

Denied 591

Chapter 591

I don't think this has ever happened before, two alphas of one pack.

Mum and Dad are known as the two alphas, but when it comes to the Dark Phantom pack...Mum has always been the Luna, not a joint alpha.

But Josie made it very clear that she would only agree to take on the Clear Waters pack if Knox was by her side. Not just by her side, but joint alpha with her. Split equally between them.

I missed their marking ceremony, missed the moment my sister declared to the world that she had chosen her mate for the rest of her life.

But I was here now, here to watch her take on the Clear Waters, watch as her mate strengthens her by carrying the load with her.

There was no need for external guests, for alphas and lunas to attend from other packs...not even Uncle Jude. Not even Maya.

It was arranged at such short notice that they

wouldn't get here in time.

Besides, it was fitting it was an internal affair, it made it feel more special this way.

Dad was overseeing the ceremony, he had been Mum's strength over the past few days, but I could see the stress had aged him more, small wrinkles lining his eyes that hadn't been visible a week ago.

"Are you ready?" He tenderly whispers to Mum, who had already been incredibly brave today...she was always strong, always brave.

"I'm ready." She nods out, her hand reaching out to take that of her daughter's.

"I, Kaia Varon, Alpha of the Clear Waters do relinquish my claim over the pack, naming

my daughter Josephina Varon and her mate, Kit Knoxbridge as the next joint alphas of the pack." A smile forms upon her lips as she looks to Josie and Knox, giving them her blessing.

"We, accept the title of alphas of the Clear Waters pack, and in doing so, promise to protect the pack lands and our people."

Josie eyes take on a spectacular orange colour, her eyes glowing that little more vibrant as she becomes the next moon blessed alpha of the Clear Waters. Even Knox's, his eyes take on a light brown, more of a caramel colour before fading back to his natural dark brown eyes.

It was done, under the full moon of

the night's sky. Cheers erupted around us, the pack members. celebrating their new alphas...ones that had proven already their love of the pack and the people.

Yes, everything is as it should be. Everything was finally right in the world.

I had my mate, I had my family...my own pack to take care of.

As the crowd disperses, I wait to congratulate our sister, Jaxon by my side.

Cleo drifts off to the side moving towards the catering tent, to give us privacy, where Callie follows her in.

They seemed to have formed a mutual understanding of one another now. Callie having entrusted Cleo with her past has gone lengths in building some sort of friendship between them. en

Or so I hoped. I can't lie, it would make my life a hell of a lot easier if they got along.

"Congratulations." I greet Josie who is passed a glass of champagne by a pack member, who then delivers another one to Knox, who stands speaking to our parents.

"What a day." Josie exhales, blowing out through her cheeks.

"Mum was right, it needed to end on a happy note."

"I still can't believe this is ours now. I never thought..."

"You've always been a fierce warrior Josie, even without your wolf." Jaxon adds. "The pack feared the pack run, knowing you were prowling the meadow with a gun in hand..." I smirk out, because that really was the truth.

"I was always in control." She chuckles out as she sips back on her drink, her eyes moving into a mind-link as they glaze over.

"It would seem the celebrations are cut short." She growls out, her head whipping back to Knox who is already making his way over to her.

"What do you mean?" Jaxon's brows furrow in confusion, which is shared with me.

"Someone is demanding entry at the gate." Knox growls out.

"Who?"

"I don't know, but he's given the guards the slip."

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- Jace -

Josie, Knox, Jaxon and I all make our way over to the pack gates.

The pack was in celebration mode but it doesn't stop the new alphas from wanting to check the security of the pack. When it comes to the safety of the pack, you never truly switch off.

Being an alpha isn't a job, it's an all encompassing lifestyle until the day you die. Even when you pass the torch on, as Mum has now done, I doubt she'll ever truly switch off.

Who would be at the gates that hadn't pre-arranged their visit, and even more concerningly...why did they give the guards the slip.

Who were they, and what were they doing here.

Spies?

Had the White Moon pack heard of the death of the White Wolf's sister, had they sent someone to spy on this pack, to feed back information...

I could sense Jaxon was thinking the same. Why else would they suddenly disappear.

As we reach the guards on the gates, Josie and Knox move closer towards them, wanting key information that could help identify the stranger probably now circling the borders for a weakness.

A sigh escapes me, I can see now that Mum was right to improve the security details here. That she put the necessary measures in place not because she wanted to, but because she had to.

"A male, alone...apparently." Knox grunts out as he and Josie walk back towards

us.

"You think there are more?"

"If there are they are keeping far back. I can only feel one on the verge of the borders, not an army." Josie shrugs out, her eyes already bleeding out to the orangey red colour of her wolf's.

"You want us to split up and search past the borders?" Jaxon offers out.

"We'll take the North and West side..." Knox nods out in agreement, his hands pulling Josie closer towards him.

Pointless, because we were about to shift but I suppose having her close calms him. Something I finally now understand.

Even now, being apart from Cleo was affecting me in ways I never knew possible.

My body is cold without her by my side. I can feel the mate bond pulling me towards her, each step I take away from her I am moving against the grain, pushing through the pull which physically and mentally is harder than I could ever imagined.

I can see why now, once marked, to lose your mate would also mean the death of the one left behind.

Fuck, if I thought losing a sibling would be unfathomable...I wasn't prepared for ever thinking I would lose Cleo. Something...that would kill me instantly also.

"Fine, we'll take East and South. Watch your backs, and keep my sister safe." Jaxon confirms out, rather authoritatively.

"I know how to protect my mate Jaxon..." Knox growls out, his eyes flashing a caramel brown, just as he shifts into his wolf. Who makes the mistake of snapping at Jaxon's human form, only for him to shift, to snarl back at Knox.

"Knock it off, both of you." Josie growls out as she starts running through the gates, knowing Knox will be forced to break his conflict with our brother to follow her.

"Come on..." I sigh out to Jaxon just before my own wolf surges forward, taking control of the shift.

My bones crack as I am pushed back, the air around me shimmering, my wolf coming forward. He

stretches his back out, his paws net

pushing into the ground beneath him as he lets the sandy soil spread into his touch senses.

He may not be the alpha here, but he will still die protecting these lands. Especially with his mate and child in the central pack reservation.

He kicks off, following Jaxon through the long marsh grass out of the pack gates

where the land becomes more fertile, becomes more dense with trees.

He sniffs the air around him, searching for any hint of the person's identity that hasn't stayed to meet the new alphas.

Whoever it is, they are covering their tracks, carefully.

Jaxon's dissatisfaction vibrates through the triplet bond, he was getting pissed off the longer we searched. Until I hear him howl near by me, a sign that he has found something.

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I find Jaxon, his snout sniffing at a footprint, one that seemed freshly imprinted into the ground.

It wasn't a bare footprint, which meant the person hasn't shifted, or they weren't even a shifter at all. But it was unlikely for humans to come to the pack gates, usually they make it to the beach but we just leave them to it. They were of no harm to us.

My wolf searches the ground around the footprint, it would seem we were being teased...just the one footprint.

Which meant, this person knew exactly what they were doing. They were still cleverly hiding their scent, their location only traceable by this one footprint.

But we knew they were close by, Knox and Josie having gone the opposite direction to the person they were also trying to track.

We both freeze, our wolves searching the air around us when a high pitched whistle sounds off near us.

Was that a fucking dog whistle?

With that noise sounding out, I had a sneaky suspicion of who the fuck this was.

I only knew one person that had a dog whistle, it was a running joke of ours.

I push through the bushes and low bearing tree branches, following that sound to find a clearing, with a large rock bolder in central position.

A man sat casually on top of the bolder, his legs hanging low as he places the whistle back to his lips, blowing one more. A smirk forms on his lips as he notices my wolf pushing into the clearing.

A growl escapes me from the noise, only for Jaxon's wolf to barge past me... snapping his teeth at the male dressed in jeans, a grey T-shirt and a short a sleeved beach shirt, unbuttoned.

It could only be him with that trilby hat of his, which he tilts up slightly to greet my wolf...Jaxon's black beast still snapping at his out of reach feet.

I shift instantly, as he laughs at my brother's wolf...something that he will regret doing soon enough.

"Still can't reach me buddy." He chuckles out, only for Jaxon's wolf to growl menacingly.

I lean against a tree, letting Jaxon's wolf threaten my best friend. Let me rephrase that, my best male friend.

"I'd come and shake your hand buddy, if you could control your friend here."

"Friend? This is my brother Colt, perhaps blowing on the dog whistle wasn't such a good idea?"

"It led you to me didn't it? It works fine, like always." He drops the whistle from his hands, letting it swing against his broad chest.

"I meant no harm." Colt places his hands out, before leaping from the bolder.nodding his head at Jaxon's wolf who wasn't as aggressive but still wasn't ready to trust just yet.

Not even to shift back into human form.

"You knocked on the door but didn't want to come in?" I call out to him, my voice

risers above the low rumbles of Jaxon's wolf.

"Shit, I'm sorry buddy, I didn't realise

it was a funeral. Last I heard you and Callie were making things official..as soon as the guards told me you had lost your aunt, I left. But I felt was being tracked, I knew it wouldn't be long before you caught up with me."

A soft whimper leaves Jaxon's wolf before he decides to shift back into the human form, Colt's eyes not leaving him once.

He was perhaps right to be wary of the next Alpha of the Dark Phantom pack. Most are...friend or foe. But Colt is a friend.

"Jaxon, this is Colt, my friend. Colt, this is Jaxon, my brother." Jaxon places his hand out to greet Colt, who takes it with a smile.

"Nice to meet you man, sorry my arrival has become more dramatic than I intended. Shit, Jace

said you were twins, but blimey...you really are the spitting image of one another."

"I wasn't expecting you..." I take a step closer into the clearing, preparing to greet him properly.

"I..." Colt is cut off with the sound of

a veracious roar in the near

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distance. Only for Knox's wolf t

pounce into the clearing, forcing Colt to the ground.

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- Jace -

Colt acts quickly, rolling Knox's wolf off him, remaining in human form as he crouches on the floor preparing for the next attack.

Colt was always fast, but he still hasn't defeated me at sparring, and it would be unlikely he would beat Knox who had a new pack bond pumping through his veins as the alpha.

Knox doesn't wait, he's on him again, his teeth this time biting into the side of Colt's flank. Blood squirting out, even up onto the large rock bolder.

A groan of pain escapes my friend as he jabs Knox's wolf in the eye, inflicting enough harm just long enough to remove his teeth from his sides.

"Knox!" I growl out, just as Knox moves again to take down Colt, only for another wolf to jump into the fray...Josie's red wolf.

"Josie, stop him!" I roar out as Colt's grips onto his side, blood oozing out of him... he wasn't an alpha wolf, this damage was life threatening.

"Who is he?" Shifting back into human form, Josie urgently screams out above the noise of Knox's growling wolf, trying to get past his mate to attack again.

"He's a friend, stop him." I slam my eyes shut, this was already a nightmare situation, I didn't need to see my sister naked.

"Knox....stop!" She steps in the way, blocking Colt further with her body. Her eyes glaring at her mate.

Knox's wolf listens to her mate, shifting back into human form, where I rush to Colt's side. Clutching at his open wound, his ribcage exposed as his skin flaps open in my hands. This needs stabling...fast.

"Josie." She needs to fix this, and now.

"Don't you dare." Knox commands out behind me, his aura only adding to the frantic moment...my own wolf on the verge of shifting to take down my sister's mate in retaliation.

"Just let me heal him, then we will find out who he is." Josie calmly states to her mate, as if time wasn't of the essence here.

"No, you don't trust outsiders...you don't even know who he is."

"Jace says he's a friend..."

"I don't give a fuck, this isn't Jace's pack...not any more. This is our pack, we make the rules and right now this male is unknown to us and could be a spy."

"For fuck's sake Knox, he's not. He's my business partner, and he's

bleeding out." I roar out at my

sister's mate as my friend's skin

turns grey before my very eyes.

A low rumble emits from Jaxon who stands apart from the chaos, he was trying to

warn me to remain calm. But I didn't give a shit right now.

"He has about thirty seconds left Josie,

in a your call!" Jaxon states out

in a low hoarse voice, his eyes fixed on Knox readying to pounce on him if our sister needed us to.

"Josie, I said no..."

"I can't just let him die..." She throws Knox's hands off her, moving closer towards me as she assesses Colt's injury for herself.

"He's not alpha blood.." I whisper out to her, her eyes widening in fear.

"Lay him down." She orders at me, and I do as she says.

Why, why didn't I just send him a text. I should have known he would have come looking for Callie and me.

I lay Colt gently on the ground, he protests, grabbing at my shoulders to try and relieve the pain he must be feeling.

"Help him, quick." I growl out at her, only for her to shoot me a death stare.

She climbs on top of him, my eyes

reverting once more as she

straddles him in her naked form,

Knox roars out in displeasure from

her actions as Jaxon side steps to keep her mate at bay.

She gets to work immediately, her hands roaming over his wound as a glow emits

from her palms...her powers healing him. I just hope we weren't too late.

"Josie..." My panic filled voice calls out to her, as Colt's eyes close...his heart slowing down to a small desperate thud.

"Come on." She mutters out, the orange glow deepening in colour, taking on a redder tone.

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"That's enough, you're using too much." Knox growls out from behind disapprovingly.

"Just...a...little..further.." Josie pants out, as she concentrates all her energy Colt's wound.

With a sigh from Colt, his heart rate increases, the wound starting to heal over... his heart rate quickening.

Relief floods through me as she moves off him, Knox ripping her to him.

"What the fuck were you thinking?"

"She was correcting your mistake." I bark out at him.

"This is my pack now, you don't like the way I do things, then you can fuck off back to your own pack. I won't have my pack members, my land...my mate put in jeopardy because you can't keep tabs on your so called drifter friends." The fucker roars back at me, igniting a furious fire within me.

"You need to leave, before I fucking rip your head off!" I growl out to Knox, anger bubbling to the surface of me.

Our eyes meet, both glaring daggers at one another.

"I'll have the hospital put on alert, you come find me when you're done here...." He lowly rumbles, this wasn't sorted between us, as he moves him and his mate away.

I move, picking Colt carefully up in my arms, placing his hat upon his torso...he was healed but he needed more blood, and he needed time to fully recover.

Then, I will find my sister's mate.

I wait for hours in the hospital, Cleo remaining by my side as the hospital staff move heaven and earth to keep Colt's organs from shutting down. If it wasn't for Josie he would have bled out on the ground.

She's healed the wound but he lost so much blood, even the transfusions have been touch and go.

"Jace..." Cleo's soothing voice is by my ears, her arms wrapping around my arm as she is trying to prepare me. But I refuse to listen, no...he will not die. Not today. "No, he will be okay." He has to be.

I hear voices coming from the hospital corridor outside the room. Knox might be staying clear of the hospital right now, which is a good thing. Dcan't be trusted not to kill him myself right now, but Josie is here. She is talking to the hospital staff, the doctor updating her above everybody else.

I move from beside Cleo, my lips kissing the top of her head as I exit the hospital room, to hear the doctor's myself.

"Josie?"

"Thank you Doctor." She nods to the Doctor, who gives us a moment's privacy, sensing that his new alpha wanting to speak to me alone.

"What did they say, what is going on?"

"He's going to be fine, he just needs rest Jace. It will take him longer to heal not being of alpha blood, but he should make a full recovery."

"Should?" I didn't like the sound of that.

"Just wait Jace...just.." She sighs out.

"Just what Josie, if your mate." I seethe out, before running my hand down my face.

This wasn't her fault, in truth it wasn't even Knox's fault but that doesn't excuse him for biting into my friend.

Colt had interrupted their alpha ceremony, throwing them

immediately into chaos but he also

didn't know what was going on

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either He just assumed the

celebrations were probably for Callie and me.

"My mate is the alpha Jace, as am I. I won't question his authority here and neither should you. An intruder was pushing on the borders, he didn't need to run away..."

"He didn't realise we were in mourning." I cut her off, this is so fucked up.

"You are welcome to transfer him to the Amber Desert pack, but while he is under my care, in my hospital. He is my patient." She rolls her eyes up at me before moving away. I reach out gripping a hold of her elbow...she had drained herself to heal him. She was a healer wolf, she didn't like this any more than me.

"Thank you Josie, for what you did."

"Don't make me regret it Jace." She gives me a pointed look before moving along the corridor, heading towards the nurse's station. Just as Callie frantically rushes towards me.

Chapter 596

- Cleo -

My eyes cast upon Jace's and Josie's heated discussion just outside of the

hospital room door. I wasn't deliberately listening but the anger hitting me through the bond from Jace was hard to ignore, as was Josie's deathly scowl aimed solely at her brother.

I do feel for her. Through no fault of her own she is currently caught between her mate and her brother, over someone she doesn't even know.

"Are you an angel, am I dead?" A lowly hoarse voice steals my attention from the doorway, Jace's friend Colt finally coming back to.

He was incredibly pale from losing so much blood, his body taking its time to accept the transfusions...I heard the doctors say if it wasn't for Josie he wouldn't have made it through.

His eyes are half open, mischievous-looking hazel coloured eyes peering out at me through the small slit of his eyelids. He has longish light brown hair that is swept behind his neck, the length to the base of his neck and he has a stubble that I can tell, consciously hides scaring to the jaw line.

He was handsome; even as his lips tug at the corner of his lips, I knew he was aware of his good looks.

"No angel...welcome back." I lean closer towards him, my hands pressing the call button by the side of the bed frame

"Are you sure because you must be the moon goddess herself...." His head turns towards me, gaining a closer look at my face.

"...as you sure look like one."

"Colt?" My eyes dart to the doorway where Callie gasps out loudly.

"Ah there she is...I was thinking you were too important now to visit the

commoners." His hand reaches out towards hers, Callie wrapping hers around it and pulling his hand to her lips.

"How do you feel?"

"Like a high speed train ran me over...reversed..then repeated the action."

"So not good?" Jace chuckles out from the doorway, his body leaning against the doorframe. His eyes dart to me and I hold his gaze before a hand grabs mine.

"I was talking to this angel..." Colt smiles out at me, moving my hand closer to him.

"Like I said, no angel." I roll my eyes, I had a feeling Jace's friend was a bit of a ladies man. Even being half dead wouldn't stop what I imagine is a very flirtatious character.

"I'm thinking dinner...dancing.."

"I have a mate." I turn my neck to him slightly, but I can't help the smile that breaks out onto my face.

"Can I let you in on a secret...uh..." He lifts his finger up, flicking it to gesture for me to move closer to him so that he can whisper to me.

To which point he realises he doesn't know my name.

"Cleo." I help him out.

"Cleo? What a beautiful name. Can I let you in on a secret Cleo....I find the mated kind the most challenging..."

"Okay Romeo, I think that's enough flirting for one day." Jace closes in, jokingly warning his friend but I can feel the possessiveness bubbling away at him through the mate bond.

If his words of warning didn't do the trick, then pulling me into his side, wrapping his hands tightly around my hips does the trick.

Colt watches, his eyes moving to my hips before moving to Jace's neck.

"Wait, are you two mated...to each other?"

"Colt, let me introduce you to my mate Cleo. Luna of the Amber Desert pack."

"But..." His eyes move to Callie, who nods out in confirmation.

"We have a lot to catch up on." She lets go of his hand, placing it back on his chest.

"So it would seem. I saw signs of a celebration I just assumed it was the two of you taking on the leadership of the pack, but when the guard said there had been an important death...I knew my timing was off.

Hang on...Luna of the Amber Desert pack? I thought this was the Clear Waters?"

"It is, there really is a lot for us to catch up on bud." Jace's lips move to my neck where he places a kiss upon my mate mark, the vibration aloneCreating tingles on my skin and shooting sparks to my lower core.

"Careful, or you'll have me wanting you right here." I purr out through the mind-link

to him.

"I've literally had blue balls since the training hut. He groans back at me

feeling of excitement surging through me. The memory of him lapping up my juices flash back in my mind, making my entire body sing out to him.

through the mind-link, that into

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"That's right, I'm one up on you." I cut the mind-link, purposefully pushing my butt into his groin, teasing him.

"Which I will leave the three of you to do." I say to all three of them, exiting the

room.

"You don't have to. I want you to stay." Jace's voice pushes into my mind. I could feel that he wants me to stay, that he wants me to get to know his friend. Which I will, but they need time together...Jace and I had all the time in the world now.

"It's fine, besides...I need to see my parents."

I return back to the alpha house in search of my parents, but come across Jaxon pacing the living area...his eyes almost onyx.

I hesitate in entering the room as his thick aura weighs heavily on the atmosphere, making the air hard to breathe even from this distance.

"Jaxon?" I wearily call his name, holding back on the verge of entering into the room.

He stops pacing, his eyes moving to mine as he starts to rein his aura back in... the air becoming more breathable...more welcoming, just.

"Have you seen Jace? He isn't answering his phone."

"He's at the hospital, his friend Colt has just woken up. Why?" I can't ignore the feeling that something was wrong..truly wrong.

Jaxon might be one of the scariest males I have ever met, his aura dark...almost black. But recently he has been calmer, his outburst not as aggressive as they once were...he seems a lot more in control.

So for me to find him like this, is of concern to me.

"He's not answering his phone."

"I'm sure he'll check it soon enough, is it something I can help with."

"Not really."

"Not really...am I not his mate, am I not his luna? Come on Jaxon, what is it...you can trust me."

"It's not about trusting you Cleo, of course I trust you."

"Then let's hear it." I demand, moving to one of the seats, making it very clear that

I intended not to leave until he shared what was bothering him.

"What happened to him not leaving your side?" He grunts out, watching me intently.

"Well I'm safe here, I'm with family. He knows that, besides having the mate bond... he would pick up on any changes in my emotions. Like being scared worried...and right now, you are worrying me Jaxon. Whatever it is perhaps I can help..."

He continues watching me, his eyes have returned back to a more green shade, but there is still a dark black tone to them. His wolf hasn't gone back fully. He holds my gaze, a tense silence forming between us until he sighs out, giving into my plea.

"I sent trackers out...to follow your men." That's interesting, I didn't know this.

"Does Jace know about that?"

"No, he doesn't." He moves to the sideboard, pouring himself a glass of whiskey. "Why did you have the men followed?"

"Trust is earned Cleo, and those men were loyal to Than up until his death. Something like that doesn't just go away, not whilst Medea is still alive." "You don't trust them."

"I'm not saying that, if anything, I hope I am proven wrong."

"Okay, well thank you for sending your men after them." He looks at me as if I was being sarcastic. A brow has raised as he moves to sit down opposite me. The whiskey

tumbler swirling in his hand.

"I mean it, I can see why you did it. You are looking out for your brother, for our pack."

"Yeah well, I hope Jace sees it that way."

"He'll get over it. What did they find." He'll be pissed off that's for certain, but he

will get over it. I'm more intrigued on what has caused Jaxon to be pacing the floor.

"What makes you think they found anything."

"Because why else would you be pacing the carpet. Tell me."

"They found signs of Medea being in the mountains."

"You want to send more men out after her?"

"No, I want to go after her myself...and I imagine Jace will too."

Chapter 598

- Cleo -

"No, I want to go after her myself...and I imagine Jace will too."

Jaxon's voice has a determination to it, it not being up for discussion.

"As the former luna of the Amber Desert pack, surely it is up to Jace and I to decide the next

cause of actions." I firmly respond.

"This isn't just about the Amber Desert pack, that woman killed my auntie, her being alive still is

a wider issue than just your pack now Cleo. There are plenty of us that want revenge." Jaxon face distorts slightly, a bitterness to it. He wants her dead, we all do...but let's not rush into things.

For all we know she may have friends that are assisting her, we can't afford an alliance war right now. Not when Jace has already pushed the limits with killing Than, and taking on the Amber Desert pack.

"I don't want Jace in a situation where he is in harm's way. We have a baby on the way, we've not

even had our first scan yet." I try to appeal to Jaxon's softer side. I know he has one, I've seen it. He pretended to be his brother when he knew about the baby, he tried to buy his brother time...even if Jace was unaware at the time, he acted to protect his brother's future.

"I wouldn't let anything happen to Jace, you know that."

"Sometimes it is out of our control. Just send more men to capture her, then bring

her back where we can address her punishment at that time."

"Did someone mention Medea?" Knox appears as if out of nowhere, moving towards the empty seat next to me.

A sigh escaping him as his broad muscular frame sags into the cushions.

"Are you alright?" Concern presses into me, he looks exhausted.

"Red passed out as soon as she returned from the hospital."

"Oh shit, I didn't realise, is she okay?"

"She'll be fine, she just needs to rest. Healing takes it out of her, and she pushed herself too far this time...all for a stranger."

"A stranger that is Jace's friend." Jaxon corrects him, which goes unwanted.

"I don't care who he is, she shouldn't have done it." Knox barks out.

"She was just rectifying what you had done."

"My wolf saw a threat, he took it out. Don't tell me you haven't done the same." Knox's jaw tenses as he shoots a glare to Jaxon.

The mood in the room changing instantly as the alpha males both stare at one another. I swear Knox was made for this family, his temperament is similar to

Jaxon's...just not as fierce.

the doctor's are

"Colt is awake, th

confident he will make a full recovery.try to break the

escalating icy atmosphere between them trying to keep it positive, but both males just continue to stare at one another.

If I didn't think it could get any worse, I can feel through the bond that pull to Jace, feel it getting

closer. Meaning he was getting closer.

"You!" Jace points his finger out at Knox as he walks into the living room, his eyes widen with anger as they land upon Josie's mate.

"He was pushing on the borders...you would have done the same." Knox shrugs out, coming across as unbothered by his actions.

"No, I would have waited to at least hear his story."

"Bullocks Jace, absolute bullocks."

"No it's not."

"Yes it is. It's a different story if it's the Varon's lands...if it's your mate in danger."

"What does that mean?" Jaxon surprisingly becomes the calmer one, the good cop bad cop roles reversing with the brothers again. I don't even know if they are aware that they do it.

"Different rules...double standards." Knox states out.

"Well Josie is a Varon." Jace smirks out, trying to get under Knox's skin.

"No, she's a Knoxbridge now and I will protect my mate and lands in anyway I see fit. Don't like

your so called friends being injured,

then don't let them dance around pack borders. You're an alpha Jace, think like a fucking alpha. Sorry Cleo.. He turns to me, his voice taking on a softer tone towards me than that of my mate as he stands up and moves past Jace....purposefully nudging him at his shoulders.

Chapter 599

There was far too much testosterone in this room right now.

"Walking away?"

"No, I'm checking on my mate who is unconscious, from healing your friend." Knox grunts out as he moves towards the staircase, his lips snarling.

Jace takes Knox's place beside me without hesitation. He even places his hands on me and

moves me into him, his nose going to my neck as he inhales my scent to calm him.

"You need to sort that. He did nothing wrong." Jaxon grunts out surprising even me.

"I know, I will....it's just too raw."

his brother,

"He was right though...you would have done the same if the roles were reversed."

"Maybe."

"Maybe? Shit Jace, you know you would have done. As would I. Don't be too hard on him, he's done a lot for us...and he's the perfect match for Josie. Sort it."

"I will."

"Which leads me to another issue..." Jaxon's eyes fall upon mine.

"Jaxon, I said no." I growl out at him, making it well known I didn't appreciate his involvement.

"He needs to know Cleo."

"Know what?"

"Where's your phone?"

"Here in my..." Jace lifts his butt up off the sofa, placing a hand into his pack

pocket...his free hand remaining traipsed over my shoulders.

He pulls his phone out to show numerous of missed calls.

"..Shit.." He cusses under his breath as he presses redial, a male's voice answering immediately.

"Alpha?"

"Ozborne?" Jace's eyes shoot to mine before placing the phone out and putting it on speakerphone.

"We have an update Alpha. There are signs that she has been hiding in the mountains with a group of rogues.

"Have you seen her?"

"No, but there have been confirmed sightings of a female meeting her description."

"Is she still there?"

"We haven't engaged yet, do you want us to?"

"No, I want you to send me your location and wait for me..." My heart sinks, I don't want him going looking for trouble right now. It's different if it lands on your doorstep but to purposefully go out and search for it and I can't go with him wouldn't do that to our child. Which means our bond will be weaker being apart.

"Also Alpha, did you send Dark Phantom warriors to aid us."

A pause...

"No, why?" Jace's head flicks up, his eyes landing on his brother's.

"Because they were tracking us."

"Were?" Jace growls out.

"We've come to a mutual understanding now. But it took a while..."

"Leave it with me. Send me your location, and wait for my command." "Yes Alpha."

Jace cuts the call, placing his phone in his back pocket, a lowly rumble emitting from him. He's gone from one argument straight into another.

"Before you start, I was just being cautious." Jaxon places his hands out, a peace making sign to calm Jace's rising anger.

"Cautious?"

"For all we knew, they could have teamed up with Medea, helped her get the pack lands back. But this is good, they are showing where their allegiance lies, with the two of you."

"Let me make it clear that when I meet up with them your men are following my command." Jace bluntly declares.

"We leave this evening, we can travel during the night."

"We?"

"You don't think I would let you go without me do you? This bitch needs to pay for

her crimes not only against Alora, but against Mum...and Dad."

I know it is pointless to fight against it, they both need to do this. They need to get the revenge out of their systems. Maybe it was a good thing Josie was unconscious because she would try and join them if she could. Which certainly wouldn't go down well with Knox, meaning he would also join them.

Four alpha auras in the mountainous region certainly wouldn't go unnoticed.

I stand up, knowing that if my mate were going away tonight for who knows how

many days, then we need to make the most of the time together.

"Where are you going?" Jace's voice calls out to me through the mind-link.

"Well if we only have until this evening...we better take care of those blue balls." I huskily reply back through the mind-link, resulting in Jace's body leaping off the sofa and following me up the stairs.

Chapter 600

- Cleo -

We were at the end of the bed, just holding one another. Just inhaling each other's scents.

He had to leave, I know he does...but I can't let him go.

I can't let go.

"Please be careful." I whisper into his ear, dropping my walls so that he could feel my anxiety through the mate bond.

He doesn't respond, he just holds me closer to him, tightening his arms around me. I could block my emotions but I need him to know that I am not okay with this.

"Please don't make me raise our child alone." A near fear of mine, one that has only sprung upon me...yet I feel as if I've had this fear all my life. The intensity of it was like nothing I had ever felt before.

"It won't come to that, I promise." His lips nibble across my neck line, my body leaning into his, craving more.

"I'm going to hold you to that." I determinedly respond.

He places a lingering kiss upon my lips before picking me up and turning us so that I was now lying back on the bed. His muscular body completely towering over

me.

I was the only one of us semi decently dressed. His entire greek god body was on full display for me, something my fingers waste no time in touching again.

His abs were rock hard, just looking at them made me wet again for him.

I was covered in his essence, his musky coconut scent seeping into my pores.

I didn't want to wash him off but I will need to, if I plan to sit across the breakfast table from his and my family in the morning, I had no choice.

The way we have had sex for the last five hours will be noticeable not only by the smell, but by the glow upon my skin.

I was in an all consuming post-coital high until he finally muttered the words that he needed to leave.

I don't need my Dad to know what we've been up to, even if Jace is my fated mate. There are just some things that can go left unsaid, even if known.

I will need to remain upstairs whilst Jace says his goodbyes downstairs, besides my legs are like jelly after being wrapped tightly around him. I need sleep and a warm shower first thing.

"You don't know the torture of having to leave you, especially in my shirt."

"This shirt raise an eyebrow as I start to slowly unbutton the shirt again. Maybe I can keep him occupied enough that he'll forget to go, but then that wouldn't be fair on his brother.

"One last look, to remind you what you are coming back to."

"Believe me, your body has been inprinted into my mind since the night of the beach club."

"Is that so?" I seductively whisper against his lips, my own just touching his.

I was completely addicted to him. When they say your mind, body and soul belongs to your mate...they weren't wrong.

Jace owns each and every living part of me, and I him. My body has its own language now, like a siren's call, needing him near me.

He hears it, I know he does...because I hear his.

I open the shirt, my naked breasts completely on display for him and my small white thong.

"You're going to send me on a mission with blue balls." He sighs out jokingly just as his hands cup the side of my face, and move down my body to my stomach.

I lift my head up slightly off the bed to watch his hands. The pad of his index finger draws rings around my belly button, my breath catching at the tingling sensation he causes from his touch.

Tears threaten to escape me as he moves his lips to my stomach, placing a kiss upon my skin before whispering soft words to our child.

"Take care of Mummy while I'm gone."

Saying goodbye was harder than I thought it would be, and I knew it wouldn't be easy. I just need to remind myself that he will be back in a few day's time, that I could do this.