

Fated To The Alpha by Jessica Hall

Chapter 191

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Sage POV

Zane and Nora sat with me the entire time. I felt nauseous knowing something was going on and I didn't know what it was. I couldn't sit still while I waited for the phone to ring. Malik said Andrei went after Clive but that was all he could tell me because he wasn't with him.

What if something happened to him? Surely I would know if something bad happened to Andrei, mates feel that sort of thing but all I felt was his burning hatred and then nothing but calm through the bond. It unnerved me.

"He is fine, Sage. Andrei can handle himself and Malik and Derrick have Jonah" Zane tells me as I paced nervously in front of the dining table.

I just couldn't help it, not knowing what was going on was worse, my imagination was running rampant and putting terrible thoughts in my head and making me worry. When the phone rings I practically dive onto the table to retrieve it. My hands were shaking so much I couldn't swipe the phone to answer it when Nora takes it from me. She answers it quickly and hands it back to me.

"Hello" My voice was shaking just as terribly as my hands.

"I have him" comes Andrei's voice through the phone and it was like a tonne of weight was lifted off my shoulders upon hearing his voice. He was ok, my Jonah was ok. I thought as I slid down the pantry door to the cold floor. I could breathe again.

"Sage are you there?"

"Yes I am here, Malik said you went after Clive. I have been so sick with worry" I tell him.

"I know I could feel you, I am on my way home with Jonah" Andrei tells and I feel tears prick at the edge of my vision.

"And he is ok?" I ask.

"Yes, has a few bruises but he is okay, Hun. I will be home in a couple of hours, try to get some sleep" He says, like I would even be able to manage that. I let out a breath. I just wanted them home where I could see for myself that they were both safe, not that I doubted Andrei but seeing is believing.

"I will try" I lie knowing that won't happen. He chuckles softly and my heart pinches at the sound.

"You are a terrible liar, you know I can feel you, right? I will see you soon. I love you Sage"

"I love you too, can I speak to Jonah?" I ask him.

"He is asleep, you will see him soon" Andrei tells me and I nod before realising he couldn't see me.

"Ok, hurry home but drive safely" I tell him.

"See you soon," He replies before the phone goes dead. I rest my head on the pantry door. Nora is watching me standing by my feet.

"See, he is fine" She yawns and I feel bad that she was woken because of me, the entire pack was woken. What a mess the night turned into but I was just relieved I was getting Jonah back.

Eventually I convinced Zane and Nora to go home.

Once they left I cleaned, having nothing else to do and also made Jonah a bed on the couch before making more coffee. Not that I needed it because I was alert and on edge the entire time but it gave me something else to focus on while I cleaned.

Distraction kept me going insane but when I finally heard the car pull up it was twenty past four in the morning. I leapt out of my seat and rushed to the front door. Unlocking it with my palm it felt like it took forever for the door to unlatch and I held my breath as I pulled it open.

Malik stretches his back as he climbs out of the car yawning. Andrei was at the back door leaning in.

When he stands up he has a sleeping Jonah in his arms and Derrick climbs out of the backseat after him.

I watch as Andrei sniffs his little head gently, holding him close to shield him from the breeze. I wanted to jump with joy at them being home but held myself together as Andrei looked over at me. His excitement burned just as strongly. My hands were already reaching for him as Andrei approached me. My hands combing over Jonah before taking him and molding his tiny body around me in my arms as I took him. He lost a little weight. Not much but I could tell, I could tell you every little detail of my boy and I noticed instantly as his body was placed in my arms. I bury my face in his neck and my breathing was shaking as I brought him inside. Derrick follows Andrei in and kisses my head before motioning that he was going upstairs to bed in the spare room. I nod walking into the living room with Jonah.

I didn't want to put him down, like if I did he would disappear again. Andrei wraps his arms around us. Jonah pressed between us sleeping soundly, only when Andrei cups my face did I realise how terribly I was shaking and that I was crying. Sierra was so present and vigilant as we watched him sleep. Also excited but nervous for our boy.

"Stop crying, he is fine. You should put him down before you wake him" Andrei tells me and I look up at him. I never wanted to let him go again but I knew he was right as I tucked him into his makeshift bed.

"He is safe now" Andrei tells me as I tuck him in. I quickly pull his shoes off his tiny feet and tuck the blanket up under his chin.

"What if Clive comes back for him, or Dominic" I whisper worriedly before wrapping my arms around his middle and pressing my face into his chest.

"Clive is dead and Dominic knows I have him, he said to bring him home with me"

"Clive is dead?" I ask him, pulling away and looking up at him.

"He won't touch our son again, you don't have to worry about him taking him, Sage. I will kill anyone that tries. I won't make that mistake of letting him go again. I swear to you" Andrei says before dipping his face down to mine. He kisses my lips softly before pulling away.

"How are you feeling?" Andrei asks.

"Relieved now you are home" I tell him.

"No, I know that but I wasn't talking about that, are you okay? I hated having to rush out on you" He says and it took a few seconds to realise what he was talking about. With everything I hadn't even thought about it, too worried about Jonah and Andrei I didn't even give it a second thought.

Andrei leads me upstairs and I hesitate at the top of the step not liking Jonah being so far away.

"I will put the alarm on" Andrei says walking back down the steps and fiddling with the digital panel, he also checks the door before wandering off and returning a few seconds later and climbing the stairs.

"House is locked, windows are locked, no one is getting to him" Andrei says and I chew my lip still hesitant. It felt surreal having him back. I couldn't live with losing him again.

Andrei turns me around when I don't move, pushing me toward the bedroom. I robotically hop in bed and Andrei strips out of his clothes and puts on some boxer shorts before climbing in beside me. His arms wrapping around me as he buries his face in my hair.

"You never answered me," Andrei whispers into my hair.

"I am fine, I forgot about it until you said something, I was worried about Jonah and you" I answer him honestly.

"Hmm not that memorable" He laughs.

"No, I didn't mean that, I was just worried"

"I know, I was teasing, And now I have mentioned it?"

"I don't know," I tell him. I truly didn't. I wasn't scared, I wasn't anything really just content.

Sierra hadn't left me all night, like she was relieved and I could hear Donnie without it being forced or through Andrei. I felt more connected with my wolf and Andrei. I felt like I was comfortable in my own skin for once. I felt freed like the shackles that held me for so long unlocked, releasing me.

Andrei purrs behind me and I roll in his arms to face him, his nose brushing mine. Andrei pulls me closer and I felt safe like I never knew before. My body had never been mine, I was never given choice but Andrei was my safe place. He was mine and I was his and I knew I could trust him more than I could trust myself. I knew without a doubt this is where I belonged, with him and Jonah. He would never hurt me, no this man would fight to the death for me and I would lay my life down in a heartbeat for him and our son.

I sniffle at the realization and how liberating it felt. "Shh, I am right here, you can tell me anything, I won't get upset Sage" Andrei whispers brushing his nose across my cheek.

"Tell me" He whispers before kissing the side of my mouth. I close my eyes just breathing in his scent, the scent of what's mine, the scent of the man who loved me despite being broken, the man that put all my broken pieces back together, the man who would continue to love me whole and the one the person who gave me a choice.

Andrei showed me what it felt like to be loved again and taught me to love myself, he never looked at me with disgust, he never looked at me like I was less, no he looked at me like I was his world even though my body was marred by the scars of my past, he loved me despite my flaws and without judgement, without blame, he loved me and set me free of myself.

"I feel free, I feel like I am home" I breathe.

"You'll always have a home with me, and Jonah, Sage. With our pack. You have all of us and we will always have you, this is home. Your home"

Andrei whispers before pressing his lips to my head. He purrs happily and I enjoy his familiar embrace letting go of everything. Everything that was my past, it no

longer held me in it's confines or trapped me there. I was free to live and let it go and for the first time my future didn't scare me, I no longer feared the monsters of my past but instead I vanquished them, they had no place in my future, they no longer had control and I would never give it to them again, they didn't deserve it and I owed it to myself to ensure they never had it.

For the first time I was excited about my life, excited about the life I would share with Andrei and Jonah, our little boy. He was ours and we were his. They were all that mattered, and all I needed. I slowly started to drift off into a peaceful sleep without the burden of trying to sleep with one eye open and my senses alert and on edge of the what if's, I could sleep knowing no matter what happened Andrei would keep me safe.

Movement jostled me and Andrei's soft spoken words as he rolled over woke me.

"What's wrong Jonah, are you okay?" Andrei whispers. I sat up rubbing my eyes to find Jonah standing beside him at the edge of the bed and I knew I must not have slept long because it was still dark outside. Jonah was holding his pillow in arms looking longing at the bed.

"I'm scared, can I sleep with you?" Jonah whispers. His little eyes filled with sleep and fear and I wanted to hug away whatever scared him.

Andrei picks him up, lifting him onto the bed.

"I have just the place for you" Andrei tells him, tucking him between us.

"Right where you belong with us" Andrei tells him, tucking the blanket up around him. I fix his pillow between mine and Andrei's and Jonah nestles against me letting out a breath while Andrei hugs us close.

"I love you my little Jonah" I tell him, kissing his little cheek. He presses his face under my neck and yawns tiredly.

"I love you too mummy" He whispers, patting my face with his little hand.

My heart burst into a million pieces at his sleepy words. Andrei moves his arm moving under his little head and mine. I watch him kiss Jonah's

head before relaxing and getting comfortable, his fingers playing with my hair.

"You are our new world, Jonah, you are ours and we are yours forever and always" Andrei whispers to him before closing his eyes.

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Andrei POV

I woke to the sound of people whispering and banging around. Sitting up in bed, I noticed someone had closed our bedroom door. Looking down at Jonah and Sage they were both sleeping peacefully and I carefully climbed out of bed to not wake them as I went to find out who was in the packhouse and who closed our door. I knew it must be pack members and my father because I would have woken to the feeling of trespassers on my territory.

Pulling a tank top on, I open the door carefully, closing the door behind me to find Zane, Malik, Casen and Vince along with my father in the surveillance room. Rubbing a hand down my face I walk over to the room to see my father stand up with a box in his hands. The room is bare and all equipment is being removed.

Touching Zane's shoulder he nearly jumps out of his skin not realising I was behind him. His arms flailing about as I gave him a scare. Casen laughs, mimicking his flailing hands and the noise that left him poking fun and laughing at Zane. I chuckle as Zane turns around.

"Fuck, make some noise next time, nearly shit my pants. Why are you creeping around for" He asks.

"Well it's my house" I tell him, stepping into the empty room.

"What are you all doing here, and what are you doing?" I ask. My father walks out with the box of equipment and walks downstairs.

"Well now Jonah is home, he needs his own room" Malik says and I nod while yawning.

"Yeah I wanted to move all this to the office downstairs" I tell him.

"Already done," Casen says, grinning.

"Vince is about to go down and set it up again for you" Malik says, nudging Vince. He nods and ducks out of the room. I look around the room that was down the end of the hall from ours and off the landing on this floor.

"What time is it?" I ask as my father walks back into the room.

"A little after 2pm" He answers and I nod my head. I slept the entire day away.

"Now that you are up, you can help carry everything in" My fathers says, gripping my shoulder.

"Carry what in?" I ask him.

"Your father went shopping this morning, woke me up at 7 am to head into the City" Casen says clearly not appreciating the early wake up.

"Sage and Jonah?" Malik asks.

"Still sleeping," I tell him, looking back at my bedroom door.

"Well come on, we can bring everything up now" My father says and I follow him out of the room and down the stairs. Walking out of the packhouse I find my father's old wagon with a trailer on the back loaded with boxes of all different sizes. The back of his wagon full to the brim, he wouldn't have even been able to see out the rearview mirror.

I look over my shoulder at my father who shrugs. "I may have been a little excited about his return and I couldn't sleep," he tells me.

"You brought all this for Jonah?" I ask a little shocked. I knew we had to sort him a room out but we would have gone and he didn't have to spend his money to do it.

"Yes, he is my grandson. Come on" He says walking over to the trailer and undoing the straps.

We unpack the trailer and a few pack members come over to help unload the mountain load of toys and linen from the trunk of the wagon.

We haul all the furniture upstairs before Casen grabs the tools from the basement and places them beside me. My father and I started unpacking the bed to put it together and Malik set the mattress against the wall removing the plastic covering.

"He will love this," I tell my father looking at the picture on the box. The bed was a green race car. My father and I set to work putting it together and trying to follow the impossible instructions. We got the bed together only to have to pull it apart again when we realised we placed the bottom support railing upside down and couldn't screw the slats down flat from the joins.

"How did we mess that up?" my father says while scratching his chin and staring at the instructions again.

"This is why I left the flatpacks to Shirley" He says and I laugh turning the frame on the side to see if we could pull the brace off without having to undo it completely.

"Hold that" I tell him, and he grabs the frame while I remove the screws before flipping the brackets over. Once in place we turn the bed back the right way up. My father starts pulling the bed slats out of their bindings when I hear feet in the hallway.

Looking up, I see Jonah rubbing his eyes and standing in the doorway.

"Hey little man" Dad says to him and Jonah looks at him.

"What are you doing?" He asks before looking at me kneeling beside the bed. His little eyes light up at the race car bed.

"We are putting your bed together that pop brought you" I tell him.

"It's for me?" He asked, bouncing on the balls of his feet excitedly as he stared at us.

"It's all yours, this is going to be your room" my father tells him.

"Really my own room, with my own bed. I never had my own bed" He says excitedly rushing over. I try not to let his words bother me.

"You want to help?" I ask him and he nods excitedly. We place the bed slats down in their allocated spots before I grab the drill. "Come here" I tell him, reaching for him before pulling him to stand in front of me. I pass him the drill and place the screw in the hole in the slat. He struggles to hold it under its weight. Gripping the bottom, I show him how to do the first one before letting him do the next one. His tongue pokes out the side of his lips as he concentrates trying to line the drill piece up with the screw.

"Now pull the trigger and press down," I tell him. He jumps when the noise of the drill starts before screwing in the slat.

"I did it" he squeals excitedly, jumping up and down only for the drill to drop from his hands. It lands on my toes making me hiss. "Ah fuuuudgiickles" I only just managed to hold back the curses I wanted sling at the pain, my hands clenching and jaw locked as I tried to breathe through it.

"Sorry!" Jonah shrieks, his lips turning to an O shape before pursing his lips. My toes throbbing to their own beat when I looked down to find my toes turning black and one was bleeding. I force myself to wiggle my toes so they heal.

Jonah bends down examining my bleeding toe before he pokes it. "Does it still hurt?" He asks, jabbing it with his index finger. My father chuckles while I blink at the small boy as he continues to poke my foot.

"You should be more careful where you put your feet" He says like it was my fault he dropped it on my toe.

"Yes, I should make sure to wear steel caps around you from now on" I tell him, shaking my head and picking up the drill.

"Want to do the rest?" I ask him, his hands instantly reaching for the drill. I make sure to keep my feet away and a hand on the drill this time as we set up his bed.

Sage POV

I awoke to the bed empty, my heart hammering when I didn't feel Jonah. Sitting up, I scan the room with my eyes to see the door shut but I could hear giggling coming from the other side. Grabbing my dressing gown. I see the sun going down out the window before glancing at the alarm clock. 5pm. I slept the entire day away.

Opening the door, I walk down the hall to the open door at the end where I could hear Jonah's laughter coming from. Pushing the door wider, I see the surveillance room has been turned into a child's bedroom. Perfect for Jonah. A race car bed with red matching linen sat along one wall and a matching blue and green dresser that matched the bed sat on the other wall. A bedside table with a car night lamp sat next to the bed and Dinosaur and car wall decor stickers covered the walls. Jonah was sitting on the floor in Andrei's lap as they played with matchbox cars on the car track mat.

"Who did all this?" I gasp looking around the room.

"I helped," Says Jonah, climbing out of Andrei's lap and rushing over.

"You did?" I ask looking around. Andrei climbs off the floor and stands up kissing my temple.

"Dad went shopping and came home with this, I woke to them pulling the room apart" He says laughing softly.

"Your dad got all this for him?" I ask.

"Yep pop pop, got it. I have my own bed" Jonah says excitedly sitting on it and brushing the covers with his hands. I loved how easily Jonah just slipped into the role of being our son, being everyone's shining light.

"I didn't want to wake you," Andrei murmurs into my hair.

"Look, I have toys too" Jonah squeals, rummaging through a toy bucket. He pulls out a dinosaur holding it up.

"Wow, isn't he cool?" I ask and Jonah makes roaring noises at me.

"Dinners done" Derrick calls out from downstairs.

"Quick wash your hands and face, so you can have dinner" I tell him and he rushes to the bathroom.

"This is amazing, I can't believe you all did all this while I slept" I tell Andrei as he led me out of the room.

Walking down the stairs, I reach the bottom when Jonah squeals. "Look at me" He says and my heart stutters frantically as he slides down the bannister before falling off the side. I shriek when Andrei grabs the back of his pants before he hits the ground holding him in the air.

"What did I say about doing that?" Andrei scolds him before setting him on the ground. Jonah picks out his wedgie Andrei just gave him from grabbing him .

"But Pop did it" Jonah whines.

"Pop is old and senile, don't listen to everything pop says" Andrei tells him.

"I am not, and I am not that old" Derrick says walking out his hands in oven mits and a floral apron around his waist. Jonah laughs at Derrick's attire.

"Quick dinner" Derrick tells him and he rushes off into the kitchen.

"I am not old" He tells Andrei.

"Not old huh, that's why I had to peel you off the bannister when you got your leg stuck" Andrei tells him shaking his head and following after Jonah.

"It's my sciatica, has nothing to do with old age " Derrick tells him, muttering under his breath when Andrei laughs.

"Something smells good" I tell Derrick.

"Roast and I made chocolate pudding, Kat always loved chocolate pudding" He announces leading me into the kitchen.

"Have any of you told Kat about Jonah?" I ask them.

"Yes, she will be over Tuesday when Dominic comes to visit," Andrei tells me.

"Dominic is coming here?" I ask and Derrick and Andrei both nod.

"No, Idea but he said he is bringing Kyan his son with him" Andrei says.

"Kyan is strange, " Jonah says, making me look at him.

"You met Kyan, was he mean to you?" I ask.

"No, he was alright, but he always looked sad, he didn't talk much" Jonah says before looking up and licking his lips as Derrick sets his plate in front of him.

"How old is Kyan?" I ask Andrei who shrugs. "He is g, he has powers too. He showed me this black mist stuff. It was cool but also scary, it was so cold and sticky but then his dad got mad and said he shouldn't show people" Jonah says and Derrick stares down at him for a second before glancing at Andrei and I.

"Well you should never be mean to anyone just because they are a little odd" I tell Jonah, slightly creeped out, surely he imagined it.

"No he is alright, I like him. He asked if I would be his friend" Jonah says before stabbing a roasted potato with his fork.

"You said yes, didn't you?" Andrie asks him and he nods.

"Yep, he is my friend, can he come over to play?"

"He will be here on Tuesday" Andrei tells him though I could tell he was a little nervous about Dominic coming. So was I, what if he tried to take Jonah from us.

"Jonah, come here for a second, " Andrei says, pushing his chair out. I watch as Jonah goes to Andrei. He swallows his food quickly and Andrei brushes his lip that is covered in gravy wiping it on his pants.

"Dad, can you pass me a can of lemonade?" Andrei asks and Derrick grabs one from the fridge, cracking the can for him and handing it to Jonah. Jonah sips it before placing it down.

"I thought I couldn't have bubbles at night" Jonah says, knowing Malik and us never gave him a fizzy drink late in the afternoons, it always made him hyper.

"Just tonight ok, I need you to do something for me" Andrei tells him.

"Can I drink more lemon bubbles"

"Yes, but do you know how Clive took you away?" Jonah nods.

"Well we don't want that to happen again so we need to make you a pack member until the adoption process finishes, if you are a pack member they won't be able to take you from us"

"But I thought I couldn't become a pack because of Uncle Clive" Jonah asks.

"You aren't supposed to without parental or guardian consent, but you are ours now so I give you permission" Andrei tells him before looking at me nervously. If this ever got brought up that he did this, he could get in some serious trouble. But Andrei was willing to take that punishment before anything had been legally documented to ensure he remained with us.

"I should have done it in the first place" Andrei mindlinks me and I press my lips in a line but nod, knowing what he was risking but this would ensure he stays here. They wouldn't pull a boy his age from a pack; it would cause him too much pain to sever a pack bond and they wouldn't be allowed to remove him until he was old enough to decide for himself.

"I am going to give you some of my blood, then I need you to repeat these words okay?" Jonah nods.

"I need you to say, I Jonah Marshall, pledge my life and my loyalty to Alpha Andrei Hartley of the Howlers Pack. Ok"

"Does that mean, I have to call you Alpha, I thought you wanted to be my dad" Jonah asks.

"You can call me whatever you like, and I want to be your dad. I just need you to do this to make sure no one takes you from Sage and I" Andrei tells him.

"So I can still call you dad?"

"Yes, or Mr Andrei whatever you like"

"I like dad better" Jonah says, smiling up at him.

"So do I" Andrei tells him before leaning forward and kissing his head.

"Ready?" He asks him. Jonah nods and Andrei bites his hand above his thumb and Jonah scrunches his face up before biting down onto Andrei's hand.

"Gross, I am not a vampire" Jonah says and Andrei gives him a look.

"Oh, I Jonah Marshall pledge my life and my loyalty to Alpha Andrei of the Howlers Pack" Jonah says, his brows scrunch up and I feel the pack bond stretch taking him into its safety net and tethering him to the pack and us.

Andrei passes him his lemonade and Jonah sculls some.

"Good boy, now go eat your dinner, then you can have some pudding" Andrei tells him.

"So I can stay now?"

"Yes, you were never leaving once we got you back" I tell him.

"But I don't have to drink dad's blood anymore, he doesn't taste very nice and I don't want to turn into a bat" Jonah says while drinking more lemonade. Derrick snorts.

"Why would you turn into a bat?" I ask.

"Because Dracula did, he drank blood and turned into a bat, and not like batman, a real bat with wings" Jonah exclaims.

"You won't turn into a bat, one day a werewolf but not a bat" Andrei laughs, shaking his head.

"A big wolf like Donnie?" Jonah asks.

"Yep, a wolf like Donnie and then when you are much older, I will make you an Alpha like me"

"But I don't want to be an Alpha, Alpha's have their own packs and I would have to leave, you said I could stay" Jonah pouts.

"You can stay Jonah, just means when you are older and I am old, I will make you Alpha and you will run my pack, it will become yours and you will be Alpha one day" Andrei tells him.

"But my mother was an Omega, and my father was the um... he was like an Omega.... I think" Jonah says, his brows pinching together. " So I can't be an Alpha" Jonah pouts.

"Pop is only a Beta. My mother was an Omega and Sage was an Omega before she was Luna, you can be whoever you want to be, and if you want to be Alpha one day, I will make you one, like my dad did for me" Andrei tells him.

"Other dad, not me" Derrick tells him when Jonah looks at him.

"Like my new dad" And Derrick nods.

"Yep, Anthony, Andrei's other dad. He was a warrior and wasn't Alpha, but titles can change when given and they are found worthy of them. Anthony became Alpha and became strong like an Alpha because the pack pledged to him and that gave him his title and all the things that came with it, there is more to being Alpha than just blood. I believe that is why your dad is stronger than most Alpha's because with most Alpha's, the title is handed down, whereas your dad had to earn his just like you will have to and that sort of respect and loyalty makes him stronger, that's how packs used to be formed, by challenging the Alpha's now they hand the titles down but your dad had to do it the old way" Derrick tells him.

"You had to fight your dad?" Jonah exclaims. Andrei nods his head.

"So I will have to fight you?"

"Not now, when you are older and trained"

"Is that how your other dad died, did you kill your dad?"

"No, but I had to make him submit," Andrei explains.

"Ok" Jonah says, turning back to his plate. We all sit and eat dinner while Jonah tells us what he thinks being Alpha means and how he will make Andrei submit to him. I listen and watch his excitement worried about what Tuesday would bring, also wondering what Andrei's punishment would be when they find out Andrei initiated Jonah before the courts approval.

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Kat POV

I was waiting for Seline to show up, we had so much going on with the pack. My stress levels were through the roof. I had hardly been sleeping with everything going on. The twins were teething something horrendous, all their teeth deciding to come through at once. Sleep felt like a thing of the past. Dominic was going to Andrei's on Tuesday and I have been in a state of panic ever since finding out and knowing I would have to confront him, why he would request for me to come had me on edge, making me wonder if this was going to be a cause for the vision.

I also lost my phone, I have no idea where I put it and that was another issue for another day. I yawn looking at the clock, it is a little after 5pm, is that all it was? My eyes were practically falling out of my head.

The room shutters and I sigh, finally Seline was here. Looking over at her she was smiling brightly at me, please be good news.

"Why are you smiling?" I ask her cautiously. "Because today I want to show you something, I found it fascinating when Celeste showed before she died and also I have fixed the second chance mate issue but first come with me because you get to make not only a bond, but a vessel bond" She says holding her hands out.

I couldn't help smiling at her enthusiasm, it was good to see her smile. It almost made me forget she was dying. Walking over I place my hands in hers, the room fizzes and warps and takes a few seconds only for nothing to happen.

Seline lets my hands go and shakes hers before grabbing mine again. The same thing, we don't move to her realm.

"This has been getting harder, how about you try, you will have to travel between realms anyway when you take over"

"How am I going to transport us, I don't know how to do it" I tell her.

"Just think of my office, picture both of us there and relax your mind, breathe in and breathe out" She says. I close my eyes trying to picture her golden light filled office. At first I feel nothing and I inhale and exhale trying to picture her room exactly how I saw it last time and I feel a slight buzz under my skin before a suction feeling and pressure. When I open my eyes we are standing next to her desk.

"Perfect, see you will get the hang of it. Once I die it will get easier. The fact I couldn't do it with you present means you are getting stronger and it required you to do it" I hated the casual way she talked about her death.

"So what is the lesson today"

"Pairing mates" She says motioning to the strange mystical fountain. Walking over I peer into the smoky water and I could see the bottom. She swirls her hand in the water and colours appear, glowing different colours before she runs a finger straight down the middle, the blobs of colour moving to one side and I watch as the blurred colours take small forms of wolves.

"So first part of the history lesson" "History lesson, on what?" I ask.

"Celeste first of all, I don't expect you to have heard of her before, but how did she become the Moon Goddess?" Seline asks, I shrug.

"God!" I tell her and she chuckles, what did she expect me to say?

"Celeste was a witch, but not just any witch, she was half Goddess, she was the sister of Venus. Since she was half witch her father got with a mortal woman, creating Celeste. She was half human, half Goddess. Venus was a full Goddess and she is the Goddess of love and Celeste's half sister" I nod trying to take all this in.

"Okay, so?" I ask.

"Well like I said she was half mortal and a witch. When Celeste was alive in the human world she lived in a village with humans, her mother being one of them and her little brother. They all lived together in a small hut and the village was surrounded by forest, one night Celeste's mother was killed, and it angered Celeste. Can you guess what killed her mother?" I think for a second, it could be any number of things but the first word that popped to mind was "Wolves"

"Correct, wild wolves had become desperate, not enough. Not enough wild game to feed hundreds of villagers and the carnivores, so Celeste wanted to protect her village, her sister who she didn't know always kept a close eye on her. Venus found her mortal sister quite fascinating and kept watch over her. Venus tried to warn her that doing a spell like that was dangerous, Celeste however didn't care. Her intentions fuelled by her anger, the villagers were scared and Celeste wanted to do something, she wanted to ensure her brother's safety, so Celeste and a few coven witches decided to do a spell, level the playing field if you will, only it required a human sacrifice and the sacrifice of a wolf"

"Celeste became that sacrifice, what is it with gods and sacrifices?" I shake my head and Seline laughs, "The things one would do for love" She says and I nod.

"Anyway no one stepped forward obviously, but Celeste couldn't bear the thought of her brother being killed so she tried to do the spell without a

sacrifice, Venus warned her against it but of course she didn't listen as no teenager does. They created the spell and it was a full Moon, they had everything else except the human sacrifice. When they cast the spell, they quickly realised something was wrong when the humans suddenly shifted. The spell was supposed to give them extra senses, can't beat the enemy, join them, they should have been given speed, sight, sense of smell all that comes with being wolf but in human form" She pauses for a second.

"Only when they shifted she realised her mistake, Venus tried to warn her and she didn't listen and suddenly her entire village and every village in the country was forced to shift into beasts, savage like real wolves only bigger and stronger, instincts ruled over them making them crazed. Nearly her entire coven was killed all but her, it is believed she was spared as punishment by the gods. Forced to watch her mistake, this is also where all the myths come from. She didn't create wolves she created something worse, she created Lycans"

"At first they could only shift on a full moon, if the moon was out, they couldn't help it. Their bodies transformed and they roamed the earth killing everything they came across. In a bid to stop this, the villagers set out to sea, in search of new lands and places to live, trying to separate the colonies of Lycan's because their uncontrollable urges were killing everything and leaving nothing" Seline explains.

"So that is how so many exist today, she didn't just transform her village she transformed an entire country?" I ask.

"Yes, she underestimated her power being half Goddess, so with the coven it only enhanced it, like a plague in a sense, affecting every human it reached. Celeste angered the gods and so they locked her into this realm to make sure she did no more harm while the monsters she created continued to roam the earth. They told her she had to fix it, undo it but she couldn't without the original coven elders that helped cast the spell. So for centuries she tried, the monsters she created were feared and humans hunted them, sought them and killed them while they were in their human forms, hence when they found out about silver harming us, and it did. It harmed Lycans, killed them"

" So when did you become the Moon Goddess?"

"Time wasn't really measured or accurate so I can't say for sure, but the saying I am as old as dirt would be close" She chuckles.

"And you created werewolves?" Seline nods pointing to the fountain.

"Yes, So Celeste was stuck in this very realm and they called her the Moon Goddess because the only day she could leave here was on a full Moon to try to reign in the Lycans, but it never worked"

" Now my parents were king and Queen, making me a princess of our kingdom, my parents died.

Lycan's got them when they were travelling to another kingdom by horse and carriage. I was raised by my maid until my coronation, I wanted to eradicate Lycan's what I wasn't expecting was to fall in love with one"

"Wait, you were human?" Seline smiles, her eyes sparkling.

"100 percent human, I was walking through my garden when a man climbed the stone fence, gave me quite the fright. He was severely injured. I couldn't understand how he was alive, my maid helped get him inside. The guards wanted to kill him, he was naked when I found him, he was also a savage. We had him locked in the cells after he tried to attack me when he woke up"

"The guards refused to feed him, said he suffered from madness and I should let him die, so instead I went down everyday and I would read to him, after awhile he started eating and he healed a little more, he used to watch me through the bars when one day he spoke and said his name was Bain. After the second week he would be sitting by the bars waiting for me and eventually I built up the courage to step into his cell. He wanted to look at the pictures of the book I was reading and that became routine. A month later I was reading to him when I fell asleep, you could imagine my shock when I heard his bones snapping and he turned into a 8 foot wolf standing on two legs. I thought the monster ate him" She chuckles.

" Only when I screamed instead of attacking me he clamped his hand around my mouth and curled himself around me. I sat frozen all night while he purred. I was convinced I was going to become his next meal, but when the night was over he shifted back and I found Bain naked and curled around me" I sit down fascinated with the story yet also shocked to learn she was human.

"I kept his secret but eventually he was caught, he was fine around me but I made the mistake of letting stay in my room on a full moon, a guard came to check on me because I was sick and he killed the guard, he was possessive and felt threatened when the man touched my forehead"

"They killed him, not long after I learned I was pregnant, my daughter was beautiful she was placid but when she came of age she showed traits but never shifted, I was Queen but nothing I did prevented her death, once they found out who her father was they killed Koraline she was 13 and they burned her at the stake, when I found out they caught her. I raced to get to her, I rode a horse into the city in the middle of the night and found her tied to a stake and they were going to set it alight" She stops like she was lost in time, remembering her heart ache. I reach over and squeeze her fingers gently and she wipes her eyes shaking her head.

"Everyone refused to help, no one would let me explain she wasn't a monster like the Lycan's. She was good and raised right, she screamed for me when she spotted me trying to get to her. I wanted to hug her, she was my world, she was the last piece of her father and the man I loved, she was my daughter. So I broke free and I climbed up there with her, I tried to remove her shackles and I couldn't so instead I hugged her, held her tight"

"I brought her into the world, if she was leaving it. I was going with her" Seline says.

"I told her of her father to try to comfort her, try to distract her and I burned with her, when howls rang through the night, what I didn't know was the Lycan's knew of my daughter, she would sneak out constantly which was how she was caught, she hated being kept in the castle like a prisoner, she liked to roam the forests. Even though she couldn't shift into a wolf, she smelt like one, she was stronger than a human and she befriended them"

"The Lycan's came tearing apart the city, they tried to save us, I refused to let go of her. I wanted to die with my baby girl, but they wouldn't let me. I was furious, they couldn't get her shackles off and I watched her burn, I was near death when Celeste came luck has it, it was a full moon. She was shocked a human woman would die for one of her beasts and I begged her to kill me"

"She said she saw that I was able to tame my daughter, able to tame Bain and told me she couldn't save my daughter because she was mostly human unless she did a spell making her have an immortal soul like her Lycans" Seline sits down beside me.

"She said she could take me to Bain. I yelled at her and said no, told her to kill me, I was already dying my skin as dark as charcoal in places and barely alive, I begged her. She said I was the missing link she was looking for and I didn't understand at first, she told me I was their humanity, that love changed Bain and stopped Koralline from becoming a monster" Seline says getting back up and walking over to the fountain, she looked down at it before looking at me.

"I was unfortunately mortal and dying so Celeste used her magic and her Goddess given divine power and instead of making me a Lycan she tried something else, She moved over to the where my daughter lay dying, she told me she could bring her back but if I wanted to see her again, I could only do so in her realm and that she would make me a Goddess, but only if I fixed her Lycan's. I of course agreed not realising what she meant, she couldn't bring my daughter back in her human form. But I agreed so she brought me here and brought me back and gave me a piece of her soul, like I did you" Seline tells me pointing at me.

"Only she didn't just give me a piece she gave me her life, in exchange she brought my daughter back but she wasn't the same, she didn't remember me, she didn't know who I was to her. She brought her back as the white wolf, a symbol of my love for her"

"I kept my daughter with me, yet she longed to be free. Lycan's started dying off completely, this realm was becoming overthrown with them, until I remembered love saved Koralline and Bain. After a while I convinced the goddess of love, Venus, to help me create mates. She thought it was a great idea at first, Forcing their humanity but that didn't work either, the lycan's nearly died out and I was stuck here with all these Lycan souls, so I changed the idea again, I mated them to humans, creating vessels, so when the Lycan died off, and child was born with Lycan DNA I placed one of the Lycan souls, making them a werewolf, giving the

human form an alter ego and by doing that Lycan's have lived on through their human counterparts"

She explains.

"It gave them back their humanity by having a human vessel. My daughter though, wanted to be free, she couldn't understand what she meant to me. She didn't understand I was her mother as she was a wolf. She longed to find her mate, Koraline was blessed by Celeste when brought back to me, but she was never whole, she always longed to be free even when alive, so when Marabella cursed me out I saw it as an opportunity, and I merged my daughter with Marabella, taking Marabella's original wolf, I replaced her wolf with Koraline, giving my daughter what she wanted. I just didn't realise the consequences of it, I thought she would be set free not passed down through generations. My daughter is Kora, she needed her mates to set her free, she just wanted to be loved completely and she got that when you set her free. You freed my daughter Katya, you sacrificed your life for your packs so I brought you back, you were the first time I had hope of getting her back"

"Kora is Koraline?" I ask her and she nods, yes Kora is my daughter and the blessed white wolf, I cursed my own daughter when I cursed your family, and this is where I took mates bonds seriously" Seline waves me toward the fountain and I get up looking in it.

"When a werewolf child is conceived you will feel it, all wolves are the reincarnation of Lycan's that need a vessel, recycled keeping the bloodlines alive. Some want to go back some choose to remain here, this side is the Lycan's wishing to go back, this fountain is the fountain of life, when Lycan's chose to go back, I place them in the fountain waiting for a vessel, while in the fountain everything they know and love is erased, they are reborn. When a child is conceived" She waves her hand through the water, colours ghostly but coloured float amongst the water.

"You match a wolf to the personality that you think the human vessel needs, see here this human vessel is light blue, what does that tell you?" Seline asks.

"You can touch it" Seline says and I gently run my fingers through the water and gasp.

"You can feel their personalities" I gasp and Seline smiles.

"She is quiet, shy" I tell Seline, "so you give her a wolf that is the opposite, a wolf that will bring her out of her shell, it's not just about mating them, it's also about finding the right human vessel, see the wolf isn't mated to the other wolf, they are mated to the human counterpart, so when Kora awakens in your daughter, Maddox won't recognise Kora as his mate, he will recognise his daughter, same as Kora. It's confusing but mate bonds are formed between human and wolf, not because of the wolves themselves, just the wolves sense when they find their human soul to bond too" Seline explains. I nod thinking I understand. When I scan the wolves looking for a wolf for the girl. I touched an orange hued wolf, it was lively but kind.

“That’s good, now bring them together and bleed them into one another” I do as she says, feeling them merge and the rest of the blobs disappear leaving the two I merged together.

“Now call on the unmated” She says, washing her hands through the water, merged souls come to the surface and I instantly spot one that stood out like a tingling sensation.

“Now guide them together, sometimes they will take control themselves but rarely so part the others away” I do, leaving only a green and yellow hued auras, the orange moves toward them and stops before absorbing into the one I believed correct.

“You just created a mate bond and a vessel bond”

Seline says and I smile up at her.

“When you said Marabella and her mate forged a bond, is that what you meant, when you tried to pair them they drifted and merged on their own?”

“Yes, I tried to put Marabella with Jonah, they were a good match, I could feel it, yet the other dark aura, I had never found a mate for but he floated around. The moment I brought you back, it forced them together. I tried for hours to separate them but eventually they merged, I couldn’t keep them apart, I tried guiding them to others but nothing worked.

“So if you didn’t mate her to Jonah, who did you mate Jonah too?”

“I didn’t, I gave him his wolf, but I left him as a wild card. He was suited to Marabella but I couldn’t bond them, but ” Seline tells me holding up a finger before turning to look at me.

“She could take him as her chosen mate ” I finish for her and she smiles brightly.

“Always a loophole, remember that Kat ” Seline says.

Fated To The Alpha by Jessica Hall

Chapter 194

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Mateo POV

“What are you doing?” Ezra asks me as I dig through the cushions on the couch.

“Looking for Kat’s phone we have been looking all day” I tell him.

“The kids?”

“In bed” I tell him, placing the cushions back on the couch.

“And Kat?”

“With Seline again, I worry about how much time she spends in that realm” I tell Ezra. Everytime Kat came back she was more stressed, like the weight of the world was on her shoulders. I suppose in a sense it was.

“Just help me find it” I tell him, wanting to help her even if it was as silly as just finding her phone.

“Or we could sneak up to the room while the kids are sleeping” Ezra tells me coming up behind me. His arms wrap around my waist pulling me back against him. He presses his pelvis into my ass.

“No, you know how left out she feels” I tell him not wanting to anger kat. I drop to my knees to look under the couch for her phone. Ezra growls annoyed but I wasn't making that mistake again.

“I might as well just cut it off since I never get to use it anymore” Ezra mumbles behind me. I stand up placing my hands on my hips and trying to think of where she had it last. The last place I saw her phone was in the kitchen. Walking out there, I walk into the pantry and look through every section before checking the kitchen drawers. We found our car keys in the bathtub once, none of us know how they got in there but we all assume it was Eziah because he was on the move that day.

“Are you going to help me or whine?” I ask Ezra who was following me around pouting.

“I am not whining, I have fucking blueballs that need emptying, just touch it or something”

“Ask Kat,” I tell him.

“She always says she is too tired, I don't understand why it is an issue we are mates too”

“Yes, but if she knows that is different because she knows she can join us, but if we go upstairs while she is not here and she comes home, she may be upset”

“I don't care when you two fuck” Ezra says and I stand up.

“Are you sure you're an Alpha king because you sound like a whiny bitch, go rub one out if you're that hard up, I am busy anyway” I tell him before bending down and digging through the pots cupboard. I sigh, it is not in there either.

"One of you is sucking my cock, I don't care who but one of you will be" He says and I chuckle.

"Hasn't been that long geez" I tell him.

"It's been a month, I have been keeping track" "Why would you keep track for?"

"Because one day my nuts will combust from all the s*xual tension in this house and I want to be able to blame someone when I am neutered like a dog"

Fuck Katya better give him some soon because he has been acting like she -wolf in heat or Katya on her monthly's, nobody likes a moody Alpha.

Digging through the fridge I spot the phone and almost do a happy dance but I didn't want to shake my ass Ezra would think it was an invitation.

"I found it" I tell him.

"Good give it here, I will tell her she has to suck my d*ck for it back" Ezra says laughing while trying to pluck it from my fingers.

"One day she will bite you and it will be your own fault" I tell him, pulling the phone out of reach.

"I would even take teeth at this point, attention is attention" Ezra growls out.

"Eziah must have put it in the crisper" I tell Ezra turning it on.

"At least we found it" Ezra says.

"You mean I found it, all you did was moan and groan over your balls" I tell him. Kat's phone instantly starts going off and vibrates for a solid ten minutes while I charge it with all the notifications coming through.

"Check for the important ones and answer them, the rest she can deal with tomorrow. I wonder how much longer she will be?" Ezra says while making both of us coffees.

I flick through her messages replying to her father wanting to come over on Sunday.

"Derrick is coming over Sunday to help with the Kids"

"Thank the goddess, oh wait Kat is now the goddess thank the other goddess" Ezra says also just as exhausted as Kat and I with Marge sick and unable to help out. That woman was truly a godsend and we would die without her.

"She 141 missed calls" I tell Ezra when I notice that a fair chunk of them were from a weird name. Was it code? Was she talking to someone behind our backs? The thought angered me and Ares.

"You know someone called Android?" I ask Ezra.

"Android?" Ezra says coming over to look over my shoulder.

"Yeah this Android rang 43 times in the last two days" I tell him. Ezra growls.

"I swear if she is talking to some man I will fucking kill him" Ezra snaps snatching the phone from my fingers.

Katya POV

"So I only have to try to push her toward Jonah, pray she chooses Jonah before she shifts" I ask Seline.

"No, unfortunately fate always changes, it is always altering depending on the mindset of the person. I don't believe anything you do will stop them from meeting" Seline says. I shake my head, I had a fierce urge to protect my daughter but I also knew she would have to make her own decisions.

"So If I warn her it could alter her future?"

"Yes, but for every change you make there will be consequences, believe me Kat. Fate and destiny aren't to be altered lightly. I have made that mistake many times, I nearly lost my daughter because of it. Eventually I realised her happiness was all that mattered. It broke my heart letting her enter the fountain of life and I paid the consequences, but she chose to go back for Marabella, there is more to life than the mate bonds, it's about living and choosing your own path, that's why when she volunteered for Marabella, I didn't try to stop her"

"But Kora remembered me when I came here"

"Yes, because after you set her free, she wasn't intending to go back, Kora had limited memory of your bloodline, she is blessed after all but not even she could predict everything, she only knew from the visions she shared with you, she was going to live here and remain. Now that I have placed her with Marabella, she won't even remember you" Seline explains.

"So there is nothing we can do to prevent them from meeting?"

"No, sometimes we don't get a choice"

"But we are Moon Goddesses?" Seline waves me over to the fountain again.

She runs her hand through the murky water and two vessels with their two wolves appear and I instantly recognise them.

“Sage and Sierra, Andrei and Donnie”

“When we first tried creating the mate bond, we mated Lycan’s to Lycan’s. We don’t give second chance mates, it makes it too complicated or I thought it did, but look closely tell me what you see?” She says and I squint into the murky waters before noticing a tear in each aura surrounding the vessels, the tear in the Lycan side.

“The Lycan aura is severed”

“Correct, Sierra and Donnie were Lycan mates before I started using werewolf human vessels, they were the first pair we made, because Lycan’s are savages most killed each other not fixing anything because they had no humanity, but Sierra and Donnie, they become fused to each other even after death, their souls stuck. So I separated them, giving them mates. Yet both of them died and I have noticed everytime I separate them they seemed to be on a never ending loop

that usually ends in one of their deaths, except this time because they managed to find each other”

“When you say never ending loop, you mean history repeating itself?”

“Yes, but only Sierra’s for some reason repeats and she can actually remember parts of her past lives for some reason whereas Donnie can’t but he feels connected not only to the vessel but Sierra, Sierra suffered the same way as Sage when she was pure Lycan, she was the weakest Lycan in her pack, the others took advantage of that before eventually Donnie saved her and I decided to merge them, bond them together. They were the only Lycan’s that bonded without killing each other. When they died and came here, I noticed when I placed them in the fountain of life they instantly merged and ever since they merged on their own. Donnie is Sierra’s safe place and Sierra is Donnie’s calm one and no matter how much I tried to separate them in the fountain they would merge back eventually”

“But yet you gave them mates before each other?”

“Yes, I wanted to see if I could separate them, I have tried a couple of time to test the theory, but no matter who I bond them too, the mates I chose for them die and then they don’t find each other so when you asked if I could give Andrei a second chance I gave him Sage, but this is what I mean about meddling with fate. For some reason Sierra’s trauma in her past life has remained with her, she suffers again and again the same fate and so does her vessel which is now Sage, it happens everytime I try to separate them. Something we need to realise we can’t control, just like I tried to control who they were mated to, the consequences of me trying to mate them to other people was that their mate always died. You never know the consequence of meddling with fate and sometimes it isn’t worth meddling with, it will cause more heartache”

“So I need to let Marabella and Kora decide, because I could cause my damage by tampering with the bonds”

“Exactly”

“Can I see Marabella’s bonds?” I ask her and she runs her fingers through the water. Two equally dark figures appear in the murky water along with Jonah’s figure floating randomly around them.

“Try to separate them” Seline tells me and I do, I even try to direct Marabella’s too Jonah’s but the other one just follows, and Marabella’s pushing against my hand trying to get back to him. Jonah however chases Marabella’s dark hue wanting to merge but unable to. As soon as I move my hand, the two black blobs clash violently and fuse together.

“See, we can’t control everyone’s bonds, like Sierra and Donnie’s. Some refuse to do what we think is best”

“So what will happen to Jonah, clearly he wants to be Marabella’s mate or at least his wolf wants him to be, yet she is bonded to this one”

“That I can’t say, chosen bonds will always be stronger than mated bonds because it has a choice, both wolf and human choosing the same, and since she is your daughter, you also don’t get to see her future”

“But you can see her mate” Seline then adds and I look down at the black figures.

“You can touch him,” Seline adds as I run my fingers through the murky water. The moment I touched his aura, I could tell he was an Alpha and a strong one. When I felt the coldness of black magic making me look at Seline.

“Kyan Dominic Octavian” I tell her and she nods sadly.

“I was never able to find him a match until after I brought you back, I went to check your kids bonds only to find Kyan had already merged to her”

“So what can I do to help her?”

“Maybe try to build a relationship between Kyan and Marabella, but if you try to separate them, it could end in disaster, that’s the only thing I can think of” Seline tells me and I nod while yawning wondering what time it was.

“You should head back to your mates,” Seline tells me.

“When will I see you next?” I ask her.

“Hopefully soon, I still have a lot of things to go over plus I need to tell Bain” She tells me.

“Bain is here?” I ask her.

"Yep he remained in this realm, never left my side. Though I am not looking forward to that conversation"

"So can he shift between or is he like Kora stuck in wolf form"

"No, Kora is the only one that can't shift in this realm, the rest can shift to their true Lycan forms, but most prefer werewolf forms now, evolution in a sense" Seline says and I nod.

"You need help to get back?" She asks and I shake my head.

"I think I will be fine " I tell her before hugging her goodbye and teleporting back to my office. When I do though, I find Ezra and Mateo sitting on the edge of the desk having sensed me coming back.

"You found my phone" I say excitedly reaching for it, finally I can get hold of Andrei and Sage without having to wait for the landline to free up. Ezra pulls it out of reach and I pout wondering why he was holding it hostage.

"Not fair, are you really going to make me jump for it?" I ask as he holds it above his head. I cross my arms over my chest. I was not making a fool of myself by jumping for it.

"Who is Android?" Ezra growled menacingly. Huh? What the fuck is he talking about.

"Pardon?" I ask.

"Are you talking to other men behind our backs, is this why you aren't interested in us anymore?"

Ezra asks and I was taken aback. Is he on drugs, did he bump his head a little too hard and it knocked the sense out of him?

"Answer Kat, you are constantly up at us for screwing once without telling you, but you are talking to some man behind our backs.

"What man?" I ask completely baffled.

"Android! " They scream at me. Android? Who the heck would call a kid Android?

"How could I be talking to some man behind your backs when you have my phone?" I snap back.

"Don't lie Kat, this is why you were so desperate to find your phone isn't it, so you can speak to this germ" Ezra growls at me and Maddox presses forward. I blink at them, this couldn't be happening, if I was cheating they would feel it, are they morons?

"I have no idea what you are talking about" I tell them.

"Really then explain why he called 46 times in two days" Mateo says glaring at me. Maddox growls, they were being serious, they seriously thought I was having an affair.

"Show me " I demand and Ezra practically tosses the phone at me. I go to the call logs and scan them, plenty from family, Terra, Jasmine. And pack members. Then Android. Looking up I purse my lips.

"See there he is, now fucking explain" Ezra snaps at me and I fold my arms. Never in my life have I ever struggled so much to keep a straight when looking at Stupid, and not just one stupid, but two stupid's which makes them both braindead.

"Yeah, I let him touch my soft wares" I tell them.

Emphasising soft wares.

"You let him touch your what?" Mateo growled menacingly.

"Yep, he was even able to handle duel simming me" I tell them. The crazed menacing looks on their faces made it almost impossible to stop from laughing in their faces.

"Sometimes he lets me finger his touchscreen?" Ezra steps forward and I couldn't hold it in any longer, and I burst out laughing, tears rolling down my cheeks at their stupidity.

"You think this is funny and are trying to joke about it?"

"Hilarious" I choke out having to sit on the couch before I peed myself from laughing so hard.

"I can't believe you are laughing right now, you betrayed us" Mateo says, he truly felt betrayed, and disgusted which just made me laugh harder before I wasn't able to contain myself.

"Well you both just won 1st place for the dumbass awards" I tell them.

"Excuse me?" Ezra says, glaring down at me. "Did either of you check the numbers on the contact" I ask using air quotes on the contact. They look at each other.

"Because if you did, you would have realised it was too long to be a mobile number, if you tried ringing it back it would have probably rang my tablet. It is a software number, I called it to find my phone you bloody idiots, my phone is an Android if you bothered to look at the back of it" Ezra turns the phone over and looks at it.

"Ah well I thought it was mans number or code for some mans number"

"And what man do you know that has the name Android?" I ask.

"I did think the name sounded odd," Mateo mutters.

"So a blowjob is out of the question?" Ezra asks. I glare at him.

"Why the hell would you think I was having an affair?"

"Because you aren't giving us any so?"

"So you assumed instantly I was having an affair, I am f*cking tired. I ain't got time to scratch my *ss or to screw either of you but yet I have time to find another man?" I ask.

"Well when you say it like that" Mateo looks away guiltily.

"He assumed it, not me, so punish him" Ezra says and Mateo glares at him.

"Are you forgetting we are mates, if I was cheating you would know instantly and would feel it"

"Emotional Affairs happen" Mateo says and I raise an eyebrow at him. He needs to lay off watching Dr Phil.

"Emotional affairs, right. But it is okay for you to F*ck in the forest behind my back?" I snap them.

"We have apologized a million times for that, and we haven't since. Must you always bring that up?" Mateo asks before dropping his head to look at the floor.

"Well apparently I am having an affair with my phone, so thought I should remind you two of when you were both screwing and leaving me out all the time"

"It was one time, and it wasn't planned out or anything, and we thought you wanted nothing to do with us" Ezra says.

"You're my mates" I tell them, though how I could make that much clearer was beyond me.

"And we are mates too, it's not cheating" Ezra says, pointing between him and Mateo.

"I never said it was but it bloody sucked knowing my life was falling apart while you were both fooling around"

"We didn't mean to upset you, you were in a bad place and we... it was one time" Ezra says.

“ I don’t care if you two screw around when I am not here, so why do you care”

“Because it always felt like you were both ganging up on me and then you ran off together, like you didn’t want me around me”

“What? No Kat, it wasn’t like that” Mateo says, stepping forward and wrapping his arms around me.

“We are yours and you are ours. As for this whole Android’s what you call it, that was totally Ezra and had nothing to do with me, he found the phone” Mateo says before kissing my head.

“ So I found it now? What when I wanted to use it for blackmail against her, you found it but now she is angry I did?” Ezra says.

“Blackmail?”

“He wanted you to suck him off, in exchange for your phone” Mateo chuckles.

“Yeah after sucking Android my lips are sore, slightly chapped” I tell him, laughing to myself. He mutters under his breath before stepping over and kissing my cheek.

“I’m sorry Mateo is an idiot and didn’t realise what Android was” Ezra says and I roll my eyes.

“So what did you learn with Seline”

“She showed me how to create and forge mate bonds” I tell them, leaving out the part where their Daughter is mated to Kyan Octavian and Dominic Octavian’s son who I will be meeting with in two days time.

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Sage POV

I had just put Jonah to bed and Andrei still wasn’t home, he had left early this morning and now it was nearly 11pm. He had been in and out all day and we had barely spoken. Derrick left around lunch time to go to Kat’s. He wanted to help her and her mates with the kids. Apparently they were teething badly and Marge has been sick with flu, but they had no sleep and Kat hasn’t been able to shift because of it.

He was going home to give her mates reason to force her to shift. Closing the door slightly, I walk into the bedroom and flop on the bed. It was so quiet, the bed felt too big with no one in it and I debated whether or not to just climb in Jonah's with him so I could try to sleep. My eyes felt like sandpaper as I walked to the room flopping on the bed face down. It was only when I felt the bed shift and hands gripping under my arms that I woke up. More exhausted than I realised when the scent of soap and Andrei wafted under my nose.

"You're home finally" I mutter as he maneuvers me around the bed and tugs the blankets up.

"Sorry I was busy, it took longer than I thought" he says, wrapping his body around mine before I drift back off. It was early when I woke up, the sun was not even out yet, something unnerved me and I had no reason to wake yet. Andrei was sleeping soundly but dread washed over me and I was unsure why. This feeling had been appearing since Jonah came home, like something was going to happen. Something bad.

"It's nothing, go back to sleep" Sierra says but I couldn't help it, forcing myself up to go check on him. Paranoia always crept in, were the windows locked, was the door locked and was he still in bed. Walking down the hall I push the door open to find him tucked safely in his bed, nothing out of place.

"See told you," Sierra says and she was right, as always when I woke. Climbing back in bed, Andrei rolls on his back.

"Go back to sleep" He mutters, he had become used to my nightly waking to check Jonah. My mind was alert though and unable to go back to sleep, looking at the alarm clock it was a little after 4:30 AM.

"Sage please sleep" Andrei mutters turning to face me and tucking me closer, my nose pressed against his chest. His scent was calming and made the tension leave.

"Please don't make me get up, I can feel how awake you are and it's going to keep me awake" He says.

"Sleep" He says and I sigh trying to close my eyes and fight the urge to check Jonah again.

"No, one will take him," Andrei says, pulling away and opening one eye to look at me.

"You're going to make me get up aren't you?"

"Can you just check the border cameras please" He sighs.

"You know I can feel if intruders step over right?"

"Yeah but sometimes they still slip through" I tell him and he groans.

"This is the third time since I got home" He mutters.

"I just woke up" I tell him.

"That doesn't stop you from wacking me to get up to check the cameras while you're sleeping, you know what it is? You are so used to something going wrong Sage that when you find a sliver of peace you are waiting for something to go wrong" He says and I know he is right but still the feeling of unease was unsettling.

"Fine, I am going, this is the last time though, I need more than 4 hours of broken sleep at night" He says tossing the blanket back and walking out of the room. I hear him go downstairs and into the office, around 5 minutes later he returns but instead of climbing back in bed he walks into the bathroom and turns the shower on. Tossing the blankets off I follow him into the bathroom.

"I thought you were coming back to bed"

"Well I can't now, I go back to sleep and get up in an hour. I will be more tired" He says, stripping his boxer shorts off.

"You're leaving again aren't you?"

"Yes, but hopefully I won't be long today, I just need to go meet some people and if all goes well I will be home by lunch" He says before stepping into the shower..

"Shower with me?" I nod, stripping off and climbing in and shutting the shower screen.

"Where have you been going?" I ask him. "The caves where Jonah was found"

"We found a rogue camp there and Zane and I have been sussing them out"

"You aren't going to hurt them are you?"

"What no, just observing them, most of them are women and children. There a few men but mostly women and children"

"And what's the point to watching them"

"We have been sending supplies in, I tried to speak to them yesterday but they know of my cruelty towards rogues and it is making it difficult"

"Making what difficult?"

"I offered for them to join our pack but they are hesitant" He answers, reaching for the shampoo. He turns me around before squirting some in his hands. He washes my hair, massaging my scalp with his fingers.

"You will let them join, you would bring a rogue camp in" I ask him, a little shocked.

"Mmm" He hums softly.

"Why are they hesitant, most would jump at that opportunity"

"Well I haven't exactly got a good reputation with rogues, and also the other rogue packs in the area have been talking, they have been warned away from our pack" Andrei says and I sigh in understanding. I wouldn't exactly be jumping to join the Rogue killing Alpha's pack if he wasn't my mate.

"Maybe I could come with you?" I ask him but he pushes me under the stream of water.

"No, we have spotted a few camps surrounding it, it isn't safe and I found a few all male rogue camps that seem to have more sinister intentions, we have spotted them going to this camp. I think they are the main reason they are refusing to join, I think they fear the men's camp" Andrei says.

"You think they are hurting the rogues?"

"No idea but I intend to find out today when I go back" Andrei tells me.

"Why didn't you tell me?"

"Because I didn't want to get your hopes up in thinking I changed if I couldn't bring myself to let them in"

"So what changed your mind"

"Jonah did, you did. My pack did" Andrei says, kissing my shoulder. I lean against him but he steps back.

"What's wrong"

"Nothing" He says and I turn around to face him. I reach up and wrap my arms around his neck, kissing his lips.

"Liar" I tell him, feeling his erection pressing against my stomach. I knew that was why he really stepped away. He barely touches me almost like he thinks now we have mated. I would see him as pressuring me for more.

"You don't have to hide from me," I tell him.

"I just don't want you thinking I expect it now" He says, against my lips. I kiss him back before nibbling on his lip. My tongue tracing the seam of his lips and he groans pushing me against the cold tiles.

Reaching down I wrap my hands around his shaft, I like touching him, liked touching him as much as he enjoyed touching me. I never thought I would enjoy intimacy with anyone but with Andrei it was different. He made me see everything different, it felt different.

I squeeze him gently, running my hand up his length to the tip before pressing closer to him, and kissing his chest and running my tongue down his pec.

"Sage?" Andrei growls, trying to grab my arms as I drop to my knees in front of him.

"Oh god are you really going to try doing that, have fun choking on that?" Sierra says laughing in my head.

"Sage you don't have to" Andrei says, trying to grab my arms but I shrug him off grabbing his c*ck in my hand.

"Sage?"

"Stop I am fine, I wouldn't if I didn't want to and I couldn't save nothing else so let me, no one was stupid enough to stick anything near my mouth" I mutter dryly.

"Was that humour because that was messed up, don't say that"

"Well it's true" Andrei growls at me. But if I want to joke about my horrible past. Let me, it's better than crying about it.

"I am just saying you don't have to, so please get up."

"You don't want me to?" I ask him.

"No, of course I do. I am a man, what man doesn't want, never mind just come- "

I didn't let him finish, his confession was good enough for me as I wrapped my lips around the tip, his hands smack the tiles as he jerks not expecting me to just go ahead. Sierra gives me gross mental images I didn't want in my head like she was some c*ck sucking coach.

"Or just help yourself" Andrei mutters as I take more of him in my mouth. My hand moved in rhythm with my mouth as I ran my tongue down his shaft. I steady myself with one hand on his thigh when I feel his hand move to my hair yet he only strokes my hair tangling his fingers in it gently. I picked up my pace, his hand in my hair was enough encouragement to make me want to keep going, taking him deeper into my mouth when I suddenly took too much, gagging on it and pulling back.

Andrei laughs softly before tugging me back up, a smile on his lips. He presses his body against mine, the heat of him seeping into me and I wrap my arms around his neck pulling him closer as he dips his face to kiss me.

Andrei's hands move down my sides gripping the back of my thighs before hoisting me up. My legs wrap around his waist as he presses me against the tile wall. His c*ck pressing against my core when he rocks his hips making his length slide between my folds and hit my clit. Sparks moving across my skin make me gasp into his mouth.

Desire overwhelming me and my arousal spills onto my thighs.

I roll my hips against him, his c*ck sliding back and forth, rubbing against me and building up friction. Andrei's lips are not leaving mine as he deepens the kiss, his tongue tasting every inch of my mouth and my walls clench in anticipation. Moving my hips I lift myself higher and he squeezes my thighs lining himself up with my entrance. I try to press down on him, feeling his c*ck prodding but not entering and he groans, pressing his face into my neck.

"Sage?"

"Hmm" is all I manage and he nips at my neck and jawline before thrusting into me. His c*ck fills and stretches me as he buries himself in me. He pulls out slowly and my lips part at the feel of

him filling me. My hips move, seeking out the friction he was giving me and making me moan. The sound is lewd and louder than I thought as it bounces off the tiled walls making me clamp my lips together. Andrei picks up his pace, finding rhythm and I cry out as I feel my walls clamp around me, his mouth crashing against mine and he swallows my moans while he pounds into me. The familiar tightening of my stomach muscles takes over, my legs tightening around his waist pulling him deeper when my skin prickles and heats up.

Andrei's movements become harsher and more erratic when warmth floods me, making me cry out and my toes curl as my climax washes over me in waves, My walls spasm and flutter around his length, squeezing and milking his c*ck as he stills deep inside me, I feel thick ropes of his seed

coating my insides, leaving us both panting as the pulsation of his c*ck prolongs the feeling that ebbed and flowed over me.

I sag against the wall trying to catch my breath and Andrei kisses my lips, nibbling on them. "I love you"

"I love you more" I mumble, kissing him back. He pulls out of me, setting my feet on the ground before reaching for the soap.

"I am glad you made me check the cameras now" He says, making me laugh before reaching for me. I grab the soap from his hand, rubbing it across his chest and while he helps me wash.

"Are you sure, I can't come with you tomorrow?" I ask him, while yawning.

"I won't have you put in danger, until we know for sure it is safe, you have to stay here. I will try to be quick besides Jonah needs you here and I doubt you will be comfortable leaving him" Andrei says.

"Yeah true " I was definitely not comfortable being away from Jonah, not when we only just got him back.

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Monday

Andrei left early once again, I wished Derrick was back, I would felt more at ease knowing his father was with him and would have his back. Derrick rang earlier and said he would be over tomorrow before Dominic gets here with Kat and the kids.

Andrei was excited when I told him when he rang around lunch time, he rang to tell me he was still with the rogue camp and they had a run in with another camp, which turned out to be one of the rogue camps Jackson worked with when they had the pack wars. They weren't happy that Andrei was wanting to initiate the rogue camp.

Staking some claim to them, saying the women were their workers which sickened me knowing this rogue camp was whoring out the woman in return for safety from the very rogue pack that was selling them. The last time I heard from them was just after dinner time when I was getting Jonah ready for his bath. Clay, one of Andrei's warriors, mindlinked me and said they were fine and that Andrei attacked the leader of the all male rogue camp, but was fine and that only one of the warriors got injured but was already healing.

They had plans to move the camp and bring them here during the week once they organised transportation to get everyone here and we also had to sort out where to put them, we had 11 vacant places which today, Malik and Zane spent most of the day with me and Nora setting up bunk beds in all the rooms to place everyone until they could order more kit homes to be built. From my understanding Andrei's pack was one of the biggest ones next to Jackson's old pack before the war and Andrei was shocked to learn that a few of those in the rogue camp were from Jackson pack originally, but fled before the war with Kat's pack.

Malik and Zane told me that Andrie had been sending supply trucks out to the rogue camp since he found it when they went looking for information about Jonah. I was a little shocked he was able to hide it so well because I had no idea about it. I wasn't sure if it was his guilty conscience mixed with Jonah's arrival but I was glad to see the changes and he seemed happier within himself. I just wished he told me but I also understood why he kept it between his father, Zane, and

Malik. He didn't want to get the pack's hopes up if he couldn't handle it and ended up killing them.

I had just hopped out of the shower and was getting ready for bed but once again that restless feeling rushed over me. Walking into the hall with just my towel on I listen for noise. I don't understand what it was, I just couldn't shake it. Checking on Jonah he was still fast asleep in his bed. I quickly checked the security cameras but also nothing. Going back to the room I chuck on my Pajamas, the unsettling feeling easing off and I was anxious for Andrei to return home.

"Now I am bored" I mutter while digging through the pile of books on the nightstand I had read repeatedly since being here.

"You could always talk to me," Sierra says. "It's not the same, I want my mate"

"Yeah, but better than nothing" She says, while yawning. She wanted to shift, we hadn't in so long and it was quite a nice night, the sky clear and the breeze warm.

"I know, I can ask Malik to come watch Jonah, or Casen" I tell her feeling her itching to go for a run despite being exhausted.

"Please" She groans and I chuckle. With everything going on, shifting was far from my mind. Sierra was not willing to ask, thinking she was adding to my stress levels. Opening the mindlink I search for Malik and Casen's tether.

Both of them answered at the same time. "Everything alright"

"Yes, I am fine. Can one of you come and watch Jonah for me while I go for a run?" I ask them.

"I will, Malik can go for a run with you" Casen says.

"No, I will be fine by myself. I will stay within the borders" I tell them.

"Luna, Andrei won't like you running through the forest on your own," Malik says.

"I know, but no need for everyone to get up, I have the mindlink and I will remain close"

"I don't mind coming with you" Malik says. "It isn't necessary, I will see you soon, Casen."

Jonah is asleep so you can do what you want, I just don't want him to wake up while I am gone and no one be here, he has been having night terrors"

"On my way" He replies and I cut the link. Walking into the closet, I grab a thin dress and remove my clothes, slipping it on before heading back downstairs and

opening the door. Casen was walking across the grass toward me as I stepped out.

"Luna" He says, pecking my cheek on his way past.

"The TV remote is on the mantle" I tell him.

"Have fun and yes I will lock the door" He says smiling at me as he closes it. I start walking to the side of the house when I notice Malik sitting on the front steps. I roll my eyes knowing he wouldn't be going back in until I returned, walking around the side I also found Zane laying on the grass on his back.

"Really?" I ask him.

"You are our Luna, if you think we will let you roam the forest without anyone out here you are mistaken"

"The border patrols are on, I don't need babysitting" I tell him.

"Yes, they are but we have still been getting rogue scouts along the borders. It isn't safe by yourself, since you won't let any of us come with you, we will remain close enough in case we need to get to you" Zane says.

"I feel bad though, I will just wait and make Andrei take me tomorrow" I tell him and Sierra whines loudly.

"Sage go, but I am not going inside until you are safely tucked back inside the house, border patrol know you are heading out and are keeping watch, you aren't a burden to us, we just care about you Sage, so get used to it" He says.

"Fine, well where are border patrol"

"On the borders, I won't peek you know that and Andrei would tear out anyone's eyes that did, you are safe Sage, this your pack, your family. So if you want to go, go!"

"I will be quick" I tell him, heading to the treeline.

"Take as long as you want," He says, closing his eyes. I step into the dark forest and duck behind a tree. I knew they wouldn't watch me but being out in the open still freaked me out.

Shifting was harder, the tension in my body making the process take a little longer. The moment I do, Sierra takes off. Zipping in and out of trees and pushing herself as hard as she could. We ran for about an hour when she started to slow, lazily walking back toward the clearing and training grounds. When we reach the long grass she lays down hiding amongst it on her back.

"I love this place," Sierra tells me.

"I do too," I tell her.

"We should head back" I tell her, knowing we had been gone awhile.

"We will head back" I mindlink Malik, "Not necessary, just tell me where you are. I can't pick up your scent" He says.

"Are you following me?"

"Guilty, Zane went home to kill a spider for Nora. I was becoming uneasy with just sitting on the steps" I chuckled to myself that Nora needed to be rescued from a spider when she is a werewolf.

"I am in the clearing, where are you?"

"By the waterfall, I will head to you" He replies. "Ok, Casen?"

"With Jonah still, he ate Andrei's cookies that he likes," Malik says and I chuckle. Andrei loved Montecarlo but whenever he got them they mysteriously vanished if Casen was in the house. "Oh and Andrei is a few minutes out, he should be here soon" Malik tells me.

Excitement bubbles in me at our mate coming home and I feel Sierra get all giddy.

Closing the link, Sierra rolls over on her tummy, before spotting a rabbit. She crawls on her belly, eyes trained on her target. "Ew no, please"

"I just want play with it"

"Your idea of play and mine are two different things, I don't play with my teeth" I tell her.

"Just let me catch it, I will let it go" She says licking her furry chops, there was no way she was going to let it go, she likes the chase. She would let it go of course then hunt it back down until the poor thing was exhausted and practically crawled in her mouth to get some rest and die.

"Shh" She says as she snuck closer, her tail wagging behind her.

"It can't hear me"

"But it's distracting, just like Andrei turning the radio down when he is looking for a parking spot, it helps you see better" She says.

"We don't look with our ears" I tell her and shushes me again. I roll my eyes at her as she bounces on it. She pins it between her paws and

starts licking it. The rabbit thrashes as she mauls it with her tongue.

"Why do you do that?" I ask her.

"Soften it up, tenderising with my tongue" she answers before letting it go. She lets it run a few feet away before pouncing on it again.

"And that?"

"I like its fear, kind of like how you like salt and pepper makes it taste better" She answers picking it up like it was pup. It thrashes as she plays with it when it shrieks.

"Please Sierra, you know I hate when you hurt them, just eat it or let it go" I snap at her.

"Fine" She says, about to kill it when I hear the grass rustle. Sierra's head whips up and she looks around but hears nothing.

"Malik was quick," I tell her.

"Too quick" She says standing up and the rabbit darts away. Sierra sniffed the air when we heard another rustle of grass. She spins quickly but nothing is there.

"Malik, where are you?" I ask through the link when it is suddenly overwhelmed with Andrei's voice.

"Rogues!" He bellows through the link. "Malik!"

"Get home Sage now!" He screams and Sierra goes to take off when the grass directly behind us makes noise. We were so close to the border here and the grass so overgrown, we still had a good ten minutes run to the training grounds.

"Sage, where are you, are you safe?" Andrei asks.

"The clearing, I don't think I am alone out here" I tell him, scanning the area. Sierra's fur hackles up, like a sense when you know you are being cornered and watched. I could hear fighting in the forest, yet every noise had us turning and I got the feeling there was more than one rogue in this grass. When a warm gust of wind flattened the grass, I see the reflection of two sets of eyes looking back at us, hunched low to the ground when I hear savage growls just as teeth sink into our side. Sierra whimpers trying to get the wolf off as it perches on our back. Its teeth ripping into our side when the other two jump us, teeth and claws ripping us to pieces. We never stood a chance.

"Sierra get us out" I scream as she tries to defend herself, but no matter how we move, teeth and claws sink in ripping off chunks of flesh and fur. Sierra whimpers but we were pinned underneath three wolves hell bent on trying to kill us.

"Shift back" I scream, feeling her trying to hold off, but a smaller body is harder to target. I could hear Andrei screaming in my head but I couldn't pay attention or even reply. I hear Malik and the warriors screaming out to me when I

feel Sierra's back leg snap, her ribs breaking and she is given no choice but to shift to heal quicker.

I scream as I feel teeth sink into my thigh and then my shoulder. Pain, all I feel is pain, but one had to back off because three were now getting each other's way. I kicked one in the head only for him to bite my foot before flinging me like I weighed nothing.

My pulse was beating in my ears and my head as I smack the ground, clawing at the dirt. All that training was for nothing, I was no match against one let alone three. We should have been paying better attention to our surroundings.

Claws sink into my back before I feel it breathe on my neck. Another was ripping at my broken leg and I closed my eyes waiting for it to snap my neck. My breathing wheezing as its weight

crushed my broken ribs. Sierra is screaming in my head to get up. My mind is going to Jonah, going to Andrei. I let out a breath and my leg felt like it was nearly torn off just below the knee.

I resigned myself to death when the weight was gone suddenly. I hear fighting, hear horrendous sounds of flesh tearing and shrieking cries, the gurgling and gasping noises all I could focus on other than the pain. I used my hands trying to crawl away but even my upper body strength was gone. I hear grass rustling all around me, hear so much fighting I was worried someone would fall on me.

I tense when I feel fur brush me but instead of teeth, I feel tingles and a wet tongue on my leg. I could still hear rustling but no more fighting.

"You're okay, Love" Andrei says, while Donnie uses his nose to roll me over. I scream when only part of my leg moves with me.

"Hold her leg" I hear boom through the link.

"Hate me later" Andrei says when Malik suddenly shifts next to me. He kneels next to me, grabbing my ankle.

"Sorry Luna," He says, trying not to look at my naked busted up body.

"Do it?" Andrei snaps at him before my scream rings out through the night as Malik forces it back into position. Donnie tongue worked frantically over my injuries trying to heal them.

"Hold her skin together" Andrei tells him and Malik's eyes dart to mine, but I couldn't care less right now about being naked in front of him. I knew I was bleeding to death.

"Please don't hate me" He says following Andrei's instructions. Donnie growls at him when he hesitates about touching me. I felt dazed and I couldn't even feel

pain anymore, I just wanted to sleep. My DNA tried to heal me and Donnie but time slowed, I became very aware of my muted surroundings as I stared up at the sky, the breeze making the grass sway.

"You can go check the others," Andrei says, shifting back.

"They are fine, looks like they went after"

"Don't fucking say it" Andrei snaps, at Malik.

I couldn't figure out what they were talking about. Right now I couldn't care less either. I just wanted to check Jonah.

"They never should have got across the borders, we can't cover every access point, we move them tomorrow after the Dominic leaves, we are stronger with numbers, we will figure out where to put them," Andrei says.

"This is retaliation, Andrei. We can't afford another war right now" Malik says.

"Yes but I won't lose anymore of my people, tomorrow be ready we are bringing them home" Andrei tells him. I try to remember what day it is, tomorrow was Tuesday wasn't it. Malik runs off and Andrei grips my face.

"Why didn't you tell me you wanted to run, I would have come home and taken you?" He asks.

Andrie helps me sit up, and I see the huge jagged scar along my shin to my knee. Another one, I swear I was 80 percent scar tissue.

"It looks bad now, it will heal neater" Andrei says and I hiss as he tries to grab me, my body was drenched in blood, looking at Andrei's, so was he. Though by the stench it wasn't his.

"Argh" I cry out as he puts pressure on my ribs.

"Shit ok, we wait or I try to heal you more" He says, but I know he was forced to shift back after Donnie tried to heal the worst parts of me.

Andrei grabs me under the arms pulling me between his legs. Rest, I will keep watch until you tell me I can pick you up.

"Why?" I manage to murmur. Andrei sighs.

"It's my fault, when I went to the rogue camp I got into a fight with one of the leaders of the male camp"

"The rogue camp attacked us?" I ask.

"No, it's mostly women and children, but today I went there to try and convince them to join the pack. They refused because the other camp visited them last night and threatened them. Plus they are still hesitant"

"Because of you killing rogues" I answer for him and he nods.

"No, I think it is more to do with fear of the other camp. I was thinking of asking Dominic and Kat tomorrow for their opinions on how to deal with it, but now they have attacked me. I think I am going to need to ask for more than opinions" Andrei says.

"What do you mean?"

"I am going to ask them to help me take out the other camp, they are a danger to all neighbouring packs but the fact they are preying on other rogue camps won't be taken lightly. I doubt even Dominic would agree to let that go on, they may be rogue but they are a community as far as werewolf law goes" Andrei explains. Andrei lifted my arm up looking at my ribs, the bruises were still there but the bones healed and I could breathe easier.

"I am going to try to move you now" Andrei says and I nod letting him grab me. I bite my tongue when my leg throbs as he picks me up.

I notice Andrei has claw marks down his pack but he doesn't seem to notice or doesn't care as he starts walking toward the training grounds. He walks for 10 minutes before I see the packhouse surrounded by multiple warriors.

Casen rushes over with a towel when he spots us draping it over me in Andrei's arms.

"How many and any alive?" Andrei asks him while walking. "Eleven rogues and No, three tried to attack the packhouse, Jonah slept through it and is still asleep. Then three attacked Sage, the other five I think we're supposed to be a distraction, one got away over the river"

"You and Jonah don't go anywhere without warriors or Zane and Malik" Andrei tells me before looking at Casen. "Go tell Nora and her siblings the same thing, they are not to leave her house unless someone is with them" Casen nods darting off toward Nora's place.

"Where did they get through?" Andrei asks as we approach a group of warriors. Vince was injured and Zane handed him a bottle of amber liquid that looked like whiskey or bourbon. Vince guzzles it down and Zane pats his shoulder.

"Ready" Vince nods and Malik grips his bicep and I watched with avid fascination and disgust as Zane broke his arm back into place after it healed wrong. Vince screamed a colourful array of curses while Andrei discussed with Clay how the rogues got in but it made me wonder if the unsettled feeling I got earlier was the rogues because now I no longer had it.

I tried to get out of Andrei's arms but he refused to put me down until we were inside and I rushed up the steps instantly to check Jonah and exactly as Casen said he was still asleep. Andrei took a shower before telling me to go to bed while he made some phone calls and once again nerves about tomorrow kicked in. Dominic scared me, I know he helped Andrei in the city but I just had this sickening feeling about tomorrow.

I got it every time I thought of this alleged playdate. What if it was a set up? What if tomorrow Andrei gets carted away to prison for initiating Jonah illegally or for killing Clive. I had no idea what to expect and I didn't trust this apparently changed version of Dominic, something always felt off with him since I met him. Then Also Jonah's words about his son Kyan, about some dark

magic. I didn't know whether it was a trick of his imagination or if he really did witness dark magic being used.

"We should sleep, we will heal faster and we will need our strength tomorrow just in case " Sierra tells me.

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Andrei POV

I sent Sage to bed after we showered, going downstairs I head to my office. Zane and Malik were already waiting for me, having let themselves in.

"How's Nora?" I ask Zane.

"Scared, she said she has had run ins with that particular camp before, she recognised one the bodies and said it was definitely one of the Reaper Wolves"

"Reaper Wolves?" I ask Zane and he nods, dropping some paperwork in front of me.

"Found these online and printed them while you were in the shower" He tells me and I glance down at the printed pieces of paper. Fuck! Here we were thinking they were just a normal rogue camp but turns out they were part of some criminal organisation that even the human population knew about for their crimes. By the looks of it they dabbled in drugs and trafficking which I was surprised to find Rogues willing to put that much attention on themselves with the human media.

Some humans were aware of our kind and smaller local towns had suspicions but with Dominic being involved with human politics and high ups most of this sort of stuff was swept under the rug or covered up. All packs pay monthly contributions

to Dominic and he in turns pays off the human governing areas to turn a blind eye and keep people out of the werewolf communities in this area. It wasn't in our best interests to be known widely to the public. We could be hunted down and experimented on or just hunted. Humans had a tendency to panic and knowledge of werewolves existing may cause widespread panic and hysteria which is not good for anyone.

"What a stupid name to call yourself, Reaper wolves" Malik says reading over the paper. I just put down when I found an old newspaper article with Dominic's picture. He appeared in the background and was shaking the mayor's hand. While the main picture was of a few men sitting in the gutter being arrested with their heads down, human police behind them but I knew they never would have made it to human prisons and it would probably explain why Dominic was in the background of the picture.

"That's Dominic, do you think he had something to do with the attack?" Zane asks, leaning over my shoulder. Malik moves around my desk and looks over my shoulder to read the article as well.

"No, Idea" I tell him, before grabbing my mobile. I look for Ezra's number and ring him. The phone rings a few times before he answers.

"Hello?" His voice sounds rather strained through the phone.

"Bad time?" I ask him, wondering why he was breathing so hard, was he working out?

"Ah depends, is it important?"

"Kind of, we were attacked tonight. I wanted to ask you a question" I tell him when I hear Kat in the background ask who he is talking to but he doesn't answer.

"Is everyone alright?"

"Yeah we are now, but have you heard of Reaper wolves?" Ezra groans and I pull the phone away from my ear thinking it was a strange response and look at the screen.

"Ah what was the question again?" He asks.

"If it is a bad time I can call back, clearly you are distracted by something"

"No, I am just fucking your sister, it's fine I can multitask" He chuckles. I growl before going to hang up.

"Joking, I am joking, " Ezra says. "She is actually sucking my dick" "Fucking prick, when I see you"

"You will high five me" He says and I growl.

"Fine, fine. Mateo, stay with Kat, I will be back in a second, I have Andrei on the phone" Ezra says and I hear Kat start going off in the background about being on the phone to me and not telling her.

"I don't know what's more disturbing knowing my father is in the house with you and listening to that or you groaning in my fucking ear like some porn star" I tell him.

"Derrick isn't home, he went to his storage locker to retrieve something, so be quick because I have a date with your sister's vagina" Ezra tells me and I hear Malik and Zane snort while listening to him. I glare at them both and they put their hands up before sitting on the edge desk and pretending not to listen.

"So what did you want to know?"

"Reaper wolves, have you heard of them?"

"That's the rogue gang, a bunch of pussies if you ask me. I have had a few run-ins with them when they stepped over my borders. Our governments have been tracking them, but they move around too much and no one knows where they are permanently based. I know a while back a heap of them were arrested and Dominic had them killed, so why are you asking about them?"

"They are the ones that attacked us, the rogue camp that is joining my pack was having issues with them and we had a run in with them this morning, then tonight they attacked my pack, so Alpha Dominic is aware of them?"

"Yeah, do you not listen in meetings?" He asks but I don't remember hearing anything of this rogue gang.

"Must have missed it, plus I missed heaps when mum was sick" I tell him and he sighs.

"I probably shouldn't tell you this but it may help. If you need men just ask I will send some over, but honestly if you want help with them, ask Dominic. You could be Dominic's worst enemy but when it comes to Reaper Wolves he will back you"

"Why is that?"

"That's how he found his mate, they had her working a corner in the City when Dominic stumbled across her, she was beaten pretty badly by her pimp and she stumbled into his Casino looking for help, they laced her with wolfsbane and she nearly died unable to heal from her injuries. Security was called and Dominic went to investigate why when he saw her. He hunted every member of the Reaper Wolves in the city and killed them for her, including one of the bosses which was quite shocking" Ezra tells me.

"Why would it be shocking?" I asked him.

"Because the head boss was actually a woman, she started it and her mate helped her, Dominic has been hunting her mate ever since" Ezra explains.

We chat for a while longer before hanging up. "So what do you want to do?" Zane asks me.

"Speak to Dominic tomorrow about them, see if his pack is willing to help us. In the morning I will ring a bus company and see if we can hire a bus to get out to the camping grounds"

"Sounds good, I will handle the bus if you want. I will ring when I wake up in the morning" Zane tells me and I nod.

"Fine, you both might as well get some sleep. I need to go check on patrols" I tell them.

"No need. The entire pack is on border patrol, none could sleep afterwards and I think it has dragged up old memories for a few" Malik tells me.

"Casen and Vince?" I ask him.

"They wanted to go but I said no, they settled for going to watch over Nora's siblings" Malik tells me.

"And you two?"

"Borders once done here" Zane answers and I shake my head.

"Try convince a few to head in and try to sleep, everyone will be exhausted otherwise and we need everyone alert, we don't want anyone falling asleep on shift"

"We will try, I will tell those on duty when rogues got in to head home" Zane says and I nod before getting up out of my chair.

"What time is Dominic getting here?" Malik asks.

"11 in the morning, my sister and father should be here around 10" I tell them and they both nod.

"Okay, get some sleep Alpha, we will sort borders and patrols out" Malik tells me as I walk them out.

I don't know what I would do without them and my father.

"Also Wednesday pack meeting, need to make sure everyone is okay and not struggling, I know a few struggle badly with PTSD, so pack meeting for welfare checks Wednesday lunch time, if they say they haven't got time, tell them to make time, everyone is to show up no excuses" I tell them.

I tell them before watching them leave. Shutting the door I set the alarm before heading upstairs and checking Jonah. He had kicked his blanket onto the floor and I scoop it up draping it back over him before pecking his head. His dinosaur teddy tucked under his arm while he sucked his thumb in his sleep. I gently pull it out of his mouth before rolling my eyes when he shoves it in his gob again.

Walking out and into my room, I find Sage fast asleep drooling on my pillow. I take my pillow tipping it over and she growls at me as I climb in bed beside her before realising it is me. Her body molding around me as she chucks her leg across my waist, her arm Ringing across my face. I move it off placing it across my chest only for her to toss it back across my head. Giving up I leave it there too tired to try to wrangle her in her sleep.

Sage POV

I was in a place of sleep where you aren't quite ready to wake up. Rolling over my eyes flutter at the light coming in when I see wide eyes barely an inch off my face making me nearly jump out of my skin, fur sprouting across my arms from the fright.

"Hi mum" Jonah says, his face right in mine as he blinked down at me. I try to get my racing heart under control.

"You scared me," I tell him.

"I tried to make breakfast but I broke it" Jonah tells me. I blink trying to understand what he meant and I sit up rubbing my eyes.

"What do you mean you tried to make breakfast?"

"I wanted to surprise you and dad" He says when I notice he is covered in flour. I blink taking in his tiny body.

"I tried to make pancakes like pop, then they exploded, shh" he says, holding his finger to his lips and waving for me to follow him.

"What exploded?" Andrei says rolling over and propping himself up on one elbow.

"The pancakes, I tried to use the mixing spoon but it was too hard to get the lumps out, pop says you have to get out the lumps. But my arm started aching so I put it in the thing that makes the bzzz noise but then it exploded, but I saved the chocolate chips" Jonah tells us before holding out his hand to show us the melted chocolate.

"This is what's left, I ate the rest" He says, his little lips making a kissy face and I chuckle.

"Okay let's see this explosion" I tell him tossing the blanket back and grabbing my dressing gown before following him out.

I stood horrified in the kitchen doorway, batter was everywhere, even on the roof. The kitchen was covered in flour and batter. Andrei runs into my back as he walks in before stopping.

"What the.... How?" He says with a groan, shaking his head and I step aside.

"I told you it exploded," Jonah says with puppy dog eyes.

"Jonah you shouldn't use a blender, you could have cut your fingers and where is the lid?" Andrei says and I walk into the pantry to grab some cereal out. Andrei hands me a bowl and spoon and I make Jonah some coco pops sitting him at the table.

"It didn't have a lid" Jonah says and Andrei shakes his head before rubbing a hand down his face. "It is too early for this," He mutters.

"Buddy, you don't cook by yourself. You should have woken one of us" Andrei tells him, looking at the mess. Walking to the sink I grab a chux.

Looking around I had no idea where to start. Andrei grabs the mop and wheels the bucket in before filling it up in the laundry. I start scrubbing the cupboards. An hour later and we were finished and I was dressing Jonah when Andrei sang out to let me know Kat and her family were here. Jonah bounces down the steps as Andrei opens the front door letting them in.

"Mateo walks in with Eziah in his arms before placing him down and he looked too small to be walking but was cute too watch as he stomped his feet clapping his hands.

Ezra walks in with Marabella while Kat and Derrick bring in some baby items for the kids to play with and nap in if needed. We set the kids up in the living room and put some cartoons on while Andrei and Ezra wandered off to the kitchen to talk while making coffee.

"Hey" Kat says, giving me a hug and a kiss on the cheek after setting everything down. Marabella was crawling on the floor chasing after her brother as he walked around before stopping next to Jonah, she tried pulling herself up by trying to grip his pants but the mittens made her fall back to her hands and knees.

"Jonah, leave her mittens" I tell him as he tries to pull Marabella's mittens off.

"But she doesn't like them," Jonah says.

"She has to leave them on sweetie" Kat tells him but Jonah shakes his head.

"No, it hurts, she doesn't like it" Jonah says, trying to pull her mitten off her little hand.

"Jonah, no!" I tell him, walking over to him but Mateo reaches for Marabella instead and she starts crying when he picks her up.

"That one, it hurts," Jonah says, pointing to her left hand. My brows furrow and so do Kat's when Mateo pulls her mitten off before Kat shrieks rushing over. Her little pointer finger swollen and red, a piece of cotton from inside the mitten had wrapped around her finger and cut the circulation off. Kat quickly unwraps it before healing her finger by kissing it. Marabella smiles and babbles happily.

"What, what's going on" Ezra comes barging out.

"Marabella had cotton wrapped around her finger" Kat explains.

"That must have been why she was crying in the car, I just thought it was because she hates the car" Mateo says checking inside the mitten when we all turn to look at Jonah.

"How did you know?" Kat asks him.

"She showed me, in my head" Jonah shrugs, she cries in my head and held her hand up" Jonah says and I look at Marabella.

"She showed you?" I ask him.

"She doesn't like them," Jonah says sitting on the floor. He rolls the fabric ball to Ezhiah and he squeals trying to copy and roll it back but unable to. We watch Jonah playing with the kids for a bit. Marabella followed him around, giggling as she crawled after him and her brother when I heard a car pulling up. We left the front door open knowing Dominic would be here soon.

"That must be Dominic," Andrei says and I get up following Andrei to the door. Walking outside Kat and Ezra follow us out. Mateo stayed to watch the kids. Dominic gets out of the car before walking to the back door and opening it. The other door swings open and his son climbs out of the car. He looked like his father.

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"Kyan grab the folder off the passenger seat for please" Dominic tells him before reaching in the back of the car. Kyan does as he is told before shutting the door and walking over to his father and handing him the document.

"I brought a fruit platter and a sandwich platter from the hotel," Dominic says and Kat and I look at each other. I think we were quite shocked to see him like this. I didn't know what I was expecting but I was not expecting this. Andrei walks over to him as he sets a platter on the roof of his car.

Andrei quickly shakes his hand and Dominic motions to grab the platter off the roof while he grabs the other one from the backseat.

"Kyan, did you take a bite of one and put it back?" Dominic asks his son before shaking his head. "Kids," He says, grabbing it out before walking over to us.

"Katya, Sage, Ezra," Dominic says before looking around.

"Where is Mateo?" He asks.

"Inside with the kids" Andrei answers.

"Ah, Kyan" Dominic calls out and his son runs over and we show them inside.

"Coffee?" I ask and he nods.

"Please, where can I put these, the kids would be hungry, Kyan obviously is" He laughs pointing to a sandwich with a bite out of it.

"Kyan!" Jonah squeals, rushing past Dominic and over to his son.

"Want to see my room, I have a car bed" Jonah says but Kyan was too busy staring at the twins. Dominic looks down noticing his stare, looks down at his son.

"She is like me," Kyan says, stepping toward the living room.

"Kyan, go play with Jonah" Dominic says.

"But—"

"But nothing, go play with Jonah, you can meet them in a minute. I need to speak with Sage and Andrei, as well as Kat" Kyan nods his head sadly when Jonah grabs his hand tugging him up the stairs and both boys rush up the steps to Jonah's room.

"Sorry about that, he can sense your daughter's magic," Dominic says but Kat was staring up the stairs after the two boys.

"Katya?" Dominic says.

"Sorry, I was lost in thought, what were you saying?" Kat says.

"I said my son can sense your daughter's magic, but you already know that. Don't you?"

"Yes, just like I can sense yours and his" She says and Dominic nods to her. Ezra was quietly watching the exchange just as confused as the rest of us.

"Where can I put this?" Dominic says, holding up the sandwich platter.

"Oh in the kitchen, Andrei was putting on a barbeque for lunch too" I told Dominic, showing him to the kitchen. He places the platter on the dining table before taking his suit jacket off and draping it over a chair. He then rolls his shirt sleeves to his elbows and I was shocked to find he was covered in tattoos. Some strange spiralling pattern up both arms.

"Sorry, it's hotter here than in the city," He says before sitting down while I make coffee for everyone.

Mateo and Ezra bring Eziah and Marabella out. Marabella instantly goes over to Dominic and he picks her up. "Hey cutie," Dominic says to her.

"Just watch her hands," Katya says.

"No, need. Her Magic is similar to mine" He says, tugging her mittens off and holding his hands out with his palms up. Marabella starts smacking his hands with hers, Katya watching and I could see the curious look on her face. Mateo looked like he was about to faint watching the Alpha of Alpha's playing with his daughter, while Ezra walked over to me and started handing out coffees as I made them. Grabbing my mug, I take a sip and nearly spit it across the bench when I see Dominic's hands covered in black mist.

"Eziah, is an elemental" Dominic asks and Kat looks at Eziah.

"Healing, what's an Elemental?"

"Yes, Earth magic, I can sense it. He is strong but not as strong as her. Her magic is very similar to mine and Kyan's, darker but she has the shadow element too" Dominic says.

"So you do have magic?" I blurted, which was obvious by the fact he was letting Marabella play with his mist-covered hands.

"Yes, the rumours are true, which I am sure you have heard. She is drawing on mine and I can feel hers, it is strong" Dominic says and Kat nods.

"Dominic's bloodline comes from witches," Kat tells me and I nod.

"So that is why she can't kill you?" I ask, watching Marabella grasping the mist in his hands and giggling as it climbs up her arms like it was tickling her.

"Correct, I doubt she would be able to hurt Kyan either, their magic is very similar though Kyan's is different to her shadow element" Dominic says.

"How so?"

"He resurrected his pet rabbit once, bloody thing turn cannibalistic before he killed it"

"He resurrected the dead?" I ask shocked before I could stop myself.

"Yes, but our magic is dark so it tainted it, he is slowly learning to control it. Don't worry he won't hurt Jonah" He says and I nod, praying that is

true. He slips her mittens back on and she pouts.

"Until you can control it, these must stay on. You are quite the weapon missy" Dominic tells her before passing her to Mateo. Mateo kisses her

cheek and Dominic grabs his coffee.

"I heard you had issues last night?" Dominic asks Andrei.

"Yes, we were attacked by rogues," Andrei tells him.

"No fatalities I hope"

"No, luckily. They went after Sage and Jonah though"

"Okay we can discuss it after lunch if you like in detail, but first I have some paperwork to show you and for you to sign" He says retrieving the folder Kyan grabbed off the front seat of his car for him.

"So you really came here just for a playdate?" Kat asks him and Dominic looks at her.

"What else for?" He asks, confused. Kat shrugs, taking a seat next to Andrei.

"I just thought after the Alpha meeting and you taking Jonah from Andrei" She stops.

"What, that I would do something like hurt your brother? I was pissed off, I was hoping you would stand down, I have run things for a long time Kat. Honestly, I didn't expect you to raise to the occasion if I am honest"

"What do you mean?"

"You are young, my job isn't for the faint hearted, you will be forced to do things you won't like or agree with, but as Queen the same as Alpha of Alpha's it is your job to rule, to do what's best for the packs. I may be an asshole Katya but I have good reason, you can't be a pushover when at top, can't show weakness it will get you killed or

worse start an uprising with the packs"

"I don't want your position, that was never my intention to take it from you, you are still Alpha of Alphas," Kat tells him.

“Correct and that won’t change. We have just added another level to the hierarchy. I was angry when I was shown up by a 19 year old girl. But that is behind us, I know you are capable, you did one thing I was never able to do” Dominic says.

“And what is that?” She asks.

“Rally the Luna’s. Get the Luna’s to speak up, I tried and they just saw me as another Alpha.”

After a while I gave up, some people don’t like change but I know it is necessary. You will be challenged but those challenges won’t be coming from me” Dominic says. Ezra lets out a breath before leaning back in his chair.

Dominic opens up the file in his hand before turning it around and placing it in front of Andrei and I before placing another in front of Kat. “The petition?” She asks.

“Yes, I signed it. I had the law changed yesterday, all of them and yours you just need to sign the dotted line and Kat and I can sign off on it” Dominic says, pointing to the paper in front of me. Andrei grabs it, reading it over.

“Adoption paperwork?”

“Correct, he will be officially your son, I had these filled out before Clive took him, I was always going to give him back”

“Wait, you aren’t taking him from us?” I ask.

“No, why would I do that? I wanted Kat to step down but when Andrei rang me and said Jonah was in trouble I realised I made a mistake. I may not be a good man Sage but I own up to my mistakes and taking Jonah from a loving home is one of them. I am not proud of all of my decisions, but I am a father and I realised I let my ego get in the way of what was best for your son. As for Kat, I seriously thought she was in over her head but clearly she has a backbone, something you will need” He says turning to look at her. Kat nods her head to him.

“And if you need help just ask, best to ask then make a mistake that could have been avoided like this clusterfuck with Jonah, but one good thing is some laws have been changed and you rallied the she-wolves. So hopefully we will see some changes amongst the packs, my wife was trying to do that before her passing. She almost had them in the courts helping make decisions but when she died they stopped fighting for their places amongst the Alpha’s. Luna’s are important in packs, the Alpha’s the muscle in a sense the Luna’s the caregivers of a pack, they nurture and keep the peace, they are just as important as the Alphas, I think some Alpha’s forget that” He says.

“So, I just sign this and he is ours officially?” Andrei says, reaching for the pen.

"Not that it could be any more official than initiating him but oh well, legally this required" He says and Andrei nods signing it before passing it to me and I quickly sign knowing Andrei would have read it. Dominic then signs it before passing it to Kat who also signs it.

"You can hand that in or do you want me to?" He asks.

"I can do it" Kat says.

"Just let me take a photo, so I can email a copy off as well" Dominic says, taking it and taking a photo of each page before handing it back to Kat. He then types up an email before showing it to Kat who nods before he sends it. Kat takes the documents, handing it to Ezra who carefully folds it and puts it in his pocket.

Jonah and Kyan come down stairs, rushing into the kitchen with some toy cars. Kyan stops next to his father. Dominic sips his coffee watching his son over his mug.

"What is wrong?" He asks him and Kyan looks over at Marabella.

"Can they play with Jonah and I"

"That is up to their parents, you are asking the wrong person" Dominic tells him and Kyan nods before looking at Mateo and Ezra.

"Can I play with them?" He asks.

"Of course you can but play where we can see you all" Mateo answers him and Kyan looks at his father.

"Go on then" Dominic tells him and Kyan rushes over to Jonah who was playing with his toy cars with Marabella and Eziah. Kat was observing them, she almost seemed distracted.

"My son has control, Kat. He won't hurt your children, he knows better than that" Dominic tells her and Kat pulls her eyes away from them.

"It's not that" She says and Dominic nods to her like he understood whatever they weren't saying out loud. Ezra was watching Kat, his eyes narrow and he leans forward staring between them and Kat looks away.

"How about we get this Barbeque going?" Mateo says, getting up.

"Great Idea, boys there are sandwiches on the table and fruit" Dominic tells Kyan and Jonah and they hop up helping themselves. Kyan grabs a sandwich and a piece of watermelon before plopping down on the mat with the kids. Marabella crawls over to him and tries to grab the watermelon from him.

"Here you go," Kyan says, holding the watermelon to her lips.

"Kyan, did you ask?" Dominic scolds his son and he jerks his hand back.

"They can eat the fruit but the sandwiches might be a bit hard for her to eat" Kat tells him and he nods holding the watermelon out to her and Kat jumps.

"Wait" she rushes over just as Marabella bites him. A shriek leaving her lips but Kyan laughs.

"She has teeth" He laughs and Kat looked like she was about to throw up.

"Told you" Dominic says, patting her shoulder as he passes her, while Kat and Ezra look dumbfounded.

"You're hiding something" I hear Ezra whisper in her ear as he walks past. He gives her a look before following Andrei out.

"What did he mean?" I ask her.

"Nothing, I was worried her bite would hurt him"

"They seem fine" I tell her and she nods her head with a look of worry on her face.

"Well that wasn't what I expected" I tell Kat and she sighs leaning back in her chair

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Andrei POV

"What is going on with the rogue situation?" Dominic asks, sitting on one of the bench seats while I turn the barbeque on. My father goes inside before returning with sausages and steaks and passing them to me.

"Yes, apparently you have dealt with them before. Reaper wolves attacked my pack last night, and went after my mate and Jonah. They seemed to be the only places targeted" I tell him and he instantly sits straight before leaning forward and clasping his hands together, his elbows braced on his knees.

It was odd seeing Dominic so casual looking. If I could get past the dramas caused with Jonah I would probably get on pretty well with him.

"You know where they are?" Dominic asks.

I go on to explain everything to him and he listens intently before making a few phone calls and walking off when Zane comes around the back of the house.

"Smells good"

"Yeah, about to sit down and eat if you want to join us, what's up?" I ask him.

"Bus will be here around 1 pm"

"Good, I am coming with you," Dominic says, having hung up the phone.

"You want to come pick up the rogues?" I ask.

"You want my help, I am helping. I have men on the way already, they should be here by two, we will leave after that" Dominic says before looking at Sage as she comes out the back with the kids.

"Sage, do you mind watching Kyan for me for a couple of hours while I go with Andrei to the rogue camp?"

"No, he is fine here, I can watch him" Sage says looking down at Kyan who runs off with Jonah to go roll in the grass.

"Well that settles it then" Dominic says and Zane speaks.

"Good, I will get some people ready," Zane says before walking off.

Everyone ate lunch and we made sure the kids were all fed, setting them a little picnic on the back lawn. We were discussing the rogue situation and going over some maps on the outside table while we were eating so I could show Dominic where we found the other rogue camps. Just over the last few weeks we had noticed they shift around a lot never staying in one place for long when Dominic points to two towns on either side.

"They must have permanent residences in one of these two towns, there seems to be a pattern if your locations and times are correct. You said the rogue women are picked up randomly making me think they are called in"

"It's a patrol roster, you said at night that your scouts said these two camps are randomly manned, were your men keeping track of the times they would see women come and go from the camp?" Mateo asks.

"Um yeah" I tell him, scrambling through the papers when my father pulls out the journals.

"He is correct, these two camps both have roads leading in and out of the camps and the roads leading into those have straight access to both towns. Look at the times, they match up too for the girls and the camp rosters"

"What about the other two camps, this one is also manned at the same time but doesn't have a road?" Kat says, pointing to the map of the other two

camps besides the ones that are hardly used further out.

"That must be where the calls come in, there is a phone tower there, the rogue camp has no reception, they must take the calls here and then someone from these two camps pick them up when called" I tell them when I look at Dominic, it made sense but that just unsettled me more.

"They have an Alpha, the only way to communicate is mindlink if not by phone, so unless they have made a pack there would be no way to get a hold of them" Mateo says what I am thinking. "

"So it's definitely a patrol roster, the other three camps they have been spotted must be dummy camps, to throw people off. I would bet they have two residences, one each town depending on the calls they get decides where the girls get sent" Mateo adds.

"They wouldn't be taking them to the residence though, it would be too risky. Did they say where they were meeting the buyers" Dominic asks and I shake my head, that was one thing they were never willing to give up.

"No they said when they were never taken into the towns to meet up, so they must take them somewhere else" I look over at Sage, her eyes trained on the map, my stomach rolls at the dark look on her face. I could see what she was looking at and two seconds later she confirmed it.

"They are taking them to Flower Meadow. Flower Meadow runs directly between the two towns and is only ten minutes from each one but also on each end there are camping grounds for tourists" Sage says.

"You're sure?" Dominic asks her.

"It makes sense and I was taken from there along with my mother when I was kid, they were staying at the camping grounds there when they came across us. When we heard of flower meadow and asked to go, it was because one of the locals mentioned it but he said be careful the camping grounds out there got pretty rowdy of a night with the tourist, maybe they weren't tourists, maybe it was this Reaper Wolves, " Sage says making me wonder if the men that took her were apart of this organization.

I had more questions but I knew she would be uncomfortable answering them when her eyes went to mine. She sighs rubbing her temples. I never brought this stuff up with her. I waited for her to tell me not wanting to drag up her past.

"Just ask, I know you want to ask me something. If it helps I will try to answer if we can get them away from this camp " Sage tells me. Dominic was watching her curiously, he was the only one unaware of Sage's past at this table. Dominic tilts his head to the side watching her.

"Forgive me but when you say you were taken, what do you mean?" Sage's eyes go to mine and Kat pats her knee gently.

"When I was 13 my family visited Flower Meadow. When we went to leave my mother and I were taken and my father killed. I was stuck with the men that took us until Andrei came across their camp" Sage answers.

"Your mother?"

"She was killed when she tried to stop them from using me" She says without going into detail but she didn't need to. We knew what that implied.

"Where did you find her?" Dominic asks me.

"The other side of the mountain, between these two camps, but closer to the dummy site ones" I answer.

"I was surprised she came back with you, no offense" Dominic says.

"I didn't at first, he hunted me down and followed me into the waterfall. He saved me, I was chained to a tree, he seemed like the safer option once I realised he wasn't going to kill me" Sage answers.

"The men that took you, did they ever take you to these camps?" I asked her, I hated myself asking but she answered.

"No, but looking at the maps we were mostly on the outskirts of these other camps, it would make sense if they were part of this group though because the three men that held us, left in intervals and sometimes they would leave me chained to a tree for days at a time until they returned. I always thought it was for supply runs but maybe it was to help man these other camps" She says pointing to the mountain and the surrounding camps we found.

"This is where my first mate was killed" She says, pointing to the border of Ezra and Kat's territory.

"That's also where my pack has had runs in with them, but they always left before I got there, we never had reason to go to the other of the river that runs through it, so I never sent scouts out that way" Ezra says before looking at Sage who nods before looking at me.

It was quite tragic to think about it. Sage was so close to two packs that would have helped, right under our noses all this time and suffering so close to us. I know that was what Ezra was thinking as well. We could have stopped all this if we had noticed them earlier.

"Yes, well one thing I noticed in the city when they were there, one of the rules that was implemented was besides the pimps, no one was to touch the working girls, makes sense they would have some on the side to keep them busy because

most didn't have mates, the three men that took her what happened to them?" Dominic asks.

"I killed them, Sage...." I pause looking at her and she huffs but nods.

"Sage killed one of them when I brought two of them back here after catching them" I tell him and he nods. I wondered if that would make him change his mind about everything, I know he would have heard the rumours of rogues being killed in this area.

"The bodies?"

"In the incinerator"

"Good, so no evidence" He says and I nod. Our attention is quickly diverted back to planning while we wait for Dominic's men to arrive, when we hear laughter coming from behind us. Turning around the two boys were in fits of giggles before I heard Jonah talk making us look over at him.

"You can do it, come on" Jonah says and we all turn around to find Marabella with her mittens off, holding both of Kyan's hands and standing. Eziah clapped his hands as he watched his sister standing on wobbly legs. Jonah's arms are outstretched when she suddenly takes a step toward Jonah before falling on her bottom. Kat stands up and so does Mateo and Ezra as Marabella pulls herself up to a standing position again using Kyan hands. She giggles, taking another step.

"She is walking," Sage gasps. Just as she takes another step and Kyan's hands leave hers and she wobbles awkwardly over to Jonah's outstretched arms laughing.

"Her hands" Ezra gasps and Mateo rushes over just as Marabella grabs Jonah's making my heart stop for a second.

"You did it" Jonah squeals excitedly, hugging her just as Mateo gets up walking over to them.

"She isn't using her magic, stress less. She is happy" Dominic says to Kat and Ezra who both looked like they were fighting the urge to race over and force her mittens back on her hands.

"Come to dadda" Mateo says, kneeling on the ground off the side of the two boys.

"Are you going to put her mittens on her, we only just took them off for a second" Jonah asks and he helps Marabella stand. Her little hands clamping onto his arms as she wobbles on her feet.

"No, I want to see if she will come to me," Mateo answers when suddenly both Jonah's and Kyan's eyes glaze over. Dominic laughs softly making me look at him.

"Interesting gift, I suppose she gets that from you?" He asks Kat.

"What's that?"

"She's mindlinking the two boys, she can get in the heads of people that aren't pack, can't you see how their auras lit up at the same time her eyes glazed over" He says. I don't see any of these weird aura's Dominic is talking about but I don't doubt him.

"Come on sweetie, come to Dadda" Mateo repeats and Marabella hesitates looking up at Jonah who encourages her to walk to him. She cackles loudly before wobbling over to him just as Kat dropped a hand on Mateo's shoulder, her fingers touching the back of his neck as Marabella reaches out grabbing his hands.

Black veins snake up his arms and he gasps but doesn't hesitate pulling her to him before they recede, Kat's eyes glowing brightly as she counteracted Marabella's magic. Mateo kisses all over her little face mashing her cheeks and making her laugh, the black veins receding completely.

"She doesn't mean it, she thought you were trying to put the mittens on her" Kyan tells him and Mateo nods, placing her back down on her feet. We watch her waddle off toward the boys again and she goes to Kyan, cackling her little head off as he catches her. Turning back to the table Ezra sits back down with his phone in his hand.

"Sorry, I probably should have asked if I could record that since the boys are in it" Ezra says and Dominic waves him off.

"Precious moments should always be captured," He says, watching the kids play. Ezra knew Sage and I wouldn't have an issue with it, but Dominic was just proving, he was indeed a father first and Alpha second. Mateo watches the clip over Ezra's shoulder and Katya sits back down, I noticed she didn't put on Marabella's mitten letting her hands remain free.

"She won't hurt Jonah and the two boys appear to be immune to her" Dominic says.

"Yes, I am starting to see that," Kat says, nodding to him.

"Do you need me to come with you three or can I stay here with Kat and Sage?" Mateo asks Dominic and I.

"No, stay I would feel better knowing one of us is here while we go" I tell him and Dominic also nods when he gets a text message.

"My men are here" he says just as Zane and Malik walk around the back.

"We are ready when you are, I also just got word that Dominics men are parked by the road" Malik says and I nod getting up out of my seat. I peck Sages lips softly.

"We will be back soon" I tell her and Ezra and Dominic also get up.

"Kyan, stay with Sage and Kat, I will be back in a few hours. And listen to them, they have permission to put you in a naughty corner if needed" Dominic tells him and Kyan smiles nodding his head when Dominic bends down pecking his forehead.

"I will be back soon, " He says before following Ezra and I.

Malik and Zane head toward the bus with a few of our men and Ezra and I walk over when Dominic calls out to us.

"Come on we can follow them in my car" Dominic says unlocking it.

"You take the front, you' re taller than me " Ezra says, patting my arm on the way past me before he opens the back door and hops in. Dominic gets in the drivers side and I hop in the passenger side.

We wait for the bus to start and we start to drive out, the bus following behind us. When we get to the end of the road leading into my pack, I see three cars parked on the grass that pull onto the road in front of us. We made small talk following Dominic's men that were in three SUVs. It wasn't until about 20 minutes later. Nausea rolled over me harshly.

"Are you car sick?" Dominic asks just as another brutal wave rushed over me making me clutch the dash, the same violent nausea I got when intruders were crossing into my territory and by the feel of it, there were a lot of them.

"Andrei?" Ezra says leaning forward alarmed.

"Turn around we need to head back, rogues" I growl and Dominic suddenly rips the hand break up and turns the wheel sharply just as Sage screams my name through the link. The car spins around and into the oncoming lane and I am thrown into my door before being thrown back in my seat as Dominic floors it, heading back to the pack. I see the bus come to a screeching stop when Malik and Zane jump out shifting instantly and cutting through the forest toward home. Dominic's men also turned around and chased after us.

Fated To The Alpha by Jessica Hall

Chapter 200

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Sage POV

After everyone left I made more coffee and we sat out the back talking. Nora came over feeling a bit lonely without Zane and her siblings were too busy playing their video games. We watched the kids play and Marabella eventually fell asleep on the picnic rug and Kat went and laid her down inside while we watched Kyan and Jonah sword fight with some twigs they found while running around the backyard and along the treeline before Mateo called them over, not liking them that close to the forest edge.

"We can always go out the front, the kids can climb the willow tree and it is shadier for them to play" I tell Mateo and he nods, before scooping up Eziah who was ripping out handfuls of grass.

"Come on boys" Mateo calls out to them, waving them over. They stop what they are doing and race over to us skidding to a stop on the grass in front of me.

"Where has Ella gone?" Kyan asks, looking around.

"Ella?" I ask.

"Marabella," He says.

"She is sleeping," Mateo tells him.

"Come on, you both should get a drink, your little faces are so red" I tell them walking inside with them. I make them a drink of cordial each before washing their faces with a wet cloth to try to cool them down.

"Want to climb the willow tree?" I ask them and they rush toward the front of the house. Following them, I couldn't see them. I was looking up the stairs when I heard hushed voices making me look in the living room to find Kat watching Marabella sleep in her fold out bed. Jonah and Kyan staring down at her.

"Why does she make that face?" Jonah asks at Marabella's quivering lip as she sleeps.

"She can hear them?" Kyan says, reaching his hand out toward her.

"Boys, come on. Let her sleep" I whisper to them when Kyan reaches down touching her cheek, black mist rushes up his arm and his eyes turn black. The sight sends goosebumps up my arms and the room feels electrified when he suddenly pulls his hand back.

"There, all better now" Kyan says. "What did you do?" Kat asks him.

"Took it from her, they were scaring her" "What were?" Kat asks, looking at me.

"The shadows, come on, I want to climb this tree" Kyan says before pecking Marabella's head.

"Sweet dreams, Ella" He says before grabbing Jonah's arm and tugging him past me to the front door.

"What was that about?" Mateo asks, watching the boys run out the front door.

"Marabella must have been having a nightmare, Kyan took it from her" I tell him.

"Yeah that kid does some spooky things"

"So does our daughter," Kat says with a soft laugh.

"I think he is sweet" I tell them and they both nod.

"Yes, he seems like a good kid," Mateo says before following them outside.

"Are you coming out with us?" I ask Kat.

"I will wait for a bit to make sure she is alright,"

Kat says looking down at Marabella.

"Is everything alright, you seem distracted?" I ask her when Mateo and Nora walk out the front door.

"Yeah, I am. I have a lot going on with the Moon Goddess dying, the Packs. My kids, everything feels like it becoming too much"

"What about your mates, have you told them? I sensed some tension between you and Ezra"

"Yeah we are fine, Ezra worries, he thinks I am taking on too much, Mateo he is great and good with the kids. Honestly I feel like a shit mum. I feel like all I do is work and when I am not working, I am exhausted or so stressed I am cranky"

"Have you told them this?" I ask her and she shakes her head.

"Why not?"

"Because there are some things I can't speak about, there will be consequences if I do, it could change things and make them worse"

"Ok, so what worries you most then?"

"My kids, becoming the Moon Goddess. Going back to when I first met Ezra, I never would have predicted how much my life would change, not that I hate it, they are great but sometimes I think I grew up too fast" She lets out a breath.

"Before I was just trying to go unnoticed and now everything I do is criticized and judged, there is no hanging out with friends, no social life, no time for anything anymore. I didn't think it would be this hard" She says looking down at Marabella. I walk around the couch and sit on it.

"What's hard, you can tell me. I won't say anything to your mates Kat" I tell her and she chews her bottom lip sucking it into her mouth before looking at the ceiling.

"I feel like an imposter, I don't know who I am anymore. Everyone expects so much of me and I don't know if I can live up to their expectations. I feel like I am failing everything and everyone" She says, closing her eyes and resting her head against the wall.

"I don't know what I expected but it wasn't this.

When I found out I was pregnant. I had unrealistic expectations of what it would be like to have children, unrealistic ideas on what it would be like to become Luna, everything I thought my life would be was wrong. But I get it now, I was so angry at her for lying to me, for so long that's all I could see was that betrayal, even with dad. He kept what I was from me, so many secrets but I get it now. I know they did it to protect me and having my own kids and knowing what I know I want to protect them from it too, I get it. I get why they lied. I am the same"

"What do you mean?" I ask her.

"I mean that the secrets we keep trying to protect those we love eat at you, and make you question whether you are hurting them more by keeping it from them, but when you know the consequences of telling them, you risk losing them. I get it now, I just wished I realised it sooner. I spent so long angry at her, angry at everyone that I forgot for a second how much I loved her, what she sacrificed for me, who she was. Same with dad, he left me and I hated that he did, but after mum died. I realised I only hurt myself by being angry at them, you never know when the day will come when you have to say goodbye to them" She says before sniffing and wiping her nose.

"Have you said this to Ezra or Mateo?" She shakes her head.

"They don't get it. Ezra and Maddox hated my mother even now, he doesn't understand how I forgave her, he is thankful for what she did, but he never forgave her. Mateo understands but still I put too much pressure on him with the kids, I don't need to burden him with me being a cry baby" She says tugging at the thin blanket to throw over Marabella as she rolls on her side.

"Gosh I miss her, she was a tough woman, she would have kicked my ass, literally, for moping about and told me to get my shit together but that's ok because she would be there to catch me when I fall. Now I have to catch myself and everyone else and not being able to tell Ezra and Mateo certain things, it is so lonely" She whispers the last words. Closing her eyes and rubbing her temples like she had a headache before opening her eyes to look at me, I could see her pain, she wore it so plainly, I was surprised no one else could see it.

"I have lost the image of who I thought I was and who I thought I would be and now looking at everything that has happened, I realise I am a stranger within myself. Trying to live up to everyone else's expectation and I lost myself in it" She says, I felt terrible for her. I couldn't imagine what it would be like to be responsible for not just a pack but every pack, while trying to raise her kids and be a good mate. It would be too much.

"Everyone has a breaking point, Kat. But when you reach it, you just have to remember to toss the broken pieces away. Don't let the sharpness of them cut you to pieces, don't worry about what you can't change or fix. Focus on the things that matter, what's right in front of you. Anger and hate is a heavy thing to carry, it does the carrier more damage"

Kat laughs and her face turns red. "I am sorry, I shouldn't have said anything, here I am moping about being Queen and a mother when you had to fight for your son, had been put through the worst situations ever and I am here whining about my protected childhood and having to be an adult" She laughs, shaking her head.

"You don't need to apologise Kat, your feelings aren't invalid and you can't imagine what I have been through just like I can't imagine what you have been through, or the pressures on you. I count myself pretty lucky, despite everything. I would go through it all again just to be here, right now. God only knows if I would have found Jonah or Andrei if it didn't have that life, so as much as it sucked I came out of it with two people I couldn't imagine living without" I tell her.

"You ever wonder what your life would be like if the one thing that changed everything didn't happen?" Kat asks.

"Everyday, I always wonder about the what ifs. What if I didn't convince my family to go to Flower Meadows? But you know what? It happened, I survived it and I got my life back. A better one and I realise what happened was on them, not me. What they did is on them and nothing I could have or should have done would change it. Sometimes fate has a funny way of showing us how much one can endure but once you endure it, you realise nothing will break you, except yourself. You will realise that kat, one day you will wake up and the weight on your shoulders won't feel so heavy, it won't feel consuming and you will realise you can carry it, because you carried a weight so much heavier before and you are stronger because of it" I tell her while hopping up.

"Come on, I will make more coffee. Mateo is right with the kids and we can steal Andrei's monte carlo biscuits he has hidden in the back of the pantry"

"I love Monte Carlo's," Kat says with a groan.

"Yeah, Casen brought them over this morning to replace the ones he stole last night" I chuckled while walking out to the kitchen. Kat follows after me and I flick the kettle on.

"Thank you" Kat says and I nod to her.

"You can always talk to me," I tell her, grabbing some mugs down. Kat grabs the milk from the fridge and hands it to me. We were in the middle of making coffee when nausea rolled over me, making my heart race and beat frantically in my chest. Sweat coated my forehead and my hands trembled.

"Sage?"

"Get the kids" I shrieked, fighting down the urge to throw up as I tore off out of the house. Rushing out of the house, I see rogues running in from every direction. My scream is loud and bounces off the trees as well as through the mindlink as I screamed for Andrei.

I look for Jonah and the kids spotting them both in the tree, Mateo's grey wolf fending off rogues as they come out of nowhere and everywhere. Our pack ran from the houses and treeline trying to help Mateo as Eziah started crying under the tree where he sat. Shifting I jump into the fray, racing towards where the kids are.

"Get the kids to the packhouse and lock it down" I rush through the mindlink as Sierra sinks her teeth into a brown blotchy coloured wolf. Kat races toward Eziah but is tackled at the last second, her wolf skidding across the ground when it sinks its teeth into her neck forcing her to shift back. Her naked body was tossed and Mateo's wolf whimpered but he was the only thing standing in the way of the wolves getting to his son as I tried to get to his position. Sierra kills a wolf as our warriors start taking them down, but there were so many, they came out of nowhere and seemed to have no end as they kept zipping out of the trees toward us.

Being jumped from behind, I am shoved forward face planting the ground, Sierra turns quickly snapping at anything that comes into reach when Kat barges into me. Kicking another wolf in the head as it tried to get me from my blindspot. Her entire body saturated in blood and her neck was bleeding profusely as she continued fighting, trying to get to her son and the boys. Mateo is suddenly jumped by three wolves and he kills one quickly before the other two pounce on him and knock him down. One of them ripped into his flank viciously. Sierra charges toward them and she tackles one off the top of him tearing into its neck.

Looking up into a tree Jonah and Kyan were perched on a branch both looking petrified, I see Kat get to the tree and Sierra biting and clawing at anything that attacks when I hear Kat tell the boys to jump. I didn't have time to look to see if she needed help as I felt teeth sink into my tail,

ripping me back, claws digging deeply into my ribs and scratching down my hip.

"Andrei!" I scream through the link, needing them to get here before we all end up dead. We were outnumbered five to one easily and they just didn't stop coming. I see Jonah out of the corner of my eye jump into Kat's arms and Kyan, both of them running toward the packhouse and to safety.

I was running towards them when Kat started to scream.

"No, no, no, not now" She screams, making me look at her. She had Eziah in her arms when she suddenly vanished, disappearing into thin air. I didn't have time to think much of it when I was smashed from the side. Gun fire rings out before I hear someone scream. "Grenades!"