

The Defiant Luna Chapter 20

Nathan POV

It was good to hear from Stephen just how happy Jay-la was. It was even better to hear Kora all excitedly calling to Havoc to come and look at their pups, that they were playing so happily, she wanted her Mate to see how happy they were.

He and Havoc could see it, Jay-la and the triplets weren't that far from the pack-house, saw it the moment they stepped out of the pack-house, could not only see it but hear it. The genuine joy in their little voices as they were being chased around by their uncle Brad, they were squealing and laughing.

Nathan-stopped and watched from the pack-house stairs, he did not want to interrupt that family moment. Knew that Brad was likely to just turn and leave the moment he stepped over there. Their relationship was more than strained. The man missed his little sister, they had been very close and then she was just gone and not allowed to return. He'd been pissed off for years. Had a right to be.

Brad dealt with him only after he had actually become the Alpha to the pack. Before that day, the man had simply turned and stalked away from him at every moment. Had only once spoken to him in all those years, well at him. It wasn't a conversation. Brad had strolled past him one day and stated "You reap what you sew." As he'd walked towards him and then, as he'd walked past him muttered Got what you deserved finally" Nathan had known what he was talking about. Had even let it go.

He'd just ended things with Sophia, the whole pack had been on edge about Havoc's behaviour, but not Brad. That man had seen him and Sophia arguing on more than one occasion, had smirked when he saw it, then just walked away. He seemed to enjoy his future Alpha's pain and misery.

Nathan understood that Brad hated him and why. Wasn't likely the only wolf in the pack to think what Brad did, about him banishing Jay-la. He however, was the only one with the guts to say it out loud and show his pleasure at Nathan's broken bond with Sophia. Brad thought he'd gotten a horrible Mate, because he was a horrible person.

It could well be that the Goddess had been testing him, giving him a Mate he didn't know when he had desired no other than Jay-la for a solid year, had "updated by jobnib.com" never looked at another, only wanted her. Perhaps he had been supposed to stop and think about it, make a choice between them. He'd chosen wrong obviously and then she had punished him for it. Who knew.

He'd lost so much that day, without even knowing it, wondered what would have happened if he'd known she was pregnant, would he have stopped and thought about it.

He didn't know, though it was unlikely Havoc had bolted for his Goddess Gifted Mate, the minute he had scented her.

Nathan could feel Havoc was pushing him to go over to them, he wanted to be closer to his Mate, to his pups, who were so very happy.

Nathan was actively denying him, to let Brad spend time with his long lost sister and his nieces and nephew, and he could feel Havoc was annoyed with him.

Watched on as the game was played, and as the triplets all pounced on their uncle all excitedly, 'Our turn! Havoc shot at him and suddenly they were on the move, his bloody wolf so impatient. Had taken control of his body to make him go over there, he was done waiting, it seemed.

Though he did relinquish control half way there with Nathan telling him. he'd continue to walk over.

His eyes were on Jay- la, she was all smiles, and then laughing, seemed so very happy he could even hear it, in her voice, and all because she was there with her sibling. That he was playing with her children. They could also feel it through their bond, how happy she really was, Kora was letting him and Havoc feel it, wanted them to know she was happy.

This made him happy, he had not seen her like this since the day she'd played with the triplets at the beach. Slid his eyes over her, she really did look good in that pencil skirt suit. She was dressed for work today and he liked that suit on her a lot. Already knew there was a silk blouse under that jacket, was itching to touch her, heard Havoc growl a little inside his mind, his wolf knew what he was thinking. Liked it as well.

Moved his eyes back to Brad and the triplets before it was very obvious to all around, just how much he wanted her right now She wasn't likely to feel the same way, not after their last two conversations, neither had

gone well

He saw Brads eyes lock on him and that was it, the game was over, like Nathan had thought it would be. Smiled right at him, didn't want Brad to feel that he had to stop playing with the children, just because he was now here. It was the very reason he'd not walked over here in the first place, he wanted to give Jay-la space and time with her brother.

Heard the man's words to his sister and sighed softly, he was going to have to talk to him, though he had a feeling that was not going to be so easy. Brad might never forgive him, it might stay as it was, the man and his wolf were not wrong to have those feelings. Though Brad never spoke to him, he did follow orders and turn up when requested to, listened to what Nathan had to say, stared right at him, not much emotion in the man. Then just gave a curt nod and dismissed himself.

Did as was asked, just didn't speak to him

It was a better interaction than Vera, Jay-la's mother had with him, that was certain. Her whole family actively avoided him, and he'd not seen Ivy, Vera's wolf on a pack run since he'd taken over either, avoided that.

He wondered now if that was still the case. She had let Abbey injure her to bring Jay-la home, for him. That was odd in itself. Also knew the woman had dressed Jay-la for their dinner that night, Jay-la had told him so.

He'd also been in Jodi's presence, in that man's house, while she'd been angry after finding out what had happened, though Jodi hadn't said anything to him that day either, could only hope that would also be different now.

Nathan was the first to roll up his sleeve, to show Jay-la that yes, even he and his unit would be giving blood, that no-one was exempt. It had been Ethan's idea "Make everyone donate blood." He'd suddenly said into the quiet of his office, as they had all been trying to figure out a way to get her to give blood without her asking a million questions as to why.

Nathan didn't want to freak her out, with the information he had read, wanted to keep that out of it. If there was nothing wrong with her, she did not need to be worried or stressed about it.

"A mandatory blood donation." Jackson had smiled. "Good thinking."

It had been a brilliant idea, which had also given him a reason, a valid reason to mind-link to the entire pack, without being told to and he could use that moment to announce her as the Luna. He'd not mentioned the children at all, kept them out of it. This was about her. It had also given him a chance to acknowledge his mistake to the entire pack, and show Jay-la that he was willing to accept the blame for what he had done, sending her away.

Jay-la had brought it up, the fact that she thought he was going to try and blame her, to the children. This should resolve that, or hopefully help her to realise he wasn't going to do that, had not been going to do that.

Jackson had smiled right at him after the announcement, seemed happy with it. "Now you just need to give her choices."

"What do you mean?" he'd asked, a little confused.

"Ask her, not tell her, when you want something. Give her a choice. She didn't get one in coming here. She didn't want to come here, remember. Kora and Havoc Mated before she had a choice in it and you have a mentality of 'I'm the Alpha, you'll do as I say' had glared right at him for that "Which is a good thing for running the pack, but not good when dealing with your Mate." He'd sighed "You might want to stak acting like a Mate around

her, put your Alpha mentality aside and try to.." saw him stop and think about what he wanted to say.

"Be more like you were in the old days, when you two were lovers."

Ethan had finished for him. "You two were always fun."

"Not always." Nathan smiled.

"Yes you were, even with you seriously hunting her to sate your Alpha needs, after she'd been away for weeks at Uni, you enjoyed tormenting and toying with her, all serious like " Ethan chuckled

That was true, he did recall that, stalking through the pack all serious. like, hunting her down to pull her into his bed, toying with her via the mind-link as she actively avoided him, telling him he could wait, it was just s*x, and she wanted to be with her family. Though her words were always tinged with humour. She'd never stopped him grabbing her and having his way with her. She'd liked being hunted by him, liked being in his bed with his insatiable needs.

Watching Jay- la give blood, he could only hope the test would come back normal. He excused himself to speak with the pack doctor, as he'd not informed him of this prior. The man looked flustered by the sudden influx of wolves and his work load for the day had more than tripled. Nathan apologised to him for that and motioned for him to head for his office. Once in there, he explained the situation to him. He was going to be on the needs to know list.

Franklin stared right at him and then frowned deeply, after some thought on it stated "I'll want to see those entries myself, and talk to both your parents as well.

Nathan agreed to send them over. "I'll want her blood work done right away. She likely has no idea. If its normal we can forget about it, but if its not, I have to bring her in and tell her what is going on, show her everything we found out. So she understands."

"Agreed, there's likely a better chance she'll understand it and remain calm. Though today's medicine is much better than back then. That may also help if she is adrenalized. I'll do some research myself on excess adrenaline within the body. If it turns out this is the case with young Jay-la. Do me a favour, don't freak her out or tick her off till we know exactly what is going on."

"I'm trying not to Franklin" Nathan nodded.

He found her standing with his unit just outside the pack hospital, and smiled at her. Not upset her, not get in a fight with her, not so easily done. Though he had a feeling it was more about fear than anger. So, as long as she didn't fear him or have a reason to fear anything inside this pack, all should be good.

“Now that’s all taken care of, I thought, Jay-la, we could spend some time together, as a family.”

“Aren’t you busy? You have the council coming, I believe.”

Let it go, he told himself, at the slight tone that was in her voice. ‘It’s all been taken care of, rooms are being prepared and if I have missed anything, Jackson here can handle it.’

“I certainly can, boss.” Jackson nodded “Come on boys, let’s go make sure it’s all sorted. So the boss is completely free for the rest of the day and night to spend time with Jay-la.” Then he was gone, turned both Stephen and Ethan around and they all walked away.

Nathan smiled at her, “Free, and easily done. I thought we could have lunch together. Then, if you’re not busy, a movie. We do run the latest in the theatres.”

“Will there be popcorn?” Lilly was tugging at his pant leg. He smiled down at her.

“Yes, triple butter, just like your mum likes it.” he told her. This would also allow Jay-la to know he recalled how she liked her popcorn.

He watched as all their eyes turned to her questioningly. He doubted she was going to say no, and he knew she wasn’t busy. Also was unlikely to be able to say no to their three little faces all looking up at her. He wouldn’t be able to. They were too bloody cute, the lot of them. Moved his eyes to her and realised he had an ‘in’ so to speak. He could and would use the children to spend time with her, until he didn’t have to that was.

She was looking down at them, and he smiled and slipped his hand into hers. She wasn’t going to say no and they all knew it too, were bouncing excitedly on the balls of their feet, after just ten seconds. He realised they knew how to read their mother when asking for something.

Alright,” she nodded “But you all only get one small popcorn.” She told them, a little sternness to her voice he heard. Her mum’s voice, he thought and smiled, hadn’t really heard that before.

“If they’re anything like you Jay-la, one won’t be enough.” He chuckled softly as they moved away from the pack hospital, towards the pack house.

“If you let them have more than that, you can deal with their grumpy b***s, and crashing after all the sugar.

“What sugar?”

“Popcorn won’t be the only thing they all want.

“They can have whatever they want. Just like you can.”

He watched the children barely eat their lunch. Apparently, they were leaving room for snacks. That's what Lilly told him. Jay-la shook her head. He just chuckled and thought it was cute.

Jay-la was not wrong, they did want other snacks, not just popcorn, they wanted nearly everything at the snack bar and hearing him tell them to get whatever they wanted, it was all free today, saw their eyes light up, and then they were gone running around grabbing all their favourite snacks. Heard her sigh as they brought it back for him to carry and ran off to get slushy's to drink.

"They are yours to deal with after the movie is over." She muttered at him, looking at the pile of candy in his arms. He was loaded up with skittles and Maltesers, the popcorn of course, bags of mixed lollies and chocolate.

He just smiled down at her, their little stash of candy was no different to what he and her and the boys used to do, when they were all watching movies back in the old days. It made him a little nostalgic. It didn't seem to do that for Jay-la, she was just frowning. Didn't actually get anything for herself other than a coffee flavoured thick shake.

All three of the children were actively interacting with him, even Nate was smiling up at him. It was a good feeling, to have his son starting to come around, though he did want what he'd seen with the children and Brad. Was a little jealous on that front, but it was going to take time, what with the boy's concerns and all. Like his mother said, he had time on his side where the child was concerned. He needed to be with Jay-la make her feel she wasn't just there because of the children.

He walked them into the theatre after letting the children pick a movie, and sat them in the row in front of him and Jay-la. That would give him a chance to watch them, but be with just Jay-la herself.

They were all talking to each other, very chatty and happy right this minute, he set them up with their snacks and took his seat next to Jay-la, smiled and leaned over to her "Are they always like this?" He'd not seen it before and was curious if this was their normal or were they just like this because they had been happy playing with Brad

"It is their normal state, yes." She nodded at him *once they are settled and comfortable."

There were others in the theatre, but he kept his row and the children's row clear of pack members. Would have cleared the whole theatre if he thought she'd have been comfortable with that. But he thought she needed more time on that one. Had to give her more time, and not rush her.

Though sitting this close to her, his hand still in hers made him want to be alone with her. Lifted her hand up and pressed his lips to the back of it, in a soft lass as the lights dimmed for the previews. She didn't seem to object to him holding her hand, and had not once snapped at him since he'd walked over and joined them either. He knew Havoc and Kora

were happy and settled, she'd not shut them out either, had to be a good thing. Thought about that, when they were out in the pack together. She didn't really actively pick fights with him in full view of the public.

She was stern with him but there was no yelling or screaming at him

Getting fully ticked off with him like there was when they were alone and away from the pack She also hadn't removed his hand from hers, not once, it appeared she was actively trying to get along with him around their pack members

He got to see the triplets turn and look right at them, well her more specifically, 'Mum can we see that one.' They indicated to the movie that was being previewed, and also saw her get her phone out and pull up the Notes. Added it to a list she had in there, glanced at it himself and made a mental note to have her show him that list later, so he could get these movies here for the children to watch.

He smiled right at her, when she looked up at him, mind-link to her as the movie started 'I'll order all those on your list, if they're not here in the pack already.

'Will make them happy.' She replied.

'What movies would you like to see, I'll get you anything you like as well.'

'I'm not fussed!' She shrugged.

'You always liked a good action movie. He smiled, she liked the fight scenes, she also liked corny, stupid funny movies that made you laugh because they were so stupid. Might have to see what's out there, get a few of those, just to hear her laugh.

'I just watch what they watch nowadays.

Well, I can fix that. He smiled and he could. Here inside the pack he had many who could look after the triplets for them, so they could go and have a meal together, watch a movie together, or even go out of the pack for a real date, dinner and dancing in Rothchester. 'I think your parents and mine, probably even Bradley would all be willing to watch them for us, so that we could spend some quality time together.

'Likely. Was her only reply.

It seemed she was still trying to keep her distance from him, it would get harder to do with the more time they spent together. Needed to make time for her, hadn't thought it was going to be necessary, but things just hadn't fallen into line like he thought they would So he was making the effort, he needed to try and connect with her once More.

She'd told Jackson they didn't know her anymore. So he was going to get to know her.

Found himself kissing the hell out of her at one point, didn't even recall how it happened, only that he wanted her a lot. His need to be with her was high right this minute. He had both his hands on her face as he was kissing her, could smell her arousal as she kissed him back as well as his own. Slid a hand down her neck and over her mark spot briefly to cup her b****t and caress it, he was hard and ready for her, his c* *k straining at his pants.

Heard her gasp as he teased her n****e softly and then she was gone from him, yanked herself away from him. His eyes snapped open to find she had put a full seat between them. "Jay-la?" He didn't know what had just happened, he knew she wanted him, knew she would know he wanted her just as much.

the children. She shot down the mind-link at him.

His eyes turned to look at them, and found all three of them looking right at him, he bit his lip a little. "Sorry children, I got a bit carried away." That was an understatement. He had completely forgotten they were there actually, turned and looked at Jay- la, smiled a little, reached out for her, only to have her slide her eyes over him and then shake her head. She could see he was aroused, couldn't hide that. Havoc was chortling inside his mind, as was Kora, for that matter, "Til behave." He chuckled himself, well he would try, heard a few other chuckles roll around the theatre.

Saw her head turn and look at the others in the theatre, kind of looked mortified, he realised. Leaned over and grabbed onto her, brought her back to the chair next to him, mind-linked to her 'Hmm, our pack just got an eyeful! He murmured amused it's embarrassing"

'Why? It's not like they have seen it before?'

'It just is! She muttered.

'We used to get hot and heavy all the time!' He reminded her softly and they had. Everyone had known he was sleeping with her back then. It had been no secret.

'Not in public! She muttered once more.

Smiled to himself, there had been kissing in public, but she was right.

All their real hot and heavy had been behind closed doors, but that was because he was selfish and hadn't wanted anyone to see her n****d body. Her body had been for his eyes only back then. Leaned over and kissed her temple. Now it really was just for his eyes only.

The Defiant Luna Chapter 21

Jay-la

Jay- la sat and shook her head at Nathan, when he looked at her for help, the triplets were coming down from all that sugar he had allowed them to have, that sugar crash was just about to really begin. She'd told him, he would be the one dealing with them, and they were now irritable and getting cranky, unable to sit still. She'd known it was going to happen

Nathan thought it had been cute the past hour after the movie had finished, how happy they were, all running about the suite playing together. He was watching them, sitting on the lounge with her, still holding her hand, smiling at how happy they were. "Two hours tops, and they'll be grumpy and throwing tantrums, from all that sugar, you let them eat. Then, they're all yours to deal with. she'd told him.

This was the very reason she limited their sugar intake. He hadn't taken into account that they were Alpha-blooded triplets, he just saw three, five year olds. They were going to be more than a handful when they all hit that sugar crash, likely all at the same time. She saw the very beginning of it when Rosalie yelled at Lilly for running into her.

Looked right at Nathan "All yours, I'm going to work on that prenup now. He'd turned and looked at her a little surprised as she'd removed her hand from his and gotten up to leave

She'd let him hold her hand everywhere, didn't seem that he wanted to let go of it, saw his eyes actually move to his empty hand, and shook her head "Here is your sugar crash to deal with." She smirked right at him and then walked away to the suite's office to work on Rae-Rae's prenup. She herself had learned the hard way with the triplets.

She sat in that office and listened to the children become cranky and argue with each other, yelling about it was one or the others' fault, complaining they were hungry and wanted snacks, didn't like the food he brought them, whined it wasn't a snack, they didn't want fruit or a sandwich.

Smiled when she heard Rosalie whine she wasn't feeling well, that her head hurt. Then both Nate and Lilly were telling him the same thing as well. He was trying to talk to them, get them to drink some water, Heard a glass smash and near laughed out loud, knew it was Nate who had chucked that glass of water, his alpha temper was on full display out there in the living area. She could give him a smack but didn't think Nathan would, or that Nate would take it so well, the man was only new to him. Heard him admonish the boy and got yelled at by Nate you can't tell me what to do, only mum can."

Heard Nathan sighing quite heavily.

Covered her mouth as a chuckle erupted from her about ten minutes after that, knew he would hear her amusement, and was trying not to laugh when she heard one of the children actually gag and then vomit, started crying about being sick.

Found Nathan in the door way near instantly looking at her all stressed out “Jay-la, Nate is sick.” Could hear the panic, and see it on his face.

“Then I suggest you clean him up, clean the vomit up too.”

“Jay-la?”

“Nope, they’re all yours.” She waved him off with a smile and a shake of her head.

Saw him just stare at her, could actually see he was out of his depth, and had no idea how to manage the three of them. He was actually begging her for help. It was in his expression, would bet an Alpha didn’t look like that, often.

Watched as Rosalie appeared next to him, grabbed onto his pant leg.

Daddy I’m sick.” She whined, it looked like she was going to vomit. It likely didn’t help that she’d seen Nate vomit and could smell it. None of the children did well with vomiting. Saw her gag and watched Nathan’s eyes widen as she threw up all over him.

“Jay-la help me.” He actually asked.

“Hmm, too late I see,” she looked at her daughter, now crying, still holding on to Nathan’s pant leg, and sighed, as Rosalie looked at her tears pouring out of her, got up. He’d finally actually asked for help, and couldn’t deal with the three of them.

“Mummy.” Rosalie sobbed.

“I’ll sort her out, you can clean up the vomit that is now all over the suite. Oh and you’re not calling Misty or any of your omega’s for help.” He had to deal with the aftermath of letting them go crazy and eat all the candy they wanted to. She picked Rosalie up when she reached up for her, and sushed her softly, sighed internally as she looked at Nate, he’d thrown up on himself.

Lilly looked on the green side, though had yet to throw up, “You might want to get Lilly a bowl. She looks green over there.” She told him and saw his head whip around to look at her. Held out a hand to Nate, he came over and took it and she took the two of them to Nate’s room and showered them down, wrapped them in a bath towel each and found them something to wear.

She saw Nathan appear in the doorway to Nates’ room, and noted he was changed, as was Lilly. She was also asleep in his arms, leaned up against him, crashed out finally. “What do I do with her?”

“Let her sleep.” Pointed to Nates’ bed, he just nodded and walked over and put her in there, as she helped Nate and Rosalie into his bed as well. He’d gotten himself a crash

course in parenthood today. Likely thought it was going to be easy, it was not when there were three of them.

Jay-la wondered if he would actually learn from it or if he would always give into them, heard Kora chortle inside her mind 'He'll be suckered

"every time.'

'Then he gets the aftermath every time too. Jay- la chuckled back at her wolf.

She tucked them all in and left them there to sleep it off. A nap would do them good. Sighed at the mess that was still in the suite, he'd cleaned himself and Lilly but the vomit was still in the living area. She went and got the kitchen bin and some paper towels and returned to find him just standing there looking at the mess.

"That was horrible." He muttered.

"Time for you to clean up the mess." She stated and handed him the bin and paper towel, then walked around him when he took it.

"Jay-la?"

"No," she shook her head, "I'm going to go and get changed." Despite the fact she'd not been thrown up on, she could smell vomit on herself.

Rosalie had leaned on her.

Heard him gag several times himself, his sense of smell was much keener than hers was. Though Kora had been quick to shut her sense of smell off, only Jay- la could smell it, so not as bad. He was going to have to learn that the hard way too, it seemed

She changed herself into jeans and a tee-shirt and walked around him into the office. It was hers now, she figured. He had never used it. Saw his annoyed look that she wasn't going to help and smiled at him. She sat herself down at the desk and went back to work or the prenup.

"Never again." Nathan muttered as he walked into the office, sometime later, "I near threw up myself.

"Mm, I recall you hate vomit."

He was just staring at her now. "You knew?"

"I did." She smiled, couldn't help it. "I tried to tell you, told them myself no, they all turned to you. I believe you stated what harm could it do.' Well, now you know that you have to learn to say no to them."

Heard him sigh “That was mean Jay-la.” He muttered.

“Not really. I knew they were going to turn to you, saw it coming. I I said no, would you not think there was a valid reason for it?”

“How can I tell them ‘no’ we were finally getting along, all of them interacting with me for the first time.”

“Oh, I’m aware of that. You should know your children are playing you.

They will continue to do so when I say no. To get what they want, till you learn the hard way to say no.”

Saw him frowning down at her. “They are just five Jay-la I’m sure they are not doing that.”

She shook her head. “All children know how to play the I’m cute and adorable game.” Propped her elbows on the desk, dropped her chin into it and looked up at him, smiled sweetly at him and batted her lashes “

Can we please daddy.” She mimicked the children.

Watched his eyes widen and then blink “Goddess help me.” He muttered

Jay-la laughed softly “You’ll learn, likely the hard way, wasn’t it Nate who said it first? Nate who has still yet to call you anything. He played you, knew you wouldn’t say no to him, not when you want him to be friends with you. Want him’ to interact with you. He’s not dumb.”

She saw him really sigh now. She was not wrong and he only now just realised it.

“How did you do this all by yourself, handle them?”

“Like you... learned the hard way” She nodded “While you’re standing there, before you go back to your office, this prenup is finished, do you want to go over it, or do I just send it to your pack lawyers?”

“I’m not going back to work today, I’m here to spend time with you. And considering you’re the Luna and a lawyer, why would you do that?”

“That might be, but I was hired by the Hills, not your pack”

“Our pack Jay-la, He stated as he walked across the room

She stood and stepped out of the way, saw him raise an eyebrow at her.

“You don’t have to get up for me you know.”

“You’re the Alpha.” She commented.

Heard him sigh, though he did sit in the chair. “I’m also your Mate Jay-la and you don’t need to address me as Alpha.” He stated and then she was suddenly yanked onto his lap “But we can share the chair.”

She frowned at him, but he just smiled at her. “What? You used to like it when I yanked you into my lap.

“Mm.” was all she said. It was true she had once loved it, “Read the prenup.

“I see, work Jay-la, is a hard nut to c***k.” He muttered.

Smiled to herself at that one, he was not wrong on that front,

“It’s very simple,” He commented, after reading through it, “and I see Michael is getting nothing

“Yes, you want a quick wedding. This is the easiest way of doing that, to prove he loves her and is not after her money.”

“Well, I only see one thing that I need you to change.” He touched the screen and pointed out the word apartment. “she can’t keep that, make it a monetary equivalent.”

“Why? If they are never going to leave each other?” she queried him.

“Hmm,..please just change it for me. If the worst happens,” heard him sigh, “She can not retain piece of the pack.

“Fair enough, though, if they have pups, is she going to be allowed to leave and go home after her transformation? They will be alpha

pups.”

“Leave that one alone for now.”

“Alright.” She thought about it for a bit. “What if Michael was to build her an apartment or a house, wherever she wants instead?”

“That would cost more than his place.”

“I know.” Jay- la smiled right at him now. “Seems fair to me though, there will be pups to accommodate as well. So a big house it would be, and likely to Grandpa Hills liking, going to cost you a pretty penny.

“Your actively ripping your own pack off, you know that right.”

“I am squeezing it pretty good.” She nodded at him.

Heard him chuckle and looked right at him. He didn’t seem all that concerned, it wasn’t likely to happen, was amused, it appeared, by her trying to squeeze penny’s out of him. “How about we put a cap on it?”

She turned in his lap now to face him. “What kind of cap are we talking about?” He had her undivided attention now. ” cap based on their years together. The number of children they have. The age of the children, the lifestyle she is used to, the children are used to, it would all have to be taken into account.”

“Goddess, your sexy in work mode.” He smiled at her.

Jay-la raised an eyebrow at him. “I’ll have to take into account everything between now and then. I’ll make it an adjustable cap with a full review of all these things at the time, shall I.”

“You really do love your job, I see.”

“I do. She nodded and turned back to the computer, her brain was ticking on all the clauses she could put in, with an adjustable cap.

Started working on it right away, and felt his hands start to wander over her body. “Stop that.” She shot at him.

“I can’t help it, you’re turning me on.”

‘Get out, I’m just working” She muttered and stood up, leaned a little forward so he could get out of the chair and found herself pushed right up against the desk, his hands on her hips and he was suddenly grinding himself against her, gasped and bit her lip as his mouth hit her neck.

“I want you Jay-la.” He growled, his voice all soft and husky, and she could smell his arousal filling the air around her, could feel him hard up against her backside, felt his hand slide up her body and caress her b****t, a soft moan escaped her, could already feel herself becoming aroused by him, enjoyed the scent of him, that he was aroused and wanting her. Their bond was good and strong. His hand slid further up, to her neck, to her chin and turned her face so he could kiss her his mouth practically devoured hers.

Could feel him tugging at her jeans a few minutes later, until they were down “f**k, you smell so good.” He groaned and then his mouth was on hers once more, she pushed herself back against him and moaned as she found him free of his jeans, his hard c**k sliding through her wet folds “Say yes Jay-la.” He slid against her in firm strokes. Goddess, he, was so big, so long, it had always felt good to feel him against her, was even

better now, with their bond in place, so much heat, and sparks flicking across her most sensitive places “Yes.” She moaned, did want it, wanted him.

He didn’t hesitate, took her in one hard thrust, his mouth on hers, she cried out right into his mouth and gripped the desk herself, to push back against him as he took her eagerly, pleasure was ripping through her body in seconds and it barely took minutes for her to have to bite down on the cries of her o****m, as she came. His breathing was as heavy as hers. “Jay la?” heard the question and the concern in his voice even knew why.

“The door is open.” She moaned, he was still inside of her, still rocking against her, it felt so freaking amazing, “The children will hear.” If he didn’t stop, she was going to build again and she knew it.

Felt his mouth on her neck in a soft kiss “Sorry I forgot about them.”

So had she for the most part.

“Perhaps we should move this to our bedroom. It’s sound proof.

She bit her lip, he wanted to keep going, and she knew it. It had never been just once with him “They’ll be up soon.”

“Mm,” she could feel his hand sliding around her body and then he was touching her, rolling small circles over her c**t “But I need you Jay-la.* He growled deeply, gasped as he pinched her c**t softly.

Moaned the word “Bedroom.” She didn’t want it to stop and she knew it.

He’d been the only one to truly satisfy her needs, nothing had changed there. Was picked up and carried off to their bedroom. Heard the door close and was put down on the bed a moment later, and his mouth was on hers once more, as she pulled at his shirt and then hers was gone

a

Please.” she moaned and then cried out as his mouth found her c**t”

Please Nathan.” She gasped needed him, wanted him, ached for him to take her once more.

His mouth was on hers and he was taking her once more, hard and fast. She matched his thrusts and clung on to him, allowed herself to give over completely to their Mate Bond, so much pleasure ripping through her body, was crying out and pulling at him needed everything he had.

Then her claws were out and she was digging into him, could feel Kora surging forward as she screamed when reaching the peak of her o****m. Then just fell away to the back of her own mind as Kora took full control of her body, to Mate Havoc in human form.

Their wolves need for each other matched her and Nathans'. Havoc and Kora were all over the bed, growling and snarling at each other, mating the hell out of each other all teeth and claws till they to were satisfied.

Kora released control back to her at some point, and Jay-la groaned, she was going to pay for that. Looked at Nathan on the bed next to her and sighed, she could see more than a few bite marks and claw marks on his body. "Shit." She muttered.

Saw him just smile at her, "Guess it wasn't just our needs pushing through."

"She bit you a lot."

"No," he shook his head "She bit Havoc." He chuckled and rolled onto his side to look right at her, "He liked it, just so you know. Seems you fared just as bad."

Turned and looked down at herself, groaned. No wonder she ached all over "Get up." She muttered as she forced her aching body out of the bed.

"Jay-la."

"If Nate sees me like this, or you for that matter" She looked at him pointedly. He had many scratches all over him. "It won't go down so well."

Saw him register what she meant and got up out of bed himself "Your right, it probably wont."

"We need to curb our wolves." Jay-la sighed, didn't even know if that was possible, turned and headed for the bathroom.

"How do you suppose we do that exactly?" he asked as he leaned past her and turned the shower on.

'Kora, don't vou dare sleep. She shot at her wolf who was all splayed out in her mind, sated from mating Havoc 'Heal me first' Got growled at by her own wolf, but then could feel that tingling sensation of being healed. Leaned up against the shower wall as Kora healed her. Her wolf was crazy, it seemed, when mating her Mate

Jay-la opened her eyes when she felt a hand touch her face. "Are you alright?"

"Mm, we might want to let them out tonight." Saw him smile and muttered "are you even a little tired?"

“Hmm. not really.” He shook his head “I can see you are though.” He smiled down at her “I have really missed you Jay-la.” His mouth found hers in a soft kiss.

“Don’t start.” She murmured a minute later and heard him chuckle softly in her ear.

“I wasn’t going to. I want to, all night long, but I can see you are exhausted by our wolves.

She didn’t even know how she was standing right this minute, was finally all healed up. Kora was now asleep all stretched out inside her mind. Had no idea how she was going to handle just how aggressive her wolf was when mating her mate in human form. Hadn’t been like this with them in wolf form. Felt very different. Didn’t seem to take a toll on her at all, but this.

She allowed Nathan to steer her out of the shower and dry her, found his mouth on her ear several times, kissing her softly a few little soft growls coming from him. Then he would just be kissing her all slowly and deep. She didn’t object when he held her n***d body to his and kissed her. Would probably fall down if he let go.

Managed to get dressed and then just leaned on him, her arms around him “How am I supposed to cook dinner now?” she murmured.

Heard him chuckle softly, as he stood there with his arms around her, felt him hug her to him, “You don’t have to, sweetheart, we can go eat in the pack-house dining room. No cooking required.”

“Okay.” She nodded, did not have the energy or inclination to cook a meal right this minute.

“You need a nap.” He sounded amused.

“Bloody wolves, is it always like this?” she asked. He would know. She had no idea. Kora had not been Mated before.

“No, that was new to me as well. I’ve not seen Havoc ever that needy or rough for that matter. He was kind of like a s*x-crazed beast. You’d think he’d not had s*x in years when really it was just days ago.”

Heard the bedroom door open “Mum?”

She opened her eyes and looked at Nate standing in the doorway, saw him look at the two of them. They were standing at the end of the bed, with their arms around each other, and she was all leaned into Nathan, saw him take it in. “we’re hungry. He told her.

“Me too, I’m starving.” Nathan stated, sounded fully amused to her, and she knew why, had worked up an appetite. Bloody Alpha male, had too much stamina. Wasn’t even bloody tired. Wondered if Havoc was awake or asleep.

Groaned as her body protested to her having to walk, when really all she wanted to do was to curl up on the lounge or in the bed and sleep. Knew she could not, with the children up, but really did want to.

Walked with them all the way down to the dining room, Nathan sat her down and told her he would go get her food. She did not object at all, she found herself under the watchful eyes of his whole unit. Would have snarled at them all as they smirked at her. They knew, it seemed, had likely seen her this exhausted before, a long time ago now, but would know, seemed happy about the knowledge.

The Defiant Luna Chapter 22

Nathan left Jay-la asleep in their bed, smiled to himself. She was exhausted still and he knew it. As tired as she had been, she'd still allowed Kora to shift in wolf form last night to be with Havoc. It had been just after 10pm when the triplets had gone to bed and settled down to sleep for the night.

Kora and Havoc had mated in wolf form many times. It had surprised Nathan that Havoc had knotted Kora several times, seems his wolf had more than just pent-up needs on his mind, was out to impregnate his Mate. She was damned fast, much faster than she had once been, and when she'd opted to give Havoc a real run for his money, he'd actually had to give it his all to run her down. This only seemed to excite his wolf into mating Kora furiously and he'd knotted her, had let out a massive howl as he had done so. Damned pleased with himself.

It didn't go unnoticed by Jay-la, she muttered down the mind-link"

Really" At him.

He'd just laughed, there was no way he could stop it, was not in control of Havoc, could barely contain his beast at the best of times. Kora, on the other hand, did not seem to mind at all. Had even taunted him into chasing her all over the place, which had led Havoc to knotting her several more times during the night.

He'd simply picked Jay-la up at the pack-house's mud room after stepping inside and slipping a shirt on her, had his own locker in there, made sure she was wearing his. Would not be standing for her in anyone else's clothing.

Havoc was rolling around inside his mind all happy and contented, legs up in the air rubbing himself everywhere. Could feel pure joy and happiness coming off of his wolf, as Nathan carried a very tired Jay-la upstairs to the suite.

'Happy with yourself, I see.'

He got purred right at, that was new to him. Didn't think he'd ever felt his wolf like this before, 'You know Jay-la's going to be mad at you when she wakes up right!

Kora loved it, wanted me to.

Nathan shook his head and looked down at her as he put her in their bed. She had been asleep before he'd even walked through the ground floor to the elevator to come upstairs, was actually curled into him.

When he'd reached down to pick her up she'd not objected and had just raised her arms to slip them around his neck. It was a nice feeling to have her want that, mostly he knew it was because she was tired. But he would take it as a win.

Looked at her from the bedroom doorway, she was n***d, he'd removed that shirt from her when he'd put her to bed so he could pull her into him all n***d. Enjoyed the feeling of her n***d body against his. She didn't object, murmured something unintelligible and slid an arm around him before going right back to sleep.

He was up for training and headed there as he did every day. He had not even attempted to wake her for it, she needed the sleep, and he knew it. Though even he'd snoozed his alarm three times this morning, he was actually feeling a bit tired this morning. Havoc was currently still sleeping, all mated out it seemed.

Though this head lifted up as he closed the suite door, 'Kora! He'd semi-growled at Nathan

'Sleeping we've got training. He smiled to himself. It seemed losing the scent of his mate had snapped his eyes open, knew she wasn't near him. He didn't want to be away from his Mate, it seemed, it was actually kind of nice. Felt Havoc, put his head back down and go right back to sleep

He was a bit late for his training session, and strolled into the gym to find Ethan and Stephen waiting for him along with their group of warriors. He wasn't the only one late either. He saw Jackson hurrying in the door a minute after he'd arrived. "Sorry Alpha."

"It's fine Jackson, I nearly didn't make it myself." He smiled at him.

Knew Jackson was as newly mated as he was. Saw him smile right back.

"Really?"

'Hm, we let Havoc and Kora out last night.' Nathan told him via the mind-link. The whole pack didn't need to know their business

"Ah, I thought you and Jay-la again? Jackson replied, and could hear the smile in his voice.

No, she was exhausted yesterday afternoon. But it was her idea to let our wolves out. He grinned at his Beta, the whole unit had noticed her state at dinner. They were not stupid. There was nothing wrong with his and her bond. That was for sure, the s* was bloody amazing. It was only the non-s*x part of their relationship that was the problem, but he was working on that.

She had not objected to his want of her, his need to have her yesterday, and he'd asked her permission and gotten a 'yes. He had wanted to know himself if she did want him. He could have had her without asking, she was responding to him and his need, had smelled her arousal, but he'd wanted to hear her say 'yes.

It had turned from his need to be with her to an ache and the just a raw hunger to have her, had taken over him. He also knew she had felt the same, because he'd been feeding on the scent of her arousal. I had been insanely strong, flooding out of her like nothing he'd smelled before

The way she had been all over him pulling at him, she had really wanted him, and he would not deny her needs, it had been akin to their need during Marking and Mating, he now realised.

He stood and directed training this morning instead of actively participating. It got him many curious looks and a few raised eyebrows.

He liked to train and was involved in every training session. But he was too tired right that minute, had barely gotten 3 hours sleep himself, noted Jackson was assisting and not participating as well, it didn't even bother him. It was likely they were both tired from lack of sleep.

He probably should have just stayed in bed and slept like Jay-la was. He might just do that next time. He strolled out of training with Jackson next to him and asked, "How's Margaret?"

"Sleeping. He smirked.

"How's Margaret." He asked again. It wasn't exactly what he'd meant.

"She's good, happy from what I can tell. Though it still appears to annoy Ethan, a little to see her stroll out of my suite. She's already talking about a baby." Shook his head "Seems she wants an entire litter. Tried to tell her she was only eighteen and got stared right at."

"Didn't like you putting that off."

"Told me and I quote 'You wanna sleep on the floor for the foreseeable future. I kind of didn't know what to say to her."

“Hmm, might just want to give her what she wants,” Nathan laughed softly.

“Mm. The packs future beta will be 6 years or more behind the future

Alpha as will the entire Alpha Unit.”

“Hmm, I’ve not really thought about that. I guess it will be. Don’t worry too much about it. We’ll deal with that in like ten years.

“You say that, but who’s going to be with Nate while our children grow up?”

“You and I can hand pick an elite team.”

“He might want to keep them instead of waiting.

“We can make them older. We’ll sort it out later Jackson, don’t worry about it.” but it was something to think about. A six year gap could be difficult for his son. It meant they wouldn’t grow up and train together, wouldn’t go to school together and be best friends either. That could be difficult for the boy. Sighed he was going to have to really think about it, find a way for them all to connect, and keep them close knit so he’d want them as his Alpha Unit.

Shook it off and changed the subject, “I didn’t see Michael at training this morning.” He Should have turned up on time.

“He wasn’t there. He also didn’t report for his punishment last night either, and shut me out when I tried to mind-link to him. I left you out of it, finally spending time with Jay- la. You two need that. Do you want to bet where he is?”

Nathan looked right at Jackson now, “Thank you for leaving me out of it and I thought he was going to wait?”

“Hmm, I think Rae- Rae is the one that wants to wait. Stephen is older than her by what? 6 years. The boy has plenty of experience, he’d be itching to Mate her, be hard to deny himself, I imagine.”

“Shall we go knock on her door then?” Nathan smirked.

“We should.” Jackson laughed at him and his tone. “But let’s hope he didn’t get carried away.”

Nathan groaned at that thought, “There will be trouble if he did. It’s only a week until the full moon.” Knew it was too soon for Rae- Rae to be shifted, she still didn’t know anything about them or their kind, had wanted to wait at least a week for her to really settle in. Then allow her that first wolf sighting.

“On the subject of the full moon, how are we going to handle Jay-la’s Luna Ceremony with a human here?”

“That is mother’s problem.” He snorted, though he probably should remind her of that fact.

They headed up to the first floor where Rae-Rae’s suite was, he pulled on that tether that was his brother and they were not wrong. He was definitely in there. Leaned on the wall next to the door and saw Jackson follow his lead, and lean up on the wall the other side

Connected his mind to both Jackson and Michael ‘Michael, you did not attend your punishment last night, I hear. Used his Alpha tone on his brother.

s**t sorry.

‘My office now. He growled at his brother.

Saw Jackson snort fully amused, as they leaned there on the wall.

“Yes, Nathan’

‘It’ll be the Alpha you are dealing with, not your brother. He shöt at Michael.

‘Yes Alpha.

Nathan disconnected the link and looked at Jackson with a smile “Oh, you are in a good mood. Going to torment him, I see.”

“Mmm, I am in a good mood.” He smiled and he was currently.

“It’s nice to see you so happy.”

“We’ll see how long it lasts,” He murmured.

He had Alpha Austin coming today and he had no idea how that was going to go. Had never even met the man himself. He’d not even had to deal with the council before. He’d still not figured out how that man or the Wolfen Council even knew that Jay la and the triplets were here inside his pack.

Whatever was going to happen with that man, would probably go down better if Jay-la had called off the Feds like he’d asked her to. If she did it today, it was going to seem like he’d made her because the council was here. If they knew the charge was still against him, that could be a problem too. It could be seen that she didn’t want to drop it.

It took Michael a good ten minutes to come out of Rae-Rae's room, and he was freshly showered and cleaned up, trying to get the evidence of Rae- Rae off of him, Nathan supposed.

"You missed training. He stated as Michael emerged from the room.

Latched a hand onto his upper arm with a good firm grip. Saw his brother's eyes go wide at being caught more than anything he thought.

Watched as Jackson took him by the other arm, "March boy." Jackson snapped all pack Beta aura rolling off him. The man too could play.

"I'm sorry."

"To late." Nathan stated flatly as they man handled him from the first floor. It took all of a minute for him to hear his mother and father coming calling out to him from the Alpha floor. Michael had called for back-up, mind-linked to his parent's, as well as Michael'Havoc is displeased, you dodged your punishment over your treatment of the Luna.

Marched him right into his office "Beta, what is the punishment for dereliction of duty and not taking one's punishment for such a crime against the pack's Luna?"

"He missed training, and didn't attend his punishment as was given to him by you and the Luna. So I would think at least two or three days in the coldest cell we have. Or a lashing.

"What? you can't be serious, that is not fair" Michael was suddenly struggling against their grip.

"Nathan." It was his father. "Let him go."

"Close the door." He commented as he and Jackson made Michael sit in the chair in front of his desk. "You better stay in it or Havoc will be out of me."

They saw the man stare up at him, they all knew what Havoc was like on a warpath, they could actually smell a bit of fear rolling off his little brother as he walked around and sat behind his desk. As the Alpha, with the one to be punished in front of him. "Do you care to explain your were about when you were supposed to attending patrol duty?"

He saw both his mother and father frowning at him now, looked from him to Jackson, and Jackson who was standing behind Michael wink at them. He saw his father shake his head and smile himself, understood they were just toying with him

"I well.

“Spit it out, or the cells and a lashing you’ll get. I’ll let Jackson do it. It might not be so bad.”

He heard Jackson snort “Might not?”

He saw Michael look from him to Jackson and back. “Fine, I was with Rae-Rae.” He muttered

“All night, and this morning when you missed training?”

“Yes.” He nodded.

He saw his mother smiling now. She knew he was supposed to wait.

Did you Mate her?”

“Well. no. but yes.”

Nathan smiled and shook his head, “You were supposed to wait, I believe.” Saw real relief fall over his little brother. “You didn’t mark her now, did you?”

“You’re an a*s, do you know that?” Michael muttered.

“Yes, I do.” Nathan laughed, as did Jackson and both his parents. “But it was fun to see you squirm.

“Son?” it was his mother.

“I didn’t mark her.”

“Is the young lady alright?” Jackson chuckled.

“Of course she is. Why wouldn’t she be?” Michael frowned up at him.

“We heard she was innocent, and well, you are Alpha-blooded, she’s also human.” Nathan shook his head.

Michael stared at him and then muttered “Can I go back to her now, now you’re done toying with me.”

“Go. Nathan waved him off. “Oh, but Michael, you can add another two. nights to your patrol, as punishment for not attending your punishment.”

“Fine.”

Watched him stalk out of the office and looked at Jackson “Now that was fun.”

“It was, you may wish to let Jay-la know what happened, don’t want her hearing about it on the grapevine so to speak.”

“Rae-Rae will probably tell her they seem pretty close. Or she’ll smell Michael on the girl herself” Looked at his parents. “I just thought you should know what was going on with him. You’ll speak with him, about not marking her. s*x will make him want to every time.

“You scared that boy half to death, you know, he mind-linked to the both of us in a bloody panic.” His mother shook her head.

“No chance of that, Havoc is still sleeping” He chuckled and stood “On that note.”

“Son, how is Jay-la?” his mother asked him. “We heard Havoc really howl last night.”

“Mm, mated the hell out of his Mate. Jay-la is sleeping. It was her idea to let Kora and Havoc out.”

“I’m not concerned about your wolves son.” She sighed.

“I don’t know how she is to be honest. We did spend all afternoon and night together, but that part of our bond is not the problem. So, she could be good, she could be ticked off with just one conversation. She’s not exactly easy to read.”

“You two did have some fun yesterday though. The pack has been talking about her and the pups with Brad.”

“I also heard it got a bit steamy in the theatre.” His father piped up.

“Yes to both, and she was actually genuinely happy to see her brother play with the children. Stephen was there and told me himself.”

“Good.” His mother sounded relieved. It’s a good start...the theatre, that is also good to hear.”

“I was likely hotter in their suite after that.” Jackson chuckled “you should have seen her all exhausted.”

“Shut it.” Nathan shook his head.

“What the current Luna wants to know how the new Luna is attaching to you.”

“That is very good to hear, son. Perhaps you should be spending all your time with her till she is happy.”

“And who would run the pack?” he looked right at her pointedly.

“Oh, it can run itself for a week or so, without you”

“Go away.” He muttered “I need to go up and shower.” He waved them all away and headed back to his suite, found the triplets were all up and watching TV. He smiled at them “Feeling better this morning?”

They all just nodded at him.

“Is your mum up yet?”

“No.” he was told.

“Alright, I’ll go wake her, and we’ll all go downstairs and get some breakfast in a few minutes.” Walked into their bedroom and closed the door, looked at her and smiled, she hadn’t so much as moved a muscle, climbed right into their bed and growled softly into her ear “Morning Jay-la.” Heard her groan and smiled “It’s time to get up sweetheart.”

“Do I really have to?” She muttered right back “I don’t like early mornings.

“Hmm, I could wake you up pretty good.” He murmured softly as he slid his hand down her bare back, trailing his fingers lightly across her skin, knew it would trail hot sparks down her body, also knew she was completely n***d.

Saw those green eyes turn on him. “Morning” He smiled. Yes, she was awake now. Slid his hand around the curve of her hip and tugged her over and leaned down to kiss her softly, he would enjoy staying in bed with her.

“Nathan?”

Smiled right down at her, he was just teasing her “It’s a pity that the children are already up.” He growled softly at her, it was all him though, no Havoc, his wolf was sleeping soundly still, inside his mind, “We should get up before I get to aroused.”

“Agreed.” She nodded.

He got up off of the bed and took the sheet with him so he could look down at her n***d body, slid his eyes right over her. A deep growl came from him, he wanted her, saw her eyes widen and watched her reach for the sheet. “No,” he told her. “I like looking at you. Will never get tired of looking at you.” Ripped the sheet clean off the bed and out of her reach.

He could already feel himself getting hard for her. “Come shower with Yanked her up and out of bed. “I need company.” Though he was going to have to make it quick with the children up.

The Defiant Luna Chapter 23

Jay-la POV

Jay-la sat with Nathan, the children and his unit, and got an introduction to Margaret, Jackson's new Mate who was Ethan's little sister. Jay-la hadn't seen her since she was twelve. Margaret smiled right at her and said "It's good to see you again. Though I never did understand why you really left."

She actually heard Nathan sigh out loud at the girl's comment. He probably didn't like her reminding him of what he had done, or didn't want her to be reminded of it, she supposed. She just said nothing and let it go, she herself was trying not to think about it, though she was not likely to ever forget it, but was trying to let it go.

She saw Jackson touch her arm and shake his head at her, and saw his and Margaret's eyes glaze over, a private conversation from him to her, likely asked her not to bring it up again, Jay-la thought.

She knew that Kora was very happy with her Mate, had seemed to just let her Mate Bond to Havoc, obliterate their history and the pain of being banished by him. Jay-la and Kora both knew that Havoc had helped with that order for them to leave and to never come back. Now Kora just didn't seem to care about it at all.

She and Kora had always been of the same mind on most things in their lives. Now, however, they were at odds some of the time, not fighting, just a difference of opinion mostly.

She watched as her mother and father walked into the dining room and right over to their table. Felt Nathan stiffen slightly as he realised that they were going to stop at his table. She guessed it was the first time he was having to deal with them in years. She'd been told they'd avoided him, by her father himself.

"Sweetie, your grandmother is coming to visit today, she was so happy to hear you were home with me and safe. Told me right away, she would come down and see you, say hello."

"You called grandmother?" Jay-la asked. She knew that Nathan thought she had been the one to call the council on him, or at least that line of questioning he'd aimed at her led her to believe that. How else was she supposed to take it, with multiple questions on the same thing from different angles?

"I did, I didn't think our Alpha would object to her coming either, seeing as she is your grandmother." Watched her mother look right at Nathan, he shook his head but said nothing at all. Her eyes moved right back to her. "I call her weekly. She has always asked if you'd come home. She wants to have lunch today. She called just now to say she'd be

here in two hours. She also wants to meet her grandbabies.” Jay-la smiled “Alright, it would be nice. I’d like her to meet them too.” And she would, had been offered sanctuary in her pack. Her grandmother had wanted to protect her.

“Vera, Jodi.” It was Nathan. “We have not had a chance to speak properly, since Jay-la has come home. I would like to do that. Would you both have a meeting with me?”

Jay-la sat and watched the interaction, noticed that he was being very formal with them. Though there was no Alpha tone coming from him, she saw her father’s eyes glaze over and then her mother’s a moment later. A private conversation was going on between the two of them.

One that her father had started.

That was interesting to her, because they had let Abbey injure her mother in order to get her back here. Jay-la had just presumed that they were happy with Nathan being her Mate, that they wanted it. Had helped Abbey because she had told them Nathan was her Mate.

She didn’t think Brad was going to be so forgiving. Her mother, she knew, was going to be and was likely to have already forgiven him. Had dressed her up and sent her off to him on that date, was apparently working on her Luna Ceremony.

Her father, it now seemed, was on the fence, likely had wanted her to come home, but that was all. By the look of his shaking his head and her mother’s frowning, it was likely that her mother was trying to convince him to agree to it. He’d not so much as greeted his Alpha, or his unit for that matter.

They were all sitting watching her parents right this minute. Nathan himself had stopped eating, he was trying to do this as her Mate and not their Alpha, she realised. But it didn’t seem that him being either her Mate or the pack Alpha was going to sway her father. He was only going to come around when he was ready. She saw them return to the room. Her father still didn’t look all that happy.

“What time, Alpha?” Vera asked him,

“After breakfast would be good...Mother and father will be there to join us as well. Please, Vera, Jodi call me Nathan, we are all family now.”

Watched as her mother nodded and smiled at him “We’ll see you in 30 minutes then.”

He nodded and her mother and father smiled at her and then at the children, “A big family dinner tonight Jay-la?” Her mother asked her.

“Alright.” She nodded

“Please feel free to use the private dining room, Vera, it will seat up to a dozen.”

“Thank you, I will do just that.” She smiled at him and then they walked away, saw her father’s hand drop to the small of her mother’s back as they walked away.

She turned and looked at Nathan. “Am I going to this meeting?”

“Actually, I’d prefer not. It might get heated; your family doesn’t exactly get along with me.” He stated, after looking at the children, chose his words carefully, she thought.

“That’s an understatement,” Margaret stated and then snapped her mouth shut before uttering an apology to Nathan, though she addressed him by title, not name.

Heard him sigh once more “It’s fine Margaret, it is the truth.” But he pushed his plate away and was done eating, it seemed “Jay-la, I need to go and prep for this meeting, do you mind?”

She shook her head ‘no’ “I need to go find Rae-Rae and show her the prenup, seeing as she’s not here for breakfast.”

Saw him stand and then watched as his whole unit did as well. If he didn’t eat, neither did they, it seemed. A bit unfair, she thought. But as she looked at them, none of them looked particularly happy this morning

She felt his hand slide through her hair and looked up at him, blinked when she found him right there in front of her, ‘Rae-Rae won’t be alone, I don’t think you want to go barging into her room.’ He mind-linked to her.

‘What?’ her eyes widened.

‘I believe Michael spent the night with her.’ felt his lips press to hers softly I just thought you might want the heads up!

‘Did he mark her?’

“No.

“I’ll murder him if he did.’ She muttered, the full moon was less than a week away.

‘Feel free to tell him that.’ He smiled at her.

“I will don’t you worry.” Sighed as he smiled at her.

“I do like your feistiness, a bit of a turn on.” He winked at her and then walked away.

She really did need Suzy here to look after the triplets, Jay-la realised, she was used to them being in school while she worked. Though she had noticed that they all had school uniforms, she did know the pack school would run differently to the human one.

Wolves got a lot more time off than humans, two weeks for each season and six weeks for summer “Margaret, when does school stop for winter this year?” knew it was slightly different each year depended on many things. Mostly the weather, though. Read more free novels at Jobnib.com

“The twentieth, I believe, and then they go back on the fifth. I can walk down there with you, if you like, show the children the school. It’s had a few updates while you were away.”

“That would be nice.” Turned to look at the triplets, and saw them all wrinkle their noses, it didn’t look like they were happy about going back to school.

“You have to attend at some point.” She told them, though she was not going to make them until the new year, seeing as it was the sixteenth already, no point in attending for the last three days, unless they wanted to, but it didn’t look like that to her.

Heard Margaret chuckle and looked at her,

“Their adorbs, you know, I can’t wait till I have a pup.”

“You’re only young yet.”

“I don’t care, I like babies. I work in the creche a fair bit, with your mum.

I’m a bit like her, just love the babies.”

“Well, I hope you have one soon then.”

“Oh, I got my man working on that.” She grinned “Can’t wait to go into...

Jay-la cleared her throat and shook her head at the girl, “I haven’t explained that yet.”

“Might want to, you’ve been Mated 3 days now.”

“I know, just...”

“Difficult. Darla or my mother should be able to help with that. You recall she runs the mating classes, everything about wolves mating is discussed.”

“Mmm, I’d forgotten that, been a long time since that class.” And it had been most wolves got that at 16, but most already understood it before then.

“Come on, she’ll be at the school. Class starts in like thirty minutes. If we walk, we’ll get there after everyone settles into class.”

“Thank you, Margaret.”

“No probs, you and I are destined to hang out a lot from my understanding.” She smiled and it was true. As well as Suzy, when she got here, that made her curious. “Ethan’s not Mated.”

“Not anymore. Lost his mate to a rogue attack about four years ago.

Terribly sad. I don’t think he’s looking for another either. Buries himself in research or the pack library, though he does attend the balls, but I think that is because he’s part of the Alpha Unit. Not because he’s searching for a new Mate.”

“That is very sad, didn’t know that.”

“Hmm, he doesn’t talk about Claudia much, she was a warrior and instead of staying here in the pack-house as he told her too, went out to help like all warriors do. And didn’t make it.” heard her sigh “she was fierce, came from another pack, did not like....

sighed and didn’t finish

her sentence.

“Didn’t like?”

“Sophia.”

“Why not? I don’t know anything about her.”

“You don’t really want to, not many here did like her. Especially in the end.” Shook her head “Turned out she was a real nasty piece of work.

Wanted to banish any she-wolf that dared to even shake Nathan’s hand. Was, rude and demanding, treated the omega’s like garbage to be honest, struck quite a few of them, thought it was acceptable. I believe, though none of them would tell the Luna or Alpha either, she was wrong to do it. From what I saw, nothing in this pack was good enough for her.”

Nathan had not spoken of her like that, all she knew was she had been lazy and didn’t attend Luna lessons or duties, no training, just spent pack money on nothing. Wondered what sort of up bringing the girl had had

Thought about those Luna lessons. She'd not attended any herself, or training for that matter, would do so once her human life was closed out, she had to sort that out first. So she didn't get caught up and just forget about it altogether.

They walked through the pack heading for the school. It was a nice walk, the snowplow had been through already and cleared the roads, and the sun was actually shining this morning, that was also nice.

Pulled her phone from her pocket and looked at the caller ID when it rang "Hi Suzy, its good to hear from you." Though in her mind she knew it was still the middle of the night over there.

"Hi, Jay-la." Suzy sounded tired and a little teary to her ear.

"What's wrong?" she stopped walking.

"Mum's house caught fire.." she burst into tears "We're just."

Jay-la nearly linked to Stephen instantly, put it off, he'd panic "Take a breath, Suzy." Heard her breathe in a few times. Jay-la knew it wasn't just Suzy, her mum Elena and her younger sister Maya. They had no other family here.

"It's still on fire." She whispered "We've got nowhere to go."

She could feel Stephen calling to her via the Mind-Link, panic in his voice 'Suzy is on the phone with me, please wait.' She cut the link, couldn't talk to him and Suzy at the same time. "Suzy, go to my place, you can all stay there, I'll call the doorman and explain, I'm going to send someone to pick you all up. Stay right there, I'll call you back in a few minutes."

"Okay, thank you."

"I'll call you right back" Jay-la reassured her and ended the call. She could already hear footsteps coming towards her, knew it was going to be Stephen. She turned and looked at him. "She's okay, just shaken up and upset, no-one's injured, she would have told me."

"We have to go and get her."

"I know, call your man out there. I told her I would send someone for her. Just one of them, have him take her, her mother and sister to my place. I'll call my doorman, he knows her. Breathe Stephen, she will be just fine. I promise you we'll keep her safe."

She could see fear and worry were written all over him, reached out and touched his arm. "Call them okay." Saw him nod.

She put a call in to her doorman and explained, to him to let Suzy and her family into her apartment, that she may not have her key due to current circumstances. Once in Suzy knew where the spare key was inside the apartment, she could use it.

She could hear Stephen rapping out orders like crazy, was she realised all Gamma, the third in charge around here, and no one was going to ignore him, unless Jackson or Nathan over ruled him and she didn't believe either one of them would.

She'd never actually seen him all assertive and in charge. Jay-la realised as she stood watching him, she had seen him use his Gamma Charm on her, he'd thought it was fun, those few times he'd gotten to.

Not that she had, but had now come to realise it was a good thing.

That their Goddess saw fit to gift the Gamma bloodlines with that Charm, to calm their Luna's down, all she-wolves for that matter. Had relied upon him to help her to pull herself together, and did not think she could have done it without him.

She called Suzy back, the minute he was off the phone, she picked up right away. "Suzy, it's Jay-la, it won't be long, I have a man named."

Looked at Stephen.

"Gregory." He told her.

"Gregory coming, a few minutes out only. Do you have your key?"

"No, we have nothing, I just grabbed my mum and Maya and got out."

"Alright, you know where the spare key is, it's yours. Greg will be around and he'll give you his number and he or one of his men, they are all security men, can take you anywhere you need to go, back to the house, once everything calms down."

"Okay." She still sounded shaken up to Jay la.

"How bad is it, Suzy?"

"I don't know." Suzy sighed.

Heard a man state her name "Suzy Martinez?"

Heard the usual human response to one so big and imposing, "Um... yes."

"I'm Gregory and here to take you to Jay-las apartment. Sorry about your house."

"You got here quick?"

“Yes ma’am, was local already.” Likely he’d been the one to report the fire and call Stephen.

“Jay-la?”

“That will be Gregory. You can trust him, I promise.”

“Okay.”

“Go with him and rest.”

“Thank you, Jay-la.” She clicked the line closed.

“She’s alright Stephen, not harmed. What happened?” she asked him, knowing that Gregory was likely the one who’d been watching her.

“They don’t know, stated that an hour ago, everything was fine, though I’ve heard it’s an older house. It could be anything.”

“Mm, I know they don’t make much. Maya is in college and her mum had them later in life and should really be taking it easier, retire in a few years, though I doubt that will happen.”

“We could organise that Jay-la.” Stephen sighed

“I understand that, Stephen, but I don’t know if Elena would agree, she is a proud woman, and doesn’t even like it when I send Suzy home with her Christmas bonus. Maya is the only one of the three of them to attend college and both Suzy and Elena are paying the tuition for her. I believe it’s not cheap.”

Heard him sigh now “That’s why she doesn’t want to come out here.

Where is her father? My men have not seen a man in that house.”

“Died a long time ago I think.” She rubbed his arm gently. Everything is going to be fine...we will find a way to bring Suzy here..you are working on that, right?” she raised an eyebrow at him, referring to their conversation from the other day about getting Nathan out of the pack so she could overrule him and let Stephen go to Suzy.

“It is difficult.” He nodded, “We can’t really until your heat.”

Shushed him on that right away, and got a raised eyebrow back, looked at the children pointedly and saw him nod, “Apologies Jay-la, but you might want to talk to them.”

“That is what we are doing now, going to see Deena.” And it was a good idea, seeing as Havoc had clearly decided to try and get a pup from Kora, and her wolf held no objections

to it. She seemed happy to just give her Mate whatever he wanted, even though she was not in heat.

Was willing to try and conceive a pup.

Her wolf, it seemed, was completely crazy, still sleeping as well, exhausted from her night with Havoc. Jay-la hadn't bothered to chastise Kora, there was no point, she loved her Mate and the Bond had her real good. It was likely that Kora would give Havoc everything he wanted.

She found Stephen walking with them, stayed with them for the entire conversation with Deena, as they sat in her office inside the school.

Listened to Deena explain it and heard the children giggle when she explained it was just like two animals. Told them very simply, it would last a few days and during that time the three of them would be staying with one set of their grandparents for the whole time. That they wouldn't see either, their mum or dad at all for 3 to 7 days depending on how long the heat lasted, that it can in some Bonded pairs happen twice a year.

She found all three of them staring at her "The joys of being a she-wolf.

" She commented.

"I don't want that." Lilly screwed up her nose.

"Me neither." Rosalie murmured.

It was a long way off for them, and this was only being explained to them because they had no idea about it at all. If they had grown up here and she had been Mated they would have seen it, learned by watching and just come to accept it as part of their normal life, no explanation needed at all. It would simply be normal for their parents to disappear into their bedroom for a week once or twice a year.

They did not ask many questions, just kind of stared at her every now and then on the way back to the pack-house. They all looked at Margaret as well, or the girls did. She'd stated she was very excited about her heat. They had been told it was not painful and that it was a natural thing in order to produce a pup.

The word pup still made them giggle, it seemed to just tickle their funny bones. The explanation had gone better than she'd expected.

They did ask who they would stay with and was told either of their grandparents.

"It is likely Blaine and Darla, due to their bloodline." Stephen stated, "To keep them inside the packhouse, you understand why," she nodded"

Though I think Nathan will discuss your parents with you.” Discuss what exactly?”

“What is going on right now.”

“Did they argue?” she murmured.

“Not really.” He shook his head “Your father has voiced his concern on some matters, but that is all.”

“Nathan will talk to you about the meeting they all had. I’ll likely be there, as will the whole unit.”

That made her frown “So it went that well then?” she sighed.

“It’s just that some other things have been brought into the light, is all.

They will need to be discussed with you. Unfortunately, Alpha Austin’s timing is terrible. Another day would have been good.”

“Does he understand it wasn’t me who called him now?”

“Jay-la, he didn’t believe it was you. He has that Alpha mentality, where he needs to question everything and get his answers. I had words with him about that myself. It won’t happen again.

She shook her head, at the thought that Nathan needed to be told, not to treat her like that. It was odd, he’d been Mated before, had he been a terrible Mate to Sophia as well. Always questioning her over every little thing. Interrogating her on the smallest of things.

The Defiant Luna Chapter 24

Nathan

Nathan had everyone in his office; Jay-la’s parents, Vera and Jodi, his parents, Blaine and Darla, the pack doctor Franklin, his Alpha Unit, and he had even managed to get Jay-la’s brother Bradley into his office.

Though he had been the last to arrive, but had attended as requested.

That man had looked around the room at everyone in there and frowned near instantly.

Nathan had been mind-linked by Franklin on the way down to breakfast, only to be informed that Jay-la’s blood work was back and the news was not good. That it showed she was afflicted and was adrenalized.

He now sat in his office with everyone that needed to know the news, Stephen had been informed by Jackson yesterday afternoon and allowed to read the entries in the Luna's communications book. He had not liked it at all, his parents had already seen her flight and fight mode activated, his mother had likely understood it to some degree.

Having read this book, she'd got between them and let her flee. Had recognised the signs he supposed.

Her distress had broken her, just like it read in the book, his father had seen her and Kora size him up without any concern as to where they were; out in the human world for all to see, or the fact that he was alpha blooded.

His mother had likely saved his father's life that day, made him back away and show Jay-la and Kora that they didn't want to fight, allowed her to flee from them, and she had been gone for hours and no-one had known where she was at the time.

Now all the information was there in black and white, she was not in a good way and anything could set off that flight and fight response.

Though he believed it would only happen if a direct threat to herself or to the triplets was felt by her and Kora. He was certainly not that to her, did not believe anyone here inside the pack was a threat to her, so that should help.

It had not escaped his attention that the pack seemed happy to have her as their Luna. A good eighty percent of them had grown up here with her, they all knew her, she wasn't mean or nasty, wasn't demanding and she had always been polite, even to the omega's. They liked that, got respect from her, unlike how they had been treated by his previous Mate.

Nathan took a long breath in and told them what he had learned, showed both her parents and her brother as well as his father those entries. Franklin had seen them last night, requested it from Jackson, when he'd been told the Alpha was with the Luna. Jackson had given it to him without hesitation, the man needed to know.

Then Franklin stood up and explained her over adrenalized blood to them, saw Bradley frown, but both her parents just sighed, noticed it didn't come as a complete shock to them. Looked to him like they already had some idea or knowledge of this, that was curious to him.

For the first time in years, Bradley looked right at him and was the first to speak, asked him a direct question: How did you know to test her blood, for this rare affliction?" There was not even any anger in his voice, just concern for his sister.

"Mother got hit by it in L.A. The pouring out of distress, and then she sized father up just moments later when he tried to stop her from leaving." He told them and indicated for his

parents to tell them what had happened in the restaurant that night and how they felt about it.

They both did, didn't sugar coat anything either, even his mother stated how broken she felt, that all she could do was lay down and cry, so very overwhelmed by the fear Jay-la had poured out of her that night. Afflicted by it, just like it stated in the book they'd gotten to read.

They all needed to know the truth of the situation, nothing was held back from them.

"It could be why, she is so difficult with you at times, son," His father commented.

"That's not it." Bradley stated flatly, but did not elaborate further.

Nathan didn't say anything either. He also knew it wasn't that, she had her own feelings on why she was there inside the pack. He was still working on that. Knew that he could tell her he loved her till he was blue in the face, but that didn't mean she would believe him, not until whatever it was deep down inside of her, that caused her not to believe him was resolved.

He was pretty sure she loved him, she just wasn't certain he Nathan, loved her. Their coming together was messed up, and in her mind he only wanted their children, not her. He'd told her it wasn't the truth, but she still didn't seem to believe it.

He looked at both her parents. They'd been quiet now "Vera, Jodi.

Neither of you seem surprised by this. May I ask why not?"

"Jay-la told us, that she and Kora. They feel that something is wrong with them," Vera told him.

"To be specific." Jodi stated,

"told us just yesterday, they do not feel that they are in a good place, that fear and pain overwhelms them easily.

Actually stated to us, voiced out loud her own concern that she thinks her flight and fight response isn't normal, that she believes something is wrong with it."

"Our girl is smart." Vera smiled, though it was sadly.

"Why did you not bring this to my attention yesterday?" Nathan asked with a frown.

"She would do it herself if she wanted you to know." Bradley stated, staring hard at him.

"Son," it was his mother. "Perhaps Jay-la is afraid you would reject her because of this."

“I would not.” He frowned

‘Mm, that being said, she wouldn’t know that. But would know Alpha’s don’t want defective Mates or Mates that are afflicted with things that could be passed on down to their offspring.” His father sighed “She might be afraid or worried deep down, you’d reject her.”

“Likely think you’ll reject her, banish her back to the human world uncaringly, but keep your children. Take them from her.” Brad muttered.

That did make more sense to him on her frame of mind. “I will not be. I do love her, Bradley...I also want to fix this, there is a way, you’ve all read it...I also don’t care how long it takes. I think we need to all work together to help her.”

“Have you told her yet?” Jodi asked him.

Glared at Stephen when his phone rang and he excused himself, now wasn’t the time to be leaving the room. “I will be,” he nodded as Stephen left the room and closed the door. Likely he was getting an update on his Mate. Nathan wasn’t happy he’d just left the room, but the most important part of the conversation was done, he supposed.

Everyone was now aware of her affliction, they all just needed to decide on a plan of action.

“The sooner the better.” It was Franklin, “I’ll need to do regular blood tests and I will start that research today. It is likely there are more efficient ways to reduce her adrenaline levels. It’s been over a hundred years since the last entry, there could even be new medications to help reduce it. ‘ll get on it right away, Alpha.”

“If you need help, Franklin.” It was Ethan. “Just let me know.

“Will do.” He nodded,

Nathan felt Stephen connect a mind-link to him, could feel him moving away from the pack-house, and feel panic in the man ‘Nathan Suzy’s house is on fire.’

What? he was completely shocked, now understood the man leaving the room.

‘I’m going to Jay-la, she’ll be able to call her. the link was cut. Everyone was looking right at him.

“Stephen won’t be back, his human mate’s house is on fire.”

“What?” it was his mother. “Why is she not here?”

“Won’t come, Jay-la could not convince her and I need him here, so he can’t exactly go and get her himself.”

“Who is she?”

“The triplets nanny” Jackson and Ethan stated at the same time, smiled the pair of them

“Oh,”

“He’s going to Jay-la, likely to hear Suzy’s voice, he will need that to comfort him.” sighed softly “Vera, you called your mother?”

“I did.” She nodded.

“Your mother is bringing her Alpha with her.”

“Alpha Austin is coming?” she asked right back.

“Yes, and not as an Alpha. As a council member representative. To check on Jay-la and the children’s welfare he put it, when he called yesterday.”

“Oh, I didn’t ask for that.” She shook her head.

He just nodded, it was likely after their fight and with Austin’s offer of sanctuary he was coming here to make sure she was safe and unharmed. Made the decision on his own, as any council member could do. Finally, he had his answer to his question. Though Stephen had told him his line of questioning with Jay-la, was not only out of line, he thought it now led her to believing he thought she’d called them on him. Regardless of the fact that she’d not, because he had pressed her so hard on it. Just one more thing he’d managed to screw up with her, it seems.

He was going to have to start thinking before he spoke with her. Weigh up the possible reactions he would get from her, before asking anything that might seem to her, like he was blaming her for something. Always on the defensive with him.

“He is coming and Jay-la has yet to close out her human world, or drop those charges against me. That might not go down so well with him. It could be seen, as she doesn’t want to be here.”

“She does though.” Vera smiled up at him.

“Kora does.” He sighed, he wasn’t going to hide from them the fact that Jay-la was still on the fence where he was concerned.

“She wouldn’t claim you, if she didn’t want to, Nathan.” Vera told him.”

She is likely confused. Just give my girl some more time.”

He nodded. “She can have all the time she likes.” His eyes moved to Brad, he wouldn’t actually put it passed her brother to try and talk her out of it, out of their Mate Bond, if she voiced her doubts to him in person.

“I’m not going to intervene. I’m not happy about it.” Bradley stated flatly

“At all, you don’t deserve her as far as I am concerned.” Then the man sighed “But I acknowledge, she did always love you...I agree with mother, she is likely very confused. But if my sister wants to reject you in the end. I will stand right next to her, hold her hand for support and I will leave with her so she is not alone.” Then he just turned and walked out of the office

Nathan sighed heavily, he still couldn’t blame the man, and had a feeling they would all leave this time. He even knew where they would go; to the Winter Moon Pack, to a council members’ home pack. Be under the protection of Alpha Austin, he was Vera’s former Alpha. He also knew she’d take the children with her, and likely wouldn’t be able to stop her. He wouldn’t like it, but couldn’t separate her from them.

Not again.

“Son, perhaps we should put the Luna Ceremony off, till we can get a better idea of Jay-las current state.” His father sighed.

“And what? Let her think I don’t want her to have a ceremony and present her. That is not going to happen.” He shook his head, knew already that was exactly how she would take it.

“Well,” It was Vera

“Might not be so bad an idea. When I talked to her or

tried to, about her ceremony. It came across as she believed this ceremony was not about her, it was about you and solely you. She told me herself to go and ask you what you wanted, seeing as she knew nothing about it. She said something about that you’d bought a dress already for her to wear and everything”

“I have.” he nodded “It is beautiful, she’ll look stunning in it.” he smiled.

Then he felt the hit from his mother before he’d even realised she’d moved, used all her wolfs speed to get to him and smack him one “You bloody fool, the Luna chooses her own dress. No wonder she thinks it’s all about you.”

“Mother enough.” He was getting real sick of her just cracking him one when she felt like it was necessary. Luckily for her, Havoc was asleep. “I was just trying to show Jay-la, I

wanted her as my Luna, so I bought that dress to prove it to her, so when she arrived she would know I was already thinking of her as my Luna.”

Saw her just stare up at him and then frowned “Perhaps we should put it off. I’ll go and speak with her, there is so much to do and Vera and I are actually struggling with the planning of it.”

“We are.” Vera nodded “It doesn’t help that she won’t tell us what she wants, just shrugs it off like it doesn’t matter.”

“Son, you talk to her about being over adrenalized all the time, then we’ll sit down and discuss the Luna Ceremony, she herself may not even be ready for it, may want to wait, move it to a time that better suits her and her state of mind.”

“Tradition is the next full moon mother.” Nathan stated, “That is how this pack has always done things.” He didn’t want to put it off, didn’t want her to find another reason to think he didn’t want her. Pushing her ceremony back was likely to do just that.

“There is nothing traditional about your Mate Bond you Jay-la, and so it may be acceptable to push it back a month.”

Nathan didn’t like it at all, just knew deep down it was going to make her put up those walls of hers and think the worst of him. “If she so much as frowns or decides to shut me out during that conversation, I’ll be over ruling your decision, putting my Alpha foot down on you mother and it will be on this full moon at the end of this week.”

He actually saw Jodi half smile. Perhaps the man did believe that he loved his daughter. Perhaps he just needed to show her family as much as herself that he did love her, for them to all come around to him being her Mate.

“Til have to tell Jay-la after Alpha Austin gets here, would have liked to do it now, but...” he shook his head “There is not enough time, I’ll bring it up with her after the triplets go to bed. Better, I think, to not let them worry about their mother.”

“How are you going to explain knowing this?” Vera asked him.

“The same way I did here in this room, that book, mum and dad’s observations, that Franklin found an anomaly with her blood and has confirmed it.”

“She might see through that.” Jodi stated, “We’ll leave you to ponder it.”

“She might need you.” He sighed.

“We’ll come, but she already knows deep down. I don’t think it’s going to come as a great shock to her or Kora for that matter.” Nathan nodded and watched everyone leave his

office, looked at his watch, not even an hour until Alpha Austin arrived, mind-linked to Stephen. "Where are you all?" knew he was with Jay-la and the children.

Jay-la and Margaret took the triplets down to Deena at the school, to have a she-wolfs heat explained to them. Prepping them for her heat to come I guess.'

'Alright, I would like her with me when Alpha Austin arrives.

'Might not make it. This is important boss. Her heat could be here any day now, you know this.

'It is and I do. He agreed, he was going to have to deal with her not being on the steps next to him when the council member arrived,' Suzy?' he asked.

'Alright, Gregory picked her and her family up, they will stay at Jay-la's apartment for a few days?

I'm glad she is okay?

'I should have been there. Stephen muttered, didn't sound happy at all.

'I understand, but with Jay-la!

'I get it, I just don't like it. My father can be here for her. Why does it have to be me?'

'Because Stephen, you are her Gamma. The connection between you and her is well established. She trusts you, you also have that life-long friendship. You've already worked your charm on her and it's effective.

That is why.

'It could take years to fix her. It's not fair to me, or Suzy for that matter, you cant expect me to just leave her out there for years.' He cut the link.

No, it probably wasn't fair, and he did not expect them to wait years, he was going to convince Suzy to come here. Perhaps that fire was a blessing in disguise, and Stephen just didn't realise it yet. He did hope Suzy and her family were really alright.

Looked at Jackson. "It looks like it will be you and I greeting Alpha

Austin alone."

"That won't look good, or go down so well."

"No," he agreed, "but at least I can explain it, Jay-la has the triplets, is with Deena having her heat explained to them." Smiled a little at that, prepping for it, she didn't want them

freaking out about her disappearance. Wasn't planning to leave before it either. That was a good thing.

"Mum is good at that." Ethan smiled. "Though it now occurs to me." Saw him look from him to Jackson and back. "You're mates are likely to go into heat at the same time or around the same time, an overlap is possible. You both Mark and Mate within a day of each other."

"Mm."

"I can't wait." Jackson smirked right at Ethan "My mate is sexy as hell, I'm going to."

"You finish that sentence Beta, I'll beat the hell out of you." Ethan shot at him, cutting him off completely.

Jackson just smiled, Nathan could see that he was going to really enjoy tormenting Ethan about Margaret for a long while yet. Likely end up getting that beating at some point as well.

"Who will be in charge? While you're both out of action?" Ethan asked.

"You and Stephen.." that made him think "Just you actually. Leaving Stephen in charge will see him leave the pack, I imagine, to go and get Suzy, so you, Ethan, will be in charge I guess."

"Stephen's not going to like that. He out ranks me."

"He'll have to deal with it." Nathan sighed.

The Defiant Luna Chapter 25

Nathan POV

Nathan stood on the pack-house stairs with Jackson watching as Alpha Austin's car drove up the main road to the pack house. Vera and Jodi were with him, seeing as Jay-la was not here. He saw the car pull up and Alpha Austin get out of the passenger side front seat, and then who he thought was the man's Beta, certainly was big enough to be a Beta. Didn't have Havoc to smell the man, his wolf still sleeping it off.

'That's his Gamma boss, Jackson mind-linked to him with a heavy sigh to his words, 'Looks like he brought him to have him sense Jay-la out.

'Likely so, he's one big bastard. Nathan murmured right back and he was, bigger than Jackson was and he wasn't little.

‘He does indeed. Jackson replied.

Alpha Austin was, as his father stated, exceptionally good looking for someone that old. He had a head full of very well-maintained black dreadlocks that dropped half the way down his back. Nathan noted they had what looked to be silver beads, but were in all likelihood white gold or platinum beads in several of those dreadlocks.

His hair style actually suited him, he was big and imposing and that hair just made him more so. He was wearing the royal blue of council colours, dressed in a three-piece suit with a light blue shirt and black tie with a tie pin that matched his beads. Wore black shoes with a high shine to them.

He was dressed to kill, he thought, as the man walked around his car and headed for the driver’s side back door, realised this man was not only bigger but also taller than he was as well. Those piercing dark grey eyes of his landed right on Nathan as he walked, then moved along the line of people with him. Looking for the Luna, Nathan knew and she wasn’t here.

The man didn’t look a day over forty, had aged extremely well, was rumoured to be 200 years old and unmated at that. He could see why his father had told him she-wolves found him one of the most attractive Alpha’s around. Was now glad Jay-la hadn’t come across him before she’d known what he was to her.

His eyes finished their sweep and then turned away from them all to open the door for a woman, Clara, he presumed. She was a striking woman, with long dark hair, two braids ran down either side of her head and joined at the back to one long plait down her back. She had those green eyes of her granddaughter, he noticed.

Nathan watched as Alpha Austin held his hand out to her and she took it to be assisted out of the car, smiled right at her Alpha, and he smiled right back. She thanked him for his hand and Nathan realised they genuinely got along with each other, could tell by the real friendly smile they gave to each other. Clara didn’t look all that much older either, maybe thirty he thought.

She, too, was dressed nicely in a knee-length dark grey knit dress that hugged her entire body. No shame for this woman, had a figure of a warrior, likely still was, he thought to himself, she was wearing black three inch stiletto’s. Was not that tall without them, perhaps five foot two, the same as Vera, he thought.

His Gamma was wearing simple black slacks and a grey dress shirt, no tie or jacket, as he walked to the back of their car to get their suitcases.

Their pack was more northern and it was likely colder up there than it was here. He didn’t seem to be bothered by the cold winter.

“Alpha Nathan, where is the Luna?” Alpha Austin asked without any hesitation as he walked up the pack-house steps.

“On her way, is attending the children on matters of wolves going into heat. Some explanation is required for them to understand our ways due to being raised in the human world.” He extended his hand to the man “It’s nice to meet you, Alpha Austin.”

“Well, that wouldn’t have been necessary if they were allowed to be raised inside the pack. Now would it?” He stepped right up to Nathan, had no qualms in stating what was on his mind. He took Nathan’s hand in a firm grip as he stepped right up on to the top step in front of Nathan and made Nathan look up at him. He was a good three inches taller than him.

Nathan had not been expecting that, not when he was six foot four himself, smelled of pure blood. Nathan didn’t even need Havoc for that one, it was no wonder he was so big and imposing.

“You might not think that Alpha Nathan, after my visit.” He commented and released his hand, then he dismissed him and turned right to Vera, “Well now, aren’t you all grown up. I see Jodi here is still treating you well.”

“Austin, it’s good to see you too.” Vera greeted him “and yes, still spoils me rotten every day.”

“As one’s Mate should.” He nodded as he extended a hand to Jodi and greeted him just as warmly.

Nathan sighed internally, he knew that was a full dig at him, he had to let it go. Watched as Clara hugged Vera and then Jodi, greeted them both warmly, hadn’t greeted him at all, not even an introduction he noticed. She was likely unhappy with him at this moment in time.

“When will I be laying eyes on Jay-la?” Austin’s grey eyes moved right back to him.

“When she gets here, it shouldn’t be too long. She was down at the school with her Gamma and my Beta’s Mate Margaret.”

“Guarded is she?” he questioned right away.

“No, not at all.” He was not going to fall into that trap, and thankfully, with Havoc still asleep, his wolf didn’t rise to the offence it was meant to convey. “There was a concern with Jay-la’s human nanny this morning, back in L.A., the girl is my Gamma’s human Mate. We have yet to bring her in. Is stubborn, I’d say.”

“Hmm, then I will see our rooms and we’ll have coffee and then I’d like to lay eyes on Jay-la and the children. Don’t keep me waiting on that, you won’t like the outcome.”

Right to business it seemed “Of course, there is a nice coffee hub on the third floor.”

“Good and I hope you have decent coffee. I hate drip.”

Nathan nodded, “All freshly ground beans here, I assure you. Let me show you to your suites.”

Walked all of them up to the first floor and to their suites. “You can take the stairs up to the third floor or there is an elevator just past them if you like.”

“I may be old boy, but not yet in need of an elevator,” He stated as he stepped into his room and then closed the door. It was the largest one he had here on the first floor, designed for visiting Alpha’s.

Nathan sighed as he walked away with Jackson. “Not on your side at all.”

Jackson stated.

“No.” Nathan agreed. “Didn’t even matter that both her parents were with me.”

“No it didn’t.” Jackson nodded “Clara looks like Jay-la.”

“Vera looks more like her, though Jay-la got Clara’s eyes, I noticed.” He commented, and they made their way up to the third floor via the stairs. Mind-linked to Jay-la to let her know that Alpha Austin was here and expecting to lay eyes on her pronto, that they would be in the coffee hub and he’d appreciate it if she came directly to it when she was finished with Deena and the children.

Thankfully, at this hour of the morning, the coffee hub was relatively empty of his pack members, most of them were at work at 0930 and he and Jackson pulled a few tables together to accommodate those that would be joining them including the children.

“Nathan, do you want Ethan and I here at the table?”

“No, he’s not concerned about you or the boys, just Jay-la and the children.”

“Then we’ll take a seat over by Amelia then, close by as would be expected but not so intrusive or seen as needed.”

“If you like Jackson,” He nodded.

“Relax Nathan, he’ll pick up on your nerves. How’s Havoc?”

“Still asleep.”

Heard the man chuckle and saw him shake his head “Never known your beast to sleep like this.”

“No, neither have I.” Nathan agreed. “Really enjoyed mating Kora.”

“You might want to wake him up for this.”

“I’d rather not, if he gets ticked off, Alpha to Alpha it won’t go down so well. Austin being on the council likely won’t concern Havoc. We’re not allied, that will be all that matters to him.”

“Well, if things go well. We could be.” Jackson smiled at him before walking away to go and sit with Ethan, who had arrived and was sitting chatting to Amelia.

The sun was shining today at least. He stood looking out the floor to ceiling windows up here in the coffee. There was a balcony just on the other side but it was likely still too cold for the children to have them open.

He spotted them all walking this way, smiled to himself at the sight of the children, they were all wearing puffer jackets and mittens and the girls had fluffy fur-lined hoods, watched them picking up snow and throwing it at each other. Liked that they were happy to play as they walked. It seemed they were finally becoming comfortable, even Nate was out there playing with his sisters.

Moved his eyes to Jay-la herself, she was talking to Stephen and Margaret, comfortable in both their presences, she’d pulled on black jeans and a long sleeved dark red knit top this morning. She was wearing two-inch black boots, she liked her high heels, he realised. She was probably used to wearing stiletto’s every day. The red suited her, and he’d told her as much after their shower that morning.

Though she had brushed his hand away from her dressed body, “no.” she’d stated “I’m tired.”

It had made him smile, for even though she had told him no, she’d smiled a little at him. He was hoping that she was coming to understand that he wanted her. Like the idea even, she knew Havoc had not been with him, he had told her he was all tuckered out from mating Kora. It was the first time Havoc had ever been completely stated, it seemed, never before had his beast slept so very soundly or for so very long inside his mind after just Mating his Mate before.

Seems Kora was his match in that department. It could be all the adrenaline in her system all the time, but that was just a thought, only time would tell. Once they got her back to normal.

“I see you like looking at your Mate.” He heard Alpha Austin’s voice, hadn’t heard him coming, lite on his feet, it seemed.

“I love looking at her.” he commented without taking his eyes off of her, smiled as he turned to face the man a moment later, looked right at him, “my wolf is obsessed with looking at her. I’ve never actually seen him like this ever.”

“Not even with your last Mate?”

Seems this man knew a lot about him. Likely done all the research on him and the pack.

“No, he loved her. I know that..but it’s different with Jay-la and Kora.” He motioned for Alpha Austin to take a seat and asked Amelia to come take their orders.

“How?” Austin asked him after he ordered his triple espresso.

“I don’t know how to explain it. Havoc seems more settled, Jay-la walks into a room and wants to rip out of me to be with her, hold her.” shook his head “Did that the other day.” He smiled though did not mention that Kora bit him afterwards. “He also likes just sitting inside my mind and watching her, doesn’t seem to matter what she’s doing.”

“Where is your beast now?” the man’s eyes narrowed on him.

Interestingly enough, it seemed he knew that Havoc was not awake

“Sleeping, Jay-la thought it was a good idea to let our wolves out last night. They mated all night.”

“All night?”

“Mm, ten to about three.” Smiled “They are crazy about each other.”

He could hear the children running up the stairs, they were talking excitedly about having a hot chocolate with extra marshmallows. He saw Alpha Austin turn and look at them, as they all ran across the coffee hub and over to Amelia, could see that they were happy and excited right this minute.

Watched as the three of them smiled up at Amelia and she down at them, asked them if they could wait a few minutes and they all nodded, they were standing patiently, it seemed, for their turn. They had been here before and knew her called her Amelia, he noted.

Though he didn’t know if he liked the idea of them all having sugar after yesterday’s events. He saw Jay-la smile at them as she walked towards him and Alpha Austin. Saw that Stephen was still with her, but that he was on the phone, she waved him off when he touched her arm gently to gain her attention. Was talking to one of his men that were watching Suzy.

Saw him walk off over to where Jackson and Ethan were sitting, while Vera and Clara still walked with her along with Austin's Gamma walking. The three women were all talking together. Austin stood as she approached. He stood as well, knew that Austin was simply extending a full courtesy to the pack's Luna, he was inside her pack. A mark of respect, more than what he himself had gotten. "Jay-la, it is good to see you are well. I'm Alpha Austin of the Winter Moon Pack."

"Hello, Alpha Austin." She bowed her head slightly as a mark of respect to him and his title "Thank you for extending your offer to the children and I, to come to your pack. I truly appreciated it."

"Of course, I would extend and offer. Clara was worried about you and when I saw your state." Shook his head "and we will get to that, then the battle between you and Nathan. I was more than concerned. Please do come and sit down, chat with me."

"I will answer your questions, but I will not discuss that in front of my children."

"Fair enough, probably traumatised enough, I'd say. We can talk privately later."

Nathan watched them, but did not interrupt them. The man was likely to shut him down, pull that Wolfen Council card right on him and tell him to b**t out. Even here inside his own pack, he'd have to do as he was told, to a certain degree anyway.

Waited for her to sit before sitting himself. It surprised him a little that she walked over and sat next to him. He had not known if she would do so. Doing it voluntarily would show Alpha Austin she was willing to sit next to him and present herself as his Mate and Luna. He hadn't pulled a chair out for her on purpose, he didn't want her or Alpha Austin thinking she would feel obligated to sit next to him and pulling a chair out for her next to him would imply she was to sit next to him.

Their coffees were brought over and the children got their hot chocolates. "Should they be having sugar Jay-la?" he asked. Did not want another day like yesterday.

"They're fine." She snickered slightly and it gained everyone's attention.

"My apologies." She smiled.

"You don't think sugar is good for them?" Alpha Austin asked him.

"You didn't see what happened yesterday afternoon," He muttered.

Saw Austin raise an eyebrow "Explain."

“I’ll let Jay-la tell you, I believe she found it highly amusing.” All eyes were on her now and she was still smiling, still found it amusing, it seemed “I warned him, not to let them have all the candy they wanted. He didn’t listen.” She shrugged “So I left him to deal with it, three vomiting children. It was very amusing, I don’t think I’ve ever seen an Alpha get thrown up on before.”

He heard Austin snort amused, it seemed, also heard his entire Alpha Unit all burst out laughing at her words. He’d not told them that, not told anyone. Now they all knew. “I even asked for help, and she didn’t want to give it.” He shook his head. Now knew she was teaching him a parenting lesson, but he still would have liked the help before it got to the vomiting.

“It was your fault.” She smiled right at him, still fully amused by it, he could tell. It lit up her whole face and his heart rate doubled at seeing her look at him like that. It wasn’t often she looked at him like that. Felt Havoc wake up instantly at his sudden increase of heart rate, looked right at her himself and purred so damned loud at how happy she looked.

Nathan cleared his throat. ‘Quit it. Alpha Austin is here.’ He told Havoc.

I don’t care, look at her.’ even Havoc could see the happiness on her face. Likely feel it in some way. Liked it himself.

“It was.” Nathan nodded at her. “Even made me clean it up by myself.

Wouldn’t help with that either.”

Saw her shake her head ‘no’

Heard Clara state “Good, he’s got to learn. Looking after the children is both of your jobs now. Not just the woman’s.”

He frowned right at her, he was well aware of that, he was simply trying to get to know them still. “There are many things I will have to learn, I imagine. I’m also certain that my Luna will give me crash courses on them.”

Watched as Jay-la sipped her coffee with a full smirk, knew that was exactly what she was going to do. Just from that one look, it said it all.

But he smiled at her, at the children themselves. The girls had no issues with him and since yesterday, even Nate was smiling in his presence and talked to him. It was good, whatever she’d said to him, seemed to have resolved some of, or all of his concerns with him.

Having her talk to Nate without him there had obviously been the right choice. It was also what Nate himself wanted. Nate trusted his mother and didn't know his father, a man who had never been around. Yet was now here all of a sudden wanting to be a father.

He liked that she was amused around Alpha Austin and his Gamma, so far their interactions in front of him were good. It was going well he thought. He sat and watched as the children did exactly what Jay-la did, with her hot chocolate, let their marshmallows melt, smiled at them, it was very cute. They were cute, he thought to himself.

"We'll have more soon." Havoc told him, sounding happy. Many, a whole litter.

"Kora agrees, does she?"

"It'll just happen, I mated her good, I did." His wolf chortled softly.