

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 41 - Tips

{Dorian's P.O.V.}

The battle that ensued wasn't at all what we expected; we were especially caught off guard when fifty humans ambushed us as we grappled with three dozen werewolves. Whoever this Marvin guy was, his operation was on a much larger scale than we could even comprehend. The problem wasn't how many men he had; it was the fact that he wasn't among them.

Although we succeeded in rescuing all the captive supernatural and killing his men, we still needed to dispose of him. My hope, however, was that we dealt a blow large enough to stall his operation for some years before he could manage to resume business as usual. We made contact with Richard who then reached out to their local Elder, Jonah, to report what happened. Even though we were technically in Canadian jurisdiction, Richard felt it was necessary to bring an Elder up to speed. Jonah said he would handle the aftermath and planned to discuss getting rid of Marvin with the Elders of Canada if we couldn't locate him.

The majority of the captives went their separate ways; but Anna, Jennifer, Ryker, the fairy we met named Abigail, and a few of the other wolves we encountered wanted to stay with us. I sent a message to Deacon to see whether Evelyn or Eileen knew of Abigail. If anything, his pack was better suited for her than ours. Abigail mentioned that her entire kingdom was slaughtered during her capture three years ago and that she had no home to return to.

Ryker swore his allegiance to Chad instead of Wyatt because he wanted to be the protector of Lexie and Lanie. Chad was skeptical at first, but when Ryker indicated he only saw them as little sisters and was old enough to be their father, Chad reluctantly permitted him. Anna decided that once she saw Lexie and Lanie alive and well, she would return to Heaven and watch over all of us as a personal guardian from the skies.

Wyatt and Richard did their best to explain to Jennifer where she came from and that she would be returned to her rightful family. The problem was that she turned out to be Maverick's mate. Unfortunately, Jennifer had no idea what that meant and kept hiding from him. Naturally, this hurt Maverick, but he tried to be understanding. She spent 16 years in prison, only to be used as a sex slave as soon as she came of age. She was traumatized, to say the

least. I hoped that meeting all of the girls would help her heal before we tried to reunite her with her family.

Once the Elders of Canada arrived on the island and learned what Marvin had been up to for the last two decades or so, they vowed to take care of him and clean up the mess we created. They took statements from some of the wolves who were more than willing to testify against him and what he had done to them. Among them was a Golden Wolf, which no one had ever heard of, two additional Jade Wolves, an Amethyst wolf, and a Lycan hybrid. All special in their own way and all between the ages of 14–25. Although there were some adolescents, there were no infants or young children, thankfully.

Once the Elders took over, they chartered two boats to get everyone back to Manitoulin Island, and we departed from the airport to head back to Golden Moon's packhouse. The few hours it took seemed to fly by; before we knew it, we arrived at the packhouse, and everyone was waiting outside for us. I wasted no time jumping out of the SUV to embrace Allie. I was careful not to squeeze too tight.

"Why do you have bandages on your shoulder!?" she exclaimed when she felt them under my shirt.

"I was shot," I answered, shrugging it off completely.

"WHAT?!" she shouted and placed her hands on the wound.

"I'm fine, baby. It's just a flesh wound, and it was a regular lead bullet. No silver. I'll be fully healed soon," I said, trying to calm her.

"OH MY GOD!!! ANNA!! J!!" I heard screaming and squealing erupt suddenly. Allie and I turned around, and we saw Lexie and Lanie hugging Anna and Jennifer. The four of them were shedding tears of joy.

"Hey there, Goldilocks twins," Ryker said to them. The girls embraced him as well, and he held them at the same time. Chad and Brent were seething in jealousy. It was kind of funny because the girls had yet to embrace their mates.

"What are we, chopped liver!?" Brent shouted at them. The girls let go of Ryker and smiled at their mates innocently before going to them and thanking them for bringing back their friends.

“Dorian, did you guys kll him? Did you get Marvin?” Allie asked, grabbing my attention. I let out a deep sigh and shook my head. Allie was shocked and looked at Brandon and the others.

“Sorry, Giz, but he wasn’t there. We kllled everyone else involved, and we’ve put a major hole in his operation, so he won’t be kidnapping or selling anyone anytime soon,” Mikey tried to console her.

“Allison, it’s over, for now, so don’t worry too much,” Ethan added on. Allie nodded and put her hand over her stomach protectively. I put my hand over hers and, as soon as I did, we felt the pup kick.

“He must know your touch, babe. He never kicks for me. Something tells me he’s going to be a Daddy’s boy,” Allie said with a soft smile. I watched as she shifted her eyes behind me and c\*\*\*\*d her head to the side. “What’s wrong with Maverick?”

“Oh, he’s a little bummed right now.”

“Why?”

“Turns out Leah’s vision meant something when she saw Jennifer hiding with him,” I answered.

“No.”

“Yeah.”

“She didn’t ...”

“No, but she’s a little apprehensive since she doesn’t know what it means.”

“Oh man, what horrible timing,” Allie said sympathetically.

“Yeah.”

Once everyone had finished celebrating our safe return, Richard came out to join us. All of the captives who returned with us were standing by the respective packs they chose to stay with. Before we planned our return to Desert Moon, we offered to take Jennifer back to meet her parents. Richard had already spoken with Xavier to let him know that we had recovered

Jennifer safely and that she wasn't actually sold. It was clear that Marvin had lied to him from the very beginning and had no intentions of following through with his promises.

In order to prevent Leah's visions from coming true, Wyatt was instructed by Richard to return to Blue Lake not only to prepare his pack but also to ensure that he and Rylee fixed their issues as soon as they could. The strength of their pack depended on their strength as Alpha and Luna; there was no time to lose. I didn't have to worry about Wyatt anymore and once his bond with Rylee was complete, he would be a great Alpha once again, if not better than before.

"It's getting late. Everyone wash up, get some rest, and spend time with your loved ones. Though you have stopped Marvin's operations, this is far from over. If we are to prevent what happened in the Desert Moon Beta's visions, then we must follow our next course of action to the tee," Richard told us. We all nodded and did what he said.

When Allie and I got back to our guest room at Golden Moon, I wanted nothing more than to hold her in my arms and sleep, but she wasn't having it. Allie projected her lust as soon as we entered the shower. As much as I wanted to pound into her, her pregnancy made that difficult. But it didn't stop us from enjoying ourselves in the shower, and then in bed. Allie worked me until I passed out from exhaustion.

The following day, everyone packed up and prepared to go our separate ways. Blue Lake had already left because they wanted to return before any potential attacks could occur while they were still traveling, but William and Olivia stayed behind to escort us. And Anna flew back to the skies but promised to watch over us. Whoever was behind these attacks would hopefully be caught off-guard once they saw Wyatt and the others back home. I already knew we couldn't stop the attacks, but our plan in getting them back to their pack grounds was to lessen the blow. Rylee didn't want to leave, but we had to stress the importance of changing the outcome of Leah's visions or we could lose a lot of friends and pack members.

"Richard, are we ready to go?" Dorian asked.

"Yes, I believe we are," he replied. "Jennifer, are you ready sweetheart?" Richard asked kindly. She cowered away but nodded her head anyways. Before leaving, Rylee and Lanie told Maverick what we discussed last night about returning her to her family to heal before trying to claim her. He wasn't

having it and insisted on staying with her at Black Moon, but Chad forbade him from doing so and chastised him for being selfish. Maverick was upset, but he understood that Jennifer's mental health came before his emotional and physical need for his mate.

"Alright everyone, let's load up and get going. Black Moon is only three hours from here, and Xavier and Heide are anxious to get their daughter back," Richard said. Dorian took my hand and we got inside the SUVs to make the trip.

The drive didn't feel like three hours, and the entire time I was mind linking with Leah to make sure her vision wasn't going to happen earlier than expected. She said that as of now, things were looking on the up and up and that we still had a few hours before it came true. We wanted to make it before it got too late because she mentioned the attack happened right before 4:00 PM.

When we arrived, I could see a group of people waiting. An average height African American man stood with a smaller petite African American female who looked a lot like Jennifer, but older. That had to be Xavier and Heide. There were two other men and women beside them, which only meant they were their Betas and Gammas. Things didn't seem too off ... yet.

"Richard! You did it! You found her!"

"Xavier, I told you that I would. Didn't I tell you to trust me?" Richard said, holding his shoulders in a friendly manner.

"Yes. Yes, you did. I knew I could trust you, old friend! Where is she?"

"Hold on, dear friend. I must warn you; she has been through hell and back, and she is very fragile. Remember, she doesn't know you two, and she will need time and lots of support and rehabilitation."

"Yes, yes, of course. Whatever she needs," Heide said. I couldn't help but notice her tone was off. It almost sounded forced. I peeked around Dorian to get a better look at Xavier and Heide, and I instantly felt the presence of someone else familiar. Sierra.

Something wasn't right. How did she get here? Why was she here? What business did she have brought at Black Moon? I needed to get a better read

on Xavier and Heide, but I was hidden behind Dorian because he was too preoccupied with being on alert. I mind-linked Sin.

Sin, tell me if you can get a read on Xavier and Heide.

What? Why?

Something is off. I can sense that girl Sierra from Blue Lake here.

What? Why would she be here?

My question exactly. Dorian is blocking me from the Alpha and Luna of Black Moon. I can't get a read on them.

Okay, give me a second. Our link was severed for about ten seconds before she came back to me. I can't!

What do you mean you can't?!

There's a magical barrier!

My eyes widened, and I knew that something was horribly wrong. I pushed my way out from behind Dorian, and the moment I locked eyes with Heide, I immediately sensed she wasn't a wolf. Her soul was dark, darker than Sierra. As soon as I turned my gaze to Xavier, I got the heebie-jeebies and quickly realized this was a trap. Just as the realization hit me, Jennifer was being led to them. The smile on Xavier's face was not that of a happy father's but that of a sadist.

"JENNIFER, NO!!" I screamed but it was too late. Xavier grabbed her and not in a fatherly kind of way. All of a sudden, we were surrounded by wolves in wolf form, and those before us started to change forms.

"What the fvck!?" Dorian shouted and pulled me back to cover me. The man who was once Xavier started to laugh maniacally and the woman turned into someone else entirely.

"OPAL!?" Olivia shouted.

"Hello, dear sister."

"Marvin!?" Richard growled. "What is the meaning of this!? Where are Xavier and Heide!?"

“Dead.” We all froze. “You see, Xavier was weak and stupid.” As he said this, he snapped his finger, and two men brought out Sierra. Sly gasped and I knew then he figured out that she was his mate. She looked terrified. “You see, Xavier hired this young lady spy on Blue Lake, and she was more than willing to betray her own pack out of spite. She gave him information on her Luna, and on you three,” he said looking between Leah, Sin, and me. “When she gave him that information, he called me and said he wanted to negotiate. I let him think he had the upper hand. I came, heard him out, and then had his entire pack killed for trying to double-cross me. Though I must say, I didn’t think that you would all find my bunker the way you did.”

“What do you want!?” I shouted.

“What rightfully belongs to me. I want Project Gemini, and little J here,” he demanded as he nuzzled against her. Maverick snarled. “Oh, well isn’t this a surprise. Little J here seems to have met her mate. Young man, you sure you want this filthy w\*\*\*e as your mate? She’s opened her legs for so many of my men, and willingly.”

“Shut up before I make you shut up!” Maverick growled.

“Touchy young pup, aren’t you?” Marvin antagonized him. “Since you all destroyed my business, I think it’s only right that I take something in return.”

“You can’t be fvcking\*g serious!” Mikey shouted.

“Oh but I am. You see, you’re completely outnumbered, and I already have a plan in place to obtain Project Gemini. Now, I will take your mates,” he said with a serious expression. All of the guys immediately stood their ground. “Oh please, your attempts are futile, just hand them over, and I’ll let y...” he paused when one of his men whispered something in his ear. His face contorted into pure anger and his eyes flashed black.

Suddenly, the sound of gunfire went off, and all of the wolves around us started to fall dead. This caught him by surprise, and he let go of Jennifer. Maverick wasted no time grabbing her and taking her to safety. Everyone shifted at the speed of light, and put me and all the girls, including Jennifer, into a protective circle. Then all hell broke loose.

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{Dorian’s P.O.V.}

As we surrounded the women to form a barrier for their protection, shots continued to ring into the skies as Lucas's team plucked off as many wolves around us as fast as they could. You should have seen the look of disdain on Marvin's face as it turned into sheer rage, consuming him entirely once he realized his plans to overrun us and Wyatt's pack had ultimately failed. There was no doubt in my mind, actually, in our mind that Wyatt had defeated whoever attacked Blue Lake.

I looked at the clock through Bandit's eyes and, sure enough, it was half-past 4:00 PM which meant that Leah's visions had come true but with a different outcome. Just as the water broke through the flood gates of Hell, my men and women came rushing out of their hiding spots and started to rip through any of the remaining wolves that fought for Marvin. Thanks to Olivia, she masked all of their scents as we had arrived. This only deterred Marvin, even more, when he saw just how outnumbered he truly was.

"I WILL HAVE WHAT IS MINE!!" Marvin screamed like a dramatic child throwing a temper tantrum. And I thought Allie was bad when she got angry. He shifted into his wolf and I thought he would be a black wolf at first, as most Alphas are, but was surprised to see him as a brown wolf. That only meant he wasn't a true Alpha. I didn't have time to dwell on this fact, as he came charging at me. The guys and I kept the circle as tight as we could to keep our females safe. That included Jennifer and Abigail.

"HELP! PLEASE! Someone! Help!" I heard a cry. I was too busy keeping Marvin at bay to know who was calling for help. It wasn't someone from our pack. I wasn't aware of who it was, but Sly seemed to know right off the bat. He broke away from his formation and left a gaping hole that led directly to Leah.

SLY!! GET BACK HERE!!! I roared through our pack link, but he didn't respond. He disappeared into the crowd of wolves. sh!t!! Close the circ—

"AHHH!!!" I heard a scream; it was Leah. A wolf had gotten through. I pushed Marvin as far back as I could. I turned around to see Leah with a wolf snapping his jaws at her face. She was holding it back. Eddie was trying to get to her, but he had two wolves on him as well.

"LEAH!!" Allie screamed and jumped on the wolf's back. I knew what she was doing. She was projecting her power of Lust to render him unconscious. It worked, and the wolf fell to the ground. Allie jumped off just in time, so it didn't crush her. I would lecture her later about being reckless while pregnant.



I heard a snarl and saw Marvin's wolf charging towards us. The circle we had created around the girls was now broken. Maverick shifted back, grabbed Jennifer, and pulled her towards one of the SUVs we had driven. He hid her behind it and stayed with her the entire time. I guess Leah's vision of him hiding came true.

"BANDIT!!" Allie screamed. I turned to see what was happening. Big mistake. I was blindsided by two wolves, one being Marvin. We were on our back and, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a few wolves stalking towards Allie and the others. One reared back and pounced, but it ricocheted far away. There was a forcefield around the girls. It had to be Olivia, wherever she was in the chaos.

I turned my attention back to Marvin and the other wolf. He had me by the leg, while Marvin tried to stomp on my chest with his not-so-big, muddy-looking paw. Right before he could put all of his weight into his assault, another wolf rammed him off me. This gave me the opportunity to kill the puny wolf chomping down on my leg. Bandit kicked him off and charged at him without regard for the injury. Bandit rammed him into the wall of the packhouse with all his might and crushed him.

Bandit swung around to see who had helped us, and it was a massive black wolf. He was even bigger than Bandit. It was rare to see a wolf larger than him. This had to be William's wolf. He was fvcking\*g huge, and his eyes were a fiery red.

I checked to see if Allie and the others were okay, and saw Olivia had one hand pointed towards them while she was fighting off her sister, Opal. This needed to end and fast. Marvin needed to be taken out right now. Most of his men were dead, but there were still some coming out of the packhouse of Black Moon. Xavier and his Luna were dead, so they must have completely taken over their pack lands.

I rushed into the fight to help William, though I was sure he didn't need it. He and Marvin were at a standoff, and it was a sight to see. Marvin was barely half of William's size, and he was trying to snarl his way out of this. Enough was enough, I snuck up behind Marvin's wolf, and Bandit chomped down on his leg and shattered his tibia. Marvin's wolf wailed in agony and then William's wolf punched him square across the jaw before biting down onto his neck. I thought he would go for the kill, but he only knocked him out, suffocating him.

“NOOO!!!” I heard a screech. William and I both turned to see Olivia had overpowered Opal. A bright flash of red lightning came from Olivia as she rendered Opal unconscious as well.

Seeing that their Alpha and dark witch were incapacitated, the remainder of his men and women ceased to fight and surrendered instantly. There were very few of them left. I quickly shifted back and so did everyone else.

“Why didn’t you kll him?” I asked William.

“Because Rylee needs answers, and only he can give them,” he replied. I nodded my head.

“Dorian!” I turned to see Allie running towards me. I embraced her in my arms and inhaled her scent. After calming down, I put her down and chastised her for what she did.

“WHAT THE fvck WERE YOU THINKING, ALLISON!?” I screamed using her full name. “YOU’RE PREGNANT, AND YOU JUMPED ON A WOLF!?”

“If I hadn’t, Leah would be dead!” she growled back at me. That reminded me, Sylvester.

“SYLVESTER!!!” Brandon roared, shaking the ground beneath us. Sly came from behind the packhouse and had Sierra with him. Before he could say one word, Brandon charged at him, knocking him over, and punched him across the face several times. It took Leroy, Paxton, Derek, and Lucas to get him off before he killed him. “YOU LEFT YOUR POSITION IN THE CIRCLE FOR THAT b\*\*\*h!?” Brandon roared again. Eddie was on the surface, and he was pissed. “LEAH COULD HAVE fvcking\*g DIED!!!”

“Sylvester?” I looked up to see my mate staring at me with a blank expression. “Are you okay?” she asked. Though, her tone was not genuine.

“No, I’m not. I have a choice to make, and it’s not easy.”

“What are you talking about? The right choice is to choose your mate,” she said matter-of-factly.

“No, Sierra, it’s not. If I choose you, I lose everything I’ve ever worked for. I will lose the pack I was raised in. I’ve already lost the trust and respect of

those who rule my pack. Losing the pack entirely would mean I become rogue. I will never see my family again.”

“Your Alpha and Luna are just as fvckingd up as mine! Who gives their pack member an ultimatum like that!? Huh!? Your mate or your pack,” she said, mocking Luna Allie. “I’m your mate. The moon goddess chose me for you. That should be the most important thing that there is.”

“If you believe so highly in the mate bond, then why would you willingly participate in trying to have your Beta male’s mate kllled?”

“Keaton’s not even the Beta! He’s the little brother of one! I just wanted my friend to be happy!”

“So, you admit it. You helped your friend in the attempted murder of another wolf’s mate?” I asked her. She took a sharp intake of breath when she realized what she just admitted. “And instead of standing by that said friend, you ratted her out in exchange for leniency?”

“I had to do what was necessary to survive! Terrine would have kllled me herself if I didn’t help her! Keaton would have kllled me had I not betrayed her! I just wanted to survive! Anyone in my position would have done the same thing!” she shouted at me.

“Most people would never allow themselves to be in that position. The fact that you even call this person Terrine a friend is beyond me. A true friend would never threaten their friend’s life over something as trivial as an infatuation. Secondly, a true friend would never rat out their friend to save their own a.ss!”

“Are you judging me?” she asked with an appalled tone.

“Yes, I am,” I answered without hesitation. She scowled at me and glared her eyes. “Be honest with me, Sierra. Why do you want me to betray my pack and choose you?” I knew this question came out of the blue, I needed to hear her answer. I was seriously contemplating leaving Desert Moon to be with her. The mate I had been longing for, for so long. But I needed to hear her say that she wanted me for me. That she too wanted to fulfill the mate bond for the right reasons. Out of love for me, her mate.

“What kind of question is that? It’s obvious, isn’t it?” she said blankly. “I have nowhere to go. My Alpha will skin me alive if I go back to Blue Lake. Alpha

Xavier is dead, and his pack is in ruins. Your pack obviously won't accept me. Your b\*\*\*h of a Gamma already said so. I'm officially a rogue. It only makes sense that my mate is a rogue with me." I was baffled at her response. Not once in her reasoning did she say that she wanted to be with me as her mate, but she wanted me to be her mate to suffer with her.

"Are you telling me that you only want me so that you won't be alone?" I asked to make sure I understood her correctly.

"Yeah," she replied without remorse. "That's what mates are for, aren't they?" I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Sierra didn't believe in the mate bond the way that I did. She didn't see the appeal of loving someone for all eternity. Creating a family. Showering each other with love, passion, desire, and everything else in between. I wanted what my ranked members had. Everyone in our pack who had yet to find their mates did.

I fell in love with Sierra the moment I laid eyes on her, but she obviously didn't feel the same way. For her, I was just her ticket out of a lonely life as a rogue. How could I accept her? I never once thought I would ever contemplate rejecting the most precious thing the goddess would give me. And yet, here I was. Before I made this ultimatum decision, I needed to know one more thing.

"Sierra, do you ever see yourself being a mother?"

"Ew, no. I hate kids. I took care of Terrine's pup because I didn't want to deal with her and her raging bltch-a.ss. I've never wanted pups. I even got a hyste.rectomy at 21." My heart plummeted. The she-wolf in front of me was not my mate. The moon goddess wouldn't do this to me. She wouldn't want me to be mated to someone so selfish and incapable of love or compassion. I shook my head in disappointment. I had hoped that she would have at least said yes to having a family. That would have swayed me to choose her over the pack. Because at least then, I would have had what I wanted most in this world. A family of my own.

"Sierra, what's your last name?" I asked her nonchalantly.

"Paisley. Why?"

"Because it's come to my attention that we are not meant for each other. The moon goddess has made a mistake."

"What!? You can't be—"

"I, Sylvester Monroe, hereby reject you, Sierra Paisley, as my mate and partner," I spoke the words and felt my heart break.

"NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS ME!!!" she shrieked and held her chest. I didn't wait for her to accept my rejection. With her being classified as a rogue, the bond would break over time. I turned my heel and walked back towards the people who I knew were angry with me, but would forgive me nonetheless. I may have lost my rank and position as the guard for Beta Leah, but it was the price I had to pay for my actions.

As I walked back to accept my punishment, I felt a gust of wind and heard what sounded like giant wings.

"Hello, Sylvester," I heard a melodious voice. I turned around to see the most beautiful being in front of me.

"You?" was all I could muster out.

"Yes, me." She smiled. "I guess you don't remember my name," she said after I just stood there staring at her. I gulped and shook my head. How did I not notice how radiant she was before? She giggled and that alone made my heart stop. "It's Annalisa. But everyone calls me Anna."

"Anna," I whispered.

"I guess we have some things to discuss," she smiled again.

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"You?"

"Yes, me." I smiled. That's all he said. I guess he didn't remember my name, or maybe he didn't even know it. "I guess you don't remember my name," I said to him. He shook his head no, and I watched as his Adam's apple bobbed. I giggled seeing how flustered he was. "It's Annalisa. But everyone calls me Anna." I answered.

"Anna," he whispered.

"I guess we have some things to discuss," I said to him with a warm smile. "I guess you're wondering why I came back to Earth after having returned to Heaven for only a short time."

“I guess you can say that.”

“Well, it’s simple. We’re mates.”

“What?”

“We. Are. Mates.” I repeated and enunciated each word.

“You? An angel?” he questioned. I nodded my head. “But ... I just ...” he stuttered and pointed back to his ex-mate, Sierra, who was stomping on the ground like an angry bull in a market. “Nevermind.”

“I know she was your mate just a few moments ago, and that you rejected her, Sylvester. I’m your mate as well. But as an Angel, it is forbidden for us to pursue a mate who is taken by another. Even though I knew you were mine, I was not yours, yet. So, I returned to Heaven and, as promised, I watched over all of you as well, along with the other angels in Heaven. Although I do admit, I particularly kept my eye on you. I wanted to be sure that you were not hurt. Once I saw you betray your pack for her, I was saddened and felt like every feather was plucked from my wings. But then, I heard your rejection, and flew down here immediately thereafter,” I said as quickly as possible. Sylvester raised an eyebrow at me, and I knew I had lost him. “Okay, let me try this again ...” I began to say. But before I could get out another word, I felt strong arms embrace me, and warmth covered my entire being.

I felt as if I was completely on fire, but I wasn’t being burned. I knew at this moment that I wanted this man. I would give up my immortality ten-fold to be with him. I had always longed for my mate but assumed it would be another angel. I also never thought I would ever find him having been held in captivity for over twenty years. I never could have imagined in a million years I would be mated to a wolf. And one as beautiful as Sylvester.

I felt a sudden chill when he broke our embrace, but he looked down at me with his beautiful silver eyes. His eyes reminded me of the gates of Heaven. His eyes showed me the way to his soul, and all I saw was good. This was a good man, and he belonged to me.

“Anna, are you real?” he asked me and looked at me all over.

“Yes, I am, Sylvester. I am very real. I am here, and I want to be with you.”

“Do you want to have a family with me?” he asked suddenly. I was taken aback at how forward he was. But what I saw in his eyes when looked to me for a response was nothing but desire, and the carnal need to know. He desperately wanted a family. It wasn’t just something he wanted. It was something he craved and longed for. Who was I to deny him that?

“I want whatever you want. If you want me to bear your children, I will gladly give you my body. We will create new lives, together.” He gently embraced me in his arms again, and I added to it by using my wings to cocoon us together.

“A minute ago, my heart was shattered into a million pieces, and my entire body felt so empty. But now, I don’t think my heart has ever felt so full. Thank you, Anna, for coming back.”

“Nothing could keep me away,” I whispered and squeezed my wings tighter.

Good luck, child. I heard the voice of the Holy Ghost.

Thank you, my King.

I felt my immortality diminish, but I never felt more alive.

“Wait, what just happened?” he asked me.

“The Lord has taken my immortality.”

“Why!?”

“It was a sacrifice I had to make to be with you, Sly,” I replied and leaned into his chest. He was so big and burly. I felt so safe.

“Are you what they call a fallen angel then?” he asked with his voice full of concern.

“No. I’m mortal, but I am still an angel. I still have my wings, and this ...” I snapped my fingers, and my halo appeared above my head. “Fallen angels lose their wings and their halos. They become human. I’m still an angel, I’m just not immortal anymore.” He just blinked his eyes and was lost again. So cute. “You think too much, darling. Just go with the flow.”

After a few minutes of explaining everything to him again, Sylvester finally understood everything. He was a ditz, but he was my ditz. What I needed to

do now was salvage his relationship with his pack. What he did was not out of malice or selfishness. If there was one thing I knew about werewolves, is that they live for their mates. Dorian and the others were no different, and that was something I was going to drill into their heads.

We walked over to them hand-in-hand, but didn't expect to walk right into a situation. They were all worked up, and the vampire Delta, Andre, was seething in anger.

"What's happening?" I asked Sly.

"I don't know," he replied. We ran over to the group. "Alpha, what's going on?" he asked Dorian.

"What are ... What the!?" he was thrown off guard when he saw me. "Anna!?"

"ANNA!?" I heard Allie the other girls exclaim.

"I'll explain later, Alpha. Why is the Delta so angry?" Sly asked.

"We just got a call from home. Vivienne has been kidnapped," Dorian explained.

"Who is Vivienne?" I asked.

"She's the Delta's younger sister," Sly answered me.

"Pack up! We need to get home!" Dorian commanded.

"I need to find her!" another burly man said. He, too, was angry. I looked up at Sly.

"Vivienne's mate."

"Take my hands, you guys!" Dani said. They both grabbed her hands, and they disappeared in a puff of orange smoke. I had heard of vampires shimmering but never witnessed it firsthand.

"I'm sorry, Anna, but our celebration is going to have to wait. Vivienne is a ranked vampire. She's practically royalty of her father's coven," Sly told me apologetically.



“She’s part of your pack which means she is a part of my flock. Angels love all creatures. What can I do to help?”

“Anna, why are you here?” I heard Allie ask before Sly could answer me. I looked at her and smiled. She c\*\*\*\*d her head to the side, and immediately a smile formed on her face. “No way!!” she exclaimed. “You’re Sly’s second chance!?”

“WHAT!?” everyone else shouted as well.

“I’d like to think I was his first, but apparently your goddess felt the need to mate him to another before me,” I answered honestly.

“A wolf mated to an angel is rare,” Dorian said hesitantly.

“An angel mated to anyone other than an angel is rare, Dorian,” I replied. “But it’s the truth. As an angel, I cannot lie. At least not deliberately.” Everyone was silent and appeared to be stunned, except for Allie. “Listen, there are a few things I want to discuss, but it’s obvious that whatever is happening back at your pack takes precedence.”

“She’s right. We need to find Vivienne before Andre and Jed tear down the state looking for her,” Dorian said.

“This Jed person, he must be worried about his Luna,” I said without thinking. Everyone’s eyes widened like saucers and they stared at me like I was crazy. “What?”

“Did you just say ‘Luna’?” Allie asked. I nodded my head.

“Jed is an Alpha wolf, is he not?” I asked. Without even so much as a nod, Allie slapped Dorian’s arm.

“I told you!” she screamed at him and he winced from the sudden assault.

“Hold the fvcking\*g phone!” Brandon shouted. “Are you telling us that Jed is an Alpha!?” I nodded my head again. “How the fvck!? We’ve been his friend for over a decade! We’ve only known him to be an Omega!”

“Anna, are you certain!?” Dorian asked.

“Yes. Angels have the ability to sense power and authority. It’s how I knew that Wyatt wasn’t the prison guard when you two and William first came to

free us. Although I only witnessed Jed for a brief moment before he left with Dani, his aura screamed authority. Not as powerful as yours, Dorian, or Wyatt but enough for me to discern he's an Alpha wolf. How did you not know this?"

"I knew it! I knew it! I knew it! You never believe me!" Allie yelled at Dorian.

"We don't have time for I told you so, Allie!" Dorian shouted back. "We need to get the prisoners back to Wyatt's pack, and we need to board the jet and get back home. There's no telling how much damage Andre and Jed could have already done trying to find her."

"Anna, you're obviously coming with us, right?" Allie asked as she smiled with glee.

"I will go wherever my mate goes."

"YES!"

"Dorian, we have the transports ready. We heard what's happened back at Desert Moon. You all go. Olivia and I will make sure that everyone is transported to Wyatt without issue. Good luck to you, and it was a pleasure fighting alongside you," William said to him, suddenly appearing out of nowhere.

"William, the pleasure was all mine. Good luck to you as well," Dorian replied. When William took his leave, Dorian turned to his pack and made his commands. His power was unlike any other I had ever seen. He just screamed Alpha male. It would take a lot of convincing to get him to trust Sylvester again, but I prayed that my mate's punishment was not severe.

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 44 - Tips

"You're telling me," I scoffed and chuckled a bit. Anna smirked.

"But what he did was not out of malice or even selfishness. He genuinely believed that the woman he was meant to protect at all costs was in danger," Anna said with conviction. I just blankly stared at her.

"Why are you taking her side?" I asked her.

"I'm not, I'm taking my mate's side. There's a difference. I don't care about Sierra, honestly. As an angel, I can't hate her, but I can dislike her. I know she

used him and his big heart for personal gain and that it drove a wedge between him and you all now. But it's not his fault that he did what any of you would have done for your mates. It's not also his fault that she had an ulterior motive. He can't read minds like Sin can. He can't read one's soul the way you can. He also can't have visions the way Leah can." I dropped my shoulders at her words because she was 100% right. "Allie, I don't deny that you make an amazing Luna and that you love your pack members, but maybe instead of giving the tough love all the time, maybe show some actual compassion and empathy." I gaped at her, but before I could come back with anything, she stood up and walked away.

Wow, for an Angel who just spent twenty years in captivity, she's very bold.

Yeah, no kidding.

She's right too.

Yeah, no kidding.

Mercury settled and I looked back out of the window. I leaned back and rubbed my belly. I felt my pup kick, and hard.

"Hm, I guess you're taking her side too, huh?" I questioned him.

"Who are you talking to?" I turned to see Dorian lifting a brow at me.

"Oh," I giggled. "Just talking to the pup. He kicked me after Anna practically accused me of being a b!tch."

"She said that?" he asked while sitting down.

"Not in those exact words, but she isn't wrong, either."

"This has to do with Sly, doesn't it?" he asked, and I nodded. "What did she say?"

"She said that we shouldn't be too hard on him. That he did what any of us would have done if our mates were yelling out for help in the heat of battle."

"She's not wrong," Dorian admitted and leaned back as well.

"No, she's not." We sat there in silence for a minute before Dorian asked, "What do you want to do, baby? Do you still want to punish him?"

“Yes, and no,” I answered. “Again, I’m pissed that his decisions to break away almost cost Leah her life, but then again, he did it out of instinct, just like any one of us would have.” Dorian nodded his head in agreement. “Even if we don’t want to punish him, Brandon won’t forgive him. Leah is his whole world.”

“Yeah, and that’s something I can understand fully. If that had been you, I would have killed Sly.”

“I’m surprised Brandon hasn’t tried again, yet.”

“Why do you think I made Brandon and Leah take a commercial flight home instead of the jet with us?”

“Why didn’t you make Sly take the commercial flight home?” I asked him.

“Because Brandon needs more time to cool off.” I tilted my head back and forth in agreement. “Let’s deal with the Sly thing later. It’s water under the bridge for now. Vivienne takes priority. Who would take her and why?” he asked.

“Michaela?”

“I called Scanlan, but he says it’s not possible because Michaela hasn’t left their packhouse since the last time. He has her under 24-hour surveillance because of what she did.”

“Did you tell him about Jed being of Alpha blood?”

“No, I didn’t.”

“Why?”

“Because that’s big news, and something like that could make him feel threatened, or even give Michaela more reasons to try and get him back.”

“Oh yeah.”

“He did say he would keep a watchful eye on her, but I honestly don’t think it’s her, baby.”

“Then who could it be, Dorian? Who else would have a personal vendetta against Jed, Vivienne, or André for that matter?”

“What about Dani’s ex? The warlock?” he asked.

“Harry?” I replied in disbelief. Dorian nodded. “How would he even know about her? He doesn’t even know that André is Dani’s mate.”

“You sure?”

“I’m not 100% positive, but unless Dani or her parents spilled the beans, it still wouldn’t explain how he would know about Vivienne or that she’s related to André.”

“Okay, you have a point there.” Dorian clicked his tongue against his cheek and made his thinking face. “We have to find out who has her, otherwise André and Jed are going to tear about the continental U.S. trying to find her.”

“That’s assuming she’s still in the country,” I replied. Dorian gave a knowing look and slumped in his seat.

“I can’t believe that fvcker is an Alpha,” he said, referring to Jed. He looked at me and I gave him a knowing look. “Okay, fine, you can say it now, Allie!”

“I told you so.”

{Vivienne’s P.O.V.}

The day of her kidnapping

I was upset when Mon Loup told me that he had to leave again for another mission, as soon as he got back from the last one. But, when he told me that it was a huge deal and that it was an order from Dorian, I had no choice but to suck it up and let him leave.

I was sitting at home bored out of my mind because all the girls were gone too. Whatever was going on, it must have been extremely serious that all of the ranked women left and one of each of their guards accompanied them. I decided to go to the packhouse to hang out with Lacie instead since she was still home. Aries had also left, so I figured we could keep each other company. I went straight to the second-floor nursery where I knew she would be.

“Hey, Viv, come on in,” she said as she smiled from the floor. There were babies and toddlers all over the place, including Allie’s twins.

“How are you taking care of all of the little ones by yourself?” I asked her in amazement.

“Oh, I can’t take all of the credit. They were just dropped off by their grandmothers, and the nannies are all on their way to take care of their respective pups,” she answered truthfully and smiled while bouncing her little girl in her lap.

“Has she started to crawl yet?” I asked while sitting down next to her, and pinching Meredith’s cheek.

“No, she’s still too young. She’s barely going to be five months.”

“I can’t wait to have a pup of my own,” I said out loud without realization. I gasped and covered my mouth.

“Hahaha, don’t be embarrassed. Being a mom is a wonderful thing. Especially when you have a mate like Jed,” she replied and nudged me with her elbow. I blushed knowing she was referring to my first time with Jed. “Girl, we still fan over what you told us. Jed definitely knows how to worship a woman’s body.”

“Yes, he does,” I replied blankly, thinking back to that wonderful night. All nights, days, and even mid-afternoons with Jed were wonderful.

“Oh, I know that look. You’re daydreaming about quickies, aren’t you?” she asked and wiggled her brows at me.

“How did you ...”

“Please, we all do it. We all have the same faraway look and rosy cheeks when we do!” she giggled. I pressed my lips together and felt my cheeks flush red even more.

“Hello, Lacie!” we heard several voices. We turned towards the door, and several she-wolves were coming in.

“Hi, girls!” Lacie responded. Each one came into the room and snagged a pup.

“Nannies?” I asked.

“Yup! This is Raquel and Sylvia. They’re the Alpha pups’ nannies. This is Hope, she’s Beta pups’ nanny. This is Mandy, she’s Allen’s nanny. You obviously already know Christine, Monique’s nanny, and this is Arielle, Keegan’s nanny. Girls, this is Vivienne, she’s Jed’s mate. I’m sure you have all seen her around.”

“Hi!” they greeted me with bright smiles.

“Hello. It’s a pleasure to formally meet you all. I’m sorry it wasn’t sooner,” I said smiling at them as well.

“Please, no apologies needed. This pack gets bigger like every five seconds. It’s hard to greet everyone in a timely fashion,” Raquel said.

“Yeah, no worries!” Mandy said very cheerfully and waved it off.

“Vivienne, please tell me you and Jed plan on having a pup of your own? I would love to have another pup to look after,” Christine gushed.

“Oh, they’re trying, believe me,” Lacie said on my behalf, making all of the girls squeal and giggle. I pouted at Lacie who just smiled really big.

“Miss Lacie, are we ready?” Arielle asked.

“Ready for what?” I asked.

“We’re going on a walk around the pack grounds. It allows the older pups to get their energy out, outside of the packhouse, and fresh air for all of us,” Lacie answered.

“May I join?” I asked.

“Of course!” they all answered.

During our walk, we were greeted by many pack members, and the older pups were running to their hearts’ desires. I was worried at first because they were going in all sorts of directions, but the nannies were actually doing quite a good job keeping track of them. I was more concerned with Monique because she started to show signs of shimmering. Because she had more vampire genes than anything, it wasn’t surprising to see her developing those capabilities.

“Has she shimmered at all yet?” I asked Christine.

“No, but she seems like she is trying. Delta Dani did warn me that it would happen sooner or later. I’m only glad that even if she does, she can’t go far.”

“Not yet, at least,” I replied.

“The Delta said that family members can track her shimmers?”

“Yes. Blood relatives like me or my parents. Even Dani’s mother would be able to,” I replied.

“Whew, that’s a good thing.” I nodded and we both smiled. Monique was following Sawyer around like his little shadow, and he was enjoying every minute of it. “Aren’t they cute together?”

“Oui, they are,” I replied.

“Tante Vivi!” Monique called out, and then out of where she vanished. Where she stood lingered light-purple smoke.

“OH, MY GODDESS!!!” Christine screamed and ran over to where she was. “Where did she go!?” Before I could answer, Monique landed in my arms and she giggled with pure delight. “Oh, thank the heavens!” Christine gave an exasperated sigh.

“Monie!” Sawyer called out. Before I could stop her, she shimmered again and appeared in front of him.

“Oh, mon Dieu, she’s figured out shimmering,” I said to Christine. Her eyes widened in shock.

“What am I supposed to tell your brother!?” Christine exclaimed.

“I don’t know why you are worried, I told you that I can track her down if she shimmers too far. As of right now, she’s just getting the hang of it. It will take at least a year before she can shimmer more than a few feet. My brother and Dani will be ecstatic to find out, but they’re also going to have their hands full.”

“Why do you say that?” Before I could answer, Monique shimmered again, but this time into her stroller.

“Because little vampires like to shimmer EVERYWHERE when they figure it out,” I said while looking down at Monique. “They get excited when they land at their destination no matter the distance. The feeling of shimmering is



foreign, and they get a small rush of adrenaline just like adults do when we shimmer in long distances. But the good thing ...” I said and watched as Monique yawned and leaned back into the stroller. “... is that they tire themselves faster, just like adults do.”

“Wow,” was all Christine could respond when she saw Monique fall asleep.

“She is going to need blood when she wakes up from her nap, Christine. Just like an adult, a baby vampire craves blood after shimmering and draining their energy.”

“I will have that ready for her, thank you for the quick lesson in baby vampires,” she replied with a smile and took the stroller from me. “Alright ladies, well, miss baby Delta here tired herself out with her new ability. I will take her back to my place for the rest of her nap. Bye!” Christine called out to everyone and took off in the direction of her home.

“Yeah, we should get the Alpha pups ready for their afternoon naps too. Daisy is getting cranky,” Raquel said.

“Yeah, same with baby Danica,” Hope replied. Everyone else agreed, and we all went our separate ways.

When I got back to my townhome, I shimmered in rather than using the door, which was a horrible mistake. I landed in the living room, only to be met with a foreign scent. Tempest and I both knew who it was immediately. I turned around and was met with a face I hoped to never see again.

“Bonsoir, Vivienne.”

“Claude.”

“Tu te souviens de ce que j’ai dit? Si je ne peux pas t’avoir, personne ne le peut.” (Do you remember what I said? If I can’t have you, no one can.)

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 45 - Tips

{Vivienne’s P.O.V.}

After I roused myself out of oblivion, my senses returned, and I found nothing made sense at all. My body felt weak, my head felt as though it weighed a

thousand pounds, and my skin burned as if I were a roasted chicken on a spit. What in the world was happening to me?

Tempest? I called out to my wolf. Nothing. Tempest? Are you there? Still nothing. Where was she? “Mmm ...” I winced when I tried to move. I lifted my hands but soon realized that I couldn’t. I tried again but to no avail. I heard a sound, repetitively, whenever I moved my hands; it dawned on me that my hands were shackled together. I felt my consciousness coming back, and I summoned every last bit of willpower I had to open my eyes when I started to hear voices.

At first, the sounds of their voices just mumbled and caused ringing in my ears. Undecipherable words until little by little, the words started to make sense and my blurred vision began to clear. I could definitely see two figures in front of me.

“How much of the Nightshade did you inject her with?” someone unknown asked.

“All of it, why?” another voice responded. This one was familiar, but I couldn’t place it. My head felt like I had been on a merry-go-round a hundred times over. I wanted to throw up, but it seemed as if there was nothing to throw up. Now that I thought about it, I was starving, and I could feel my thirst for blood. My having any thirst was rare, as I never allowed for it to get to that point. When my wolf genes were more dominant, I rarely, if ever, felt the need to feed on blood.

“Are you mad!? That amount could have killed her!” the other voice shouted.

“You told me to use as much as I needed to subdue her. So, I used it all,” the familiar voice said. “Besides, it should be out of her system soon. Once she’s awake, we will talk, we will wed, and then we will reproduce.”

“You best pray that the King and her family do not find out about this!” the other hissed. And not just any hiss – a vampire hiss.

“Please, I am not afraid of the Royals.”

“Then you are stupider than you look! The King and her father are best friends! Why do you think Adrian is the General of this coven! She and the Prince are still friends!”

“The Prince? What a quack! He’s never worked a day in his pathetic 300 years of life. He didn’t deserve to be wed to a vampire as pure as Vivienne.”

“Pure? She’s half wolf! How is she pure!?” I took offense to the unknown individual practically insulting my mother.

“Pure, as in the fact that she was a virgin! Vampires and wolves are s\*\*\*\*l by nature, yet she held on! She should have been mine! And now she is tainted by that disgusting mutt!” Hearing the familiar voice call Mon Loup, a mutt forced a growl from me, and one loud enough that I knew they heard.

“She’s awake,” the unfamiliar one said. I saw them approaching closer, and my vision continued to improve as time went on.

“Vivienne? Es-tu réveillé mon amour?” (Vivienne? Are you awake, my love?) the familiar voice said my name. I felt someone touch my cheek, and it felt like a thousand knives had just stabbed that one spot. I quickly moved my head away and hissed at the feeling.

“Where am I?” I managed to croak out.

“You are safe,” the familiar one tried to reassure me, but his voice was filled with hatred. “You are where you belong ... with me,” he concluded, and I saw him smile. I stared at him, and soon, his face became perfectly clear.

“Claude!?” I exclaimed.

“Ah, so you do remember me, mon amour?”

“Ne m’appelle pas comme ça!” (Don’t call me that!) I growled. I continued to try and reach Tempest, but it was as if she was no longer with me. “What did you do to me!? Why can’t I reach my wolf!?”

“You mean your mate?” Claude spit.

“Non, putain de connard!” (No, you fvcking\*g a.ssh0le!) I shouted as loud as I could. Of course, Claude didn’t know anything about being part werewolf. “My wolf spirit, Tempest! Why can I not speak with her!?”

“What is she talking about?” Claude asked, looking at the other person. He, too, gave Claude a look that translated to how stupid he was for asking that question.

“She is half wolf! She has a wolf spirit as a full werewolf does,” he answered him. Then he turned to me, “Vivienne, the Nightshade this imbecile injected you with put you into a deep sleep. Nightshade is like Wolfsbane for werewolves. He gave you so much of it that it also affected your wolf. She should be alright in a few more days. It can’t kill her, do not worry,” he explained to me and gave a warm smile. Something told me that this man was not doing this willingly. Knowing Claude and his sick ways, he had significant leverage on him.

“Well, now that we have that out of the way, tell me, Vivienne, have you come to your senses?”

“Do I look like I have come to my senses, you moron! You pumped me full of Nightshade!”

“I’m not talking about that. I mean ...” he paused and grabbed my chin to face him. He smelled of rotten eggs. “Have you come to your senses about being my bride?”

“I have told you once, I have told a million times, Claude! I don’t want to be with you! I didn’t want to marry Henri, and he is a vampire Prince. What makes you think I would be with you, someone as old as my father!?” His eyes flashed red, and he pushed my head back.

“You can play hard to get all you want, Vivienne. But eventually, you will give in to me.”

“I wouldn’t hold my breath, Claude. When my family and my mate find out I am gone, they will move mountains to find me!”

“I wouldn’t be so sure about that,” he said and looked back at me over his shoulder. “It’s already been a week since I have taken you, and yet, no one has come for you.” I took a sharp breath inward when he mentioned this. “No one is coming for you. Because they will never find you.” He laughed maniacally as he walked out of wherever it was that I was being held. I felt moisture accumulating on my cheeks, and I realized that it was from my very own tears.

“Mademoiselle, do not cry,” the other man said to me. I glanced over at him, and he seemed to be sympathizing with me.

“You are not here on your own accord, are you?” I asked him.

“Non, I am not. He kidnapped my family and is holding them in an undisclosed location.”

“I see. So, I guess that means you will do whatever he wants so you can get them back. Even if it means giving me up, the General’s daughter.”

“Non,” he replied immediately.

“Quoi?”

“Mademoiselle Vivienne, my wife would exsanguinate me if she ever found out I sided with a mad man like Claude. My loyalties are to you, and the King of our coven. She and I always spoke of situations like this. We promised that if either one of us were ever taken, for whatever reasons, we would never give up what our captors wanted.”

“But you gave Claude the Nightshade.”

“Yes, but only because Nightshade cannot kill us. It only weakens us. Had I known that it was you he was going after, I would never have given it to him. I did not know it was you until he showed up with you in his arms. The moment I sensed that you were half-wolf, I knew immediately you were the General’s daughter.”

“Where are we?” I asked.

“I do not know.”

“Why can’t I shimmer?”

“Magical barrier.”

“Your handy work, I presume?”

“Non, this one Claude came up with on his own. You know as well as I do that Claude is a vampire with sorcerer’s powers.” I grunted in frustration. As we continued to speak to each other, I felt my strength coming back slowly but surely. “Here, let me get these restraints off you. With Claude gone for the time being, you are not a risk.” He undid my shackles and gave me a bottle. At first, I thought it was water and shook my head to refuse it. “You need to feed,

mademoiselle.” I looked at the bottle again and realized that there was blood in it. I snatched the bottle and quickly drank the thick red liquid.

“Mmmmm ...” I moaned as I emptied the bottle. Blood never tasted so heavenly.

“That should be enough to curb your thirst for a while,” he said as he took the empty bottle from me. I wiped my mouth with the back of my hand and looked at him. His face started to look familiar to me.

“Wait, who are you?”

“My name is Marco,” he replied. I stared at him more closely, and he smiled. My eyes widened in shock when I realized who was in front of me.

“You’re ... You’re ...”

“Yes, I am he.”

“You’re supposed to be dead.”

“A story the King and I concocted together. My time reigning over our coven had come to an end, and, well, I knew that I would be still be hunted to no end, so we faked my demise.”

“You’re the oldest vampire of our coven. The strongest. How could someone like Claude overpower you?”

“When your wife and son are tied up and have stakes ready to pierce their hearts, you kind of do whatever you need to do to keep them alive.”

“I am sorry my liege,” I bowed my head.

“Don’t be. As I said, they will be fine.” I nodded my head.

“Have I really been here for a week?”

“More like five days, but, technically, yes,” he replied. I let out a sigh of hopelessness. “Do not worry, and do not lose hope. We will find a way to get word to your family and your mate where you are. I need you to trust me.” I nodded my head. “Now, let us rest. You will need your strength if you are going to get through this.” He walked over to the other side of the room I was

in, and I saw two beds, well, more like mats. He took one and left the other for me.

As I laid down on this disgusting piece of junk, somewhat glad that I was not sleeping on the cold floor, my mind immediately went to Mon Loup. I tried to mind link him, but it was hopeless. Without Tempest's consciousness, mind-linking wouldn't work. And even if she were awake, I was probably too far away to reach him.

"Jedediah, please find me," I whispered, and a stray tear fell from my eyes again. Just as I closed my eyes to sleep, I felt butterflies in my stomach. I contributed it to my nerves of being held prisoner, but when I felt it again, my eyes shot open. This didn't feel like the usual nerves.

"Vivienne, what is it?" Marco asked me.

"I ... I'm not sure," I replied. It couldn't be. Could it?

"I know that look," he said. He sat up and gently took a hold of my wrist. "May I?" I nodded my head. He bit down onto my wrist and, for a few split seconds, I felt the pain of his fangs, but he let go abruptly. "Vivienne, your blood is sweet. That only happens when you taste the blood of your mate, or ..."

"When a vampire is with child ... Oh, mon Dieu, I'm pregnant, and I'm stuck here with that lunatic Claude!"

"Shhh ... Do not say this out loud. You know that Vampires have exceptionally good hearing. We must keep this a secret. We cannot allow Claude to find out you are with child. He will not hesitate to rip out the fetus." I gasped and covered my stomach instinctively to protect it. My eyes pooled with tears, knowing that my unborn baby was in danger. "Do not lose faith, we will get out of this. You will not lose your baby. I will not allow it."

"The Nightshade, what if it ..."

"It doesn't appear to have harmed him or her. My assumption is that your wolf may be the reason why."

"My wolf?"

"Yes. Your wolf may have used all of her energy to protect the child." I nodded my head at this information. It was highly likely that's why I couldn't reach

Tempest. If that was the case, then I had nothing to worry about, at least, not yet. I prayed that Jedediah found me, and fast. I was going to do whatever it took to keep our pup safe.

{Jedediah's P.O.V.}

"ARGH!!!" I roared and threw everything in sight. It had been almost a week, and we had no idea where Vivienne was or who had taken her. Gunner was on a rampage in my head, and everyone was pissing him off. Being without Vivienne was driving us to insanity.

"JED!!!" Dorian roared at me. I turned around and he, Allie, Andre, and Dani were in my townhouse. I looked at Dorian and all he could give me was a look of sympathy. I let out a sigh of utter frustration and stumbled backward into the nearest wall. Once my back hit, I slid to the floor. "Come on, man, you can't lose your sh!t like this. We're going to find her. Your team is out there looking behind every door, under every rock, and every nook and cranny from here to Timbuktu for her."

"I need her, Dorian. I need my mate. I'm going crazy without her."

"I know, brother, I know." Dorian kneeled in front of me and put his hands on my shoulders, giving them a tight squeeze of reassurance. I couldn't stop the tears that brimmed in my eyes. I missed Vivienne so much. I missed her more than I ever missed my parents.

"Dorian, what's wrong with me? Why am I so affected by her missing? I mean, I know mates go crazy when their mates are gone, but this is next level, even for me."

"Actually, that's why we came by. There's something we need to tell you." I looked at him confused. "Anna said something to us after you, Andre, and Dani had left Black Moon's pack territory when we first heard of Vivienne's disappearance."

"What did she say?"

"She asked us if Vivienne was your Luna," Allie said directly to me.

"My what?! What the hell are you talking about Allie? She's not my Luna! Vivienne is my mate!"



“That’s not what we’re referring to, Jed,” Dorian clarified. “What Anna meant was if Viv was your Luna. As in, like how Allie is my Luna.”

“What?” I repeated myself again, agitated. “Dorian quit speaking cryptically, and tell me what the hell is going on!”

“Jed, Anna believes you have Alpha blood in you.” Those words got my attention real fast. Did he just say that I’m an Alpha?

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 46 - Tips

{Dorian’s P.O.V}

“Alpha, my apologies, but I am unfamiliar with the mechanics of DNA sequencing. That was Dr. Quinn’s specialty,” Dr. Boyd informed me.

When we told Jed that he had Alpha blood in him, Allie suggested that he take a blood test to see exactly how much of an Alpha he really was. I was under the impression that Anna’s claim of him being an Alpha wasn’t so far-fetched once I saw him acting out the way he did when we couldn’t find Vivienne right away. It was true that wolves lost their sanity when their mate died or went missing. Some even died from heartbreak or committed suicide. But ranked wolves tended to be a little more extreme, especially Alphas. They would become angry, wild, and snapped at everyone that even looked at them sideways.

“Dr. Boyd, is there anyone else who can do the test?” Allie asked. “What about the temp that Dr. Quinn hired?”

“Dr. Pentz?”

“Yeah, him.”

“I’m sorry, Luna, but no. He’s only an intern and has little to no experience in the field of DNA testing. The only other person that I know of that could do such a task is sadly deceased,” he answered. We all stared at him, confused. “Luther, Alpha. It was Luther Quinn.” Allie and I exchanged glances and gave each other a knowing look.

“Who’s Luther?” Jed asked. We looked at him too and didn’t know how to answer.

Dorian, what do we do? Luther isn't dead.

I know that baby, but we can't tell anyone that he isn't dead. We promised Luther.

I seriously thought he would try and come back with us.

As did I, but I guess he would rather stay in hiding than face his demons.

"Is there something you guys want to share with the rest of us?" Jed asked when he saw that Allie and I were mind-linking.

"No," we both replied in unison. Jed lifted an eyebrow at us. He was about to call us out on our bullshit when I received a mind link from Dingo at the gate.

Alpha.

What is it, Dingo? I'm in the middle of something.

Sir, I apologize, but there is someone at the gate and he's asking for you.

Who is it?

Ummm ... That's the thing. I'm not sure if I'm seeing things or if this person is really standing in front of me.

I furrowed my brows together at what Dingo said.

"Babe?" I looked down at Allie who just c\*\*\*\*d her head to the side.

"I'll be right back," I quickly mentioned before proceeding straight towards the gate. When I got there, I was surprised to see Luther waiting for me.

"Alpha." He bowed his head. Dingo and Spencer looked at me like they were seeing a ghost.

"Luther." I watched as Spencer's and Dingo's eyes widened like saucers. "Not a word of this anyone, that's an order," I commanded them.

"Yes, Alpha!" they both replied.

"Luther, why are you here?" I asked him.

“I thought about what you, the Luna, and Leroy said to me. Plus, I’m worried about my mother,” he answered. Then it hit me. Luther Quinn was right in front of me.

“Luther, I need you to do something for me since you’re here,” I said to him directly.

“Sir?”

“I need you to do a DNA sequencing test on a recently added pack member.”

“May I ask why? And can it wait?”

“No, it can’t wait. It’s particularly important, and with your mother still not responding to anyone, you’re literally the only person that can do it.”

“Again, why is it needed?”

“If our suspicions about this individual are, in fact, true then his missing mate is of even great importance.”

“Very well, I will do the test. But is there any way we can do this under the radar?” he asked me. I figured he wasn’t ready for anyone to see him. The only way I knew how to get into the pack hospital without being seen was with Dani.

“The Delta will need to shimmer you. She will be the only other person to know of your existence. I give you my word,” I told him.

“I guess I have no other options,” he replied, and I shook my head to confirm. I instantly sent Dani a text to meet me at the front gate. When she arrived, she was shocked to see Luther herself. She didn’t know him well, but she knew who he was from his photo in the hospital memorial. She wanted to say something, but I cut her off.

“Not now, Dani. And this stays between us. I need you to shimmer Luther into his mother’s office. It should still be locked since no one is allowed in there right now.”

“Um, yeah, sure, okay,” Dani responded.

“Luther, what do you need to perform the test?”

"I need a lab, Alpha. I can't just draw blood and give you an answer," he replied.

"There are other technicians in the lab, Luther. I can't just kick them all out," I reminded him.

"Alpha, my mother had her own lab that she and I used together. If she's not currently working in the hospital, that lab should be vacant."

"Right, awesome. Okay, Dani, take him to that lab. I'll grab Allie and Jed, and we'll meet you guys there."

"Sure thing," Dani said. She took Luther's hand and shimmered away. I gave a look to Dingo and Spencer and they both zipped their mouths and acted as if they threw away the key. I quickly returned to the pack hospital and excused Allie and Jed from Dr. Boyd.

"Babe, what's going on, where are we going?" Allie asked as I nudged her and Jed along towards Dr. Quinn's vacant lab.

"Dude, seriously, what the hell!?" Jed exclaimed because I wouldn't answer. When we made it to the lab, I made sure no one was around and pushed them through the door.

"Dorian!" Allie shouted. "What in the flying fu ... What the hell!?!" she shouted again when she saw Dani and Luther.

"SHHH!!" Luther and I shushed her.

"Luther!?" she whisper-shouted.

"Luna." Luther bowed his head. "I presume this is the new pack member you need me to test?" he asked as he eyeballed Jed.

"Luther Quinn, this is Jedediah Brinkley," I introduced the two.

"Hold up," Jed said. "Didn't Dr. Boyd just say this guy was dead!?"

"It's a long story, brother. I'll tell you another time, but he's here and he's going to do the test for us," I reassured him. Jed just shrugged his shoulders.

“Alright then, let’s get this test over with. Though, I still think you guys are losing your wits if you think I’m an Alpha,” he said and sat in the chair.

“Mr. Brinkley, I only need a small sample of bl00d to run the test. And since I have nothing else to do, I can have the results in an hour,” Luther advised him. Jed nodded and put his left arm out. “Wait, did you just say Alpha?”

“Yeah. Dorian and company think I have Alph a bl00d, which I think is complete bullsh!t, but they refuse to see reason until I get this damn test done.”

“Alpha, you said this man’s mate is missing?” Luther asked me. I nodded my head. Luther looked back at Jed. “So, if you are indeed an Alpha, then your missing mate would be a Luna by default.”

“Yeah, I guess she would. But again, I don’t think it’s possible. My parents were Omegas.”

“What if they weren’t your parents?” Allie asked.

“Allie!” I shouted at her.

“What!?! It would make sense, wouldn’t it!? If Jed is an Alpha, and his parents,” she said with finger quotes “were Omegas, then they wouldn’t be his parents. Biology 101.”

“Allie, you really need to keep the commentary to yourself,” I warned her.

“Yeah, like that’s going to happen,” Dani said under her breath.

“I heard that biatch,” Allie responded to her. “I just say what you all are thinking!”

“Straightforward, as always, I see, Luna,” Luther told her as he located a vein in Jed’s arm. Allie shrugged one shoulder and smiled.

“Baby, I don’t think he meant it as a compliment,” I told her, and she scowled at me. Luther chuckled.

“Alright, all done. Give me an hour and I will have the results,” Luther announced.

"I always thought DNA sequencing took longer than an hour. At least that's how it's portrayed on T.V.," Dani confessed as we watched Luther get to work.

"Not necessarily, Delta. You see, the reason why testing can take days or weeks is because of the sheer number of tests that hospitals or labs need to conduct. The backlog in most places is anywhere from dozens to hundreds on any given day. That's why they tell you to wait for seven to ten business days for results. However, since I am only testing a single individual at the moment, the test should only take an hour, at most, to run," Luther explained as he placed the vial into a contraption. He closed the lid and hit a button to make it start to spin. "Okay, now all we do is wait."

We all loitered inside of the lab as we waited for Luther to complete his work. Approximately an hour later, Luther did some scientific methodologies that no one knew anything about and then printed off a document. He grabbed the printout and analyzed the results. He then placed a sample of blood onto a small dish and put it under the microscope for further evaluation. He alternated back and forth between the paper and the microscope, scratched his chin a bit, and resumed switching back to the paper and sample once more.

"My word, this is very interesting," he finally said.

"What?" we all asked.

"Mr. Brinkley, you are indeed an Alpha," Luther confirmed. I smacked Jed on the back and smiled big. The small things about Jed started to make sense. His size, his strength, him losing his shirt over Vivienne, and even his endurance once he got back into shape.

"But that's not all," Luther continued. We all focused our attention back on him.

"What do you mean, that's not all?" Jed asked.

"Mr. Brinkley, you're not just an Alpha," Luther replied as he looked at Jed and then back down at the paper. "I'll have to run your DNA again to be sure, but if these results are accurate, then you're what we call a Supreme Alpha." My eyes bulged out of my head.

"Luther, are you certain!?" I asked.

“Again, if these results are correct, then yes, Alpha. I am 100% certain that your friend is a Supreme Alpha.”

“What’s a Supreme Alpha?” Allie inquired.

“The highest-ranking Alpha to ever exist,” I told her.

“I thought that was Rylee?”

“Rylee is a Primordial, baby. A purebl00ded wolf with powers. That’s different. A wolf is considered a Supreme Alpha based on strength and rank. Supremes hail from a line of nothing but high-level Alphas.”

“Isn’t that what you are then?” she asked.

“Actually, I have no idea. I’ve never gotten my DNA tested. I just know I’m high-level because of my dad and grandfather. And then, of course, there’s Wyatt’s family line mixed in as well,” I explained.

“Alpha, I wouldn’t be surprised if you are one yourself,” Luther told me. “My mother and I have always wondered about you based on your sheer size. You are quite large, given the size of your parents, and Bandit is the biggest wolf we have ever seen.”

“Do it, babe,” Allie encouraged me. I looked at her and back at Jed.

“Why not? You’ve got nothing to lose,” he said to me. I shrugged and sat in the chair.

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“As I suspected, Alpha,” Luther said while looking over my results. “You are, in fact, a Supreme as well.”

“If you’re a supreme, then what about Ben?” Dani asked.

“Unfortunately, the former Alpha is not considered to be Supreme. He is strong, even now for his age, but not like Alpha here. Or I should say both Alphas,” Luther replied and nodded to me and Jed. “And ...” he continued.

“And what?” we all asked.

“Alpha, given that you’re the one who turned the young Luna into a wolf, your venom runs in her veins,” he said and raised his brows to me.

“Holy fvck,” was all I could say to that.

“What?” Allie asked, confused.

“Allie, because Dorian turned you, you’re considered a Supreme Luna,” Jed answered her.

“WHAT?!” she exclaimed.

“Damn, now it makes sense why you’re so powerful for your size, Allie. The fact that you can shake a room,” Jed pointed out.

“Or the fact that she can shake a fvcking\*g castle!” Dani called out, referring back to what Allie did back at Blue Lake.

“That’s what Selene meant when she told Wyatt she gave Allie the added power boost,” I said.

“Not only that, but the Alpha pups will also be considered to be Supreme. It’s why the twins are so large,” Luther revealed. My ears perked at this.

“Wait, are you saying that all future wolves of the Shaw bl00dline will be considered to be supreme?” I asked.

“Yes, Alpha. You and the Luna have created a new line of Supreme wolves. Congratulations,” Luther replied with a big smile.

“What about me?” Jed asked. “My mate is half-vampire.”

“I cannot definitively answer that, Mr. Brinkley, but if the supreme DNA works like normal DNA, then given that you are full wolf and your Luna is half-wolf, there is a high possibility that you will pass down the supreme DNA to your pups. But it will have to be tested when they are born.”

“OH MY GOD!!!” Allie suddenly screamed.

“What!? What is it, baby?” I asked her.



“I wish I could rub this in Michaela’s face!” she said, clenching her tiny fists. We all looked at her like she was insane and then burst into laughter in unison.

“Honestly, I won’t lie. I was thinking the same thing just now,” Jed confessed.

“Alright, let’s put this conversation aside for now. We need to find Vivienne. It’s even ten times more important because she’s officially a Luna. Jed may not have his own pack, yet ...” I said and gave him a smirk. “But they’ve mated, and she’s marked. By wolf law, she is a Luna, which means finding her is our main priority.”

“Alpha, before you do that, I have a request,” Luther spoke up.

“What is it, Luther?”

“I need to see my mother.”

“Oh, I’ll handle this, babe. You and Jed, grab the guys and get started on trying to find Viv. I can handle the small political stuff,” Allie quickly told us.

“Are you sure?”

“Yes, I can handle it. Besides, I’m pretty well versed in the Quinn family drama.”

“Okay. Link me if you need anything.”

“I will.” I bent down and gave her a chaste k!ss. I turned to Jed and smirked again. He gave me a blank stare.

“Alpha Jed, let’s go find your Luna.”

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 47 - Tips

{Allie’s P.O.V.}

After Dorian, Jed, and Dani left the laboratory, it was just me and Luther. I looked at him questionably, trying to decipher whether he really came because of his mother and Celinda or if he was just trying to clear his own conscience.

“Luna, I know what you’re thinking, and believe me when I say, I regret what I did to my family,” he said to me.

“How did you know that’s what I was thinking?”

“Please do not take this the wrong way, but you were never one to hide your facial expressions when it came to doubt.”

“Touché.”

“Luna, please, will you mind link my mother?” I gave him one more look before doing as he asked.

Dr. Quinn, I know you can hear me. I need you to come to your personal lab at the hospital. It’s urgent.

Luna, please, I do not want ...

It’s an order, Dr. Quinn.

Very well.

I cut off the link with her and shook my head. I hated having to use my Luna voice on her, but she needed the push. Luther and I sat around for a few minutes as we waited for her to arrive. The door suddenly burst open, and I whirled around to see Dr. Quinn. I gasped when I saw the good doctor. She looked like she hadn’t seen any sunlight in weeks and appeared sickly. She also reeked of booze.

“Luna, why have you commanded me to come here?” she asked me with unabashed hatred in her voice. I was taken aback by the hostility in her tone. She was always so friendly and kind when she spoke to anyone. Before I could answer her, she gasped, and her eyes darted right behind me.

“Lu...Luther!?”

“Hi, mom.”

“Oh! Oh! Ah! Ah!” she cried as she ran to him and hugged him. She grabbed his face and looked him over about a hundred times as tears just came rushing down her face. “Is it really you!?”

“It’s me, mom. I’m so sorry.”

“AHHHH!!!” Dr. Quinn screamed and embraced him with all her might as she cried and wailed. She couldn’t contain herself as she jumped up and down while crying her heart out, seeing the son she was convinced she had buried now alive and well right in front of her. I cupped my hands to my face and couldn’t stop my tears. A mother’s love knows no bounds—that was something I knew all too well.

Dr. Quinn pulled away from him, and before I even knew what happened, I heard a deafening slap. “Oh my god!” I exclaimed at what I just witnessed. Dr. Quinn was never one to ever use violence, but she literally just slapped her own son so hard that it echoed in the lab.

“LUTHER JULIUS QUINN! EXPLAIN YOURSELF!”

“I deserved that,” was all Luther could say.

“Luna, will you please excuse me and my son?”

“Sure, just please, try not to klll him,” I replied to her and walked out of the lab. I shook my head and was a little concerned with the fact that I just left a very pissed-off Dr. Quinn with a guilt-ridden Luther Quinn, but I had faith that they would sort it all out.

As I was waddling my way through the hallway that led straight back towards the packhouse, I felt a sudden presence behind me. Before I could even react, I felt a hand over my mouth and felt my body being transported. Having shimmered with Dani a few times, I knew that I was being shimmered somewhere. After I landed, whoever had a hold of me pushed me away. I stumbled a bit but luckily didn’t fall flat on my face. Which was a good thing, since my balance was starting to turn to sh!t being three and half months pregnant.

“WHAT THE fvck!?” I screamed and turned around. I was shocked to see a familiar face in front of me. “You!? You were the one that bid against me at the auction!”

“Yes, that was me,” she replied.

“What do you want?! Do you have a fvcking\*g death wish!? Do you even know who I am!?”

“Yes, as a matter of fact, I do. Very well, I might add, Mrs. Allison Shaw.” She smirked when she saw that I was a little rattled at the fact she did actually know who I was. “Now that I have your attention, I have a proposition for you.”

“You’re a demon.”

“Is that supposed to be a question?”

“It’s a statement. I can sense how evil your soul is.”

“Why thank you,” she replied smugly.

“It wasn’t meant as a compliment,” I sneered.

“Well, I’ll take it as one either way. Now, back on topic. The reason I have kidnapped you is that I want to make a business deal with you.”

“And why the fvck would I make a deal with a demon!?” I snapped back. “Do I look stupid to you?”

“No, you don’t. I know you’re not stupid, and I know you have the right to question my motives, but I promise you, I’m not here to harm you. Quite the opposite actually,” she responded. I glared at her questionably. “I need your help.”

“And why would a demon need help from a werewolf?”

“You and I share a common enemy, Luna.” I lifted an eyebrow at her.

“Heather. Hamilton.” Mercury stirred at the name. “Mmm ... I see I have your undivided attention.”

“What’s your name?”

“Is that important?”

“Not really, I’m just curious,” I replied. She scowled at me and then smiled.

“For someone who is heavily pregnant, you sure have guts,” she said. I growled at her underlying threat to my pup. “Calm down, I’m not going to hurt you or your baby.”

“And why should I believe you?”

“Because, I may be a demon, but I’m not a monster. I don’t harm children or babies. Demons may be soulless, but we care about the future as much as any other species.” I relaxed a bit seeing that she wasn’t lying. “Good, now can we get down to business?”

“What could you possibly offer me that would make me want to help you?” I asked her curiously.

“Information on Heather’s whereabouts.” Both mine and Mercury’s ears perked up at this. “I see I have your attention again”

“Stop beating around the bush! Where is that b\*\*\*h!?”

“Patience, Luna. I will give you all of the information you desire on where she is and how you can find her. But, you must promise me something first,” she responded. I glared at her and thought about it. Teaming up with a demon may be an awfully bad call to make right now, seeing as how I was not on my own turf but on hers.

Mercury, what do you think?

We can’t trust her, Allie. She’s a full-on demon. Demons are treacherous and cannot be given the slightest bit of slack. They kill without remorse.

But if she really does have information on where that cunt Heather is, then what do we have to lose? She wasn’t lying when she said she wouldn’t hurt me or the pup. And you can’t fake that hatred she had in her eyes when she said Heather’s name.

Tread carefully, Allie. Do not turn your back on her.

“What the hell was that?” the demon chick asked me.

“I was talking to my wolf. Since I’m on my own here, she was the only other conscience available to get an opinion on.”

“Okay, did you two make a decision?”

“Let me ask you this first, why are you so keen on helping me catch Heather? What did she do to you?”

“She ruined my fvcking\*g life, that’s what,” she seethed in anger. I was right, she hated Heather as much as I did.

“That’s something she’s rather good at. What did she do to get under your skin?”

“That’s none of your business. Now, do you want my help in catching her or not!?”

“Fine, I’ll hear you out, but if you even so much as think about double-crossing me, I’ll rip your head right off of your body,” I threatened.

“Right back at you,” she replied. I nodded my head. “Heather is in Utah. She’s living in an underground lair and is heavily guarded by some of the strongest demons the underworld has to offer.”

“Underworld? Is what it’s really called?” I asked in shock.

“Yes, I know, you’re asking because of the show Charmed. Trust me, whoever wrote that script was definitely supernatural. Anywho, back on topic. Heather is protected because she is of great value to the Demon King.” My eyes widened at what she just said.

“Why is she important to him?”

“Because ... she’s his future queen.” I gaped at her as her words just replayed in my mind. Heather was the future queen to the King of Demons?

“Wait, hold on ...” I bit my lip and started to think back to what Adrian had said to us when they came to visit last time. Then I thought about the phone call I had with Britney and how freaked out she was when I told her what Adrian had said. Then everything clicked. Britney had said the Demon King’s name to me. “Gideon?”

“So, you do know his name.” I turned towards the demon-chick. I started to tremble in utter fear as things started to piece together. Heather had something about having a mate at the charity event. The man she was with that night was named Gideon as well.

“Oh god ...” I gasped out when it all made sense.

“Ah, there it is. The fear someone shows when they realize they’ve met the lord of all evil.”

“Wait, wait, wait, this doesn’t make any sense. Why would you betray your king and queen?”

“SHE’S NOT MY QUEEN!” she screamed at my face, making me flinch. Then I saw the flash of hurt in her eyes.

“Oh my god, you’re in love with Gideon, aren’t you?” She looked at me and scowled before turning her head away. “Does he know?”

“YES, HE KNOWS! OKAY!?! I have confessed my love to him, daily! We make love all the fvcking\*g time, but he never stays with me. He always goes back to her! He will always choose her over me! And it’s all because of your goddess! Your stupid moon goddess!”

“What does the moon goddess have to do with any of this?”

“She created Heather specifically for Gideon! That’s what!”

“What!?”

“Oh, you didn’t know? Your moon goddess and the other higher powers made an agreement with Gideon at the beginning of his reign. He would be mated to an impure wolf that would give him an heir, a son, so powerful that he would reign the underworld long after Gideon is vanquished.”

“This heir ... Rumor has it that it will be powerful enough to wipe the entire supernatural race,” I told her.

“That’s what the prophecy, the Seer, told Gideon. No one knows how true it is, but Gideon wants to know more than anyone, for obvious reasons. But Heather ruined that for him when she had an abortion and a hyste.rectomy.”

“She what?”

“The hyste.rectomy was fixed with dark magic, but no matter how much Gideon f\*\*\*s her, she hasn’t gotten pregnant again.”

“I don’t get it; how did Gideon even find her?” I asked.

“When Heather was 16, the Seer had a vision of Heather and told Gideon to prepare for his Queen-to-be. Gideon wanted her as soon as possible, but the Seer told him he had to wait until she was at her most vulnerable moment in life.”

“Death row,” I replied.

“Exactly. When you and your pack captured her last year, the Seer told Gideon to get her at that specific point.”

“He’s the dark force of magic that my Wiccan friends sensed.”

“Yes. Gideon is the king of all evil. Of course, his aura would linger.”

“I don’t understand. Why the fvck would Selene and the other powers-that-be promise Gideon an impure wolf that he could procreate with, and risk k!lling out every supernatural being there is!?”

“Again, I don’t know if that part is true. But Gideon is also a higher power and the only one without children of his own.”

“What are you talking about? Aren’t you considered a child of Gideon’s children? You’re a demon, aren’t you?”

“That’s not how it works for demons. We procreate the way humans do. Gideon isn’t the father of all demons. He’s the king of all demons, but he is not the god of demons.”

“There’s a god of demons?”

“There was, he’s dead. Rumor has it he was cast out of the Lunar Kingdom where all the gods and goddesses of the supernatural reside after he betrayed your moon goddess.” I c\*\*\*\*d my head to the side. Why did that tidbit sound familiar? “That’s beside the point. Gideon wants children, and in exchange for leaving the human world and forever remaining in the underworld, he asked for a mate of his own to procreate with.”

“I don’t see what the problem is. Heather’s human now. Just k!ll her.”

“I can’t!”

“Why not? Are you afraid of what Gideon would do?”



“Because if I kill Heather now, Gideon dies with her!” I looked at her in confusion. “Before Heather became human, she marked Gideon the way you wolves mark your mates. It doesn’t work the same way it does for you. If a demon becomes marked by another species, it intertwines their soul to the one who marked them.”

“Hold up, are you saying ...”

“If Heather dies before her mark is removed from Gideon’s neck, he dies with her, and I can’t have that,” she replied as her voice cracked. Was this chick crying? Her pain and sorrow were real.

“You really do love him, don’t you?” I asked and she just nodded as a stray tear left her eye. She quickly wiped it away. I slumped my shoulders and let out a sigh. “What’s your name?” I asked her again.

“Aria.”

“It’s a beautiful name,” I said genuinely.

“Thank you.”

“I don’t know how to help you, Aria. I believe in the bond more than anyone, but I don’t know how it works for demons other than what you just told me. Normally, I can feel the bond between two souls, but you said that demons are soulless.”

“It works the same as humans. We pick and choose who we want, and at first, I thought Gideon would choose me. But then, Heather showed up, and even though Gideon still makes love to me, he keeps choosing her. He even told me he loved her over me.”

“Oh, Aria, I’m so sorry.”

“I don’t want your pity! I want your fvcking\*g help! How do I get rid of her mark on Gideon!?”

“You can’t!” She took a sharp intake of breath. “A werewolf’s mark is for ... Wait a minute ...” I stopped myself when something dawned on me.

“What? What is it?”

“Heather is an impure wolf. Or was, I should say.”

“So?”

“When she marked Gideon, did she do it with his consent?”

“Not that I know of. He was actually a little pissed she marked him, so doubtful.”

“There may be hope for you yet, Aria.”

After speaking to Aria a little while longer, I had to make sure understood that my theory was just that, a theory and nothing more. She understood, even though she wasn't happy, but she was content with it. After we came to an agreement, she shimmered me back to the front of the packhouse. She barely landed on her two feet before she shimmered away.

I opened the door to the packhouse, and it looked like a bunch of circus animals had gotten loose. Pack members were scurrying all over, and no one had even noticed me standing in the doorway. All of a sudden, one of the adolescent pups stopped in the middle of the floor and stared straight at me,

“Hey, mom! There's the Luna!” he shouted. Everyone halted at their tracks and stared at me as well.

“Uhhh ... What's going on?” I asked nonchalantly.

“Allie! fvcking\*g hell!” Simba shouted at me. I looked at him confused. “The Alpha is about to tear down the packhouse because of you!”

“Why?”

“Wh ... What do you mean why!?! Allie, you've been missing for nearly five hours!” My eyes widened like saucers. I had no idea I was with Aria for that long. I looked up towards Dorian's office, and all I could say was, “Oops.”

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 48 - Tips

{Dorian's P.O.V.}

“I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO!!! FIND MY WIFE!!!” I roared at Brandon and Mikey, fl!pping a table, and throwing it at them. Our mission to find and rescue Vivienne had taken a turn, so Allie dismissed Jed and I from the hospital earlier to hash out the details. I called Brandon, Mikey, Andre,

Lucas, and Aries into my office, and we were going over possible suspects, including Michaela. Considering that Jed was a supreme Alpha by blood, it became highly possible that Alpha Scanlan knew of Jed's lineage and hid it from him. He could have taken Vivienne as a bargaining chip to prevent Jed from challenging him, though, Jed said he would never do that.

We were three hours deep into our brainstorming session when the twins' nannies' mind linked me. They were looking for Allie and mentioned they were unable to reach her via mind link. I figured that she would still be with Luther and Dr. Quinn, trying to work through all of the drama, so I linked Dr. Quinn. She told me Allie wasn't there and had left only minutes after she met them at the lab. I tried to link her myself but couldn't get through. Panic began to set in as I linked everyone in the pack to look for Allie, but no one had seen her.

Allie has now been missing, without a single trace, for nearly five hours and counting. I inevitably joined Jed on the crazy train as I desperately tried to find Allie's whereabouts. I was going even crazier because of the pregnancy and felt like I was a step away from descending into madness.

"Dorian, throwing the coffee table at us isn't going to make this go any faster!" Brandon shouted at me, trying to get me to calm down. I shoved him away since I was past the point of hearing logic. Bandit was raging war in my head as he wanted to go out and find Allie himself. But we couldn't have that since he would tear up the city looking for her, and we had no idea where to even start looking.

"He's right, Dorian. I know what you're feeling, trust me, I do. But it's like you said to me—losing our heads over this won't find them any faster," Jed told me as he pushed me against a wall. I was huffing and puffing in pure outrage, but deep down I knew he was right. I took a deep breath while trying to keep Bandit at bay when, suddenly, my office door burst open. We all turned to see Simba there.

"Alpha, she's back! The Luna is back!" he exclaimed. Allie walked in seconds after he announced her return.

"Oh my god, Allie!" I shouted and ran to her. I scooped her up in my arms and inhaled her scent to calm my nerves.

"Dorian, I'm okay. I promise," she reassured me as she stroked my hair. I put her down and gripped her shoulders, looking her once over.

“Baby, where the fvck were you!? I nearly blew a fvcking\*g gasket!”

“Nearly?! You threw the coffee table at us!” Brandon argued.

“You what!?” Allie shouted and looked behind me to inspect the damage.

“Dorian! What did I tell you about throwing sh!t at people!?”

“What did I tell you about disappearing!?” I shouted at her.

“I’m sorry, but it wasn’t my choice to get kidnapped by a demon,” she said.

“WHAT!?” we all roared.

“I was kidnapped by a demon,” she repeated.

“How the hell did you get away?” Mikey asked.

“I didn’t. She let me go as soon as we finished talking,” she answered. I looked at the guys and they, too, had confused expressions on their faces.

“She didn’t kidnap me to hurt me, she did it because she wanted to speak to me alone. Once we made our peace, she shimmered me to the front door and left.”

“She didn’t hurt you?” I double-checked and she shook her head. “At all? What about the pup?”

“He’s fine too. She said she would never harm a baby. Said that she’s not barbaric like that.”

“Giz, what did she want with you?” Brandon asked. Allie smirked.

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“No fvcking\*g way!!” Mikey ululated. “She just told you where that b\*\*\*h Heather is?!”

“Yeah. The problem is that it’s somewhere we can’t go, at least, not without the help of an upper-level demon,” Allie answered.

“Why would she willingly give you that information, especially if Heather is supposed to be the future queen of all evil?” I asked.

“She hates her. She’s jealous of her. Heather marked the Demon King, and Aria wants to figure out a way to get rid of Heather’s mark. Aria can’t klll her until she does because kllling Heather would also klll Gideon.”

“Wait, Gideon?” I looked at her quizzically.

“Yeah.”

“The guy from the auction?! The one you bid on!?”

“Yeah! The Demon King was in front of us, Dorian. And Aria was the other woman that was bidding against me.” I didn’t even know how to respond to any of this. “Oh, and another fvckingd up thing—Selene and the powers-that-be agreed to create an impure wolf as a mate for Gideon if it meant he would go back to the underworld and never surface in the human world ever again.” I looked at her in complete dismay when she said that.

“Selene!? As in the moon goddess!? Our moon goddess!?” Lucas asked in a confirmative tone.

“Yeah. Do you know any other Selene’s that is a higher power?” Allie snarked.

“Why would she do that? Does she know that this guy’s offspring could klll all of us?!” Mikey shouted.

“Apparently that’s just a prophecy Gideon’s Seer predicted. There’s no truth to it, at least, none that anyone can definitively verify. Even Aria doesn’t know how true it is, and she’s over two-hundred years old.”

“This is fvcking\*g crazy. How do you know you can even trust her, Allie?” Jed asked.

“Because she’s in love with Gideon. She’ll do whatever it takes to get Heather away from him, even team up with me, or I should say us.”

“So, what did you actually tell her that got her to let you go?” Aries asked.

“I told her that an impure wolf’s mark has an expiration date, if and only if, Gideon falls in love with another and accepts their bond.”

“But there’s no guarantee that he would fall in love with her though. You did tell her that, right?” I asked her.

“I did. She wasn’t happy at first, but she concluded that anyone would be better than Heather, an impure wolf-turned-human that forced her mark onto Gideon, practically sealing his fate the moment she did.”

“Wait, she what?” I looked at Allie, shocked.

“Yeah, she did the same thing to the Demon King that she did to Deacon. But she did it after they had se.x, so for her, it was a no-brainer. According to Aria, Heather admitted that she did it out of spite for Gideon forcing her to leave with him and agreeing to be his queen. I’m thinking that mark is what killed Heather’s wolf, Delilah, and made Heather human,” Allie explained. I looked around at everyone; it was like they were all deer stuck in headlights. “I’m sorry I scared you, Dorian. And I had no idea that I had been gone that long. But I needed as much detail as possible if I was going to give some kind of reassurance to Aria. She wants Heather dead as much as I do, but not at the expense of Gideon’s life.”

“Why the fvck should we care about some psycho b\*\*\*h demon and her love interest!?” Mikey retorted. “For all, we know she probably kidnapped you as a ploy and is going to report back to Heather.”

“I agree with Mikey,” Andre chimed in. “Mon Ami, you cannot trust a demon’s word. They are conniving and manipulative.” I looked at both of them and thought about what they said. I half-mindfully agreed with them and shifted my eyes back to Allie.

“I know, you guys, but trust me when I tell you that she has no intention of hurting me as long as I help her,” Allie responded, looking directly at me but addressing all of us. “I told her that I would use my powers to find a potential mate for Gideon, one that he would find more appealing than Heather.”

“How is that possible? You just said that our moon goddess created Heather for Gideon,” Lucas replied.

“No, I said that Selene agreed to create an impure wolf for Gideon who would, in turn, produce a son for him. Whether it was supposed to be Heather or not, something tells me that Selene knew what she was doing when she allowed Heather and Delilah to be born.”

“What do you mean?” I asked her.

“According to Aria, Heather was already pregnant once before but had an abortion and a hyste.rectomy. Gideon was furious and used dark magic to re-create her reproductive organs, but ever since the abortion, Heather has not conceived once.” We all stared at her and c\*\*\*\*d our heads like lost puppies. “What I’m trying to say is, what if Heather’s selfishness to abort her baby with Gideon inadvertently created a loophole? One that allowed Selene to uphold her end of the bargain but also prevent the demon prophecy from coming true.”

“Oh, I think I get it,” Brandon said excitedly. “The moon goddess created the impure wolf in Heather, which gave Gideon the mate he was promised. She got pregnant by him, which was the child he was promised, but because Heather’s a selfish b\*\*\*h, she kllled their child. Ergo, the moon goddess did what she agreed to, but never once did she or the high powers promise Gideon that he would be able to keep what he was promised.”

“Exactly!” Allie said and pointed at him with a smile. “I think Selene was counting on the fact that Heather would be so self-centered that she wouldn’t even bat an eyelash to having an abortion. I mean, she even went as far as to getting a hyste.rectomy to prevent any future pregnancies.”

“Did you explain all of this to Aria?” I asked her.

“Yeah, I did.”

“And what did she say?”

“She didn’t say anything. She smiled, laughed maniacally, thanked me, and then shimmered me home. I think she’s going to tell Gideon herself that Heather is probably worthless now. Forget getting rid of the mark she put on him. If he finds out that Heather may no longer be the one to provide him with an heir, he may try and use dark magic to get rid of the mark and then klll her himself, or, maybe even turn her in to us.”

“Yeah, I wouldn’t count on that, but this gives us some leverage over the Heather situation, at least for a moment,” I pointed out, and she nodded.

“Okay then. Allie is back and you guys have a plan of action for your Heather bullsh!t. Can we please get back to my mate and figure out a way to save her?!” Jed declared, speaking with dramatic hand gestures to express his eagerness.

“Yes, yes, of course. Oh my god, I’m so sorry, Jed!” Allie exclaimed. “You guys get back to what you were doing. I’ll have Mrs. Johnson, Katie, and the kitchen Omegas whip you guys something to eat while you work. I’m going to go get the twins and relax. I’m exhausted.” She cupped my face and kissed me before walking out of the office. I let out a sigh of relief that not a single hair on her head was harmed and went back to the drawing board with the guys. We ended up moving over to the conference room since my office was a complete disaster. Supreme Alpha or not, my mother was not going to be happy about this.

{Vivienne’s P.O.V.}

It has been five days since I woke up in this hellhole that Claude imprisoned me in, and I have started to grow hungry again. Marco has offered his blood to me, but it would be against coven laws to feed on an elder vampire. Their blood, being so pure and rare, was protected by law; it would be considered a crime to feed on them, even when they permitted you. Even though I was released from my coven, I would never break the rules just to feed. No matter how hungry I was.

I still felt the small flutters from my pup. I would have to guess that I’m at least a month pregnant since I could feel the pup’s movements. I wouldn’t show for at least another month, which gave me hope that Jed would find me in time and save us.

Claude comes by once a day to see if I’ve changed my mind about him; but, of course, I haven’t. He’s become more agitated because I’ve stopped responding to him altogether. I learned years ago that the best way to get under his skin was to ignore him. So, even when he slapped me around, I didn’t pay him any attention. I just turned my cheek and kept a blank stare that focused on the wall or the floor. Eventually, he always gives up and stormed out. Only then did I allow myself to breathe and cradle my stomach to make sure my pup was okay.

“Mademoiselle, you need to feed,” Marco stated once more and held out his wrist for the umpteenth time.

“My liege, I cannot do that. It is against coven laws!”

“Vivienne, I am the elder here, and I am giving you my permission. If not for yourself, then feed for the life inside of you. Are you willing to kill your son or daughter over some silly law?” I looked at him then touched my stomach. I



glanced down at his wrist, and his veins were just screaming to be bit into. I gave him a look and he nodded in assurance. I finally caved, bit into his vein, and began to feed. His blood was aromatic and didn't taste like anything I'd ever had before.

"Mmm ..." I moaned as I fed.

"Slowly, child. There ... That should be enough to sustain you for another few days," he said and gently pulled his wrist away from my mouth. I swallowed the last bit that lingered on my tongue and let out a breath of relief. Even though my pup would only be a quarter vampire, having any vampire DNA would force them to have a thirst for blood. So, I knew that my pup would be able to survive on blood alone, for now.

"Thank you," I finally said as I delicately wiped my mouth with the back of my hand. "Wait, what about you? Do you not need to feed?"

"Of course, my child. Anything to keep you and your child alive long enough to get you back to your mate. I'm sure he is worried sick about you. And do not worry about me. Being the age that I am comes with many perks. One, being able to sustain my hunger for longer periods of time. You're merely a hatchling, you do not know how to control your hunger or thirst, yet."

"You need to get back to your wife too," I told him as I sat back to find a more comfortable position.

"Please, I'm sure my wife is enjoying her time without me. We've been together for nearly a thousand years. We need some time apart," he said with a cheesy smile. I chuckled at him. There was a brief moment of silence before he asked me a question that I was dreading he would eventually ask.

"Vivienne, how do you know Marco? He's at least two centuries old, and you're only a child. Why is he so infatuated with you?" I gulped and let out a deep sigh.

"Claude was once my father's apprentice and like an uncle to us growing up. My father was grooming him to be the next General of our coven after he stepped down since Alexandre turned down the position, but it turned out that he only wanted to get close to my father because of me. From the day that I was born, I was called the miracle child of our coven. As you may know, my father is a pure vampire, and my mother is a pure wolf. My father is her destined mate, and she allowed him to mark her the vampire way which gave her the gift of immortality, assuming she's never killed. My brother was nearly

72 years old when I was conceived, and he was over the moon to be able to help raise a younger sibling. He was even more thrilled when he found out that it would be a baby sister. Claude was also excited for my birth, but everyone believed it was because he saw me like his own daughter, being so close to our family.”

“That must have not been the case?” Marco asked and I shook my head.

“For years, as I grew up, Claude would always be around me. Going to lessons with my father, teaching my brother how to party, and having his way with women like all male vampires do. Claude never did anything inappropriate with me, at least, not that anyone ever noticed. But when I turned 16, he made an advance on me. He said that I was old enough for him to finally give in to the feelings he had for me. I was confused at first because I saw him as a father figure. I told him that what he was doing was inappropriate and that I was waiting for my destined mate. He didn’t want to hear any of it. Said that he was my mate and that I was specifically born for him. He tried to k!ss me and have his way with me, but I kicked him in the balls and shimmered away from him. Thankfully, since he had no bl00d relation to our family, he couldn’t track me.”

“Where did you shimmer to?”

“To my father’s chambers. Normally, I was never allowed in there without knocking first, but when he saw me distraught, he let it slide. I told him what Claude had said, but my father said that I must have heard things or misunderstood him. So, he told me to let it go. I was young and naïve and believed my father. I believed that maybe I had misunderstood what Claude said, but decided to be cautious anyway. I avoided him at all costs and even went to human school to finish my academics. Because of my wolf, I can survive in the sun. I didn’t think I had any of the vampire weakness, but I guess the Nightshade proved me wrong.”

“I guess it did,” Marco chuckled, and I smiled. “What happened after you finished your studies?”

“I came back to the coven because my father had something to tell me. He announced that I would be marrying Prince Henri, but I threw a fit of rage hearing those words. Tempest had just come to me, and I made it known that I would never marry anyone other than my destined mate. I told him that I wanted what he and my mother had. That persuaded my mother to side with me, and she told my father she would leave him if he forced me into a

marriage that I did not want. My father loves my mother more than life itself, so he agreed. Henri was not happy at first, but he understood, and we became friends instead. Claude, however, assumed that my denying the Prince of our coven meant that he stood a chance, and made another advancement, only this time ...”

“He did it in front of your father?”

“Not just my father, but in front of the King and Henri. And it wasn’t a simple advancement like when I was 16.”

“Non.”

“Oui.”

“NON!”

“C’est oui.”

“He tried to r.ape you!?” I nodded my head. “Cochon dégoûtant.” (Disgusting pig.)

“Unlucky for him, when he cornered me, I was able to mind link my mother. Unlike my brother who only has some wolf traits and is more of a vampire but cannot shimmer. Which makes no sense at all, but that’s not important. I, on the other hand, cannot only shimmer, I can also mind link with my mother. I linked her and told her what was happening. She could feel my panic was real and was able to get my father, the King, my brother, and Henri to me just in time. My brother and Henri beat Claude so badly you couldn’t even recognize him. He was exiled for his betrayal against my father. I guess he’s been looking for me ever since.”

“How do you think he found you?”

“I do not know, and that is what terrifies me. He found me in my home that I share with my mate within a werewolf pack in America. I don’t even know how he was able to escape from his prison.”

“Do you know where he was exiled to?”

“Non. All I know is that it is a protected location where vampires should not be able to shimmer.”

“It is possible that someone in our coven did not take kindly you leaving to be with a werewolf.”

“My mother is a werewolf, and the coven members love her! Why would they have a problem with me leaving!?”

“Because your mother came to the coven and chose them as her pack, as you call it. You left for another. It could be seen as treason.”

“Even if that were true, who would be stupid enough to team up with a crazy psychopath like Claude!?”

“I do not know, but we will figure it out, child. I promise you.”

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 49 - Tips

{Andre's P.O.V.}

“VOUS ME DITES MAINTENANT QUE VOTRE SOEUR MANQUE!?!” (You're just now telling me that your sister is missing!?!) my father screamed at me as he threw every inanimate object within his vicinity towards my face.

“Adrian, tu dois contrôler ta colère!” (Adrian, you need to control your anger!) my mother shouted at him and prevented him from throwing yet another object at me.

“Comment puis-je alors que ma petite fille a disparu depuis près de deux semaines!” (How can I when my little girl has been missing for almost two weeks!) he hissed at her. Her response to him was a slap across the cheek.

“Mère!” I called out to her.

“Do not hiss at me, Adrian Dubois!” she growled as her wolf came forward.

“Mama, Papa, I did not tell you sooner because I thought we could find her. I did not want to worry you. But we have come up empty,” I explained to them and lowered my head, ashamed.

“Where is Jedediah!?” my father blasted me.

“He is out searching for her along with Dorian and the others. Dorian has sent every tracker we have in the pack to look for her.”

“Every ... tracker?” my mother questioned. I nodded my head. “I understand that Vivienne is now a pack member and that her being J.D.’s mate is important, but that is a little overkill, non?”

“Mère, it’s not that simple anymore,” I told her and eyed my father who was still trying to fight the urge to snap my neck.

“Go on,” my mother said to me.

“We found out the other day that Jed is not a normal werewolf. During a recent mission to help Dorian’s distant cousin, we rescued almost a hundred trafficked supernatural beings. One of them was an Angel, who is now a member of the pack as well. She is able to sense powerful beings, which includes Alpha wolves. Vivienne went missing right before we were supposed to return, so Jed and I came back first with Dani’s assistance. Anna then questioned if Vivienne was Jed’s Luna.”

“What!?” (QUEL!?) they both exclaimed.

“Jed is an Alpha wolf. A supreme wolf according to a DNA test that was done. Because he and Vivienne have mated and marked each other, this automatically makes Vivienne ...”

“Oh, mon Dieu! Mon bébé est une Luna!” (Oh, my God! My baby is a Luna!) my mother cupped her hands and said rather excitedly.

“Why is Jed not here explaining this himself!?” my father asked, his anger rising once again.

“Père, he is her mate, and he is an Alpha. He wouldn’t just idly stand by and wait for someone else to find her. He has to be the one. Dorian couldn’t even get him to stay.”

“You are her big brother! You should be out there searching for her as well, Alexandre!”

“I know that Père, but I needed to meet you and Mère here!” I defended myself. I took a deep breath and put my hands on my hips. “Vivienne is a Luna, and it is her mate’s duty to find her now. But the problem is that we have no idea where she is. I was hoping that you could try and figure out where she might be? Or perhaps tell us who might have taken her.”

“How?”

“We need to go to their townhome.” He nodded his head, and he shimmered us there.

“Why are we here, Alexandre?” my mother asked.

“According to Christine, the day that Vivienne went missing, Monique had just learned to shimmer.”

“REALLY!?!?” my mother squealed with delight.

“Giselle, not now!” my father scolded.

“Monique had tired herself from shimmering a few times, so all of the women separated. Vivienne came home alone, and that was the last anyone saw of her. She just disappeared into thin air.”

“You think another vampire may have done this?” my father asked.

“Perhaps, but there are plenty of supernatural that can teleport or shimmer. But I figured asking you first would be our best bet.” He nodded his head.

“Where was she taken from?”

“There was a scent in the living room that neither Jed nor I recognized,” I answered. He nodded and made his way to the living room. Mère and I stood back to let him do his thing. Due to my father’s many years in his profession, he was able to sense another vampire even if the trail had gone cold. He could even tell when they came from another coven. After a minute or two, he froze in a certain spot and surveyed the area closely.

“This cannot be,” he said to himself.

“What is it, Adrian?” my mother asked.

“Someone from our coven was here.”

“What?!” we both exclaimed.

“How? I would know the scent of our coven,” I replied.

“No, this is different. It is weak, and it has been changed. But make no mistake, this individual is from our coven!”

“Why would someone from our coven take Vivienne!?” my mother asked in shock.

“Papa, can you tell who it is?”

“Non. The individual scent is not here.”

“Wait, how could anyone from our coven have known how to find her? We never told anyone where she was. We only announced that she found her mate and that he was a wolf,” my mother specified.

“But Vivienne went to go visit. What if she told some of her friends, and someone overheard?” I replied.

“No one in the coven is stupid enough to do such a thing. They would be asking for a death wish! Your father is the General of our coven. The Prince is Vivienne’s friend. She is loved by all!” my mother cried. Her worry was starting to show.

“There is something else,” my father stated.

“What is it?” I asked.

“Alexandre, hold your mother.” I was confused but still did as he told me. I held onto one hand and wrapped my arm around her shoulder.

“There is another scent on top of Vivienne’s.”

“What? But you just said—”

“It is not the kidnapper, Alexandre,” he said, cutting me off. I furrowed my brows in confusion.

“Adrian, what is it?” my mother asked with concern and fear in her voice.

“If I am right, which I seldomly am ever wrong, Vivienne is with child.” My mother gasped and I could feel my anger rising.

“But, she didn’t say anything when she came to visit, Adrian.”

“Giselle, I don’t think she was aware. If I couldn’t sense it during her visit, then she was exceedingly early into the pregnancy.”

“Jed wouldn’t know either then. Oh, mon Dieu. What am I going to tell him?” I questioned, rubbing the back of my neck.

“I need to return to the coven and find the betrayer!” my father hissed, circling back to the fact that someone in the coven was responsible for Vivienne’s abduction.

“I’m going with you!” I insisted.

“Non,” my father said point-blank. I furrowed my brows at him. “This needs to be done carefully, Alexandre. If you go in guns blazing and fangs out, you will spook the betrayer. You would put both Vivienne and your niece or nephew in danger. If she is early enough into the pregnancy, whoever has her may not know yet. We cannot let them know that we are onto them. Let your mother and I go back and see if we can find any details. If I have anything, I will send for you.”

“Père, it takes 15 hours to get to France from here. At least let me get my jet in the air while I wait for your call.”

“Very well then.” He took my mother’s hand and shimmered back to France. I closed my eyes and tried to center myself. I couldn’t stand feeling powerless and unable to do anything. My family are the most important people in my life. Vivienne was no exception, and now she was carrying a new life inside of her.

Our age difference made our relationship so much stronger than most siblings. It’s not every day you can tell someone that you’re 72 years older than your younger sibling. I remember the day she was born like it was yesterday. She looked like a porcelain doll with her platinum blonde hair, bright blues, and rosy cheeks. I love Vivienne more like a daughter than I do a sister, which is why I’m so protective of her.

While she was growing up and learning to shimmer, she would always land in the oddest of places. She once landed in the rose bushes when she was five, and she got cut up all over. I nearly had a heart attack seeing her injured that way. Then when she was ten, she shimmered into a coven pool before she ever learned how to swim and almost drowned. Thankfully, a coven member



saved her and alerted me. I would always have someone watching over her until I knew she would be okay on her own.

I walked out of the townhouse and back towards the packhouse. I texted Dorian to let him know what my father had found out. He replied almost instantly and said that they were on their way back. How was I going to tell Jed that not only was his mate missing, but his unborn pup as well?

{Adrian's P.O.V.}

Upon our arrival back at the coven, I immediately went into my chambers and started to ransack everything in sight. My daughter was missing. My miracle princess. No one touches my family and lives to speak of it.

“Adrian! Adrian! S'il vous plaît!” Giselle shouted, desperately trying to subdue my unchecked anger. She grabbed a hold of my arm and was able to wrap her arms around my neck. I didn't even think twice before sinking my fangs into her neck where my mark resided and started to feed on her. The sweetness of her ichor had me aroused in seconds, but also calmed the vampire within me. After drinking for a moment, I was able to release my hold on her and set her down.

“Je suis désolé, mon cher. J'avais besoin de me nourrir de toi.” (I'm sorry, my dear. I needed to feed on you.)

“Ne vous excusez jamais, chérie. Je savais que tu en avais besoin. C'est pourquoi je ne t'ai pas combattu.” (Never apologize, darling. I knew you needed it. That's why I didn't fight you.) she replied. I nodded my head and kissed her. Once I regained my composure, I sat down with her on my lap. “Adrian, I know you better than you know yourself. You were hiding something from Alexandre.” I wasn't even surprised when she said that. Giselle did know me better than I knew myself. She knew me better than anyone, and it was the reason I knew I couldn't help but accept our bond when we first met 124 years ago.

She claimed me as her mate and didn't care that I was a vampire. Her family forbade us from being together, but she fought tooth and nail against them. When I marked her, her pack was not receptive to me, and her parents disowned her for accepting a vampire mate. I brought her back to the coven where she was welcomed with open arms.

“Adrian, what are you hiding from Andre? You know he would do anything necessary to protect Vivienne. She’s like a daughter to him more than a sister.”

“I know, mon cher. It is why I am afraid to tell him who has Vivienne.”

“Wait, you know who has her? Why would you lie to our son!?”

“Because, if he finds out who has Vivienne, it will drive him over the edge, like it did the first time this person tried to harm her.”

“First time?” I nodded. Giselle was a smart woman, and she knew that there was only one person in our lives that ever tried to hurt our daughter. Her eyes turned blacker by the second and her breathing labored with rage.

“How?” she asked me.

“I do not know, but that is why I could not tell Alexandre. He will move mountains to find Vivienne, and it would put her life in more danger than it already is. As long as her pregnancy is not revealed, she and our grandchild will be safe, for now.”

“Adrian Dubois, vous écoutez bien. Vous trouverez ce putain de salaud et vous lui arracherez le cœur!” (Adrian Dubois, you listen well. You will find this fvcking\*g bastard and you will rip his heart out!) she growled at me.

“Oui m’dame.” I pulled her closer to me as she rested her face on my neck. Just as I needed to feed on her to calm myself, she needed to inhale my scent. The way of the wolf was far less invasive than the way of the hominus nocturna. After Giselle returned to her usual self, I had her rest while I went to go speak with the King of the coven. I knocked on his chamber door.

“Entrez!”

“Votre Majesté”

“Ah, Adrian! Entrez! Entrez! Comment ça va?” (Ah, Adrian! Come in! Come in! How are you?)

“Not well, my king,” I answered.

“Non? Que s’est-il passé?” (No? What has happened?)

“Louis, I need to ask you something, and I am asking as a friend,” I requested.

“Of course, anything for you mon ami,” he said and gestured for me to sit down. “What can I do for you?”

“Louis, where is Claude?” I asked him without hesitation.

“Why are you asking about that ingrate? He is in prison where he belongs.”

“Then explain to me how he was able to kidnap my daughter!”

“Quel? Vivienne has been kidnapped?”

“Oui! And by Claude. I would know his stench anywhere! It was lingering all over Vivienne’s home in America. Luckily, the scent was so weak that Alexandre could not pick up on it.”

“Adrian, tu es sûr que c’était Claude?” (Adrian, are you sure that it was Claude?)

“I have never been more certain, Louis! Now tell me where he is!”

“I told you, he is still in his prison!”

“Where was he exiled!?” I asked.

“You know that it is against the law for me to disclose that information, Adrian. Only I, the king of this coven, and the Grand Elders are to know of where he was exiled to.”

“Louis, do you not understand? Claude has Vivienne. He may have her at the prison!”

“I am telling you that it is impossible, Adrian! No one can shimmer out of the prison!”

“Louis, will you at least do me the courtesy—as my friend and as my superior—to verify that he is, in fact, still there!? Vivienne is not just a coven member, or my daughter anymore!”

“What do you mean, Adrian?”

“Louis, Vivienne’s mate is an Alpha wolf.”

“Es-tu sérieux?” (Are you serious?)

“Oui, and what’s worse is that I think she is pregnant.” Louis’ eyes widened. “Louis, dis-moi où est la prison de Claude. Je dois vérifier de mes propres yeux.” (Louis, please, tell me where Claude’s prison is. I need to verify with my own eyes.) I pleaded. I saw his stance falter the more he thought about it. Louis always wanted Vivienne to be the next queen of our coven, but because she chose the route of finding her destined mate, he was hurt. But I knew he was happy for her when we told him that she had found her mate. He even congratulated her with gifts and money when she came to visit. He closed his eyes and simultaneously sighed deeply.

“Very well, Adrian. I will take you to the prison. But I must warn you, the prison for exiled coven members is not a place for the faint of heart.”

“Louis, I can handle it,” I replied. He nodded his head.

“Follow me,” he said and shimmered away. I quickly shimmered after him. We landed outside of a mountain in the middle of nowhere. It was snowing, and it was dark.

“Louis, where are we?”

“Antarctique.” (Antarctica) I was stunned that the prison for exiled vampires was somewhere so cold, but then again, it made sense. “Tread carefully, it gets a little slippery,” he said to me. I followed closely behind him, and he led us to an opening in the mountainside. He went in, and I followed. After walking for about ten minutes, he stopped and turned to his left.

I watched him as he looked around a bit and then removed a key around his neck that I had never noticed before. He placed into a small crack in the mountain’s foundation and caused the wall to cave in, revealing a staircase.

“C’est magnifique,” I said and stared in awe.

“This prison was commissioned over 2,000 years ago and is used by all vampires and dark witches. A coven of dark witches helped the Grand Elders build this prison and fortified it with dark magic so that no one could get in or out through shimmering or spells. The only way in or out is through that wall that we just passed through and with this key. Only vampire coven kings, Wiccan coven mothers, and the Grand Elders of both species have a key. Each key is specifically made so that no forgeries can ever be produced.”

“Incredible,” I gaped at the structure of the prison. It was even colder the further down we went. “Louis, how deep is this prison?” I asked. It felt as if we had been walking down for a good ten minutes.

“1,000 feet below the surface.”

“What!?” I exclaimed.

“SHH! Watch your tone, Adrian, you will cause an avalanche!” he whisper-shouted at me. We continued walking down the steps and I kept wondering why we couldn’t shimmer down. Then again, I remembered that we cannot shimmer beneath the surface since we can’t see where we are going.

After what felt like an eternity, we finally made it to the bottom of the stairs. Louis turned to his right and grabbed the only torch that was there, and we ended up having to walk down a long tunnel. I honestly wondered how such an establishment was ever created so long ago that was able to withstand the test of time, evolution, and erosion.

“King Louis, to what do we owe the pleasure?” I heard a voice.

“Who is that?” I asked.

“One of the guards of the prison. A witch that was hand-picked by both the vampires’ and witches’ Grand Elders to guard the prison. There are three witches and three vampires that alternate,” he answered.

“And who is this yummy bl00d s.ucker?” she asked seductively.

“We are here to see prisoner 10-171-CL.BUN,” Louis informed her.

“King Louis, do the Elders know about this?” she asked.

“Not yet, but I will make it known. It is important that we verify the prisoner is still in his cell.”

“Why?” she asked cautiously.

“My daughter has been kidnapped, and my vampire senses tell me that the prisoner in question did it,” I told her.

“That’s not possible. This prison is escape-proof,” she defended.

“Please show us the prisoner,” Louis kindly requested.

“Fine, but if I lose my job over this, you owe me, your Majesty.” She got up and waved her arm at the wall behind her. It disappeared and what I saw amazed me to no end. It was another long corridor lined with cells. Some had decaying bodies, some had vampires that were barely alive, and some had witches who were rocking with insanity like an asylum.

We followed the witch down the corridor and stopped in front of a cell. It was a solid door with no bars or windows. She waved her hand again, and the wall became transparent. But what I saw had my blood boiling, and Louis’ eyes turned bright red.

“What the fvck!?” the witch exclaimed. I turned to Louis who was shaking in rage. “CODE BLACK! CODE BLACK! WE HAVE AN ESCAPED PRISONER! INITIATE PROTOCOL 7B! WE NEED ALL WITCHES ON SIGHT NOW!” she yelled into a band on her wrist.

“Louis!” I hissed at him. He didn’t even say anything to me as he stormed out of the prison. I followed after him, and we made it back to the surface in seconds. We shimmered back to the coven house and he started to hiss orders to everyone he saw.

“CLAUDE BUNTAINNE HAS ESCAPED! HE HAS THE GENERAL’S DAUGHTER! SHE IS THE MATE OF AN ALPHA WOLF AND IS STILL A MEMBER OF THIS COVEN! DO AS YOUR GENERAL SAYS!” He gave me free rein.

“Un million d’euros pour celui qui m’apporte son cœur!” (A million euros for the one who brings me his heart!)

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 50 - Tips

{Jedediah’s P.O.V.}

“Hold up one fvcking\*g minute, are you telling me that this fvcker tried to molest her when she was a minor, but instead of kicking his a.ss then, you let it slide!? Then he was dumb enough to try again when she turned 18, and the only reason you kicked his a.ss was that Viv was able to mind link, Giselle!?”

“Yes,” Adrian answered candidly.

Hearing all of this was almost too much to process in my current state of mind, and I needed a moment to collect my thoughts. I was already extremely unstable after we came back from searching for Vivienne empty-handed yet again. It all started when we found Andre in the midst of gearing up his jet for take-off to return to France. He had to be prepared to divert wherever necessary after his father contacted him. The only thing Andre could tell us was that someone from his old coven had abducted Vivienne, but not who it actually was. At least, that's what Adrian claimed at first. Andre was planning on leaving first thing in the morning, but things took a drastic and unlikely turn.

As Andre, myself, and the rest of the guys were getting ready to go to the airport to leave for France, his father shimmered into his townhouse located here within the pack territory and promptly contacted Andre. Now, suddenly, here he was telling us that he does, in fact, know who took her; it was someone they had exiled because of his attempted assault on Vivienne a few years ago. To say that I was livid would be the understatement of the century, but Andre was even more pissed off. As soon as his father revealed who had taken Vivienne, Andre tackled his father and started to beat the sh!t out of him. To witness Adrian, endure the beating willingly when he could have easily shimmered away or overpowered him said a lot.

It took every single one of us to pull him off and a slap from Giselle to calm him down. I thought I had seen Andre pissed when Vivienne first went missing, but his reaction to the name Claude went from zero to a thousand in one-tenth of a second. Once Adrian had healed from his beating, which took all of an hour, at most, he and Andre explained to me who this a.ssh0le was.

"Why didn't you fvcking\*g k!!! him then!?" I asked, completely baffled that this guy was still alive after what he had tried to do.

"Covens work differently than packs do, Jed. We do not indiscriminately k!!! because of a single infraction," Adrian answered.

"Infraction!? Are you fvcking\*g kidding me!? A man you trusted with your life betrayed you by attempting to r.ape your then 18-year-old daughter!" I snarled at him. "What kind of father lets a man who tried to hurt his child live to see another day!? Especially in our world!? Your mercy only gave him the opportunity to plan and get his revenge. Now, look where we are!" I shouted and gestured around the room with my arms emphatically.

"The prison where he was exiled should have been escape-proof. It has never once failed in the thousands of years it has been around!" he countered.

“Well, that obviously isn’t the case right now, is it!?” I countered back. “My mate is missing! And not only that, according to Andre, you sensed that she’s also fvcking\*g pregnant! This means that not only is the love of my life with this guy but so is my unborn pup! They’re both in the hands of some psychotic se.x-offending bl00d-s.ucking son of a b\*\*\*h all because YOU and your KING failed to k!!! him!”

“Do not speak to me that way, Jed! Know your place!”

“I’LL SPEAK TO YOU HOWEVER I fvcking\*g PLEASE, ADRIAN!” I roared at the top of my lungs, causing him and Giselle both to jump back in surprise. “You might be Vivienne’s father, but I’m her fvcking\*g mate! She’s practically my wife, and she’s carrying my child in her womb! I have more to lose if anything happens to either one of them!” I growled. “So help me, moon goddess, if we don’t find them in time ...”

“J.D., please breathe,” Giselle implored delicately before I could finish my threat. “Vivienne is still early in the pregnancy, and you know that she is still alive because if she was not, you would have felt it.”

“She may be alive, but I know for a fact that he’s hurt her already.”

“What do you mean?” she asked.

“Giselle, you’re a werewolf,” I sneered at her. “You know exactly what I mean. It doesn’t matter how far apart she is from me; I can feel her pain whenever he hits her!” Both Giselle and Andre growled at my words.

“You never said anything before!” Andre shouted at me.

“Because I wasn’t sure what was going on. I felt small stings across my face the last several days since Viv has been missing—like I was being pinched or something. I didn’t realize what that feeling meant until your dad told me what that fvcker Claude tried to do to Viv all those years ago.”

“He’s been hitting her?” Giselle asked, her attempts to stifle her sobs futile.

“Yes, and it happens a few times a day. Some seem to be worse than others.”

“Oh, mon Dieu,” she gasped and turned her face away to conceal the tears streaming down her face.



“Papa, where is this prison!?” Andre asked him with a growl.

“Antarctica. Why?” Could this guy be any dafter? First, he lets Vivienne’s attacker off with a slap on the wrist by exiling him, and now he has to ask us why we want to know where this damn prison is. Considering he was general of the coven, he seemed pretty dull to me, and it’s not like I am the sharpest tool in the shed.

“Adrian, if anything happens to either one of them because of your coven’s failure to execute him four years ago, I will rip your entire coven apart, and that will include you!” I snarled at him and stormed out of his townhouse through the front door, completely unphased by the fact that the sun was still blazing outside.

As I was stomping my way back towards the packhouse, Andre caught up to me. At first, I thought he was going to talk sh!t to me for threatening his father and his old coven, but he just walked next to me and didn’t say a word. I could sense his own anger at the fact that his father intentionally lied about knowing Claude was responsible for kidnapping Vivienne. Before I knew it, the rest of the guys caught up to us as well.

When we arrived back at the packhouse, all of the girls were waiting for us in the living room with anxious expressions. Allie stood up first, at least, she attempted to. She struggled a bit but eventually found her footing and stared at us. All of the other women were looking at us with eyes like puppy dogs as well.

“When are you guys leaving?” Allie asked.

“Right now,” I answered. All of the girls nodded, and each went to their respective mates. I couldn’t stop the pang of jealousy that filled me and waited patiently for the guys to finish their goodbyes. Then Allie and Dani both came up to me unexpectedly and hugged me too. They lent their support by providing encouragement to keep my head held up high and assured me that she’s going to be fine. I nodded my head and tried my best to stay positive.

Dorian linked the fab-four of bounty hunters to accompany us, and they were already outside waiting for us. But what shocked me the most was when I saw my entire team outside as well.

“Amos? What the hell?” I was flabbergasted.

“Jed, you’re one of us, and that means that your mate is too,” he answered.

“Yeah, and this thing about being some kind of supreme Alpha just got us all giddy inside,” Amy replied in a girly tone that didn’t suit her.

“For real dude, we’re excited to fight alongside you to help you find your mate. A future Luna. It’s what we werewolves are all about. Official Luna or not, your mate is a Luna, and that makes her hella fvcking\*g important,” Albert said.

“Not that she isn’t important already, because she is, but ... Ah, hell, you know what we mean,” Ricky said.

“Ricky, just shut it before you dig yourself further into an already mass grave,” Amos suggested to him, making everyone snicker. I walked up to Amos and fist-bumped him.

“Thank you, all of you.”

“I hope you all packed warm, it’s going to be freezing where we’re going,” Andre warned them.

“How cold?” Fury asked.

“Antarctica,” Dorian replied.

“Is that where she is?” Amy asked.

“No, but it’s where the asshole that took her was being held in prison. I’m hoping if we can catch his scent, we can figure out a way to follow it,” I replied. Everyone nodded their heads in understanding, and one by one started to pile into the many SUVs that were parked and ready.

“Jed,” Dorian said as he came over to my side. “I need you to promise not to go all commando when we find her. We need to have a rock-solid plan if we’re going to get both your Luna and your heir out of their situation alive. I know what you’re feeling. I’ve felt it more times than I care to admit. I’ve lost a pup myself, and I promise you, you will never feel that kind of pain.” I looked at him and the sincerity behind his eyes spoke volumes. I nodded my head and we both got into the same SUV to head out to the airport.

Once we were up in the clouds heading towards Antarctica, some people decided to catch up on some shuteye, others played games or read a book, and a few of us were reviewing strategies to utilize when he found Vivienne or came across enemy combatants. Some of the team aboard Dorian's jet still needed to get fully up to speed on the situation, and Andre ended up having Amos' team go on his jet. I was planning on joining them, but Dorian requested that I come with him. We made sure to secure a line of communication with Andre's jet so we could all openly discuss our plans together.

"You guys, we haven't fought against vampires in a long while, or ever for some of us; but remember, rip out their hearts or rip off their heads," Dorian told all of us who were with him strategizing.

"I hate vampires," Aries said, gritting his teeth. "No offense, Delta ... Jed."

"None taken, Aries. As of right now, I am hating them as well, and I am half Vampire," he grunted.

"Same. I know you don't hate a select few," I replied and sent a wink his way.

"Andre, do you think this guy Claude will have allies?" Brandon asked.

"Honestly, I do not have a clue, mon ami. Claude was like an uncle to me. I trusted him with everything. Our whole family did, and he betrayed us in the worst possible way. He betrayed the coven in doing so. I'm fairly certain if he does have allies, it's unlikely to be members of my father's coven; however, I wouldn't put it past some people to betray our coven. Just like those who betray our pack," Andre responded. "I knew I should have k!lled him back then," he said while gritting his teeth.

"No disrespect, Delta, but why didn't you?" Warlord asked.

"I was stopped by my father and the King of the coven. As my father explained to Jed and the rest of us, covens don't just k!ll for one crime. They're typically just exiled. Life in prison, basically, but with no food or water, or in a vampire's case—bl00d."

"So, basically, anyone exiled will practically starve to death?" Poseidon asked.

"It takes a while for a vampire to starve to death, unfortunately. They go mad with bl00d l.ust because of their thirst. Like a rogue wolf, they become

unstable, feral, and dangerous. They enter into a state of delirium and begin to hallucinate. Some have even chewed off their own body parts solely out of hunger.”

“EW!”

“GROSS!”

“AH, HELL NAH!” several people exclaimed in disgust.

“It can take years for that to happen. Vampires as old as Claude, my father, and the King of our coven can go months without feeding before they lose their control. And even then, the loss is gradual and occurs over time. The younger the vampire, the faster it hits them. Claude is over two hundred years old.”

“I don’t give a flying fvck what your coven king says, Andre. If I get my hands on this Claude fvcker, I’m going to rip his head off,” I forewarned.

“Not if I get to him first,” he replied. Before I could say anything back, the captain, Greyson, came to us.

“Alpha, may I have a word, sir?” Dorian stood up and followed him into the c0ckpit. About ten minutes later, Dorian came back while rubbing his face profusely in obvious frustration.

“What’s up?” I asked him.

“We can’t fly directly to Antarctica, it’s illegal.”

“Then how do we get there!?” I asked.

“We have to fly to Buenos Aires first so the jets can refuel. Then, from there, we have to fly to Ushuaia. From Ushuaia, we’ll have to take a charter plane to Antarctica.”

“What the fvck? How long is that going to take!?”

“About 30 hours from here all the way to Ushuaia. After that, it’s about another 2800 miles to Antarctica.” We all looked at him like he was insane, but he was totally serious. “Depending on the charter plane’s capacity and speed, it could take another half day of travel to get there.”

“We don’t have that kind of time!” I shouted. “We don’t have time to make stops!”

“I know, which is why I’ve told Greyson that we’re going to stop in Buenos Aires and use Adrian and other members of the coven to shimmer us the rest of the way. Andre, I need you to contact your father and notify him of our plans.” Andre looked like he would rather eat dirt than speak to his father again, but Dorian wasn’t giving him much of a choice. Andre reluctantly agreed. “Everyone get some sleep. I don’t think we’ll be getting very much once we land.” Everyone nodded, and we hung up the video call with Amos.

I leaned back in my seat and thought about all the different ways I was going to kill Claude for hurting Vivienne. I also thought about the fact that I was going to be a father soon. We hadn’t even been trying to get pregnant, and Vivienne hadn’t gone into heat yet. But I was happy nonetheless and nervous. Before I could dwell on the thought of watching Vivienne’s stomach swell with my pup growing inside of her, we needed to find her and bring her home first.

Let’s go get our Luna.

Gunner, did you know?

Know what?

That we’re an Alpha?

Yes.

Why didn’t you ever say anything to me!?

Would you have believed me?

Probably not. I mean, I grew up with an Omega family. I was always under the impression I was an Omega.

Jedediah, could you not feel how strong we were? Why do you think we were one of the best warriors at Red Mountain? Why do you think you’re so big and burly, and I’m similar in size to Bandit?

All werewolves are large.

True, but compare us to that of the Gamma. Or even the Beta. Do you not see that we’re bigger than they are?

I ... No, I never noticed. I never really cared about size. Did my parents lie to me?

Jedediah, the Luna is right. Your parents are not your parents. Even though they passed before I came to you, I would have still felt the pain of losing them, as you did, but I didn't. And for a long time, I thought it was strange.

What are you saying, Gunner?

Dear human, I felt no connection to your parents when I went through your memories that night I first came to you. I knew that they were not your birth parents, but I couldn't find it in my heart to tell you.

You ... knew?

I'm sorry.

But, if they're not my parents then where do I come from?

A long line of Supreme Alphas. Believe it or not, we are more powerful than Dorian and Bandit. I just hold back whenever I am training. I do not want to disrespect him. He's our Alpha, for now.

What do you mean, for now?

Jed, we need to go back to Red Mountain.

Why?

Because I have the deepest feelings that we are the rightful Alpha to that pack and not Scanlan.