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The next morning, Caleb and Avery were out making rounds among the pack members. They were checking on everyone and letting them know that they would be in charge of the pack soon. It was a simple gesture to help get everyone comfortable with the idea.

Tristan, Lilly and Tyler were eating breakfast when Kade came down with Rosa. She looked at them a bit shyly as she took a seat across from them.

“Welcome to our pack.” Lilly could see the new mate mark on Rosa’s neck. Kade wasted no time with that.

“It’s a bit surreal to be in a pack and to have your fairy princess also be here... It’s intense.” Rosa was a bit of a fan girl when it came to the fairy royals. She had always dreamed of meeting them and her gushing heart wouldn’t slowdown in their presence.

“Rosa, have you blessed Kade yet with a fairy kin ability?” Lilly sipped her coffee as she looked at her.

“I... I didn’t know if I could do that. Isn’t that forbidden?” Rosa didn’t want to break any rules. Especially not in front of the royals.

“Not if its your mate.” Cedric chimed in as he took his place at an empty chair.

“That will be helpful for our trip too.” Tyler figured if Kade could see what they could, he would be more useful.

“What trip?” Rosa asked as she glanced over to Kade.

“We are traveling to Elysium.” Kade watched Rosa’s eyes light up and she squealed.

“Can I come too? My father and I always planned to visit there but we haven’t managed it yet. Or would it be a problem?” Rosa looked at Lilly with almost pleading eyes.

“I don’t see why it would be an issue, but you should know that it may be dangerous. I have a demon that is after me. There are no guarantees we will make it there without any issues.” Lilly wanted to be forthright with her on their journey.

“Even more reason for me to come then. I can help keep you safe if there is any danger to you.” Rosa looked at Lilly with confidence.

“I would prefer it if you didn’t fight...” Kade said quietly. He was already overly protective of his mate. It’s a werewolf thing.

“Kade, keeping the princess safe is the highest priority. If it is for her behalf, then I will do what I can to protect her.” Rosa thought it was sweet of him to be protective of her but it was impractical. There was only one princess. Her life was the most important.

“What are your abilities, wood fairy?” Tristan crunched on a big piece of bacon as he looked at her.

“It’s not much, but I can inhibit senses. I can momentarily cause blindness and deafness. I can’t hold it for long, it is really an escape mechanism more than a combat one. Still, it can be useful.” Rosa knew she couldn’t do much, but it was at least something. It could even help with the element of surprise.

“A wood fairy?” Kade asked curiously.

“That’s just a broad category. There are different types of fairies. A wood fairy is similar to what humans consider elves. Usually you don’t just say wood fairy... Since I do have a name.” Rosa smiled weakly as she looked at Tristan. It was a bit rude of him to call her wood fairy, but at the same time she wasn’t going to fight him over it.

“Tristan. Rosa is part of our pack now. You can lower your guard some and use her name when talking to her.” Lilly winked at him. She watched him give a slight nod of acknowledgement. She knew he wouldn’t be ready to willingly trust her. She would have to prove herself to be loyal and trustworthy.

“So, when is the big day?” Kade asked since he didn’t get to hear what they decided yesterday. He was a bit preoccupied. They all knew he was going to propose to her though and that she would say yes.

“After we come back from Elysium.” Tyler looked over at Lilly and then placed his hand over hers. “We will be leaving next week. We are traveling part of the way by vehicle and then walking the rest. Make sure you are all ready and prepared for the trip. I want everything to go as smoothly as possible.”

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“You are useless to me. I could care less if you live or die so make yourself useful and do what I say.” Abaddon growled at one of his men who was cowering back in fear. “I don’t care what you have to do. Just get him to come to my side. I’ll need his help. We might have lost the battle, but the war hasn’t begun yet. I have to try for her again.” He paced across the floor and then looked back towards the man. “What are you still doing standing here? GO!” He watched him trip over himself as he scurried out in a panic. Worthless.

He had to attempt to get the princess again. Otherwise, his plans would get pushed back further. He was already forming an alternate plan. If he failed this time, he would work on gathering an army. He would gather allies around the world. He would create a

mass army. One that would be too powerful for the fairy kingdom to subdue. He would prepare for a complete take over. It would take time and it wasn't the easy plan. Yet, it was one that he would have in his back pocket. There was always a way to accomplish what you wanted. One way or another, Elysium would be his.

He knew he might encounter a guardian, but never anticipated having to deal with a deity. Luckily for him, fire didn't phase him. Still, he would need others to help subdue the fiery deity. Especially if he successfully captures the princess. He groaned in frustration. Every time he got close, something happened. Now, he had a meddling deity to deal with, which would not be an easy task. The best they could do would be to subdue it or put it in a temporary catatonic state. There was only one deity and the meddling phoenix couldn't take out a whole demon army with mass numbers that could obtain victory. Abaddon looked out into the distance, setting his cruel gaze in the direction of the Diamond pack territory.

"We should have just killed her when we had the chance." A slithering salty voice rang out, as Jessica walked towards Abaddon.

He turned and beckoned her to come closer to him. A slithering smile curved over her lips as she waltzed up to him. She wrapped her arms around his neck, and he leaned his head down to kiss her. Just as his lips were about to brush against hers, he twisted her neck with his hands.

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He hated having loose ends. The girl served no purpose. He thought he might be able to use her in the beginning but that was no longer the case.

Abaddon's lips curled up as he watched her lifeless body fall to the floor. "Someone get rid of this filth." He barked out to one of his men, who scurried over and dragged the body away. Such a weak useless creature. In the world he would build, there would be no use for the weak. All weak creatures would be purged. It is why he needed entry into Elysium. Too many weak creatures took refuge there. Such a powerful place should be the home to only powerful creatures.

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"So this is what I haven't been able to see..." Kade was looking at a brownie that Tristan allowed to enter into the house.

"We haven't seen them much either. Tristan keeps them away." Lilly said with a small pout.

Rosa held onto Kade's hand and smiled as she watched his eyes marvel at the creature. She had shared her gift with him and felt a deeper sense of connection with him.

"I wonder what Elysium looks like...?" Rosa quietly whispered out loud.

"It's quite a sight to behold. Elysium is right next to the western dragon kingdom so there are often dragons visiting as well, though they are usually in their human forms." It had been a long time since Tristan was there, but he had vivid memories of the place.

"Wait wait wait... you are telling me that dragons are like werewolves? As in they shift into their form?" Kade asked with wide eyes.

"Not quite. Werewolves come from the moon goddess. You have another consciousness inside of you. Dragons, like me, do not have another consciousness. Also, dragons are a reversal transformation. Werebears were humans who shifted into bears. Dragons are dragons that shifted into humans. There are four kingdoms in the dragon realm. Each are ruled by their royalty and then there is the great dragon Sage. Dragons are very powerful, but they aren't helpful to anyone but themselves. Dragons care about dragons. Their preservation is all that matters to them. They are arrogant, hot tempered, and selfish. I don't care much for their egotistical attitudes." Tristan snuffed air out of his nose as his irritation rose. Fairies and Dragons were allies. That only meant they didn't fight with each other. If fairies were in danger though, the dragons wouldn't send them aid. Though the fairies would aid them. It wasn't a fair trade off.

"So, you are saying that dragons think they are better than everyone else." Kade felt some of the air deflate for his love towards dragons. "Well, I guess Tyler and Lilly have their work cut out for them."

Tristan let out an airy laugh. "Yeah, I wouldn't hold my breath. It has been that way since the beginning. No fairy queen has been able to change the relationship. Just be happy they aren't aggressive towards fairies. Dragons are not creatures you want on your bad side."

Lilly listened thoughtfully to what Tristan was saying. She hoped maybe one day it would be different with dragons. If there was anything, she could do to make that happen, then she would surely try. First thing was first though. And that was to finally reunite with her mother in Elysium.

Lilly's phone rang and she looked down to see that it was Aaron calling. "Hey Aaron!"

"Lills, I didn't want to alarm you before, but I haven't seen or heard from dad since before I came to visit you. Today I got a letter in the mail with no return mailing address. It was from dad. He said he was very proud of the people we have become, but that he could no longer be here for us. He hopes we will understand and that he promises he will check in from time to time." Aaron's voice sounded a bit heavy and uncertain.

Lilly took in a breath and thought quietly for a moment. "Aaron, if dad left then he must feel confident in your abilities to lead the pack. I know you can do it, too. The more I

think about it... I wonder if dad went to find my mom. I'm sure he always knew she was alive, which was why he never seemed overly devastated. Lonely, sure, but he never did grieve."

"Now that you mention it... no he didn't. You think he has been searching for your mom this whole time?" Aaron asked quietly.

"Between that and demon hunting. I'm guessing he was finally able to find my mom. I'll know soon if that's the case. I am traveling there next week. If he is there, I'll let you know." Lilly was proud of herself. She was levelheaded over the issue. There was a time that news like this would rattle her insides.

"Thanks Lilly. Please be safe. I love you always."

"I love you too Aaron. I'll talk to you soon." Lilly hung up the phone and looked up to Tyler who was nodding in agreement.

"I agree with you Lilly. I think your dad has found your mother and is joining her. After all, he is the fairy king, right?" Tyler knew that if he was separated from Lilly, he would join her as well.

"As long as he accepted... and I don't see why he wouldn't have, I guess we will find out soon." Lilly felt Tyler rub her back in gentle swirls. Now she had another reason to visit Elysium. If her father wasn't there, then she would allow the worry to sink in. For now, she was going to assume that is exactly where he went.

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A couple vehicles hummed along the road. They had finally embarked on their trip for Elysium. Caleb and Avery would take good care of the Diamond pack while they were gone. That was at least one less thing to worry about. Lilly wasn't worried about leaving the pack territory, but was already missing that feeling of home. She wondered (if) in the future if she would feel that way about Elysium. Overall, she was in good spirits. She felt a bit lightheaded, but it was probably due to nervousness.

She couldn't help but to get lost in her thoughts. Why had her mother never returned? Was it something to do with giving up her physical body? If her father did go to Elysium, then he should have just said so. Why just disappear and be so vague? Maybe he was afraid of being followed. In either case, when she had children, she still planned to visit them. She wouldn't disappear from them just because she became the queen of Elysium. She felt nervous and excited about meeting her mother. What if she doesn't like me... I mean she's my mother so of course she will like me...What if she is disappointed in the person, I turned into...What if I don't have the right qualities... I am driving myself nuts...Yeah so quit thinking self.

She heard a chuckle sound in her head. Just curious how many Lilly's are in there. Tyler laughed and tugged her into his side. He kissed her temple and smiled into her skin. He was glad to have the mating link. It helped him know when his mate needed comforted. She loves you Lills and I am sure she has missed you like crazy. I can distract your mind for a while if you want. Tyler looked over her body greedily. They were in the back seat together. He wouldn't mind indulging himself in her kisses.

Lilly giggled and nestled her head into his side. She was very grateful that she had Tyler with her, more now than ever. He helped her nerves. Thanks, but I would rather not make out in front of Tristan and Cedric. Lilly glanced up to the front seat where the two men were sitting. Kade and Rosa were in another vehicle with a couple werewolves who specialized in fighting.

They took a small group with them. Tyler did not want to leave his pack defenseless. He also wanted to make sure that Lilly was well protected. At least Lilly had the Alpha and a guardian at her side. Those two alone would make up for having a group of werewolves.

Tristan turned onto a grassy road that dipped into the woods. Lilly looked out the window as the scenery blurred by. They were lightly tossed about as they drove over the uneven terrain.

"Listen, if we encounter that demon, you two let me take care of it... got it?" Tristan suddenly spoke up, looking in the rear-view mirror.

"Aww, papa bear is worried about us." Lilly teased, looking into Tristan's unamused eyes.

"I mean it! He uses wolfsbane. I don't want any of you mutts near him. Promise?" Tristan raised his eyes and waiting for their response.

"If it is preventable, then I will avoid him. He can be all your Tristan." Tyler finally agreed and then eyed his lovely mate, waiting for her to as well.

"What he said." Lilly winked at Tyler and noticed the eyeroll from Tristan.

"It will be preventable because I am attaching the two of you to my hip. My number one priority is your twos safety. So please, just listen to me and let me do my job." Tristan sighed, sounding a little stressed out. In fact, he was. If something happened to them, it would be his fault. It was his job to protect them. Okay... to be honest, it was more than just about his job. They were important to him, yes, Tyler too. They were his siblings and he loved them both.

"I only have enough power to shield one person. I can't hold it for long, but I can always hide Lilly temporarily. I can at least hold the shield for ten minutes... but possibly longer. Just a worst-case scenario." Cedric said quietly, trying to be of assistance.

“No. No. No. Worst case scenario means everyone is fighting and getting hurt. If this happens, I will be out there fighting too. I won’t hide in safety while I watch the people I love get hurt or die.” She watched as Tyler went to protest. “We already discussed this, remember?! I will not yield on this issue.”

“Promise me this then.” Tyler looked at Lilly and then glanced up at the mirror to see Tristan and Cedric. “If I run, you run. Will you agree to stick with me no matter what? Even if it means hiding or running away while others are fighting?” He heard her breath hitch as she bit her bottom lip.

Lilly didn’t like the idea. In fact, she hated it. But, if Tyler was agreeing to run, then she would too. She would follow her mate’s lead. “I’ll stay with you Tyler.” She tried to see what he was thinking but his mind was blank. Whatever it was, he was purposely blocking it from his mind so she wouldn’t know. She leaned into his body, feeling his arm grip her tightly. It was weird. She felt more energized in his embrace. Though, it was probably because he helped ease her nerves. She felt the heat of his breath on her head and his soft kisses brushing her top. She smiled internally. At first, he was like a drug, now he is like her caffeine fix, calming her nerves and giving her energy. She blinked as she realized the vehicle had come to a stop.

She sat up and looked around them. There was a wall of trees in front of them and behind the veiled trees, she could distinguish some movement. She watched Tristan smirk and turn to look at them. “This is as far as the vehicles can go. Time to walk.”

“Are we expecting company?” Lilly asked as she peered into the thick trees.

“Yep. I am not taking you on a trip like this without extra insurance.” Tristan smiled as he hopped out of his truck.

Lilly turned to Tyler, who only shrugged. He didn’t know either. Tyler hopped out of the truck and turned to grab Lilly. He swung his arm around her waist and gently lowered her out of the vehicle. Kade, Rosa and the other wolves from their pack walked up to them and stared out towards the woods. After a few moments, a group of ten men came forward. Lilly recognized some of them. They were warriors from the Ashen pack. Then, what she saw next made her eyes pop wide. Eight centaurs came up to them; one of them was Drake.

Lilly turned and looked at Tristan, who shrugged. “I feel better making this trip having some extra muscle.” Lilly smiled warmly as Drake came closer.

“Thanks for coming.” Lilly grinned up at him and he smiled back down to her.

“Are you kidding? This gave us the perfect excuse to see you again. Plus, as a bonus, the potential promise of fighting demons... sounds like the perfect win. How have you been? You being treated well?” Drake asked and looked at Tyler.

“Very well.” She leaned into Tyler. Maybe this trip would be fun. It gave them all time to get to know each other and hopefully become friends. An alliance with werewolves and centaurs would be the first of its kind. Hopefully she and Tyler could be that bridge.

“How about you? How does it feel being the future king of Elysium?” Drake grinned widely as he looked at Tyler. All of those connected to the fairies knew of the Alpha prince. He might have been one of many Alpha’s, but he was the only one who was the prince of the fairies.

“If I can just master all of these new powers, I’ll be good. I’m still having trouble discovering them, even though I can feel them.” Tyler knew there was more inside of him, but was unable to bring them to the front.

“Give it time young prince. Some of those skills get released with age. Others, get discovered in the moment. You will learn them soon. I see you have a couple bags? Carter and Crater will carry them for you.” Drake motioned to two of his men, who quickly packed the bags on their back.

“Well let’s not just stand here like motionless targets. Let’s get going.” Tristan ordered, assuming himself as the leader of the expedition.

“We have a nice trail that leads to a clear encampment that we can use for the first trek of our journey. It is well used by centaurs.” Drake pointed in the distance behind the wall of trees.

“Perfect.” Tristan motioned for Drake to lead the way.

Lilly was walking in the middle of the group. Tyler and Tristan were near the front with Drake while Cedric and Kade were walking just ahead of the girls. They had been walking for a couple of hours. Centaurs in the front, werewolves in the back. She was sandwiched between them. She didn’t mind though. She was happily chatting away with Rosa. They were talking about their likes and dislikes. Rosa voiced her distaste for scary movies and Lilly felt like she had a comrade in battle. Finally. Maybe with Rosa around they can tip the scale of power in their favor. The world suddenly tilted. It looked warped in front of her. She felt a brief wave of exhaustion flow into her. She took a deep breath and tried to push it back. She can’t be tired. She used to run for hours without getting winded. She stumbled a few steps forward and Cedric immediately caught her.

“Are you okay Lilly?” Cedric looked over her with concern in his eyes.

Lilly forced a giggle. “I just managed to trip over air. No big deal.” She lied, straightening herself out from his arms and continued walking. She couldn’t think about it. She couldn’t analyze it. It would alert Tyler. She had to ignore it. She had to focus her mind on traveling, force her head to think of everything and anything else. No matter how hard she tried to force it, a wave of dizziness seized over her again. This time... everything went black.

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The sun stabbed at Lilly's closed eyelids. She winced as she tried to gather her surroundings. What had just happened? She could feel the worry from Tyler inside of her head. The muffled voices around her became clearer. She cracked her eyes open. She was lying on the ground in Tyler's arms. His grey eyes were filled with worry. She was surrounded by people. They had formed a concerned circle around her. Well, isn't this embarrassing. She slowly came to a sit that Tyler assisted with, still holding her back to him. She felt his mouth at the nape of her neck as he nuzzled his nose into it.

"Baby, are you alright?"

Tyler's hot breath tickled her skin. She felt the little sparks as his lips brushed against her neck, little energizing shots filled her up. Okay... now this was feeling a bit weird. She felt fine again. She wasn't dizzy, wasn't fatigued, in fact... she felt completely back to normal.

"Why didn't you tell me you were feeling dizzy?" Tyler asked in exasperation.

Shit... that annoying mate link. Lilly sighed and then tilted her head to look at him. "It was only briefly, and it went away. Already it is gone again. I probably just need to drink some water. Maybe I am a bit dehydrated."

Tyler eyed her suspiciously, trying to search for more in her mind. She was keeping it blank. Yep. She was hiding something. Baby... are you okay? Please, talk to me.

Honestly, I feel fine now. She hoisted herself to her feet while Tyler helped guide her from behind. "I feel fine, please don't worry everyone." Lilly looked at the concerned faces and gave them a reassuring smile. She looked over herself. It doesn't appear that she landed on the ground. "Did I hit the ground?"

"I caught you. Well, I managed to delay it enough for Kade and Cedric to officially catch you." Rosa grinned and leaned into Kade who wrapped his arms around her. They were a cute couple.

"Thank you. Okay, let's get going. We wasted enough time." Lilly watched the nervous glances around her.

"We can slow down on the pace." Tristan said quietly.

"Tristan, I promise at this moment I am perfectly fine. So, lead on." Lilly watched the group reluctantly return to their formations as they started their journey again. This time, Tyler stayed glued to Lilly's side. His arm was gently, but firmly, clasped around her waist.

Lilly was fine the rest of the way. Tyler never left her side. They arrived at the encampment and everyone got to work with various tasks. Tyler left Lilly with Rosa content that she was fine and then went to help gather supplies with Kade.

An hour went by... then two... she started feeling lightheaded again. If she feels better the moment Tyler comes back, then she knows something is up. It really didn't make any sense. She wasn't going to jump to conclusions. It was probably all coincidence. She quickly downed her bottle of water. She tried to take her mind off of the feeling.

She looked around the camp site. It was a big round clearing. They were surrounded by tall trees that shaded them from the sun. Behind them you could hear the sound of water running in a nearby river. She closed her eyes and listened more intently. She could hear the men happily chatting among themselves. She could smell the fires that were going. There were the sounds of birds chirping and dancing in the trees. She took in a deep breath and relaxed herself, opening her eyes again.

"How are you feeling Lilly?" Cedric walked up to where she was sitting. He watched her eyes flutter up to his.

Lilly didn't want to continue to lie. She also did not want anyone to worry. So she did the logical thing... she changed the subject.

"Tyler has been gone for awhile." Lilly watched Cedric smile.

"You aren't worrying about that overgrown pup are you?" He took a seat beside her and wrapped his arm around her.

"Lilly?" Tristan walked over, his eyes were studying her. He then sighed. "Come here." He reached his hand out and stared at her. He was testing her.

Lilly gave Tristan a tired smile. It was such a weird feeling she was having. It was like her energy was being siphoned from her. The slow trickle over time. Every moment now she felt just a bit weaker. She could hear Kira in her head. She was howling. What was she doing? And why wasn't she just talking to her? Before she could react to Kira or Tristan she heard the sound of running in the distance. Popping out through the tree line was Tyler. He made eye contact with her and made a beeline right to her.

"Lilly, what's wrong?" Tyler knelt in front of her, pulling her body into his.

"What are you talking about?" Lilly asked in confusion. And boy was she confused. Her energy started coming back again. With each gentle rub, the electricity from his breath, the closeness of his chest, she felt more and more energized. Something was definitely happening. Why was her body reacting like this? It was like her life was being drained and his body was protecting it from happening. She didn't know what was going on, but it was clear that Tyler was the key to preventing it.

“Kira told Jax you needed me.” Tyler’s eyes were piercing into her. She couldn’t lie about it now. Her wolf was seeking help for her.

Traitor. Lilly hissed to Kira who whimpered quietly. She was feeling better again. She didn’t know why she was feeling sick, but she knew that Tyler prevented it from happening. She couldn’t hide her thoughts much longer, if at all. She needed to talk to Tyler. She didn’t have a choice in it anymore.

Tyler... can we go somewhere to talk. Lilly’s voice sounded in his head. He was so scared when he heard Jax demand to go back to Lilly. He was panicked too. For Kira to break through and mind link Jax on her own was terrifying to Tyler. He thought something had to be really wrong. Yet, she looked fine. She was just sitting there looking normal. She was trying to keep her mind blank. She was trying to hide something. This is why the mate link is there. So that they couldn’t hide anything from each other.

He held on her arms and lifted her to her feet. “We are going to go just over there and talk. Please excuse us for a bit.” Tyler said and began to lead her away.

“I’m coming too.” Tristan looked at the two. He said it as a statement, but he looked at them like it was a question. He wanted permission.

Lilly nodded her head to him and saw the relieved smile he had. Maybe Tristan would have some idea’s as to what is going on.

Tyler couldn’t make out anything from her mind. He could sense confusion and questions. He led them far enough away that no one would be able to eavesdrop on their conversation before he finally stopped.

“Okay Lilly...” Tyler turned her into him so he could look into her eyes. Tristan stood a couple feet away and silently listened. “Please, tell me what is wrong? Why did Kira contact Jax?”

“I don’t know why she contacted Jax... she didn’t even talk to me first about it. Maybe she felt scared...” A small smile formed on Lilly’s face. That was it. Kira was scared. She was afraid of what was happening to Lilly. “I think she was afraid for me.” Lilly’s voice was quiet.

“Lilly please, the suspense is killing me. What was Kira afraid of?” Tristan felt panicked hearing that Kira was scared. Nothing scared that big monstrous wolf.

“This is going to sound really strange... Okay so it is like this.” Lilly gulped and tried her best to organize her thoughts into words. “I keep getting random lightheaded feelings. It feels like my energy is getting sapped away from me. But then every time...” It was time for the really weird part now. “Every time... ummm... every time that Tyler touches me, it goes away. I don’t know if I am sapping his energy or if he is stopping my energy from

being drained. I don't know. I don't understand it. I tested it out though. It goes away with Tyler. Not when he is close by, but only when he is touching me." Okay ring the crazy alarms. Shoot, she is sounding them herself and she is the one who believes it. She looked up at the two men expecting to see them looking at her with crazy eyes. They didn't. There was real fear in their eyes. Some confusion too. "Any idea what it could be, Tristan?" Tristan seemed to know everything. She was almost counting on his knowledge here.

"No." Tristan's voice was quiet.

"Lilly, why would you block this from me? You were purposely not thinking about it." Tyler pulled her into his arms. If he was keeping her safe, he would sew her to himself. If she was taking his energy, she could have it, as long as she was safe.

"I wasn't sure at first. I didn't want to worry anyone. I was hoping it was nothing." She buried her head into his chest. She hoped she wasn't stealing his energy from him. Gosh, what the heck was happening.

"Maybe it is one of Tyler's powers? Maybe it is protecting you without him knowing it. I have no clue what could be going on. I'll talk to Cedric and Drake about it, see if they have any idea. I'm sure your mom will know what to do. We just need to get to Elysium." Tristan was concerned. This was an enemy he couldn't fight. How could he protect her from something draining her energy? He couldn't see anything or anyone to kill. His suspicions rose from within him. He looked at Lilly. She wouldn't like it. She wouldn't like it at all. Oh well, it has to be done.

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"Lilly... you won't like this but hear me out. The timing for you getting lightheaded seems to coincide with Rosa. Now, now, now, stop giving me that look and hear me out. I think until we know what is going on, you keep your distance from her for now." Tristan watched her eyes furrow down angrily.

"Lilly. I agree with him. It's not forever. Just until we get to Elysium and figure out what is going on." Tyler smoothed the hair on her back gently. He could hear how much she hated this idea. He didn't care. Whatever it takes to keep her safe. He wouldn't risk it. Not until he knew what was happening.

"How... how do we do that without causing a misunderstanding or hurt feelings?" Lilly pouted and saw a small twitch in Tristan's eyes.

"I'm sorry Lilly... you really won't like this next part." Tristan took in a breath of air and faced her angry orbs. "I'm releasing my barrier to the next strength. You know I have one that keeps the lower tiered fairies away... well I also have a stronger level..."

“No. No. No. You can’t. What about Cedric?” Lilly looked up to Tyler and then frantically back to Tristan.

“I’m sorry. Please don’t be angry. I won’t make the girth very wide. They can still follow at the back of the line. Cedric will understand, he will know that I am just trying to protect you. And it is only temporary, Lilly. You only have to put up with it for a couple days at the most. Maybe only one day. It just depends on the time we make.” Tristan watched her shoulders shrug down. She relented. She knew she had no choice but to relent anyways.

“It isn’t a real barrier... it is almost like a deterrent. It will make them feel too uncomfortable to be within a certain distance of me. And I plan to stay right next to you, which keeps them from you.”

Cedric watched as they came back into view. The closer they got, the more uncomfortable he was feeling.

“Ugh, what is this, I feel bad. My head is pounding.” Rosa touched her head and Kade pulled her into him, looking at her with worry.

“Come on Rosa. We need to back up. This is a guardian’s boundary.” Cedric grabbed his things and walked to the far end of the encampment. Rosa and Kade followed behind him.

“There that’s better.”

“I don’t understand. Why would he do that, knowing it affects us?” Rosa said with a small quiver in her lips.

Cedric smiled at her. “Don’t take it personal Rosa. It affects me, too. This just means that Tristan is worried. For him to go to this level... means something is wrong.” Cedric looked in the direction towards Lilly and frowned. He wanted to protect her.

“I hope Lilly is okay.” Rosa looked to see Lilly looking at the two of them with sad eyes. She could see that this wasn’t what she wanted.

Cedric... I’m sorry. Tristan was adamant about it. I’m okay so don’t be worried. Tyler will be over to explain what is going on. At least we can still talk... unlike with your barrier. Lilly’s sweet voice echoed into his head. He turned and looked at Rosa. “Lilly said she is sorry. Tristan is protecting her the only way he knows how to right now. I don’t know what is going on.” He caught Tyler walking over towards him. “I think we are about to find out though.”

Tyler walked up to the three towards the back of the encampment. He wasn’t sure what to think of Rosa now. She was someone important to Kade, he knew that. For now, they

would keep Tristan's concerns private, unless they had proof of something. He stopped just in front of them and they looked at him curiously.

"It seems that something is wrong with Lilly. We don't know what... yet. We will find out. Something or someone is draining her energy. For now, out of an abundance of caution, Tristan has increased the level of his boundary to keep fairies away. It is one less group we have to worry about until we reach Elysium. I hope you two bare no hard feelings. Our concern is for Lilly. I don't know why... but she feels better when I am with her. I don't know if I am able to block the energy from leaving her or what... we just don't know. I know the boundary is intense for you two. You are welcome to continue to follow us at a bearable distance if you wish." Tyler sighed and ran his hand through his hair.

Kade could see the worry flashing in his eyes. Lilly was under attack and they couldn't fight off the enemy. He knew he was feeling helpless. He wanted to reassure him. Lilly was important to him too. She was his Luna. "Do what you have to do to protect her. Don't worry about us Tyler. We will continue to follow you. If anything happens, we will be there to defend you guys."

"I could try putting a barrier around her. If something is syphoning from her I should be able to prevent it." Cedric's eyes were shining with determination.

"Tristan and I talked about it. The problem is, you can't hold the barrier on her long enough. It is best just to get her to Elysium as quick as possible. I hope there are answers there." Tyler hated not knowing what was happening. He just wanted her safe. He didn't care what he had to do. He would do it. He nodded to Kade and Cedric, then gave a small smile to Rosa before turning back to go to Lilly.

Tyler stayed at Lilly's side... well more then just at her side. He had a protective hand on her at all times. At night she slept in his arms and Tristan laid down next to them. Both men were in protective over drive. Drake was also concerned. He did not know what could be happening to her. He agreed with Tristan that maybe it was one of Tyler's powers that was protecting her. Drake wanted to try something when they embarked early the next morning. He wanted her to walk arm in arm with Tristan and see if she still got dizzy. He was curious if her guardian could also shield her from whatever was going on.

That's what they did. That morning Tyler was walking behind Lilly with a bit of a sour pout. He was watching Tristan gently holding onto her and guiding her along the trail. Drake was walking along Tyler's side. They were all waiting and watching to see what would happen.

Lilly started to feel a bit tired as they approached the two-hour mark. The further she progressed on, the more fatigued she became. She finally stopped walking and looked up to Tristan. "You aren't working." She gave him a sad smile and Tyler was by her side in a flash.

“I need to get my fix in anyways. Jax was being awful possessive back there.” Tyler pulled her into his arms and leaned in. He went straight for her lips. Kissing her tenderly but passionately.

The surge Lilly felt was instant. She felt stronger. Him being around her helped. When he was intimate with her, she actually got an energy boost from it. Instant rejuvenation and then some.

“Not that I like this happening to you... but what you were thinking. Those are terms I can live by, you know. Having to be intimate with you almost hourly.” Tyler kissed her forehead and looked at Tristan. “She feels better already. She feels better than better right now.” He gave her a wink and she rolled her eyes at him. “She feels stronger and instantly better when I kiss her. Maybe I have a super kisser ability.”

“Probably not pup. Maybe it just allows your magic to connect better to her.” Tristan rolled his eyes. At least Tyler was able to help her... however it was that he was.

“You feel good enough to keep moving?” Drake asked cautiously.

“I feel completely fine now. Even a bit more energized.” Lilly watched him nod his head.

“Well then I think it is best that we keep moving. We will have to camp one more time before we make it to Elysium.” Drake motioned for the centaurs in the front to lead on.

They finally came to a clearing, after walking all day. The dark green grass swayed in the breeze as the sun reflected off the top. You could hear the voices of everyone quietly talking amongst themselves as they walked through the grassy grove. In the distance, Lilly noticed a lake that was shimmering in the golden light.

“We will set up camp here.” Drake said, and everyone stopped. There were the sounds of laughing and stretching, as the men went about their tasks.

Lilly looked out beyond the lake. In the vast distance, there was towering mountain. Even though it was far away, you could see how steep it was. She stared at it. Feeling drawn to it.

“Tristan... what is over there.” Lilly watched his eyes furrow and he frowned.

“That’s the dragon kingdom of the west. Their kingdom resides at the tippy top. It is similar to Elysium in that demons can not enter their realm. You’ll have to visit there someday, unfortunately. Then, you’ll see. See my distaste for the conceited creatures.”

Lilly giggled. He really did not like dragons. Honestly, to be fair, there wasn’t much Tristan liked. Everything was a pain. He complained about the dragon’s bad tempers, which is the pot calling the kettle black. Other fairies were pains for him as well. Seemed like he only liked her and Tyler. And liking Tyler is only recent. She could never

deny his devotion to her. Something she would never be able to repay him for or thank him enough. Even if it was his job, his feelings were genuine.

“Let’s go take a closer look at the lake.” Tyler suggested as he tugged Lilly along in his arms. He watched her glance behind her. She was checking on Cedric and Rosa. She was always caring about others.

“I’ll be right there guys. I need to take care of natures calling.” Tristan gave them a crooked smile before heading to find a more secluded area.

Lilly and Tyler were standing by the lake hand in hand, while she leaned into his side. It was very peaceful. The wind created a rippling effect over the water that shimmered in the light. A loud splash was heard and the water in front of them rose up. A horse of pitch darkness walked onto the shore near them. Water was dripping from its mane and tail. It’s eyes were fixated on Lilly and Tyler. Then it began to shift, slowly taking on the form of a man that already had shorts on.

“Now isn’t this a sight? The future queen and king of the fairies visiting my doorsteps. What an honor. My name is Roan.”

Lilly looked at the man with dark beaded eyes and rich chocolate hair. Her eyes lit up. “A Kelpie!”

“A Kelpie?” Tyler wasn’t sure what to think of the thing in front of him. Man...horse...or what.

The man chuckled. “I take it this is the first time you have met my kind?”

“A Kelpie is another type of fairy. They are a high-class fairy. I think they are considered a dark court fairy.” Lilly looked at the top of her eyelids trying to remember.

“Very good Princess.” Rowan went to say something else when an angry roar was heard. Tristan was charging their way. Rowan just smirked and rolled his eyes. “Overprotective guardian, huh? Ouch, you have your guard up high, don’t you?”

Tristan stood at Lilly’s side and glared at the Kelpie. What was confusing him though, is why he wasn’t running for cover in his presence.

Rowan noticed his perplexed look. “Oh, I can feel your barrier. You forget that I am an upper tier fairy though. I can endure something like this. Relax. I am not going to hurt them. They are my kin. Honestly... I think the whole thing is a bit rude. A bear has more rights to be near the royal family than I do? Me? Rowan ? A dark Kelpie, member of the high court? Just absurd!”

Tristan scoffed. “And why do they call you a dark fairy? It isn’t because of all the good you do. Like I can trust them with a sadistic murderer.”

“I don’t kill my own kind.” Rowan sneered back to him. “But do I get a sense of pleasure from dragging people underwater and drowning them... eh, guilty. It is actually quite funny watching them struggling for air. Ah, good times.”

“Isn’t he an absolute pleasure.” Tristan growled and eyed the man.

“Okay, Tristan. Settle down. Rowan was just coming to say hi. Your horse is absolutely stunning. Really.” Lilly tried to steer the conversation into a positive light.

“Anytime you want a ride I’ll take you.” Rowan blushed slightly, looking at Lilly. This time Tyler was the one to growl. Rowan put his hands up and chuckled. “Easy there. I can see that you are being well protected, princess. Well, I just wanted to introduce myself. I’ll be seeing you around. Maybe even in Elysium, if that’s where you are headed. We can teleport anywhere there is water. It is such a nice way to travel.” Rowan turned back into his horse and leaped into the water, disappearing completely, the rippling water the only evidence that was where he had jumped.

“That was my first time meeting a Kelpie.” Lilly smiled up at Tristan, who snorted.

“I’d be happy if it’s the last one too.” Tristan grumbled as they walked back towards camp.

Lilly giggled and looked at Tyler. The two were smiling at their grumpy, overprotective, friend.

Tyler wrapped Lilly into his arms as the stars began to pepper the sky. Tomorrow they would finally make it to Elysium. Hopefully, they will know what is happening with Lilly and can help. Even if they couldn’t help, just point him in the right direction. He felt her breathing become rhythmic as she fell asleep. A small smile rested on his lips, as he leaned forward and kissed her head. Tomorrow... they would get answers.

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Lilly looked towards Cedric, who was at the other side of their encampment. He was also looking towards her. Once they reached Elysium, Tristan promised to take his barrier down. He would have to. After all, it is a fairy dwelling. She saw him smile and wave his hand at her and she returned the gesture. He was telling her he was okay. It was finally time. Time to reunite with her mother again. She felt Tyler’s warm arm swoop around her back.

“Ready, love?” Tyler kissed her temple and watched her beam up at him.

“Ready.”

—

The brush became thick, incredibly thick. The centaurs were trying their best to make a path for Lilly to walk through. There was so much brush and wide trees. There was a wall of pine trees just in front of them. It was dense. A heavy mist also surrounded it. She didn't have to ask. She could feel it. Elysium was through there. Tristan walked just in front of Lilly and Tyler. He leaned forward and scooped his arms around the two of them while walking backwards into the pines. He was using his body to shield them from the pointed needles. The smell of pine invaded her nose, as they sifted through the darkness of it. Slowly, light began to flash through. It grew brighter with every step, until finally Tristan stepped aside, revealing the area in front of them.

Lilly and Tyler stared at the sight in front of them. It was bright and warm. Colorful trees and flowers grew along several white cobblestone roads. There were houses everywhere. In the distance was a white stone castle. There was a large lake that glistened in front of the castle. You could smell the sweet fragrance of flowers and could hear people (or fairies) chattering in the background.

"It's amazing isn't it?" Cedric asked by Lilly's side.

"Cedric!" Lilly wrapped her arms around him like she hadn't seen him in years. She felt him chuckle and then pat her on the head.

"I've been here the whole time Lills. I didn't disappear on you."

Lilly felt Tristan's body shift in front of hers. She turned to see a very tall, very muscular man in front of them. The two were staring at each other in an intense show down. It was easy to tell. This was another guardian.

Lilly couldn't help it. She started giggling uncontrollably. The two men looked at her in confusion. Then Tyler started laughing hearing her thoughts.

"It's like seeing another Tristan. Do you guys not even get along with each other?" Lilly stopped her giggles and saw the two men give her a sheepish smile. Everything, every moment was confrontational to them. Even with another guardian. They literally trusted no one.

"The queen is expecting you. Please proceed down the path to my right." The other guardian said as he stepped aside.

Tyler wrapped his arm around Lilly and started walking down the trail.

"Tyler."

He turned to see everyone standing there but not following. "You guys go on. I think this meeting should be without a major audience. We will look around the place." Cedric smiled and nodded for them to go ahead.

Lilly nodded back to him in appreciation and with Tristan and Tyler, walked to the castle.

They walked into the castle grounds. It was littered with flowers, every color imaginable.

“Good thing I don’t have allergies.” Tyler teased.

Lilly was about to say something when she saw him. It was Ethan, her father and walking next to him... was her mother.

“Daddy!” Lilly first ran into her father’s arms. He scooped her up and held her tight. “Why didn’t you say something? You just left. You just disappeared.... You never told me anything. Then you vanish in a big ball of mystery.” Lilly blurted out her thoughts as he lowered her to the ground.

“I couldn’t tell you anything before. We couldn’t risk you remembering. I left the way I did... well... honestly... I had been searching because I couldn’t remember how to get here. Then, I finally remembered where I had stashed the map. It was in a safety box in town. I was too excited. I dropped a quick letter in the mail and made my way here as fast as possible. I missed Alice so much. I was counting down the days until I could be with her again.” Ethan reached out and pulled her forward. She was looking a bit shy to be reunited with her daughter.

“I guess I don’t understand... a lot. Why couldn’t you visit her? Why couldn’t she visit us? I have so many questions.” Lilly’s eyes fell onto her mothers. She hadn’t seen her since she was a little girl. She had thought she was dead. Here she was. Very much alive. She took a small step towards her and then Alice pulled her into her arms.

“My sweet little girl. Look how beautiful you are. You are simply wonderful. I wanted to visit. I wish I could have. I couldn’t. I had to bind myself to Elysium. In order to protect you, I had to discard my human body. It was the only way to hide all of your fairy essence and keep you protected until you were older. I forbid your father to come. He was not allowed to leave you alone until you found your partner. So, while it was hard for him to let you go... it was also his invitation to come to Elysium. Of course, he would forget how to get here.” Alice gave Ethan a small smile. Her eyes glanced up and then pinned onto Tyler. “Come here.”

Tyler walked forward and gently rested his arm on Lilly’s back. “Ethan, pleasure to meet you again. And thanks for the heads up on what I was getting into.” He chuckled out jokingly.

Ethan gave him a broad smile. “Thank you for taking good care of my daughter.”

Another big man walked up behind Ethan and Alice. In the same moment Tristan came up next to Tyler’s side.

"I guess all guardians are overly suspicious and in need of a stiff drink." Lilly teased and poked her finger in Tristan's side.

Alice nodded with a smile. "It is their job to not trust anyone. Even our partners at first." She turned and looked at Ethan, then looked up at her big protector. "They all become friends in the end though."

"Where was your guardian... the day you disappeared. Honestly... I don't ever remember seeing your guardian before." Lilly looked up at the man in confusion.

"I kept him in Elysium. He couldn't stay with me in your father's pack. I also needed him here for me." Alice patted on her guardian's back. It looked like she was reassuring him. He probably felt bad not being near her that day.

"So can you never leave Elysium... ever again?" Lilly was still trying to figure this part out.

"Now that you are here, you can help me release the seal I created. It will allow me to be able to leave freely once again. It takes a queen and a princess to release the seal. There is a lot to talk about. We have years to catch up on. There is also some important things we need to discuss." Alice looked between Lilly and Tyler. There was so much to tell them.

"What's your name?" Lilly looked up at the big guardian next to her mother. Tristan was family to her. So, this guy had to be like family to her mother as well.

"It's Dylan." His eyes met with Tristan's again. There was definitely tension in the air.

"So much for sleep overs. I guess the kids don't get along." Tyler teased, as he and Lilly snickered together. Their sense of humor seemed to fall on deaf ears. Tyler cleared his throat and Lilly giggled up at him.

"Lead the way." Lilly walked after her parents with Tyler's arm wrapped around her protectively. Tristan was following closely. He was barely giving an inch in separation. Lilly guessed that with another strong presence like Dylan, it kept his feral instincts on edge.

They walked into a white stoned room. The floor was white marble, and, in the center, a crystal-clear fountain cascaded down. It was stunning. Alice and Ethan sat down, and Lilly and Tyler sat directly across from them. Both guardians stood near their royal's side. It actually looked like an intense interaction.

"I'm glad you are here. There are some important things that you should know. First... Abaddon. Abaddon is a half demon who wishes to take over everything. He wishes to create a world that does not shelter the weak. His ambitions will grow. What is a small nuisance now will eventually turn into a big problem. Prophecies and destinies are

always cloudy. There are so many factors that can change them. However, what I have seen is a rise up from the demons. He will lead an army to take over Elysium. We will all need to unite to take them down. This is where you are a very important key. It is you and your bloodline that will rise against this army. The person that you are... you have a power to draw people to you. They respond to you. You will gather together mighty allies. You will need everyone who will align with you. The dragons will be tough, but you will need their help as well." Alice saw her daughter nod slowly. She looked as if she already anticipated this.

"I'm actually not shocked hearing this. Suzaku already told me the gist of it." Lilly watched her mother's eyes widen.

"The fire deity?"

"Yes, she is my summon. She will come if I call for her. She also granted me the power to control fire."

"They have chosen to support your fight. That is wonderful news." Alice was relieved. If the deities were getting involved, then they planned to help with the outcome.

"She told me that my bloodline, my children, would help unite and bring allies together. It all started with you marrying an Alpha werewolf. Now... my question. Was my mom really your mate? Or was this done for prophecies sake?" Lilly looked at the two and listened to them laughing.

"If I wasn't head over heels for your father, there is no way I would have stayed with him. It was fate. Your father never expected to find a second chance mate, but that is exactly what he got."

Lilly looked at how the two of them were looking at each other. There was love reflecting in their eyes. Though there was no way she could ever be parted with Tyler for that long. How in the world did they do it?

Tyler smiled and tugged her tightly into his side. He agreed. There was no way he could be parted from her. He would have left his pack and moved to Elysium with her. He couldn't be parted from his whole world. That reminded him.

"There is actually something that we want to talk to you about. There is something wrong with Lilly."

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"There is actually something that we want to talk to you about. There is something wrong with Lilly." Tyler looked at the concerned faces in front of him. "We don't know what is going on and we are hoping that you might have the answers, or at least be able to direct us in the right direction."

“What’s wrong with her?” Alice's voice was filled with worry, while Ethan was quietly taking in everything. He was definitely the rock in their relationship. The idea that something might be wrong with his baby girl had him panicked as well, but he couldn't show it for Alice's sake.

“Well... this is really strange... of course there has been a lot of strange lately, so it's hard to know what is strange and what is normal.” Lilly chuckled dryly as Tyler reassuringly rubbed her arm. “The thing is... I've been getting a weak feeling. I will get dizzy sensations. It feels like my energy is getting drained out of me. The weird thing about it is... it goes away when Tyler is showing me affection. It actually gets better and I almost feel energized.” Lilly watched their expressions all eased into relaxation. Dylan and Ethan both had a small smile on their lips while Alice seemed on the edge of her seat.

“When did it start?” Alice asked hurriedly.

“Just a couple days ago.” Tyler was looking between the people who knew exactly what was going on.

“How long can you be apart before you start getting weak?” Alice's eyes dashed between the two of them.

“Two hours.” Lilly responded.

“TWO HOURS?! Oh my, Ethan did you hear that? He can't be away from her for more than two hours... already. Wow... Oh my.” Alice looked floored.

“Okay, what do you all know that we don't.” Tristan was cutting right to the chase. He wanted to know what was wrong with his princess.

Alice and Ethan looked at each other and then exchanged a warm smile. Ethan looked at Tyler and Lilly, clearing his throat. “The thing is...”

“We are going to be grandparents!” Alice interrupted excitedly.

Lilly and Tyler stared at the people in front of her. They were waiting for the punchline... that didn't come.

“We are... pregnant?” Tyler looked at Lilly. A smile spread across his face and he leaned his head into hers.

Baby... you are having my baby. Tyler's voice echoed into her head. She smiled and gazed back into his eyes.

Two big arms wrapped around Tyler and Lilly. "I'm going to be an uncle." Tristan grinned as he shook the two people's shoulders. "That a boy Tye!" Tristan slapped his shoulder hard and then continued to shake them.

"So, what in the world is going on with my body then?" Lilly focused her attention back to Alice.

"When you are pregnant with a powerful child it takes a lot out of you. The baby is constantly draining you, draining your energy both physical and magical. I could go four hours away from your father in the beginning. The time gets shorter the further your pregnancy progresses. If you are at two hours now... I don't think you will be able to be apart at all towards the end." Alice felt a bit nervous saying the last part. "You should know that you aren't taking his energy from him. You are revitalizing your own. Your love and affection for each other is turned into strength and energy. So, the stronger your relationship, the better you will feel."

"I think we have a pretty solid relationship. Never leaving her side doesn't bother me at all... I would prefer not to feel the childbirth... I mean I'm not looking forward to that." Tyler chuckled and Tristan laughed heartily.

"I ain't taking that pain away so you have to just endure it mutt." Tristan teased.

"Why would the childbirth part bother you? Lilly will be just fine. She will be able to make it through the pain of delivery." Alice couldn't understand why this was something HE was nervous about.

"Because we can feel each other's pain and hear each other's thoughts. What was weird is that I never felt her fatigue... I don't know why that is though." Tyler just thought about how he couldn't feel her fatigue. Even with her blocking her thoughts, he should have felt her fatigue.

"Wow, that's amazing! The soul mate link has only ever been rumored." Ethan seemed intrigued hearing this news. This was big. This is the first time this has ever happened. Though, he supposed the rumor came from somewhere.

"I wonder... maybe because it has to deal with magic. Her pregnancy is laced with magical elements. You know... because of this, you may not feel the labor pains either. They would be a physical symptom of the magical pregnancy just like the fatigue. I guess time will tell. I think there will be a physical disconnect though, during her entire pregnancy. That's if I know a thing or two about magic." Alice winked at him. How powerful was the child her daughter was carrying if she already needed him by her every two hours?

"I'm so excited." Tristan beamed as he poked his head between them from behind.

Alice giggled. "The three of you seem really close." This was a good thing. They would need a strong bond in order to endure the times ahead.

"We are. We are family." Lilly patted Tristan's head.

"So... any chance we can kill this Abaddon now and prevent this battle in the future?" Tristan straightened up and looked at the fairy queen. Lilly would be pregnant with a daughter. He didn't want to worry about Abaddon coming after her next.

"It would be great if that was the case. However, the future has been fairly clear about an impending war. With or without Abaddon, I think it is coming. Demon's are not well liked. This can be used to our advantage in gathering allies... I do have to apologize to you Lilly. This is my fault. I could have killed Abaddon before, and I left him to live. I am sorry. I just do not have a killer instinct." Alice did feel bad that this burden had passed to her daughter.

"Well, I do. I think it comes from daddy. Though, I am pretty forgiving too, which I know has to come from you." Lilly giggled as she looked at her dad. He did not have a forgiving nature.

"I have a question... what happens if... what if something happens and Tyler can't get to Lilly? Or what if something happens to Tyler? What will happen to Lilly?" Tristan couldn't help but wonder about this. Would her life be in danger?

"She wouldn't die from it, if that is what you are asking. However, the fatigue is only the first stage. Then would come moments of pain. Her body would become weak and hurt. She would barely have the energy to walk. It would be a very unpleasant experience for her." Alice did not know exactly how she would feel, but she had the general idea of how things would flow. "There is no way anyone else, but Tyler will work here. It has to be your partner, your mate. So, make sure you are around."

"I'm not going anywhere." Tyler grinned. He leaned in and kissed the side of Lilly's head. They were going to have a baby. She was going to have his pup. In an instant, his world changed. It grew even brighter and his love for her was bursting. They were starting a family.

"Lilly, will you take a little stroll with me?" Alice looked into her daughter's captivating green eyes. She saw her nod her head. "I won't keep her long. She can be away from you for a little bit. She might as well take in her few moments she can now since she won't be able to soon."

Tyler stood up and helped Lilly to stand. She giggled at him. He was already treating her like she was heavily pregnant. She felt his lips brush the side of her head one last time before she felt his hands drop away from her.

“Dylan, you stay here too.” Alice saw him beginning to follow them. She held on to Lilly’s hand and the two of them walked down the long corridor. “I hated leaving you Lilly. I wanted nothing more than to stay by your side and to teach you everything. It was... it was incredibly lonely these past several years.”

Lilly never thought of it like that. Her mother left her partner and her daughter. She had to live separated from them. She never thought about how lonely it must have been for her mother. She sacrificed her time with her family in order to protect her daughter. “Why didn’t you just take me with you?” Lilly quietly asked.

Alice nodded her head. “I’m not going to lie. I selfishly wanted to. I wanted to bring you here. That wasn’t what was best. Maybe best for me. But not for the future. You are the key Lilly. You and your children will be the key to there being a future. It was necessary for you to grow up among werewolves and your father. You needed a fighting spirit and that is something I can never give you. Your father couldn’t leave. He had his obligation to groom Aaron into the future Alpha first. So we had to live apart. I am sorry you had to live in ignorance. In order to dull your magic, we had to make you not believe in it. I’m sorry. It has been hard and confusing on you.”

“I don’t think I would change anything. Because of how I was treated by my pack, I really appreciate what I have now. My life experiences are not something that I regret, but treasure. It has turned me into the person I am today. I wish you could have been there while I was growing up, but I understand. You can be there for the rest of the journey now.” Lilly saw the small tears trickle out of her mother’s eyes.

“I didn’t think you would ever forgive me.” Alice sobbed quietly.

Lilly wrapped her arms around her and the two stood there embracing one another. A mother and daughter finally reunited. She could feel the bond they had between them. It never went away.

They walked out into a small garden just off the edge of the palace.

“Your majesty. I’m sorry to interrupt but could I borrow you for just a moment?” A kind looking older woman asked of Alice.

“I’ll be right back.” Alice walked off leaving Lilly alone.

Lilly walked into the garden and explored through the various paths. The flowering trees were breathtaking and smelled sweet. A small stream trickled around the flower beds. It looked like a natural watering stream for the plants. In the distance was a small child. He was tossing pebbles into the stream and seemed to be angry.

“Hi there, I’m Lilly, what is your name?” Lilly watched the boy turn and look at her. He had dark hair with the most amazing topaz eyes. He was maybe four years old, but he was absolutely adorable. “You have to be the most handsome little man I have ever

seen.” Lilly gushed looking at him. She saw his cheeks rise with red smears and then he gave her a cheesy grin.

“My name is Titus. You’re pretty, will you be my wife?” His topaz eyes sparkled at Lilly.

“If I didn’t already have a mate then you would be my next choice. I promise.” Lilly giggled and bent down to his level. “You seem like you are upset... anything I can help with?”

The little boy sighed. “Just tired of no one taking me seriously.”

“I’ll take you seriously young man. Let’s be friends. Friends listen to each other.” Lilly reached her hand out and shook it with the young boy. His eyes widened and he smiled at her happily.

“My hands didn’t hurt you?” He asked in amazement.

“Not at all. Should they have?” Lilly giggled and the boy shrugged.

“I don’t know. I guess it hurts others sometimes... Can I ask you something?” Titus looked as Lilly nodded her head to him. “Do you have to be friends with someone just because it benefits others? Even if this person is not really nice...”

“Hmmm... I think there is a difference between being friends and trying to get along. You can try to get along with someone for the benefit of others, but that doesn’t mean that person has to be your friend. A friend is a person you can trust. Like you, you are my friend now and I trust you.” Lilly watched as Titus grinned up at her widely.

“Really? Can we be friends forever?” Titus asked.

Lilly giggled and kissed the boy on his forehead. He was adorable. “Yes, we can be friends forever.”

“Pinky swear?” Titus asked extending his pinky.

“Pinky swear.” Lilly latched her pinky with his.

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Alice came back into view and with her was an older looking man. The two walked up to her and the small boy. They were looking at the two with very interested faces.

“Does his touch not hurt you?” The older man asked.

Lilly smiled. “No, it doesn’t.”

“Who is this young lady?” The man turned and looked at Alice with intense curiosity.

“This is my daughter Lilly, the future queen. Lilly, this is the Great Dragon Sage, and that little boy is the prince of the west dragon kingdom.”

Lilly looked at the man and then back down to the child beside her. They were dragons. Lilly extended her hand to the older man.

The man chuckled. “You can call me Grandpa Sage sweet child.” He grabbed her hand with two hands and shook it warmly. He then tugged her closer to him and cupped her chin with his thumb. He stared deep into her eyes. “Well... I’ll be damned.” Grandpa Sage chuckled, withdrawing his hands. “You’ve got a very protective fire deity watching over you. She doesn’t like me prying.”

Lilly was confused. “Prying?”

“The Sage has prophetic abilities. He can also sense things about others that they may not even know about themselves.” Alice felt awestruck. She watched Titus walk up and grab onto Lilly’s hand. She couldn’t touch the child. His touch burned her. Her daughter was very special. Maybe she really could be the bridge between dragons and fairies.

“It looks like my young prince is quite smitten with you.” Grandpa Sage chuckled looking at the young boy. He was grinning ear to ear as he held onto Lilly’s hand.

“You told me that I only ever needed to ask someone to be my wife and it would be so... but she said no.” Titus pouted. Laughter filled the air.

“Ah, my young lord, you can’t steal someone else’s mate though right?” Grandpa Sage gave him a very gentle smile. Titus was a child and had not developed a prejudice against fairies. He hoped that he would keep his open attitude in the future.

“Yeah, I guess so. Hey want to see what I can do?!” Titus blew hard and a small flame and smoke came from his mouth. “I just learned it, pretty cool huh?”

“Wow that is amazing!” Lilly gushed over the child making him pump his chest out proudly.

“I bet you wish you could do something cool like that huh?” Titus said with an arrogant little attitude.

Lilly’s eyes flashed with a twinkle in them. She grinned and opened up her hand. A flame immediately appeared. The flickering orange and yellow light danced in her hand before she made it vanish instantly. She winked at Titus who had his jaw dropped.

“Grandpa Sage! Did you see that? She’s a dragon too!” Titus squealed in excitement.

“Hahaha no no not quite. She is the fairy princess, but she is very special... just like you are.” Grandpa Sage chuckled at the young boy.

“You asked me before if his touch hurt me... why would you ask that? Should it?” Lilly wanted to know more about that issue.

“The young prince of the west was born very powerful. So powerful that lower tiered dragons can’t stand to touch his skin without feeling immense pain. Only high tiered dragons can be around him. You are the only one. The only non-dragon that is able to be near him for so long. Even more, you can touch him. Look at your mother... even she is beginning to sweat in his presence.”

He was right. Lilly could see that her mother was perspiring and looking a bit uncomfortable. “Is it because of Suzaku that it doesn’t bother me?”

“I don’t know... all I know is that you must be very special. This is a meeting we will not soon forget.” Grandpa Sage knew. He knew this was an important moment. He could feel it. This was the start of something important. Though time would tell what that was.

“Awww, that means it is time to leave.” Titus pouted and clung to Lilly’s hand.

Lilly bent down and pulled him into a hug. “Don’t worry young man. Friends are friends forever. Time and distance won’t change that. Continue to believe in me and I will believe in you.” She watched his smile widen and he nodded up to her happily.

“I’ll never stop believing in you. You were my first kiss.” Titus pointed to his forehead and giggled.

Lilly was smiling but frowning inwardly. It seemed like he was lacking love and nurturing from others. She wished she could give it to him, be his big sister. She knew loneliness when she saw it...she lived it too. She watched him walk into Grandpa Sage's arms. And felt compelled to say something else.

“If you ever need me... for anything... I won’t be living here yet, but my mother can reach me.”

With a gentle smile Grandpa Sage turned into a monstrous yellow dragon. He hoisted Titus to his back and with a mighty flap, lifted into the air. Lilly watched them silently as they flew away. She did not know it then, but she would never meet Titus again... as a child.

Grandpa Sage was not at all like how Tristan described Dragons. “They seemed nice.”

“The Sage is the rarity I’m afraid... Titus will end up growing up just like the rest of them. We are second class... second rate... barely even worth keeping up relations with.” Alice frowned. She had managed to develop a good relationship with the Sage but that

was it. The other dragon's felt indifferent about the fairies. They tolerated their existence. Allies... but not friends.

"Titus has a kind heart. One day, when he is king, I hope I can reach it. It is my wish that we can truly be friends." Lilly knew it would be a tough road. So much can change a person. She would do what she could on her part in order to change the relationship between fairies and dragons. She hoped that Titus would retain his kind heart and be receptive to her in the future.

"You can do it. You can succeed where no other queen could. You are special Lilly. I know it is a lot... but the future is depending on you." Alice held onto Lilly's hand. She wished it wasn't so... but this was Lilly's burden to carry. She would do what she could to help her, but already the sun was shining on Lilly. She had been chosen to lead. She was chosen to be there during their darkest hour. Her biggest test was still coming.

"If you are telling me that I will have plenty of opportunities to show my strengths, then I'm on board. Taking the demon trash out is high on my priority list. I don't want that filth anywhere near my family." Lilly gently placed a hand on her stomach. She didn't want her daughter to have to worry about that filth.

Lilly felt the slight wave of dizziness wash over her. She sat down on one of the benches with her mother's help. "

"Right at the two hour mark, you better call for your mate before it gets worse... He does treat you well, right?" Alice knew it was silly to ask, but she wanted to hear it from her daughter while she was alone.

"Yes. I am very happy with him. It started out a bit rocky... now he is my other half. I am not complete without him. He's my home." When Lilly thought about Tyler all she could think about was how he was her existence. Everything depended on him. She went from this independent lonely girl to the extreme of can't live without this man. She was happy. She had a family... a growing one. She had a pack who accepted her. Tyler was her happiness. He was the puzzle piece that was made just for her. The moon goddess knew what she was doing when she paired the two of them together.

"I know it seems silly to ask. I can see the way he looks at you, but it helps hearing it from you. I just wanted to know you were happy."

"I am. I am very happy." I'm feeling a bit lightheaded... can you come to me? I am in the garden down the long corridor. Lilly mind linked to Tyler.

I'm on my way.

"He's on his way."

“Later this evening I’d like to introduce you to Elysium if you feel up to it.” Alice wanted to gather all of the fairies and formally introduce to them their future leader.

“I think that sounds like a good idea. Then maybe you can help fill me in on things that I should know. Maybe you can come and visit me in the Diamond pack as well?” Lilly asked with a bit of uncertainty.

“I am planning to do just that. Besides, I have to be able to visit my new grandchild. Before you leave, we will fix it so that I can leave this place again.” Alice turned as she heard the sound of someone rushing into the garden. Tyler’s eyes flicked nervously around until they landed on Lilly. He didn’t need to rush to Lilly and it was clear that he seemed nervous being parted from her.

Tyler knelt in front of Lilly gently lifting her hands to his face. “Are you okay?” He gently kissed her fingers causing her to giggle at the ticklish sensation.

“I’m fine. I just started to feel a bit tired.”

“I’ll be back shortly. I’ll have some refreshments brought out.” Alice stood up and walked away. She wanted to give them a moment alone. They hadn’t had one since they found out that they were expecting a child. She thought they could use a private moment to themselves.

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Tyler nuzzled his head into her stomach, planting tiny kisses on her invisible baby bump. “I’m carrying you the whole way home. You shouldn’t be walking in your condition.”

Lilly busted out laughing. “Tyler it is perfectly fine for me to walk in my condition. I’m pregnant. I don’t have broken bones... You better not be thinking of wrapping me up in a bubble during the pregnancy.”

“Not a bubble... but confining you to our bedroom has crossed my mind.” Tyler lifted up and sat beside Lilly, pulling her into his chest.

“How are you feeling about everything? I mean, the plan was to have kids, I just wasn’t planning to right now.” Lilly giggled a bit.

“How does it feel like I am feeling?” Tyler whispered into her neck as he planted little hot kisses on the sensitive skin.

“You seem pretty elated... nervous... protective.” Lilly searched through his feelings. They were the same as hers.

“I’m glad you can read my mind. I can’t put into words how happy I am. How much more I love you now... This feeling is so fulfilling. You’ve filled up my heart in happiness.”

Lilly snuggled deeper into him. “Me too... Oh guess what?! I met real dragons!”

“What? Where? I want to meet them?” Tyler’s eyes opened in excitement.

“They were here, but they left. It was the dragon Sage, he told me to call him Grandpa Sage and there was the cutest little boy you have ever seen. He was maybe four years old and had these eyes that shined like topaz. He turned out to be the prince of the west dragon kingdom. He wanted me to marry him.” Lilly giggled and Tyler chuckled along with her.

“Can’t blame the kid there. Unfortunately for him, I already called dibs.” Tyler rested his head on top of Lilly’s when Tristan walked in.

“And they were not at all like how Tristan described. Though, I guess they weren’t the normal. And the one was a kid... but he had a good heart.”

“He’ll become just like the rest of them.” Tristan snorted and sat down in front of them on the ground. He didn’t like being away from Lilly that long either, especially with her being pregnant.

“You two better not turn into overprotective psychos on me now that I am pregnant.” Lilly watched the two men share a knowing grin with each other. “Great.”

“Sorry Lilly. It is just something you are going to have to put up with. We already talked about it. You are our number one priority. You and our future little princess.” Tyler rested his hand on Lilly’s stomach and lightly rubbed it.

Ethan, Alice and Dylan entered with a couple people carrying a few trays. Alice motioned for them to follow her over to a few tables that were at the other end of the garden.

On the table they had sandwiches, cookies, soup, tea and lemonade. Lilly sat down at the table. She didn’t realize how hungry she was until that exact moment.

“I know when I found out I was pregnant, my appetite instantly became more intense. I guess that is what happens when you have a wolf cub inside of you.” Alice saw her daughter’s eyes light up looking at the food. Yep, she was hungry.

“I didn’t even realize how hungry I was until just now.” Lilly giggled and filled up her plate. Tyler sat beside her while her parents sat across from them. Lilly noticed both Dylan and Tristan remained standing behind them. They were not eating. “Tristan, please eat something.”

"I'm good Lills." Tristan said staring back at Dylan.

Lilly sat her sandwich down and sighed. "If Tristan and Dylan don't grab something to eat, then I am not eating another bite."

Tyler growled and grabbed a sandwich, shoving it into Tristan's hand. "Eat! You aren't going to be the reason my mate and pup don't get fed." Tristan knew this wasn't a battle he was going to win. Besides, he was hungry anyways. He took the sandwich and took a bite.

"Dylan... you heard her. I'm not going to have my daughter getting malnourished." Alice said calmly as she sipped her tea. Her voice was so calm and quiet. She didn't even raise her voice, but Dylan immediately jumped at her command. There was no snotty quip, no sassing, just immediate obedience.

"Tristan, why don't you listen like that? I think I need to trade my guardian in for a new one." Lilly teased, as she felt a gentle flick to the back of her head from Tristan.

"It looks like I chose well. You two obviously have a strong bond together." Alice sipped her drink. She looked between Tristan and Lilly. It was important for them to have a strong bond in order to trust each other completely. "Speaking of choosing... you should pick out your daughters guardian while you are here."

"Wait... how does that work? And I thought there could only be three guardians at a time. Speaking of that... what if I have other children? Does only my first born get a guardian?" Lilly remembered that was something she had been curious about before.

"Lilly sweetheart. You will be the fairy queen. You can do whatever it is you wish. We have only ever needed three guardians, so that is why there have only been three. We are a one and done race." Alice laughed knowing she had no desire of ever having more than one child. "When your daughter is born, you will automatically become the queen of the fairies. However, you will not be the reigning queen until you are ready for it. When that time comes, you will move to Elysium and I will step down as the queen. Then, I get to live my life as an advisor to you. Now, as for the guardian... every queen hand picks the guardian they wish to have for their daughter. That child will then be raised up to be their future guardian. This doesn't just have to pertain to a daughter either, it just always has. If your second child is a boy, you can appoint a guardian for him as well. There is nothing wrong with having a strong protector looking out for your children for the rest of their lives. Besides... I think they make great family speaking from my own experience." Alice turned and winked at Dylan who nodded with a chuckle.

"I think I got all of that." Lilly giggled. "Dad, don't forget to check in on Aaron. I think you leaving so abruptly shocked him."

“Maybe we will visit soon and have him meet us at the Diamond pack. I think us arriving at the Silver Moon pack would cause a scene. You know how uncomfortable they are with those that are different.” Ethan snorted with an eye roll.

“Yeah, I know all too well. I think you should have changed that.” Lilly said with a bit of distaste for her old pack.

“I tried. Trust me. When I first brought Alice back, I really was determined to change everything. They are just too set in their ways. I could have ordered it as their Alpha, but what does that do? I wanted to see how they really felt. I wanted their honesty. And we got it... loud and clear. One day I hope that will change. Aaron is a strong leader... it's his elitist mate that will be an issue. You didn't hear that last part from me.” Ethan chuckled as he saw Lilly raise her eyes in shock over his distaste for Cadence.

“It's okay dad. I'm not a fan either.” Lilly giggled while Tyler nodded his head in agreement.

“Are you close with Cedric? You two were inseparable as children.” Alice was curious how their relationship picked up after she regained her memories. She knew he was a member of the Diamond pack so they would have met.

“Yes, we are. In fact, he is here too. We left him with the others we were traveling with...” Lilly thought about something for a moment and then looked at her parents. She felt a bit perplexed. “Why don't you guys have cell phones so we can call and text you?”

Alice and Ethan chuckled. “They don't work in here Lilly. Think of this like a black hole. It is completely off the grid.” Ethan shrugged. “There is electric, running water, indoor plumbing and you can watch movies on televisions. There is no cell phone reception in here though.”

“Well... why not have them and then just walk out of the barrier whenever you have to make a phone call.” Lilly thought she may have solved the problem until she heard Tyler laughing beside her.

“Lilly, babe. We couldn't even get a car in here. We had to walk for two days to get here. I highly doubt there is cell phone service available out here.” Tyler kissed the side of her head. She was too cute sometimes.

“He is right. There is no service anywhere near here. However, we can send letters to each other through fairy messengers. They can get messages to one another the same day. And in an emergency... you and I can communicate. It drains us, but it can be done.” Alice knew it wasn't optimal, but it was the best that could be done. At least she would be able to finally leave and visit now.

“I just don't want us to lose touch. It felt like the build up to this journey was so big that it is something that only happens once in a lifetime. I know that isn't the case. I'm sure I

am just feeling like that because I haven't seen you in so long it makes visiting feel unobtainable. And I don't want that. I want us to be close. I want to get together during holidays. I'd like to—" Lilly was interrupted by Alice in that moment.

"I want all of that too. Selfishly, I want to keep you here and not let you leave. I really wish I could. But we can't do that. Your pack needs you... Aaron needs you. We will visit! We will both make the necessary efforts to stay close. Aaron too. I haven't seen him in so long either. I bet he is handsome like his father." Alice smiled up to Ethan. She was thankful that she at least had him by her side now. She had hundreds of fairies around her, all wanting her attention. Yet, she still felt lonely these past years. Part of her was missing.

"Lilly, I'll make sure you get whatever it is you want. Whenever you want to visit, I will make sure it can happen. I'll do whatever I have to in order to secure your happiness." Tyler tried to reassure her that this visit wasn't her last.

"Does that include laying off on being overprotective?" Lilly smirked up at him.

"That's never going to happen. Might as well settle for the long haul there." Tyler chuckled along with Ethan.

"I'm glad she has found someone who knows how precious she is. I knew she would be safe with you Tyler. I'm not going to lie though. I had my doubts on how delicately she would be treated in your pack. It does have a rough reputation." Ethan was very grateful that he could relax knowing his daughter was in good hands.

"We are a strong pack. But what makes us strong is our bond with each other. Lilly is a core member to my pack. She is their important Luna. She is treated a million times better in my pack than she was in her own." Tyler knew that last line was a bit of a jab. That was just the point. Anywhere was better than the pack she grew up in.

Ethan nodded his head sadly. "You are right. She wasn't treated the best in my pack. I could have ordered everyone to treat her with the respect she deserves. I just felt that was wrong. I wanted to know who really cared. Besides Aaron, there was only Matteus. Because of this, my heart has hardened against my own pack. I have no desire to return there. I hope Aaron can create a better pack than I was able to. Their lack of caring and compassion with my mate and daughter... well... as their Alpha I can't forgive them. I gave them everything, but they couldn't accept what was precious to me."

"Let's reflect on the future. And concentrate on creating a brighter one." Alice said warmly touching Ethan's leg. She could tell he was feeling badly. "Lilly, I just thought of something. When it comes to visiting, your father and I can make it there the same day."

"Really? How? You going to ride dragons?" Lilly giggled knowing that was out of the question.

“If we ever become good enough friends with one, then maybe?” Alice laughed. “No, we will ride hippogryph’s there. If I can’t abuse being the fairy queen once in a while, then what is the point?” Alice grinned happily. The idea had just occurred to her, they could fly there.

“You want me to fly on the back of one of those things?” Ethan asked nervously. He was all about Alice, but some of these creatures here, he was not a fan of. They creeped him out. And for some reason... hippogryph’s gave him the willies.

“Yes, you are going to ride on the back of one of those cuties. I suggest you start making friends with them.” Alice grinned. She knew that, if it was to visit his children, she would be able to get him to ride one. Really... there didn’t have to be a reason. All Alice had to do was ask it upon him and he would do it.

“I guess I’ll just stay here and watch over the place when you do make those trips.” Dylan said hopeful. He did not want to ride a hippogryph either. His feet belonged on the ground.

“Of course not. You will be coming with us... I won’t hear another word about this subject, will I?” Alice looked at Dylan out of the corner of her eye. He didn’t object. Though his eyes were screaming it.

Lilly thought about how Dylan was a perfect match as her mother’s guardian. And how Tristan was her prefect guardian. She didn’t want to mess it up. She wanted her daughter to have her guardian as a best friend too.

“So, how do I go about picking out a future guardian?”

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“Well, you pick between the hopefuls. Not every werebear is born with the qualities needed to become a guardian. You pick from the best choices and then give them a special blessing. From there, they will be trained up as a guardian.” Alice explained as she watched Lilly frown.

“They’ll be taken away from their family...” Lilly frowned. She couldn’t imagine it. What kind of life is that? To be ripped from your family and brainwashed into thinking only one person mattered. Lilly felt Tyler squeeze around her waist and a big burly hand rest on her head.

“You are over thinking it Lills.” Tristan said as he scruffed up her hair. “I would choose this life again and again. This is who I am. Who I was meant to be. Just like how Tyler was born to be the Alpha. I was born to be your guardian.”

“We don’t rip children apart from families either Lilly. We would never take a child from a family’s warm arms. The hopefuls all come from different situations. Broken homes,

orphaned, given up... some are offered to us to be evaluated. Parents that recognize a special gift... like Tristan's family. Tristan's family knew he was special. He walked months early and was strong. They knew he was meant for more and asked for me to evaluate him as a guardian for my daughter." Alice paused and then continued after thinking about something important. "Lilly, Tristan was brought up differently because of the situation we had with the Silver moon pack. It isn't like that. Dylan was raised with me. He was my brother. My mother was his mother too. Essentially, you would be adopting the guardians as your other children. They wouldn't lack a family, because you are their family. They would be trained and taught while living with you. Tristan was taken in by the Ashen pack since he couldn't come to yours. He was raised as James brother. They both trained together and received special instruction. Your daughter and the guardian would have this as well. We have special teachers who will move to the Diamond pack in order to train your guardian up well." Alice wanted Lilly to understand better. This wasn't just a heartless act that is done. Children are not being ripped from their family's arms. It wasn't like that at all. It was more like adding another important family member.

Lilly nodded. She could live with that. She could take in another child and give them a family to love them. This was something that made more sense to her.

"You don't have to make any decisions today. You will be able to feel when you meet the right child. Something inside of you will be screaming this is the one. I think that your child is able to feel who they want as their guardian and you can feel it through them." Alice stood up. "Come on. Let's go meet some of the children we have here."

Lilly looked at Tyler with some excitement. This was a big deal. We get to pick out our daughter's Tristan. Lilly squealed in Tyler's head. She was now completely onboard.

Tyler chuckled and pulled her up into his arms. He liked the idea of raising the guardian as their own. He felt like he would really be able to trust them then. They would be his own child. His family was growing bigger by the minute.

"Let's go play with some bear cubs." Tristan put his arms around Lilly and Tyler walking with them. He felt a bit excited. They were going to find the next generation guardian. This really was a rare event.

The sounds of children laughing, and screaming were soon filling the air as they followed behind Alice, Ethan, and Dylan to another building. The building was covered in honeysuckles and the outside was layered in daisies. When they walked inside it, they had to go through two thick solid oak double doors. Tristan chuckled and pointed at the doors. "You can tell this is where they keep the wild animals."

The next room was a big open area. There were children playing games on the TV, children racing through obstacle courses, children building things with blocks... there were so many different activities they could engage in. It helped you see their personalities to see what things they took interest in.

“What happens to the children that are not chosen?” Lilly asked her mother quietly.

“They’ll be adopted into waiting families. We have enough homes for all of them. When a princess comes of age, we begin holding potentials back as possible candidates. Don’t worry Lilly. All of these children will be well loved and taken care of regardless.” Alice patted her daughter’s hand. “Go on. Go out and get to know them.”

Lilly and Tyler walked hand in hand visiting the various groups of children. There were children from the age of two to the age of eight. They all had little tempers on them. They were cute, but none of them spoke to her.

A woman with orange eyes... yes orange... walked in holding two little boys by their hands. The two children looked as if they had just woken up for their naps. They couldn’t have been older than three years old. They had the most adorable chocolate eyes and brown hair. They looked similar but were not identical.

“Are you two brothers?” Lilly asked the little boys and glancing up to see the orange eyed woman nodding her head.

“Brothers.” The one little boy nodded.

“This is Cody and this one is Jason. They are three years old.” The orange eyed woman introduced the two to Lilly.

“I’m hungry.” Cody pouted making the woman laugh.

“You’re awake so of course you are hungry. I’ll go bring you two something.” The woman left leaving the boys standing looking at Lilly.

Tyler and Tristan sat down on the floor next to the two kids. “You two sure look tough. Which on of you is stronger?” Tristan asked trying to interact with them.

“I am.” Jason pointed to himself with his thumb.

“No, me!” Cody growled.

Lilly eased herself onto the floor kneeling in front of the two boys. “You two are adorable.”

The boys looked up at her and smiled. They were drawn to her kindness. They both hopped into her arms. Lilly wrapped her arms around them both. She knew it then. The instant they touched her. They both belonged with her. She looked up at Tyler. He chuckled knowing she planned to take both of them. His family was growing exponentially.

“Why don’t you two play with Tyler and Tristan for a bit.” Lilly stood up and redirected the children to the two men behind them. She watched them begin wrestling with the men before she walked back to her mother and father.

“Which one of them is it?” Alice could tell she found her daughter’s guardian.

“Both. They are both mine.” Lilly answered with conviction.

“You would know best. I’m glad though. I wouldn’t want to separate those two. They just came here about a month ago. Their mother died during childbirth and their father was tragically killed in an accident. As far as ability goes... they are both very gifted. They have so much potential. They will both be very powerful guardians.” Alice looked at the two boys who were play fighting with Tyler and Tristan. Already you could tell there was a connection there. Somethings are meant to be.

“Do I get to take them back with me when I leave?” Lilly wanted to be able to spend time with them before her daughter arrived.

“I need to line up their teachers and a couple things, but yes, they can leave with you. You will need to give them their blessing here first though. I’ll show you how... you may need some extra cuddling from Tyler afterwards though, since you are giving powers to two of them.” Alice knew it was draining enough to give powers to one, let alone two. “Why don’t you go ahead and ask them if that’s what they want, though I am sure they will agree.”

Lilly nodded excitedly. She could feel it inside. This was right. These would be her kids too. She walked over to Tyler and Tristan. Their hair was messed up from wrestling with the two rambunctious kids. You good with this? Adding two more kids to the mix? Lilly asked already knowing the answer.

I don’t have a cap limit on the amount of love I can share. I will welcome them as my children and love them like it as well. Tyler knew the kids would be a handful, but would also bring so much more to their lives. It was more though. He could feel it too. He felt a connection with the two boys.

Lilly looked over at Tristan who grinned up at her. For someone so distrusting he took to children right away.

“What would you two boys think about coming to live with us? Would you like to become guardians?” Lilly knelt down to the little boy’s level. Two sets of brown eyes looked at her.

“We can go together?” Cody asked excitedly.

“Yes. We want both of you.” Tyler said quietly.

“Yes, we want to come.” The boys shouted together.

“Alright come see your Uncle Tristan boys.” Tristan grabbed both boys and flopped backwards with them giggling.

“What do we call you?” Jason asked sitting on top of Tristan as he looked at Tyler and Lilly.

“You can call us Tyler and Lilly or we wouldn’t mind it, if you two wanted to call us mom and dad.” Tyler’s eyes flashed up at Lilly’s. This was what they both wanted. They might be her daughter’s guardians... but they would also be family. “You two youngsters might be future guardians, but we want you two to be our family.”

“Would you two like to come with us to meet some of our other friends we brought with us?” Lilly could see the two boys attitude change. They were very excited and happy. They were young. Too young to really grasp what being a guardian is all about. She thought about what Tristan said. How he would choose to be her guardian again and again. She hoped that they would also feel that way.

Tristan stood up and lifted both boys in his arms. “Uncle Tristan has them. Let’s go.” Tristan’s family was growing too. Already, these two small children were important to him. This was his family.

“We would like to take a walk with the boys and introduce them to our other traveling companions.” Lilly turned to her mother and father.

“Go ahead. I’ll start making the necessary arrangements here. I know we will be sending Grayson along as one of the boy’s instructors. Then, when they get older, we will have to send someone stronger for sparring.” Alice was thinking of all the arrangements that needed to be made.

“HA! That satyr is still alive? Man... he was a grump when I was a kid.” Tristan laughed and then cleared his throat uncomfortably. No one laughed at his jokes. “As far as sparring goes... I’ve got them. No need to send anyone else. I can teach them what they need there.”

“Very good Tristan. Who better to teach them than a fellow guardian?” Alice nodded in agreement. “Go ahead and go. This evening I’ll be introducing you to Elysium so don’t be long.”

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Lilly knew that they would be wondering what was going on with her. She couldn’t wait for them to find out that she was pregnant. Tristan was hogging the two little boys. He was carrying each boy on his shoulders. The boys were laughing and were soaking in the attention. The sight made Lilly’s heart happy. As bad as things were for her before it

was getting made up for now. She was being surrounded more and more with precious people.

I love you Lilly.

Lilly smiled and leaned into Tyler as they walked. I love you too. She could see their group in the distance. They were sitting on a grassy knoll that was shaded by a couple of large trees. You do the honors.

Tyler beamed. He was excited to announce all the new editions. He watched as Kade and Cedric took a few steps closer to them. They were looking at the two children on Tristan curiously.

“This is Cody and Jason. They are both werebears. Lilly and I are bringing them home as part of our family.”

“Awesome. I have so many cool things I can teach them. I have a great comic collection too.” Kade beamed in excitement.

“Future guardians, huh?” Cedric smiled knowingly. “Did they know what is going on with Lilly?”

“Yes. They did. And there is nothing that can be done about it. In fact, it is going to get worse.” Tyler tried to act a bit more solemn. He watched the wide eyes around him and then smirked. Got them. “Lilly is pregnant!” Tyler grinned widely. “Apparently it takes a lot of energy out of her but being with me will help with that.”

“So you already picked out the guardian... or guardians for your daughter?” Cedric understood everything now.

“Wait. How do we know it is a girl? I mean for sure. What if Lilly doesn’t follow tradition?” Kade objected to already saying the baby was a girl.

“It will be a girl. The first born is always a girl because they are the ones who will rule. It is just the way it is.” Tristan explained as he jumped the kids around a bit.

“Congratulations. You two will be wonderful parents. And now you get a head start.” Drake mentioned looking at the two little boys. They looked like they would be quite the handful. Luckily, they would have a whole pack to help raise them.

“At what age will these little guys be able to shift?” Kade asked as he walked up to the boys.

“Depends, I’d say around the age of thirteen though.” Tristan lowered the two boys to the ground. They were not shy. They faced the strangers confidently. They had the makings of a true guardian. Tristan had a sense of pride wash over him for the boys.

“Awe, look at those big brown eyes.” Rosa gushed, looking at the two little boys. The boys were too fixated on the centaurs though. This was their first time seeing one and they were more than captivated with them.

“Cody, Jason, would you like to see them closer?” Lilly asked seeing how intrigued they were. They both nodded happily. She took their hands and led them up next to Drake. They looked up at him awestruck, but with no fear.

Drake extended his hands to the two boys shaking their hands. “You two are going to have a very important job when you are older, protecting the future princess. Do you think you can handle it? It will be tough. Especially if the daughter is anything like her mother.” Drake grinned at Lilly who rolled her eyes playfully.

“We can handle it. She will be our little sister.” Cody said proudly.

Tyler wrapped his arm around Lilly’s waist. The two of them were looking at their new family members with pride. Already they were claiming the future princess as their little sister. Sorry sweet future princess. You are going to be living in an overprotective world. Lilly and Tyler each picked a little boy up and held them.

“We have to head back now. You guys should come along this time. My mom is supposed to be introducing me to Elysium.”

“Us centaurs will stay here.” Drake knew those gatherings would be large. It would be better for them not being wedged in a large crowd.

On the walk back, Kade and Rosa were walking behind Tristan hand in hand, while Cedric was walking close to Lilly and Tyler, who were carrying their new boys.

“So, how long are we staying here?” Cedric asked looking over the two little boys. They would need to be carried for the trip back. They were too little to walk that long.

“We were planning to stay for a few days. This gives Lilly some time to spend with her mother and also get things ready for us to bring Cody and Jason home.” Tyler tossed Jason up a bit, making the kid giggle.

“You’ll love your new home kiddos. It has everything. Plenty of fun to be had there.” Kade yelled up to the two kids who seemed excited hearing about their new home.

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The days passed quickly. Alice introduced Lilly to Elysium. All the fairies were gathered. There were so many and almost infinite different kinds. They even saw the Kelpie from before there. They all welcomed her.

Lilly was sitting with her mother. They were soaking in their time together. It was hard not to feel bitter of all the time she had missed out on with her. She wouldn't let it consume her though. She would make sure they had a relationship from here on out.

"Mom... how did you and dad end up together? How did you two end up meeting?" Lilly had been wondering this.

Alice smiled and nodded her head. "As you know, we all have different abilities... my mother... I never told you about her, have I?" Alice paused and looked down.

"Is she still around?"

"She had a great gift. She could see the future very clearly. She knew what would happen in the future. She knew more than the great dragon Sage. When I came back here to rule as the queen, she made the ultimate sacrifice. Our barrier was strong, but it needed to be stronger. The dragons were able to create a barrier impermeable to demons by linking a lifeforce to it. So, she did the same. Down in the depths of Elysium your grandmother retired herself to create a powerful barrier. The barrier is her consciousness. Normal demons couldn't enter here before, but now even the powerful ones can't. It would take a massive army to break down it's barrier... which is what you must prepare for. You must prepare and be ready to fight off an army of demons. I am not going anywhere and will be here to guide you, but it will be your fight." Alice didn't have as much insight as her mother did. It may develop more as she gets older though. For now, she could only see some things and the rest is what she learned from her mother.

Lilly quietly reflected upon this. "So what does this have to do with you and dad meeting?" She knew there was a connection which is why her grandmother was brought up.

"Oh yes." Alice giggled, as she had gotten off track. "Your grandmother knew that her granddaughter would need to be powerful. She would need to be able to gather allies from all different species. Knowing this, she searched through my possible destinies until she found one that aligned with your father, an Alpha werewolf. You see, we each have different destinies that are meant for us. It is altered by the decisions we make. No one destiny is guaranteed. It is up to us to meet them. Your grandmother just gave the push for me to meet this one. She sent me to the Ashen pack for diplomatic reasons... well that's what she told me. She knew your father would be there and that we would end up together. It was a bit intense meeting him. As soon as he saw me, he looked into my eyes and said 'Mine'. It was so possessive and passionate. Living among werewolves was a culture shock. There was so much possessiveness and aggression. I wasn't used to that. But your father... he captivated me in every way. I know I was meant to be his. I don't have a wolf screaming mate, but I knew he was my person. I think I loved him from the moment I met him. Being separated from him... and from you... it was the most challenging time of my life. It is all worth it now though." Alice grabbed Lilly's hand and smiled.

“You grew up wonderful and beautiful... and safe. Sealing you gave you the chance to live a life not shut in. Growing up with werewolves has given you the mental ability to fight. You are the creation necessary to be the future protector of the fairy kingdom. We have a chance now. You are this kingdoms chance.”

“I’ll do my best not to let anyone down. It helps having Tyler by my side. He is an experienced fighter. He will be able to help me make the right decisions.” Lilly was fortunate she had him to depend on. The two of them together did not have a back down attitude. They both were fighters and protectors.

“I wish I was more like you. I just don’t have it in me. The fighting... the bloodshed... I can’t do it, even to protect my own... I don’t have it in me. The fairy kingdom has been in need of someone like you for quite some time. All we needed was a little bit of werewolf blood in us.” Alice could thank the werewolf blood for Lilly’s fighting nature. It definitely did not come from the fairy side. “Cody and Jason have taken to you and Tyler immediately. They also seem smitten with Tristan.”

“It feels normal. Like we were always supposed to be together. There is a connection there for sure.”

“They are also connecting with your daughter. Even now the bond is forming. They may be children, but they know their job. Once you bless them both it will only grow from there. Their protective nature will kick in. The blessing you give them will bind them to your daughter. It will be an irresistible urge to be near her. You will see it the moment she is born. They will just know. Think of it like how you knew Tyler was your mate. You felt pulled and drawn to him. The longer you are with him, the deeper the bond is. It is the same way with the guardians, except it isn’t as a mate.” Alice remembered when she first showed Lilly to Tristan. He wanted her in his lap and in his sights always. She hated that she had to separate them. It is another thing she wished she could have changed. She was glad that the bond never broke... if anything, it was just as strong as hers is with Dylan.

“I can’t help but worry a bit for the future and what role my children will have to play in it. It sounds like we will all be getting dragged into the war together. I worry about their safety.” Lilly rubbed her stomach gently, looking down at it.

“Just as I am worrying for you. I worry about you having to fight, but I am so proud of you for it. Worrying is normal. It is just part of being a parent. It is okay to worry but you must never be afraid to let them spread their wings.”

“Lilly!” Tyler waved as he walked up to her. When he reached her he bent down in front of her, pecking her lips lightly. “We were going to take the boys out into the meadow. Tristan and I are going to spar a bit for them. Want to come with us?”

Lilly giggled. “Sure, but don’t try to fool me into thinking you are doing this for the boys. I know darn well who the real children are who want to play.” Lilly watched the cheesy

grin take hold of Tyler's face. "You want to come with us?" Lilly turned and looked towards her mother.

"No, that's okay. I don't even have a stomach for play fighting." Alice smiled sheepishly. This was a big weakness of hers. "I'll make sure to have refreshments prepared for when you get back."

Tyler bent down and scooped Lilly up into his arms causing her to squeal. "I'll be your chariot my lady."

Lilly giggled. "You are such a dork."

"Nah, I'm a crazy werewolf who is madly in love." He rubbed his nose with hers before taking off into a sprint. She squealed and gripped her fingers onto him tightly. He was crazy alright.