

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 61 - Tips

{Michaela's P.O.V.}

When I heard that J.D. had returned to the pack, I couldn't ask for anything more. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine he would come back so soon. I knew that once he saw the damage Claude did to that blonde bimbo, there was no way he'd want her anymore. I mean, the things Claude told me he did to her, no man would want that. It was only natural he would come running back to me as soon as he figured it out.

I made Claude disappear to whatever hole he made into his hideout within the pack territory and took off to find J.D. I ran down the stairs of the packhouse as fast as I could and ran smack dab into several pack members along the way. "Watch it!" I screamed at them without bothering to stop. They were all in my way and kept me from getting to J.D. faster. I would have to deal with their dilly-dallying in the packhouse later.

When I saw Dad's office door in my view, I noticed Seth coming out and he was about to close the door. "DON'T CLOSE THE DOOR!" I screamed and pushed past him. I barged into the office, trying not to trip over my feet, and saw J.D. "IT'S TRUE! OH MY GODDESS! YOU'RE REALLY HERE!!" I screamed and jumped into his arms. Goddess, he smelled so good, and it felt amazing being in his arms. But instead of hugging me back, he was trying to push me away.

"THE fvck!? GET OFF OF ME!" I held on tighter, but he shoved me off so hard that I landed on my a.ss. I rubbed my tush from how hard I had fallen and then heard a female growl. I looked up and saw that b\*\*\*h with him.

"WHY IS SHE HERE!?" I shouted and jumped to my feet. All he said was that she was his mate and that it was obvious as to why she was here. I couldn't believe that he came all the way back here and brought her with him. I wanted to give them both a piece of my mind, but that's when I had the most brilliant idea. I almost couldn't contain my excitement. Then I saw J.D. look at me, so I made sure to fix my facial expression into a hard one before I gave him a piece of my mind.

When he just dismissed me as if I meant absolutely nothing to him, I was really ready to ready to give him hell, but then that brute Dorian Shaw got in my way. I poked him in the c.hest because no one talked to me like that in my

own pack. Then Daddy had to be the d!ckhead that he's been lately and ordered me to leave.

I only left because I couldn't disobey him when he used his Alpha voice. It didn't matter anyway; I had more important things to deal with. I needed to make sure that I got Claude back here so he could take that b\*\*\*h away from J.D. as soon as she was alone. If anything, I would have to get her alone with me, and I could just bring her straight to Claude. Yeah, that would work best. Claude would have what he wants, and I could have J.D. It was a win-win situation.

Why are you trying to give our mate to someone else!?

Ugh, not now, Alana!

No! You already rejected one mate as it is. Then you rejected our second chance mate! At least he still wants us occasionally!

Alana! Are you serious right now!? You want that old, one-armed, bl00d-s.ucking piece of trash for the rest of our lives!? When we have J.D. so close? He's downstairs, right within our grasp!

J.D. and Gunner are mated and marked! I don't even want Gunner! I want Claude!

And as always, you don't know what you want! You're just a mangy mutt! You don't know sh!t! Just like the moon goddess doesn't know sh!t! She doesn't make mistakes. She mated J.D. and me for a reason! And I will have him back! He was my mate first!

The mother doesn't make mistakes! You made the mistake of rejecting him six and a half years ago!

And I'm trying to undo that mistake!

How? By pissing him off to the point he would rather k!ll you!? Us!?

Deep down, he still loves me! I know he does! Why else would he come back here!?

You're hopeless.

I shoved Alana into the back of my mind while I signaled for Claude to come back to my room. Where he was hiding, he had a clear line of sight to my main window, so I always used a laser to get his attention. It only took a few seconds for him to shimmer back.

“Ready for another round, mate?” he seethed.

“fvck you, old man. I have something that you want even more than my sweet pvssy.”

“Oh, and what’s that?”

“Vivienne.”

“What?”

“Vivienne is currently in the packhouse.”

“You’re lying?”

“Take a whiff,” I said and pulled my shirt towards him. “I was just in a room with her. I’m sure you can smell her on me.” He grabbed me by the collar and inhaled deeply. I saw a smile appear on his face, but as soon as it appeared, it quickly transformed into disgust. “What’s wrong?” I questioned him when he dropped me out of nowhere, and his vampire side came out full-blast.

“Filthy mutts,” he muttered.

“What?” He looked at me and only shook his head. He was hiding something from me, and I wasn’t very happy about it. “Nevermind. Where is she?”

“She’s down in my dad’s office with J.D. and a few of the ranked members of Desert Moon.”

“Who is here?”

“The Alpha, the Beta, and I think her brother? He looks just like her and he smelled like a vampire too,” I answered.

“fvck! Alexandre is here too!?”

“I guess,” I replied nonchalantly.

“How do you expect me to get to her? Huh? It’s broad daylight outside, and she’s not alone!”

“Well, I can get her alone. It shouldn’t be that hard.”

“Oh? And how do you expect to do that?”

“I mean, I do hate her, but I can always pretend to play nice to get her alone. I’ll bring her here to talk—in private. You wait at your hiding place until I signal you to come for her. Voila, problem solved,” I explained with the utmost confidence.

“Vivienne does not trust you. She will not come with you willingly!”

“Oh please, she’s a naïve little t\*\*t. As long as I’m nice, she will find it in her sweet little heart to forgive me and come with me. Trust me. You’ll have her,” I told him. As soon as I did though, Alana growled in the front of my mind, and I shoved her back again. I didn’t have time for her stupid jealousy. Just as I was about to say something, I started to hear the guards from outside. I ran to the window, and I could see pack members running around all over the place.

“What is going on!?” Claude shouted.

“I don’t know, but I think we’re being attacked! Stay here!” I ran out of my room and down the stairs. The screaming and shouting were getting louder, and when I got to the platform of the second flight of stairs, I peeked around. All I could see were pack members running in all directions.

“WHERE IS MICHAELA!?” I heard J.D.’s voice.

“I don’t know, Jedediah!” someone answered him. I was about to go down all the way when I heard someone shouting at the pack members.

“This way! Hurry! Follow the pack member in front of you!” I peeked further down and could see Vivienne leading pack members to the basement with Seth right behind her. What the fvck did she think she was doing? She was acting as if she belonged here. J.D. expressed his objection to her helping, but Dorian suddenly patted his shoulder and told him to leave it alone. I couldn’t hear what else he said, but J.D. seemed to listen. They suddenly ran out of the packhouse and that’s when I realized that Vivienne was alone. This was my chance. I was about to head down, but then I heard them talking.

“Is that everyone?” she asked Seth.

“I think so. Come on, let’s get you to Jed’s room before he decides to come back and k!ll me for letting you help,” Seth replied. J.D.’s old room. He was going to let her go in there? I heard their footsteps getting closer, and I used my wolf speed to get back to my floor. I waited until I knew they were inside the room before going back to get Claude. This was fvcking\*g glorious. I didn’t even need to convince her. She came to me all on her own. The gods were on my side. I knew they were.

“Hey!” I shouted as I opened my door.

“What is going on?”

“No clue, but that’s not why I came back. Vivienne is in J.D.’s old bedroom here in the packhouse. She’s with a single guard.”

“Really?” I nodded my head. I gestured for him to follow me, and I led him directly to Vivienne. I had to play as if I was checking for pack members, so I started to bang on all of the doors to make sure they were empty. When I got to J.D.’s old room, I did the same thing. I slammed my fist on it.

“Is anyone in there!?” The door flew open, and Seth stood before me.

“Michaela!? What are you doing here!?”

“I was checking to make sure no one was up here! What are you doing here!?” I grilled him as I tried to look into the room. I could smell her, but I couldn’t see her.

“Michaela, you need to go back to your room and stay there!” he told me and tried to slam the door in my face.

“Seth! Why not just let me in with you!? I mean, you could keep me safe!”

“Michaela, I can’t! I have other orders I have to handle. Just go back to your room!”

“Why won’t you just—”

“Enough of this!” Claude hissed and shoved Seth aside.

“What the fvck!?” Seth quickly got to his feet.

“You should have just let me in,” I sneered at him. I looked around and saw no one. “Where is she!?”

“Where’s who!?” Seth disputed.

“I saw you bring her in here, Seth! WHERE IS THAT b\*\*\*h, VIVIENNE!?”

“I don’t know what you’re talking about! I didn’t bring anyone in here!” Seth retorted, holding his place.

“YOU’RE LYING!” I growled and started to look everywhere for her. I checked the in-suite bathroom, the closet, the linen closet, under the bed, and even on the balcony. This b\*\*\*h was gone. “WHERE IS SHE!?”

“YOU STUPID b\*\*\*h!” Claude hissed at me.

“Hey, bl00ds.ucker!” Seth called out to him. Claude looked in his direction, and Seth opened the curtain. The sunlight directly hit Claude.

“AHHH!!” I screamed. Claude was screeching before he shimmered away. “YOU BASTARD!!! YOU COULD HAVE KILLED HIM!!” I cried and tried to hit him. Seth grabbed both of my arms and held them tight. “Ow, you’re hurting me!”

“Why are you with a vampire, Michaela?” Seth gritted his teeth.

“That’s not just any vampire. That was Claude Buntaine, the man who kidnapped me.” I turned my head to see Vivienne. “Why are you with him, of all the vampires in the world, hm?”

“You!? But you—”

“Did you forget that I am a hybrid and that I, too, can shimmer?” she asked me and smirked. “The moment the door opened, I could smell you and that a.ssh0le, Claude. So, I shimmered outside. You have a lot of explaining to do, Michaela.”

“I don’t answer to the likes of you!” I shouted in her face.

“That is okay. I don’t need to know your reasons because, frankly, I just don’t give a sh!t. I think you may want to go outside though. There is someone who would like to speak to you,” she insisted. She nodded to Seth, and he let me

go. I backed away and stared at her. "Go on. Trust me, you do not want to miss this." I growled at her before leaving.

As I made my way downstairs, I couldn't stop but wonder if Claude was going to be okay. He was hit directly with sunlight. I shook my head of the unnecessary thoughts. I didn't have time to worry about that a.ssh0le. It's not my fault he got distracted with me and allowed Seth to get the upper hand.

When I got to the front door, it was wide open, and I could hear voices shouting at each other. I recognized one as my dad and another as J.D.'s. The third voice was female, and it sounded so familiar. I couldn't place it until she said "not-so-dead Luna." My eyes shot wide open, and I ran through the door, and I vaguely saw my mother. Very much alive.

"MOM!?" I called out to her in shock.

"Oh, my sweet girl."

"Mom, you .. you're alive!?" I couldn't believe it. All these years, I thought she was killed by rogues.

"Yes, honey, I am, and I am so disappointed in you!" she railed at me with disappointment without missing a beat. What the fvck?

"What?" was all I could respond to that. Instead of just easing into her explanation of her sudden disappointment, she went all-in and called me out for all the sh!t that I had done over the last several years. How did she even know about any of the things I've done, especially me rejecting J.D? Where had she been this whole time? I tried to save myself by explaining the reasoning behind my actions, but instead of being comforting, she tore into me again and basically called me a w\*\*\*e while comparing me to my dad.

I never thought the truth could be so painful, and yet, here was my mom throwing the truth in my face, and she wasn't even trying to hold back. She made zero attempt to not hurt my feelings. Who was this woman? She was never this hard on me. Why was she suddenly turning her back on me? If that didn't sting enough, then she had to call me out for something that I thought no one would ever know.

"...not only that, but you teamed up with a vampire to get Jedediah's mate kidnapped."

“WHAT?!?!” I heard J.D. roar and before I could even comprehend the sh!thole my mom just threw me in, I felt my neck being grabbed and my body being slammed against the wall of the packhouse. Never in a million years did I think that J.D. could hurt me, but he was actually hurting me intentionally.

“J.D., please, you’re hurt..ing...me,” I begged, trying to loosen his hold on my neck.

“You conspired with Claude to have Vivienne kidnapped!?” he snarled into my face while adding pressure into his hold, choking me. I was at least three feet off the ground, and my feet were kicking on their own as I struggled to breathe. “ARE YOU THAT fvcking\*g SELFISH!? THAT fvcking\*g SELF-ABSORBED!? Do you realize that he could have k!lled her and my pups!?” My eyes snapped open.

“P-p-pups!?” I snarled in disgust. This b\*\*\*h was pregnant!? J.D. could sense my disgust, and he threw me with all of his strength. My back hit the pillar outside of the packhouse. I yelped in pain. I pushed myself up as I held my neck. I could feel the bruises starting to form.

“Give me one good reason why I SHOULDN’T RIP YOUR FVCKING HEAD OFF!?” he roared into my face. I squeezed my eyes shut, and I screamed in fear. I had never once heard him roar so loud. I looked up at him, his eyes were black as night and his wolf had taken over. He almost sounded like a ...

“You... You’re ... You’re an Alpha!?”

“Oui, he is.” I watched as two pale arms wrapped around his waist. I visibly saw J.D.’s composure relax, and his wolf subsided as he interlocked their fingers together. She came around from behind him and smirked at me. I looked at her closely and could see the baby bump. “He is my Alpha. Guess what that makes me?” she taunted. I couldn’t stop the tears of rage that formed in my eyes.

“NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!” I kicked and screamed. I grabbed my hair and screamed at the top of my lungs. “WHY!? WHY!? YOU WERE MY MATE FIRST!! I DESERVE TO BE LUNA!!! AHHHH!!! WHY ARE THE FATES SO CRUEL!?” I cried and slammed my hands on the ground.

“The fates aren’t cruel, Michaela!” my mother shouted at me. J.D. and Vivienne backed away as my mother came and kneeled in front of me. I kept crying, seeing the amount of anger in her eyes. Anger geared towards me.



“The moon goddess gave you the most precious gift, and instead of accepting it wholeheartedly, you turned it down and spat on it. I told you from the very beginning that if the moon goddess gives you a mate, it’s for a very specific reason and to never, ever take it for granted. But that’s what you did, and so the fates are punishing you. Not only are you being shown what could have been yours had you just accepted him for who he was, but they’re punishing you for making your second chance the enemy of that gift.” I gasped when she said that and whipped my head up to face her.

“How did you ...” She snapped her fingers and J.D.’s dad handed her an iPad. She tapped the screen and showed it to me; it was me and Claude having se.x against the packhouse wall the other night. Sound and everything. I shook my head in denial. This couldn’t be happening. My own mother was against me, and she showed this video with the sound turned up all the way so everyone could hear, even J.D. and Vivienne.

“Holy fvck,” J.D. spat in disgust. He just shook his head at me and walked away with Vivienne by his side. The fact that he didn’t bother to say anything else just showed the amount of hatred he had towards me.

“Mom, why? How could you?” I asked her with poison in my voice.

“I had no choice. I wanted to do everything in my power to get you out of here after everything was in its rightful place, but when I saw this video, I knew that there was no turning back for you. I could have forgiven you for all of the mistakes that you made over the years, Michaela—because you’re my daughter, and I love you. But this,” she said as she showed me the iPad, “I couldn’t believe it when I saw it. You were an accessory to the kidnapping of someone else’s mate. You knew how much I treasured the mate bond, even after all of the emotional pain your father put me through. And yet, you did something like this?” She paused for a minute, and I could see her shaking her head in my peripheral vision.

“What’s going to happen to me?” I sobbed.

“I don’t know. That’s going to be up to Jedediah and his father.”

“Father? What does Duke have to do with this?”

“Not Duke.” I furrowed my brows. “His biological father. Alpha Bartholomew Ricard. The true Alpha of Red Mountain.”

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 62 - Tips

{Third Person P.O.V.}

When the realization hit Michaela that she wasn't actually an Alpha's daughter, it felt like a meteor hitting the Earth's surface. All of her life, she lived as though she was above everyone, and in doing so, she rejected J.D. because she felt that she deserved more, something she never had any problem voicing and felt zero shame in her admissions. But now, here she is, sitting on the sidelines as the life she once envisioned herself having with her mate was being lived by someone else. Vivienne had everything Michaela ever wanted. A loving mate, the Luna title, and to top it all off, she was pregnant.

If that weren't bad enough, Michaela's own mother could no longer protect her. Hearing the words that the true Alpha of Red Mountain would determine her fate, Michaela's life flashed before her eyes, and she saw just how wrong she had lived her life. Sadly, it didn't matter anymore because it was too little, too late. Not only had she conspired to have Jedediah's mate kidnapped, but she also inadvertently had a future Luna kidnapped, a pregnant one at that. With that information now swarming around in her head, Michaela had but one person to turn to, and it was the one person she never wanted to turn to in the first place—Claude.

While everyone around her was busy passing judgment on her father and reveling in the news that Bartholomew Ricard was very much, in fact, alive, she took the opportunity to crawl away in silence and slipped back into the packhouse. She was planning on returning to her room, and she thought she was home free until Seth stopped her. "Where do you think you're going?" he said to her while grabbing her arm.

"Let me go, Seth!" she commanded.

"Don't think for a second that I don't know what you're trying to do, Michaela. The way you screamed for that vampire, the way your eyes teared up when you thought that he might die from the sunlight. It's obvious that you care for him on some deeper level," Seth told her while squeezing her arm even tighter. Her worst fears were realized when her mother exposed who Claude really was, so it came as no surprise to her that Seth, too, had figured it out.

"Let.me.go," she gritted her teeth at him.

“Sure.” Seth let go of her arm and stepped back, giving her an evil smirk. Michaela was confused but didn’t question it. She turned her heel to keep going. “Oh, before you decide to run away to your vampire lover, I’d be sure to stick around to see what happens to your father.” Michaela snapped her head back to face Seth.

“What are you talking about?”

“Well, from what pack members are saying through the mind link, your dad isn’t a true Alpha. Apparently, he cheated his way to the Alpha title by kidnapping Jed’s birth mother and threatening to kill her if Alpha Ricard didn’t give up his title to him.”

“You’re lying!” Michaela shouted.

“No, I’m not. Your dad is being called out as we speak.” Michaela hesitated a moment but ultimately went back outside to see if Seth’s words were true. When she got back to the door, Jedediah was still speaking to the pack members.

“Zachary Scanlan is nothing but a fraud! He’s lied to everyone in this pack! Including the Elders of this state!” Jedediah shouted with authority. “He’s burned the pack hierarchy records and created false ones to hide his treachery! The Scanlan’s are not the reigning Alphas of the Red Mountain Pack!”

“LIES! THEY’RE LYING! DO NOT FALL FOR THEIR DECEIT! YOUR LUNA EVEN FAKED HER DEATH! THEY’RE ALL CONSPIRING TO DESTROY MY PACK!” Scanlan defended himself. Pack members began to mumble amongst themselves, trying to decide who was telling the truth. Some had already decided that they would rather believe Michaela’s mother and have changed sides. Yet, a good number still didn’t know who to trust.

“Really?” Brandon challenged him. “Have you already forgotten that you admitted to everything in your office not even twenty minutes ago and that it’s all recorded on your security cameras?”

“Someone get the recordings!” a pack member shouted from within the crowd.

“Gladly,” another said. Michaela whipped around to see Isaac break away to head for the security office within the packhouse. Not knowing just how treacherous her father is, Michaela decided she had to stop Isaac before he

ruined her life even more. So what if her father had cheated his way to the Alpha title? He was still the Alpha, and she was still an Alpha's daughter. She wasn't going to let anyone else take something away from her. She refused to be anything less than an Alpha's daughter.

As she stalked him to the security office, she made sure that he didn't know someone had followed him. She stayed low and kept her distance. When she saw him go into the security office, she made sure that no one else, especially Seth, was nearby. She was going to get the recording and destroy it; that way, the evidence against her father wouldn't exist. Then Jedediah's and her mother's claims would be just that—claims without evidentiary support. She slowly turned the knob on the door, and as soon as she did, she could hear the recording playing. She was willing to risk everything to save her father, but what she didn't expect to hear was her father's voice talking about her. She paused when she heard him and the others talking about her.

She couldn't believe what she was hearing. Her very own father, the one who loved her and cherished her, calling her a b.rat, spoiled, annoying, and saying how he had to coddle her because of how spoiled she was. Calling her a w\*\*\*e like her mother and complaining that he's stuck with her because she had chosen to reject Jedediah. Not only that but insinuating her incompetence for ruining his chance at an alliance with Desert Moon. That's when he began to admit his crimes against the rightful Alpha of the pack. Tears filled her eyes. The one person she felt that she could always rely on had never wanted to be there for her in the first place.

It was then, at that moment, that Michaela felt even more stupid than ever before. She gritted her teeth and decided that her initial plan of action to turn to Claude was her best option. All she had to do was find his hiding spot and hope that he hadn't died from his earlier injuries.

{Jedediah's P.O.V.}

As Isaac went inside to get the recordings of Scanlan's admission of guilt, that was when I had noticed Michaela following him. I figured she would go after him to try and stop him. Then I remembered that the recordings not only had Scanlan admitting to all of his crimes but also him talking sh!t about his own daughter. Michaela definitely needed to be humbled some more, so I figured hearing her father call her a mistake and everything else in between was necessary.

“She does realize that we see her, right?” Vivienne asked me.

“No, because she’s stupid like that. It’s okay, though. I bet once she hears what her father says about her, she will turn her back on him as well. I could care less about her anyway. If she wants to run away, then let her. It’s not like she’ll have anywhere to go.”

“But she will have someone,” Vivienne replied.

“If she wants to be with that fvcker, then let her. They fvcking\*g deserve each other.”

“He’s injured, and badly. Seth made the sun hit him. I don’t think he will survive the burns. They were pretty bad.”

“Even better,” I retorted. A few minutes later, Isaac came back and handed me a thumb drive. He smiled and bowed his head before he went back to where he was standing earlier. I smiled at the object in my hands and clutched it tightly. “You have one chance, Zach, to come clean about your crimes. Or I send this,” I said as I held up the drive, “to the Elders of Colorado.” His eyes bulged out of his head as if he were actually surprised. Did he honestly think that he could just get away with everything he had done?

“GIVE. ME. THAT. DRIVE!” he snarled at me using his Alpha voice, which sounded more like a gurgle.

“Wow, you sounded like a teenage boy who hasn’t hit puberty yet,” Brandon mocked, making everyone snicker.

“Brandon, can you seriously stop being such a d!ck?” Dorian scolded him.

“What? I’m just going to use Gizmo as my voice of reason and say, ‘I’m just saying what everyone is thinking’.” Dorian rolled his eyes, and so did I.

My temporary distraction to Brandon allowed for Scanlan to get the advantage, and I soon found myself pinned against the packhouse wall, and Vivienne had been completely knocked over. I was furious to see that he had assaulted her in a split-second decision to try and take the drive from me. One hand was around my throat, while the other held the wrist of my hand that was clutching the drive.

“Give me that drive, Jedediah!” he snarled in my face and showered me with his saliva while he pressed against my larynx. I was trying to keep pressure off by holding his wrist with one hand and had to maintain my grasp on the drive in my other. Even though I was technically stronger than him, I wasn’t skilled in multitasking the way he was. I wasn’t a trained Alpha, and that was my only disadvantage. The fact that he could differentiate the amount of pressure he put on my neck and the amount he put into my wrist holding the drive was what was making me falter in my defenses.

“fvck you,” I spat and kept trying to push him off. He started to dig his claws into my neck, and I could feel the blood flowing from the wounds.

“ZACHARY, STOP IT!” I heard Luna Lynnette shout at him, but her pleas were futile.

“Dorian, help him!” I heard Vivienne yell.

“I can’t! This is between them! It’s an Alpha’s challenge; I cannot interfere!”

“But I can.” As soon someone unfamiliar spoke those words, I felt Scanlan’s grip on me loosen. I took the opportunity to shove him off of me. He lost his footing a bit before composing himself. I fell to the ground and coughed as I tried to get oxygen in my lungs. I made sure my grip didn’t crush the drive, and I felt my neck to see if the wounds were deep.

“Mon Loup!” Vivienne came to my side.

“Vivienne, are you okay? You’re not hurt, are you?” was the first thing I asked when I felt her near me.

“Me? You have claw marks on your neck!” she exclaimed.

“I’m fine, Mon Coeur,” I replied and stood to my feet. I looked over at Scanlan, who looked as if he had just seen yet another ghost. I looked past him and saw three new individuals standing at the forefront of all the rogues. That’s when Gunner reached out to me.

Jed, they are not rogues.

What? What are you talking about?

They don’t smell vile or dirty.

I paused a minute before taking a quick whiff and realized that he was right. They didn't smell vile at all. They didn't have that rotting dirty dog smell. I sniffed again and came to the realization that they smelled like a pack. I looked up at the three newcomers again.

"Mon Loup, who are they?" Vivienne asked me.

"I have no idea," I answered. But then, the man standing at the front spoke.

"It's been a long time, Zachary."

"You should have just killed me," the woman next to him said. I had the strangest feeling that whoever these people were, it was going to cause a major uproar. I quickly gave the drive to Vivienne for safekeeping before I stepped around Scanlan and addressed the unknown trio.

"Who are you?" I asked the man. It was then I realized how large he really was. Instead of answering, he just smiled at me approvingly.

"Jedediah, this is your family," Luna Lynnette said, coming up to me and pointing to them. I snapped my head towards her and then back at the three people. "This is your father, Supreme Alpha Bartholomew Ricard. This is your mother, Supreme Luna Adelina Prewitt Ricard, and your little sister, Paulette."

"Little sister?" I looked back at the young woman in front of me who gave me the biggest smile ever. We had the same eye and hair color. "How old are you?" I asked her.

"I just turned 22," she answered. She was the same age as Vivienne. "It's so good to finally meet you, big brother," she gushed as tears filled her eyes.

"Son," my father said as he put a hand on my shoulder. "I know you must have a lot of questions, and we will answer them in due time. But first, we need to take care of this scoundrel," he directed towards Scanlan. I turned around to see Scanlan was shaking in pure rage, and at this point, all of the Red Mountain pack members, along with Dorian and the others, were standing by my family and their pack.

"All of you will pay for your betrayal!" Scanlan shouted at them.

"The only person who will pay for their betrayal is you, Zachary!" my father's voice boomed and echoed into the skies.

“You think you can take me on just because you’re a Supreme Alpha!? I beat you once before!”

“You didn’t beat me, you sorry excuse of a wolf. You kidnapped my wife, this pack’s Luna, and had her beaten nearly to death! You used her to leverage me into giving you the Alpha title in exchange for her life! And the only reason why I even entertained your threat was because she was pregnant with my unborn son!”

“That’s right,” my mother interjected and joined my father by his side. “When you had your men kidnap me during my afternoon walk, I had just left the pack hospital. It was confirmed that I was indeed pregnant with our first child. Bart had Alpha duties to attend to, and I was on cloud nine, having just learned about our pup. I wanted to bask in the warm rays of the sun and dwell in my happiness.”

“Her being with child was the only reason why I even submitted to you, you backstabbing son of a b\*\*\*h. I chose you above everyone else in our lives to be my Beta, and that’s how you repaid me!? I should have killed you right then and there, but I had to think about Adelina and our pup. I concocted a plan in the split second that I would give you the title, but only if you agreed to spare her life, not letting onto the fact that she was carrying. That’s why I agreed to leave with her and never to return.”

“And leave we did. We left, and four months later, I gave birth to a son. The next in line in the Ricard bloodline for Red Mountain. The true heir to the Alpha title. But in order to allow for him to fight for his birthright, he had to grow up within the pack. Because of this, when he was a week old, I put him somewhere I knew a pack member would find him. I never expected it to be your newly found mate and the new Luna of the pack. I could tell after one sniff that she was nothing like you. So, I entrusted her with my son’s life. For 18 years, we watched from afar as he grew up an Omega turned pack warrior, only to see him leave to further his education. Then, we witnessed the heartache he had to endure upon returning when your spoiled rotten daughter trampled over his poor heart. To make matters worse, he left! He left his pack!” my mother cried. “All of the planning we did, wasted because of one single she-wolf!”

“When I saw how hurt my brother was, I couldn’t just idly stand by and watch, so I decided to follow him,” my sister said. I snapped my head towards her.

“You what?” I asked.



“I followed you,” she replied. “I followed you all the way to Desert Moon. Even though I had to watch from outside the pack boundary, I could see that you were well accepted there. I kept an eye on you while you were getting settled in there when you met your second chance, and even when that b\*\*\*h Michaela decided to rain on your parade.”

“You ... You watched me for over two months?”

“Yeah, it sounds creepy when you say it like that. Anyway, not only did I get to witness your happiness being with my future sister-in-law, but I also got to witness the moment Michaela met her vampire mate,” she revealed while wiggling her brows proudly. I looked at Dorian, who was just as confused as I was.

“I thought Simba and Nick threw her out after Gizmo threatened to have her shot?” Brandon asked.

“Yeah, I watched her get thrown out, and it was glorious! But when she was driving out of the pack territory, she pulled over to throw a hissy fit. And as she was doing that, she stopped suddenly and looked into the shadows of the tree line. She left her car on the side of the road and went snooping around. I followed her from a safe distance, and when she got into a small area completely within the shadows, that’s where she found Claude snooping around as well. I heard her say mate, and they fvckingd right then and there. I swear, I wanted to gauge my eyes out. After a five-minute quickie, she rejected him, but he didn’t accept it. She left, and you know, came back here.”

“And when did you stop spying on me?”

“When you left for your first job. I figured I had no reason to follow you to Europe, so I came back home.”

“How in the world did you go unnoticed for that long?” Dorian asked her. She turned to him, smiled, and winked. “After I came back, I noticed the vampire around, so I started to spy on them. It’s how I found out about the kidnapping. I’m also the one who filmed their little p0rn scene the other night.”

“Paulette, enough,” my father insisted and turned his attention back to Scanlan, who was trying to back away. “And where do you think you’re going!?” he bellowed at him. “Guards! Seize him until the council of Elders is summoned!” he commanded. Without hesitation, four men from his pack came around from behind him and immediately arrested Scanlan.

“GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME! I AM THE ALPHA! HOW DARE YOU!”

“You can’t be an Alpha when you don’t have a pack,” Dorian sneered at him. “How to Run a Pack 101—whenever there is a pack mutiny, the pack can vote to have their Alpha replaced effective immediately.”

“All in favor of getting rid of this asshole, raise your hands!” Brandon sang with joy and raised his hand first. Everyone else followed suit. Without another word, the guards dragged him away as he kept kicking and screaming.

“Gag him and pump him full of wolfsbane!” my father yelled after them.

“Hm, that wasn’t how I expected my Alpha challenge to go,” I muttered, sounding a little more disappointed than I expected to.

“You’ll still have your challenge, son. After the Elders get here,” my father consoled me. I looked back towards Scanlan, who was still being dragged, and saw Seth come out of the packhouse. The moment he turned to face me, I heard Paulette gasp and hide behind me. I looked behind me, wondering what she was doing.

“Why are you hiding?” I asked her.

“Don’t let him see me!” she whisper-shouted to me. As soon as she said that Seth jogged up to me with a huge smile on his face but then frowned when he saw Paulette behind me.

“What!? You again!?” he snarled. He grabbed her from behind me and pulled her out forcefully. “I thought I told you to never come back here!” he screamed in her face.

“Seth, unhand my sister!” I shouted at him.

“Sister?!” He looked between Paulette and me a few times before letting her go. I glanced at her, and I could see tears in her eyes. I looked at him and noticed that he was acting really uncomfortable.

“Pauly is he the one!?” my mother asked her. Pauly just nodded. My father roared, grabbed Seth by the neck, and strung him up in the air.

“DAD! What are you doing!?” I exclaimed in shock.

“YOU’RE THE INGRATE THAT REJECTED MY DAUGHTER!?”

“REJECTED?!” me, the guys, and Vivienne repeated in dismay.

“YOU’RE MY SISTER’S MATE!?” Before he could even answer me, Dani appeared out of nowhere.

“Dani!?” Andre exclaimed.

“Oh, thank god I finally found you guys!” she shouted.

“What are you doing here?” Andre asked her. She didn’t answer him but instead turned to Dorian.

“You need to come with me now!” she shouted as grabbed his arm.

“Why?”

“Allie went into early labor!”

“What!? How!?”

“Heather attacked her!”

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 63 - Tips

{Dorian’s P.O.V.}

The moment Dani and I landed in the lobby of the pack hospital I took off in search of Allie at full throttle. I was so wrapped up in Jed’s dilemma that Dani’s words had nearly knocked the wind out of me. I was trying to be optimistic for Allie’s sake and hoped that this wasn’t too serious, but I knew better than to get my hopes up. If Heather had attacked her, then it was because she was aiming to kill her. As much as I wanted to go out there and rip Heather into pieces for coming after Allie, I knew that my place was to be with her while she gave birth. But come to find out, I would be denied that luxury.

“Dorian, she’s in surgery!” Sin called out to me as she came running from the waiting room.

“What!?” Dani exclaimed before I could. “She was fine when I left to go find him!”

“Not long after you left, she started to hemorrhage, so Dr. Quinn took her back about five minutes ago for an emergency cesarean,” Sin explained calmly. I don’t think she would have been even remotely calm had Mikey not been behind her holding her shoulders. When he knew she was okay, he came over to me and gave me a bro h.ug.

“Gizmo is going to be okay,” he whispered to me. I nodded my head. When he let go, I walked over to the hallway outside of the operating room to wait for Allie. It was killing me inside, not being able to be in there with her, but I also would never want Allie or our pup’s lives to be put in danger on account of my absence. As I waited, that was when I remembered it was Heather that put her in this predicament.

“What the fvck happened?” I asked Mikey after noticing he was standing not too far off.

“I don’t know, man. Sin and I were getting ready to tell Allen that he was going to be a big brother when Simba came rushing into the packhouse carrying Allie. They were both severely injured, and it looked like someone had used Gizmo as a punching bag.

“What?” I gritted my teeth.

“Simba had burn marks all over his body too, but mostly on his back. I assume that he was trying to shield Gizmo from whoever was attacking them.”

“What? Burns? I thought Heather attacked Allie!?” I was getting more irritated by the second at the lack of clarity.

“We don’t have all of the details. Just before Simba had to be put under to receive treatment, he made sure to tell me that it was a woman named Heather. I’m not sure how she was able to injure them both like this, but we won’t know the full details until Simba wakes up or Giz comes out of surgery,” he explained while rubbing the back of his neck. It looked like he was also just as frustrated not having answers.

I waited and waited; nearly an hour had already passed by. My mind was focused on Allie and our pup, but I was also worried about Jed and the others. I had left so abruptly without even thinking twice about it, and I realized I never got to formally introduce myself to Jed’s biological parents. I had quite a few questions for them myself, but it wouldn’t be my place to ask them. They were his parents, and I’m sure that he would have his own set of questions to ask,

though I was a little concerned to see what Jed would do about Seth rejecting his little sister.

As I was pacing back and forth up and down the hall waiting for Allie to come out, Dani came running over and told me that Simba was awake. I hated to leave—just in case Allie came out—but I needed answers on what happened, and he was the only one who could give them to me right now. I looked at Mikey, who had been waiting with me the entire time, and he also agreed that we needed answers. Given her injuries, I knew that it would still be a while before Allie was moved into a recovery room. We went to Simba's hospital room and saw that Katie was there with him. She was kissing him fervently and crying. I cleared my throat, and she immediately stopped.

"Alpha," they said in unison and bowed their heads.

"Simba, how are you feeling?" I asked him with utmost sincerity.

"I'm healing. Dr. Boyd's treatments for the burns are helping with the pain. Most of my wounds have started to close, and new skin is coming through. He said I'll be okay to leave in two days."

"I'm glad that you're on the mend. I really am, but I need you to tell me what happened. Are you up for it?"

"Of course, Alpha."

"Good. Please start from the beginning."

"Well, the Luna came to me and asked me to escort her on her daily walk. Because of her upcoming due date, she wanted to get some exercise rather than be cooped up in the packhouse all day. So, as her guard, I escorted her. We walked all the way to the koi pond, and she spent a few minutes feeding the fish and talking to Lavender, telling her that she had another baby sister coming and how she wished she could be here. She sat on the large boulder as she kept throwing in pellets and also spoke to the other fish. She said the same thing she always does. She thanked them for their sacrifices during the war three years ago and that she will never forget them."

"What happened after she fed the fish?"

“We talked as we normally do, no formalities or anything. She asked if Katie and I were planning on having more pups, then she asked about Savannah, Ava, and the guys. You know, the usual stuff we talk about. When she was ready to leave to head back towards the packhouse, I stood in front of her to give her my hand and help her to her feet when something blasted me from the side. I went flying and rolled a few times when I landed. I looked up and saw a group of three men and a woman. The Luna shouted her name—Heather.” Simba paused a minute to gauge my reaction before he continued. “Heather made threats to the Luna and told her that she would never get away with conspiring against her to take a man named Gideon from her, that she had already robbed her of the Yellow Moon Alpha. She told her that she would never fall for her fake personality, that the Luna was the cause of her losing everything in her life, and that she would take everything she held near and dear to her heart, starting with the unborn pup.” After hearing those words, a snarl automatically came out of my mouth that shook the entire room.

“Dorian. Breathe, man. Simba’s not the enemy,” Mikey told me as he was pushing me against the door. I had to reign in Bandit. He wanted blood—Heather’s blood.

“Gamma, it’s fine. I know he’s not angry at me. If I was the Alpha and someone did that to Katie or threatened Matthew and Madison, I would be angry too,” Simba maintained. Mikey made sure I was good before letting me go.

“Continue, Simba,” I said while breathing heavily, trying to stay calm.

“When I heard those words, and I saw whoever those men were summoning fireballs in the palm of their hands, I shifted as fast as I could but was a fraction of a second too late. One of the fireballs hit the Luna in the stomach, but she had covered it with her arms. Her forearms ended up taking the brunt of the burns. Only one hit her, and I took the rest on my back.”

“Why didn’t you mind link the others for help!?” Mikey shouted at him.

“With all due respect, Gamma, my first priority was keeping the Luna and the unborn Alpha pup alive. When I felt the fireballs stop, I pushed through the searing pain and attacked the three men, who I had realized were demons. But in my attempt to kill them, Heather had a hold of Allie and started to beat her. Because of the Luna’s pregnancy, her reflexes weren’t fast enough to block everything, and her main concern was protecting her stomach. So, rather than fight back, I saw she had curled into a ball to protect the pup. After

killing all three of the demons, I charged at Heather, but when she saw she lost her men, she turned back to the Luna and told her that this wasn't over. She said that all of the Luna's children would die, one by one and that she would feel the pain of losing her children all over again, just like she had lost Lavender. Then she smashed a glass bottle on the ground and disappeared just as I was about to bite down on her. I hated the fact that I lost my chance, but when I saw the Luna's condition, I didn't think twice before shifting back, picking her up, and running to the packhouse. When I got there, I screamed for help before collapsing. Please forgive me for failing, Alpha."

I didn't even hear his plea for forgiveness because the only thing I repeated was, "SHE THREATENED MY PUPS!?!?!?" I roared, completely having lost any sense of self-control. I watched as Simba and Katie both froze in fear. I didn't even wait for a response before turning around and grabbing Mikey by the collar. "WHERE ARE THE TWINS!?"

"With your parents."

"Go find them, and you make sure that they have guards around them 24/7. Then I want you to call every bounty hunter we know or have contracts with! Find anyone that knows a demon that can get us into the underworld! I WANT HEATHER FOUND AND KILLED ON SIGHT!"

"What about her bounty?"

"Open it, and raise it to thirty million! Thirty million to the man or woman that BRINGS ME HER HEAD!" I roared in his face. He nodded his head, and I let him go. He scurried out of the hospital, and as he was leaving, Dani came into the room.

"Dorian, Dr. Quinn is looking for you." My anger quickly subsided, and I followed her to find Dr. Quinn. We found her outside of the VIP room.

"Dr. Quinn!?"

"Oh, Alpha, there you are," she sighed in relief and then smiled at me.

"How are they?"

"See for yourself," she said and opened the door to the room. I quickly walked in and saw Allie lying on the hospital bed. Her face was slightly bruised, but it was her arms that seemed to be worse off than anything. When she sensed

my presence, her eyes opened, and she looked straight at me. I took three large strides before reaching her bedside and pressed my forehead to hers.

“Are you okay, baby?”

“I will be. Dorian, it was her. It was Heather,” she said to me while holding onto me.

“I know. Simba told me everything.”

“Simba!? How is he!? Dorian, he took so many fireballs to the back!” she started to cry, and her blood pressure skyrocketed.

“Shh, shh, calm down, Allie. Simba is fine. He’s on the mend, and he’s going to be released in two days,” I consoled her as I tried to calm her down.

“Katie’s with him now, so he’s in good hands.”

“Dorian, he saved my life. He risked his life to save mine,” she sobbed.

“Not only yours, but our pup too,” I responded.

“Oh my god! Our baby! Dorian, where’s—” Allie was about to freak out when we heard a small cry. We both shot our heads towards the corner of the hospital room where we saw a bassinet. “Oh my god,” Allie cried. I went over and saw the most perfect little angel wrapped in pink with a bow on her head. I picked her up, and she weighed next to nothing. I brought her to Allie, who already had her arms outstretched for her.

“Allie, she’s perfect,” I said as I gave her to Allie. Allie didn’t even say anything as she brought our newborn daughter close to her and kissed her tiny cheeks.

“Luna, please don’t worry,” Dr. Quinn reassured her as she entered the room. “She’s in perfect health. She’s a little smaller than Daisy was but not by much.”

“How much does she weigh?” I asked.

“She weighs a little under 11 pounds. For an Alpha pup, she’s on the smaller side, but overall still healthy.”

“And Allie?”



“The Luna will need time to recover, but given her genes now, she should heal within a few days, if not less. I was able to find the source of the hemorrhage and put a stop to the bleeding,” Dr. Quinn explained with a touch of disappointment in her voice. Allie didn’t miss a beat either and looked at Dr. Quinn questionably.

“What aren’t you telling us?” Allie demanded.

“Luna, in order to stop the hemorrhage, I had to perform an emergency hyste.rectomy.” Both of our jaws dropped.

“Are you saying that I’ll never be able to have another baby? Ever?” Allie asked, and Dr. Quinn nodded as she bowed her head. Allie looked like she wanted to break down, but I stopped her.

“Hey, don’t do that. Allie, it’s not the end of the world. We have the twins, and we have ...” I paused and looked down at our new baby girl. “Are we going to settle for the name we discussed?”

“Yeah, I want to keep the name we settled on—Katrina Lilian Shaw. But there’s something I want to ask you,” she said, looking up at me.

“Anything.”

“Can we make Simba her godfather?” I was taken aback by this request, mostly because we had already agreed to make Jed her godfather. “I know we agreed on Jed, but Dorian, Simba risked his life to save ours, to save hers. We wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for him,” she explained as tears streamed down her face.

“Okay, baby, we’ll ask Simba to be her godfather,” I replied and wiped her tears. Though I was bummed that I wouldn’t get to ask Jed, I completely understood where Allie was coming from. I owed Simba a lot for putting himself on the frontline to protect Allie. Regardless of whether he was doing his job as her guard, what he did went above and beyond the call of duty, and I was grateful beyond words.

After Allie fed and burped Katrina, I set her back down into her ba.ssinet, and Dr. Quinn whisked her away to perform her newborn tests. While she was gone, my parents came in with the twins and four pack members behind them.

“What’s going on?” Allie asked as they came in while the four pack members waited outside. They put the twins on Allie’s bed, and the kids happily played amongst themselves with the toys they had brought along.

“Allie, Simba said that Heather threatened the twins while you were unconscious,” I told her. Her eyes turned black almost instantly, and her claws came out.

“What did she say exactly?” she gritted her teeth. I repeated what Simba had said, word for word, and Allie ended up ripping her nursing pillow into shreds, shocking the twins. But they were soon giggling, seeing all of the goose feathers flying everywhere. “Darn it, that was my favorite nursing pillow!”

“I’ll buy you another one, baby. But first, I need you to calm down,” I told her, grabbing her hands.

“Calm down!? You want me to calm down when you just told me that ... b-i-t-c-h threatened to k!!! each one of our pups!”

“What horrible woman! I cannot believe someone as sweet and pure as Corrinne gave birth to such a wench!” my mother ululated with her own claws coming out.

“Now, honey, you need to calm down too,” my dad told her.

“Benjamin, that foul young lady is making threats against my grandbabies!”

“Our grandbabies, and yes, I heard. But our job is to keep our grandbabies safe, not go picking fights. This is their fight,” he said, pointing to us.

“Is that why you have four guards?” Allie asked.

“We weren’t sure what was going on. They just showed up at our doorstep and said it was Dorian’s orders. We didn’t think much of it until Michael came and told us what happened. That’s when we came to see you, and they followed us here,” my dad answered.

“I want her head, Dorian. I WANT HER FREAKING HEAD ON A DAMN PLATTER!” Allie shouted at me. My mom didn’t even scold her for using profanity in front of the twins.

“I know, Allie, and I already have Mikey working on it,” I answered.

“Oh, I’m already done!” We turned to the door and saw Mikey and Sin.

“What do you mean you’re done?” I asked him.

“Dude, I didn’t have to make calls. The moment I switched on her bounty again and changed the payout, I got calls left and right. And you’re not going to believe our luck.”

“What?” I asked.

“Persephone and Sinbad apparently know someone who can willing to help.”

“You’re kidding!?” Allie exclaimed.

“Nope, and you’re not going to believe who it is,” he said directly to me.

“Who?”

“Abaddon.” My eyes widened in shock, and so did my father’s.

“Who is Abaddon?” Allie asked.

“Abaddon is a demon bounty hunter,” I answered.

“Do you know him?” she checked.

“No one has ever met him, sweetheart,” my dad answered. “Even Ethan hasn’t.”

“Why do you look as if you’re scared of him?” my mom asked.

“What kind of name is Abaddon?” Allied asked.

“The literal translation of his name is Angel of Death.”

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 64 - Tips

{Jedediah’s P.O.V.}

Two months later

It was hard to let go of the assumptions I made about how I would reclaim the Alpha title of Red Mountain. These days, it was difficult to sit inside Scanlan’s

... well, I should say my office. Everything just left a bad taste in my mouth. I felt continuously frustrated that things didn't turn out the way I wanted—no, the way I needed them to. After Scanlan was taken into custody and Dorian left suddenly to tend to Allie's early labor, everyone else that remained went inside of the packhouse. My birth father, the rightful Alpha of this pack, took back the reins only to give them to me the next day.

Even though we had petitioned the Elders of Colorado to allow me to challenge Scanlan for the title, they felt that it wasn't worth it. There was more than enough evidence to have him banished or even executed. No one was happy about that because they felt like that one, they were cheated out of a good show, and two, it felt as if I didn't actually earn my title. And since two of the Elders knew who my father was by name and face, they had no problem with him just picking up where he left off. But that didn't last either. Now, here I am, sitting in this office after having everything taken out and burned because I don't want any of it. It's not mine, and I don't want any of it to be mine. It was a bitter pill to swallow.

My father has been trying to train me to be an Alpha, and no offense to him, but he's not Dorian; I don't see things the way he does. I already knew right from wrong, but it felt like my dad wanted to just be a boss rather than an actual leader. His pack joined ours, and they were already used to how things were done with him, but the rest of Red Mountain wasn't. They were so used to free reign and doing whatever they pleased that the sudden order and structure to everything was pissing a lot of them off. Trying to transition from Omega to Alpha was a big change, and I honestly didn't know what to do to keep the peace within the pack.

Brandon drove back to Desert Moon on his own a few days after things were settled since Dorian couldn't be here like he had promised. He was, however, able to catch me up to speed with what had happened, and I felt horrible that I couldn't be there to help them track down this b\*\*\*h Heather, who almost killed Allie and their daughter. Dorian told me how he decided to promote Simba to the highest Omega rank alongside Sam and Lucas for what he did to save Allie and their pup. If I were him, I would have done the same thing. He also told me the whole deal with the godfather situation. To say I was bummed was an understatement, but again, I completely understood where they were coming from. Though thankfully, I would still be Uncle Jed, and that was enough for me.

“Hey.” I looked up when I heard someone at the door. I saw Seth, and he was rubbing the back of his neck. Our friendship had taken a turn for the worse when I had found out why he rejected Pauly.

—Flashback—

“You have three seconds to tell me why you thought it would be smart to reject your mate, Seth!” I shouted at him as we were in Scanlan’s office.

“I didn’t want to! But she was a rogue!” he defended.

“Are you fvcking\*g serious!?” I bellowed. “Had you used your nose instead of only your eyes, you would have sensed that she doesn’t even smell remotely like a rogue, you fvcking\*g i\*\*\*\*!” Seth lowered his head, and Pauly was still sniffing in the corner while both of my mothers comforted her. Both of my fathers were standing by me, and of course, my biological father was trying his damned hardest not to k!!l Seth.

“Look, man, it’s not like I knew she was your sister. Or some powerful female Alpha!”

“THAT SHOULDN’T fvcking\*g MATTER!” I roared, slamming my fists on the desk and making him jump. “You of all people know what rejection did to me all those years ago! You witnessed every bit of my heartbreak and sorrow, and yet, you did the exact same thing! Regardless of her being my sister! That pain you saw me go through day in and day out while Michaela fvckngd around, and you did the exact same thing to her!” I yelled and pointed at Pauly.

“I’m sorry, okay,” he said, looking down. Then he looked over at Pauly. “I’m sorry, Paulette, I really am.”

“Your apologies don’t matter anymore!” my father shouted. We all looked at him. “You lost your chance with my daughter! I will not allow someone as shallow as you to be mated to her! You don’t deserve my daughter. Just like Michaela never deserved my son. Paulette, you will accept this boy’s rejection, and we will ask the moon goddess to give you a second chance.”

“What?!” Paulette cried. “But, Dad, I don’t want—”

“It’s not a matter of what you want! It’s a matter of what you deserve!” he yelled.

“DAD! You shouldn’t interfere with the mate bond!” I said to him, standing to my feet. “What happened with me and Michaela has nothing to do with what’s going on here. This is between Seth and Pauly, and no one in this room has the right to say otherwise.”

“Jedediah, you’re about to be a father yourself. What would you do if your daughter were in your sister’s shoes!?”

“I’d let her make her own decisions because she would be a grown-a.ss woman who can make her own choices! I’d trust that even if she were to make the wrong choice, she would take the punishment and learn from it. We’re all meant to fall on our faces and fail from time to time! That’s what learning and growing are all about! If you keep interfering in situations like this, Pauly isn’t going to learn sh!t, and neither will Seth!” I defended and then turned my attention to the elephant in the room. “I don’t care what you two decide to do, but if my sister decides to accept your rejection, then you better leave her the fvck alone. I mean it, Seth.”

“If that’s what she chooses, then I will respect that.”

—End Flashback—

Needless to say, those two still haven’t put a pin in their situation, and they’ve been avoiding each other like the fvcking\*g plague. Pauly refuses to live inside the packhouse, so my family decided to move into one of the bigger cottages within the territory. I put Seth on administrative leave from training pack members and gave that duty to Isaac for the interim until I figured out what to do about Seth and his idiocy. In the meantime, he’s been helping my father’s pack members get settled in their new housing arrangements and trying to keep the peace from feuds between the packs.

“What do you want, Seth?”

“I just wanted to let you know that all of the housing arrangements are complete, and all pack members are in their new homes and/or new rooms.”

“Okay? Is that all?”

“Um, well, no,” he replied and closed the door behind him.

“If this has to do with my sister ...”

“It doesn’t. It has to do with Michaela and that vampire dude,” he said. This caught my interest. “I know you didn’t want me getting involved with it, but I advised Isaac and a few others where I thought he was hiding out while they were, you know, playing house together after she ran.”

“And?”

“They found a space between the mountains, and one of the female warriors, Loren, was able to squeeze through the opening. She found what looked to be a pile of ashes inside, and some female clothes which definitely belonged to Michaela.

“You think the vampire died from his injuries, and Michaela ran?”

“It would make sense. Her father is forever your prisoner in the dungeon, her mate is dead, and she’s a wanted fugitive of yours and your father’s. She couldn’t stay there forever. She would have figured out that we would eventually find her.”

“As long as she stays far away from me, Vivienne, and our family, then I don’t care where the fvck she goes. She’s a rogue now.”

“Don’t you want them to track her down? Bring her back to face judgment?”

“Why? So the Elders can just have her executed and be done with it? No. Death isn’t nearly a big enough punishment for her. I don’t care what she did to me; it’s what she did to Vivienne. I want her to suffer for the rest of her life, knowing that she will never have another mate again. Even if Claude isn’t dead and they’re on the run together, they have nowhere to go. His coven wants his heart on a platter, and what could she possibly accomplish as a rogue that can only travel by night? It doesn’t give her much to rely on.” Seth just nodded his head and turned to leave when my door swung open, and Andre walked in.

“Seth.”

“Beta.” Did I forget to mention that I stole Andre from Dorian and that he was pissed about it? Seth left us and closed the door.

“It is very barren here,” Andre mentioned as he looked around.

“Yeah, almost everything is out, and my new furniture should arrive in a few days. How are Dani and Monique adjusting?” I asked him.

“Better. I think it makes it easier on Dani and Monique because Dani can shimmer back to Desert Moon whenever she wants for playdates with Sawyer. And of course, she was able to get Allie to convince Dorian to release Derek and Christine to come here.”

“He what? What the hell? Why wasn’t I told that they were coming here!?”

“Dorian did not tell you?”

“NO!” I exclaimed in annoyance.

“Oh, well, now you know,” Andre replied, shrugging his shoulders.

“When do they get here?”

“Oh, they’re already here. Vivienne and Dani are showing them to their new room in the packhouse. Some of the other pack members aren’t very happy that there are newcomers who are being given one of the better rooms.”

“Oh my god, all childish bickering is going to drive me into an early grave.”

“I think it has to do more with the fact that there are non-wolves in the pack now,” Andre mentioned a little bitterly.

“What are you saying?”

“I am saying that the Red Mountain pack members are not very accepting of Vivienne, Dani, me, or Monique. Some of the pack members will not allow their pups to play with her. It is actually why Dani chooses to go to Desert Moon for playdates. Because at least Monique is loved and accepted there.”

“Son of a ...” I got up from my desk and went out into the main foyer of the packhouse. I was already annoyed with my father being unaccepting of Andre as my Beta, but the fact that even pack members were acting like assholes about it was not going to fly with me. Especially if they were going to make my niece an outcast. I mind-linked all of the pack members to meet outside of the packhouse—and I meant all of the pack members.

It took several minutes, but eventually, all if not most pack members were outside waiting for me. Vivienne was to my right, with Andre to my left and my



family behind me. Vivienne had about six weeks left in her pregnancy and still refused to tell me what we're having. I kept thinking one of the pups was, at the very least, a girl because everyone kept using analogies that have to do with daughters with me. I held onto her hand, and I could see some people roll their eyes at my gesture.

"Alpha, why have we been summoned?" a pack member whose name I have yet to learn asked.

"It has been brought to my attention that pack members have been openly discriminating against the Beta and his family, as well as your Luna!" I shouted. I saw some people avoid eye contact, looking off to the side. "I'm not going to sugarcoat anything with any of you. I chose Andre to be my Beta because he is ranked by blood and was also the Delta at Desert Moon! I asked him to be my Beta not only because he has the experience, but because he was the only one who was even remotely qualified for the job!" This statement made some heads turn in shock. "I didn't choose anyone from any of the two packs because I don't trust any of you! No one in either pack was of ranked blood! And even if you were, I still wouldn't have appointed you because you all turned a blind eye to the shit that Zachary did! I know for a fact that the older pack members knew who my biological father was and probably had the inkling that things with Zachary weren't what they seemed, and yet, you did nothing." I could see some guilty expressions on some of the older pack members' faces which only proved my theory. "And for those of you who don't know, not only is Andre the Beta of this pack, he's also your Luna's brother! Which makes his daughter my niece! You pack members that are openly mocking and outcasting Monique from playing with your pups had better cut that shit out now, or you will answer directly to me! If you're not happy with who your ranked members are, then feel free to leave. No one is going to stop you!"

"JEDEDIAH!" my father shouted from behind me.

"DON'T!" I shouted back. "This is my fvcking\*g pack! I'm the fvcking\*g Alpha now! You and the Elders agreed to it. You ran your pack the way you saw fit, well guess what? The merger between the two packs makes me Alpha of both, and I will run it how I see it. There will be no more discriminating, and there will be no more fighting over trivial bullshit like housing and pack duties. This pack was doomed from the moment Scanlan took over, but I'm here now, and I will make this pack better. But in order to do that, everyone has to work together. If you can't get in line, then get the fvck out! Those are your only choices on the matter. This is everyone's one and only second chance. If

you're caught discriminating, talking sh!t, or blatantly disrespecting anyone, especially that of a ranked member or their pups, you will be banished and deemed as a rogue! Do I make myself clear!?" No one answered and just looked around. "DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR!?" I roared.

"YES, ALPHA!" everyone replied in unison.

"Dismissed!" They all dispersed like c0ckroaches hit by light.

"Jedediah, we don't make threats against pack members like that," my father chastised me.

"And I've already told you that your opinion no longer matters. You had your chance to be Alpha. You had thirty fvcking\*g years to take this pack back, but you stayed in hiding and decided to give me up instead."

"Son, we already told you why we did what we did!? How many more times do we have to explain ourselves?"

"I don't care what your reasoning is. The fact of the matter is, you gave up—and you put all of the pressure on me, pressure that I didn't even know I was under. Your choices had consequences, and the only one who had to face them was me. You only decided to show up because I found out who I was from a complete stranger. You and everyone else had plenty of opportunities to put a stop to all of the madness. You, mom, Lynette, Duke, and Rayna. All of you abandoned your children to save your own a.sses."

"What would you have done had you been us!? Zachary would have k!lled your mother if I fought him!"

"I get why you chose to give up at first. Mom was pregnant with me. But after I was born, you could have easily come back and challenged him again. But instead, you chose to stay in hiding. Fine. That was your choice. But instead of just keeping us together and starting a new life, you chose to send me into the lion's den as a newborn because you wanted to get back at Scanlan. To try and teach him a lesson. Okay, fine. That makes sense. But what doesn't make sense was why it took you all so fvcking\*g long to show yourselves to me. You could have easily come to me when I turned 18 and told me everything. But none of you did. So, not only did my birth parents abandon me, but so did my adopted parents and the woman that I considered to be a mother to me. All of you abandoned me when I needed you all the most, and now you're here trying to tell me how to run my pack? No, that's not how this

sh!t works, Dad. I'm glad we're together now; I really am. And I'm ecstatic about having a little sister, but none of you have any right to tell me how to run Red Mountain as its Alpha. If I need advice on how to be a great Alpha, I'll ask Dorian."

Without waiting for a reply, I took Vivienne's hand, and we went back inside the packhouse with Andre following closely. I stopped mid-track and turned around to face them. "And my rules of discrimination apply to you as well, Dad. I don't give a flying fvck if you're unhappy that my Beta is a hybrid. Deal with it, or you can leave too." I saw the shock and hurt in his eyes, but I didn't care. I wasn't going to let us being family cloud my better judgment. Family doesn't get a free pass. If anything, I should be holding them to a higher standard.

"Mon Loup, you didn't have to be that harsh," Vivienne told me as we went up to our room.

"Yes, I did. I'm not going to stand for anyone disrespecting you or our family. That includes my family. You and our pups come first. And if Monique is being outcasted, then I know our children will be too, and I won't stand for it. I need to nip this in the bud right now before our pups are born. If my family and the pack members don't like it, well then, they can go and live as rogues or try and find packs that are just as closed-minded as they are," I replied.

"I just don't want to be the cause of further issues between you and the pack."

"Hey, hey, don't do that. I don't give a fvck about any of that. I wouldn't even be here if it weren't for you. You and our family are the most important thing to me. If you asked me right now to give this all up and go back to Desert Moon, I would go in a heartbeat. Gunner might not like it because he likes not having to answer to Bandit anymore, but I wouldn't care either way. I respect Dorian and Allie, and they never once made it feel like we were never welcome. You're the one who said you wanted to stay and be the Luna so we can help these people find balance and heal from the drama. That's what makes you the best Luna this pack has ever had. Even Luna Lynette gave up her duties as Luna to run away from her problems. She was selfish, and she left her daughter here to grow up with that bastard. Had she, at the very least, taken Michaela with her, then Michaela wouldn't be living her life as a wanted fugitive and mated to a psychopath. Everyone's choices have consequences, and sadly, our parents' choices have us reeling in those consequences. The only good thing that came out of this mess of bad choices was you and our babies," I said and pressed my forehead to her as I held her close to me. "You

are my home, Vivienne. It doesn't matter where we are. You will always be my home. I will go where you want us to."

"You are my home too, Mon Loup. But we are needed here. It is as you said, we can make this pack great," she whispered. I nodded my head and buried my face into her neck. I knew that being an Alpha wasn't going to be easy, but as long as I had Vivienne by my side, I knew that it wouldn't be impossible. Though I secretly hoped she would tell me, 'fvck all of this and let's go back to Desert Moon', I knew that she wouldn't. Hopefully, Dorian and the others are having better luck dealing with their demons than we are.

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 65 - Tips

{Dorian's P.O.V.}

"I don't fvcking\*g understand how one person can just up and disappear!?" Allie was fuming as she threw her arms above her head in utter frustration. It's been two months since Heather and a group of demons attacked her and Simba, which forced Allie into her early labor. Even with Abaddon searching for her and an open bounty motivating hundreds of other bounty hunters, Heather seemed to have vanished into thin air once again. Only this time, she wasn't even in the underworld—according to demons who came out of the woodworks for their chance at thirty million dollars.

Once the dust had settled after that day, Brandon returned from Red Mountain, and I lost Andre to Jed, which I still haven't really gotten over yet. Brandon was the one who brought it to our attention that Leah didn't have a vision of Allie being attacked. That was when Sin and Allie both realized that their powers hadn't worked that day either. Sin said she vaguely remembered that she couldn't hear anyone's thoughts immediately prior to the attack, and Allie never sensed anyone else with her and Simba by the koi pond. But, in spite of everything that happened, things seemed to be back to normal for them.

Allie reached out to Maxine and Claudia to come over, and they performed a check on their abilities. It turned out dark magic was used to block their abilities so that Heather would have the upper hand. Knowing that Allie and the others had powers as blessed wolves, Heather used her ties to Demonville to her advantage.

"I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news, Luna," Persephone told Allie.

"It's fine," Allie replied while putting her hand to her forehead and taking a breather. "It's not your fault. I just wish whoever was helping her evade you guys would just stop already. It's been more than a year since we've been trying to hunt her down. I almost just want to give up at this point. At the rate this is going, I'll end up dying of a fvcking\*g stressed-induced aneurysm."

"Well, we can't have that; you have a newborn to raise," Sinbad pointed out. Allie gave him a look, and he just held his hands up and smiled.

"Is this Abaddon guy ever going to show his face?" Allie asked.

"Abaddon prides himself on discretion, Luna. He doesn't want people to know his true identity because he is afraid that it can be used in the future for someone else's gain," Persephone answered.

"Most bounty hunters don't even use their real name, Gizmo," Mikey added. "That's why I went by the name of Razor since I got into the game."

"Imagine our surprise when we finally found out who you really are, old chum," Sinbad mentioned to him. After Mikey had reopened Heather's bounty that day, Sinbad and Persephone came down to lend a hand in hopes of tracking her down. That's when they discovered that Mikey was Razor. And now, they've pledged their alliance with our pack. Even their small pack of trained assassins work for me now. Having them associated with us gives my company a considerable advantage. I've never had assassins on the payroll, but having two of the best in the world, the amount of money they asked for was well worth it.

"Well, I feel that I can trust you guys with it. Especially since you guys never took the bribe from Maya last year."

"We would never. You saved our a.sses eight years ago. We owe it to you, Gamma," Persephone replied.

"Enough with the formalities. You guys are friends and allies. You can call me Mikey."

"No, that's just weird," she replied, making all of us smile. Just then, there was a small cry on the baby monitor.

“Welp, that’s her dirty diaper cry,” Allie announced and got up. She gave me a chaste kiss, grabbed the baby monitor, and left my office. As soon as the door closed, Persephone turned around and frowned.

“What’s wrong, darling?” Sinbad asked her.

“How the hell does she look like that after having given birth two months ago? It took me almost two years to get back to my pre-pregnancy weight!”

“You’re a mother!?” Mikey and I both exclaimed.

“Huh? Oh yeah, I guess we never told anyone,” she responded and pursed her lips together.

“Wait, where are your kids? How old are they?” Mikey asked.

“Our daughter is twelve, and she’s currently attending Ninja Academy in Okinawa,” Sinbad answered.

“To study martial arts?” I asked.

“No, silly Alpha. That’s just one of the many schools on the curriculum to become an assassin.”

“You’re training your twelve-year-old to become an assassin!? Isn’t that kind of early?”

“You think that’s early? She’s been training since she could walk. We put her into self-defense classes when she was three. She made it to third-degree black belt by the time she was ten. She started to display signs of aggression towards bullies, and that’s when we knew she would use her skills for good. So, we told her what we are, and she wanted in on the family business. When she turned eleven, we shipped her off to Japan to train at the Ninja Academy for two years,” Sinbad explained. Mikey and I just looked at each other speechless over what we just heard.

“Family ... business?” he repeated. They both nodded and smiled. I was about to say something else on the subject when my office door burst open.

“Allie!?” I stood up from my seat. “Baby, what’s wrong?” Allie turned around, and in walked a woman. She looked vaguely familiar to me, but I couldn’t place it.

“What the hell?” Persephone exclaimed and ran over to help the woman to the couch. She had been badly beaten. Her eye was swollen shut with black and blue bruising, her lip was cut and bleeding, and she was holding her side as if her ribs were broken. Her shoulder was dislocated, and part of her hair was missing from her head.

“Allie, what’s going on? Who is this?” I asked.

“That’s Aria,” Allie responded. I was taken aback and looked back at the woman spitting up blood on my couch.

“Aria? As in the demon chick who had kidnapped you a few months back?” Mikey confirmed. Allie nodded and looked over at Aria with so much concern.

“What happened to you?” Persephone asked, but Aria wouldn’t answer. She just looked away and tried to keep herself from spitting up more blood.

“Dorian, we have to help her,” Allie pleaded with me.

“How? She’s a demon. I don’t think Dr. Quinn can help,” I answered.

“Babe, she’s still a living person!” she shouted at me and walked over to Aria. She sat next to her and held her hand. Aria looked at her and appeared to be on the verge of completely breaking down. “Aria, what happened?” Allie asked softly.

“Gideon.”

“Gideon? He did this to you!?” Allie exclaimed. Aria nodded, and the tears she had been holding back fell from her eyes.

“Wait, are you ... crying?” Sinbad asked her. Aria looked up at him and quickly wiped her face.

“Why is that weird?” Mikey asked.

“Because if she’s a full demon, she wouldn’t have a soul. She would be incapable of crying,” he answered. We all looked at her, and she looked back

at Allie. That's when Allie suddenly c\*\*\*\*d her head to the side and lifted her brow.

"Why are you looking at me like that?"

"Oh my god ..." Allie gasped.

"What?" we all asked.

"Aria, you have a soul."

"What?"

"You have a soul, Aria. I can sense it when I look into your eyes. It wasn't there the last time we spoke, but it's there," Allie said to her, gripping her hands.

"But how? I'm a fully mid-level demon. I was born a demon."

"You're being rewarded," Sinbad explained.

"What do you mean?"

"I know several demons with souls. And from what they have told me, demons who use their dark magic for good are actually rewarded by the god or goddess of the species that benefited from their good deed. In your case, I believe whatever you did for the Luna, or this pack, has pleased the moon goddess, and she has given you a soul."

"I've never heard of such a thing," I said to him.

"Because it is quite rare for a demon to use their dark magic for good," he replied.

"Aria, look at me," Allie instructed her. We all turned our heads. "I think Selene has given you a soul as a peace offering and as a reward."

"What do you mean?"

"Remember, you told me that Selene created Heather specifically for Gideon. To uphold a promise she and the other high powers made to him eons ago?" Aria nodded her head. "I think she feels bad that she took away the man you fell in love with—Gideon. She wants to make it up to you by giving you a soul



so that you can find an actual mate. Someone who will actually love you, for you.”

“Is that my reward? A mate?”

“Having a mate who truly loves you is the most rewarding thing in life, Aria,” I told her and stared lovingly at Allie. Sinbad took Persephone’s hand, and Mikey just nodded.

“And it will be the best thing to throw in both Heather’s and Gideon’s faces,” Allie said with a smirk.

“How?”

“Think about it. You get a mate. An actual mate, who will want to fvck your brains out but actually do it out of love and want, rather than as a booty call. Something Heather has always wanted but never got to have. And Gideon, well, he will get to see what an amazing woman you truly are, someone that he’s never going to be able to have again. Especially not after hurting you this way. I cannot believe he physically put his hands on you like this!” Allie shouted, looking her over once more.

“He didn’t.”

“What?”

“He didn’t ... put his hands on me, anyway,” Aria said while looking down as she started to tremble. I immediately saw Allie’s body tense, and her eyes flickered black back to their light brown.

“Oh ... my ... god ... How many?”

“Allie, please—”

“HOW MANY!?”

“Half a dozen, give or take,” Aria whispered.

“And he just allowed it to happen?”

“He ordered it.” Allie’s jaw dropped to the floor.

“Allie?” I called out to her, she looked in my direction, and her eyes were nothing but a black abyss. “Baby, what’s wrong?”

“He ordered her to be ... gan ... gang ... Oh my god, I can’t even say it!”

“That’s it. Everyone with testicles, out!” Persephone shouted and pointed towards the door.

“This is my office!” I insisted.

“Dorian!” Allie shouted at me.

“Fine.” I grabbed the baby monitor from Allie, and we guys left my office to let the women do damage control. When we made it to the hallway, the door was immediately shut in our faces, and I turned to Mikey and Sinbad.

“Was Gizmo about to say what I think she was about to say?” Mikey asked. I nodded my head.

“Okay, demon or not, that’s fvckingd up. Who orders their subordinates to do that to another subordinate, and a woman at that!?” Sinbad questioned. I knew that this would be a touchy subject for Allie, given her past, but if there was one person who could get through to Aria, it would be Allie. Demon or not, no one deserved to be hurt that way.

“We need to find Heather and k!!l her,” I told them.

“The mark,” Mikey said to me. I nodded.

“What mark?” Sinbad asked.

“Before Heather became his human b\*\*\*h, she marked Gideon, the demon king. He bears the mark of a werewolf on his neck. But according to Aria, it ties his soul to Heather’s, the same way it ties mates together. If Heather dies, we’re told that Gideon will die alongside her,” Mikey explained.

“Wait, what? Why didn’t you tell us this before!?”

“Because of that demon in there. Aria is in love with Gideon, and she didn’t want us k!!ling Heather until we found a way to get rid of her mark on him. But given what he’s done, I don’t think Aria is going to have us wait anymore,” I explained. He was about to respond when the door flew up open, and Allie was standing before us.

“You’re right about that,” she announced. “Aria doesn’t want us to wait anymore. So, go find that b\*\*\*h Heather, and klll her!”

“But we can’t even find her. Does Aria know where she is?” Sinbad asked.

“I know where she is,” someone said. Allie looked in between us, and her eyes widened like saucers. We turned around and saw an unknown man standing down the hall.

“What the fvck? Who the fvck are you? And how the fvck did you get into my house!?” I asked.

“Whoa,” Allie blurted out in awe. I turned around, and I could have sworn she had hearts in her eyes.

“What’s going o—Hello!” Persephone said from behind her. Sinbad turned to her in shock. “Who ... is that?” she asked.

“My apologies for intruding, but I felt that what I needed to say couldn’t be done via email or phone call. You never know who is listening these days, and I think your phones have been compromised,” the unknown man informed us.

“Again, who the fvck are you?” I asked.

“Greetings, my name is Uriel, but I believe that you all know me as Abaddon.”

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 66 - Tips

{Allie’s P.O.V.}

I had to be in some kind of wild fantasy because there was no way that the guy standing down the hall could be real. In my eyes, I always thought that Dorian would be the most gorgeous man to ever exist. Of course, that didn’t mean that I never considered other men to be good-looking. There was nothing wrong with appreciating a handsome face, nice physique, and a good personality. But ever since I met Dorian, no man was ever considered gorgeous in my eyes—until this hunk of a man showed up in our house. He had to be at least 6’10” and was as large as Dorian, maybe even larger. He had long, burgundy hair that was tied in a ponytail and had gold eyes. This guy was the definition of drop-dead gorgeous.

“You’re Abaddon!?” Mikey questioned, clearly shocked.

"I apologize for the intrusion, but given the amount of time that has passed, I figured that you would want to hear what I have to say in person," he replied.

"What are you?" I asked, point-blank. "You're not a werewolf, and you're not a demon. Though, I was told you're a demon bounty hunter."

"Ah, yes, a well-known misconception. I am a bounty hunter that specifically targets demons and warlocks. And in regards to what I am, I am a—"

"URIEL!?!!" We all looked past him while he turned around.

"Anna?"

"AHHH!!!" Anna squealed at the top of her lungs and jumped into his arms. Suddenly, wings then expanded and encased the two of them like a cocoon.

"Well, I guess that answers that question," Persephone said. A sudden snarl in the hallway caught everyone's attention, and it was none other than Sly.

"GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF MY MATE!" Sly growled.

"Mate?" Uriel repeated and looked down at Anna.

"Calm down, love," Anna said to Sly and stepped away from Uriel, whose wings retracted. "Sylvester, this is my childhood friend from Heaven. I haven't seen him in eons."

"More like you've known me since you were a child. I'm still older than you," Uriel commented.

"And by eons, you mean how long?" I asked.

"Oh, gosh, what has it been? At least five or six hundred years?" Anna answered.

"WHAT!?" we all exclaimed in unison.

"Yes, unfortunately, I was exiled from Heaven," Uriel explained.

"Wait, so you're a fallen angel?" Sinbad questioned.

"I am."

“How do you still have your wings? I was told that fallen angels lose their wings,” Persephone mentioned.

“Not all fallen angels lose their wings. Most just lose their halo. I was able to keep my wings, but I lost my halo.”

“Why are you a fallen angel?” Mikey wasn’t going to let that detail fall through the cracks.

“Because I committed murder in Heaven.”

“Uriel!” Anna cried out.

“It’s okay, Anna. I’m not ashamed of it. Though it is a sin, I do not regret killing him. He deserved it ten times over.”

“Allie?” I turned around to see Aria on her feet by the door.

“Aria, you shouldn’t be standing,” I scolded her. Persephone and I grabbed her arms to keep her steady and led her back into Dorian’s office when she stopped us.

“Who is that?” she asked while staring directly at Uriel.

“A friend. He’s here to help us find Heather,” Persephone explained.

“What’s his name?”

“Uriel,” I answered, but as soon as I did, she pulled her arms from us and launched an energy ball at him, hitting him square in the chest. “ARIA!! WHAT THE fvck!?!”

“YOU BROUGHT A DEMON BOUNTY HUNTER HERE!?! I THOUGHT I COULD TRUST YOU!” she screamed at me.

“Aria, he’s not here for you! Persephone just told you he’s here to help us find Heather!”

“YOU’RE LYING!!!” she accused me before shoving me away. But in doing so, she lost her footing and fell over.

“Uriel, are you okay!?” Anna exclaimed with worry.

"I'm fine. Was I just hit with a demonic energy ball?"

"Allie, why is there a demon in the packhouse!?" Anna demanded and stood in front of Uriel protectively.

"She's a friend!" I replied.

"YOU CAN'T BE FRIENDS WITH A DEMON!" Anna shouted. "They're vile, deceiving, and evil!"

"YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, YOU STUPID ANGEL! YOU THINK THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE FROM HEAVEN THAT YOU'RE BETTER THAN US!" Aria screamed. "And you!" she pointed at Uriel. "An angel, fallen from heaven, betrayed by your own father. Condemned to do his bidding, day in and day out. Vanquishing demons without cause!"

"Demons are the epitome of evil and must be rid from this world!" Uriel spewed as he stood to his feet, his wings in full expansion along with Anna's. Aria had more energy balls in her palms, and an all-out war was about to commence in the middle of our hallway.

"ENOUGH!!!" Dorian roared, shaking the entire packhouse. Everyone was frozen in their spot. Sinbad, Persephone, and Sly had their heads bowed in fear while I closed my eyes to stop my ears from ringing. Just then, I heard Katrina's cries on the baby monitor.

"Great, you woke her up with your massive roar, Dorian," I sneered at him. I grabbed the baby monitor and went to the nursery three doors down. I picked up Katrina and put her into the convertible carrier, making sure she was secure before I went back out into the hallway. "If anyone even so much as throws a pebble in this house while my baby is present, I will make your lives a living hell, got it!?" I growled at everyone. Dorian glared at everyone and put his hand on Katrina's head to make sure she was okay.

"Everyone in my office, now," Dorian commanded.

"Forget it. I'm not going to be in the same room with a bounty hunter!" Aria spat.

“Kind of late for that. I’m a bounty hunter, and Persephone and Sinbad are assassins,” Mikey said nonchalantly.

“No one wants you here anyway! Go back to Hell where you belong!” Anna snapped.

“ENOUGH!” I shouted at them. Katrina stirred in the carrier, and I bounced her a few times to calm her down. “Aria, sit your a.ss down,” I gritted my teeth. “Anna, Aria is my friend and my guest. And if you haven’t already noticed, she’s severely injured. I don’t care what you have to say about demons. This is my house, and you will learn to respect my guests and my friends. As an angel, I would expect you to show more empathy towards someone who is injured and in need of help. Now, either you can come in and sit down in silence, or you and Sly can go about your merry way.”

“But Uriel ...”

“Is here on official pack business. Not a social call,” I cut her off. Anna nodded and sat down with Sly in the corner, away from Aria, who went to the opposite corner by Persephone.

“If everyone has calmed down, let’s get down to business. Abad ... I mean, Uriel, you said that you know where we can find Heather?” Dorian continued. Uriel looked over at Aria before answering.

“Yes, Alpha Shaw. But before we get into that, I need to let you know that it seems your phones and emails have been compromised.”

“What?”

“The several emails that I have received from you and your associates have been littered with spyware and malware,” Uriel said. He looked around for a second and then made a gesture for a pen and paper. Dorian handed him a notepad and a pen. Uriel scribbled something down and then passed it back to Dorian. I peered over his shoulder from the side and saw what was written.

I also think there are listening devices in this office and around your packhouse.

I looked over at Dorian, and he tossed the notepad to Mikey. He read it once over, and his eyes immediately clouded over. About a minute later, Sully and Giles came into the office with some kind of device in their hands. Giles put

his finger over his lips and told all of us to keep quiet. They went around the office and started to wave a wand all over.

After about twenty minutes, a stack of devices was sitting on Dorian's desk. I was appalled at the fact that someone had found their way in here and planted a bunch of cameras and microphones all over the place without us knowing. Sully and Giles made sure that they were completely disabled before giving us the all-clear.

"Oh my god," I said, thoroughly disturbed. "How many devices are here?"

"Four cameras and three microphones with recorders," Sully answered, putting all of them into lead boxes.

"Sully, you and Giles get a team together and search the entire packhouse. There's no telling how many have been hidden. According to our guest here, these aren't the only devices that the culprits planted."

"Yes, Alpha," they both responded and turned to leave.

"Check this floor first!" I instructed them. "My office, the twins' room, and the nursery. With Heather's threat against our children, we can't leave it up to chance that she has been watching them."

"Yes, Luna." They left the office, and I looked over at Dorian, who was deep in thought.

"Babe, how can someone put all of this crap in here without us knowing!?"

"This could have happened while I was gone helping Jed or while you were recovering in the hospital. This entire floor would have been unprotected because the twins were with my parents, and we were in the hospital with Katrina."

"Alpha, may I ask why you're after a human?" Uriel inquired. We all looked at him and then at each other.

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"Oh, I see," Uriel said after we had explained the situation with Heather and Gideon. Uriel turned to Aria, who had been quiet the entire time. "I apologize for my outburst earlier. It appears that I have misjudged you, Aria."



“Whatever.”

“Aria,” I scolded her.

“What?”

“You threw an energy ball at him unprovoked! Which was totally uncalled for, by the way,” I gritted my teeth.

“Fine. I guess I’m sorry for throwing an energy ball at you,” Aria gave a half-assed apology.

“You know, I thought you having a soul now would mean you would be a little nicer to others,” I chastised her.

“You have a soul!?” Anna exclaimed.

“Yeah, do you have a problem with that?” Aria snapped.

“How can a demon have a soul!?”

“Because she is a demon who has used her powers for good or has done a good deed. She’s been rewarded by the moon goddess,” Sinbad answered her. Anna huffed in disbelief.

“Anna, enough,” Uriel told her sternly. “What the werewolf goddess chooses to do with her powers is not our place to judge. If Aria did something that resulted in her receiving a soul, then we must show her kindness and respect as angels. She’s not just a demon, but a living creature. And as angels, we are to love all creatures.”

“But Uriel!”

“I said enough. If you don’t like it, then you and your mate can leave. I still have business to discuss here.” Anna huffed and stormed out of the office. Sly looked at her retreating form and then back at us.

“I’m sorry, I’ll talk to her. I guess she’s picking up on bad manners after being on Earth a little too long,” Sly mentioned before jogging after her, closing the door behind him.

“Don’t be too angry with Anna. She holds a grudge against demons. Angels and demons have never really gotten along. And she’s a young angel who’s

always been a little closed-minded when it comes to extenuating circumstances,” Uriel defended.

“I find that hard to believe since she’s the one who convinced me to stop being so hard on people over mistakes they make,” I retorted.

“My guess is that she was a little biased because of Sly,” Mikey replied.

“Okay, enough of that. Let’s get back down to business. Uriel, where do you believe that Heather is hiding?” Dorian asked, trying to get us back on topic. Uriel’s eyes immediately shifted downward. I furrowed my brows and looked at Dorian, who had the same confused expression I did.

“Why are you looking down?” Sinbad asked.

“She’s not in the underworld if that’s what you’re suggesting,” Aria said.

“I don’t mean the underworld. Think further down,” Uriel responded almost cryptically.

“Further down?” Dorian questioned, sounding confused.

“Wait, are you telling us she’s literally in Hell!?” I asked. My raise in tone stirred Katrina but not enough to wake her.

“Allie, give her to me,” Dorian said and unbuckled the carrier from my shoulders. As soon as she was in arms, Katrina snuggled her face into his chest and fell right back asleep.

“Awww ...” Persephone cooed, and I think I saw Aria smile.

“Ugh, another Daddy’s girl. Why can’t my girls love me the way they love Dorian?” I whined.

“Hey, be glad that your kids gravitate towards him. They won’t always come to you when they want something then,” Persephone consoled me. I had to admit; she had a point.

“To answer your question, Luna, yes, I am saying that Heather is in Hell,” Uriel confirmed, trying to get the conversation back on track.

“So, she’s dead?!” I asked disappointedly.

“Not necessarily,” Aria replied, and we all looked at her. “Hell is a relative term when it comes to ... down there. There’s the hell for humans that is run by the fallen angel Lucifer, but there is also hell for demons. After demons and warlocks are vanquished, they’re sent to their very own hell.”

“So, what, demons get trapped and relive their deaths over and over the way human souls do when they go to Hell?” I asked.

“No ... Well, kind of sort of, yes. It’s really hard to explain. But the way demons live and die is very different from that of a human or even other supernatural species. The underworld is our home, essentially, but it’s a supernatural hell, to be quite honest. But it doesn’t look like it. Because demons and warlocks, and even some other dark magic species live in the underworld, we turned into our very own ... home. It looks like a suburban neighborhood. It has its own gateways to Earth and back. Those come in handy for young demons who can’t quite shimmer or blink long distances. It’s how Heather was able to go to and from Earth while living in the underworld. After all, the underworld is another realm, similar to that of limbo. It’s where the remains of a demon or warlock are sent to determine if they spend their eternity reliving their vanquish or disintegrate into nothing. If one is unlucky enough to relive their vanquish, they’re sent to demon hell, and that’s where Uriel is saying that Heather is.”

“You just said she wasn’t necessarily dead,” Mikey pointed out.

“You don’t have to die to go to demon hell,” Uriel said.

“Especially not if Gideon goes there himself.”

“What? Are you saying that Gideon can literally go to and from Hell whenever he wants?!” I ululated.

“He’s the Demon King. He can do whatever he wants. He does it all the time,” Aria replied.

“Why would he take Heather down there?” Sinbad asked.

“He’s trying to protect her.”

“Why!?” I asked.

“Because he loves her.”

“WHAT?!”

“Gideon loves Heather. When he found out what she did to you, his anger became ravenous. But instead of getting mad at her, he got mad at me. He said that my jealousy is what made Heather do those things and why her life was now in danger.”

“Why did he blame you?” Uriel asked with legitimate concern.

“The day before she had attacked you, Allie, I had told Gideon what you told me. About your theory that Heather could no longer provide him an heir because of the abortion she had. He didn’t believe me. I begged him to cut his losses and choose me so that we could find a witch to get rid of her mark on him and essentially save his life, but he told me to never say those words ever again. That continuously sleeping with me was the biggest mistake he had ever made, and that he would never touch me again. Heather had been eavesdropping on our conversation.” I looked over at Dorian, and he just rolled his eyes.

“Some bad habits just can’t be broken,” was all I commented on that.

“The next day, she found a dark sorcerer to cast a spell on you and your friends to prevent your abilities from working for a few hours. She recruited a bunch of demons and then attacked you.”

“I guess Max and Claudia were right,” Dorian told me, and I nodded.

“Wait, you said she got a bunch of demons together?” Mikey asked.

“Yeah, at least a dozen. Why?”

“Because she only had three with her when she attacked Allie and Simba,” Dorian responded.

“And according to Simba, after he killed the three demons, Heather retreated,” Mikey added.

“Aria, when Heather returned to the underworld, did those other demons go back with her?” I asked.

“Not that I know of. When she returned, she was alone from what I heard. Everyone assumed all of the demons were vanquished.” Dorian, Mikey, and I looked at each other.

“Dorian, if they weren’t killed ...” Mikey started.

“And they didn’t go back with Heather ...” I continued.

“Then where the fvck are these demons?”

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 67 - Tips

{Jedediah’s P.O.V.}

“Are you sure, Dorian?”

“Yes, you stay with your pack. As much as I would love to have you here helping out, Viv is due soon. And given that it’s twins, it may happen even sooner than you think.”

“Dammit, I knew I shouldn’t have left.”

“Stop it, Jed. You’re the rightful Alpha of Red Mountain. You take care of your pack. If I need you, I will call you. I promise.”

“You better.”

“Huh? Oh, Allie says to give Viv her love and that she can’t wait to meet the twins.”

“I will deliver the message. You take care.”

“You too, Jed.” I hung up the phone with Dorian and looked over at Andre, Viv, and Dani, who were staring at me anxiously.

“Well!?” they all shouted in unison.

“Still no luck, but according to Abaddon, or Uriel as Dorian referred to him, Heather may be in demon hell?” I repeated with uncertainty.

“WHAT?! How?!” Dani exclaimed.

“Is she dead?” Andre asked.

“No. According to Aria, Gideon can travel to and from there without repercussions, and it seems that he took Heather there to keep her safe from Dorian. With her having attacked Allie that way and almost costing them Katrina, Allie is showing no mercy. Plus, Gideon seems to have shown his true colors to Aria, and she’s no longer willing to keep him safe from them. Especially now that she has a soul.”

“What? A demon has a soul?” Vivienne repeated.

“Yup. Sinbad thinks it’s a reward from the moon goddess. For using her dark magic for good,” I answered.

“What good? She’s a demon. What good could she possibly do?!” Dani asked, her voice full of disgust.

“I asked the same thing, and Dorian thinks it’s when Aria had kidnapped Allie. Instead of killing her, she gave her information that could possibly help. And she brought her back in one piece. That, and Allie thinks the moon goddess is trying to make amends with Aria. Because she’s the one who technically created an impure wolf for Gideon, who just happened to be Heather.”

“Make amends? So, your goddess thinks that she owes a demon because she basically broke up her s\*\*\*\*l relationship between her and the Demon King?” Dani asked.

“Pretty much,” I replied. Dani huffed and rolled her eyes. Andre, Vivienne, and I didn’t miss the not-so-subtle hatred coming from Dani.

“Mon Cherie, what is the matter?” Andre asked her.

“I don’t like demons, okay!? Demons are vile, sadistic creatures. They think they own all of the dark supernatural and try to destroy them if they don’t succ.umb to their every will and command!”

“Okay ...” I said, giving Andre a puzzled look.

“Daniella, Aria is not Harry.”

“DON’T SAY HIS NAME IN FRONT OF ME!” Dani screamed.

“Harry? The warlock that followed you home that one time?” I asked. “What does he have to do with this?”

“Who is Harry?” Vivienne asked.

“NO ONE!” Dani shouted at her. “MIND YOUR fvcking\*g BUSINESS, VIVIENNE!”

“DANI!!!” I roared, slamming my hands on top of the desk. “WATCH WHO YOU’RE TALKING TO!”

“Mon Loup, it’s okay,” Vivienne said, putting her hand on my chest to push me down to my seat.

“No, it’s not! Dani, I don’t care if Vivienne is your sister-in-law, she’s still your Luna, and you will show her respect! Whatever issues or grudges you have with your ex-warlock lover are between you and him. DO NOT take your anger out on Vivienne!”

“What is with all of the screaming!?” Paulie shouted while running into my office.

“Paulie, don’t get involved! This doesn’t concern you!” I shouted at her.

“HEY! Don’t talk to me like that! I’m not just some Omega you can command. I’m your sister, and I’m also an Alpha by blood!”

“Don’t test my fvcking\*g patience right now, Paulie! Get the fvck out!”

“NO! God, you’ve been such an asshole since you became the Alpha of this pack! You threatened everyone just a few days ago, and now, every time there is a small infraction, you want to banish the person. That’s not how you lead a pack, Jed!”

“And how the fvck would you know how to run a pack!? The last I checked, you were away from your own pack stalking my mate and me for months!”

“THAT WAS FOR YOUR PROTECTION! AND THE LAST I CHECKED, I GAVE YOU INFORMATION TO HELP YOU TAKE DOWN THAT b\*\*\*h MICHAELA AND HER FATHER!”

“I DIDN’T ASK FOR YOUR HELP! I FOUND VIVIENNE IN TIME, AND I WOULD HAVE EVENTUALLY FIGURED OUT THE sh!t MICHAELA WAS DOING WITH CLAUDE!”

“Right, after she and her father k!lled all of you first and butchered your unborn pups,” Paulie mocked.

“PAULETTE!” I roared, shaking the entire office. “I swear if you don’t shut the fvck up ...”

“What, are you going to threaten to banish me too? It wouldn’t be surprising. That’s all you ever fvcking\*g do! Threaten to banish everyone. Why the fvck did you come back here, anyway!? All you’re doing is running this pack into the ground!”

“GOD DAMMIT, PAULETTE!” I slammed my fists again while getting up, shattering the glass on top of my desk.

“JEDEDIAH, DO NOT SPEAK TO YOUR SISTER THAT WAY!” I heard my mother scream from the door.

“Why don’t all of you stop getting involved! Your advice isn’t wanted or needed, Mom!” I shouted at her.

“JEDEDIAH!!!” my father roared.

“Do you honestly expect me to be scared of you!?” I taunted him. “What right do you have to command me!?” I pointed and got into his face.

“You need to watch your tone with me, boy. I’m still your father, and I will beat you senseless if you continue to disrespect me.”

“Are you threatening your Alpha?” I growled.

“I’m your father before you’re my Alpha!” he shouted while shoving me back.

“Bart!” my mother shouted. I didn’t even hesitate to shove him back. I was getting sick of my family b.utting into my business where their opinions weren’t even wanted or needed.

“MON LOUP!” I heard Vivienne call out to me.



“Don’t fvcking\*g touch me! You have no right to lay a finger on me!” I shouted at my father and pointed my finger at his face again. He slapped my hand away with one hand before slapping me across with the other. Gunner didn’t take too kindly to that and immediately took over. I shifted first, then my father did, and an all-out b.rawl was about to ensue. But before I knew it, Gunner was being tackled to the ground and not by my father. Gunner moved his face to see who had tackled him, and that’s when I saw very familiar emerald green eyes. Bandit got into Gunner’s face, and he was snarling at him. Even though Dorian and I couldn’t mind link anymore, Bandit and Gunner had a friendship and mutual understanding that allowed them to communicate without us.

I felt Gunner give me back control, and only then did I feel Bandit get off. I shifted back, and so did he. I looked over to see that Eddie and Mitch had subdued my father. After a minute or so, they all calmed down and shifted back as well.

“What the fvck are you doing here?” I asked Dorian. I put on some shorts and handed him a pair.

“Dani shimmered to Allie and me, and told us that you were acting like a pompous d!ck and that you and your dad were about to fvcking\*g k!ll each other!” he shouted in my face. “WHAT THE fvck IS WRONG WITH YOU!?”

“He’s power-hungry! That’s what’s fvcking\*g wrong with him!”

“Paulie shut the fvck u—” Before I could even finish what I was going to say, I felt a punch to the face—and a hard one at that. It knocked me to the floor. I grabbed my jaw and looked up to see Dorian with his fist at his side and him staring daggers at me.

“Jed, I literally just told you to take care of your pack. And this is the sh!t that I witness with my own eyes!?” I clicked my jaw and looked down at the floor. I felt a small hand on my shoulder and knew that it was Vivienne.

“Andre, what the fvck happened, dude!?” Brandon asked him.

“Things escalated fairly quickly after Jed hung up with Dorian a few minutes ago. It all started when Dani screamed at Vivienne when she had asked about Harry.”

“Why did that a.ssh0le come up in conversation?” Mikey asked.

“We were talking about Aria getting a soul and why the moon goddess gave her one. I think Dani’s unresolved issues triggered her, and things just blew up from there.”

“Then I walked into a shouting match between Dani and my brother. I tried to de-escalate things, but then my brother blew up at me,” Paulie inserted herself into the conversation.

“Then Jed’s parents got involved, and that’s when the fight between him and his dad started,” Dani concluded.

“Alpha Shaw, though I appreciate you coming all this way, this has nothing to do with you or your pack. Personally, Dani should not have gotten you involved. She has no right to make those kinds of decisions. I kindly ask you to leave at once,” my father said to him.

“That’s not your call to make! And Dani has every right to make those decisions! You don’t!” I shouted at him from the floor and got to my feet. “If anyone should leave, it should be you, Bartholomew Ricard!” I saw the hurt flash in his eyes when I refused to call him Dad. “Get the fvck out of my office!” I snarled. He took my mother’s hand and dragged her out.

“You’re such a d!ck!” Paulie cried and ran after them while slamming the door behind her. I let out a frustrated sigh and slumped back in my chair.

“What the fvck happened to the table?” Mikey asked, finally noticing all of the glass everywhere.

“Jed broke it when his family decided to try and break apart our squabble,” Dani answered and sat down as well. I felt Dorian’s eyes on me, which was why I didn’t make eye contact with him.

“Jed, seriously, what has gotten into you, man? This is the hundredth time Dani has either came to Desert Moon or texted Allie about you biting people’s heads off for.” I looked over at Dani, who immediately avoided eye contact.

“I don’t want this, man!” I said, jumping to my feet and walking around him to the window. “I don’t want to be Alpha!”

“Why not? It’s your birthright,” Brandon asked. I looked over my shoulder at them. I missed being with them—they were my pack, not Red Mountain.

“I missed the way things were! I was happy being an Omega and living in our townhouse at Desert Moon. Which doesn’t even exist anymore because of that fvcker Claude. But this isn’t what I’m used to. I’m not a leader.”

“Mon Loup?” I turned to face Vivienne, and I could see the hurt and sorrow in her eyes.

“No, Mon Coeur, don’t blame yourself,” I told her as I walked over and hugged her. “This isn’t your fault.”

“But I am the one that wanted to be Luna of this pack,” she said into my shoulders and started to sob.

“And I’m the one that agreed to come here and fight for the Alpha title, which hasn’t exactly happened but still. It was a decision we made together. I’m just ... starting to second guess if it was the right call or not.”

“This pack s.ucks!” Dani blurted out suddenly. We all turned to face her. “Seriously. This pack fvcking\*g s.ucks. Everyone is old-school and stereotypical a.ssh0les. Monique is still being outcasted by the kids her age, and all she does is cry in her room now. She used to be a happy child because she had friends who loved her, for she is. And she had her mate with her. She looks for Sawyer all the time now. The other day, she even asked me when we could go back home. When I told her this was our home, all she did was pout and whimper. Even with Christine and Derek here, she’s the same outgoing little girl she was before. The pack members are so fvcking\*g closed-minded about having a vampire baby in their pack that they’re treating her like she’s some kind of monster. One of the older pups even told her she hoped she got staked in her sleep! I mean, who fvcking\*g says that to a THREE-YEAR-OLD!”

“WHAT!?!” we all yelled out in surprise. Dani immediately teared up and buried her face into Andre’s chest.

“My baby girl shouldn’t be bullied that way! She’s just a toddler! But the parents here won’t accept her! They don’t even accept Andre as the Beta or Vivienne as the Luna! It doesn’t matter how much Jed threatens to banish them for insubordination! They still do it!”

“Why didn’t you tell me this sooner!?” I asked her.

“What difference does it make! They see it as empty threats because your father keeps inserting himself into the rules you’re making!”

“What are you talking about?” I asked her.

“I overheard some of the pack members complaining to your dad. The ones who came with him said that they don’t trust you being Alpha and don’t “appreciate” you making threats like that. Your dad told them that if you did banish them, that he could overrule your decision.”

“That’s not how it works, Dani,” Dorian told her.

“Don’t you think I know that!? Everyone knows that! But Jed’s dad is undermining him behind his back, which is making it harder on all of us! THIS PACK fvcking\*g SUCKS!” she cried even harder. “He even told the pack doctor to stop supplying us bl00d.”

“HE WHAT!?” I bellowed with a mixture of shock and rage. I looked over at Vivienne, who had lowered her head. “Vivienne, did you know about this?” I asked her calmly. She closed her eyes. With tears streaming down her face, she nodded her head.

“Is he insane!? Does he not realize that you guys have to feed on bl00d to keep your thirst at bay!?” Brandon exclaimed in disbelief.

“The pack doctor told me that Bart had said if we care about the pack and its well-being, that we would figure it out. And that the pack doesn’t have the money to be buying bl00d and keep it in cold storage for us, nor should the pack members be asked to volunteer to donate,” Dani cried. I thought about what Dani was saying, and something suddenly clicked in my brain.

“Is that why Seth found a dead bison at the base of the mountain the other day?” I asked Andre, and he nodded his head.

“What the fvck? You guys had to feed on livestock!?” Dorian growled.

“Did Monique?” Brandon started to ask, but Dani shook her head.

“We fed on the Bison. Andre, Viv, and I. I drank a little more and then had the doctor extract some bl00d from me so I could feed Monique. I didn’t want to traumatize her.”

“That’s it, I’ve had it with my father,” I said and stood to my feet. “Him undermining me is one thing, but him making pack-altering decisions like that without even saying one word to me is the final straw. My pups are going to be a quarter vampire. His grandpups. Does he fvcking\*g expect them to feed off livestock too!?” I stomped to the door, and as soon as I grabbed the handle to open it, I heard a small whimper behind me. I turned around to see Vivienne’s face contort in pain. “Mon Coeur?”

“Vivienne?” Andre rushed to her side. As soon as he did, I heard a splash.

“Viv, did you spill something?” Mikey asked. We all looked down on the floor and saw a small puddle between her legs.

“Umm ... I think my water broke.”

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 68 - Tips

{Vivienne’s P.O.V.}

“It’s too early! It’s too early!” I cried as I was being carried to the pack hospital. “I still have three weeks left!”

“You’re having twins, Vivienne. That’s why they’re coming early,” I heard Dorian shout from behind. “Don’t worry, they’re going to be perfectly healthy. Allie gave birth a full month early with our twins,” he tried to reassure me. I knew what he was saying was true, as Dr. Quinn had mentioned it to me a few times before we left Desert Moon, but I didn’t expect it to be this early.

“Alexandre, I need maman!”

“I have already sent an email to père. They should be here soon,” he replied. I nodded my head and tried to concentrate on my breathing. When we finally reached the pack hospital, or I should say pack clinic, we found that there was no one at the reception desk.

“What the fvck!? Where is everybody!?” J.D. shouted.

“There’s not even a single nurse here!” I heard Brandon shout as well.

“OOOHH!!!” I cried as I felt a contraction hit me. I dug my nails into J.D.’s shoulder, but he didn’t even flinch.

“Where the fvck is the staff!?” I heard him growl. When the contraction subsided, I looked up at him and saw that his eyes were clouded. I knew that he was linking someone, and I didn’t care who. I really just wanted to lie down and change into something that wasn’t covered in bodily fluids.

“Alpha! We are so sorry!” I heard someone call out from behind. J.D. turned around with me in his arms, and there stood the pack doctor and two nurses.

“Why is there no one here!?” he asked them.

“There was a meeting called by your father,” one of them replied.

“Meeting!? What right does he have to call a pack meeting!?” I heard Dorian ask.

“Nevermind that, get a room for your Luna ready! She’s in active labor!” Dani yelled. They didn’t respond to her but went to get a room ready. J.D. followed them and placed me gently on the bed. Everyone stayed outside of the room while J.D. and Dani helped me change into a hospital gown. The gown was cheap and felt like it was made of papier-mâché. Is this what they gave all patients?

As soon as I was finished changing, the doctor and the nurses were getting all of the machines set up. Watching them work, however, was making me even more nervous. They didn’t seem to be in that much of a hurry.

“What is taking so long!?” Dani shouted at them. “She should have been hooked up to a fetal heart monitor like ten minutes ago!”

“We’re sorry, but we were just caught off guard with her sudden labor, that we didn’t have time to prep for it,” one of the nurses responded nonchalantly. I looked over at her and then at Dani, who seemed to be in complete shock.

“Didn’t have time to prepare!? YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME! We’ve been here for months! A delivery room for your LUNA should have been prepped WEEKS ago! She’s about to give birth to the future of this pack, for crying out loud! Or do you not give a fvck about that!?”

“Dani, stop yelling. You’re giving me a headache,” I told her. “Let them do their jobs.”

“Assuming they know how to,” she muttered under her breath. I reached out my hand for hers, and she took it without hesitation. Just then, I saw a puff of blue smoke in my peripherals.

“Maman! Papa!” I cried out.

“Oh, my sweet bébé, are you okay?” my mother asked while caressing my cheeks and tucking my hair behind my ear. I saw my father hide in the corner.

“Oh sh!t, let me get the curtains for you, Adrian,” Dani said and rushed to the window. She closed the curtain closest to my father so he could at least come over to me. I didn’t miss the look of fear and disgust from the nurses when they saw my parents arrive in the hospital room. Without saying a word, my father kissed my forehead and smiled. He walked past the nurses and doctor and quietly left my hospital room.

After fumbling with the wires and machines, I was finally hooked up to everything they needed to monitor the pups and me. Unfortunately, I knew that my labor would be long and intense, but I was glad that I had Dani and my mother with me. J.D. came and went throughout my labor to check in with everyone, and I didn’t miss the fact that he reprimanded the hospital staff. Though, this time I really couldn’t blame him for being angry. Not only that, but I heard him screaming at his family. His mother wanted to be in the room with me, but I had refused, and she felt that she could pull rank on me. That set J.D. off, on top of the pack meeting Bart had called without his knowledge.

“Vivienne?” I looked at my mother, who was wiping the sweat from my forehead. “You are not happy here.”

“Maman, I don’t know what you’re talking about. I’m just tired from this pregnancy,” I lied.

“Do not lie to me, mon bébé, I know you. And don’t think I didn’t notice how those nurses stared at your father. They don’t like vampires. Which means that they don’t like you, your brother, or Daniella,” she said and looked over at Dani.

“This pack isn’t easy to deal with. I will just put it that way,” Dani replied.

“Why do you want to stay here?” my mother asked me.

“Because. This pack has not had a decent Luna for over four decades. First, J.D.’s mother is banished, no fault of her own, and then Michaela’s mother just abandons the pack because she was too weak to stand up for herself. I won’t do that to them. No matter how difficult their behavior or how hard it is to gain their trust. I want to earn it. Not just because of my new title, but because I know I’m better—Ohhhh!” I was cut off by a contraction, and I squeezed my mother’s hand with all my might.

“Are you sure you don’t want an epidural?” Dani asked me.

“No. This pain I can handle. This is nothing compared to what Claude did to me. The pain of knowing that my pups will be treated like dirt is a pain that I won’t be able to handle. I don’t care how they treat me, but I will not stand by and watch as they treat my children the way they currently treat Monique. It disgusts me that they are still doing that to her,” I gritted my teeth while breathing through the contraction. Once the pain was gone, my mother wiped my forehead again. As I was catching my breath, the pack doctor came in to check on me.

“Vivienne, how are we doing?” he asked without any genuine curiosity. Dani and my mother snapped their heads towards him. “Is everything alright?” he asked when he saw how unhappy they were.

“Vivienne?” Dani questioned him. He cleared his throat.

“My apologies. Luna, how are we doing?” he corrected himself.

“Get out.” I looked at my mother.

“Maman?”

“Excuse me?”

“I said, get out! I don’t want you anywhere near my daughter or my grandchildren. You didn’t mistakenly call her by her name; you did it on purpose. If you’re going to blatantly disrespect my daughter, who is your LUNA, then you have no right to deliver the future Alphas of this pack! So, GET OUT!” she snarled.

“This is my hospital! You can’t tell me what to do!”



“But I can.” The doctor froze and slowly turned around. In the doorway were J.D. and Dorian.

“Al – Alp – Alpha ...”

“Get.Out.”

“But, sir, I’m the only doctor in the pack. Who will deliver the pups?”

“We’ve already taken care of that,” he replied. Behind him, I saw a puff of blue smoke, which meant that my father had just returned from somewhere.

“Excuse me, Alphas,” I heard an all-too-familiar and welcoming voice.

“Dr. Boyd!” I cried.

“Young Luna Vivienne, how are we doing?” he asked with such sincerity.

“EXCUSE ME! YOU CAN’T JUST COME IN HERE AND HIJACK MY PATIENT!”

“Excuse me, Luna,” Dr. Boyd said to me and turned around to face the other doctor. “Hello, my name is Dr. Zane Boyd, and from what I can see just in this room alone, you haven’t actually been treating your Luna as an actual patient. The machines are not set up correctly, and several of the wires and pads are improperly positioned on her body. Not only that, but the fetal heart monitor isn’t projecting any data, which means, had I not shown up, you never would have known that one of the twins is currently in distress!”

“What!?” I cried.

“Dr. Boyd, if there’s no data, then how do you know that!?” J.D. asked him.

“I’ve been doing this a long time, Alpha Jed. And I’ve delivered quite a few pups at Desert Moon. The shape of the Luna’s stomach is showing me that one of the pups is still on its side and hasn’t quite turned over yet. A little pushing and coercing should do the trick.” He huffed at the Red Mountain pack doctor and quickly started to push into my abdomen.

“AHHH!!!” I cried, and my mother held my hand as I screamed my lungs out.

“Dr. Boyd! You’re hurting her! STOP!” J.D. growled.

“Just one more push,” Dr. Boyd said and pushed again, making me scream once more. But as soon as he did, I felt a sudden release. “There we go.”

“Oh, that feels so much better,” I said with a smile.

“Okay then, you fixed her. Now you can leave. This is my hospital, and I do not give you rights to be here!” the Red Mountain pack doctor shouted.

“Dr. Willis,” J.D. growled. The doctor gulped and turned to face J.D. again. “You’re fired.”

“You can’t do that!”

“I just did. Now get the fvck out before I force you out.”

“Your father will hear of this!” he shouted. However, before he could leave, J.D. grabbed him by the throat and slammed him against the wall of my hospital room.

“My father? Have you forgotten who the current Alpha is? My father has no authority. You and everyone else in this sad excuse of a pack better step in line and respect who your ranked members are, and you better do it fast. Need I remind you what I said a few days ago. Insubordination is grounds for banishment, and let me tell you something, you sniveling little coward. They’re not empty threats. I will have no problem banishing you and everyone else in this pack and start completely over from scratch. No problem, what.so.ever. And just to show that I’m not fvcking\*g around, you are hereby banished and considered rogue. Get the fvck out of my pack.” J.D. threw him out of the hospital room, and without saying anything, the former doctor stood and scurried away.

“Very well done, J.D.,” my mother complimented.

“You good?” Dorian asked. J.D. nodded his head. “Dr. Boyd, please stay here at Red Mountain until Jedediah can find a permanent replacement. Something tells me that he’s going to need someone with your experience to help clean house in this sad little clinic.”

“It would be my pleasure to stay and assist Alpha Jed. I’m just sorry that it has to be this way,” Dr. Boyd replied and shook his head in shame. “Luna, you still have a ways to go before we start pushing, and I don’t see an issue with doing a natural birth now that both twins are in good positions. Let me attend

to a few things to ensure that we have a smooth and safe delivery, and I will be right back. But first, let's get these monitors up and running correctly."

"Okay," I said and laid back comfortably.

After Dr. Boyd did what he did best and several hours had passed, it was time to push. And boy did I push. I had pushed so hard that I had shat myself and was so embarrassed by that fact that I cried. My mother and Dani both assured me that it was natural, and even Dr. Boyd said that it happens during labor more than not. That didn't make me feel any better, but there was nothing that I could do about it.

J.D. was in the room for the delivery, and he kept whispering sweet nothings to me as if nothing was wrong and as if he didn't just banish the pack doctor a few hours before. Not only that, but he had apparently also banished the two nurses from before because they were caught speaking ill of my parents. They were caught by Brandon and Mikey, and, of course, they had no problem reporting the incident to Mon Loup. Dorian sent Dani to retrieve a handful of nurses from Desert Moon to help out as well. After pushing for what felt like a lifetime, I felt a sudden relief, and then a cry broke me out of my trance.

"Congratulations! It's a healthy baby boy!" Dr. Boyd exclaimed with such joy in his tone.

"A boy!?" J.D. shouted with glee.

"Yes, Alpha Jed. A boy. A future Alpha," Dr. Boyd reiterated as a nurse placed him on my chest.

"Look, Mon Coeur, we have a son," he said to me softly.

"Jacques," I whispered and kissed his chubby cheek.

"Huh?" I looked up and smiled. "Did you say, Jacques?" I nodded my head. "Wait, are you saying that it was our son you were calling out to when you woke up that day in the hospital back at Desert Moon?"

"Oui, Mon Loup." I saw his face soften and become warm when things started to make sense. Unfortunately, our tranquility was short-lived as I felt pressure and another contraction come on.

“Okay, it looks like they’re not going to be that far apart!” Dr. Boyd shouted. He instructed me to push again, and it didn’t take much for Bethany to enter the world. Her cries were ear-piercing, and she had a full head of blonde hair. “Congratulations! It’s a girl!”

“NO!” J.D. wailed. We all look at him in shock. “No, that’s not what I meant. I mean, now I have to deal with boys trying to woo her!” I just shook my head at him and his logic. A nurse put her on my chest as well, and as soon as she did, Jacques and Bethany held each other’s hands.

“Vivienne, look,” my mother said.

“I see, Maman.”

“They are going to have a very close relationship. I just know it,” she said with awe as she looked down ever so lovingly at her new grandpups.

“What’s her name?” Dani asked.

“Bethany,” I answered right away.

“What?” J.D. looked down at me in surprise. “Did you say, Bethany?” I nodded my head. “Why Bethany?”

“You tell me,” I replied. His eyes widened.

“Do you know something that I don’t?” I smiled without replying. “I mean, the only reason I could think of naming her Bethany is because of my grandmother. My adoptive grandmother, but still.”

“Did you have a good relationship with her?” my mother asked him.

“I did. A very good one. She died before my parents did. I remember that whenever I felt alone, I could always go to her, and she would just take me in her arms and tell me how loved I am and what a blessing I am. That I was special, and I would do great things one day. She always made me brownies because I preferred them over cookies. She died when I was ten, but I still remember everything about her.”

“It’s a beautiful name, Mon Loup,” I replied and looked down at our babies. Our babies.

“Alpha, Luna, we need to take the twins to clean them up, weigh them, and get their other measurements. We will return them shortly,” Dr. Boyd informed us. We nodded our heads, and the nurses took them. I looked back at J.D., who had his thinking face on.

“Mon Loup?”

“Jed, what’s wrong?” Dani asked.

“I think I just had an epiphany,” he answered. We all looked at him like he had lost his mind. He abruptly straightened his back and then ran out the door without saying a single word.

“What the hell was that about?” Dani asked. I shrugged my shoulders because I had no idea either.

“Not to worry, young Luna and Beta. Something tells me that the Alpha has come up with an idea that will benefit everyone,” Dr. Boyd said as he cleaned me up.

“What idea?” I asked.

“Don’t worry too much, Luna. Your job now will be to raise those two beautiful and special pups. Let the Alpha deal with the pack politics for now.”

“Special?” I asked him. Did he know?

“What do you mean by special?” Dani asked.

“Did you see how the young Alpha pup grabbed his sister’s hand as soon as she was laid down next to him?” We all nodded our heads. “Well, there is a legend that states when werewolf twins that are born connect with each other immediately after birth, both will share a very special gift. That gift is not determined until they become of age; however, it will be a very powerful gift.”

“C’est Magnifique!” my mother exclaimed and clapped her hands in excitement. I just blinked rapidly.

“Hey, why aren’t you excited?” Dani asked me while eyeing me suspiciously. I pressed my lips together. “Oh, you already knew!?” I didn’t reply and just avoided looking at her or my mother. But then again, I had nowhere else to look because I wouldn’t stare at Dr. Boyd, who was still cleaning me up down

there. “What is it!? What gifts are they going to have!?” Dani asked exuberantly.

“It’s a secret.”

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 69 - Tips

{Allie’s P.O.V.}

With Dorian and the guys away helping out Jed, again, I was left to deal with the aftermath of Aria and Anna. Well, I should say the current math that is them fighting for the millionth time in the last 48 hours. Anna was still having a hard time accepting that I allowed Aria to stay within the pack territory in an empty townhouse while she healed from her injuries. Even though she is a demon, Aria only healed about as fast as an average human, so she was incapacitated while Dr. Quinn ran tests and x-rays. There was some internal damage, in addition to two fractured ribs, a broken orbital socket, and a torn labrum in her right shoulder, but nothing life-threatening. Aria admitted that her shoulder was why she missed Uriel’s head when she first tried to throw the energy ball at him.

Unfortunately, Anna took no issue aggressively voicing her objections to my decision to allow Aria to stay within the pack territory. Uriel had already explained to her that as a mortal angel, she needed to learn to open her mind to different possibilities and outcomes to scenarios that an angel would never encounter in Heaven, but Anna was very closed-minded. Sly had also been trying to help her come to terms with it, but it was proving to be difficult. Why? Because, well, it seemed that Aria and Uriel were becoming fast friends—and Anna was not happy about that at all. Which was the root of the current argument that was being witnessed by dozens of pack members.

“I’VE TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM URIEL!!” Anna screamed.

“Okay, one, stop acting like you have the right to tell me what to do. Two, instead of b!tching at me that your angel lover is hanging around me, how about you tell him to stop coming to my townhouse!? If you haven’t noticed, I can barely walk!”

“You don’t need to walk; you can shimmer! You’re a demon!”

“You do realize that shimmering takes up more energy right now because of the fact that I’m injured! Just like a vampire!” Aria screeched back at her.

“Besides, why the fvck do you care if Uriel hangs out with me!? You have a mate!”

“My being mated to a werewolf has nothing to do with this!”

“It has everything to do with this! You’re getting pissed off like some jealous girlfriend!” Aria shouted and then winced while grabbing her side.

“THAT IS ENOUGH!!!” I roared in my Luna tone. The crowd of spectators split like the Red Sea when they heard my voice and immediately went in every direction to run away from the situation. “Aria, why are you in the packhouse? You should be at home resting! And Anna, I will not tell you again to leave Aria alone! She’s a guest of the pack!”

“I came because I had a follow-up with Dr. Quinn. I shimmered here to the main foyer instead of the hospital because I didn’t want to startle any of the nurses. It just so happened that Anna walked by when I landed. And thanks to her, I’ve missed my appoint ... ugh ... ment,” Aria winced again mid-sentence.

“Aria, go to the hospital. Dr. Quinn will make time to fit you in. And Anna, you come with me.”

“But!”

“Anna! Either you follow me, so we can speak in private, or I will lecture you right here in front of everyone. The choice is yours!” I cut her off.

“Allie, I’ve told you that speaking to people that way isn’t always the solution to everything! Stop yelling at people like they’re beneath you!”

“Like how you’ve been speaking to Aria!?” Anna didn’t respond. “Ever since you’ve become mortal, you’ve become quite the hypocrite, Anna. You tell me how I should speak to others a certain way because I hurt their feelings, yet that’s exactly how you have been screaming—not speaking, but screaming—at Aria ever since she arrived here. I told you, she is MY guest. This is MY pack. What I say goes!”

“I’m only looking out for you. Demons are not good company to have!”

“Though I appreciate the offer, I don’t need you to look out for me.”

“You were almost killed by demons! And there are others still out there doing God only knows what!”

“Those demons are not Aria! Aria has done nothing but try and help me! And even if she hadn’t tried to help find Heather, she still needed my help. Unlike you, I don’t discriminate against one’s species. I judge someone based on their character, and from where I’m standing, you’re acting more of a demon than Aria!” I snapped at her.

“I am not acting like a demon!”

“Aren’t you? You said that demons were vile, evil, unforgiving, and capable of betrayal. The way I see it, you’re acting exactly like that. You’re being vile and evil because all you do is judge Aria for who she is. She didn’t ask to be born a demon. She just was. Just like I was born human, Sly was born a werewolf, and you were born an angel. You’re unforgiving because she threw an energy ball at Uriel, which was a complete misunderstanding. She apologized, and Uriel accepted it. If he can move past it, then you have no right to hold onto it because you weren’t even the one who was attacked. And you’re betraying Uriel by undermining his decision to be civil with Aria. Just as Aria said, Uriel is the one who has been seeking her out to make sure she’s okay. Also, I know for a fact that he has asked you multiple times to stay out of it, and yet, here you are, provoking Aria, again.”

“She doesn’t belong here! She belongs in the underworld! You tell me to be forgiving of her for hurting Uriel, but demons don’t deserve to be forgiven!”

“Repay no one evil for evil but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. Romans Chapter 12, Verse 17.” Anna gaped at me. “I used to go to Church when I was human, Anna. I was part of the praise team in high school when one of my foster families found me singing in the shower. I know my scripture, at least, the ones that those who counter devout Christians use for being hypocritical.” I tell her and take a deep breath before citing another that seemed appropriate for the current situation. “You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself because you who pass judgment do the same things. Romans Chapter 2, Verse 7.” Anna continued to gape at me as tears formed in her eyes.

“Allie, I ...”



“That’s Luna to you, Anna. You have lost the right to call me by my first name. You may have been born an archangel, and you may still have your wings, but your blinded hatred towards those I consider friends is blatant disrespect towards me and this pack. You wanted to come here because of Sly, and I allowed you to because you’re his mate. You also asked me to be forgiving towards him, which I was. I even did what you asked of me to keep Brandon from k!lling him. Being part of a pack means knowing how to work together as a team. We are a giant family here, and not everyone will get along. We have fights and arguments all the time. There will always be grievances, but what you’re doing to Aria is nothing short of immature and petty. I get it. You hate demons. But how much of that hatred is influenced by the fact that you were once an archangel, and how much of it is influenced by an actual logical reason?” Anna didn’t say anything and just lowered her head.

“I’m sorry, All ... I mean, Luna,” she whispered.

“I’m not the one you need to be apologizing to.” Anna snapped her head up in surprise. “Yeah, you should be apologizing to Aria and seeking her forgiveness. I don’t care if you do or don’t, honestly, because the fact of the matter is, I just don’t have time to be dealing with your petty bullsh!t anymore. I have enough on my hands to deal with. And if there’s anyone here who should really hate demons, it’s me. After all, me, my daughter, and one of my best friends were almost k!lled by them. But neither Simba nor I hold that grudge against all demons because not all demons tried to k!ll us. Believe it or not, a lot of them are trying to help us. They may be helping us to get thirty million dollars out of it, but they’re still helping us in trying to find a way to get to Heather in demon hell. I don’t care about your personal issues anymore. But I am telling you one last time, leave Aria alone.” With those final words, I left and made my way back upstairs to check on Katrina since it was past her feeding time. But when I got to the nursery, I found Eleanor already feeding her with prepackaged b.reast milk.

“Everything okay?” she asked me.

“No, but it’s nothing I can’t handle,” I answered and sat in the rocking chair. “Where are the twins?”

“Raquel and Sylvia took them for a walk not too long ago. They should be back soon.”

“With guards?”

“Of course, sweetheart. What do you take me for, an irresponsible grandmother?” she said, acting offended.

“Of course not, Eleanor. I couldn’t have asked or prayed for a more loving and responsible grandmother,” I replied with a smile. “I’m just ... a little overprotective at this point. And I’m exhausted.”

“Are my sweet angels keeping you up?”

“Goddess, no, the twins are sleeping through the night now, and Katrina sleeps a good three to four hours before needing to be fed and changed. I’m not sleeping because I’m terrified that if I fall into a deep sleep, I’m going to wake up to the kids being gone.”

“Allison, that’s not healthy. You need sleep, darling,” she told me as she burped Katrina and put her back down in her ba.ssinet.

“I know that, but I can’t. I don’t think I’ll be able to sleep comfortably until Heather is gone. I never thought she could get to me like this, but she has, and I hate it!”

“Oh, sweetheart, come here.” Eleanor opened her arms and gave me the most motherly hug any daughter-in-law could ask for. “Do you want me and Benjamin to take the kids for one night?”

“No, I can’t let them out of my sight. And it’s not that I don’t trust you or Ben, because I do, and I trust the guards, but I’m just too afraid.”

“Sweetie, I meant here in the packhouse. We will get a blow-up mattress to put in the twins’ room, and we will bring Katrina’s ba.ssinet in there with us. Then we can have all three kids with us, safe and sound, and you keep the baby monitor with you. That way, you can try and get some sleep.” I pulled away and looked up at her. She smiled down at me, and I finally nodded my head.

“I guess it wouldn’t hurt to try that.”

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“MAMA! MAMA!” I was woken up by the sound of screaming and crying, but when I tried to open my eyes, they were really heavy, and I felt super groggy.

“fvck,” I muttered.

“MAMA!!!”

“Daisy?” I tried to sit up in my bed but fell right back down.

Pups are in trouble!

What did you say, Mercury?

Pups are in trouble!

Her words were trying to fight through the grogginess.

“MAMA!!!” I heard screaming. It finally registered that one of the twins was crying. I lifted the blanket off of me, but it felt like it weighed a ton. I stumbled and fell onto the floor of the bedroom. When I opened my eyes, everything was blurry, and the room was spinning a million miles an hour. “MAMA!!!” I heard more crying. I grabbed the nightstand and got to my feet, but something was terribly wrong. I opened the door, and I immediately smelled bl00d.

“What?” I shook my head of my delirium, which only made the vertigo worse, but I held onto the wall and made my way to the twins’ room. When I saw more pools of bl00d, my sense of awareness started to come back to me. Once I finally got to their room, that’s when I saw several bodies on the floor of their room. “AHHHH!!!” I screamed at the top of my lungs. It didn’t take long for my screams to be heard throughout the packhouse, and I heard a stampede coming up the stairs.

“ALLIE!!!”

“LUNA!!!” I felt someone’s arms around me, and I turned around to see Sin.

“What the fvck happened!?”

“sh!t, Benjamin! Eleanor!” Sam yelled as she ran past me.

“Luna, what happened!?” Lucas asked me.

“I ... I don’t know! I ... I think I’ve been drugged! Oh god, the twins! Where are the twins!? Katrina!?”

“Daisy and Katrina are here! They’re under Daisy’s bed,” I heard Sam.

“What about Demarco?!” I exclaimed as Sin helped me stay on my feet.  
“Where is he!? Where is my son!?”

“He’s not here,” Sam replied.

“Where’s Leah?” Sin asked. I looked at Sin, and the realization hit Lucas. He turned and ran back down to the second floor. A few seconds later, I got a mind link from him.

Luna, I found her! She’s been drugged too.

Get her to Dr. Quinn. Now!

What about you!?

I need to find my son!

Not in the condition you’re in. I’m waking Simba and the others!

Lucas!

Yes, Luna?

Lockdown.

Yes, ma’am.

“Mama!” I heard Daisy cry for me as Sam carried both her and Katrina in her arms.

“We need to get them checked out by Dr. Quinn,” Sam said as she put Daisy down next to me. She clung to my leg instantly and was crying so hard. Katrina was screaming bloody murder as Sam handed her to Sin. As she did that, Katie, Savannah, and Ava came running up to us.

“Luna, are you okay!?” Katie asked as I was about to topple over again

“Daisy. Pick up, Daisy.” Katie took her in her arms as Savannah and Ava helped me walk away from whatever the hell this bloody bath was. I looked back to see Ben and Eleanor severely injured, but I could sense that they were alive. I couldn’t say the same about the three unknown men in the room lying dead next to them. That’s when I noticed the charring on the walls along with s\*\*\*h marks.

“Wait,” I stopped the girls and went back to the room. I looked around and saw more charring and more slashes in the wallpaper. “Demons.” I finally saw the extent of the damage to the room. Demarco’s bed was flipped over, while everything had been completely destroyed except for Daisy’s bed.

“Allie!” I turned to see Simba and Leroy running towards me with Uriel behind them. Aria appeared out of nowhere.

“What are you doing here?” I asked her.

“I heard that there was an attack on your kids.”

“From who?”

“Lucas. He was literally screaming it.”

“Aria, do you know them?” I asked while pointing to the dead demons. Simba and the others were getting Ben and Eleanor out of the room and to the hospital.

“Yeah, those are three of the volunteers that Heather recruited.”

“There’s a fourth,” I heard someone say. I looked, and Ben’s eyes were slightly open.

“Ben!? What did you say!?” I asked, completely panicking.

“Four deams ...”

“Four demons?” He nodded his head.

“Oh god,” I gasped and fell back. Someone caught me, but I wasn’t sure who. Tears pooled in my eyes faster than a flash flood. “Heather has Demarco.”

“Savannah, Ava, get her to the hospital. Make sure she and the twins are together! Simba, after you hand off Ben and Nor to Dr. Quinn, you make sure that you and Leroy never leave her side! Got it!” Sam ululated.

“Yes, Sam!” they replied in unison. This was a nightmare. One horrible nightmare.

“NOW, MIKEY!” I heard Sin screaming. I saw her with her phone to her ear and realized she must have called him. It took all of a few seconds for the guys to come back along with Dani and Andre.

“Dorian!?”

“Allie!?” He took me from Savannah and Ava and held me up like I weighed nothing. “Someone better tell me what the fvck happened here!” Dorian snarled while picking me up bridal style.

“From what we can tell, Allie and Leah were drugged to prevent them from noticing anything unusual in the packhouse. Four demons came into the twins’ room but didn’t expect Ben and Eleanor to be in here with them. A fight ensued. Three of the demons were killed by your parents, but they also sustained injuries. They’ve been taken to the pack hospital, along with Leah who was still out cold from the drugs,” Sam explained.

“LEAH WAS DRUGGED!?” Brandon cried out and went straight to the pack hospital.

“You said that there were four demons! I only see three!” Dorian exclaimed.

“He took Demarco,” I whimpered in Dorian’s arms. He looked down at me, and I could see nothing but pure rage in his eyes. “Dorian, that b\*\*\*h has our son.” Dorian slowly put me down and turned to face Mikey. He grabbed him by the collar and snarled in his face.

“What do you want me to do?” Mikey asked as cool, calm, and collected as he could.

“Find my son, Razor.” I saw Mikey’s eyes avert to Sin’s. I saw her mouth the word ‘go.’ Mikey nodded and looked back at Dorian, his eyes suddenly black.

“Yes, Alpha.”

## Desert Nightmare Chapter 70 - Tips

{Demon’s P.O.V.}

Months. That’s how long this operation took. Months. There was no sense in griping about it, though, because it was finally done. It wasn’t supposed to take this long to handle our business, but the Queen’s arrogant threat against

the Desert Moon Luna, well, let's just say it complicated matters. We could have taken the child sooner, but that ship had sailed once she made her threat, leaving us no choice but to lay low and bide our time. In the end, our patience was rewarded, and things worked out in my favor. The others were killed, but that was no fault of my own. They're the ones who barged in and woke the grandparents instead of shimmering as I had suggested. They served as the distractions I needed to grab the boy and go. The girls held no value, at least, not to the Queen. I still had no clue what she intended to do with the boy, but she wanted him, and so she got him.

Upon my return to the safe haven where the King was hiding her, I was let in immediately without question. And to no surprise, they were fighting again. The King was in demon form, more often than not ever since he brought her down here. But, it was safe to say that she was no longer fearful of his true form. She definitely had more balls than us demons, I can tell you that.

"Ahem, sir?"

"WHAT?!?!" he screamed at me.

"I have what the Queen asked for," I replied and bowed my head.

"What are you talking about?" he asked, clearly confused, and returned to his human form. I looked at the Queen, who simply shrugged her shoulders at me. I was completely blindsided by her reaction.

"Ma'am, I thought you said he knew about this!" I exclaimed and started to panic, realizing the Queen had thrown me under the bus.

"I may have told a little white lie," she answered casually and crossed her arms as if she didn't have a care in the world. I looked back towards the King with a sense of impending doom, and I knew that once he found out what we were commissioned to do, I would soon be joining the latter of the team.

"What did you do?" the King demanded.

"I ... I ... I only did what was commanded of me by her!" I tried to defend myself while dodging his question.

"What.did.you.do!?" he reiterated, getting fearfully closer to me. I snapped my fingers and shimmered the boy from where I had left him crying. The King

took one look at him, then at me, and then at the Queen. “What is the meaning of this? Who is this!?”

“He’s the Desert Moon Alpha’s son,” I answered and lowered my head, trembling.

“WHAT?!?!” the King roared and shifted back into his demon form.

“Your Majesty, I only did what was commanded of me by the Queen! She told us that you knew! That you had given permission for her to assemble a team to—”

“TEAM?!? WHAT TEAM?!?”

“Permission?” the Queen gawked. “I’m Heather Hamilton. I don’t need anyone’s permission to do anything!”

“Heather, what have you done!?” the King exclaimed.

“Got back at Allie, like I said I was going to.”

“BY TAKING HER CHILD!?”

“Not her child anymore. Now, he’s yours.” I snapped my head from its lowered position, and the King, again, returned to his human form. The child was still crying and has since huddled in the corner of the room. I kind of felt bad for the little guy. Had I known that we had been lied to, then I never would have taken him. I only did this because we were told that this was the King’s will.

“What do you mean by my child!?”

“Look, I already told you I refuse to give you a baby. It’s been months since you forcefully replenished my se.x organs, and yet, I haven’t conceived once. Who knows, what Aria said may actually be true. Maybe that first piece of sh!t was supposed to be your one and only. Since I’m not getting pregnant and you want a son badly, I needed a way to destroy Allie’s life the way she destroyed mine. So, I figured, why not take her kids from her? Though, I did expect you to get all of them and not just the boy,” she said the last part directly to me. “It really is hard to find decent hired help.”

“Hired help!?” I couldn’t stop myself from retaliating. “For your information, three of my comrades are lying dead in the Desert Moon morgue, three others



were killed when you initially attacked the Desert Moon Luna while she was still pregnant, and the remaining four backed out before they also died! We all risked our lives because you told us that this was what the King wanted! You promised us that we would be promoted in the underworld and that we would be chosen to serve the King firsthand! We're not hired help, you ungrateful, self-centered, manipulative b\*\*\*h!!" I knew that my outburst would get me vanquished, but at this point, it didn't matter. I would rather that happen than have to answer to this low-life human. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw the King summon a fireball the size of a meteor. There was no doubt in my mind that it was meant for me. Without even thinking, I focused my energy on the boy and shimmered him to safety.

"NO!!!" Heather screamed, and the King launched the fireball at me. As I saw my life flash before my eyes, I hoped that wherever I sent the boy, the King and Queen would never find him.

{Heather's P.O.V.}

When nothing but char was left, I screamed at the top of my lungs. All this planning to take Allie's kids from her in shambles because that imp couldn't keep his fvcking\*g mouth shut.

"UGH!!! NO! NO! NO!" I stomped my feet.

"Heather, I cannot believe you! You had their son kidnapped!" Gideon lashed out at me.

"YOU WANTED A SON! THIS WAS A SOLUTION!"

"I WANT MY OWN SON! NOT SOMEONE ELSE'S!"

"Well, beggars can't be choosers," I spat. "Where the fvck did that i\*\*\*t send him!?"

"Heather, do you realize what you've done!?"

"What?"

"You took a child away from his mother. A mother werewolf, to be exact!"

"It's just Allie," I said, trying to figure out what the big deal was.

“How can you be so stupid, Heather? Actually, wait, you know what? Scratch that. This has nothing to do with how stupid you are. You don’t know what you’ve done because you’re not a mother. Nor are you a werewolf anymore.”

“I don’t know why you’re getting all bent out of shape, Gideon! Why are you so afraid of Allie?”

“I’m not afraid of her! I’m afraid of the Alpha!”

“Dorian? Why?”

“If you think a mother is scary when their young are threatened, imagine a father whose only son has been taken from him,” he gritted his teeth and got in my face. “You should know, you’ve seen one react to the loss of their one and only son.” I looked up at him, and images from the day of the abortion flooded my mind. “The Desert Moon Alpha has already lost a child in the past. Do you know what they did to the man responsible for her death?” I shook my head. “Dorian Shaw had a dozen snipers shoot him in the heart. Apparently, there was a hole the size of a bowling ball in his chest when all was said and done.

“Well, he can’t find me here,” I insisted, hoping my voice wouldn’t betray me and show how freaked out this made me.

“Me bringing you here was for your own good. You attacked Allie while she was pregnant. But not only that, you left my demons on Earth to do your bidding, and that happened to be kidnapping her son. It doesn’t matter where I send you at this point, they’re going to come for you, and nothing will get in their way.”

“You better protect me, Gideon! I’m your mate!”

“Be that as it may, I can no longer protect you. I will not be an accessory to the kidnapping of an Alpha’s young.”

“WHAT?! GIDEON, HOW DARE YOU!”

“HOW DARE !!? HOW DARE YOU HAVE NO REGARD FOR THE LIFE OF BABIES AND CHILDREN!?”

“You’re a demon! Why do you care so much about babies!? You don’t even have a soul!”

“I HAVE A SOUL!!!” he screamed at me.

“What?”

“Forget it. You’re on your own. ARIA!”

“Why are you looking for her!?”

“ARIA!!!” There was silence, and Aria never came. “Where is she!?”

“How the fvck am I supposed to know where that slut is?” I replied, doing my best to avoid his gaze.

“Morpheus!” Gideon summoned one of his guards.

“My King.”

“Where is Aria?!” Morpheus looked confused, and I kept my head down.

“Sir? Why are you searching for Aria?”

“What do you mean why am I searching for her? She’s my right-hand demon!”

“My King, Aria’s dead.”

“What do you mean Aria’s dead!! Who vanquished her!? Why wasn’t I told?!”

“Vanquished? My King, do you not remember?” sh!t, sh!t, sh!t, this was going to be bad.

“Remember what?”

“King Gideon, you had me and several others punish Aria for trying to come between you and the Queen. You told us to do whatever we wanted with her and then leave her to the worms. Those were your exact words.”

“YOU TOUCHED ARIA?!”

“My King, you told us to!”

“I DID NO SUCH—” Gideon stopped mid-sentence and turned to face me. I looked off into the abyss, avoiding eye contact. “What did you do, Heather?” I closed my eyes, took a deep breath, opened them, and looked directly into his eyes.

“I got rid of the competition once for all. Don’t think that I didn’t know you were fvcking\*g all this time. I warned Aria. I specifically told her that if she ever tried to come between you and me again, that I would make her pay for it. And I did. She’s dead. Your precious slut demon is dead. And Morpheus, along with the other guards of the underworld, are to blame.”

“My liege! No! You told us to! You gave us permission!”

“Did I tell you with my own words!?” Gideon hissed.

“YES! You came to us and threw Aria at our feet outside of your door in the underworld!” Why couldn’t demons keep their fvcking\*g mouths shut? Whatever, it’s too late at this point.

“No, he didn’t.” They both snapped their heads towards me. “It was me. I had a sorceress cast a masking spell on me and turn me into Gideon. I’m the one that threw Aria at your feet and told you all to do whatever you wanted to her and make sure that she was punished for trying to come between Gideon and me.”

“How did you get a sorceress to cast a masking spell on you!?”

“I caught her stealing. I told her that I wouldn’t tell you about it if she did this one thing for me. She was more than happy to. But her stupid self also gave me your powers with the masking spell, so I k!lled her anyway.” Even though I could care less about any of this, that didn’t seem to be the case for Gideon or Morpheus. Gideon’s eyes flared up, and he immediately summoned another fireball.

“Gideon! It wasn’t my ... AHHHH!!!!” Morpheus screamed as Gideon k!lled him without so much as a backward glance. Gideon summoned all of the other demons who violated Aria and vanquished them as well. And me? Well, he didn’t even bother to look at me. His silence actually spoke volumes, and it started to dawn on me that I may have actually fvckingd up.

{Third Person P.O.V.}

As Gideon massacred all of the demons responsible for Aria's supposed death, Heather looked on and actually began to show fear in her eyes. What neither of them realized was that their commotion caught the attention of someone. Someone they couldn't afford to have. A demon of human hell was sent to investigate the ruckus and reported back to the King of Hell himself—Lucifer.

“Sir, it appears that Gideon and his human queen are fighting, yet again. But this time, it appears that she has done something very deceitful,” the demon reported to Satan himself.

“These supernatural creatures are getting on my last nerve. Why are they so close to the border of demon hell and Hell!?”

“Gideon appears to be hiding his human queen from a pack of werewolves. It seems that she has overstepped the boundaries of right and wrong and had a werewolf child kidnapped from his home. The demon whom she hired sent the boy away before he could be harmed. Unfortunately, we do not know where that is.” Lucifer rubbed his temples. “Sir, I also thought you would like to know that several of the supernatural demons, as well as your brother, were recently here looking for the human demon queen.”

“Which brother?”

{Dorian's P.O.V.}

“THIS IS YOUR FAULT!!! YOU LEFT ME WHEN YOU KNEW THERE WERE STILL DEMONS UNACCOUNTED FOR!!!” Allie screamed at the top of her lungs. She was currently in the hospital, recovering from being drugged. Leah was still unconscious, but her vitals were returning back to normal at a relatively fast pace. Because of Allie's exposure to dimethylmercury last year, her body and her wolf were able to break down the drugs faster.

While Allie was recovering in the hospital, I had David and his team search through every single room in the packhouse. Sully and Giles covered the outside of the packhouse, leaving no stone unturned. They discovered thin tubes had been fed through the ventilation system from inside the walls that led directly to our room and Brandon and Leah's room. The only explanation for Leah being targeted was to prevent her from having a vision of the kidnapping. Though, I don't think the demons had any clue that my parents would be in the room with the children. The wounds that they both sustained were critical and deep, but none were life-threatening.

“AND YOU!!!” Allie screamed at Dani. “Dorian never would have left if you hadn’t fvcking\*g texted me for the hundredth time and showed up unannounced!”

“What did you want me to do! Jed and his dad were about to kll each other!” Dani cried, attempting to defend herself.

“SO WHAT!?! Jed is a grown-a.ss man! He’s a Supreme Alpha, for fvck’s sake! If he and his dad want to go at each other to prove who is more dominant, THEN fvcking\*g LET THEM!!!” Allie’s heart rate started to pick up in pace, and her bl00d pressure was through the roof.

“Luna, I need you to calm down!” Dr. Quinn shouted as she came into her room, again.

“CALM DOWN!? MY SON IS MISSING!!!” Allie screamed and cried. “MY BABY BOY IS GONE!!!”

“Luna, I know how you feel. I thought my son was dead at one point, thought he committed suicide, remember? So, believe me, I know how you feel right now. But if you don’t get your heart rate and bl00d pressure under control, I cannot allow your girls to be in the room with you!” Allie immediately stopped crying. Because of her hysteria, Dr. Quinn wouldn’t allow Sin or Sam to bring Daisy and Katrina into the room. “Don’t give me that look, young lady. You may be the Luna of this pack, but I am the doctor. You are my patient, and this is my hospital. My rules.” Allie slumped and slammed her head back onto the pillow to show that she caved.

“Baby, I’m sorry. I never should have left. You’re right. I should have left Jed to deal with his father however he saw fit.”

“Dorian!?” Dani exclaimed.

“Dani, s’il vous plait!” Andre chastised her. “Dorian is correct. You should not have contacted him. Though I did not mind at first, I now realize the error of my ways. We agreed to leave Desert Moon to be Betas at Jed’s pack so that we could stay with family. Not only was Ricard undermining Jed, but we were also.”

“Dorian.” I looked up to see Mikey in the doorway, completely covered in bl00d.

“What the fvck happened to you?” I asked him and stood to my feet.

“DID YOU FIND DEMARCO!?” Allie cried out while sitting up again, only to be pushed back down by Dr. Quinn.

“Not yet, Gizmo, but I do have something for you.” Mikey turned outside the door and nodded his head. Aries walked in with the four musketeers behind him, and they each had someone with them. They forced them to their knees, and each captive was bl00died, beaten, and knocking on death’s door.

“Aries, what is this?” I asked him.

“Aria was able to shimmer us down to the underworld. While we tried to find clues on how to get down to where Gideon is hiding Heather, we overheard these a.ssh0les talking about how they escaped near-death by running away after their friends were k!lled trying to kidnap a werewolf pup. An Alpha pup, to be exact,” Aries elucidated. I glared daggers at the demons kneeling before me and they all started to quiver.

“Turns out these a.ssh0les were part of the crew that Heather put together,” Mikey interjected.

“Is all of the bl00d on you theirs?” Allie asked him.

“This? Nah. I had nothing to do with their capture. I had my own work to do down there. Turns out that Heather has made quite a few frenemies down there.”

“What?” Allie and I both replied.

“Heather has been manipulating demons and other dark supernaturals,” Mikey answered, trying to get some bl00d out of his fingernails.

“What do you mean?” Allie asked.

“Hm? Oh, she’s been blackmailing people down there. Even k!lling them behind their backs after they give her what she wants. She recently k!lled a sorceress for who knows what. That sorceress’ daughter is out for bl00d now. She’s agreed to help us find a way to bring Heather back to Earth after we find out exactly where she is in demon hell.”

“You made a pact with a sorceress!?” I shouted.

“What!? No, man. She fvcking\*g offered. She said she’d owe us if we let her have a stab at Heather first.”

“Tell her to get in line.” We looked up to see Aria and Uriel. The room was getting quite crowded, and Dr. Quinn seemed to be getting annoyed because of it.

“Aria!?” one of the demons exclaimed in shock.

“Oh, sh!t. It’s you,” Aria replied and tried to stop herself from laughing. “You look like sh!t.”

“I feel like sh!t. How are you here? You’re supposed to be dead!”

“Dead? Who said that I was dead?”

“Morpheus did!”

“He wishes I was dead. I can’t wait to get my hands on him and those fvckers,” Aria hissed.

“Why are you here? At Desert Moon?” another one asked her.

“Getting revenge on Gideon and that b\*\*\*h Heather. I’ve sided with Dorian and Allie,” Aria said proudly. The demons looked at each other confused but didn’t say anything.

“Tell me what you know. Where is my son?” I demanded.

“We don’t know. After we heard that three of the guys were k!lled, and one got away with your kid, we skedaddled. We didn’t want to die,” one of them answered.

“It didn’t matter anyway. We heard that our comrade, who was able to get your son, was k!lled by the King himself. Apparently, the Queen lied to us,” another said.

“What do you mean she lied to you?” Allie asked.

“She told us that because she was taking so long to conceive, the King was getting impatient and wanted a son. So, she recruited us and the others to help her get a powerful heir for the King. She told us that it was his idea,” the third replied.



“Wait, are you telling us that Heather took our son to give to Gideon!?” Allie fumed.

“She said that it was a way to klll two birds with one stone. She said that it was the King’s command to bring him a powerful heir to raise as his own and to get revenge on the Queen’s behalf,” the fourth and smallest one answered.

“You four idiots were stupid enough to believe her!?” Aria huffed at them.

“Wait, no, scratch that, you eleven idiots were stupid enough to believe her!?”

“OOOH!! THAT CONNIVING SOULLESS b\*\*\*h!!! I’M GOING TO fvcking\*g KILL HER!!!” Allie screamed.

“Luna, your heart rate!” Dr. Quinn reprimanded.

“fvck MY HEART RATE!! THAT b\*\*\*h HAS MY BABY!!!”

“No, she doesn’t.” We all snapped our heads towards the door to see an unknown man standing there.

“Who the fvck are you!?” I growled. How the hell were people just showing up at our packhouse? I really needed to up the security measures or get our Wiccan friends to create some kind of magical barrier. This was getting out of hand.

“Brother,” Uriel gasped.

“Brother!?” we all questioned in unison.

“Oh, sh!t!” Aria and the four demons ululated. The four demons broke free from Fury and the others, and they, along with Aria, fell to their knees and started to tremble in fear. I had never seen demons look so afraid.

“What the hell?” Allie responded as she looked at all of them.

“Brother, what are you doing here?” Uriel asked.

“I was told by an apprentice that you were down in my neck of the woods looking for a certain human demon queen?” I looked down at Allie, and she at me. We both shrugged our shoulders.

“Ummm,” Allie hummed and raised her hand from the bed. “Hi, uhhh ... who are you? And what do you mean by your neck of the woods?”

“Oh, where are my manners? Hello there, my fine furry fellows, I’m the devil!” he said with a gigantic smile. “You all may know me as Satan, Serpent, Old Nick, or Beelzebub. I’ve always hated that one, really. My brother here calls me Samael, but you all furry folk can call me Lucifer.” He smiled genuinely and stared back at us while we all gaped at him. The awkward silence that filled the room was unmistakable, and everyone could hear the crickets. That silence was broken by Allie.

“You’ve gotta be sh!tting me.”