

Her Brother, Her Mate Chapter 41

Carli POV

Simone was passed out in my bed when I got upstairs. I quickly undressed, put on one of my dad's t-shirts and my shorts, and slid in beside her. I was trying my hardest to fall asleep when I heard my dad let Parker in. To my surprise, Parker came into my room. I pretended to be asleep as he walked over to me, bent over, and kissed my forehead.

"I know you're not asleep," he whispers, "You don't go to sleep that easily when you're mad. Come talk to me."

"Tomorrow," I hissed back, "I'm trying to sleep. I have graduation practice in the morning."

"You can come talk to me now or I'll get in bed with you and I'll talk to you all night. About everything. Neither of us will get any sleep."

"If you don't go talk to him, I'm smacking both of you. Be quiet!" Simone hissed and turned over.

I reluctantly throw back the covers, ignoring the triumphant grin on Parker's face and strut out of the room and to the couch, Parker following behind. He sits beside me and pulls me into his lap. I try to fight him, but give up quickly when his touch calms some of the turmoil in me.

"I know you're mad I commanded you, but I want you to know why I did."

"Cause you're a jerk," I glared at him, making him chuckle.

"No....well, maybe. But it was because I could sense you were running on pure rage and adrenaline, and I didn't want you getting hurt. I also saw your little exchange with Vincent. I'm guessing that was his number he was slipping you when I was driving up?"

I looked away sheepishly, biting my lip. Damn it.

"Thought so," he chuckles, rubbing his nose down my neck, "You're not going to rush off and take this on by yourself. You have nothing to prove to anyone, Carli. You need to let us help you."

"You guys are the ones not letting me help!" I held myself back from yelling at him, not wanting to wake everyone else in the apartment.

"Carli, your dad and Elena love you and don't want to see you in harm's way."

"It's not just them! Every time I went to Alpha Jared to ask him if I could help, he told me it wasn't my place. He treated me like I wasn't good enough to do anything! You think it's funny every time I get mad or frustrated. I'm losing my mind here, Parker. I can help! I got more done in one night just going to a bar than everyone has in the past couple of days. I just want you all to start respecting my opinions and choices! I feel like I'm losing my freedom more than ever, and I was so close to gaining it completely. I spent my whole life being disregarded. It sucks. I f*****g hate it!"

Parker stared at me, understanding in his eyes.

"I'm sorry if I look amused when you're getting frustrated. I think you're adorable when you get huffy and start making smartass remarks. I'll try to stop," I blushed at his words. No one thinks I'm adorable when I get pissed off. Most people think I'm a bitch.

"Also, I'm not trying to disregard your opinions and freedom. I just want you to be safe. Your parents are the same. I just got you back and your dad just got the chance to be your dad. Even if it's annoying, we're acting out of love, not because we don't think you can't handle yourself. You are one of the top warriors; our top female warrior. No one would accuse you of not being able to handle yourself. I just don't want you to act alone or recklessly. If I had let you go tonight, that would have been reckless. You or I would have gotten hurt taking on 3 vampires by ourselves."

He's right. I was so confident in my own ability I was disregarding his opinions and his safety, doing the same thing I'd been accusing him of doing.

"I still want to be the one to kill her," I muttered stubbornly.

Parker laughs softly, "I'm sure you do. You should, and I know you can, but we need to figure out the best way together. I'm not going to hold you back, but I'd like you to allow me to fight alongside you," Parker says, resting his head on my shoulder, "You're my mate. I don't want to fight against you, but for you."

I worked my lip in my teeth, peering into his deep brown eyes, “You will let me fight them?”

“As long as I’m with you,” he smiles, pecking my lips.

I narrowed my eyes at him, “I’m still mad at you for the phone snooping bullshit too. Why were you looking for a reason to be mad at me?”

He huffs, “Carli, how would you feel if you heard me talking to my friends about my past s*x life? I just wanted to delete the app off your phone and then found those pictures. Just like you got mad about the picture on my phone, I was mad about yours.”

“I didn’t go looking for something to be pissed about,” I scoffed, “You could have talked to me about it. I would have been honest with you and deleted everything. Snooping and getting pissed on your own is a douche move.”

Parker looked uncomfortable for a second, “Yeah, it was. I’m sorry.”

The rest of my anger dissipates, and I finally relax in Parker’s arms, tucking my head under his chin. “I’m sorry too. I shouldn’t have run off like that with Mitch and Mark.”

Parker’s chest vibrates with a silent growl at the mention of their names. “I’m kicking their asses at their training. They’re both going to be limping across the graduation stage with fat lips and a lesson in respect.”

I giggled at his statement, “They could both use a good a*s kicking. Don’t be too hard on them. They were just going along with me.”

“Coming onto you. They can’t disrespect me like that, eyeing up my mate right in front of me.”

He’s right. If I was in Parker’s shoes I would have drawn blood at the club.

“We should get to sleep. I’ll take you to your rehearsal in the morning, then you can tell your dad about what Vincent told us tonight. We can make a plan together.”

“And you’ll let me help? You’ll let me kill her?” I asked, making sure he didn’t go back on his word.

“As long as I’m with you. We fight together, remember?”

I smiled and leaned in to kiss his lips softly. "Together."

Thomas POV

I'm f*****g exhausted. Me and Elena have been combing the streets of Miami, following any shadow of a lead we could get. None of the vampires seemed to know anything and my frustration was building. Nathan found traces of rogues in the back of a deserted semi in the swamp, but it looked like it's been abandoned for months. It was surprisingly close to where the attacks first started. They must have moved their nest when we became suspicious of the area and started patrolling around there.

When we got back to the packhouse, Mary stopped us, asking to talk with me privately. Elena and Nathan both rolled their eyes, continuing to walk up the stairs. Mary has been a bigger b***h than normal the past week. Especially to Elena, and I was getting tired of her bullshit.

"I want my daughter to move back to my home. You have no right to keep her with you," Mary sneers at me when my mate and brother are out of earshot.

I raised a tired eyebrow at her. Seriously? What the hell is she playing at?

"What do you want me to do? Make Carli move when she doesn't want to?"

"Well," she turns her chin up defiantly, "Yes."

"She doesn't want to, Mary. I'm not making her do anything."

"She is still my daughter! Not that woman's but mine!" Mary yelled in my face.

"Sure as s**t never treated her like your daughter. I'm f*****g exhausted, Mary. I don't want to argue about pointless s**t right now," I begged her, just wanting to go up to bed.

I was startled to see Parker and Carli walk into the packhouse right then. It's 2 in the f*****g morning! Carli looks and smells like she was out drinking and partying, and Parker is following solemnly behind her.

I urge Carli to come with me so we can go home and I can finally go to bed. She doesn't put up a fight, which I am grateful for. I love this girl, but she can be headstrong at the worst of times.

I was turning off the lights in the apartment when I heard Parker knocking quietly on the door, so I let him in.

“What?” I glared at him. Carli said it wasn’t his fault, but I’m still not happy that the guy let her go out.

“Crash on your couch?” he asks with a small smile, and I reluctantly let him in. He’s being pretty great to my daughter, and I’m happy he is waiting for her to turn 18 before marking her. I’ve heard Carli get upset over it, but I appreciate him looking out for her best interests, even if she won’t.

I trudge to bed finally, but am right back out of bed when I hear Parker take Carli out to the living room. What is he doing? First he lets her go out when a vampire is trying to kill her, and now he’s dragging her out of bed to defile her on my couch?

I crack my door, listening to their conversation, and I’m in shock. He not only got her to understand why we are all so adamant about protecting her, he gets her to concede to him and even gets her to apologize. Carli doesn’t apologize. It’s a nasty trait she gained from all the abuse she took from Mary. She never knew why she was being treated badly, so she grew a strong backbone, a stubborn personality, and didn’t apologize to anyone.

Maybe Parker really is the best mate for her. No one can handle Carli that well.

I slip back into bed, pull Elena into my arms, and a smile stays on my face even after I fall asleep.

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Carli POV

I woke up crammed between the back of the couch and Parker’s bulking frame, sweating like a w***e in church. The heat from his body, and the tingles from his touch are stronger than ever, and even though it’s stifling, and I’m all sweaty, I lean into him, smelling his intoxicating scent.

I fight the urge to lick his neck, the delicious scent driving me wild, and try to wiggle out of his hold to attend to my own needs. Bathroom.

“Need some help?” Elena asked me softly. I lean up and see her amused face smirking over a cup of coffee.

“I need to pee,” I hissed at her, making her chuckle.

She offers me a hand and helps pull me over the side of the couch. Parker mutters in his sleep, but just rolls into the space I just was and goes back to snoring softly.

After a bathroom run, and a quick shower to wash the sweat off me, I dressed in a loose shirt and shorts, then joined Elena out in the kitchen.

“Heard you escaped last night,” Elena smirked at me as I got an energy drink from the fridge. I grimace, grab a banana, and join her at the table so she can scold me while I’m eating my breakfast.

“I may have gone out,” I said quietly, taking a bite of the banana.

“Trouble. That should be your middle name. I may just go to the courthouse today while you’re still underage and have it changed to that.”

“Parker made me mad, and I wanted to help the investigation,” I told her.

“I know, sweetie. I’d get stir crazy too. So, did you find anything out?”

“Maybe,” I said hesitantly, looking over to Parker. I shouldn’t keep the information Vincent gave me a secret, but the drive to prove myself by dealing with it alone is still there. I think about the conversation I had with Parker last night, and a small smile graces my lips without realizing it. He’s right. They’re not trying to hold me back, just protect me as best they can. Elena isn’t even mad at me for leaving. Dad was worried, but he wasn’t mad at me either. I’m so used to my mom’s reaction that I hold that same expectation of everyone else. I should open up more, and let them help.

Elena took another long sip of her coffee, giving me time to decide if I wanted to confide in her or not instead of forcing me to tell her. That speaks volumes to me, and I decide to let her in.

“There’s this guy I hooked up with a while ago and-” I tell Elena everything Vincent revealed to us last night. She is shocked to hear about this Satrina being high school lovers with Uncle Nathan, but listens quietly, letting me tell the story fully before commenting.

“Wow,” she says after I finished, “Maybe I should have tried dragging your dad to that club. Though, I doubt this Vincent would have been so forthcoming with me,” she chuckles.

I twirl my energy drink in my hands on the table, “What do you think we should do?”

“Hmm,” she sits back in her chair, “It sounds like we have the upper hand, knowing their plan, considering this Vincent is trustworthy. We could set a trap ourselves?”

“Do you think dad would go for that?”

She laughs softly, “He won’t like it, but if he thinks you will put yourself in danger again by not letting you get involved, he will. The bigger issue will be Alpha Jared. He wants you uninvolved so you don’t show up his son again.”

“Is that why he’s being an a*s to me?” I asked.

“Probably. Who knows, who cares. If your mate is siding with you, and all the rest of the ranked wolves, he will cave,” Elena waved her hand dismissively.

Parker groggily comes into the kitchen just then, “Morning,” he mumbles, bending down and kissing my cheek before going to make himself coffee.

“How’d you sleep?” Elena asked him with a glint in her eye.

He smiles at her, “Great. I heard you guys talking. What kind of trap are we setting?”

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Elena agrees to talk to my dad when he wakes up, getting him on board. I have to be at rehearsal soon, so Parker runs upstairs and gets ready. Casey is riding with us to be safe and Courtney will hang out with Elena until we get back.

Casey and Courtney both strut in with fresh marks on their necks. Casey looks smug and they’re being totally cringy and lovey dovey to one another. Realization sets in for me at the sight of them. Tonight at midnight, I’ll feel the full mate bond. I’m actually excited and not scared for once. After our talk last night, I’m more sure than ever that I want to be with Parker.

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After rehearsal, Parker had to head to training. He told Mitch and Mark to be there, and I knew he was going to give them hell. I almost feel bad, then I remember the disrespect they showed him last night and know they can't escape his wrath. You can't be that upfront with your flippancy and not expect an alpha to retaliate. Maybe they think it's okay because of how big of a p***y Alpha Jared is.

Speaking of Alpha Jared, I got a mindlink from him halfway through rehearsal. A very clipped and formal "Please come speak to me in my office when you get a chance today."

He cut the link before I could ask why, but now that Parker's gone to training, and I'm stuck at home waiting for him, now's as good a time as any to see him.

I knocked on his downstairs office door, hoping he meant here and not upstairs. I don't want to see my mom and have her yell at me or slap me for last night. I'm sure that's why Alpha Jared asked to see me, but I could be wrong.

Thank the goddess, he's down here. He yelled for me to come in.

"You asked for me?"

He offers me a fake polite smile, "Yes, come have a seat, Claris-, Carli," he quickly corrects himself. I rolled my eyes and sat in one of the chairs across from him.

"I want to ask you again to move back into the Alpha quarters with us. I know why you're hesitant, but I think it's for the best."

I scoffed in disbelief. "This is what you wanted to talk to me about?"

He sits back unnerved, "I think you could learn how to be a proper Luna from Mary, and I know Parker would like you to be with him. You will be turning 18 tomorrow. It's time to be with your mate."

I almost laughed. This is the first time he has ever acknowledged my birthday. I was surprised he knew what day it was. "No thank you," I simply said.

“Carli, it’s for the best. Your mother wants-”

“My mother is Elena. Mary has never acted like a mom to me, and I’m not sure why she is trying to get me to move back in now when she was so adamant about me moving out.”

“You need to learn to be a proper Luna. You need to stop trying to be a warrior when your place-”

“I am a warrior. I bet I could even kick your a*s. I’m not moving in with you or that woman, so stop trying to make me.”

“I’m telling you, if you want to be Luna of this pack you should tone down the butch image you’re going for and start acting like a lady. You should be like your mother, staying at the packhouse and taking care of the she-wolf stuff, like cleaning schedules, dinner menus, organizing parties. You have no business as a future Luna going out and doing the men’s work,” Alpha Jared berates me.

“Protecting my pack when I’m the most qualified to do it is not how a Luna should act? Are you hearing yourself? You’re putting your male pride over your pack right now. Maybe you should act more like an alpha.” I sneered.

His nostrils flared, and for the first time ever I think I actually got to him. “I command you to stand down, Clarissa.”

That f*****g name again. I could feel the weight of his command, but the second he called me Clarissa, that weight was lifted. I bear my teeth at him, boring my hatred for this man into my intense glare. “I, CARLI Childes, renounce Crystal Moon Pack, and you, Jared Snider-”

“STOP!” he yells at me, his nostrils flaring and he’s panting in his panic. He stopped me right before my allegiance was torn. “You will not hurt my son or my mate by renouncing your pack!”

I sneered at him, “I will if you try to command me like that again. Next time, use my real name and it might be more effective.”

I got up, and stormed out of his office, slamming the door behind me.

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Parker POV

After a great night's sleep, my mate sleeping in my arms, and an easy morning with Carli, I'm walking onto the training field with a huge smile on my face. That smile quickly disappears when I make eye contact with the triplets. Matt seems to be a decent guy, just like Carli said, but the other two are about to get their asses handed to them.

I need to put them in line now, make an example out of them, because I'll be damned if I let them or anyone else continue to think they have a shot at my mate. She is my mate. I have less than 10 hours now until she fully feels it too.

"Line up!" I yelled, waiting a few seconds for everyone to fall in formation. Beta Anthony was all too happy to let me run this training session. He had his hands full with covering for Gamma Tommy. This class has mostly non-active warriors, the ones not on regular rotation for guard duty, and the ones who need extra training.

I run them through the normal exercises and stretches, then break them into groups for sparing. I put Matt with a group of she-wolves, having him help them with their footwork, then made Mitchel and Marcus join a small group with just me.

"Listen, dude, if you're holding a grudge because of last night..." Mitch starts but I cut him off with a growl.

"Alpha. You call me Alpha. Not dude."

"Okay Alpha," he says sarcastically, snickering to his brother. He's going to pay for the attitude he's giving me right now.

"Shift," I tell them.

"What?" Mark asks, confused. This isn't a wolf form training session, but I figured I'd give them a slim chance. Both of them in wolf form against me.

"Alpha, I had a late night, and I'm not really in the mood to-"

"Shift!" I commanded, stopping Mitch in his rant. They both grit their teeth as the command washes over them and strip before shifting.

Everyone stops what they're doing and turns to watch in confusion. Matt was tutting his tongue and shaking his head, not in the least bit surprised.

I toy with them for maybe 10 minutes, making them do most of the damage to each other as I dodge and block their attacks. After they are too injured to go any longer, Mark is the first to submit, bearing his neck to me and whining, blood dripping from his torn ear.

Mitch doesn't give up so easily, even though both his brothers are urging him too. His shoulder is dislocated and not able to heal properly. I have to pin him on the ground, his throat in my jaws, before he howls in rage but concedes.

"If either of you lay your filthy hands on my mate again, you're through. Do you understand?"

"Yes Alpha!" They shouted in unison.

"Good. get your injuries looked at and get out of my sight," I growled, watching as they both limped away. I shift back, then slide my shorts back on.

Matt came running over to me as I started walking towards my water and towel on the sidelines.

"They go after Carli again?" he asks, smiling like he already knew the answer.

"They're lucky to be alive," I sneered.

"Ah, they're harmless. Carli has been turning them down, and all the guys down in our pack really, since I can remember. She didn't want to ruin relationships in our pack when we found our mates. She doesn't s**t where she sleeps. Casey was kind of a c**k block too."

"Were you one of those guys?" I asked, lifting an eyebrow. He laughs, shaking his head.

"No. Warrior girls that can kill me with their pinky if I f**k up aren't my thing. Lilly and I started dating during our freshman year and ended up actually being mates. She's been it for me," he smiles brightly.

"That's like a miracle. What if you dated for 4 years just to find out you weren't mates?"

He shrugs, "I don't think about that. I was always drawn to her. I think I always just knew."

"That's rare for non-ranked wolves. Do you have some rank in your bloodline?"

He laughs nervously, "Ah, you might not know this, but my dad is human. Maybe on my mom's side, but we don't follow our mothers' lineage in our pack, so I don't know."

Matt is a decent guy, and a good fighter. If his wolf senses are strong enough to sense his mate at 14, he may just be qualified to be a gamma. I know that's something that's been stressing Tommy out, not having anyone to replace him. Casey was the strongest option but he's firm about moving with his mate so she can finish school. Courtney said Florida was nice to visit, but it wasn't home, so I doubt we can talk him into staying.

If dad wasn't so prejudiced about certain things, like human mates and strong women, Matt could be a strong contender. I'll have to call my grandparents later and see what they think.

I released the class early. Everyone was too distracted thanks to my fight with the Meyers boys. I was walking towards my truck when I got a mind link from Tommy.

"You on your way back?"

"Yeah, what's up?"

I can sense his annoyance in the link. "Carli drove off like a bat out of hell, pissed about something. I saw her coming out of your dad's office and was wondering if you knew what happened or where she went?"

I groaned out loud. What did my parents do now? "I don't know, but I'll find out."

I tried to reach Carli through the mind link, but she had a block up like she always does when she's mad. I pick up my phone and call her instead, and to my surprise, she picks up.

"Hey, where are you?" I asked. I can hear her deep, angry breaths through the line.

“Driving,” she mutters.

“To where?”

“Gym.”

I sighed in relief, starting my truck. “I’ll meet you there.”

She hangs up, not saying anything more, and I know she’s pissed. What the hell did dad do?

The pack gym is connected to our warrior building, and it takes me less than a minute to get there. I probably could have walked but I was already in my truck. Carli pulls in right when I get out of my truck, and ‘bat out of hell’ describes her driving perfectly. Yep. She’s pissed.

To my surprise, when she sees me she runs into my chest, wrapping her arms around my waist. I chuckle softly as relief floods me. Whatever my dad did, she’s not mad at me for it.

“You okay?” I asked, rubbing my hand up and down her back.

“No,” she grunts, her face pressed to me as she takes deep, calming breaths.

“Want to talk about it?”

“I want to f**k something up,” she says, squeezing me tighter.

“Anything specific?”

“Your f*****g father,” she growls. I scowled, pulling her closer to me as I squeezed her in my arms.

“What did he do?” I couldn’t keep my malice out of my voice.

“The a*****e tried to command me to move back in with them and stop being a warrior.”

A growl rips through my chest. How dare he. How f*****g dare he try to force anything on Carli she didn’t want. No wonder she’s so hell bent on gaining her freedom.

She scoffs, "The command only didn't hold because he called me Clarissa again. I almost renounced the pack, I was so...so f*****g pissed. Why the f**k is he so f*****g twisted? Why can't they just leave me alone?"

"I know, baby girl. I'll deal with it. Can you promise me to stay here until I get back?" I know she's careless when really pissed off, just like last night, and I'm scared she might try to prove herself right now by doing something reckless.

"I've got a date with the punching bag. I'll be here for a few hours," she snarls, making me relax some. I kissed her head, then let her go.

"I'll be back."

She nods, then storms off into the building. Goddess help whoever gets on her back side today. Warriors in her path are practically jumping out of her way from the fierce look on her face.

On the drive back to the packhouse, I call Tommy using my hands-free.

"You find her?"

"She's at the gym, destroying a sandbag and probably anyone who tries to talk to her. Dad tried to command her to do something he shouldn't have. I'm on my way now to deal with him."

"What the hell did he try to make her do?" he practically yells.

I sighed, running a hand through my hair, "Move back in with us. And to quit being a warrior."

Tommy growls furiously in the line, "How f*****g dare he! You know that's that woman's work! She tried to f*****g demand me make Carli move in with them last night. She's been a b***h to my mate and I'm f*****g through!"

I can see now where Carli got her potty mouth. He's livid and he has every right to be. Dad had no right. I'm not standing for it either.

"I'm pulling into the parking lot now. I'll deal with him."

He cuts the line. Dad keeps going too far. Mary too. I can't let them continue leading like this. It's not right. Not just for Carli, but for everyone. An alpha should never force their will on someone like that. Being a warrior is Carli's

pride. It's been her identity for most of her life, the only identity that she could be sure of, and he tried to take that from her.

I storm into the packhouse, people clearing out of my way as I stride menacingly for my dad's office. I can hear shouting as I neared it, and know Tommy beat me to the punch.

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"You and you alone are the reason for everyone's suffering! I asked you if you were sure about the rejection! You said you were committed to Rose and your son! It wasn't until after she died you went back on your word and tried to reclaim Mary. If you had kept your d**k in your pants, none of this s**t would have happened! If you had kept to your word, I would have been a family with my daughter! If you had told Mary you knew you weren't Carli's father, your son could have had his mate! This whole f*****g mess is on you. Now, my daughter, YOUR MATE'S DAUGHTER, is storming out of here, rightfully so, with a family of f*****g vampires trying to kill her. If anything happens to my daughter, to your mate's daughter, to your son's mate, that's on you too. I don't care if you are my alpha, I will make it my life's mission to see you pay for the hardships you have put us all through. I will make you pay for her life with your own."

"SHE DIDN'T ACCEPT THE REJECTION!" my dad screamed back in Tommy's face. "I tried to do the right thing, but I didn't know until you started dating her that she didn't accept the rejection. She didn't know she had to. She was completely ignorant as a wolf and didn't know how to accept the rejection. When I felt you two together," my dad turned around, his fist in his mouth as he paced back and forth, "I wanted to die, Thomas. Not just feeling her with you, but because I knew she felt me with Rose. I tried to do the right thing! She still wanted me, just like I still wanted her. The bond never went away. 4 years! She felt me for 4 years! When I got her back, I vowed to do everything in my power to make it up to her. If I have to command her defiant daughter to move back home where she belongs, so be it."

"You will do no such thing," I sneered, walking into the office. "She is with her family. She is trying to be happy, and learn what real love is. I'm not letting you hurt her any more because you f****d up in the past," I glared at him, pushing as much of my authority into my words as I could. I feel bad for mom. I know how the betrayal feels, but he should have told her how to accept the

rejection. He probably just did it and walked off before my real mom was made aware of the situation.

“Son, this is for the best,” he sighs in exasperation, “She needs to learn how to be a luna. She’s not going to learn that from a woman with such an unstable upbringing.”

Thomas punches my dad, and dad stumbles backward, clutching his face. I quickly stepped between them before my dad could retaliate. He deserved it. Elena is a wonderful woman and a great mother to Carli. Even my grandma prefers her to Mary. You sure as hell don’t say s**t like that in front of someone’s mate. The decision I came to while talking to Carli and driving here has just solidified, watching the disrespect this man showed to my mate’s father.

“I challenge you for the position as alpha,” I stated boldly. Thomas and my dad were both startled at my words.

“What are you doing?” dad asks in disbelief.

“It’s never been more clear to me that you’re not fit to run this pack. I’m not going to sit back and watch you destroy my mate’s life anymore. I’ll contact grandpa, and you can pick the date, but I challenge you for your title.”

My dad grimaces as the challenge washes over him. “You can’t. Why, when you will get it eventually anyway?”

“Because this pack deserves better. You are unfit. Everyone can see it. Young warriors here don’t even respect the alpha title. I just had to straighten 2 out today for their lack of respect. When was the last time you even went to warrior training? You haven’t been there once since I got back.”

“That’s not my job.”

Thomas scoffs, shaking his head in disbelief, “You mean, you think it’s below you. You’d have to interact with people you think are beneath you.”

Dad growls at Thomas, but can’t deny his words.

“I’m done here. Let me know what date you choose, and I’ll make sure grandpa is here,” I muttered, before turning to leave. Thomas followed behind me.

“You sure you want to go against your father?” he asks me, walking out of the packhouse with me.

“It’s time. I’m not letting him hurt her anymore.”

Tommy chuckles softly, patting me on the back. “Glad to hear it. Where you going now?”

“To get my mate.”

Tommy gave me a ride back to the gym. That way I could ride back with Carli.

When we got there, we couldn’t find her anywhere in the gym. I start to panic, cursing myself for thinking she might actually stay put, when I hear a commotion coming from the warrior center.

When we walk in, Carli is in the biggest training gym, taking on 2 other warriors at the same time. She looks gloriously fierce, sweat dripping from her brows and chin, muscles taunted and her exposed abs glistening with perspiration. She has a bruise on her ribs, but her opponents, Brad and Steven, are a lot worse off. Brad’s lip is busted, blood running down the front of him from his mouth, he’s got an eye swollen shut, and he’s favoring his left foot. Steven clearly has a broken nose, a dislocated shoulder and cuts all over his body.

“What’s going on here,” I asked Daryl, who was standing at the back of the crowd watching.

“They were talking s**t so she shut them up,” he shrugs.

Tommy laughs, “What did they say?”

“Just bull s**t stuff. She snapped when they asked her when she was going to start acting like a girl.”

A growl escapes me. These fuckers. I know they were probably joking with her, just talking normal s**t like warriors do with one another, but they picked a bad day to do it.

Everyone winces and “Oooooows” together when Carli knocks Steven out cold, then turns her full attention to Brad.

"I tap! I tap!" he shouts. Carli stops, but flinches at him one last time, causing him to jump back.

"Watch your f*****g mouth next time," she sneers, then turns, pushing her way through the crowd, heading for the locker rooms.

Tommy pats me on the back, "I was going to check on her, but I'll let you have the honor," he laughs softly.

I grinned back at him, "No problem."

"You know, I think you're the only one who can calm that storm in her. After you left, that's when she started making choices that were worrying me and Elena. We had our hands tied, and didn't know how to really help her. I thought it was a blessing, her being sent to live in my brother's pack. When you came back, claiming her and trying to get her to stay, I was so f*****g worried she would be pushed too far. I think the moon goddess knew what she needed, though. You're a good man, Parker. You will make a great Alpha and be a good mate for my daughter."

His words humbled me. "Thank you, Gamma. I hope you're right."

"I am," he smiles at me, then laughs, "Now go calm down my daughter so you can get her back home. We have s**t to plan."

"On it," I tell him, then start jogging to the women's locker room.

Carli POV

I'm feeling a lot better after that intense workout and kicking some a*s. I took the picture hanging in the hallway of Alpha Jared, broke the frame getting it out, taped it to the punching bag, and beat the s**t out of it until it was in tatters. The whole time I was fighting Brad and Steven for their off-handed comments, I imagined it was Alpha Jared and got a little carried away. I don't feel bad. They needed an a*s whooping. I'm tired of all the machismo bull s**t. I'm a girl and just beat the s**t out of both of them at the same time.

The shower in the locker room washes away the tension left in my body, and I'm much more in control of my emotions when I finish. I quickly dress, and am surprised to find Parker waiting for me outside of the locker room door, leaning casually against the wall.

“Feeling better?” he asks, pushing off against the wall.

I shrug, “Where did you go?”

“To talk to my dad.”

I growled, feeling slightly agitated just thinking about the prick.

“How did that go?”

Parker sighs, tossing his arm around my shoulder, “Great. I challenged him for his title.”

“You what!?” I jumped and turned to him in surprise. He laughs softly.

“I challenged him for the alpha title.”

“But you’re getting it anyway,” I asked in confusion.

“Carli, I’m not letting him continue to treat you the way he is. He’s not a good alpha either. I’m not going to do nothing when he tries to force you to do things you don’t want to do. He puts himself above the pack and its members. That’s not how you run a pack.”

I bit my lip nervously. “You sure you want to do this, though? It could ruin your relationship with them forever.”

“The way they are treating you; how they’ve always treated you is what ruined our relationship. I told mom last night to back off and she didn’t listen. She got dad involved instead. I’m sure. This needs to happen.”

He’s going this far for me. Going against his parents for me. The emotions churning through me make my heart swell and heat build behind my eyes. I threw my arms around his neck and pulled his lips down to mine.

Parker moans softly against my lips, and a single tear drop slides down my cheek. When he pulls away breathlessly, he rests his forehead against mine and smiles.

“I love you, Parker,” I whispered. Parker leans back, gaping in surprise before a slow grin spreads on his face.

“I love you too, Carli. More than anything.”

Her Brother, Her Mate Chapter 45

We talked over dinner about our plans for tomorrow. We want to be ready for anything, and have the upper hand if their plans suddenly change. I called Vincent after getting home, and got the address for their hideout in North Miami. He wants to stay hands-off because of it being his parents. He keeps saying they're too corrupt, and need to die too, and we get the feeling there is more to the story than just corruption on their part. He wouldn't be so adamant about his parents dying if they were simply helping his aunt. Parker is grumbling while I talk to him, so I don't push him too hard on the issue, so I can get off the phone quicker. The way Vincent rolls his 'R's', especially when he says 'corrupt', still makes me swoon, and it's hard hiding it with Parker glaring at me.

Uncle Nathan was the running joke for having such an attractive ex-girlfriend.

"She didn't look like that in high school," he tells us sheepishly, rubbing the back of his head. They weren't that serious, but he told me that when vampires set their hearts on someone, they have a hard time moving on. She eventually did, then I killed him after her ex-boyfriend killed the rest of her coven.

"It's lucky Carli knocked her out before you and Courtney showed up in the parking lot at that party," Elena muses, "She would have known in an instant that Carli wasn't your daughter."

"You're going to have to wear a wig tomorrow, Court," Casey tells her, "Maybe get colored contacts or keep sunglasses on all day. They might recognize you and connect the dots."

She shrugs, "Easy. I'm just glad you guys are still letting me go. I didn't want to sit here, missing your graduation," Courtney tells Casey. Casey smiles at her, leans in and rests his head on hers.

"Don't leave your Uncle's side, though. Your dad has to act like Carli's, so I'm having my parents sit with you too. Please don't go anywhere alone."

Uncle Nate is glowering at the love birds, making me smile. He was fun when he noticed their marks this morning. Overprotective parent is an understatement when it comes to him.

Parker and I only have a few hours left until the mate bond fully affects me. I'm nervous, but excited to feel what Casey and Courtney feel. Parker is sitting next to me, and he keeps rubbing my shoulder, rubbing my knee, trailing his fingers down my arm or cheek. Everytime he does, I swear I feel the faint tingles getting stronger and stronger. I know he is anxious for midnight too. Dad agreed to let us stay the night in my old apartment so we could have some privacy just in case we, (mainly me), couldn't control ourselves when the mate bond hit.

I try to stay awake, but my eyes are fluttering closed before we're even done with dessert. Last night's excursion, combined with the adrenaline of today after only getting a few hours of sleep has done me in.

"Let's get you to bed," Parker leans over and whispers to me, shivers wracking my body at the feel of his breath washing over me.

"Finally giving in, huh?" I smiled, wiggling my eyebrows at him. It doesn't have the full effect, since my eyes are so heavy with sleep. He just laughs at me, standing from the table and pulling me up with him.

"I'm getting her to bed or she's going to pass out in the cobbler. Thanks for dinner, Elena. We will see you guys early in the morning."

My dad gave him a hard look, "If you're not here by 8, you don't want me to go get you."

Everyone else laughs, even Parker, as he leads me out the door and to my room.

"Are you going to shower for the 20th time today? Or are you going straight to bed?"

"Bed," I told him, stripping out of my shirt and shorts, pulling on the t-shirt Parker just took off. "I'll fall if I take a shower right now."

"I could always stand there and hold you," he smirks at me.

"I'm not 18 yet," I mocked him, making him laugh.

"Close enough."

“No,” I shook my head, “You made me wait this long, so we’re waiting. I’m too tired anyway,” I complained, crawling up my bed and sliding under the sheets. I missed my bed. So comfortable.

I’m almost asleep by the time Parker slips in next to me. The golden boy had to brush his teeth and tidy up my room before getting to bed. Heaven forbid he stepped on my discarded clothes or shoes in the morning. He pulls me close, tucking me in under his chin as I drift off.

I wake up when it’s still dark outside. I can still hear the crickets chirping outside from the crack in the bedroom window. That’s not what woke me up. The incredible, mind-blowing scent of peppery citrus washing over me is what made me restless, waking with a start. I’m no longer lying next to Parker. I’m on top of him, straddling him, and my nose is buried in his neck. Holy f**k, does he smell amazing. The tingles and shivers I’m getting all over my body make the ones I was getting last night seem insignificant in comparison.

I don’t know how I ever thought I could resist this. This overwhelming need to just melt into him, fusing ourselves together so we never have to be apart, is all consuming. He’s mine. My mate.

I’m licking his neck before I can stop myself. I need to taste him. I need to see if he tastes as good as he smells.

His throat starts vibrating against my lips and tongue as he laughs groggily.

“You smell so much stronger now,” he whispered. He runs his fingers down my back and back up my shirt, “Do you feel that?” he asks in a husky voice.

My body shivers from the skin on skin contact, my core dampening with need.

“f**k,” I hissed, moving up so I could claim his mouth, “How? How did you resist this?”

He groans into my mouth, gripping the hem of my shirt and pulling it off me. I’m completely naked, a wreathing mess on top of him. Just touching him brings so much more pleasure than I’ve ever felt before.

Parker’s hands roam my naked body, making electricity dance all over my exposed skin. I almost came undone when his hands kneaded my a*s, grinding me against his rock-hard c**k. My eyes roll to the back of my head,

ecstasy filling me as pleasure tightens in my belly. I need him. He is not telling me no.

I started kissing down to his tensed jaw, running my tongue over his rough stubble, across his adam's apple, placing open-mouthed kisses down his neck to the spot I sure as f**k was about to sink my teeth into.

When I start kissing down Parker's chest, he senses my intentions, leans up, grips my hips and flips my body so my p***y is right over his face. I groaned in satisfaction, hooking my hands in the waistband of his shorts and pushing them down his thick, firm thighs, freeing his massive erection. Holy hell. Mouthwatering and perfect. Parker kicks his shorts off, then I run my hands up and down his thighs, making him shiver from the tingles.

He blows gently on my opening, making my legs shake right before he licks up my slit, sucking my clit in his warm mouth. I moan as I work my hand up and down his length, licking the pre-cum from his tip. He's grabbing my a*s so hard it stings, but in a toe curling, delicious way. He is not being gentle as he devours my p***y. His mouth is aggressive and dominating.

F**k that. I opened my mouth as wide as I could, pushing his massive d**k all the way down my throat and swallow, letting the walls of my throat contract around him, making him hiss.

"f**k, Carli!"

I gasped, pulling him from my mouth, watching my saliva glisten on his massive d**k. I smirk proudly, massaging his balls, brushing my finger gently up and down the sensitive skin underneath, then start sucking on his tip, twirling my tongue around him. I'm not smirking long. Parker starts flicking his tongue relentlessly over my swollen clit and sucking it roughly, pumping his fingers in and out of me in a torturous rhythm, and I shoot up straight, my back arching at the intense pleasure. I'm done. My body shakes with a mindblowing o****m and I can't focus on anything but his diversion.

"That's it, baby," Parker cooed when I started grinding on his face, riding out the o****m.

F**k! That was....intense.

"Come here," Parker tells me softly, guiding my hips off his face, rolling us so he's on top of me.

He kisses me deeply, making me whimper. I can taste myself on him, and it's making me want to do that again. His tongue is my new favorite part of him. That magical, pleasure-inducing tongue.

Parker slides his hand between us, positioning himself at my entrance. This is it. This is what I've been throwing a temper tantrum over for the last week. Now that it's about to happen, I'm nervous. This isn't some meaningless hook-up. This isn't a one-night stand with a tourist I'll never see again. This is....this is it. This is going to be my forever.

"I love you, Carli," Parker tells me softly, his droopy brown eyes meeting mine, so full of rapture and devotion. He then pushes softly into me, making me whimper and moan with the fullness. This may be it, but this is everything. He is everything, and I know I won't ever want anything more.

Parker pumps in and out of me gently, and the tenderness he is showing me feels so much more intense than anything I've ever experienced with anyone else. I'm grinding into him, matching his rhythm and movements. Parker's warm mouth was moving softly against mine. I love him. I love Parker so much it brings tears to my eyes.

Parker kisses the corner of my mouth, then trails his lips down my neck to my marking spot. "I want to mark you, baby. I don't think I can hold myself back any longer."

I nodded against his mouth, and I could feel his smile. His tongue laps over my skin, readying me for his canines. I feel them elongate, and gasp as they tear into me. The momentary pain is quickly replaced with the greatest high. I cried out, my body shuddering as tears streamed from my eyes. Parker chokes with a sob, his teeth still deep in me. I need to mark him too. I need to make him mine.

I lick his neck, massaging his skin with my tongue and lips before I bite into his intoxicating scent. His emotions come rushing into me. His adoration and love, and deep, deep devotion, as well as his relief. He releases me as he cries out, stilling in me as he finds his own relief.

We're finally connected in the most concrete, infinite way. He's mine and I am his. Forever.