The woman who gave birth to you and the young girl who loves you unconditionally are suffering and are in pain. Celinda has it twice as bad because her parents have essentially cast her aside. She may be an adult now, but she is still technically an orphan.” As soon as the O word came out, Luther’s eyes softened and were filled with guilt.

“Luther, we are on your side, and if you choose to come back, we will welcome you back with open arms. You’ll get to meet the fish we named after you,” I said to him with a smile. He smirked and shook his head a bit.

“I’ll have to think about it,” he replied.

“Well, you have a few days. We will be in the area as we have some issues to take care of. Let us know what you decide. You are more than welcome to return home with the rest of us,” Dorian said and shook Luther’s hand.

“How many of you are here?” he asked.

“A lot,” we answered together. We said our goodbyes and proceeded to leave his cottage to allow him some time to think.

“Leroy.” We turned around and it seemed like Luther wanted to speak to him privately, so Dorian and I left Leroy behind.

When we got back to the Golden Moon packhouse, we were bombarded with questions about where we went. We told everyone that it wasn't the time for gossip and that we needed to get back on track with finding the base of operations for the traffickers, and get to where we needed to go and get those who were waiting for instructions there as well.

Wyatt and the others met us in the living area, and it seemed as though they had gotten everything they needed out of their systems.

“You good?” I asked Rylee. She nodded her head.

“We've agreed that the family drama will be figured out after we get rid of these traffickers,” Wyatt replied. We all nodded our heads.

“Dorian, we're ready to execute the plans,” Chad said to him.

“Alright, then let's do this,” Dorian said before calling Albert. He confirmed the official location of the base of operations.

“So, where is it?” Wyatt asked.

“Fitzwilliam Island. It's an underground bunker.”

“So, Marvin is actually working in Canada. But he's stalking supernaturals located all over the world it seems,” Richard said.

“How are we going to do this?” I asked.

“Those of you who are pregnant or targets need to stay here,” Dorian instructed.

“Wait, what? I can help!” Rylee shouted.

“Rylee, you're a target, remember!?” Wyatt countered.

“Wyatt!?”

“Rylee, they’re right,” William told her. “Right now this is not about how powerful you are. The fact of the matter is, you are a target. But they don’t know about me or Olivia. We will be part of the calvary to break into the compound and rescue all of the captives. You need to be here to protect the vulnerable, and Sam.” Rylee grunted but nodded her head anyways.

“All of the guards will stay here, and so will Amber. I doubt anyone will come after you here, otherwise, Leah would have sensed it. But, we’re not taking any chances,” Dorian said. Everyone nodded, and the guys prepared to pack up and head out. Dorian made all of the calls necessary and ensured that everyone back home was on their way.

I didn’t know all of the details, but I trusted Dorian. And with four other Alphas and multiple Betas and Gammas, I was certain this would be a walk in the park. But I couldn’t stop thinking about Leah’s visions. I guess we would have to wait and see how this all played out.