

The Alpha's Fated Outcast: Rise Of The Moonsinger

Chapter 121

121 Where is your mate , Lyla ?

Nathan

The priestess nodded solemnly .

“ Yes .

Every Moonsinger in history , including Neriah , the first Moonsinger .

They all at some point were stripped of their abilities , so this is not the first time .

”

The elders exchanged nervous glances .

“ So , how were they able to fight ? ” Elder Mira asked .

“ They all underwent training – serious , vigorous training that made them stronger , stronger than any ordinary Lycan .

Most of them gained the strength of a hundred Lycans combined .

The Moonsinger before Lyla – the general from across the sea had the strength of a thousand Lycans and that was because of his experience as a warrior coupled with his special gift .

”

Everyone in the hall exchanged another round of shocked glances .

Even Ramsey looked taken aback .

“ But why ? ” Ramsey asked , his voice cutting through the murmurs .

“ Why did they all lose their powers ? Was the Dark One responsible for that too ? ”

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121 Where is your male , Lyla ?

The priestess nodded .

“ The pattern has been consistent .

Due to the nature of how Moonsingers discover their powers , the Dark One always reaches them first .

In fact , the birth of a Moosinger slowly awakens the Dark One and when he becomes fully awake , he starts to search for them using his Trinax but that’s a story for another time .

Despite all the precautions taken by all High Priestesses , he always manages to reach them before us and by the time we discover them ... they’re without their powers .

”

“ And what does the Dark One do with all these powers he collects ? ” Ramsey pressed

.

“ No one knows ,” the priestess shook her head .

“ But what we do know is that the loss doesn’t end their journey as Moonsingers .

On the contrary , it’s always the beginning of their journies and now that we have acknowledged that the Moonsinger has been revealed , there’ll be lots of attacks sprinkled now and again .

”

“ And coincidentally , our Moonsinger is not strong enough to save us ,” Elder Thorne smirked .

“ I should warn you , Elder Thorne ,” the priestess turned to him “ You should be mindful of the way you speak to Lyla .

The position she holds can almost rival that of

121 Where is your mate , Lyla ?

the owner of the White Moon Throne .

I only begged for your reinstatement into the council because your pack – the White Lake pack would play a pivotal role

this time around .

”

“ A pivotal role ? ” Elder Thorne arched his brow .

“ What do you mean ? ”

“ The water from the White Lake in your pack would be used to perform a cleansing ritual on the Moonsinger and your soldiers would protect the White Moon Throne and every other pack in the White Moon region .

They have been chosen by the Moon Goddess .

herself .

Coincidentally , ” she turned to me , her eyes piercing into my soul .

“ Alpha Nathan ... Your pack has also been chosen to protect the Werewolf packs in this

side of our world .

”

“ This side of our world ? ” Elder Mira asked .

“ Unlike previous years where the Dark One focuses on every pack in our world , this time around , it is more concerned with the Lycans and Werewolves that

borders the Northern forests .

I’m afraid , this would be a dark time for all of us but that is to be expected , the White Moon Throne resides here and for the first time in ages , we have someone chosen by the White Moon

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121 Where is your mate , Lyla ?

Throne , A Beta as an Alpha and the flowing stream of the White Lake in the White Mountain Region ...

members of the council , ” she paused .

“ Darkness is

upon us .

”

The hall went silent as everyone had their eyes fixed on her .

“ I’m afraid , we do not follow , High Priestess ,” Ramsey broke the silence .

“ For years and generations , no Moonsinger has been able to finally kill the Dark One and that’s because of a lot of factors that I cannot explain now as they are not

clear to me .

But what I do know is , that this is a repetition of what happened a long time ago .

The daughter of an Alpha becomes a Moonsinger , A Beta replaces an Alpha and becomes an Alpha and the direct bloodline of a Werewolf and a Lycan sits on the White Moon Throne ... ”

“ ... when silver wolf and golden sun unite , a child of both worlds shall come to light .

In its veins , the goddess’s powers flow , to shape the future for friend or foe .

”

Elder Mira recited , rising to her feet as she walked towards Lyla .

“ Are you saying she’s the fulfilment of that prophecy ? ”

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121 Where is your mate , Lyla ?

The priestess studied her for a while before she answered .

“ I don’t know .

I’ve looked into Lyla Woodland’s birth and both her parents are of Alpha lineage .

”

“ So , you’re saying we could have two Moonsingers ? ” Elder Eldric exclaimed .

“ It’s possible ,” the priestess shrugged .

“ The prophecy was clear that a child of a silver wolf which represents a Sigma wolf and a Golden sun which represents either a Lycan or a Werewolf Alpha wolf but then on a larger scale , it also means that things that should not be would be .

For instance , A Beta becoming an Alpha , a child born by a Werewolf and a Lycan being chosen by the White Moon throne ... two unequal things would

unite ... ”

Nothing was making sense .

I could see the confusion on Ramsey’s face too and Lylas .

And that was because we weren’t following what they were saying .

“ Just like how it happened in the time of the first Moonsinger ... ” Elder Mira laughed .

“ Oh , gods ! We’re eternally fucked .

”

“ In one way we’ll not be if we do things the right way

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Lyla ?

this time around and that is to make sure that Lyla Woodland doesn’t mate with the Dark One or get joined to him in any way, ” the priestess said .

My hands tightened into a fist , as I tried not to think of Lyla lying next to an ugly – looking form that was the Dark one .

Clearing my throat to draw the attention of the priestess I leaned forward .

“ We seem to be forgetting something important .

If Lyla doesn’t have her powers , how is she supposed to

protect herself ? How is she supposed to train ? To fight too .

As you know she doesn’t have a wolf ... ”

“ None of the other Moonsingers had wolves ! ” the priestess said immediately interrupting me .

“ What ! ” Ramsey shot out from his chair .

“ Moonsingers are not supposed to have wolves ? ” he asked .

“ Yes , ” the priestess nodded narrowing her eyes at him .

“ They’re never born with a wolf because it will be too much power to handle .

A Moonsinger is like a demi – god , a miniature representation of the Moon Goddess herself .

She forged them out of herself ... Werewolves were never meant to have magical powers ... we’re not Wizards or Witches , our strength

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lies in our Wolves and nothing more ... so anyone different is truly special and a gift from the goddess .

”

I saw Ramsey’s gaze on Lyla who just sat still .

She hadn’t said a word since the meeting started .

I wonder how she was feeling to know that all along , nothing was wrong with her .

“ To answer your question , the priestess turned to me .

“ She will fight and train normally and with the help of the water from the White Lake and the cleansing , it will minimize pain and injury but I cannot guarantee her not being injured or being in pain from training .

Of course , she’ll heal slower but when she becomes stronger , she’ll heal faster .

”

“ Then how , ” Ramsey suddenly asked .

“ Did the Moonsingers from before manage to weaken the Ferals without their innate powers ? ”

The priestess smiled .

“ There’s a sword – old and outdated in these times but it was a weapon – crafted and forged from the powers of Neriah .

It is buried in the deep of the Northern Forest and every Moonsinger before Lyla has wielded it , and it has granted them power and will allow them to use their Moonsinging ability .

”

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121 Where is your mate , Lyla ?

“ Wow ! ” I nodded .

“ It’s like an external source .

“”

“ You could say that , Alpha , she nodded towards me “ That’s why only Warriors trained in the old ways can fight a Feral .

Using these modern weapons will get us nowhere .

We’ll fight with silver and wolfsbane and things used of old to defeat Ferals .

Alpha , ” her gaze focused on me again .

“ I see your Gamma Cole has started training warriors in readiness to fight with the Moonsinger .

”

I nodded .

“ Is that why my pack was chosen ? ” I asked .

“ One of the reasons and maybe because the Moonsinger is from there .

As for the White Lake Pack Warriors , they were chosen because a lot of them are offsprings of Alphas and Lycans .

We need that perfect blend , ” she paused and turned to Elder Thorne .

“ Starting today , Elder Thorne will supply at least a thousand soldiers to the core packs of the White Mountain region who will only serve at the borders and three thousand at the White Moon Pack .

We would perform cleansing at the borders of the pack from next week , at the first light of the half moon .

It'll keep the Trinax and the Ferals away until it wears off

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and I'll send a priestess to the White Moon Pack .

”

Then she turned to Lyla .

“ Lyla , you must choose someone you trust to help train you .

This person will become crucial to your journey , more important than you can imagine .

”

“ Oh ! ” Lyla nodded .

“ Traditionally , I would advise you choose your mate .

They are bound to you in ways no one else can understand .

But ... ” she trailed off as she scanned the room .

“ Where is your mate , Lyla ? ”

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Chapter 122

122 Full moon of their eighteenth

birthday ...

Lyla

My heart skipped a beat , and for a moment , I was at a

loss for words .

I glanced around , my eyes darting from Nathan , who sat a few paces behind me , to the council members and finally to Ramsey .

He shifted uncomfortably in his seat , his stance stiffening as if he were bracing for an announcement from me .

Trying not to scoff , I turned to the priestess and forced a sweet smile onto my face .

“ I haven't found my

mate yet .

”

I tried not to roll my eyes as another ripple of surprise passed through the hall , some of the elders didn't have the decency to hide their disdain .

The priestess's expression shifted from surprise to disbelief and then to a frown settling on her brows as she studied me .

“ That's impossible , ” she said .

“ Every Moonsinger throughout our history always find their mates on the

122 Full moon of their eighteenth birthday .

full moon of their eighteenth birthday .

”

Except I had just celebrated my nineteenth when I found mine and he didn't think I was suitable enough .

So , maybe the history does lie after all .

“ How old are you now , child ? ” the priestess asked , her eyes narrowing slightly at me as her stare penetrated

me .

“ I am Twenty – Three now .

”

“ And not once have you seen your mate ? Is that even possible ? The mate of a Moonsinger is as crucial as honing their skills .

Are you sure you didn't find him and rejected him ? ” the priestess pressed again .

My gaze flitted to Ramsey again , who remained motionless in his seat , not even the slightest body movement to show this was distressing him as much as it was to me .

I turned to the priestess , a huge smile on my face .

“ No.

I haven't found my mate yet and at this point , I'm not sure he exists or perhaps he's mated to someone else , I couldn't care less .

”

From the corner of my eyes , I noticed Ramsey shift again but I refused to dwell on it feeling so refreshing

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122 Full moon of their eighteenth birthday .

.

that I finally get to reject him in front of his subjects .

”

Before the priestess could try to extend the talk , I decided to change the conversation .

“ I understand the importance of training and learning to control my abilities as a Moonsinger , ” I said , “ That’s why I’ve made my decision .

”

The hall quieted , all eyes on me .

“ I choose Nathan , ” I continued , glancing back at him briefly .

“ He’s the one I trust and I want him to be my

trainer .

” @

Nathan flashed me a smile and I responded with a slight nod as I turned back to face the priestess .

“ Not only is he my Alpha but we’ve been best friends since we were kids and he’s patient , kind and a good teacher .

I’m sure , I’ll flourish under his teachings .

”

The priestess studied me carefully , her eyes seeming to peer straight through my soul .

“ You understand the significance of this choice ? ” she asked .

“ The person who trains you will be bound to your journey ,
connected to your destiny in a way even I cannot fully predict .

”

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122 Full moon of their eighteenth birthday

I nodded .

“ I understand and trust Alpha Nathan

completely .

”

Suddenly , Ramsey rose from his chair turning

everyone’s gaze to him .

From the look of his face , he seemed frustrated and something else I couldn’t place my finger on .

“ Nathan ? Really ? ” he said , his voice was low but filled with tension .

I turned to face him fully , wearing a serene smile.

“ Yes , Alpha Nathan .

I trust him completely , and I believe he’ll be the best person to guide me through this .

”

He opened his mouth as if to argue but stopped himself .

Instead , his hands beside him clenched into fists and he stepped back , his gaze darkening .

A ghost smile settled on Nathan’s lips as his eyes met mine again as if he was conveying his silent support .

The priestess and the other elders were still perplexed by the stunt , Ramsey pulled a while ago but as soon as they recovered , the priestess turned to Nathan .

“ And you , Alpha ? Do you accept this role ? To guide , protect and train a Moonsinger is no small task .

It will require dedication , patience and absolute loyalty .

”

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122 Full moon of their eighteenth birthday ...

Nathan rose to his feet and came to stand beside me .

“ I accept and I will do whatever it takes to help Lyla reach her full potential , ” he said , addressing the council and the priestess .

“ You can all count on me .

”

Ramsey’s chair scraped against the stone floor as he shifted again , returning the attention that had been on me back to him .

Although his face was a mask of blankness , barely betraying what was going on in his mind , I didn’t miss the look in his eyes .

They burned with something between anger and desperation .

“ You do not seem to agree with the arrangement , Lycan Leader ? ” The priestess asked .

About time someone did if you ask me .

“ Will my displeasure stand in the way of the decisions that seemed made already ? ”

The priestess opened her mouth to respond but Ramsey interrupted her .

“ I was thinking a Lycan would be suitable to train the Moonsinger .

Don’t you think ? ”

“ Anyone can train the Moonsinger .

She doesn’t need the best trainers ... she just needs someone who will be loyal to her and teach her the basic steps .

They adapt quicker and you’d be surprised at how skilled Lyla

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122 Full moon of their eighteenth birthday ...

would become in a few weeks from today .

”

Ramsey scoffed but said nothing else .

Then she turned to both me and Nathan , studying us again for a moment – something that I found strange before she nodded .

“ Alright ,” she said .

“ Your training will begin

immediately .

The powers of a Moonsinger are vast and complex , you may think since your power was taken away that you have none left but with the right amount of training , you’d see yourself transforming into what you’re supposed to be .

Without proper guidance , however , this can become as much a curse as they are a gift

.

”

I felt uneasy at her words but I didn’t let it show .

“ The path ahead will be difficult , ” the priestess continued .

“ Without your innate powers , you must work twice as hard to achieve what your predecessors

did .

Also , Neriah’s sword will not reveal itself to one

who is unprepared .

”

My mind flitted to the Xander’s mark on my spine , showing his claim and in that moment , I wondered briefly if the priestess knew more than she was

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122 Full moon of their eighteenth birthday .

revealing about the connection between the Dark One and the Moonsingers ‘ lost powers .

”

“ I am ready ,” I said , despite uncertainty settling in my gut .

The priestess nodded .

“ Then let it be recorded that today , Alpha Nathan has been chosen as the trainer of our Moonsinger .

May the Moon Mother guide your path .

”

I caught sight of Ramsey again and his brooding gaze was on me .

And for a moment , I saw raw pain etched across his face .

The mate bond we shared the one I had just denied existed – pulled at my heart but I steeled myself against it .

The choice had been made .

I had chosen someone who

had never rejected me , never pushed me away , never made me question my worth .

I had chosen Nathan and with that choice , I had set myself on a path that was different from the one tradition had laid out for me .

But I was forgetting something ...

I had a life outside this world the life that was dying

–

to go on a date with Paul , the one that was looking

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122 Full moon of their eighteenth birthday

forward to having my project approved by my professors at school , and the one whose perfect picture of happiness is one without my pack .

Was I giving up that already ?

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Chapter 123

123 In the name of love ...

Ramsey

The only thing standing between Lax manifesting was me .

He was snarling with annoyance at our mate's denial and her claim and it didn't help that Nathan had a smug look .

I waited until the hall thinned out and it was just three of us left .

Lyla must have sensed that I was coming to her because , in the next instance , she started walking slightly ahead , her strides were quick while Nathan walked beside her calm and composed but his eyes kept darting to me with an amused expression .

“ Lyla , ” I called out .

“ A minute

“ Not now , Ramsey , ” she responded not bothering to slow down .

It's almost evening and it's a four – hour ride to Blue Ridge , we want to get home before it's dusk .

”

I wanted to approach everything objectively and to sound less intimidating but I couldn't hold my

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123 in the name of love .

frustration any longer .

“ This isn’t happening , ” I said , trying to keep the anger out of my voice .

Lyla stopped in her tracks , turning to face me .

Nathan , too , halted , stepping protectively closer to her .

“ What isn’t happening ? ” Lyla asked arching a brow at me .

“ You choosing Nathan to train you , ” I spat .

“ They may not know this but all the Moonsingers that ever needed training were trained by Lycans and not an Alpha .

What does he know about handling a Moonsinger’s powers ? You’re putting yourself at risk .

”

Nathan stepped forward , the amusement in his eyes turning into mockery .

“ And what makes you think you’re more qualified , Alpha Ramsey ? Because you’re a Lycan ? You have no idea what Lyla needs .

”

I scoffed , my gaze snapping at him .

“ And you do ? You think because you’ve been her childhood friend you’re suddenly an expert on how to train her ? Let me remind you , she’s my mate .

”

“ She’s NOT your mate , ” Nathan countered , his voice rising slightly .

“ Was your mate .

Ramsey .

Or have you

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forgotten how many times you rejected that bond ? You rejected her and she returned the favour .

Whatever bond you had is gone , and you need to accept that .

”

The words seemed to hit me like physical blows , but I refused to back down .

“ You don’t understand the complexities of our situation ... ”

“ What’s there to understand ? ” Nathan cut me off .

“ You had your chance .

Multiple chances , actually .

You threw them all away because she didn’t have a wolf and was a deviant and now you can’t stand that someone else might succeed where you failed .

”

My heart pumped faster .

“ Succeed where I failed ? What is that supposed to mean ? Lyla is not a snack to be passed around .

She has always belonged to me and me alone besides this isn’t just about a bond .

It’s about her safety .

You’re too blind to see that you’re not qualified to protect her from what’s coming and the power she carries .

”

Nathan laughed .

“ And you think barging in and throwing your weight around is going to help ? Lyla has made her choice , respect it .

”

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“ Respect it ? ” I echoed his laughter , shaking my head .

“ How can I respect a decision that puts her in danger ? ”

“ Stop ! ” Lyla’s voice cut through our argument .

Both of us turned to look at her , surprised by the authority in her tone .

“ Just stop , Ramsey .

She came forward , moving to stand beside Nathan rather than behind me .

“ I don’t need you two fighting over me like I’m some kind of prize , ” she sighed .

“ This isn’t about you .

It’s about me .

My choice , my training and my life .

I don’t even know if I’m ready to become a Moonsinger yet .

“ @

Nathan placed a hand on her shoulder , touching her gently , I had to hold myself from grabbing that hand and cutting it off .

The nerves of him to touch her in my

presence .

“ You don’t have to explain yourself to him , dear , ” he

murmured .

She gave him a quiet smile and turned to me again .

“ You don’t get to play that card anymore , Ramsey .

You don’t get to suddenly decide you want to protect me after pushing me away so many times .

”

I gritted my teeth , I didn’t want to start mentioning

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why I did everything I did back then .

“ I’ve told you several times , Lyla ... I did what I did to protect you .

”

“ Protect me ? Funny how your protection always seemed to involve hurting me .

”

I didn’t say anything in response .

“ Nathan will train me , ” she continued .

“ I trust him .

He’s never given me a reason not to .

”

I clenched my jaw .

“ He doesn’t understand what’s at stake .

You’re putting yourself at risk by letting him ... ”

“ No , Ramsey , ” she interrupted me .

“ Nathan is the one who’s been there for me through everything .

He’s the perfect mate that I didn’t have .

You , on the other hand , seem to think you can waltz in and out of my life just because there's some electricity between us .

”

“ For fuck's sake ... ” I muttered , “ That's not what it looks like .

”

“ That's what it does look like .

” she retorted .

“ And I'm tired of it .

I chose Nathan to train me because he listens to me and respects me .

”

“ Stop repeating that ,” I growled with annoyance .

“ When did I ever not respect you , Lyla ? The only thing

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I did was reject you because I didn't want you to be punished .

To stop you from going under the radar .

I was fucking 23 back then .

I just became the Lycan Leader and I was trying to be careful .

You can't just stand there and judge me because my first instinct was not to cosy up to you ? You think I loved any of it ? ”

“ Don't raise your voice at her , Ramsey ! ” Nathan yelled .

“ Stop hiding behind your title ... if you truly want

someone ... ”

“ I WANT HER ! ” I growled louder this time , though it was all Lax .

“ I wanted her every single , waiting , moment but I was trying to protect her from the likes of Cassidy , and my grandfather .

You think anyone would go easy with you when you directly disobeyed an order never to flaunt your pheromones in public ... ”

“ Oh ! ” Nathan laughed dryly .

“ You really are shallow , Ramsey .

She wouldn't get punished for that .

”

My body was shaking with angry tremors as I paced .

“ That's not what I mean ... I swear to the Moon , Lyla ... Cassidy had the videos – one with both of us having sex and threatened me with it .

If my grandfather had known there was more to us , he would try to make you and your family leave .

It has happened before to

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an innocent Omega and her family ... ”

I trailed off .

“ I suppressed my feelings , I suppressed my growing need , my ache for you and you wouldn't even understand me ? Fine , I agree I was overwhelmed by the mate bond thing in the beginning but I fell in love with you .

I still do , Lyla ... I wish I could make decisions without stopping to think but ... ”

I broke off , pushing back the tears that suddenly filled

my eyes .

“ I just want you to stop for a minute and wonder why I chased after you for four years .

Why I had him locked up ? I knew you were a Moonsinger ... ”

“ You don’t have to lie , Ramsey , ” she said finally .

“ I am not lying ! ” I gritted my teeth .

“ I was going to marry Cassidy a few weeks after you left but a Moon Priest came to me and told me that I had the smell of a Moonsinger on me and that he’s allowing me to delay my wedding until I’m mated to you properly .

He told Cassidy there was a rift in our world , we could have married but ... that was just an excuse .

”

She was staring at me, wide – eved as though she didn’t

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.

believe me .

“ I will take you to him if you want .

“ You might have paid him in advance to tell me what I want to hear , ” she countered .

“ He lied before .

”

“ He didn’t lie ! ” I hissed .

“ He used the rift caused by the Dark One showing up in our world as an excuse to put off my marriage .

I do not have a second chance mate , Lyla .

You’re the only one meant for me .

I may not have believed in the mate bond thing before I met you but , I do now .

You and I ... we're meant to ... ”

“ That’s enough ! ” she raised her hand stopping me .

“ I don’t want to hear anymore !

“ You’re making a mistake , Lyla , ” I said quietly .

“ This isn’t some simple training regime .

This is about ancient powers that I have access to as a Lycan .

Your aura , your scent still protects me to date from attacks .

”

“ Yet you were attacked at my father’s funeral .

” She smirked .

“ I cannot explain that but I was there when those Ferals attacked your dad .

When I ran back to help , I fought them off , and they didn’t try to attack .

It was in between waiting for the ambulance that I had a

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conversation with your dad and he told me a few things .

”

“ You want to drag my dead father into this , ” a tear rolled down her eyes .

“ I’m sorry , Ramsey but I’m too superficial to care .

I want to be shown I am loved through action and not through countless rejections .

My brain cannot tell when someone is maltreating me in the name of love and that the person loves me .

I cannot let go of what you did to

me .

”

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Chapter 124

124 The secret ...

Ramsey

I nodded severally , clamping down on the insides of my mouth to stop the agony that was brimming inside me .

“ I was never raised with being able to express how I feel .

Sometimes when I want to say I love you , I end up saying it wrongly .

I was raised by the domestic staff in the pack house .

Love to me meant eating dinner , and occasionally going hunting .

All of this is alien to me , Lyla .

You should at least give me a second chance to redeem myself and I will learn how to love you since

my

methods didn't work the first time .

”

“ I'm going to marry , Nathan , she announced sniffing back tears .

“ You can go ahead and get married to Cassidy , I no longer care .

”

“ You want to punish me , Lyla ... I get it but you e don't have to go to such extreme .

You'll ... ” Ltrailed off , a tear rolling down my cheek .

“ You'll kill me .

“ .

“ And yet you haven't died after four years of waiting ,” she said woodenly .

“ There's nothing for us again ,

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124 The secret ...

Ramsey .

I cannot bring myself to forget .

Nathan asked me to be his Luna and I'm saying yes because he has proved both in words and in actions that he cares enough and he loves me .

”

I shook my head , trying to steady my breathing .

“ I guess it's no use .

You would never believe me anyway .

You're so fixated on Nathan because he stayed in the dungeon for you .

I gave him options to leave you know ... ”

“ Don’t bring up the past ! ” Nathan snarled .

“ I’m not marrying him because he went to the dungeon for me , ” she shook her head .

“ Maybe one of the reasons but he’s consistent .

Nathan would be Nathan next week ; his feelings would not change .

Now that I think about it , he has been trying to tell me how he feels all these years ... then again ... I thought he was just being best friends .

”

“ Do you even love him ? ” I asked , dreading the reply .

“ Yes , ” she nodded “ And I’ll learn to love him even more .

I don’t know what to do with the life I left before I

came back but I do know that I want Nathan and I’ll do everything to stay with him .

”

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She might as well be nailing my coffin .

I tried to muster a smile but it ended as a smirk .

“ You’re out of your depth .

When things go wrong – and they will – remember that I tried to help .

”

“ The only thing going wrong here is your inability to accept that you’ve lost your chance , you didn’t have to add the touching stories , Ramsey , ” she said quietly .

“ I’ve made my choice , Respect it .

”

“ Oh ! ” I laughed .

“ I will and also , ” I reached inside my jacket and pulled out a letter which I tossed towards her .

“ Your dad asked me to give you this .

”

She stared at the envelope and back at me .

“ What is

this ? ”

“ I have no idea .

He said he'd wanted to give you for the longest time but didn't have the guts to .

He always carries it with him .

” I explained .

I sighed , schooling my expression .

“ Fine , we've said a lot of things today but I'm not backing down completely about protecting you .

I'll come for your training every morning at least I can help in the

physical aspects of your powers .

Like it or not , Lyla , I'm

not going to stand here and watch you

van get hurt

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because of inadequate training .

”

Nathan turned , positioning himself slightly in front of Lyla .

“ That won't be necessary , Ramsey .

”

“ Won’t be necessary ? ” I laughed “ I’ve been doing a lot of research about this , I just wasn’t sure but since it is now confirmed , I have more extensive knowledge than you .

”

“ Seriously , Ramsey , ” Lyla exhaled .

“ I don’t need ... ”

“ I promised your father that I would look after you , ” I said my gaze locking with hers .

“ I don’t care what you think you need .

This isn’t about trust or feelings .

This is about keeping you alive .

”

“ Stop forcing your way into her life .

Walk away with dignity at least ... ” Nathan said

“ And you need to realize that I’m not going anywhere , ” I retorted with an icy tone .

“ You can’t keep me from protecting her .

”

“ Enough , ” Lyla yelled again , silencing both of us .

She turned to me , her eyes blazing with frustration .

“ If you want to help , fine .

But it will be on my terms .

I’ll decide when and how you’re involved .

Until then , back off and since we’re now a couple we wouldn’t want a

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third wheel .

”

“ You’re not a couple until you finally get joined , ” I shrugged .

“ In the meantime , I’ll be acting as your Lycan back Leader and starting from this moment , we will go to being formal with each other .

I expect that you’d call me by my title or my position and not my name .

So , Lyla ... as your Lycan Leader , I’ll be coming to your -training to know how you’re doing .

Now ... ” my gaze

strayed to my wristwatch .

Twenty more minutes and itll be time to meet up with Cassidy .

“ I need to go now , I wish you all the best .

” I winked at both of them and started towards the exit .

Waiting for me by the entrance was Lenny .

He had a sombre look on his face .

“ When are you going to tell her the truth ? ” he asked .

“ Were we that loud ? ” I asked walking towards the car .

“ Loud enough for the entire white mountains to have heard .

Hopefully , they didn’t Lenny sighed .

“ You should tell her already , Ramsey .

You’re turning into a villain in her eyes .

”

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124 The secret ...

“ I will tell her , ” I said quietly , “ When she realizes that she can never be with Nathan .

Did you reach out to

him ? ”

“ Yes ! ” Lenny nodded “ He’d be here in a few days , do you plan on making him tell her himself ?”

“ Not yet ! ” I shook my head .

“ We should hurry up now , I don’t want .

Cassidy shouting her head off for coming

late .

”

“ Are you serious about wanting to go through with this wedding ? ” Lenny stared at me quizzically .

“ You can just put it on hold a few more days , who knows she might come around .

”

“ I’ll just go along with everything for now ... that’s the only way I can protect myself.

”

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Chapter 125

125 Meeting Cassidy ...

Lyla

I and Nathan sat in silence in his car outside the packhouse of Blue Ridge .

We arrived nearly twenty minutes ago but no one was in the mood to leave yet .

My mind was running with a lot of conflicting emotions , I traced the edge of my blouse absently replaying everything that had happened today over and over .

Suddenly announcing to Ramsey that Nathan had proposed to me without first accepting Nathan's proposal properly was so embarrassing that I couldn't even look at Nathan .

Did he think I was using him as a shield against Ramsey ? Shame crept up to my cheeks at the thought but I shook my head again , trying to dispel the thoughts .

The silence stretched between us , comfortable yet filled with a lot of unspoken thoughts .

Finally , Nathan

broke the silence .

“ Did you mean it ? ” he asked quietly “ About accepting my proposal ? ”

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125 Meeting Cassidy ...

My heart skipped a beat .

I turned to him , the sincerity in his gaze numbing my heart .

Swallowing hard , I nodded .

“ I do .

”

A small smile touched his lips as they curved into a wide grin making my chest tighten with more guilt and uncertainty .

“ Okay , ” he said simply as though my response was all he needed to hear .

The warmth in his smile made me uneasy – it was too forgiving , too kind .

I fidgeted with the hem of my skirt trying to come up with the best way to express myself .

Finally , I gathered the courage .

“ Nathan ... ” I began hesitantly .

He turned to me , giving me another small smile .

“ Is everything alright ? ” he asked .

“ Everything is fine it’s just that I have a lot going on back in the human world and now I don’t know If I’m

ready to leave everything I had there and come back here .

There’s so much at stake now .

My job , my life back there ... I just ... ”

I inhaled deeply .

17.

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125 Meeting Cassidy ...

“ I don’t think I might be accepting this position whatever it is anytime soon .

I think I made a mistake ; I led everyone into believing that I wanted to live here and now ... I just don't know how to feel .

Even if I do how can I explain to them that ... ”

Nathan reached over , gently placing a finger on my lips , stopping me mid – sentence .

“ Lyla , ” he called softly , “ all I want right now – all I want to know is if you truly want to be with me .

Everything else ? We'll figure it out

later .

”

The tenderness in his voice made my throat tighten

with emotion .

I couldn't afford to break his heart now or turn him down , especially after everything he has done for me .

I looked away , unable to hold his gaze .

I was silent for a few seconds before I finally whispered .

“ I don't love you , Nathan , not in the way you love me but I like you enough to know that I can learn how to love you and hope that we can be happy together for a long time

.

”

His smile returned , softer this time as though he understood my words .

He reached out again and took my hands in his , squeezing gently .

“ That's all I need .

”

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3/10

125 Meeting Cassidy ...

We sat together for a few more minutes , watching as the moon slowly rose to its fullness .

The silence between us felt different now – lighter , more hopeful and oddly comforting .

“ And Nathan , ” I broke the silence again “ Can we keep our engagement to ourselves at least for now ? I don’t know what decisions I’ll make yet but I should be able to figure out a lot of things after your coronation .

”

“ Can I at least tell my dad ? Don’t worry , he won’t tattle to anyone .

”

“ He might tell my mother, ” I said quietly “ And I don’t want her to know yet .

At least not now and until everything is settled .

”

He nodded .

“ I can do that .

Anything to make you

happy .

”

“ Thank you , ” I smiled .

“ I should go inside now .

”

Finally , I gathered the courage and stepped out of the car .

The walk to the Alpha house felt both longer and shorter than usual , my mind was racing as this was the first time I would be spending a night in the house

since I arrived .

When I ananad the front door the living wng dimly lit

17:56

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125 Meeting Cassidy .

The TV was on and Clarissa and my mother sat on the couch , they seemed to be in a discussion .

They stopped talking as soon as I entered .

My mother barely spared me a glance , only Clarissa who practically leaped from her seat and rushed towards me .

“ Is it true ? ” she demanded ; her eyes were wide with disbelief .

“ Are you really the Moonsinger ? ”

I managed a small , tired smile .

“ I’m too exhausted to talk about it right now , Risa , ” I said sidestepping her .

“ Can we talk about it tomorrow ? ”

Clarissa frowned .

“ You just need to answer yes or no .

It’s not a big deal .

I just want to know .

”

I inhaled deeply .

“ Fine , yes I am but I need to go now , I’m so tired that I might pass out .

”

“ That is ... ” she chuckled “ Unexpected , who would believe that you had such powers

.

Then again , I saw you that day at Dad’s funeral .

You were quite cool .

”

“ I’m going to take that compliment , ” I smiled at her and brushed past her to continue to the stairs when her voice reached me again .

“ You’re not spending the night at Nathan’s ? ” she asked

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125 Meeting Cassidy .

again making me pause my steps .

“ Nope ! ” I shook my head .

“ I think it’s high time I come home until at least I go back to the human world .

”

“ You are the Moonsinger , you can’t just go back .

What if there’s another attack and ... ”

“ Clarissa ! ” I yelled raising my hand to stop her .

“ That’s enough and that’s too many questions .

I had it really rough today .

From leaving the pack hospital to being shepherded to the White Mountain Council , I haven’t had a lot of rest .

I’m grumpy and I need to sleep .

”

My mom stood up and walked up to where I was standing .

“ Sleep at Nathan’s house tonight , there’s no extra bedding in the house and I turned your room to storage after you left .

”

“ What ? You can't do that ? ” I retorted .

“ If not for

anything ... ”

“ I'm not in the mood to banter words with you , Lyla ... go over to Nathan's , you've been quite comfortable there since you came , so don't come here and try to

inconvenience us .

”

“ But Mom ... ”

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125 Meeting Cassidy .

I tried to protest but she was already halfway on the staircase .

I gritted my teeth in frustration , ignoring Clarissa who just stood there looking at me and started for the front door again .

”

In the cold , I marched with annoyance towards Nathan's house , I was pissed for some reason , my mother's attitude to me wasn't even one of them .

I

rang the doorbell repeatedly until Nathan showed up at the door , his eyes wide with shock .

“ Did you forget something ? ” he asked .

I pushed past him , stopping to bow stiffly to Beta Jeremy who was setting the dining table and straight to the stairs , calling over my shoulders .

“ I'm spending the night here ; my mom threw me out .

”

I retreated to Nathan's room , showered and got dressed for bed .

My mind was still swirling with Nathan and Ramsey and I was still angry .

My emotions were just all over the place .

I had just finished with my nightly skin routine when the door to the bedroom opened and Nathan poked his head in .

“ Hey ... do you want something to eat ? We left you a plate .

”

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125 Meeting Cassidy

“ I’m not hungry , ” I said quietly brushing my hair .

He stood for a few minutes at the door before entering the bedroom , closing the door in his wake .

“ Ly ... ”

“ I am fine , everything is fine and she didn’t push me out of the house .

She just told me that she turned my room into a storage room after I left and please , I am not in the mood to answer any more questions .

” I said rapidly before Nathan could talk .

He paused for a minute .

“ Okay ... I’m just going to leave then .

I’ll see you in the morning and if you need any other thing ... ”

I rose from the vanity chair and walked towards the door opening it for him .

“ I won’t need anything , Nathan .

Goodnight ! ” I said flatly , slamming the door in his wake .

I slipped under the covers of the bed , trying to will myself to sleep , hoping sleep would cure the angry ache in my chest .

I had nearly succeeded when my phone rang on the nightstand .

I groaned with

annoyance and reached for it , thinking of the thousand

words I would have to whine to whomever I called

ALD

125 Meeting Cassidy .

.

this hour .

The number was unfamiliar but something made me

answer anyway .

“ Hello ? ”

“ Well , if it isn't the famous Moonsinger herself , ” a cold , feminine voice drawled through the speaker .

“ Though I hear you're not much of one anymore , are you ? ”

I sat up straighter , the anger leaving my body , getting replaced with tension coiling in my stomach .

“ Who is

this ? ”

“ Oh , how rude of me , ” the voice dripped with false sweetness .

“ This is Cassidy .

You know , Ramsey's Future mate and the soon – to – be Luna of the White Moon

Throne .

”

Before I could respond , she continued her tone hardening .

“ I think it’s time we had a little chat .

I’ll text you the address and time , the meeting will be for tomorrow .

” She paused , then added with mock concern , “ Do try to be punctual dear .

I so hate waiting .

”

The line went dead before I could formulate a response .

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