






# The Dragon King

Chapter 6 ~ I Hate You All!

## Draco Arconium's POV ~

What a fucking waste of time this trip has turned into! This pack!? Well this pack is just a huge disappointment! The only one here I might be even slightly interested in talking to is that Beta! My only consolation at this point, is I have decided to return home tomorrow!

I linked my beta  **Adrian! The fuck are you?**  *Having quite the tete a tete with the Beta. He's a good guy, Draco.. a little disillusioned with the Alpha.. I will tell you about it!*  **Let's just get through this lunch.. and the rest of this fucking day!**  *Heard the word, Alpha!*  **Shut up!**

I met up with Adrian and Beta Caleb, walking into the dining hall for lunch. I muttered "The fuck is that woman wearing?" Caleb and Adrian both laughed and I glanced sideways at them. Adrian shrugged "Caleb and I were just discussing the Luna's wardrobe!"

Looking around, I asked "Where's Culver? Why must he be late? Every damned time? He's going to be late to his own funeral and I'm going to revive him.. just so I can kill him!" Caleb laughed again and responded "I sent an omega to fetch him."

At that moment, Culver comes running in.. his clothes askew.. his hair all over the place and Adrian says "Oh! That's where he was" just as an omega sneaks in behind him, going to her table. Goddess spare me!

I barely get through the meal.. the Luna chattering nonstop over some inconsequential bullshit about handbags and matching shoes. Like I said.. barely made it!

Sitting here in the Alpha's office, nursing a Jameson's.. I wait to hear this nonconformist banishment story. It's only Alpha Anderson, which I find odd.. but choose to hold my tongue, for the time being.

Anderson has yet to speak on the topic I want to know about.. so I cut him off "Alpha, all that is quite interesting, I'm sure.. but I am more interested in the

banishment of my new attorney.” He clears his throat and says yes.. and clears his throat again. That almost always indicates I am about to hear some bullshit that won’t fly.

He starts “Aurora was born into this pack.. and well.. I started dating Amelia.. my Luna.. five years ago. When I came home, two years back.. from Alpha training, I had decided to take her as my chosen.. the night of my ascension.. which was a few hours away. Aurora disagreed with it.. as Amelia wasn’t my true mate. And Aurora is nothing, if not conventional. She believes in the Goddess’s doctrine.. and thinks we should settle for nothing less. Her disrespect to my father was over the top.. and he banished her for it. She couldn’t conform to my choices and argued with my father about it.”

I sat there. For like five minutes. Two minutes.. maybe forty five seconds.. I don’t know.. I asked “That’s it!? That’s all? She was banished for questioning her Alpha’s choice to thwart the Goddess’s authority? A beta born woman? Was banished for expressing her opinion? Let me get this straight.. your father banished her for voicing her thoughts about you taking a chosen? Had you found your mate? Had your Luna found hers?”

He shook his head and said “No. We both just decided to be each other’s chosen.” Okay. I’m not getting it. What am I missing?! I asked again “So.. the two of you decided? That you would deprive two others the right to the other half of their souls.. without knowing.. or even caring about the damage this might cause your true mates? And you banished the twin sister for feeling the way almost everyone else feels? Making her rogue!?”

He said “Putting it that way.. it sounds bad. But, it was a mutual decision.. and we were satisfied with it.” Adrian links me to ask where his beta is.. so I ask “Why is your beta not here? I would like to hear his take on this.”

He clears his throat again “Caleb and I don’t quite see eye to eye on this. So I volunteered to be the one to relay the information.” I nod.. hmm.. not sitting right. Something just doesn’t mesh. “Did you fight for the girl to stay? I mean.. you could have lifted the banishment that same night, no!? You were Alpha not even three hours after your father issued the order.. sooo?”

His indignant reply was “I would never override Alpha’s orders.. especially my own father’s!” I said “I would say I see.. but I don’t. Not really. What I actually see is piss poor leadership.. which could have easily cost the life of your Luna’s twin sister! But.. okay. I will induct her into my pack.. and be grateful

for her expertise in handling my legal affairs. I just hope what you've told me isn't a falsehood."

I asked "Do you mind if my men and I go for a run? Asmodeus feels the need to stretch his legs." He stood, saying "I will join you." Nodding I growled "Suit yourself. I would ask your beta joins, as well. Adrian and he have made a connection."

We ran a few hours.. and truth be told, Sacred Moon is a beautiful territory. Unfortunately, her leaders,, not so much! I shifted from Asmodeus and slipped into sweats.. to get a shower.

After dinner, we said our good nights. I had told them I wanted to get an early start in the morning. I told Adrian to bring Caleb to my rooms. I wanted to talk to him.

He came in and I poured us drinks. I smiled and said "Your Alpha told me the two of you didn't quite see eye to eye on the circumstances behind your sister's banishment. I would like to hear your version of the event."

By the time he had finished, I felt my eyes burning.. and could taste smoke.. Looking at him, I said "Little something I don't share with many people.. I am a hybrid. My other part is dragon. His name is Donnagh.. and he's a tad pissed at the moment. Bear with me, while I talk him down. Oh! And Caleb? Make sure your Alpha.. his Luna.. her parents and his are on the steps, in the morning when I take my leave.. I think you'll enjoy the follow through!" He nodded.. saying good night

The next morning, Adrian waltzed through my door, asking "Good times?" And I grinned "Great times! Let's get a little payback for the banished True Luna, shall we!?"

I walked out the front door.. noticing Caleb had done as I asked, and I shot him a wink. Anderson introduced his parents.. and his Luna's parents. I was polite. I shook everyone's hands. When I got to Anderson, I said "I would say it's been a pleasure. But I'm not a liar."

I stepped off the porch and started toward the cars. I stopped.. turning around. I grinned and said "Oh. One more thing.. Amelia. I, Draco Arconium, Alpha of Draconium Pack.. King of Dragons, reject you, Amelia Griffin-Kane, as my true mate, Luna, and Queen. Accept it!"

They all stood there, gaping.. while Caleb sat.. holding his sides, roaring in laughter.. I roared "Accept it! NOW!" She mumbled I accept and rejected me back. As I was getting in my car, I heard her scream "My true mate is a fucking king!? I hate you all!"

Chapter 7 ~ I Met My New Boss

### **Aurora's POV ~**

I arrived at the gates of Draconium two and a half days after the start of my journey. I was immediately escorted to the pack house. And what a magnificent house it was. All natural stone and glass.. with amazing views.. all sides surrounded by picturesque vistas that took my breath away.

I was shown to my quarters.. which was essentially a full sized apartment. A huge living space.. with a small kitchenette. A bedroom and an en suite. And the views.. Oh My Goddess! The views!

I showered and unpacked my luggage. I placed pictures of Caleb around my room.. making me feel at home. I heard a voice say "Ms. Heartsong?" I looked around.. confused, a moment.. then I spotted an intercom system on the wall by my door. Nifty! I pushed the button, asking "Yes?"

The voice asked if I would be coming down for dinner.. or should something be sent up. I immediately said "I will come down." I don't want to be waited on.. I can take care of myself. I checked my clothes.. making sure I was presentable. I headed down the four floors to find the dining hall.

I entered and all the chatter stopped. Everyone turning their heads to look at me. I smiled and said "Don't mind me! I'm just the new pack's attorney. Please.. Don't let me interrupt your meal! I am Aurora Heartsong!"

A lovely young woman asked "As in Heartsong pack?" I grinned and said "Exactly like that! That is my grandmother's pack!" She smiled and nodded "Welcome, Aurora! My name is Naomi" I said pleased to meet you, and sat down to fill my plate.

Naomi moved to sit next to me and said "It's so nice to have another woman close to my age again! Mind if I sit?" I smiled "I would love that!" She said "I'm the pack's lead female warrior.. do you train?" I nodded and admitted that I do and asked if she would spar with me in the morning. She clapped her hands and squealed "Oh I would love that!"

We finished dinner, and Naomi showed me my offices. I said “I will need a couple assistants.. do you know of anyone in the pack with a background in law?” She smiled, saying “My mom used to be a paralegal. And I believe there is a couple people who might be interested. You can put an ad up on the job board in the lobby?”

I grinned “Naomi, I believe you may have been Goddess sent!” Just then, she squealed again. I raised an eyebrow and waited. She says, excitedly “The Alpha cut his trip short, they’re heading home three months early! I wonder... He must have found his mate, to be coming back, so soon!” Not having anything to say, I just nodded.

Back in my room, I noticed the rest of my boxes had been delivered. So, I unpacked everything.. putting it all away. Glad to have my keurig and pods! I do not function without morning coffee.

I climbed into bed and dialed Caleb. He answered with the biggest smile I had seen in awhile! “Brother! You look genuinely happy! What’s got you in such a good mood?”

He laughs.. “My sweet peanut! All hell has broken loose and I am truly loving every second of it! Know what they say about Karma?” I nod and say “It’s a bitch?” His grin widens and he says “Boy Howdy! Truer words were never spoken!”

He explained what had happened and I was flabbergasted. Amelia had met her true mate! Then my heart went out to him. The poor man had six months before the last traces of the bond dissipates. I hope he is strong! It is a pain I would wish on no one!

I asked Caleb where he was going.. as I noticed he was walking. He put his finger to his lips, as he carried his phone with him. I heard Alpha John and Chancey yell at Caleb.. and I was instantly pissed! Chancey yelled “Did you know!? Did you fucking know? Your sister is heartbroken! It will take six months for her wounds to heal!?”

Caleb calmly said “I didn’t know. But my sister is no longer heartbroken. She has completely healed. Whatever your daughter is going through is a direct result of your conniving ways.. but my sister is just fine!”

John said “You had better stay close to Anderson until Amelia pulls through this! He will need to rely on your strength for awhile.” Caleb laughed and said

“That’s different than any other day.. how?” John snarled “you are exactly like your sister! Get out of here with that disrespect!” Chuckling, Caleb said “Gladly! And thank you! If only more of us were like my sister!”

I scolded him “Caleb! You promised!” He grins at me and said “I promised to take care of the pack.. and I am doing that! I did not promise to take care of a baby Alpha!” I laughed.. telling him I love him, I hung up and crawled back into bed. There is nothing I miss about Sacred Moon.. not anymore! I was asleep within minutes.

The next morning, I stepped from my rooms, dressed in a black pencil skirt, four inch heels.. and a white button down blouse with bouffant sleeves. My hair was pulled into a low chignon, with tendrils framing my face.. my makeup consisted of winged liner, mascara and a blush lipstick.

I headed to my office and quickly typed up an ad.. asking for anyone with administrative experience in the legal field. I pinned it to the job board in the lobby.. and headed to breakfast.

Naomi waved me over.. whistling.. “Damn girl! You make office chic sexy as hell! I’d do you!” I laughed! This girl was rapidly becoming my best friend! We parted ways, after setting up a spar time, and I headed to my offices.

As I entered my corridor, there was a queue of maybe ten people. The first in line was Naomi’s mother. I invited her in and offered her a seat, as she handed me her resume’

I read it over and her credentials were impressive. I asked “You haven’t worked in nearly four years.. a health issue?” She smiled and said “Not mine.. my mother was ill. She passed recently, and Naomi moved out. I find myself at loose ends.. empty nest syndrome, I think!”

I grinned and stood, shaking her hand, I said “Welcome aboard, Connie! I look forward to working together!” I went through the other applications.. deciding on a man name Albert.. an attorney who specialized in real property law. Happy with my team, now and it’s just lunch time! A productive morning!

At lunch, Naomi introduced me to several warriors.. and I felt like I was settling in nicely. Naomi said “Alpha should be home by nightfall.. probably around four.. “ and I asked “Wait!? What? That’s early for nightfall!” She laughed and said “Alaska in the fall, baby!” Ohh! Right!

I went back to my office and started sifting through the lawsuits filed against the pack. Seven, so far. We were being sued by the state of Alaska to run a natural gas pipeline straight through the middle of Draconium territory. Oh hell no! I immediately drafted a stay.. and emailed the council to grant a continuance on the hearing scheduled for next week. I needed more time to prepare!

Two suits were property disputes.. and I immediately called a surveyor out to run the parameters of the full extent of our territory.. border to border. I filed a petition with the real estate and tax offices to recognize our rights of personal property.. then filed incorporation certification for pack recognition.

I glanced at the clock and realized my sparring time was rapidly approaching. Locking my office, I ran to my room. I changed into a pair of leggings, and a sports bra. Yanking my chignon out, I quickly braided my hair and wrapped it in a tight bun.

Asking for directions to the training center, I finally made it to the gym. Naomi grinned, asking “Ready to get that ass handed to you?” I smirked “Yours? Sure! Show me what you got!”

We were pretty evenly matched. On our fourth tap out.. at two each, I flipped over her head.. wrapping my legs around her upper body, and had her in a chokehold.. when I hear a deep voice “Naomi, have you seen the new...” she tapped out.. and I met my new boss!

Chapter 8 ~ Something New For Us

### **Draco’s POV ~**

She’s stunning. Please, Goddess.. don’t let her be an insipid little twit like her twin! I doubt I could take two years of that! I walked in, seeing Naomi in a headlock and tapping out. That tells me she at least has some skills. But.. seeing that face every day? Being reminded of my unfaithful mate every single day? I don’t know.. I just don’t know!

I’m seated at the dinner table, when she walks in with Naomi.. she is dressed in skinny jeans and a graphic tee that states ‘I’m not superstitious, but I am a little stitious’ and it took me a minute to understand. Funny!

They’re laughing and I hear Naomi say “Yeah, yeah! Double or nothing tomorrow! Let it ride?” Aurora laughed “Fine.. tomorrow you’ll owe me twenty!”

She steps over to me.. sticking her hand out, says “Aurora Heartsong, Alpha Arconium. It’s nice to officially meet you.. without my legs wrapped around another woman!” I laughed and shook her hand.

Culver said “What? Scissors?! Where was I?” She grinned “No! Headlock! And you are?” He laughs “Gamma! Culver Muldoon!” Nodding, she sat down beside Naomi, and I introduced her to Adrian. He said “Holy Fuck! You look just like your sister!”

Her face darkened and she quietly said “You’re mistaken. I do not have a sister. I do, however, have a brother. We’re orphans.. by choice. And that is all I will say about that.”

She asked me “Will I be inducted into the pack, Alpha? Isla is driving me crazy to run, and I didn’t allow her to. It’s dangerous without a mind link.” I nodded “How about we take care of that, after dinner?” She smiled brightly, and thanked me.

Adrian linked 🐾 *The resemblance is uncanny.. if they were side by side, I couldn’t tell them apart.* 🐾 **they are very different. Her eyes light up.. her smile is genuine. Even her hair is a shade lighter. Most importantly, her personality is actually present. Amelia had none.** Adrian started choking.. and Aurora immediately patted him on the back, admonishing him to be careful and chew his food better. Making me laugh. Okay.. maybe I can get through the next couple years.

She knocks on my office door and Adrian admits her. She smiles and sits down. Then says “Fire away. I know you have questions.” I shook my head “I honestly don’t. I read your college transcripts.. your senior thesis. You are more than qualified, in my opinion. Your brother filled us in on personal details.. and only because I admit to being concerned about your banishment.. when I heard.”

She nodded, saying “Let me guess. Anderson painted me as a disrespectful little jit who ran rampant around the pack house, always wanting my way?” Adrian barked out a laugh.. “Pretty much”. Again, she nodded “Did he tell you he wanted to keep me? So Axel wouldn’t weaken? He expected me to just accept he was mated to the twat.. and I don’t know.. let it destroy me? His father tried to command me to accept his decision and suck it up. Dumbass didn’t realize he had never been able to command me to do shit, my entire life.”



I chuckled “No.. he didn’t tell me that. He didn’t even tell me you were his mate. Just that you resented him for going against the Goddess’s edicts.” She grins “Yep! Sounds about right.. He likes to think he’s a master at the art of deflection! I do want you to know how very sorry I am that you are going through this! The first couple months can be hell! So, if you ever need to just talk.. know that I will listen.. in a been there, done that kinda way”

She apologized.. literally feels bad for me having to face rejection. Definitely not a shallow person! I believe I will be able to see her every day and not be hurt by it! I ask “What made you choose law?” She sat up straighter and said “That’s easy.. With the integration into the human world, shifters are facing a million problems. Land encroachments.. false accusations.. insurance liabilities because of our strengths. I didn’t.. I don’t.. want to see our kind being taken advantage of. I know the ins and outs of shifter’s laws.. but I also know the ins and outs of human laws. If I can help it, I will not allow our species to be taken advantage of! We have the right to govern ourselves.. without being on the outside of any laws!”

I smile at how passionate she is.. so I ask “Why didn’t Amelia further her education?” She laughed “Oh she did! At sixteen, she decided she was Luna..and only needed to smile and look pretty. That takes a lot of hard work!” Adrian laughed again “Yeah.. I think she failed that Luna course.”

Aurora rolled her eyes “Still wearing her slut costumes, then? She believes less is more..and all eyes should be on her. I never understood the concept, if I’m honest with myself.”

I said “Let’s get you inducted into the pack! Then Isla can run.. maybe Asmodeus can show you around?” She smiles and said “Sounds good to me!”

She swore allegiance and I felt her bond snap into place.. I linked 🐾 **Can you hear me?** She grinned and responded 🐾 *Feels good to have a link again. It’s only been Caleb and I for so long. Isla is practically purring!* I laughed.. “The image of a wolf purring is funny!

I asked “Did you want to run a bit, tonight? It might do her some good to stretch it out!” She nodded saying yes, please. We headed outside.. I had decided to take her towards the southern border.. the terrain was a little flatter and easier to maneuver in the dark.

She shifted into a large silver wolf. Nearly the size of a normal Alpha.. it’s obvious she’s an Alpha born Beta! And Isla is beautiful! I called Asmodeus

forward, and we took off running. Isla was an adorable, playful wolf. Bouncing over Asmo's back.. and nipping his heels. She yipped and chased a snow rabbit down a hole.

We reached an overlook and stopped to rest a minute. Isla began singing.. a soulful sound that pulled at my soul. Then, I realized.. she is a Heartsong.. and this is exactly how they got their name! She sang for about twenty minutes.. I heard others joining in.. A grateful, happy sound. Something new for us!

Chapter 9 ~ Hoisted By Your Own Petard

### **Aurora's POV ~**

It feels good having a pack link. That saying you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone is truer than I realized. I dressed in black dress slacks and a navy blue silk cami with a small floral print. Tossing on a black blazer and heels.. I was out the door for breakfast. I left my hair loose, but pulled the sides away from my face.

I told everyone good morning.. and Albert came over "Ms. Heartsong, council emailed that your motion for continuance has been approved. However, Moon Hollow Pack filed a grievance against us for water rights."

I smiled at him "Thank you, Albert. We will take a look at the paperwork when we get in. Sit down and enjoy your breakfast for now." I sat and Adrian asked "You always dress to impress for work?" I nod.. and grin "Are ya impressed? But, yes, I do. I represent Draconium Pack now.. and in the course of any day, I don't know who I may encounter. No way would I ever not be presentable"

He laughed "Hellz yeah! I'm impressed! You look high class! Like we some important people here!" Draco chuckled "Stop, Adrian! You do look beautiful, Aurora.. but please, ignore my Beta!"

I worked the morning away.. filing all the necessary paperwork for the appropriate cases. Until I came upon a lawsuit filed by us.. against a weyr of dragons, and particularly against the Alpha.. crimes against humanity. Searching through the file.. there's no more information. Whoever filed it, didn't follow through. I linked Draco, asking if he was busy. He said in his office and to come see him.

I walked in and he was sitting with Adrian and Culver, doing paperwork. I smiled "I am sorry to bother you.. I do fear it may happen a few more times, over the coming weeks while I clear my office."

He looked up, grinning "This? You? Not an interruption.. a pleasant reprieve! How can I help?" I sat and opened a file.. "I need to know why we filed a crimes against humanity on one Alpha Michaelson of the Lightning Weyr."

The room got so still.. so thick with tension, I felt like I was gasping for air. He sighed "Well, as you know, I am a dragon/wolf hybrid.. and the Dragon King." I jumped up and loudly said "What? Wait! No, I didn't. I didn't know. Why was that pertinent information not given to me?" He laughed and said "I'm sorry. I thought that had been covered in your interview?"

Again, I am shaking my head "No interview. I wasn't interviewed by anyone. Your proposition was handed to me, along with twenty two others by the council.. a week before my graduation."

Adrian laughed "Damn, brother! We made the cut out of twenty three! That's cause we're just awesome like that!" I curled my lip at him "It's because I was told you had close ties to a dragon weyr up here.. and I have always felt most discrimination is targeted toward dragons and I wanted to help! Not because Alpha Draco is King! Shit! Shit Shit Shit!"

Draco laughs again "Deep breath, Aurora. What do you need from me?" I did as he said.. took several deep breaths, actually.. and asked "Why was this case not pursued? And what crimes are being committed against the people?"

Culver punched a few keys on his laptop and turned it to me. I saw pictures of five different people, in human form. Varying degrees of wounds and bruises.. then, their dragon counterparts. Culver pointed to the dragons.. "Look! See here? Here.. and here?" At my nod, he says "Michaelson abuses his people.. we're talking torture.. beatings.. shit like that. But this? See the notches in the wings?" I nod again.. he continues "Those injuries are not only to cause pain.. they take a long time to heal.. and the placement of them prevents flight."

Isla growls "He hobbles his people? Grounds them? So they what? Can't escape?" Draco nods. I mutter mother fucker! Then, I ask.. "Why was the lawsuit not pursued?"

Adrian tells me “When the process server had gone to deliver the summons, Michaelson had moved the Weyr. The entire weyr of two hundred.. just vanished.”

I sat back down, deflated “Are we looking? Have efforts continued to find this piece of shit? And where are these five people who came forward? Safe, I hope!” Draco smiled at me “The five are indeed safe. They are members of the pack. Search teams are in the sky, every day.. no luck, so far. The case can’t move forward, until Michaelson is located.”

I looked directly into his eyes and told him “May I pursue it? With sworn testimony of the victims, I can move forward to convict in absentia!”

Adrian asks “What the fuck does that even mean? Absentia?” I grin “I don’t need a defendant in a courtroom, in the face of overwhelming evidence! If the victims are willing to swear statements and testify, I can win this! Then, he becomes a wanted fugitive from justice.. as opposed to a person of interest!”

Draco leans back in his chair “What do you need?” Nodding, I let him know “I need to interview the victims.. take their statements. Transcribe them and submit them as evidence, to the council. Then, we issue a blanket notice that this is going to trial. If Michaelson doesn’t show up.. at the appointed date and time of the hearing, he forfeits his right to defense. Done deal!”

Culver asks “And if he shows up?” I reply, “then I depose him.. and he gives his side of the story. Either way.. he would have to come out of hiding.. leaving an opportunity to discover his weyr?”

Draco asks “How soon? We lost contact with Michaelson six months ago. Our previous attorney told us there was nothing we could do until he was located.”

That didn’t ring true with me.. something’s not right. “How long ago did your attorney leave? And what was his reason?” Adrian responded “He left a little over five months ago. His reason was an illness in his family, and he was needed home.. somewhere south.”

I smirked “And nobody found it suspect that this lawsuit was filed with the shifter’s commission.. Michaelson disappeared before he could be served, and the attorney leaves? It didn’t seem too coincidental? How did the Alpha know to move his weyr?”

Draco leans his elbows on his desk.. holding his chin “Son of a fucking bitch! That bastard betrayed us! I want him found and brought to me! Goddess damn it! Aurora! Carte Blanche! Do what you need! No matter the cost! We step up efforts! Find that weyr! I want those people safe!”

I stood up “On it, Boss! For the record, I believe the threat of absentia conviction will flush Michaelson out of hiding!” Culver grins “Finally! I like you, girl! Your no-nonsense approach is going to make such a difference! Why can’t all lawyers look like you!?”

I asked “What? What the hell do looks have to do with it?” Adrian grins and said “That’s his way of getting into your pants!” I laughed “Yup! Never gonna happen, Spiffy! These pants stay on, until I find my second chance! So, don’t waste your time.. I’m immune!”

Draco laughed and told him “Hoisted by your own petard!”

Chapter 10 ~ She Was Brutal

### **Draco’s POV ~**

I ordered my dragons to widen the search for Michaelson.. and Culver started running down the attorney, Johnston... Aurora said she doubted he gave up practicing law.. so, odds are we will find trace of him. Unless he didn’t go south. Which is highly likely, if he betrayed us to Michaelson. Dragons hate the heat of southern climes..

She told me, at breakfast, that she had worked diligently with the victims the last three days to get their statements.. and to coach them with their testimony. She is also filing civil lawsuits against Michaelson for monetary compensation for pain and suffering. There’s nothing a dragon loves more than his jewels and gold! Shiny things make us happy! Luckily, Donnaugh balances out with Asmo, so I don’t feel that compulsory need to hoard any riches.

I am amazed by Aurora, every day! She works tirelessly for what she feels is right. Today, we are flying to the council, for our first hearing on the natural gas pipeline. I have to be there, of course, because I am the owner of record. Even though, she has incorporated my pack.

Boarding the plane, I smile at her. She looks nervous. "Don't like flying?" She sits down and groans "Wolves aren't meant to fly.. otherwise, we'd have wings!"

I take her hand and say "Just hold tight to me! Maybe next time, I will just let you ride Donnagh's back" Her eyes lit up and she giggled "Now, that's a flight I might enjoy! This whole five ton metal box being airborne doesn't sit well with me!"

The flight was uneventful, still though, she released a heavy breath on touchdown. I had to laugh "Next time.. try a whiskey.. it soothes the nerves." She smirks "And bolsters an attorney's reputation, in court! 'Oh, look, here comes the soused lawyer!" I laughed at her.. "You're too cute! Our hearing isn't until morning! No one would know!" She just grins.

We got to our hotel rooms.. Adrian on one side of her, and mine was on the other. Her room adjacent to mine, so we could go over what we wanted to convey to the commission.. one last time.

We agreed to meet downstairs for dinner, and I am stood, outside her door, waiting for her to answer, after sending Adrian down to procure a table. I was dressed in a dark suit and light gray button down shirt. I didn't bother with a tie.. I seriously dislike those things!

She opens her door.. dressed in a silky, silvery dress, that hugged her body with a flare at her hips down to her knees in a full skirt.. her hair was loose and hanging down her back.. with strappy four inch heels. Looking every inch a lady. In my infinite wisdom, the only word I could utter was "WOW" She giggled and told me "Stop!"

In the elevator, I said "I find myself so very attracted to you.. but I know you are waiting for your second chance. Why is that? You were the one who rejected that jackass.. I didn't think the one who did the rejecting is entitled to a second chance?"

She blushed and replied "If the rejection is justifiable, then yes.. we get a second chance. I'm not one to play coy, although I am a little shy, but I am attracted to you, as well. In three and a half months.. who knows!? Your six months will be passed, and your second chance can be found. Goddess willing.. it may be me!"

We found Adrian and were seated, looking over the menu. Our drinks arrived, and I was surprised she had ordered a Jameson's, neat. I raised a brow at her glass, and she giggled "One won't hurt." I laughed "It's actually that I am surprised.. I expected a girly drink"

She scoffs "Oh please! I might clean up good, but a girly girl, I ain't!" Adrian laughed "She's a warrior dude!" I shrugged "Just surprised me a little.. okay!?" She giggled again and said "I will keep that in mind! Surprising you will be my new endeavor!"

As our food arrived, we heard a loud voice yell "Peanut!" Her head swiveled looking for the keeper of that voice, with a huge smile on her face.. spotting him she yelled "Bubba!" And ran to him. I grinned at their hug, as he spun her in a circle.

Adrian and I stood, to greet Caleb, and asked him to join us. He immediately sat, stopping the server and asking for her to bring his meal to our table. They asked "Why are you here?" Then laughed at each other.

She told him she is working.. and he said "Anderson and his parents are here about a land dispute with Black Hill Pack. It's an ongoing feud that started with John's reign. Amelia and her parents are here, as well. Chancey has to testify.. actually, he's the primary witness for Sacred Moon."

She nods and asks "Who's minding the store while all the key employees are on holiday?" He laughed again "You left that place running like a fine oiled machine, Rori. I have made sure everything you implemented has stayed in place! Goddess knows our Luna is a disaster!"

I asked what he meant.. and he scoffed "Luna Amelia is little more than Anderson's arm candy.. and more like a sour patch kid, as opposed to a Ghirardelli chocolate.. if you know what I mean!?" Aurora cracked up "Oh my Goddess, Caleb! That's horrible!" He just shrugged and dug into his meal.

We talked and laughed over after dinner drinks.. and as we stood to leave.. the entire Sacred Moon entourage passed our table. I reached my arm out and pulled Aurora into me, by her waist. Yes. I was staking my claim.

Amelia, dressed in a hot pink lycra bodycon dress and ridiculously high heels, sneered "Well, I'm not surprised to see you whoring around with my leftovers, sister." Aurora looked around, behind her.. over her shoulder.. "Oh! Were you

talking to me? I was looking for your sister.” Allison snarled “Aurora Rose, why you must persist in playing such games, is beyond me!”

Aurora laughs “That doesn’t surprise me, Allison. There is a lot of things beyond you. The ability to love two daughters the same.. that’s beyond you. The ability to support and encourage true mate bonds.. that is beyond you. Simple maternal responsibility and love.. again.. beyond you. So, comprehending why I severed familial bonds not being a game to me.. doesn’t surprise me. It’s beyond you!” Chancey swung to slap her, and I grabbed his hand.. “Harming a member of my pack is an act of war, Griffin. Are you certain you wish to pursue this!?”

We said good night to Caleb.. and Aurora kissed Luna Bridget’s cheek and shot a look at Anderson.. she said “You really should keep your dog on a leash in public, Alpha Kane!” Excellent parting shot! So proud of this woman! The perfect blend of confidence and sass! We walked away laughing.

Adrian laughs “Damn girl! I see why you’re such a good attorney! You cut that woman to shreds with words!” I agreed! She was brutal.. in the classiest of ways