

Denied 551

Chapter 551

"Than..." My voice is a whisper, as I move in front of him...blocking them from him. Wanting to snap him out of his own building anger at their arrival. Trying to control some part of this deteriorating situation.

His gaze moves down to my face, the onset tension within his jaw starts to relax...a sigh escaping him. "Fine." He waves a hand out, all but one line of warriors moving away...there was still a threat but nothing compared to the warrior army of only just a second ago.

"Thank you." My hand moves to his arm, his eyes moving down to watch as I touch the area near his bicep.

"You best come inside then..." He barks out, his teeth flashing but his eyes not coming off mine.

Good, if I can keep him calm at least then no harm should come to my parents.

Here stood an alpha that seemed to be reasonable, as long as it was on his terms. Then when it wasn't, the monster came out...Freya was a perfect example of that.

I was shaking, I could feel not only my hands but my legs trembling. If I wasn't being watched I would

have paused, placing my hands on the dark painted hallway walls to steady myself.

"I see things haven't changed." Hector retorts out, his voice traveling through the hallway before all seven of us move into the alpha office. I'm just grateful that Luna Medea wasn't here, yet.

"So...what can we do for you?" Than immediately takes a seat at his desk, stretching out his hand that grips me by my wrist, pulling me by his side.

A disapproving growl emits from Dad at the movement, his voice trying to plough into my mind but I had the block up.

"As my daughter has her mind-link block up, perhaps you can share why she is here?"

"Haven't you heard? Cleo is my new luna."

"What?" A snap resonates as all heads turn to look at me in unison.

"Yes, infact it's good that you are all here. Maybe now Cleo we could make it official?" He was enjoying this, enjoying their pained stricken eyes.

"Cleo, what did you do?" It was Kaia's tone of voice that had guilt gripping me by the throat.

"You don't get to talk to her!" Than roars out, his clenched fist slamming down on his desk.

"Don't talk to my wife that way!" Hector takes a step forward, his shoulders rolling forward and his teeth exposing threateningly.

It would be a miracle if we lived long enough to actually have a discussion.

"You forget this is my pack Hector, I'll do and say what I see fit." Than snarls out only for his eyes to glaze over into a mind-link.

Moments later, the sound of another

car pulling up outside, followed by hurried footsteps on the gravel courtyard forcing my eyes to move towards the office door.

Alora and Ezra rushing into the room and barging past Hector and Kaia to form a protective barrier between them.

"What are you doing here?" Than exhales deeply, his body turning rigid...his nostrils flaring out as he seems to smell something that causes him discomfort.

My hand moves to his shoulder, but I do not touch him as collective roars erupt within the office.

"Never mind, you're here just in time for us to make it official."

"To make what official?" Alora wide eyes look to me.

"Becoming luna....Cleo is my new Luna."

"No..." Alora gasps out, her hands moving to cover her mouth.

"Oh yes..."

"But she's pregnant." Alora growls out towards him, a move that isn't missed by Ezra who takes a step forward....preparing to angle his body in front of her.

"You don't say! With Cleo's help I can finally future proof the pack."

"Still thinking about your precious pack.." Hector scoffs out, the auras in the room continuing to make the air oppressive.

"Is that what this is about, you've tricked her..." Alora seethes out, her eyes moving between Hector and Than.

"Nobody has tricked her, she came here willingly." Than's cold laugh chills me to my core.

"Cleo is that true?" A whimper escapes Mum, my heart breaking at the very sound.

"Yes, I..." My words are quiet over the noise of Hector's.

"No, I cannot allow this." He bellows.

"You don't need to allow anything, this isn't your pack. This is my pack." Than stands, the palms of his hands smacking down onto his desk.

"She's pregnant with my grandchild...I won't allow this."

Chapter 552

Hey all, sorry for the delay in chapters but I am full of lurgy. It took me all day to do the update yesterday and this is such a vital part of the story I want to do it justice but I just can't think when my head is thumping and my body needs the rest.

It's taken me an hour to right just one paragraph (sigh).

I'm on cold/flu tablets but they aren't really hitting the sides. I've got a chapter to go, will get it to you today.

Sorry, hopefully after a few days rest I'll be back on it x

Chapter 553

- Cleo ~

The world around me shakes, as if the very walls of this office were caving in on me.

They knew, they all knew...that Jace is the Father. Jaxon, he must have told them. "Hector I..."

"Well this is perfect." I cringe at Than's overly zealous laugh, he was taking joy from my own heartbreak, enjoying it too much. Enjoying his one-upmanship over Hector.

"Why didn't you tell us? Tell Jace?" Kaia's eyes pierce through to my soul, her stare holding me on the spot, regret surging through me from the way she was looking at me.

"It's complicated..." I tear my eyes away, my head lowering as guilt washes over me.

"When you said your baby was an alpha....you weren't kidding." His laugh grates through me, this time aimed at me.

"Than!" I seethe out at him.

"You need to come home, now." Dad demands out, his eyes alit with fiery fury.

"No, that's not possible." Than's laughter stops.

"This is a family matter..."

"Yes, and I'm her family now."

"How dare you." Mum screams out, her hands clenching into balls as she takes a step closer, away from Dad's protective frame.

"How dare I? The way I call it is you left a pregnant female alone by the side of the road."

"That's not..." I snap my head to Than, he did not just say that.

"Did you or did you not spend the night on the side of the road?"

"That doesn't matter..." I glare back at him, he has just used my vulnerability as a loaded weapon against my own mother.

"Luckily for Cleo, I was there to help her, I was there to offer her a roof over her head."

"Waiting in the sidelines preparing to attack more like it." Hector's voice rumbles out. "Cleo, we are leaving." Mum demands again, but it just isn't that easy.

"Like I said, that's not possible..." Than turns, his hands reaching for the painting on the wall behind his desk as he removes it to expose his hidden safe. He opens it, pulling out a document, before handing it out for Dad to take.

"What is this?" Dad takes it, reluctantly...his eyes looking only at me

"It's an agreement between Cleo and myself."

"Agreement?" Mum looks to Dad, with pure terror laced within her eyes. "Orpheus, what is it?"

"It's a contract...a contract between

the two of them. You signed this...you're telling me you actually signed this?" Dad has never once shown any disappointment in me, not even when he found me in the doctor's room waiting for the abortion. Never, until now,

"I had no choice."

"No choice? No choice... how about us, a fucking home that would have protected you and the baby no matter what." I flinch under the roar of his voice, his alpha command forcing itself onto me.

"No matter what...I don't think so?"

You couldn't even handle it that my baby was human, let alone if I told you the truth. I made a mistake....one mistake now I have to live with the consequences

"No, Cleo...none of that matters anymore, don't you see..." Mum is cut off by Dad, his hand raising to silence her before he passes the document over to Hector.

Who in turn, flicks through it.

"Oh Cleo..." His eyes find mine, that same disappointing look upon him.

"What Hector, what is it?" Kaia whispers, her eyes refusing to leave Than's.

"It's an agreement for her and the baby..." Hector starts but is cut off by a delighted sounding Than.

"No matter what happens to me, Cleo and the baby will remain on pack grounds, they will take on the pack. After all this time I've won...I've finally won."

"You've been playing a game on your own Than, how could you bring our children into this?" Alora seethes out, her hand refusing to take the document that Hector was handing to her to read. "Our children?" Than snarls back at her.

"I changed these children, I fed these children...they are mine as much as their mothers. How could you do this...to them...to me."

"Don't flatter yourself. Nothing I do is for you Alora, I thought you made that clear when you rejected our mate bond."

"Bullshit. You just couldn't wait to get your revenge could you." Ezra roars back, every person in this room trying to take a pound of flesh out of Than, and he of them.

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I had created a shit storm, one I knew I couldn't walk away from.

"Revenge? Why because you're the one shacking up with my own mate. Maybe now you know how it feels..."

Voices are just getting louder than the one before, everybody was arguing with Than, and he roaring scathingly back at them.

I feel a slight kick again, my hand moving to protect my baby bump. I just wanted to protect my baby...that is all I ever wanted.

"Cleo, you are coming home...now." Dad commands.

"No, the contract is binding...if you force my luna or my heir off the grounds, war will descend on you and your packs. The alliance will be forced to accept my ruling...then all of your lands will be mine. Because and let's face it...you aren't going to destroy one of your own are you?"

Bastard, he tricked me. He took a vulnerable pregnant female...offering refuge and had a sick revenge plan behind it all along.

"There's no way out of it?" Mum whispers out, her eyes locking with mine.

"Nope, Cleo is mine now...and the baby..."

"The baby is my flesh and blood..." Hector snarls venomously.

"Than?" A high pitched voice calls from outside the office, Luna Medea...

"I'll be back in a second." He huffs out, I flinch out as his hand touches my upper arm. At first I thought he was going to hurt me but his touch is gentle, soft. I know no matter what he says he will not hurt me, or the baby.

I can see there is no love lost between him and Hector. Than even barges past Hector, purposefully, his shoulder nudging into him but Hector doesn't budge, he remains that unmovable mountain in the harshest of storms.

As soon as Than is out of the door the four of them turn to one another, discussing my fate, discussing my baby's future as if I wasn't even here.

Ares is the only one to move towards me, his hand resting upon my shoulder as a sad smile escapes him. "What did you do?" He cups the side of my face, forcing me to look up at him.

"I wanted a safe haven for my baby, it was this or becoming a rogue Ares...at least here my baby will be an alpha."

"I would have looked after you both."

"I know but I didn't want to put that on you."

"Jace...Jace is the father?"

"Yes." I sigh out.

"Why didn't you go to him."

"Because he has a mate bond to save.."

"No Cleo, they aren't mates."

I pause, thinking I didn't hear Ares correctly just then.

"Who?"

"Jace and Callie, they aren't mates...they lied."

If he was sharing this revelation to bring me comfort, then it had the opposite effect. If anything it made the familiar sensation of anger start to boil in the out of my stomach.

"They lied? For what reason?"

"I don't know...but he knows now...if you just.."

IMS

"No... It's too late." He lied...all this time he lied. Pretended to be with another to push me away. Had I really come across that desperate, had the thought of loving me really been that horrific to him that he need a get out clause.

He needed to fake a relationship rather than tell me he didn't want me. That the one night together really was a mistake.

"Cleo..."

"No Ares, if what you saying is true,

he faked a mate bond... he really doesn't want me, or this." My hands

grip tightly around my benet

might not want this but I do.

She travels the length of the room to me, leaving her mate and my parents to continue to argue amongst themselves. She moves with the grace of a goddess.

"But don't you see, Cleo. You are his fated mate. He was just scared." Kaia's hands hold mine in her own. Her hands warm to my cold ones.

Fated mates...no that can't be.

"No." I gasp out.

"He was trying to protect you."

This was more dire than I had thought. Pain shoots up my body from my lower stomach, I think it is my own baby's heart breaking.

Protect me? Protect me from what. All he has done is pushed me away. He should have rejected me if he didn't want me.

Chapter 555

"The boy's made a right pig's mess of this!" Dad growls out as he moves to my side, his hand wrapping around my waist as he starts almost hoisting me in the air.

"What are you doing." Kaia looks to him in shock.

"We are leaving, now." Dad grunts out, lifting me. "No...I cant."

"I won't let that prick tell me what I can and can't do with my own daughter." Dad's strength has him lifting me and moving me towards the office door, gripping me to his side.

"Dad what are you doing, I can't just leave." He was like an ox, too strong for me to fight against.

"Oh yes you can, I'd like him to send his warriors after us. Turn the alliance against us." He growls out as

he moves me past the front door, and out into the courtyard, each time I tried to fight him he just pinned my arms down tighter.

"Ares, get the door."

"Don't hurt her." Mum shrieks out as Ares opens the back passenger door. Mum's hands trying to protect my belly as I thrust against Dad's hold.

"I'm trying not to.." He grunts out as I try with all my might to fight him off, kicking my legs up just as Ares grabs them in his arms.

"Hurry..."

"They won't let you through the gates Dad, you're just making things worse." I sigh out to him.

"Shes right about that." Luna Medea growls from behind us, the elderly woman standing next to her, a knife to her throat.

"Put her down!" Luna Medea orders out.

"You won't hurt her, you can't!" I roar out, Dad continuing to fight against me.

"Oh I can..."

"No...you need her, don't dare use her life to bargain for mine. That won't work, and you know it."

"Don't worry about me Cleo dear.."

"How is this possible." Kaia gasps out.

"Kaia, Hector, nice to see you both."

"Why is she here?" Kaia roars out, her alpha command rolling off her.

"Your Auntie is the link to the white moon pack, I'm surprised you didn't think of that. You could have called them out of hiding at any time...you just needed to use her."

"Let her go." Kaia demands out.

"I will, when you return Cleo to us." Than walks out of the alpha house, his eyes faced with anger. Two warriors stand behind him, and in the near distance I can see more running towards us.

"She's my Luna now and that baby is my heir.."

"That baby is my grandchild too..." Dad roars out.

"I'm happy to give visitational rights. I'm not the villain here, sounds like Jace is."

"You said the agreement stands even if you die." Hector seethes out, taking a step closer to Than. His body already preparing to shift.

"That's true!"

"I'll fight you, I'll fight you for the title."

"You can, but you don't want the Amber Desert pack...do you really want this pack...for your wife to become the luna again.."

"Hector..." A whimper escapes Kaia at the mention of her being linked to this pack again.

"Which means you'll lose because you can't take me...and you know it."

"This is how things are now, return the girl to us." Luna Medea screams out, any patience she might have had...gone.

"How could you." Alora cries out, her hands gripping at her chest.

"How could I...how could you betray us?" Luna Medea seethes out to Alora, her glare murderous.

"This is on your Alora, on you both. Betraying my son for your own gains...."

"Don't hurt her...please Luna Medea..." manage to break out of Dad's hold enough to drop to the ground, my hands outstretched as I try to plead with Than's mother.

A blaring sound erupts out in the courtyard, a loud siren that seems to spread further out into the pack.

As soon as it starts, screams follow... Than moving at a speed to be by my side. His hands grip a hold of me, before his finger points out to Hector.

"What did you do?"

"What is it?" I turn to Than.

"The pack is under attack."

Chapter 556

- Jace -

"Jace...JACE!" A hard slap around my face forces my eyes wide open, my jaw aching as both Knox and Jaxon stand above me.

My eyes search the room...Josie was passed out on the floor, Callie crouched down beside her holding her hand.

"What happened?" I grunt out, rubbing my jaw line, trying to soothe the burning sensation from the freshly landed hit.

"Looks like the adults have left the kids to defend for themselves." Knox grumbles out as he places a hand out for me, upon taking it he pulls me upright back onto my feet.

My hand moves to the back of my neck, trying to ease the tense muscles as I try to play catch up...try to think what had happened.

I remember seeing their shoes walk out the front door... Dad practically holding Mum upright herself...her eyes pure blue.

She had used her White Wolf ability to not only wipe me out but also Josie. How was Jaxon standing before me.

"She didn't get you?"

"Oh, she did." A lowly growl escapes him, the noise triggering some kind of flashback within me.

Then it hits me, like a fucking high speed train....Cleo was pregnant, pregnant with my baby...and she was with someone that had fucking raped my own mother.

I've pushed her to him. I've pushed her towards a monster when everything I have done, as cut throat towards her as it has been has solely been done to keep her safe.

My wolf howls in my head, his anger at me...at what I have done is painstakingly real.

He'll never forgive me, she'll never forgive me.

I'm a fucking idiot. I've pushed her away to keep her safe, but all I have done is send her to a monster.

I've loaded the gun myself...I just haven't pulled the trigger...I've put Cleo in a position where she had no choice not to.

My Cleo....

I've loved her my entire life, at first as a friend...a protector. Then as I grew those feelings changed. I didn't notice at first, I went away to alpha training, tried to ignore those feelings.

Thinking it was just part of being away from every one. Something every alpha feels...being away from their pack. Fuck, Knox even delivered training on calming your wolf from being off pack grounds for extended amounts of time.

When I returned, when she walked in to the house. To see her again after a year away...my wolf knew instantly.

As did I. She was mine she was made for me.

She was too young to feel the mate bond then, I knew I had time on my side.

I've held her hand, I've hugged her after numerous of tumbles trying to keep up with us....crazing her knee.

I even tried her tears as she cried.

That gravitational pull has been between us since her birth, the mate bond humming in the background. The need to protect her, to keep her safe...even from me.

I've denied it...I've tried to fight it...every fucking decision I have made, every step I have taken has led me to this moment...and I regret making every single one of them.

Fuck, I should have kept her in my arms, marked her the night of the beach club hotel...never have left her alone that morning.

Been the man she needed, been the mate she fucking deserved all along. Now it might be too late.

I should have just fucking admitted that she was my everything, that my destiny is to be with her...

"Josie." I move to my sister, my alpha command rolling off me and into her. It works, her eyes shoot open...a growl emitting from Knox behind me.

I didn't have time to wait for her to wake up on her own, I need to leave and now.

"Jace, what's going on? Kit?"

"We are leaving, and now."

"Jace, think about this." Jaxon warns me.

"No, I don't have the time."

"Jace!" Jaxon pulls me by my arm, pulling me back towards him.

"Mum and Dad have just walked into a potential trap. We need to be smart about this."

"Why didn't you tell me?" I shove his hand off me, my wolf wanting blood.

"Because she said she would leave if I did, I was worried she would do something exactly like this."

"My mate, my baby..." Anger pushes forward, my hands gripping at his collar.

"I didn't know she was your mate." He seethes back at me, our faces inches apart. He's been lying to me all this time.

"Jace, you can't blame Jaxon for this....this is.." Josie roars out, trying to break us apart.

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"All me, I fucking know." I sigh out, releasing my hold on him and running my hands through my hair.

"What do you want to do?" Jaxon takes a step closer to me, his jaw tense...his eyes burning with rage.

"Who the fuck is this Than? I need her away from him, no matter what...if he thinks he can claim my mate and baby as his..."

"He won't, we won't let that happen."

"I swear to the goddess Jace if something happens to her.." Josie pushes against my chest, all her anger directed at me.

"Don't you think I know that Josie, don't you think I know I've fucked up." I roar back at her.

"And you, what the fuck were you thinking...you knew, you knew they were fated mates and still went along with this?" Josie turns on Callie, redirecting her anger.

"I didn't know she was pregnant, he assured me he didn't want this. I've got shit of my own Josie, life hasn't been easy for me....I'm not the daughter of the untouchable alpha mates. You don't know my life, so why don't you fuck the back off." Both females stand up to one another, Josie's eyes bleeding out to that of her wolf. The healer wolf still has a temper.

I don't have time for this.

"Callie, this isn't helping." I growl out over my shoulder as I exit the front door, Knox and Jaxon on my six, the females behind them.

"Plan?" Knox turns to me, expectantly.

"In my eyes the Amber Desert declared war the moment their alpha thought he could take my mate. We move, with warriors...if it's a fight he wants...it's a fight he'll get."

"I'll get the order to the Dark Phantom warriors..."

"Fine but tell them to hurry. I may not be their alpha yet but it's time we showed the world what the Clear Waters pack is made of."

Every minute waiting for the dark phantom warriors to arrive has been a living hell.

Silence, I demanded complete silence. I couldn't have the Amber Desert getting wind of any sign that they were under surveillance.

My warriors held back, hiding behind the tree-line, using the camouflage that nature provides us. Ready to shift at any given word and launch our attack.

Through our telescopes we could confirm the SUV's that Mum and Dad arrived in and took as they sped off.

They had made it, I was dying to know what was happening inside the alpha house. We could make figures through a window...the curtains pulled only giving silhouettes against the indoor lighting.

She was okay, she had to be okay....I knew this. There was no other option. I

couldn't think of any other option.

It was taking all my inner strength to

line

stop my wolf tearing the fences down and pulling her into my arms. I would never let her go again and would never keep my eyes off her

Knox taps my shoulder, his hands making signals that the warriors were in

position and waiting for the order to attack.

Each one of them was dressed in black with masks

blending into the shadows.

My head snaps back to the view in front of me, the front door opens as Orpheus lifts a fighting Cleo in his arms.

Maybe we wouldn't need to attack after all. They were getting her out, getting her back to me.

Ares moves ahead of his father, opening the car door, only for Cleo to kick back out...the distant desperate pleas of Rosa to not hurt her.

Anger surges through me as Orpheus manhandles my mate, my own pregnant mate. I have to bite down on the growl that wants to escape me.

Jaxon's hand lands on my shoulder, bringing me back to my centre. He knew how hard this was for me to watch, to not step in. To let her be manhandled

"Just a little longer, stay strong my brother." His voice flitters into my mind, his hand squeezing my shoulder as a commotion drags my eyes back off him.

A female steps out, holding an elderly woman by her side...a male moving in front

of them.

Alpha Than...

As soon as I see the shine of the small blade, my mouth commands the attack for me. I see red.

Stealth movement happens every side of me, as warriors launch the attack heading to their designated locations.

I push off the ground, my feet running towards the front gates. They don't even

see us coming. I don't even need to shift.

My hands are wringing necks of the gate guards just as sirens blast through the grounds, our attack being announced.

Chapter 558

- Cleo -

The screams increase...their desperate cries becoming more frantic...and my heart breaks when I hear children crying out.

No matter what has happened between Than and my family, the pack members were the innocent ones and I refused to let them be punished for accepting me.

"Alpha?" Beta Zane storms out of the beta house, alone. My eyes flash up to the top level window, where was Freya...was she still alive.

"We are under attack, protect the borders..."

"Yes Alpha!"

"And report back to me who the fuck is attacking. Although I could have a guess..."

He grips me by my elbow pulling me closely to him, his lips by my ear as he seethes out...

"Looks like lover boy has come for his prize." His heated breath tickles at my ear, anger radiating off him.

Warriors descend upon the front of the alpha house, my family moving into action to fight them off.

I move towards them, needing to help but Than pulls me with him, back into the alpha house, back into his alpha office where it is just the two of us.

My mind is moving at a thousand thoughts per second... trying to think of a way to get them out of this, to stop them from getting hurt.

He moves to his desk, ripping the painting off the wall before tearing open the safe and pulling out a gun.

My eyes widen...watching his every move as he places a small box out on his desk...pulling out silver bullets... flinching as they burn on the tip of his fingers.

"Let me talk to him, I'll get him to stand down." Panic rages through me, my eyes staring coldly at the gun held tightly in his hand.

"Somehow I don't think you will." His eyes look at me coldly, all warmth disappearing from him.

"What are you going to do with that?"

"Just a little insurance policy..." His eyes glaze over into a mind-link, a growl emitting from him.

"They've broken through the south side....Mother!" He roars out, Luna Medea entering into his office...Kaia's aunt by her side.

I growl out as Medea forcibly pushes the woman into a chair.

The movement causing the frail female to shriek out.

"Don't touch her." I seethe out, rushing to her side...her hands patting on mine

that are cupped to her face to make sure she has no injuries.

"You..." Medea points the dagger at me, her eyes lit with fury.

"You're just like them, bringing trouble on our doorstep." Her face distorts with complete contempt for me.

"How? He sought out me." I argue back, my eyes carefully watching the knife in her hand.

"Cleo?" Mum's fearful voice pushes into my mind.

"I'm fine.." I try to push her back out, not wanting to lose focus on the situation happening in front of me.

"Where are you." Dad's angry voice bellows through the link, joining Mum's.

"I'm inside...what's going on?"

"We think it is Jace, Jaxon and Josie... Cleo, listen to me whatever you do, do not trust Than..."

"Dad?"

"Trust me."

"I know everything. He's told me. I know that he was married to Kaia, that both of them were his mates."

"You don't know everything Cleo, he used Kaia...he groomed her for her organs. Alora was dying...he needed an organ donor... he used Kaia. Pretended to love her...then he Mum's frantic voice cuts out abruptly.

"Cleo!" A growl snaps me out of the mind-link bringing me back into the alpha office, but Mum's voice was trying to reconnect. She needed to concentrate on fighting, not worry about me.

I try to refuse the connection, but Mum uses her Luna aura on me.

"Get out of there, whatever it takes. He raped her..." Her voice ploughs into my mind.

"What?"

"He raped Kaia...forcibly impregnated her..." The words echo through my ears as

I am forced out of the mind-link again, this time by the sound of sirens growing more intense.

"Damn, the secondary system has been activated."

Than growls out by my side.

"What does that mean?" Medea bites at him impatiently.

"Means they haven't come alone...they have numbers...get them to the shelter

and lock it." He orders at his mother.

"What about you?"

"I'm going to take care of my dear

brother and his off spring once and for all." He clicks the gun, the movement causing me to act out. The thought of Jace being forced forward. My arm knocking the gun out of Than's hand and onto the floor.

Her sudden movement takes me by surprise, her energy levels have been so low

of late.

"No!" I roar out, complete disgust foaming in my mouth.

"No?" Medea back slaps me across the face, the unexpected movement forcing me to take a back step. Than bends down picking the gun back up.

"Cleo?" Than takes a step closer to me, his hands reaching out to me. No...I don't want him to ever touch me again. Not knowing what I now know.

"You raped her?" My eyes narrow on him.

Chapter 559

"Still spreading lies I see." Medea's tongue clicks out.

"Why would they lie about this? Why would Kaia lie about that." I almost spit out of her, anger boiling within me.

"She's a pathological liar. Everything she says is a lie."

"No...I've known her my entire life. She's nothing like that..."

"I don't have time for this.." Than grunts out, moving back towards his desk.

"Than, it's a simple question...did you or did you not attack her?"

"I gave into the mate bond..."

"You gave into the mate bond...What does that mean?"

"I gave into the mate bond...I couldn't deny it, not that night."

"So you forced yourself on her?"

"No, I finally gave into the mate bond. I did what was expected of me..."

"No...No...." I move, towards the window where I pull the curtains open...I needed to get my family out. But first I needed to get Kaia's aunt to safety. She couldn't fight, she could barely walk unaided.

I gasp out as Ares is pushed into one of the SUV's by a warrior, before he pushes back, kicking the attacker to the ground... Dad moving in and breaking his neck.

They both move with Alpha speed, but I am left looking at the SUV, I can get her out...and Ares at the same time.

"You really are a monster." I turn, my scowl set on him.

An explosion in the distance has Luna Medea reaching for the gun off Than, muttering to herself as she flees from the office.

"Cleo..."

"I can't believe I've done this, what she must think of me...I need to leave...come on.." I move to help Kaia's Aunt up out of the chair, we were leaving. There was no chance that I was going to leave her here to be a pawn in their power games.

"We are leaving."

"Cleo, wait..."

"I have nothing left to say, the contract is void. Destroy it for all I care, I'd rather be

a rogue, rather be with humans than take part in whatever revenge game you are playing."

Slowly, too slowly we are moving towards the front door. I can hear fighting outside, hear the grunting of pained punches, the gurgling of bloody last

breathes...my eyes looking straight ahead to find Ares fighting off two warriors at the same time.

I move the female to one of the cars, if I could get her out of here...with Ares, then

I could right this wrong...knowing they would be safe.

"Ares!" I call out to him, just as the two male warriors fall to the ground in front of him.

"Get her out of here." I command out.

"What, I'm a little busy right now." He grunts out at me.

"I need her safe, trust me Ares...she needs to be kept safe."

"Cleo."

"Ares, please...it is vital she remains alive...and remains hidden. Trust me."

"What about you?"

"I'm staying here...I need to sort this out."

"No, I'm not leaving without you. Especially in your condition." His hands grip onto me, trying to make me see sense.

"He won't hurt me, he can't." Than

can't hurt me... he knows it and I know it. Otherwise his entire pack will be destroyed. Rendering him an Alpha without a pack.

"Cleo...."

"Ares, I'll be fine, trust me..."

"I'm not leaving..."

A gun shot resonates behind me, my entire body spinning on the spot as adrenaline-fuelled fear pulses through me.

Medea stands in front of the alpha house, the gun raised to the sky. A shot fired to gain attention...and that she has done...

Clouds start to gather in the night sky, a storm approaching as small drops of rain start to land upon my head.

A cold breeze skates across the back of my neck as a thunder clap erupts in the distance. A chill running up my spine.

Every single person stops fighting, their eyes solely on Medea...the Luna of the Amber Desert pack. She demanded silence, and she got it.

Her eyes wide with fury...pure hatred radiating out of her as she looks upon us, upon my parents, upon Jace's parents.

"The girl is staying!"

"No...over my dead body..." Both Dad and Hector roar back at the same time.

The gun is lowered...the wind picks up in its , the darkening sky lightin up with a bolt of lightning.

ad the storm increasing i

The gun moves, my chest tightening...unable to breathe as

panic to which male she is goin net

pointit at... my father...or Jace's

father.

Both, grandfather's to my unborn child.

It never occurred to me that the gun would be pointed in my direction...at me.

"If we can't have her...then nobody can." She snarls out, her cold eyes on me.

An almighty roar erupts just as a clap of thunder hits the sky, the roar somehow echoing out with the thunder.

I see movement in my peripheral vision, three figures moving in the distance, side by side...Jace in the middle.

Chapter 560

- Cleo -

The three of them prowl towards us...like gods disguised in human form that threaten to release a new hell on earth.

Their kind of hell.

They walk side by side until Jace takes a wider stride forward, a triangle formation settling amongst the three of them.

Warriors creep in behind them, at first slow...then forming into an unstoppable destructive tidal wave, promising a swift death to the pack members of the Amber Desert lands.

Dominating the lands that they invade. If you stood in their way, they just washed over you.

I've never seen anything like it, not even the night the White Moon pack attacked. Than does nothing, he doesn't run to the aid of his own people...he remains here...leaving them to fight for themselves.

The innocent screams echoing against the thunder clouds above us.

With one twist of the wrist from Jaxon, the warriors spread out, a bolt of lightening laminates the night sky...offering a spot light upon the pack lands.

A short lived glimpse of the horror that has fallen upon the pack.

Suddenly it isn't the silver bullet in the gun currently pointed towards me that puts fear into me, but the Varon triplets....they came for war. A war of my own making. But this was a massacre.

A growl escapes me when Knox and Callie move behind them...they weren't mates but he still brought her here. Perhaps Kaia had it wrong all along...perhaps they really can't be apart.

Like me, everyone was watching them...watching every footstep as they moved closer and closer towards us.

Until they sud

stop...just on the edge of our current imploding situation.

His eyes find me, the air catching in the back of my throat when his gaze drops down from my eyes twice. At first to my lips...then secondly to my stomach.

He knew....there was no doubt now...no going back to before.

The old me would have shrunk under his intense glare, under those eyes that show anger towards me...but I'm not the young impressionable girl any more. I'm going to be a Mum, I need to be strong for my baby...and for me.

He can look at me all he wants with those judgemental eyes...but he's also fucked up, and he can't deny that.

I'm here not only from my own doing...but because he lied to me...he said Callie was his mate, his destined one.

I'm also here...because of him.

Luna Medea may still have the gun pointed towards me, but her eyes were on Jace...as were mine.

"What's going on here?" A rumble escapes off Jaxon's lips, his body taking a step forward to be exactly next to his brother.

"It's a family matter." Luna Medea tuts back.

"Odd...because this is my family." Jaxon scowls back at her, his jaw tense and his lips twisting in disgust.

"And

you and your family are free to go at any time." Than offers out, his arms stretching out as if he were pardoning them all at the same time. Embarrassing them into his soul.

"What's the catch?" Jace growls out, his eyes not leaving me once.

"No catch...Look...our warriors are barely even fighting." Medea waves the gun around as if it were a poking device, pointing to a crowd of warriors held back... waiting for the orders.

Yes there were warriors fighting, but she hadn't yet unleashed what I can only imagine are the superior warriors...the ones that can kill alphas. I hadn't even noticed them standing there...waiting.

"Cleo?" His voice ignites a thousand mini fires inside of me, sparks that had never and will never truly die out. No matter how much I try.

My head spins back towards him,

my eyes leaving the group of warriors standing together in the distance. He's already taken a step closer towards me, his hand

stretched out...his palm out, waiting

to take my hand in his.

I look to him, a moment passes between us where all I can hear is some kind of

energy between us...a buzzing sound.

That gravitational pull towards him deepening as he stands before me.

"Cleo, are you coming home?"

"Home?"

"With me?" As if it were that simple. Oh, how I wish it could be that simple. "With you?"

"Yes..." The situation surrounding us is dire but he still manages to smile out, his soft warm eyes spreading down to his lips....that tug at both corners...licking his lips with his tongue as he takes another step towards me.

"I'm sorry, but perhaps you haven't heard. Cleo is our family now. She remains." Than is back by my side his hands gripping me by the hip Jace catches the movement, his eyes widening with pure fury as a growl escapes him.

I've never seen Jace so angry, so venomous...

"Get your hands off my mate." A thunderclap rings out as Jace's aura expels out

of him.

"What is this?" Jaxon's eyes mirror his brother's, as he takes a step closer

towards the Amber Desert alpha also.

"She's my Luna."