

Heart of Fire 21

Chapter 21 – Flames of Destruction

AZURA.

S\*\*t. No. Do I tell Leo? I was trying to calm my racing heart, what do I do?

The first thing that came to my mind was to ask him to stop at the service station and get away from him, but I had to think about my baby.

Doing that would not only risk me, but the baby too.

“Who was the message from?” Leo’s voice snapped me from my thoughts, making my breath hitch at his question.

He was watching me intensely.

His piercing eyes seemed to be peering into my soul.

“One of my girls.” I found myself lying, as I gazed out of the side mirror trying to see behind us.

Only the glaring headlights of a car could be seen.

3 Was that him? Was he close? Would he try something? I was putting Leo at risk as well if I didn’t tell him.

What should I do? 2 “Oh yeah? Stop lying Azura.

Are you going to keep hiding it from me?” “I’m not hiding anything...” I was struggling.

Why should I tell him? 1 I know why I didn’t want to...

because I wasn’t ready for him to tell me he didn’t care...

But maybe the mate bond would make him feel something? Yet I still wasn’t convinced ...

“My patience is f\*\*\*\*\*g wearing thin.

Tell me the truth, because for the last fifteen minutes we’ve been followed, and I f\*\*\*\*\*g assure you, it’s not one of my enemies.” 2

Followed.

“Have we?” I asked, my heart thudding as I did my all not to press my hand against my stomach protectively.

“You’ve been too distracted to even notice, but I’ve taken several detours, yet that black McLaren has continued to f\*\*\*\*\*g follow.

So, either you tell me the f\*\*\*\*\*g truth now, or I will f\*\*\*\*\*g stop this car and deal with this s\*\*t my way, no questions asked.” He almost growled, his eyes flashing a steely blue.

“No.” I said, grabbing hold of his arm.

Judah had weapons that killed instantly...

if he used something on Leo...

Just the thought of him getting hurt terrified me.

Although he pissed me off, I couldn't let anyone get hurt because of me, and especially when he had Corrado waiting for him at home.

"Then start talking." He threatened icily.

Our eyes met, before I looked away, not wanting to appear as vulnerable as I felt, and ran my other hand through my hair trying to word a sentence.

"It was from my ex." I began hesitantly, daring not to look at him, but I felt his aura fill the car.

"He-".

"Is he the one who was there the day I found you?" He cut in, his voice was menacing, although I could tell he was trying to control his anger.

My stomach twisted.

F\*\*k, why was he so pissed? "Yeah." I murmured, now daring to look at Leo, realising I was still holding his arm.

I was about to remove it, but the look in his eyes told me pissed was an understatement.

Didn't the touch of a mate calm a person? Well, I didn't want him to f\*\*\*\*\*g blow, and even if I wasn't sure how well our broken bond would work, I kept my hand on him praying it calmer him even a little.

I shouldn't have lied to him.

F\*\*k, now he was pissed at me and I had no where to run to.

"And he's the one you're running from." It was a statement not a question, so I stayed quiet.

"When I asked you to tell me, you f\*\*\*\*\*g should have." He said dangerously, and I could see he was driving faster, way too fast...

The cars around us were a blur, and when he turned, taking a side road, darkness falling over us, I knew we were no longer on the right track.

He had taken a detour on purpose.

"Leo, he's dangerous.

This has nothing to do with you, I will deal with him, just drop me to Alejandro's pack and walk away.

He's not someone to mess with." I warned, not liking the speed we were driving at.

One wrong move and we'd crash.

He turned those piercing blue eyes on me and my head was screaming at me to tell him to watch the road ahead.

“Leo keep your eyes-” “Here’s a news flash little she-wolf; if you think that he isn’t someone to be messed with, then you really have no f\*\*\*\*\*g idea who I am.

He just f\*\*\*\*d with the wrong f\*\*\*\*\*g wolf.” .

F\*\*k, why did that sound so s\*\*y and comforting? Wrong time, Azura..

“Leo, I get that you are the big bad wolf, but there’s something weird about Judah ...

F\*\*k, it’s complicated.” “Why haven’t you told anyone? Aren’t you a goddamn Westwood?” Our eyes met for a second, then his gaze flickered to my hand on his arm.

I quickly removed it, feeling an odd hollowness inside at the loss of contact.

It was weird...

“I don’t need others to fight my battles...

Plus...

I’ve done stuff, and if they find out s\*\*t’s going to hit the fan.

Besides, Judah has some stuff on me.” I explained quietly, it felt oddly good telling someone about it, although I never thought Leo would be that person.

Speaking out made the weight that burdened me lift a little and my chest feel lighter.

“What kind of stuff?” He asked icily.

I could see that the car behind us was literally tailgating us, it was too f\*\*\*\*\*g close, and Leo’s anger was rising with each passing second.

I wasn’t sure if it was because of me or the car behind us, but it was almost suffocating in this car.

“I killed someone, I didn’t mean to but I did, and then he forced me to help get rid of the body after I came to...” I replied quietly, remembering after he had I swallowed hard, pushing the painful memories away and focusing on the present.

“He also...”

It was hard to talk about it.

I was meant to tell Alejandro and prepare myself for the words, but here I was spilling it all to Leo, when he would just drop me off and leave.

So why was I even telling him? “Continue...” The videos.

I needed to tell him about those.

I took a deep breath, just the memory of f\*\*\*\*\*g Judah made me sick.

How did I ever fall for such a sicko? “He has explicit videos of me that he’s threatening to release on the net if I don’t do as he wishes.” Suddenly Leo turned the steering wheel violently to the left and I was

thrown into him, unable to stop the scream that left my lips as I heard something being fired outside hitting the side mirror.

His eyes were blazing steel blue as the car spun violently at his move, just as I saw an explosion go off through the window.

One that I knew was meant for us.

I clung to his arm, as the spinning motion of the car made me sick.

I felt his arm reach over, pressing against my chest and holding me against my seat as the car careened in circles.

The smell of something burning and the intense screeching overwhelmed me, and sparks filled the sky outside.

“B\*\*\*\*\*d.” Leo growled, letting go of me.

He reached for the glove compartment, taking out a gun and switching the steering wheel to his left hand, as he lowered the window, and shot a round of bullets at something behind us.

1 The sound of shattering glass, fire and screeching metal echoed in my mind.

The sound triggered me, and memories of long ago flashed through my mind.

I heard the sound of something crashing, I had no idea what was going on, and when the car finally came to a stop, he loaded his gun once again.

My heart thundered as I realised he was about to get out.

“Don’t.” I said, still feeling nauseous, my heart still pounding and my hands shaking.

I couldn’t let him die, he had a son.

“This is my battle.” “He f\*\*\*\*\*g just made it mine too.

Stay in the car.” He got out of the car, and I was about to follow him, only for the doors to lock.

“Leo! He’s dangerous!” I shouted.

S

I knew Leo wasn’t weak, but still...

I looked around searching for the unlock button.

My heart thumped in relief when I spotted it and frantically pressed it and clambered out of the car just in time to see Leo ripped the door of the McLaren off its hinges.

“F\*\*k!” He growled, kicking the flaming wreck, making it fly a few feet into the air before it hit the ground with a loud crash, before it exploded into smithereens.

I shielded my face as flying pieces of debris filled the air, looking at Leo through squinted eyes.

With the flames creating a backdrop behind him, he walked towards me, gun in hand.

3 He looked around, scanning the area before his cold eyes met mine.

"I locked the doors for a reason." He grabbed hold of my elbow and opened the door, pushing me into my seat before swiftly walking around to the other side and getting in.

"Phone." "Why do you-" "For fucks sake, do what you're told!" "News flash! I don't do." I was cut off when he leaned over and grabbed my phone from the floor.

"Password." I clenched my jaw but I knew better than to argue when Judah might be lurking close by "Six sixes." 4

He raised an eyebrow, unlocking the device and going to the last text.

His eyes flashed as he read the message, before he texted something back and tossed the phone onto the floor.

"We're going back to my Pack." "What?" I asked, my heart skipping a beat.

"You heard me.

I'm taking you back to the Sanguine Pack." "Leo, no." I couldn't go there, being around him was f\*\*\*\*\*g me over.

I was constantly fighting my emotions, but it was hurting, seeing him with Nikki...

knowing that he wasn't mine.

I couldn't stay there any longer than I already had.

"You don't have a f\*\*\*\*\*g choice, plus this was why you were going to Alejandro, right? To ask for his help? I can do a better job, I'm far more experienced in hacking than he is.

I will retrieve those videos he has, and I'll kill the f\*\*\*\*\*g b\*\*\*\*\*d, who cares about consequences."

"No.

Drop me at Alejandro's Pack.

I can't go back with you!" I argued, my heart pounding.

I felt so sick, and his words were messing me up.

He began driving back the way we had come, my mind reeling with what had just happened.

"Leo, please!" "No." "Leo! I don't want to go back with you! Let me the f\*\*k out! I will handle this! This isn't your issue." He ignored me, only making my anger rise.

"LEO!" The car screeched to a stop on the narrow country road, and he turned his blazing eyes on me.

Reaching over, he grabbed hold of my neck and leaned closer to me.

My own eyes burned silver as we stared into each other's eyes.

Our hearts were racing, and I tried not to let his scent get to me.

Didn't he f\*\*\*\*\*g get that it was this exact connection that I was f\*\*\*\*\*g scared of?

“I’m not giving you a f\*\*\*\*\*g choice, end of discussion.

We are returning to the Sanguine Pack.” o His gaze trailed over me for a split second, but then he pulled away, hitting the gas and zooming into the darkness.

Consequences...

Deep down, I was scared for the truth to come out.

I knew Leo would deal with him without caring for the laws of the king and the court of Selene, but... going back to his pack was so hard...

It was getting tougher to be around him, without the bond playing up, and I knew I wouldn’t be able to reject him.

Even fuelled by anger, I hadn’t managed to when I tried.

The words seemed to get stuck in my throat.

I ran my fingers through my hair, before reaching down and picking up my phone.

Unlocking it, I stared at the message Leo had texted back.

You just made this f\*\*\*\*\*g personal, and Schurke Wolf forgives no one.

## Chapter 22 – Shaken

LEO.

I knew something was f\*\*\*\*\*g up, but I wasn’t expecting this... And the fact that the b\*\*\*\*\*d somehow managed to get away... I didn’t see him leave the f\*\*\*\*\*g car. I don’t know how, but he seemed to have just f\*\*\*\*\*g vanished. Unless... he wasn’t in the car to start with... 3

Blackmailing her with s\*x tapes.

That f\*\*\*\*\*g triggered me. I don’t care if she was a f\*\*\*\*\*g princess or not, right now she was someone who needed help.<sup>1</sup>

Why the f\*\*k was she dealing with this s\*\*t alone?

On top of that, somehow the b\*\*\*\*\*d had even managed to track us down... Did he have some sort of tracer on her?

Her luggage.

I pulled up to the side of the road, making her grab the edge of her seat and glare at me with those large, gorgeous eyes of hers. 1 “What are you doing?”

I didn’t reply. Getting out of the car, I walked to the trunk and grabbed her luggage, flipped her suitcase open, just as she came out of the car.

“What are you doing?!”

"I want to know how the f\*\*k he found us." I replied, trying not to notice her tiny thongs in the suitcase, and tossed the entire thing into the hedges.

"What the f\*\*k! How the hell would he have something tracing me!" She growled.

I looked her over, my gaze falling to her shoes.

"Take your shoes off too." I commanded.

"No, seriously, when would he have had time to—"

I didn't have f\*\*\*\*\*g time for this. I grabbed her by the arm, pulling her close and lifting her up onto the edge of the open trunk, before I pulled her shoes off myself. F\*\*\*\*\*g stubborn woman. "You are f\*\*\*\*\*g crazy." She growled, clearly agitated, but I could also sense her unease and worry.

"Makes two of us then." I replied icily. 5

I looked at her pants, they didn't hold anything metal, they should be fine. She sure had s\*\*y f\*\*\*\*\*g legs...

I looked her over before I pointed to her earrings.

"Remove them."

She glared at me but obeyed, tossing them into the bushes.

I pulled her down and slammed the trunk shut, before I walked over to the passenger seat, grabbing her bag "Leo, he didn't have a chance to touch my things!" "You can't be so f\*\*\*\*\*g sure, there's some way he's tracing you." I frowned, as I spilt the content onto the seat. 1

I took out my lighter, setting her passport alight. "Hey!"

"Sorry little She-Wolf, but I'm not f\*\*\*\*\*g risking it. You've been in this guy's company, so you can't trust any of this s\*\*t."

"You're being extreme." She growled, trying to s\*\*\*\*h it from me, but I held it out of reach with ease.

"I know how small chips can be..." I watched until her face and details on the passport melted away, tossed it aside and then destroyed her bank cards before emptying her entire bag out. I switched her phone off but kept it with me, I'll do some tracing later...

The last thought I had was if she had a chip inside of her, extreme but not f\*\*\*\*\*g unheard of, I had all the pups in my pack chipped incase something happened to them. I'll check when we get back... not that it would work in my Pack anyway but I wanted to be sure either way. 5

She now stood there seething. Her heart was pounding loudly as she stared at her things.

"Get in."

"I have no money, no clothes, no passport!" She shouted suddenly, her eyes flashing.

I clamped a hand over her mouth, pushing her up against the car.

“No f\*\*\*\*\*g big deal! You’ll get clothes and cash, now get your little a\*s into the car.” I growled.

She shoved me back and I stepped away, letting her get in, my gaze dropping to her a\*s.

S\*\*y. 4

I looked away, and slammed the door shut, went around and got into the driver’s seat. I was about to start the car back up, when she quickly tried to open the door.

“I’m not letting you out, I already told –”.

She waved her hand, retching as she pointed at her mouth.

F\*\*k, she was going to be sick. I unlocked the door and she stumbled out, running to the bushes and threw up. I got out, swiftly scanning the surroundings, before I walked over to her. Guess she got motion sickness..

I stood by her side as she clutched her stomach with one hand, the other struggling to hold back her silky locks. I reached over, gathering her hair up and held it back, as she emptied her stomach. 5

“Urgh.” She groaned once she had finished emptying the contents of her stomach.

“Guess you’re not as strong as one would think.” I remarked, letting go of her glossy hair. s

I grabbed one of her discarded items of clothes and passed it to her.

She wiped her mouth and tossed it onto the floor again, then looked at me. I had half a mind to make another comment but she looked f\*\*\*\*\*g pale.

“Thanks.” She said with an expression in her eyes I couldn’t read.

“We’ll stop at the next service station, and grab something to drink.” I suggested. She didn’t argue, instead walked to the passenger side and got in, resting her head back against the headrest.

I got in, locking the doors before I started driving. She kept her eyes closed as we continued, it was already late, and it had gotten dark outside. I turned the volume up a little on the music, enjoying the silence that gave me the space to think things over. The pull of the bond was still hanging between us, even though I had weakened it by rejecting her, it didn’t stop me from thinking about her...

Her arguing with me earlier had f\*\*\*\*\*g made me lose my self-control, the way her eyes were flashing, her chest heaving with rage that she wasn’t afraid to express, it was a f\*\*\*\*\*g turn on and I wanted to f\*\*k her senseless, but I couldn’t. Accepting her meant me swallowing my words, when I have stood against the elite for so f\*\*\*\*\*g long... 1

Why the f\*\*k was I even considering it?

If I took her back, everyone was going to question it... Although Marcel and Corrado would be f\*\*\*\*\*g happy. 2

She was f\*\*\*\*\*g crazy, and with her you never knew what she’d do next, but it was pretty f\*\*\*\*\*g amusing. Like that doll that I sure as f\*\*k knew was meant to be me, when she said it was a voodoo doll.



And now I had to f\*\*\*\*\*g decide where to put her, should I place her in my penthouse in the city? Na, it was too far if s\*\*t happened... Maybe I should keep her in my underground bedroom? 1

Yeah like a f\*\*\*\*\*g prisoner, that would be f\*\*\*\*\*g weird.

What should I do... I know I didn't need to answer to anyone, but things were already f\*\*\*\*\*g rocky between Nikki and me... and with Marcel saying he'd hand me the title if I settled down and took a Luna? I didn't want him to think I was choosing Azura, and neither did I want her to be the reason I attained that title. A title I f\*\*\*\*\*g deserved anyway.

I glanced over at her, she was staring blankly out the window. I could see her expression in the glass, blank and emotionless, but one thing I had learned was when she wore that expression, her mind and emotions were working in overdrive. I should have been preparing for my shipment tomorrow but instead, I'm here with her, my mind consumed with other things...

We had stopped at a service station, where I had just grabbed some snacks and drinks, having no f\*\*\*\*\*g clue what she liked, before we had headed back home. She had barely said a word for the entire journey, and even though the car was f\*\*\*\*\*g big, I was very aware of her every move.

Her scent was still as appealing as it was the first time I had found out she was my mate. A temptation that didn't just go away. I had kept an eye out, but after that we weren't followed, making the rest of the journey pass without a hitch. We finally reached home, and I had just parked up in my underground car park again. Only I had access to this place. A chill had fallen, and when we stepped out of the car I saw her curl her toes as they touched the cold ground.

I still wasn't sure what to do with her, and so I decided to take her to the bedroom that led off my cave.

Yeah, keep her like a f\*\*\*\*\*g creep in the basement.

"Where are we going?" She asked as I led her away from the lift.

"You're staying down here until I get some stuff sorted."

"Oh, so you force me to come back and then want to keep me hidden? Geez, I wonder why?" She remarked icily.

I don't know what her f\*\*\*\*\*g issue was, but being back here reminded me of the kiss we shared earlier...

"Think whatever the f\*\*k you want, you're staying here until I say."

"I am not your prisoner." She growled.

Alpha?' Leo?' 1

I frowned when Jackie's voice came into my head. 1

'What is it?' I asked coldly as I unlocked the entrance and led the way in, not missing the way she looked around. Despite her irritation, she still followed as I led her to the bedroom. The room was pretty private, even though the pain wall was frosted and looked out into the main room. 1

'Sorry... but we had a time set, I made sure Emmet wouldn't know...'

I frowned.

Yeah, I forgot with all this s\*\*t going on. 2

'I'll meet you later, around midnight, just say to Emmet the hospital needed you.' 'Of course, got it. Same place?' 'Yeah.' I cut the link, I didn't need anyone f\*\*\*\*\*g seeing us together. 1 I looked over at Azura, who was scanning the room. It was a modern room with a dark interior, a huge tv and surround sound. A king-sized bed was on the far wall with a panelled backdrop. There was a black fitted wardrobe and chest of drawers containing my clothes to one side. She wouldn't get bored with plenty to watch, or at least not entirely f\*\*\*\*\*g bored. "There's a bathroom right through there, grab something of mine to wear, for now, I'll get Winona to get some stuff for you. Or there's a tablet, just choose whatever the f\*\*k you want, here's my card." I placed the card on the bedside table. "There's a fridge there next to the bed

in that cabinet, and there's a collection of alcoholic drinks out in the main room. Help yourself, just don't touch anything else." "And my phone?" She asked, completely ignoring everything I said. "This was a new number right? He still got a hold of it somehow. I need to check a few things out before I can give it back to you."

She let out an irritated exhale.

"Look, I feel like you've taken me prisoner. I get you have taken this personally, but why? I am nothing to you, remember? I don't want to be here Leo!" She snapped, running her fingers through her hair.

Yeah, obviously.

"Do you want him f\*\*\*\*\*g caught or not?"

"I don't have the time to stay here! Yes, I want him caught, goddess! He has pictures of Kat, Sky, and my other friend Song! What if he releases them on the net?! F\*\*k, I don't know if this was a good idea. Leo, this could f\*\*\*\*\*g break Kataleya. She's so d\*\*n innocent and sweet, I know you hate the elite but this will really affect her. She has done nothing to you, think of her.

I clenched my jaw. Yeah, I f\*\*\*\*\*g did hate the elite... didn't mean I hated the kids... Then why not accept Azura? A Being ok with someone and making them my Luna, were two f\*\*\*\*\*g different things. 1 I took out a cigarette and lit it, taking a drag on it. "I have a better chance at doing something about this s\*\*t than Alejandro does, unless it comes down to not trusting me—" "Oh for fucks sake, can you stop stressing me the f\*\*k out?! This isn't about me not trusting you! Goddess! I know you're f\*\*\*\*\*g smart! Everyone has mentioned how you're f\*\*\*\*\*g tech savvy! But me being here is messed up, I need to get away from you! Don't you get it, Leo? Being around you is hard!" She shouted, her eyes glittering with tears of frustration. "I don't want to see your f\*\*\*\*\*g face!"

My eyes flashed, as anger flared through me.

I closed the gap between us and grabbed hold of her elbow, pulling her close.

"If I'm so f\*\*\*\*\*g repulsive, reject me, get rid of the f\*\*\*\*\*g bond that is keeping us both trapped in f\*\*\*\*\*g limbo." I hissed menacingly. I was f\*\*\*\*\*g trying to help, and here she was acting like I was the

f\*\*\*\*\*g issue. A flash of hurt flickered in her eyes before she shoved me violently. She was strong, but not f\*\*\*\*\*g strong enough. "Fine. You want it, I'll give you it."

My heart raced as I stared at her.

She was going to do it. I could see it in her eyes; the pain, the fear, and above all, that fire of determination.

Will she really be able to do it?

It had been f\*\*\*\*\*g hard to say those words... I had to give it my f\*\*\*\*\*g all, I had reminded myself of everything I hated, and only then had I been able to do it. Was she strong enough to

do the same?

But her next words hit hard.

"I, Azura Rayne Westwood," She was doing it, f\*\*k this was it. A few stray tears splashed down her cheeks, and my own heart was thundering. Why now that she was ready to accept it, was it f\*\*\*\*\*g messing me up? "Accept your—" 4

"Not yet." I cut her off, my voice hoarse as I clamped my hand over her mouth and stared into her beautiful blue eyes. Our hearts were thudding as we both stared into each other's eyes.

Two shades of blue... yet so f\*\*\*\*\*g different from one another... 2

"You can accept it when you leave." It was a f\*\*\*\*\*g poor excuse. I turned away, feeling shaken. "I have a lot going on right now and need to be at the top of my game..."

Why had that f\*\*\*\*\*g unnerved me? Wasn't her rejection what I wanted, so these emotions could f\*\*\*\*\*g go away?

I left the room swiftly, knowing if she wanted, she could reject me at any time... and I knew her enough to know that she'd do it too... 2

Chapter 23 – An End LEO.

I left the cave and stepped out into the car park, trying to clear my head. Locking the door behind me, I slid to the ground, resting my head against the cold metal of the wall behind me as I took a drag on my cigarette. 'Winona?' I called through the link. 'Yes, Alpha?'

Winona, she was one of the few I had taken in. She wasn't born in the Sangué pack, but she was still someone I trusted, one of the rare few I trusted completely around my son. 'What's Rosaline cooked tonight?'

Rosaline was my c\*\*k, she lived two floors down from me and she made the best food for me and Corrado. When I had put out the notice for the position, I remember choosing the one whose food Corrado loved the best after tasting it all. I still remember his smile of happiness.

'She made chicken pasta, and stuffed taco cups.'

'Perfect, bring a tray down to my garage, I'll let you down when you're outside.' 'Of course.'

She didn't question me, she never did and I was grateful.

'Oh, and Winona?'

'Yes, Alpha?'

'Bring a woman's toiletry pack, or some s\*\*t with basic supplies.' A pause followed before she replied.

'Is the dinner for one or two?'

'One.'

'Understood. Anything else, Alpha?' 'No, I think that's it.'

I stared at the fleet of supercars that I owned. I had it all; power, money, cars, a son, and a girlfriend... but even then, something was missing. 4 Something that was starting to poison my mind, just as I had heard the bond would do. Making even the most powerful of men succumb to the will of their females. I never wanted to become a slave to this s\*\*t, besides... it was f\*\*\*\*\*g cruel to give false hopes of something I could never offer to anyone... 2

It was the reason I never wanted to mark anyone, but then I had already f\*\*\*\*\*d that s\*\*t up and marked her.

'Alpha, I'm at the lift.'

I got up, walking to the lift and keyed in the passcode. After a few moments the lift opened, to reveal Winona holding a large tray containing Rosaline's delicious pasta, and two stuffed taco cups with mince meat, cheese and jalapenos. There were also two cold bottles of juice and a trifle bowl.

"Thanks, I'll take it." I said, taking the tray from her. "And the supplies." Winona added with a small smile, holding the bag out to me.

"Thanks."

"Anytime, Alpha." She replied, I gave her a small nod, about to close the lift when I looked back at her.

"How's Corrado been?"

Her smile vanished and she shook her head.

"He didn't eat and has been in a strop since Azura left."

I nodded.

"Would you like any food for yourself, Alpha?"

She sure wasn't dumb. "No." I said before turning away and closing the lift.

Even my son was f\*\*\*\*\*g attached to her.

She wasn't mother material... She was wild and crazy more than anything, but she was good with him. 5

I quickly slipped inside and opened the bedroom door, then saw she was in the bathroom. I silently placed the tray next to the bed and dropped the bag onto the mattress, before I exited the room, shutting the door behind me.

I glanced around, picking up the weapon I was working on and a few other items, locking them away. I picked up her damaged phone and dropped it into one of the lockable drawers, that wouldn't open without my thumbprint and code. Satisfied that I had gotten rid of anything that I didn't want her to see, I left the room and headed up to my office from the lift. I had a few hours before I needed to go see Jackie, I'd shower and see if Corrado was still awake.

I entered Corrado's bedroom, only to see he was fast asleep, but I could tell he had fallen asleep upset. His lips were dry and there were tear stains on his face. I frowned, crouching down and wiping his cheek.  
2 Sorry kid.

I sighed, leaned over and kissed his forehead, before I stood up and left the room. I grabbed a bottle of water from the fridge and entered my own bedroom. The smell of Nikki's seductive fragrance filled the room, the lights were dimmed, and Nikki was sitting on the bed in red lingerie and a black silk gown, that was fully open, showing off her curves, scrolling through her phone.

"Babe you're back, finally. Did you not get my texts?" She got up from the bed, but once again I didn't want to do this. As s\*\*y as I knew she was, she didn't appeal to me anymore. It was f\*\*\*\*\*g weird how it worked... 2 "I was driving, didn't get time to check my phone."

She wrapped her arms around my neck, her expression darkening, and I knew she could smell Azura on me. She instantly let go of me and stepped back, ruffling her hair.

"So you took her?" 2

"Yeah, I took her."

And it was f\*\*\*\*\*g hot. 3

"Leo, who is she?"

"Azura." I replied unhelpfully as I took off my jacket and headed through the open arch to the dressing room area.

"I know her name, who is she to you?" Her voice was accusatory.

She crossed her arms, looking at me sharply. I didn't want to do this s\*\*t right now.

"What are you trying to say?" I asked, raising an eyebrow as I grabbed a pair of grey sweatpants and a white t-shirt.

"I..." She pursed her lips as she looked at me, trying to control her emotions. "You don't drive strangers, you don't look at other women, Leo... You and Azura... Why do I feel like there's more?" Her voice was low but clearly irritated.

"I've had a long day, Nikki, I don't want to do this now."

“Then when?! You’re always f\*\*\*\*\*g busy or avoid it! Tell me Leo, do you love me? Do you still care for me, or is someone else in your eyes now?” 2

Did I ever love Nikki?

Yeah, somewhat. I cared for her, and she became a daily part of my life. A partial distraction from the s\*\*t that consumed my mind, but was there someone else now? Yeah, obviously, the bond f\*\*\*\*\*d that all up. 2

“Leo!” She blocked my path, looking up at me with tears in her eyes.

Tears that filled me with guilt.

I was hurting her too... “Azura, is she important to you?” She whispered, clutching my shirt. My eyes flashed and I looked down at her, not sure what I should f\*\*\*\*\*g say. 1

“Leo, you cheated on me, which meant I wasn’t enough, right? And since then, it’s like you’re done with me.”

“I didn’t exactly cheat.” I muttered coldly, brushing past her.

“F\*\*\*\*\*g someone is cheating. You didn’t even check me out today! I’m wearing lace!” 1

Yeah, because you’re not the one on my mind... I stubbed out the cigarette, and was about to enter the bathroom, when she grabbed my arm. “Leo, what is going on? We’ve been friends for years before we began dating. I’m begging you, just tell me what’s going on with you. How many secrets will you keep from me?” a

I knew what I had to do...

“That night... Tell me, what day was it?” I asked quietly.

She frowned, thinking for a moment.

“The Blood Moon, I’ll never forget.” She said bitterly.

I nodded.

“Yeah, me neither. She was my mate Nikki, that night I found my mate.” 2

She gasped, her heart was thundering as she let go of me, backing away. Tears began streaming down her cheeks as she covered her mouth. 3

“You... slept with your mate...” She whispered, dropping onto the bed. “Goddess...”

I stayed silent, running my hand through my hair.

“Yeah.”

She looked up at me sharply, her eyes flashing. “Azura. Is she your mate?” 1

I didn’t reply as she jumped up from the bed, her eyes flashing again. “You brought her here... her mark... Oh f\*\*\*\*\*g hell, tell me it’s not true! Did neither of you have shame that I was right here?! Were you hooking up with her behind my back?! What a s\*\*\*k she is!” 14

“Hey.” I growled warningly, grabbing hold of her arm. My eyes flashed as anger rushed through me. “I was the one who f\*\*\*\*\*g cheated on you, she didn’t even f\*\*\*\*\*g know you existed or what you were to me, until she saw us together.” I growled, my grip on her tight. “I rejected her, and it was by f\*\*\*\*\*g chance that I found her injured and brought her here, and although it’s none of your business, I haven’t f\*\*\*\*\*g slept with her since she’s been here.”

Her heart was thumping and I could see the fear in her eyes.

“But you said you didn’t want your mate... Then... Why was she here?” She asked, her voice softer, as if scared I was going to snap, and I f\*\*\*\*\*g was.

“That’s none of your f\*\*\*\*\*g concern, and I think it’s for the f\*\*\*\*\*g better if we end this. We’re through.” 10

Her eyes widened in shock as she grabbed hold of my biceps.

“Leo, look at me, no you can’t end it. You said you rejected her, you’ve kicked her out. Let her go, we can—” 1

“You have until the end of the week to move out. Take any apartment you want.” 2

“Leo, no, no don’t do this. She’s weird and you rejected her, which means you obviously don’t want her. You said you never wanted to find your mate.” 3

Her voice was full of pain as she held on to me tightly, and as much as her insult to Azura pissed me off, I knew she was hurting too. Our eyes met, and I realised we were already over. From the day I laid eyes on Azura in that club... 1 “We’re over, Nikki.” . Her heart was pounding as she locked her arms around my neck and pulled me down. She was

about to kiss me, but I turned my head away, unable to allow her one final kiss. Her lips met the corner of my lips, as she whimpered in pain. I don’t know why I did it... It was just one kiss... but... I didn’t want the feel of Azura’s lips to leave mine. •

A sob escaped her as I looked down at her.

“It gets easier.” I said quietly. I reached up, brushing a few tears from her cheek, but even then, it was Azura’s tear-filled eyes from earlier that came to mind... “And one more thing... no one is to know Azura is my mate.” 5

I turned away and entered the bathroom to shower. I saw her break into tears as she dropped onto the floor, so I shut the door, blocking her out.

I ended it, and although it was the end of a two-year relationship, I felt lighter.

I knew that the day would come when Azura would leave... but regardless, I felt better. There was no point in staying in another relationship when she had already ruined the taste of all others for me.

----

I looked at Jackie just as she was about to speak, but I didn’t bother replying, pulling my shirt back on. 7

“I’ll see you around.”

She nodded, biting her lip.

“Leo, where did Azura go?” 1

I tensed, wondering if Nikki had already told her. “That’s none of your concern.” She nodded, looking down. “Is she safe?” 1

Odd question.

I turned back to her slowly, looking at her sharply. “Why do you ask?” She swallowed and shook her head, her heart thumping. “She said her ex wasn’t a good person.”

Interesting

“Oh? What else?” I asked, looking at her keenly. Her heart was racing far too fast, and she stepped back in fear. “Nothing else, just she didn’t want him finding her.” She mumbled.

Hmm.

I frowned deeply.

“Next time, if anyone tells you anything, you are to f\*\*\*\*\*g report to me. Understood?”

“Y–yes Alpha.” She said fidgeting.

I didn’t wait for a reply as I left the room, making sure no one saw me as I slipped away.

Jackie’s words from earlier filled my mind, but I pushed them away.

I won’t think about them for tonight... All I wanted to do was shift and go for a run, but I couldn’t, I had things to do. It was time I f\*\*\*\*\*g found this ex of Azura’s, and show him exactly what happens when you mess with me.

Chapter 24 – A Strange Result AZURA.

I didn’t want to be back here, it was hard being here and feeling this pain. I still didn’t know how to feel about him wanting to help, sure it felt great having someone as smart, powerful, and ruthless as Leo on my side, but I also knew that Judah was twisted, dark, and manipulative. Would Leo be able to fix this?

It was a game of risk.

I stayed in the shower for a while, before I wrapped a towel around myself, then dried my hair with a second towel. I walked into the bedroom, spotting the tray of food on the bed.

My stomach rumbled and I couldn’t wait to dig in.

Goddess, I was starved.

I pulled on my panties and walked over to the wardrobe, taking out a white shirt. I looked at it before putting it on.

I sighed heavily as I plopped onto the bed, reminiscing on the moment he had held my hair back when I vomited. 1



And he should, this was his kid too! 1

But he didn't know I was pregnant... 2

Well it seems he had some humanity in him.

This baby... I was beginning to realise I may not be able to keep it from him... If he wanted to see his child, could I really be a b\*\*\*h and refuse him? I picked up the tray, placing it on the bed and began eating

Since I was going to be staying here, I needed to get Dante's necklace somehow. Without Leo realising why, and I think it was time I told Mama and them who my mate was, and the fact I was here at the Sanguine Pack.

I played with the pasta. Despite how hungry I was, I suddenly wasn't really in the mood to eat. I noticed the bag on the bed and pulled it closer, emptying its contents.

Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, a body sponge, toothpaste, a toothbrush, a pack of tampons, a hairbrush, and moisturiser. Wow, seems like he can be a little considerate, shame for him I used his toothbrush and products already. I shrugged as I picked up the box of tampons and tossed them in the air. I smacked it, letting it fly across the room, it hit the wall and drop to the floor. Now that was something I didn't need, thanks to the dumb Rossi and his sperm. 3 I began eating again, my gaze flitting to the tablet, musing over my options. I could contact Dante via email. Yeah, I know, old-school, but at least he'll get it and hopefully check it soon... Kat even gave me his number, but oh well. I picked up the tablet and switched it on, the screen went blank for a second before it turned on. 1

Logging into my email, I found Dante's address and began typing a message.

'Hey nephew!

Hope you are enjoying your time in Italy. Eat my share of pizza and pasta and send me pictures,

So, the reason I am messaging you, and I really hope you see this message... I need to borrow a certain amulet of yours, you can probably guess what I'm talking about and why... I know you wear it... But is there a chance I can borrow it for a bit? 5

Please? I'll stop nagging you about calling me aunty?

And don't ignore me, I am very sorry for putting the scorpion down your swimming trunks a few years ago, and for adding super glue to your hair last year, I swear I was just jealous. You know I have to hold the title of the best hair, right? I mean, aside from Rayhan. 5

Anyway, since I apologised, can I borrow it?' 1 Lots and lots of love your simple, poor, innocent, misguided aunty – Sorry, I mean Azura, not aunty.

I love you lots, remember that ok, even your annoying face. Ok, bye.' 1

I looked at my messages, thinking I had pranked him a lot over the years, with the help of Sky of course. The guy needed to lighten up a little. Broody Rossis... 4

I placed the tablet aside and ate some more pasta. Through the frosty wall of the bedroom, I noticed the outside room light up a little, was Leo back down here?

Today had been strange... I sighed as I finished eating, placing the tray to the side and lay down on the bed, pondering over everything that had happened. I sighed heavily once again as I placed my hand on my belly.

I'm sorry little one. I hope I'm not stressing you out.

I felt exhausted and I hoped tomorrow was a better day...

---

The following day I had been awoken by Leo knocking on the door, leaving breakfast and a few bags of clothes outside. I had just seen him disappear through another door.

His weird behaviour had surprised me, but I didn't ponder over it much before helping myself to breakfast and then getting ready for the day, although I wasn't sure I was going to see anything outside of this room.

I had checked the tablet several times, but there was no message from Dante yet. It was now past one in the afternoon, when a knock on the door made me look up, and Leo opened it before I even said enter. "You should knock and wait." I remarked. Our eyes met, but he was as emotionless as ever. Something had changed though, I wasn't sure, but since the last time we had talked, there was something off about him. He didn't reply to my comment, and instead frowned seriously. 2

"I need you to give me all the information you can on your ex; full name, age, height, anything, including any images you may have of him. I also need certain dates and locations

that might help me. So when you have a moment, come outside."

"Ok." I replied, equally as emotionless. Neither of us looked away, staring at one another for a moment longer, before Leo looked away, his eyes falling to the discarded tampon box I had thrown last night. I felt my cheeks heat up slightly and I frowned.

"I'm a devil, and devils don't bleed." I stated, although he didn't ask me anything, .

I wanted to smack myself..

That sure was dumb, I admit, but yeah, right now I don't bleed from down there...

He simply raised an eyebrow, before closing the door after him with a small snap.

Weird. He was behaving f\*\*\*\*\*g weird... and I had just said the weirdest s\*\*t to him.

Oh well, what is there to lose? He already rejected me, so I'll be as strange as I want to be.

I got up and placed all the dishes in a pile, I'll take them outside with me. I picked up the tampon box and shoved it into the bag, before making the bed and checking my email once more.

Nothing

I wonder if Leo could access everything. The way he talked unnerved me a little, like he could hack into anything...

Once the room looked presentable, I looked in the mirror. I was wearing a black satin cami that was tucked into the torn skinny jeans. I pulled on some heeled boots, ready to leave my room.

There had been a few sports bras and briefs in the bags too, whoever had gotten them had definitely had an idea of my size, but what annoyed me the most was this stuff was all branded. I didn't want to owe him anything.

I ran my fingers through my hair and left the room with the dishes. "Where shall I put these?" I asked when my eyes fell on Leo, sitting back in his seat, his long legs sprawled in front of him and a hand resting under his chin. In black jeans and a black tee, he looked beyond handsome.

The entire room smelt of him, a scent that I couldn't help but find very appealing.

"Put them near the door." He jerked his head towards the door we had entered through last night.

I did as he said, feeling his eyes on me. I turned and walked over to him. There was no other chair in here, so he motioned to me to sit on the edge of the desk "I'm ok standing." I replied, trying not to look at the belt he was wearing with a statement buckle.

He didn't reply, instead turning to the screen next to me. "From your call records, the unknown numbers you received calls from have all been different, most likely from burner phones. But from what I've observed, he has been rerouting messages sent to your phone, and from your phone, to himself. Meaning from Scarlett's,

Liarn's, Elijah's, all of their numbers. The only ones that seemed to be safe from this is Alejandro's and his family's numbers." He explained, seriously looking at the screen. I wanted to ask how on earth he got into my old phone data, but I decided not to ask him irrelevant questions. There was an odd tension radiating off of him, and after my ridiculous breakdown last night with him stopping me from rejecting him, things were already odd...

I cleared my head, paying attention to him.

"So does that mean he's wary of Alejandro finding out?" "Most likely. I don't think he will release any images of Kataleya or Skyla, I think that's definitely something he said to scare you with. He probably knew it would f\*\*k you up. They are Alejandro's daughters, that is not an enemy he wants to make." Leo's deep seductive voice murmured. 1

"Judah is sick, he would do anything, I wouldn't put it past him." I replied, a cold shiver running down my spine. "I don't know, we'll see."

He was like an entirely different man right now; mature, serious, and calm.

He took a cigarette out from his pocket, and I watched him light it, my stomach fluttering. 2

His eyebrow shot up questioningly as he caught me staring.

"Want one?"

"No thanks." I said, turning and staring at the screen. "You said his name was Judah, Judah what?"

"Gallahan."

"Gallahan... Why does that name sound so f\*\*\*\*\*g familiar..." Leo sat forward, pulled up another window and began typing something, a string of numbers appeared before several windows popped up.

Goddess, this was gibberish to me...

"Gallahan... There was a Gallahan family in the Shadow Wolves Pack, but didn't they die?" He frowned as I looked at him sharply.

"Meaning?" I really had no idea, nor had I heard of it. "I just know although he didn't reside in his pack, he wasn't a rogue, just a lone wolf." "Hmm, well let's see if they're linked, or if I can identify him. There's a chance he may have used a fake identity." My heart skipped a beat at just the thought that I may not even know Judah's real identity.

"Relax, it's just an assumption." "You're being pretty nice today, why?" I asked, unable to stop myself as I watched him suspiciously.

He raised an eyebrow, his eyes cold as he looked me over.

"I plan to make you lower your guard, and then when you least suspect it, I intend to devour you." He shot back sarcastically. 13

We both froze, and I realised although he hadn't meant it to come out like that, that sentence could be taken two ways. ? And the image that flashed through my mind made my p\*\*\*y clench in anticipation. "Yeah, and I mean like Red Riding Hood and the wolf." He muttered, and I smirked, he had thought the very same thing. "Oh? Sure didn't sound like that." I taunted, glad he was looking at the screen.

His eyes snapped to me, and I wish I hadn't jinxed it.

"The fact you thought it meant that's where your mind went too. What's wrong? Thinking about a certain night?" He taunted slowly, his eyes flickering a steely blue.

"I can say the same about you then, and no I was not thinking about anything, because if I had a chance to redo that night, I'd have bitten your d\*\*k off when I had the chance." I replied, smirking confidently at the flash of surprise that flickered in his eyes at my words. 1

"Don't poke a wolf if you aren't ready for the consequences." His voice was low and dangerous, making my core clench. The temptation to push him further enticed me, but remembering Nikki, I forced myself to focus on the topic at hand. 2

His computer beeped before I could reply, and there on the screen were several profiles, most of which contained images alongside the information. I shifted from where I was now perched against the edge of the desk, and moved closer to see better, just as Leo leaned closer too.

Jeremiah Gallahan, Lydia Gallahan... I skimmed through. Most of these were from a century ago. My heart skipped a beat just as Leo clicked on one profile that contained no image.

Judah Gallahan...

An eerie ominous chill surrounded me as memories of his torment returned. "Judah Gallahan... as I thought." Leo murmured. "I was right, this family died out years ago." "No, that says Judah—" "Look at the date." Leo cut in, grabbing hold of my chin and turning my face back to the computer. 1

I frowned, about to snap at him when my eyes fell on the date beneath Judah's name. My heart thumped as I grabbed hold of Leo's wrist. "How is that."

There written right under Judah's name, was a date of death. A date that was over fifty years ago...

My heart thudded as fear encased me, a fear like none before.

What on earth was happening? Who was Judah? And why had he taken the name of someone who was long dead? 3

Chapter 25 – A Reply

AZURA.

"As I presumed... it seems you know far less than you thought about your ex." Leo murmured, frowning.

His eyes were cold as he stared at the screen.

"I don't get it, how is this even possible, are you sure that file isn't corrupt or false or something?" I asked.

"No, years ago I began to gather all possible data on the werewolves in this country, just for my own knowledge and I remember this particular family's story intrigued me." He sat back smoking his cigarette.

"Are you sure it's not wrong, maybe a glitch-" "I have an excellent memory, don't question my intelligence." He growled.

"Ok fine, Mr I'm so d\*\*n smart." I muttered.

2.

"Good, at least you're learning to listen." He replied, his voice almost antagonizing.

My eyes flashed, and I looked him square in the eye.

"Don't try me, I don't listen unless I want to." Neither of us looked away, a clash of wills, with both of us refusing to bend.

"Maybe that's what got you into this mess to start with, your lack of logic and your rash temper are enough to land you in this kind of s\*\*t." He said icily.

2 I hated how he had a point...

I didn't want to admit it and I wouldn't, but I didn't like the way he seemed to see right through me.

"These files are from just under a decade ago, I'm curious to see what the current Shadow Wolves database says." He pressed some buttons on his keyboard, and I narrowed my eyes.

“Are you hacking into their database?” “Do you want to know or not?”

“I do...

but-” “So this is on both of us.” “No, it’s not.

Why not go to the Shadow Wolves Pack and ask them?” I frowned.

He looked at me with a cold, arrogant expression, “So instead of doing something I can do righthere within a few hours, you expect me to travel to the Shadow Wolves Pack and waste an entire f\*\*\*\*\*g day? “It’s called doing things the right way?” Yeah, I was one to talk, especially after everything I had done.

He sat forward, taking a drag on his cigarette, his eyes locked with mine.

“Here’s a news flash, Little She-Wolf, I don’t follow rules.” I hated how my stomach knotted in pleasure at his deep, s\*\*y voice.

Why did I have a thing for bad boys? No, I don’t like Leo.

Nope never.

4 It didn’t matter if he had those s\*\*y lips, or those eyes that were sodamn s\*\*y or- 1 Stop Azura! I frowned, trying to rearrange my thoughts when he spoke.

“Do you have any pictures of him?” He asked.

“No.

I deleted what I had when I broke up with him, but he hated pictures so the ones I had were very rare.” I shrugged.

“Great.” He muttered, sounding very sarcastic.

“I need to check if he’s chipped you.” “How?” I asked, narrowing my eyes.

“An X-ray, it’s pretty simple.”

Xray.

My heart began thudding.

Although the radiation couldn’t damage my baby due to our healing, it would show up on the X-ray and I did not want Leo to know about this baby.

Not yet Deep down I knew at some point I would have to, because although he didn’t want me, he would be a good father...

“No.” I replied, firmly pushing the thoughts away before that sadness came over me once more.

He raised an eyebrow.

“Why?” “He didn’t know I was here, so obviously whatever you got in place stops any unwanted -”

“It’s one f\*\*\*\*\*g X-ray.

My jammers hold off any unwanted signals, but unless you never plan to venture out of this pack, we need to make sure he hasn't chipped you." My heart was thudding, and I didn't know what to say.

Think quick, Azura...

He was watching me intently...

and he sure wasn't dumb...

"I dated him for a while...

and I can assure you that he was not tech savvy."

"Yet you don't seem to know enough about him to convince me.

It's one f\*\*\*\*\*g X-ray.

What's the issue?" He asked sharply.

F\*\*k f\*\*k f\*\*k! "Let's do that at another time." I suggested not wanting to discuss this further.

"What are you hiding?" My heart thudded and I tried to calm myself, but I knew he was watching me intently.

"Nothing." I lied, swallowing hard and looking back at the screen.

"Oh yeah? It doesn't seem like it." "I don't need to explain myself to you." I growled, standing up, ready to storm off.

I needed time to hatch a plan to get out of this.

"You're not going anywhere." His voice was cold as he grabbed my arm, yanking me back to the desk and pushing me down onto it.

I gasped as I glared up at him, bracing my hands behind me to stop myself from falling on my back.

Leo towered over me, smoking his cigarette as he looked down at me and grabbed hold of my chin.

My stomach fluttered, sending a jolt of pleasure to my core.

F\*\*k why was he so d\*\*n s\*\*y? "Let's try that again.

What are you hiding from me? And it's in your f\*\*\*\*\*g best interest to tell me the truth so I can f\*\*\*\*\*g help you, Azura." He said menacingly, his long legs on either side of mine..

Help me...

This had nothing to do with Judah...

but I couldn't tell him...

"Like I said, it's nothing." I retorted, pulling out of his grip, and trying to stand up.

I pushed him, trying to put enough space between us so I could regain my balance, but I almost fell back onto the table and grabbed hold of his shirt to stop myself, yanking him down with me.

1

I heard it.

—

The increase in his heart rate...

the way his gaze dipped to my lips as he braced his hand on the table next to me.

“Don’t tempt me to punish you, Little She-Wolf.” He whispered huskily.

We were too close; his scent was getting to me.

No matter how much he said he hated me and my pack, I could see the raw hunger in his eyes that he thought he was doing a good job of masking.

Oh, this boy wanted me bad.

1 My heart thumped and a sinful thought came into my mind...

What if I distracted him with a kiss and then ran away? 1

Nikki.

Yeah, I couldn’t do that.

Think Azura, think! “I need to pee!” I said suddenly.

Leo raised an eyebrow, clearly not expecting that, but it worked, breaking the moment between us and I pushed him away and rushed back to the bedroom.

I slammed the door behind me and hurried to the bathroom, locking the door behind me.

Wow Azura, you really are so charming.

I groaned as I slid down the wall and rested my head against the door behind me.

What should I do...

Goddess...

even if I got the necklace, it would only hide the heartbeat, it would still show in the X-Ray.

Oh f\*\*k I’m screwed in more d\*\*n ways than one.

“Grab your stuff.

I’m taking you back to your previous apartment.” Leo’s voice came on the other side of the door, making me jump.

F\*\*k he was so silent.

“Ok” I replied, rushing to the toilet, and flushing it before I washed my hands.

Back to that apartment...



I wasn't sure if it was a good idea, but I really didn't want to be stuck down here with only Leo for company.

-- -- He had led me through another door and up via a lift until we were in a private office.

I realised when he led me out that this was his apartment.

It smelled of him, Nikki, and Corrado...

A family I really didn't want to wreck.

He made his way out of the apartment and down the stairs to the apartment I had just left yesterday.

It was spotless, and the voodoo doll was nowhere in sight.

Leo placed the bags of clothing down on the coffee table and looked at me.

"I have some s\*\*t to deal with tonight, but tomorrow – first thing – you will get that X-ray done."

I guess it gave me a little time to hatch a plan.

I nodded but said nothing as we both looked at one another, a tense silence falling between us.

He was obviously waiting for me to say something.

"Ok" I said picking up the tablet I had brought along with me from his underground room.

His eyes fell on it and he looked up at me.

"I'll have a phone set up for you by tomorrow, I'll have your contacts all encrypted as well, so there's no way he'll realise if you're contacting them or vice versa." My heart skipped a beat just imagining being able to use my phone without some creepy incoming texts.

"Really? Oh, I could kiss you! I hate-" I froze, realising what I had said.

"I meant like, thank you.

It's a figure of speech, I didn't mean that I could actually..."

Why do you always do this Azura? Why the hell do you go and put your foot in your mouth every goddamn time? He was simply watching me make a fool of myself with that emotionless hard expression of his, with an eyebrow raised arrogantly.

O "Ok yeah, Azura shutting up now." So smart of you Azura...

"Winona will bring you food..."

try to not cause trouble?" I simply pouted at that, nodding like the good girl I sure as hell wasn't.

My cheeks heated from my ridiculous comment.

"Good.

I will probably be back really late, so if you do need to contact me, tell Winona." I nodded and he turned away, about to leave when I called him.

“Oi Blue Eyes!” He stopped and looked at me over his shoulder.

“Thank you.

For helping me out.” Our eyes met, that intense spark simmering between us before he nodded and turned away.

“Anytime.” 2 His one word ignited a storm of emotions inside of me before the door shut with a small thud.

Anytime.

Even if he didn’t want me as a mate, he was still helping me, and I didn’t feel so alone ...

I felt protected...

I had family, but right now there was so much I just didn’t want them to know...

I walked over to the sofa and dropped onto it, turning the tablet on.

I logged onto my email, and my heart skipped a beat when I saw the email from ‘The D Rossi’ 3 Dante had replied!

My heart thumped as I quickly clicked on the message.

‘Hey, I don’t think one apology covers everything you did, but I’ll take it since I now have proof in writing of what you have attempted.

We haven’t talked in a while, and I guess you’ve got some stuff going on, but you’re not alone.

Always remember, no matter what c\*\*p comes your way, that the first person who comes to your mind will always be there for you.

Ok those are my words of wisdom lo...

Moving on...

As for that necklace, you don’t need it, I mean I could send it to you, but there won’t be any use for it.

However, if you still want it, let me know.

Pictures of Italy? I’m here due to work.

There’s nothing pretty to look at, trust me, but I’m attaching one below of the best thing I’ve seen around here.

Love, your current favourite Rossi male.’ & I pouted as I stared at his letter.

I didn’t need it? Why didn’t I need it? Did it mean Leo figures this out?

Please no...

Right below the message was a picture of none other than himself.

C\*\*\*y much? He had the angular jaw famous in the Rossi men, plump lips like his mama and those glossycurls that I hated because I was jealous of them of course.

I stuck my tongue out at the picture before placing the tablet down as I mulled over Dante's message.

Current favourite Rossi? Was that a hint at Leo or my baby? Urgh I loved this guy, but the way he talked messed with my head.« It can't be Leo...

but who said I'll give my baby the Rossi name? I suddenly sat bolt upright, placing my hand on my stomach as the sudden realisation that I was carrying a Rossi hit me like a freight train.

An actual goddamn Rossi.

Imagining an arrogant little snarky mini-Leo, I shuddered.

Oh, I'm really screwed...

Chapter 26 – Coming Clean

AZURA.

I stayed in the apartment not wanting to run into anyone else, and it was so boring with nothing to do.

Winona had come with lunch, and then again for dinner.

It was obvious from the way she was looking around that no one knew I was here.

Guess dickface wanted no one to know.

I was tempted to ask her if I could see Corrado, but after last time...

I wasn't sure Leo would appreciate it.

So here I was...

wondering what I should do...

Marcel.

knew who my mate was, and it had come to a point where I knew I couldn't keep lying to my family...

I stared at the tablet that sat on the bed, then glanced at the time.

Just past ten...

Katara would be put to bed by now...

Should I video call? My fingers itched before I took a deep breath, thinking to just go ahead with it.

Marcel knew, and Leo didn't want anyone here knowing, didn't mean my parents couldn't know.

If he pushed for the X-ray, then he'd find out about the baby too...

Before I ended up changing my mind, I quickly set up a video call between Kiara, Raven and Mama, knowing their mates would be there too.

Goddess...

here goes nothing.

Kiara was the first to accept the call.

“Hey Azura! It’s been a while.

How are you?” She asked with a smile on her face.

Kia, my sister, was the younger twin with Liam being older.

She had shoulder-length sandy blond hair, with gorgeous eyes that were sage green with a blue ring around them.

Plump lips and a gorgeous curvy figure to complete her goddess-like looks.

She was a blessed wolf with healing abilities as well as the queen.

“I’m ok, how are you guys?” I asked as a shirtless Alejandro came into view.

Even though he was now in his fifties, he was still as hot as ever if not getting hotter with age.

4 Alejandro Rossi, the tattooed Lycan king who was also Leo’s uncle.

This was going to be fun.

“Good until you decided to f\*\*\*\*\*g interrupt.” Alejandro remarked, sitting behind Kiara with ease, his legs oneach side of her and wrapping his arms around her tightly.

6 “I swear Alejandro, with age you are getting crankier by the second.

Poor Kia, stuck with a grumpy old man.” I taunted.

“Ignore him.

He may be acting like this but when he saw the call was from you, he came over rather quickly.” Kiara said, smiling slightly.

Just then, Mama and Raven joined the call.

“Hmm, of course, everyone loves the Westwood Devil.” I declared with a flick of my hair.

“Or I’m here to see the drama unfold.

There’s no f\*\*\*\*\*g chance you ain’t been up to something.” Alejandro replied, smirking.

1 Urgh if only he knew...

Would he be smirking if he realised it’s his d\*\*n nephew who screwed me over? a “Hey, guys.” Liam said and I smirked at them, from Raven’s messy hair...

I had a feeling my brother and she had just done the dirty.

“Hey, Zu!” Raven said, as everyone exchanged greetings.

“You know I’m glad you video called, we’ve been worried.” Dad said quietly, I knew he was upset with me.

I nodded, giving him an apologetic smile and one of my best doe-eyed looks..

“Not to mention we can’t even get through to you, Azura what are you doing out there?” Mama asked, frowning slightly.

“Ok, so I wanted to talk to you all together.

Please hear me out before any of you unleash hell.” I said sitting forward.

My heart was racing as I saw Dad’s eyes flash, and Liam and Alejandro were watching me intently.

Mama was frowning, and Raven and Kiara looked concerned.

Come on Azura, tell them.

“Ok first of all...

I didn’t go to Sweden, I planned to, but I didn’t.” I began,

“What?” Dad asked, “Where are you?”

“I...” I almost lied I had car trouble but no, I couldn’t lie anymore to them.

“I’m at my mate’s pack” 1 There it was, the hurt in dad’s eyes, the concern in mama’s, the anger in Liam’s and that sharp calculating look in Alejandro’s.

“The mate who rejected you?” Liam growled, Raven grabbed hold of his arm, looking back at him as she shook her head gently, and I knew she was trying to calm him down via the mind link “Yes, and he doesn’t know about...” I pointed at my stomach.

“Anyway moving on, I thought I should tell you; I had every intention of going to Sweden, but then stuff happened and here I am.” 3

“Are you two trying to make it work?” Mama asked quietly.

“He doesn’t deserve you.” Dad said coldly.

3 “Dad,” Kiara said softly, “Look...

if Zu wants to do this, we should support her.

Tell me Azura, is there good in him?” I nodded slowly.

Although he was an a\*s, there was...

even if it’s very less.

2 "He loves his pack, his family, well some of his family.

He's a stuck-up arrogant jerk, but he is an ok human.

Kinda...

a bit of a d\*\*k...

or a real big d\*\*k" I mumbled.

1 Kiara smiled knowingly, "Then, we all should support her.

I remember how hard Alejandro was to deal with...

to the point he almost marked someone in front of me." Kiara said, placing a hand on her man's jaw and tilting her head up as he leaned down and kissed her.

"Kia is right, maybe there were other factors." Raven mused.

I nodded.

There definitely was...

"What Pack?" Alejandro asked, frowning.

"I want to know what f\*\*\*\*r rejected you." ? "Why is his pack important?" I asked.

"You said he cares for his pack, so he's someone ranked then?" Dad asked.

I sighed.

Should I tell them? I examined my nails before Mama called me.

"Azura." I looked at her, seeing the concern and the pain in her green eyes.

"No more secrets." Oh, there were so many more secrets.

I'm sorry Mama.

"Ok, if I tell you, no one loses their s\*\*t.

Ok what we do, is our decision to make.

Please." I said, looking at them all.

2 "He's f\*\*\*\*\*g dead." Liam muttered, but I tilted my head.

2 "Liam." "I'm not going to stand by and let people constantly hurt you." He threatened, his eyes full of hurt and anger.

I knew how he hated how the rare few of the pack treated me...

He hated that no matter what he did, there were always a few old vaginas and penises that would never change.

"So, let's have the f\*\*\*\*r's name." Alejandro said, taking out a cigarette and lighting it.

1 A smile crossed my lips as I watched.

“He reminds me a bit of you, which is gross.” I said, making a gagging face.

Alejandro narrowed his eyes.

“There’s only one Alejandro Rossi, no one can f\*\*\*\*\*g be me.” 1 “Yeah, there’s only one Alejandro, but there isn’t only one Rossi, now is there?” Alejandro raised an eyebrow, and I took a deep breath.

“My mate is Leo, Marcel’s son.” I confessed, staring at them, waiting for their reactions.

Alejandro froze as Kiara’s eyes widened in shock.

Raven’s mouth dropped open as Liam took a second to comprehend what I had said.

Whilst Dad looked pale, Mama was staring at me in shock 6

“That f\*\*\*\*\*r...” Alejandro was the first to speak as he sat forward, his arm still around Kiara, but he was frowning deeply.

“He...” 1 “Another Alejandro.” Liam didn’t sound happy; his usual smile was gone.

“So now the mark makes sense.

He marked you and then when he found out you were a Westwood, he rejected you for that very reason, correct?” 1

His voice was cold, and for someone who could be pretty dense, I wished he hadn’t picked up on it so fast, but when it came to serious matters, Liam was not to be messed with.

I didn’t say anything, trying to hide the pain I felt at the memory of that night.

Liam had seen me, the way he had broken me...

Everyone was quiet, my silence screaming my response.

It was too silent and then anger appeared on Dad’s and Alejandro’s faces, matching Liam’s.

Kiara looked...

guilty.

I didn’t want them to blame themselves.

Goddess! “Look...

Whatever the reason, it doesn’t matter.

Marcel returned yesterday and he found out, so I’m not alone here...

If things don’t work out, I’ll come straight home.” It wasn’t exactly a lie, I would go home when all this was over, even if the thought of leaving him made my heart ache.

I hated this.

“Marking you and rejecting you, that ain’t f\*\*\*\*\*g tolerable.

I’m going to-” Alejandro growled.

1

“Let Azura handle it.” Kiara cut in firmly.

“Dad, Alejandro, Liam, look...

I know that not every mate is worth fighting for, but Leo does have a good heart.

Deep down I feel if he just let it go, he would be the best mate for Azura...

if he knew-” I placed a finger on my lips, not putting it past him to have maybe bugged the place.

“I’m sure he’d take care of her.” Kiara continued.

“Also, Alejandro was horrible until Kiara made him into her big puppy! I’m sure Azura can do the same with Leo! Only a Westwood woman can tame aRossi!” Raven exclaimed.

4 I didn’t know what to say, knowing Nikki was there in his bed...

I wouldn’t fight for him when he didn’t want me...

Well, aside from physically.

I also didn’t want to burst her poor bubble.

I looked at Dad and Mama, Dad looked pissed, his jaw clenched, his eyes hard.

“I don’t get why both my girls were mated to Rossi’s...

Wasn’t the pain that one of them went through, enough?” A

Alejandro frowned, but he said nothing, a glimmer of guilt in his eyes, clearly knowing what Dad said was true.

Kia gave his arm a gentle squeeze, leaning into him.

She had forgiven him, and they were one of the best couples around.

“I want to f\*\*\*\*\*g punch him a few times myself.

Call me selfish, but is it wrong that I do think perhaps it is Azura who can make him let go of the bitterness and hatred from within him? That she’ll be the one to melt his heart of ice that he’s let harden with all the anger that has consumed him? Just the way Amore Mio did to me...

I’m not saying you shouldn’t f\*\*\*\*\*g be pissed Elijah, but the fact that another of your daughters is mated to a Rossi just shows they are f\*\*\*\*\*g strong enough to deal with us.” Alejandro said, smoking his cigarette.

“She’s also right, Leo is similar to me and although she and Kiara are opposites, both are strong women.” 2



“So you’re saying, to let her stay there, when goddess knows how he’s treating her?” Liam asked with concern and irritation in his eyes.

“You made mistakes too, Liam.” Elijah reminded him, rubbing his temples.

“If he hurts her...

I won’t care who he is...” His threat remained open, the anger in his eyes as they burned bright, cobalt blue.

Indigo...

I knew he would still never forgive himself for what she went through...

Liam didn’t reply, obviously remembering what he had done in his past...

Their story was complicated, and although it was a long time ago, it just showed no one was perfect.

These men before me loved their mates with their entire soul and being, yet they had made mistakes.

1 “I won’t let anyone hurt me, I’m not weak.

I will come home if I realise it’s not worth staying here...” I promised.

Mama nodded slowly.

“Ok, and I expect at least a call or message every day.” She said firmly.

I nodded.

“Ok, promise.” I replied.

“I know you’ll be able to get through to him.” Alejandro said quietly.

“No f\*\*\*\*\*g pressure.

It’s something I never managed to do but I hope you can.” Kiara looked at him gently, sympathy in her eyes as she leaned into him.

“And it’s not your duty to, if he doesn’t treat you right, come home angel.” Dad said firmly.

Mama simply gave me a faint smile.

“Whatever you do, we are here for you.

You are a woman who can make her own choices.

Just do what you feel is right and think before you act.”

Yeah, I never did think...

I nodded, I felt awful...

both Marcel and Alejandro had hope in me...

I bid farewell to them before ending the call and slumping back against the sofa, staring at the ceiling.

Even if he didn't show it, it was obvious he had hope that I could get through to Leo.

I don't know how they expected me to do that.

The guy was so d\*\*n stubborn! Telling them had made it all the more real...

so goddamn real...

I don't see Leo and I having a serious conversation at all.

Ever.

But wait, wasn't that a serious conversation earlier? I ran my fingers through my hair, sighing heavily as I stared at the ceiling.

How could I try when he had Nikki? I sighed, standing up and walking over to the window, I opened it relishing in the fresh air.

I preferred it over air conditioning.

I rested my arms on the windowsill, and my chin on top of my arms, gazing down at the glittering lights of the mini-city.

Leo's pack – It sure was beautiful...

I heard a faint bang, and I froze looking at the wall next to me.

Wasn't that Jackie's apartment? I walked closer to the wall, but I didn't hear anything.

Hmm.

I'm so bored! What shall I do? Maybe I... Another thud made me freeze, and I stared at the wall.

It didn't sound normal...

The first thing that came to my mind was that they were having s\*x, but the random bangs didn't add up...

Should I just go and ask if everything was ok? I'm sure it wasn't someone breaking in...

Being as bored as I was and wanting to get out of here, I decided to just check up for my own piece of mind.

Leo never really said I can't leave...

Did he? I couldn't remember.

Oh well, who cares, he wanted me here.

I left my apartment silently and I hadn't even shut my door, when across the hall Jackie's door opened and Emmet stormed out.

He was angry, scratch that, he was f\*\*\*\*\*g fuming.

He didn't even see me as he stormed to the lift swearing under his breath.

I guess he was throwing things in anger.

Men...

Once the lift started descending, I walked over to Jackie's door and rang the bell.

She was nice and I bet she was feeling down.

Maybe I could cheer her up and I wouldn't feel so bored either.

The door opened to reveal a distraught Jackie.

"Emmet ple-" She stopped in her tracks as she stared up at me in fear as she realised I was not Emmet.

I was seeing red She had a bruise on her jaw, and I could see the finger marks and blood around her neck where it was obvious she had been grabbed by a clawed hand. Oh hell no.

Both our hearts were thumping for very different reasons.

"This isn't what it looks like." She whispered, but the way she was shaking, trying to cover her neck and the way her heart was thumping...

Lies.

He hurt her.

He f\*\*\*\*\*g hurt her.

"What the hell happened?" I asked quietly, trying to control the rage within me.

"Azura, this is nothing.

Please just don't tell anyone.

I haven't told anyone your secret." She was blackmailing me, but the thing is, I would sacrifice my own secrets and so much more than let something like this go.

"Go back to your apartment." She said softly, fear and confusion clear on her face at my silence.

I nodded slowly, and she looked at me.

"Promise me you won't tell the Alpha." "Promise." I said quietly.

She searched my face which was expressionless, before nodding in relief.

"Thanks, he was just a little angry." She whispered.

Yeah, and he's f\*\*\*\*\*g dead.

I nodded and she closed the door.

I counted to ten, my eyes flashing silver before I turned and ran to the lift.

I may not tell Leo, but I was going to deal with him myself.

How dare he...

He was supposed to be the Delta...

and he f\*\*\*\*\*g hurt his mate? Not on my f\*\*\*\*\*g watch.

I hit the lift to the ground floor ready to unleash hell on the f\*\*\*\*\*g b\*\*\*\*\*d.

Chapter 27 – A Lie

AZURA.

I left the lift, but he was nowhere in sight, but that wasn't going to deter me. I followed his scent, my eyes blazing as the image of Jackie's bruises flashed in my mind.

I looked around, sniffing the air, following my nose around the side of the apartment before breaking into a jog, just in time to see him disappear behind another building. I looked back at the streetlights and wondered where he was going.

"Emmet!" I shouted as I rushed to catch up.

I turned the corner and saw him about to enter the dark building, but he stopped when I called him.

"Azura?" He looked surprised to see me. "Didn't you leave?"

I guess he really didn't see me upstairs.

"Oh, I came back." I replied, walking over to him.

And I'm f\*\*\*\*\*g glad I did.

His eyes narrowed as if suddenly suspicious of why I was here, his expression darkened, and he looked me over. "Why are you following me?"

"Because I was right there when you stormed out of your apartment, right before I saw the marks on Jackie's neck." I replied, looking him square in the eye.

"Look here, I don't know what the f\*\*k you want, but what I do is none of your goddamned business.

Stay out of this. Remember you and your kind are not f\*\*\*\*\*g welcome here." He spat.

"My kind? We are all f\*\*\*\*\*g werewolves, you dumb d\*\*k. We are f\*\*\*\*\*g one, and even if weren't, there shouldn't be f\*\*\*\*\*g discrimination."

Ok, Azura you are going off-topic.

"You know... I checked, and there's only one f\*\*\*\*\*g Azura, and she's a Westwood. I wonder if Leo even realised or was he so busy with work he didn't even know who he was helping."

"Oh whatever, that s\*\*t won't work. Leo knows I'm a Westwood, this isn't about who I am but what you f\*\*\*\*\*g did. Do Leo or Marcel know that the Delta is an abuser?" I shouted, my anger rising at his lack of care.

He scoffed stepping closer to me threateningly.

“Only thing is, it’s your word against mine and Jackie’s. Trust me, she won’t rat me out... So you think Leo will ever listen to an Elit

I punched him across his irritating -as-f\*\*k face, cutting him off. His eyes flashed menacingly as he cupped his jaw, glaring at me with pure hatred.

“I don’t care who listens and who doesn’t, but if you think you can just abuse your mate and get away with-”

He raised his hand, but before he could even grab or do whatever the f\*\*k he planned to do, I knocked his hand away.

“Then you’re wrong.” I finished “ And I am not Jackie, who will f\*\*\*\*\*g sit by and allow you to touch me.”

“What you going to do, run to your big brother?” Emmet growled mockingly.

“No, I’ll just break your f\*\*\*\*\*g arms myself.” I hissed as he grabbed hold of my arm, shoving me against the wall, but I was

ready; kicking him on the shin and trying to push him back but he was f\*\*\*\*\*g strong

And so am I.

He swore, as he managed to grab hold of my arm twisting it behind my back and was about to do the very f\*\*\*\*\*g same move that Leo

had almost done on me, I raised my feet jamming them against the wall. Jarring pain rushed through my legs before I used all my force and pushed back. At the same time, slamming my head back against Emmet’s nose as hard as I could before I flipped up and over behind him and kicked him square in the centre of his back.

Bet that hurt like a b\*\*\*h in heat.

He swore as he stumbled, spinning around and recovering pretty fast.

“You may be the Delta of an impressive pack, but I’m the daughter of two of the best Alphas out there. You are no match for me.

“Daughter, yeah right. We all know you aren’t their real daughter.” He scoffed, wiping blood from his nose.

He did not just go there.

“Blood alone doesn’t make you family, I don’t care who conceived me, I am their daughter. Take it back.” I threatened quietly.

He smirked, realising he had hit a nerve.

“Then stay the f\*\*k out of my business b\*\*\*h!”

It took my f\*\*\*\*\*g all not to do worse, Jackie said not to tell the Alpha... Marcel was Alpha, not Leo ... right?

"The moment you hurt her, you made it my business. I don't know what the hell this pack is, or their rules but I don't believe that Alpha Marcel would allow abuse here." I turned ready to storm off when he was suddenly behind me grabbing my hair and twisting me around to face him.

I hissed at the pain in my head, reaching out and digging my claws into his face in defence.

He let out a blinding roar, slamming me with full force into the far wall, but I didn't let go, digging my claws further into his face and pulling him with me.

Yup here are two facts. I'm a psychotic b\*\*\*h and he may need stitches considering I just ripped his face up but I sure as f\*\*k don't

care.

His fist connected with my jaw, and I was forced to let go of him, my head snapping sideways.

Something cricked and I bit my lip, fighting back a groan of pain as I

elbowed him in the neck, just as he shoved me to the ground. I landed on my a\*s bringing my legs up and shieling my stomach, just in time to block his vicious kick.

Was he aiming to hurt but not to make me bleed? If he was... then he was smart but not f\*\*\*\*\*g smart enough. When he aimed another kick, I blocked with my arm, his boot scraping the skin and I felt something crack

He was attacking blindly, clearly, he wasn't used to being hit back. I knocked his feet from under him, making him fall to the ground.

B\*\*\*\*\*d.

I took the chance, jumping on top of him, as I straddled him, grabbing his shirt in my fist, ready to punch him.

"Oi! What's going on!" We both turned sharply to see none other than Emmet's older brother, Eric.

He looked between us, worry and confusion on his face as he ran and pulled me off Emmet. He looked us over, clearly unsure what to make of it, frowning deeply.

I'm sure Emmet looked worse off... I had dug my nails into his cheeks and I had messed it up bad, not to mention the b\*\*\*\*y nose.

"What on earth is this?" Eric growled again.

Gone was the cute teddy bear, shame I liked him better happy, but I guess we can all become psychos when needed to.

"She attacked me out of nowhere." Emmet growled.

"Oh?" I challenged.

“You’re in our pack, if I were you I’d be f\*\*\*\*\*g careful.” He hissed.

“Is that a threat? Because I know how to make those too.” I spat back

Oh I wanted to f\*\*\*\*\*g rip his d\*\*n eyes out.

Eric swore as he pushed Emmet back trying to diffuse the situation. He then turned to me.

“Leo isn’t here, Azura, he doesn’t allow people into this pack as it is... you’re his guest and doing something like-”

“I’m not his goddamn guest and I will attack someone if they f\*\*k-” “Leo will kick you out if you cause trouble.” Emmet snapped, ripping

his shirt off and wiping his b\*\*\*\*y

face.

Even though he was pretty lean, he was well-built. Well, the kicks were proof of that...

“Oh? Even if he knew the truth?

Then how about we take this to Alpha Marcel?” I challenged.

His eyes flashed, and he clenched his fist.

“He just got back from his trip. Let’s not make things harder for him.” He said, and Eric frowned, nodding

“Hmm. Sure.” I said gripping my forearm and rolling my wrist.

“You both need to go get seen over ... D\*\*n Emmet, you’re literally going to need to get that glued.” Eric muttered, poking a bit of skin

that was actually hanging.

I sure did a number on him, but he , f\*\*\*\*\*g deserved it.

I examined my nails.

“Oh look, I think I have bits of skin under my nails. Do you want it back?” I asked, blinking innocently as I flicked whatever c\*\*p of his was under my nails at him.

His eyes flashed murderously, but he said nothing, simply shaking his head.

“I guess this is what the elite think, that they can just walk into any pack and do whatever the f\*\*k they want...” He muttered quietly, I didn’t bother replying.

I had no idea what he may be telling Eric through the link, but this wasn’t over.

“I’m going back to my apartment.” I stated when we rounded the building

“You may need to be seen Azura.” Eric said although he no longer sounded so friendly.

“No, I don’t, it’s a few bruises, they’ll heal.” I replied coldly.

“Me too, I’m going to return home, Jackie can fix this up.” His cold eyes met mine and I felt my anger rise at just the mention of Jackie.

“Alright... I will be mentioning this to Alpha Leo.” Eric stated, looking between the two of us.

“Sure, so will I,” I replied as Eric continued to lead us inside the building as if he didn’t trust us alone, well heck neither did I.

“Like he’d take the word of an elite princess over his best friend.” Emmet muttered.

“I truly pity him for having such a best friend then.” I replied as we entered the lift.

Those words of his stung but I wondered if Leo would take my word or his?

It was something that I was unable to push away, like why should I care if he didn’t believe me? Sure I will make sure Jackie’s issue is made known to at least one person who could help her. Eric may not believe me, and if Leo who technically isn’t the Alpha yet didn’t believe me, then I would break my promise to Jackie and tell Marcel... But I knew the reason I wanted to see if Leo would believe me or not was personal... almost like a test.

A test for what? I had no idea.

“Right the both of you, go to your own apartments. Now.” Eric ordered, sounding like that annoying older brother.

“Sure, or we can go see if Jackie will just have a quick check over of me too. What do you think Eric would that be ok?” I asked innocently, giving him the best innocent expression that I could put on despite feeling completely pissed off.

The brothers exchanged looks but Emmet shook his head.

“No.” He said coldly.

“Why not?” I asked, sauntering over to their door.

Sorry, Jackie, you kept my trust but I won’t be doing the same.

“Eric, I’m trying to be calm as Delta, I’m commanding you to get her to her apartment, she’s not entering mine.”

“Emmet, it won’t take long for Jackie to have a look at her.”

“Maybe he’s simply just scared that someone will see why this entire fight even began,” I remarked, ringing Jackie’s door.

“What do you mean?” Eric asked sharply.

“Want to tell him, or shall I?” I challenged Emmet.

He just looked confused as he raised an eye.

“You attacked me after looking down on our pack, and mocking the fact that Leo isn’t Alpha. What do you mean?” He asked just as the door opened to reveal Jackie.



She was wearing a different top now that covered her neck, but apart from that, she looked absolutely fine. with slightly heavier makeup than before, covering the bruise on her face entirely. My stomach sank at the smile on her face realising she was going to play along.

She was going to hide Emmet's truth, just the way Indigo hid Fred's.

I swallowed, looking at her intently as her smile faded, looking between me and Emmet.

"Oh my... Emmet..." She rushed to his side touching his face gingerly.

"I'm ok doll, it's nothing." He said.

Say it Azura.

Eric was standing there and I realised I needed to, even if no one believed me I'd speak the truth.

"You hurt Jackie, I saw the marks. Jackie... you don't need to deal with this." I said looking between the three.

She exchanged looks with the men before turning to me with a look of confusion on her face.

"I have no idea what you mean Azura. You must have misunderstood... Emmet left in anger because the TV wasn't working." She gave me a small smile and shook her head.

Eric sighed as he looked at me with disappointment.

"I'm sorry Azura, you seemed like a nice girl... I didn't think you'd try to cause issues like this. Maybe they're right... Goodnight guys." He walked off, and I felt awful as I turned to Jackie, who was guiding Emmet inside.

"Good night, Azura." She said, and that's when I saw it, the tiny glimmer of guilt in her eyes before she shut the door in my face.

Chapter 28 – Will You Believe Me

LEO.

Schurke Wolf.

My alias, the name the cartel world knew me by.

I ruled the United Kingdom from the underground, with ties and allies in Italy, Germany, and most European countries.

Power and money, I had it all.

The humans looked to their king and prime minister, and the supernatural species looked to Alejandro, but from the shadows, England was mine.

Humans worked for me, and although they didn't know who I was exactly, they sensed the power that I held. They could feel it when in my presence and knew I was not to be trifled with. I was feared by all, and there were not many who could look me in the eye.

My most trusted men from my pack were also part of my cartel, but I always made it clear, if they wanted to step back from the front lines, they were welcome too, because, in this world, death is always lingering above you. Luckily, being a werewolf made us pretty much invincible when it came to dealing with humans. But even then, the risk of the unknown was always there, and I did not want my people to be left without their mates because of my own ambitions,

Nothing happened without my knowledge, and if someone ever tried to double cross me, then I f\*\*\*\*\*g take care of them.

I now wore a dark grey suit, a black shirt and smart boots as I headed to one of my underground warehouses. The drugs had finally arrived, and I was here to take a look at them myself.

I was flanked by my most trusted; the Six as they were referred to. Ace, Shane, Dan, Jin, Li and Jax. I didn't trust easily but these six, I grew up with them, and I knew they were ideal for this job. They went by aliases here, just like most of us. Within the pack, we didn't really show that we talked much, I preferred not to mix the two identities. Only Ace and Jax lived at the pack, whilst the other four lived in the city.

I slowed down as I looked at the crates in front of me The Isn had been separated from the fruit they had been compiled with, and I looked at the endless packets in the assorted crates, letting out a low whistle.

We did it, one huge, risky, shipment but with the correct planned journey that I had mapped, they got into the UK without being discovered by border control. I crouched down by one of the crates, opening one of the clear packs and took a pinch in my fingers.

I sniffed it, it was clean. The very best that money could buy.

"Check every individual packet, and get it to Seven X. Open the market for our buyers a week from now." I commanded, turning around.

Those who that was directed at knew the location of that site. The less who knew where I was keeping it, the better.

"Understood, we've already begun getting everything in place." Snider, one of my human Lieutenants spoke.

"Perfect." I replied, about to say something else when I suddenly felt a wave of unease wash through me.

Something was wrong. I looked up sharply scanning the place, but it was completely secure, only a few I trusted were in here and it was heavy with security.

Check if this place is secure.' I commanded through the link.

A few minutes later they told me all was fine.

What was this feeling?

“Everything ok Boss?” Snider asked.

“Get them to Seven X now, via separate routes as planned.” I said, pocketing the packet I had opened.

“Understood!” He moved away and I took my phone out. No phones worked in here and I wasn’t about to lower my defences. Was something wrong at home?

Azura came to my mind and that unease grew.

Noir, call Emmet.’ I commanded one of the men who was standing guard outside.

‘Yes, boss.’

‘He isn’t answering Alpha.’ He said after a moment.

‘Fine.’ I frowned. That feeling – wasn’t going away, and I wondered if something had happened to her.

Had that b\*\*\*\*\*d found a way into the pack?

“I’m leaving, take care of the rest.” I told the Six before I walked past them.

As much as I wanted to oversee this myself, I had to go back. I needed to make sure she was f\*\*\*\*\*g ok. Stepping out into the underground carpark, I got into my car, commanding my driver to get moving and closing the screen between us so he couldn’t overhear, before ringing Eric.

“Hey Alpha.”

“Where are you?” I asked coldly.

“I uh, was just at Emmet’s floor and was heading down now. everything ok?”

He sounded tense.

“How about you answer that?”

He sighed. “Emmet told you?”

“Emmet didn’t even answer my call. What the f\*\*k is going on?”

“He and Azura, the visitor, got into a physical fight.”

Fight.

A flash of anger rippled through me and my eyes blaze steel blue.

Drive faster.’ I growled to the driver through the link.

“Details.” My voice was calm, but anger was pulsating through me.

“I don’t know the details, but Emmet said she insulted you and this pack. It got physical and she did a number on his face whilst he also landed a few on her. They were both pretty bruised up... But he shouldn’t have hit her.” His voice was quiet in that last sentence.

No he f\*\*\*\*\*g shouldn’t have.

My eyes blazed, my heart was thundering, and the anger that was raging through me was blinding.

Bruised up.

“Alpha?”

I swallowed hard, ending the call.

“Stop the car.”

He instantly braked, and I got out just as he opened his door quickly.

“Boss, is everything ok?”

I didn't reply, getting into the driver's seat and slamming the door shut behind me. I started the car, hitting the gas as I picked up speed.

He shouldn't have touched her.

I don't give a f\*\*k what she said, she was there under my f\*\*\*\*\*g protection.

My head was f\*\*\*\*\*g pounding with uncontrollable rage that I was trying to control, so I didn't end up f\*\*\*\*\*g ripping the steering wheel right off.

Trying to comprehend what Eric had said.

Azura wasn't the type to insult our pack, she's never looked down on us or me for that matter. Sure, she lost her temper, but that was if she was triggered, which meant Emmet must have said something. 'His hatred for the elite was not something I was f\*\*\*\*\*g blind to. He was one of the few who understood my hatred... but if that was the case, it meant he must have found out exactly who Azura was.

I was driving this thing as fast as it would f\*\*\*\*\*g go, a blur in comparison to everything around me.

Tell me exactly what happened.' I commanded Eric the moment I was in range.

'Sure, I found them around the side of the apartment block when Azura was on top of him ready to punch him and I broke them apart... 'He began to explain.

It took me less than half an hour to get back, half the time it should have f\*\*\*\*\*g taken. Getting out, I headed upstairs and into my office, pulling my jacket off.

'She...?

She what?' I asked coldly.

'She then said he hurt Jackie and for her to tell me the truth.'

He sounded tense and his words surprised me too.

Emmet hurting Jackie? Sure, he had a temper but he wouldn't hurt her... Continue.'

I know he didn't want to speak up as he and Emmet had enough issues between them, never seeing eye to eye. Although both had tried

for the Delta position, I gave it to Emmet... but even then I found myself asking Eric to deal with a lot more. It should have been Eric. He had been more Delta material, but it was Emmet I ultimately wanted closer to Marcel, and when he had needed a new Delta when his last one retired, I suggested Emmet.

‘Well, Jackie denied it, and when I was leaving, I just saw Jackie take Emmet inside and say goodbye to Azura before shutting the door.’ He briefed me as I headed out of the office, tossing my jacket onto the sofa.

I paused, furrowing my brows.

She just took Emmet inside?’

‘Yeah.’

Yet Azura had bruises and grazes?’

Yes.’

But Jackie as a doctor didn’t check her... even if someone went against her Alpha or Mate, Jackie was the type of person who would still tend to the sick or injured, no matter who they were...

Get me the CCTV footage sent to me from the fight.’ I said before ending the link.

I stopped for a second outside Corrado’s bedroom, opening the door slightly to see he was fast asleep with Winona sitting on the bed, leaning against the headboard asleep too.

He was safe.

I closed the door silently and left the apartment, heading straight for Azura’s as I undid my shirt cuffs, rolling the sleeves of my black shirt up.

I raised my hand and knocked hard.

Nothing I knocked again, nothing.

F\*\*k I didn’t care, I’m going in.

I entered a code on my smart watch before I held it against the scanner and heard the lock click open. I stepped into the apartment, shutting the door behind me.

Her scent filled my senses and I headed to her bedroom.

Why didn’t she f\*\*\*\*\*g answer?

I knocked on the door trying to control the anger and restlessness that was now not only mine...

I felt him prowling in my mind, his urgency and concern for the mate that I deprived the both of us of.

I knocked again, frowning.

“Azura. F\*\*k, open the door.”

She was here, I could f\*\*\*\*\*g smell her.

Was she in the bathroom?

I pushed the door open, just as the bathroom door opened, and I came face to face with none other than the she—devil herself. Oh, and right now... she was the image of pure sin in nothing but a black lace bra and a tiny pair of underwear.

She froze in surprise, staring at me for a moment, her heart thundering.

Pleasure f\*\*\*\*\*g rushed south, and

I felt myself harden as my eyes raked over her.

At least she was f\*\*\*\*\*g here...

I let my gaze trail over her once again but this time I saw past those gorgeous curves of hers... taking in the bruises on her legs, arm, shoulder and even her cheek.

My eyes flashed with anger at the same time reality seemed to hit her. She quickly grabbed a discarded towel and wrapped it clumsily around her shoulders, although it barely covered her panties. She then gave me a scathing glare.

“Have you ever heard of knocking?” She growled.

She sure didn’t lose her spark.

“I did, several f\*\*\*\*\*g times, you didn’t answer.” I replied arrogantly.

“For a reason.” She retorted as she slowly eased the towel off her shoulders and freed her arms. Wrapping it around her chest she walked over to my wardrobe grabbing an oversized shirt.

My eyes were on her back, I could see the curve of her a\*s from under the towel and the painful scrape that was slightly b\*\*\*\*\*y on her left cheek. It only made my anger grow; this hadn’t been a small f\*\*\*\*\*g scuffle, Emmet had aimed to hurt her.

She pulled the grey t—shirt over her head, and let the towel fall as she turned back to me.

“Why are you here?” She asked, sounding almost accusing.

“You know why.” I replied coldly, walking over to her.

Her eyes flashed defensively as I approached. The urge to f\*\*k her was intense, but instead, I caged her between my arms, her back pressed against the wardrobe behind her.

My eyes scanned her face, she had another bruise under her jaw and on her neck...

I clenched my teeth, masking my emotions.

Raising my hand, I ran my fingers down her cheek, making her tense. Those tingles rushing through us both... I had weakened them but they were still here...

Her heart was racing as I continued to run my hand down her neck.

I was beyond fuming and what f\*\*\*\*\*g got to me the most was, she was supposed to be here with me, safe.

“Want to share what exactly happened, Little She–Wolf?” I asked, dangerously quiet.

I looked into those f\*\*\*\*\*g beautiful eyes of hers and saw she was hesitating, as if she didn’t think she should tell me...

There was no anger in them, so despite the fight, she was calm. Then again she might just be hiding her emotions...

But it was her words that f\*\*\*\*\*g surprised me.

“Will you believe me?”

I frowned.

What did she even mean by that?

She was serious, gone was the woman who was not afraid to unleash hell. Whatever had happened had shaken her. There was a vulnerability in her eyes that was throwing me off, reminding me of that night that I rejected her and forced myself to f\*\*\*\*\*g turn away from her.

“Try me.”

Chapter 29 – Do I Trust Him

AZURA.

“Try me.”

His words rang in my head, and I wanted to. Somehow, I wanted to blurt it all out and have him fix it...

It was weird, the way he made me feel like I could rely on him. It confused the heck out of me because I always handled everything myself.

He looked so yummy in that black shirt and grey pants. His toned thighs, narrow waist and those delicious muscular biceps ... This guy was born with incredible genes and those blue eyes... goddess never had I liked the colour more.

But the way he was behaving was unnerving me... I could feel his anger. I just wasn’t sure if it was because I left the room, or f\*\*ked up his delta’s face, or because maybe seeing me injured pissed him off?

Stop kidding yourself Azura... He marked you, rejected you, and watched you collapse before walking away...

The memory felt like a harsh slap in the face, and I broke our eye contact, moving away from his touch.

I pushed the painful thought away and took a deep breath.

“I was in here when I heard two loud bangs and they sounded a bit weird; so I thought I’d go see if Jackie was ok, I barely got out the door when I saw Emmet storm out their door....” I nudged him away with my

shoulder and slid out from where he had me trapped. "He entered the lift and I hurried to their door, Jackie opened it thinking it was Emmet. That's when I saw that she had a bruise on her cheek and around her neck. It wasn't even just finger marks; he had dug his claws into her skin and then... she just said to me not to tell the Alpha.'

I turned and looked at him, he was standing there, one hand to his chin, the other in his pocket and he was frowning deeply, obviously wanting me to continue. So I looked him square in the eye and carried on.

"When I went down there, he was around the side of the building about to go through some door, and I called him. He told me to mind my own business, and I confronted him. He got pissed and threatened me. Then I defended myself by losing my sh\*t and attacking him like the psycho I am." I finished with a shrug.

No reaction.

That frown remained, as his eyes dipped to my forearm, where I was bleeding a little, although it was already healing up pretty well. It wasn't a big deal... if he saw Emmet...

"So although he's your Delta, he could use some work..." I mumbled as he advanced on me but despite the fact he was oozing dominance and power, it wasn't threatening, even if my heart was racing. I knew that was because of something entirely different.

He took my wrist in his hand before raising it to his mouth, and to my surprise, he ran his tongue along the graze, sending a riveting jolt of pleasure straight to my core.

I knew alpha saliva helped heal faster, but the way he was looking at me was anything but innocent.

I yanked my arm away, frowning at him, despite feeling my cheeks heat up.

"What are you doing!" I growled.

He c\*\*ked a brow, taking out a cigarette and lighting it.

"Alpha saliva heals, or don't you know that?"

"I do, but just because I had a graze doesn't mean you are going to go around licking it." I frowned, although it left a cooling touch in its wake.

"I saw a cut and I licked it. End of f\*\*king story." He growled, smoking his cigarette.

"I have a graze on my a\*s, are you going to lick that too?" I shot back, before freezing as his eyes met mine.

You really are the classiest woman in the world, Azura. Is there ever a time I didn't put my foot in my d\*mn mouth?

"Do you want me to?" He replied mockingly.

Leo's pierced tongue on my a\*s?



Hmm yes, please.

Wait no.

I glared at him.

“No thanks,” I muttered, stalking out of the bedroom. I did not want to be in there when everything that was coming into my head was far from decent.

I knew I was frustrated, and I always got carried away when I’m overwhelmed, I heard him follow me silently before I turned to him.

“So, uh, do you believe me?”

“I can tell when someone lies.” He said simply. “I’ll have someone come to check up on your injuries, get some rest.”

He didn’t answer me... Would he do nothing?

“I’m not lying.” I tried, unable to hide the frustration in my voice.

He paused his hand on the door handle, turning and looking at me, and I knew this was my last chance.

“I’ve heard of stories where people hide abuse, where even the best of Alphas don’t notice it happening beneath their noses. Women or even men, who keep it a secret because they love their mates too much to let them go.”

He turned back to me, watching me with that sharp, calculating look in his eyes.

“Seems like you know someone who has been through that.”

I wasn’t going to hide it because of my own pride, because if this got him to see that Jackie needed him, then I was ready to tell him.

“Indigo, my biological mother... She let her mate treat her like sh\*t just so he stayed by her side. She was so blinded that without him, she lost the will to live.”

And she didn’t care if I died or lived...

I looked away from those ice-cold eyes, hating how vulnerable I sounded.

“I’m just... Jackie is a good person, I don’t want her to go down that path.”

I looked down at my nails.

He approached but I didn’t look up trying to compose my emotions. When he placed two fingers under my chin, forcing my face up, our eyes met.

“Friend, brother, or pack member... if someone is abusing their mate, I will deal with them. Rest assured Little She-Wolf, I know you’re not lying, you’ve told me what you saw. Now I’ll handle the rest. Get some sleep once you’re checked over.”

He cared for others, but it kind of hurt that he had also hurt me.

This isn't about you Azura, but Jackie. I didn't want another woman to become Indigo.

I gave a small nod, trying to pull away from his touch that was making my heart pound and head feel light. But he refused to let go, curling his fingers under my chin and forcing me to look at him. He searched my eyes for something before I pulled away and turned my back on him.

He didn't say anything, and I sensed him moving away. I could only breathe when I heard the door click shut...

LEO.

I left the room, taking my phone out.

'Becky, can you come to the 7th floor of my apartment block? There's an important guest in the apartment across from Emmet's. Check her over. She was in a fight, and may have a few fractures.'

'Of course Alpha Leo. I will be there in ten.'

"Thanks.'

I ended the link, looking at the video Eric :: had sent. From their body language it was clear they were arguing. Then Emmet grabbed her and my eyes blazed, the urge to cross the floor and rip that door off its hinges and Stop.

I was thinking like a deranged beast... One that reminded me of someone I hated to the f\*\*king core.

Emmet will get what's coming to him, but it's too late. I would handle this in the morning I h\*\*ked up her door to my phone, every time she left, I'd know...

I think I would pay Marcel a visit, I'm certain he had answers I could use.

Jax are you there?'

'Yeah Alpha, I just got back, any issue?''.

'I want you to keep an eye on Azura Westwood. She's on the 7th floor across from Emmet's place.'

A slight silence followed as I entered the lift and headed down.

"Yeah, of course.'

'No one aside from Winona is to go to her room. Make sure no one sees you, especially Emmet.'

'Understood Alpha.'

I left the apartment building, smoking a cigarette as I made my way to Marcel's, a place I hated coming to... I hated the fact that he would always choose them over me.

I rang the door, although I knew the code, I refused to walk into a place that I did not consider mine.

The door was opened by a shirtless Marcel, a towel around his shoulders. It was obvious he had just showered after his workout.

"Leo." A smile crossed his face as if he was happy to see me, and I simply brushed past him.

"I had a few questions." I replied coldly, looking at him.

He closed the door and nodded.

"Ask away." He said, crossing his arms.

"What's the story behind Azura Westwood's biological mother?" I asked.

He raised an eyebrow, smirking slightly.

"Why would you be interested in Azura's life?"

"I'm not, and don't antagonise me. You already know that she was my mate."

"Is your mate."

Our eyes met, and I held his cold gaze.

"I rejected her."

He looked almost sympathetic before nodding and jerking his head towards the lounge.

"Come on in."

I followed, refusing to take a seat and instead walked over to the window overlooking the front garden, as I smoked my cigarette.

"I thought Azura left but I heard not long ago that she's back?"

"Plans changed. She'll be leaving soon, don't worry." I reply, looking at him indifferently.

He nodded, sitting down and observing me with a tilt of his head.

"She's a strong woman with a good heart, albeit a little adventurous, Leo. She's perfect for you."

"Yeah, of course, a Westwood can't be anything but perfect in your eyes. I don't really f\*\*king care. I asked about Indigo Malone, not if Azura is perfect for me or not." Marcel sighed before looking at his hands.

"Fine. She had a mate who abused and cheated on her. In fact, she even miscarried a few times because of his abuse."

So was that why this situation with Jackie triggered her, because it reminded her of Indigo?

"It was terrible, and when it came to light, Alejandro lost it. Fred was one of his most trusted men, and the fact that this was happening under his nose made him lose it. He made the hard decision to send him on a suicide mission... and he died. Just like everyone knew he would. Alejandro felt the pack link break and Indigo felt the loss of a mate."

I didn't know that...

"So Alejandro punished him by killing him off... So ultimately, isn't he responsible for Indigo's death, because everyone knows that not many can survive the loss of their f\*\*king mate?" I smoked my cigarette, raising an eyebrow.

Marcel frowned.

“It’s not like that.” He said sharply, but he looked a bit unnerved.

“It f\*\*king is. He ended two lives that day, f\*\*k almost three. A logical person would have put him in prison, not for his sake but for his mate’s. So, the way I see it, this brother of yours has made a lot of f\*\*king mistakes.”

“Everyone makes mistakes, Leo, but Alejandro did it for Indigo, hoping she’d find someone-”

“Did he know she was pregnant?”

“Yes, but that’s-”

“So he still f\*\*king risked her and Azura’s lives? Because everyone knows the loss of a mate can f\*\*king break you. She went into that battle wanting to die

right?” He was frowning as he looked at me, almost as if he didn’t know what to say.

“Can I assume you are worried or angry for Azura?” He was watching me intently.

“Why would I be?” I denied.

This entire conversation left a bitter taste in my mouth? There was more to Azura Westwood than met the eye, and the urge to learn and figure her out was growing. I liked puzzles, and she brought a few.

The topmost being her f\*\*king ex. I actually wanted to see exactly what this f\*\*ker had, that had made her f\*\*king date him.

“I’ll be leaving.” I strode to the door when he spoke up.

“Leo, take her as your Luna. I assure you

she will make you happy and Corrado loves her already.” He said quietly.

I didn’t bother turning back or answering. Shutting the door behind me, I left.

I replayed the video once again as I made my way home, not wanting to think about what Marcel had said. I watched the clip, seeing her brace her feet on the wall before flipping over and landing behind him.

D\*mn, there was nothing hotter than seeing a woman kick a\*s.

I was unable to stop the smirk on my face as she knocked Emmet to the ground. He was a c\*\*ky sh\*t, so this was fun to see.

I should ask her for a sparring match, I’m sure that would be pretty interesting...

Pocketing my phone I headed back, Emmet would meet me in the morning regarding the shipment anyway, and I didn’t want him to be on alert when I questioned him. I wanted to know his f\*\*king side, and then I’ll be the judge.

Chapter 30 – Was I Not Enough

LEO.

I was ready to hit the gym with Emmet once I had Corrado fed. I was already dressed in grey sweatpants, a white tank top and sneakers. He was still giving me those sad looks, and I wondered if he was just being stubborn or actually missing Azura. What's to miss anyway? An image of her, came to my mind. Pretty much a lot.

F\*\*k that.

"Want to have breakfast with Azura today?" I asked as I flipped the crepes over in the pan.

His eyes widened in excitement, and he nodded.

"Is she back! Yes! Let's go!" He said, jumping off the worktop.

"Hold up fast guy, we need to get your breakfast made."

"Oh yes, Azura can't c\*\*k. We must make her breakfast too, Daddy."

I frowned.

"She must have food at her place."

"But you said I'll have breakfast with her "I only c\*\*k for you." I muttered, glancing down at him, only to see the sadness in his eyes.

"But this is for me."

F\*\*k, this kid was good at emotional blackmail.

"Fine." I frowned and he smiled happily, : as if he hadn't just been near tears a few seconds ago "Yes! Azura will love your crepes, Daddy!"

"You get crepes for her on one condition. You don't tell her that I made them, Deal?"

"Deal!" He said very fast as he ran to get a tray. Great now I was cooking for her.

Once the two plates of crepes were done, complete with Nutella and strawberries, I placed two glasses on the tray and was about to take the milk carton and a juice bottle out when Corrado grabbed the milk carton from me.

"Daddy no juice, Azura likes milk." He said this while hurrying to the tray, and placing the milk on it.

I'm sure she f\*\*\*king does.

I grabbed the tray, frowning down at it.

They sure looked f\*\*king good. Guess I'm a better c\*\*k than her. Not that I've eaten anything she's made, but then again, it would be better not to, because who knows what she'd put into it.

At least she tasted f\*\*king good.

Reaching Azura's door, I knocked and passed the tray to Corrado; I didn't want to be seen carrying it. I hoped she got here quickly before he dropped it too.

I watched him. Seeing the excited smile on his face as he watched the door with avid anticipation made me smile slightly.

I'd do anything for him.

The door opened to a sleepy Azura. Her hair was as smooth as ever, but you could tell she had just woken up from the strands that fell in front of her face. Her eyes were half open, her plump lips set in a pout. The oversized shirt she had pulled on last night was hanging off her shoulder, barely covering those thighs of hers...

Totally f\*\*kable.

Her eyes widened when she looked us both over, before she smiled brightly at Corrado.

"Hi, Azura! Daddy said I could have breakfast with you today."

"Corrado! Oh, that would be amazing!

And pancakes with Nutella. Yummy!" She crouched down slightly and took the tray from him.

—

My gaze dipped to her a\*s as she turned and took the tray to the table, Corrado following her excitedly.

I realised the shirt was inside out, meaning she had pulled it on before getting the door...

An image of her in nothing but her lingerie returned to me, and I had to force myself to look away from her a\*s.

"No Azura we call these crepes! Daddy made them, but he said I can't tell you." He declared and I raised my eyebrow.

Well, he sure didn't know how to keep a d\*mn secret.

"Oh..." Azura for once seemed to not know what to say.

She turned to look at me and I raised an eyebrow.

"I'll pick him up after an hour and a half, after training." I said emotionlessly trying to keep my eyes locked with hers, and not over that body of hers.

"Sure." She replied with a nod, her gaze raked over me, and I felt something inside when her eyes lingered on the front of my pants, before she bit her lip and turned her back on me smoothly.

F\*\*\*k.

We shouldn't be in a room together.

I crossed the room to Corrado, who was already waiting with his fork and knife in hand, and ruffled his hair.

"I'll see you soon kid."

"Take your time Daddy. I'm ok with Azura." He said giving me another bright smile.

I looked into his hazel eyes.

Someone he can live with, without me...

I pushed the thought away and turned. My eyes met hers as I walked past her, brushing my arm against hers. The tingles of pleasure spread through my arm at the slight contact.

I left her apartment, mind linking Emmet to come out.

The door to his place opened and I saw him, Jackie, and Nikki.

Our eyes met and her eyes filled with hurt before I looked away. Jackie gave her a gentle smile. I guess she knew, which meant so did Emmet.

"Morning bro." Emmet said, fist bumping me.

I entertained him, but the urge to crush his fist was tempting. I glanced over at the women, smoothly observing Jackie's face.

She was wearing a shirt, with her collar buttoned, so I couldn't see her neck, but if it happened last night, those bruises would be gone just like Azura's had.

"Hey Leo." Nikki said softly.

Was it bad that not once had she crossed my mind since we broke up?

Sure she had messaged a few times, but I hadn't bothered with them. We were done.

"Hey." I replied before glancing at Emmet. "Shall we get going?"

He nodded and we both left, leaving the women behind.

It was twenty minutes later, and we were now sparring after warming up, and an intense twenty minutes of cardio. Both of us were exchanging blows, and I knew Emmet would bring it up any minute now "So that chick Azura, when is she going back, man? She's f\*\*\*king trouble." He said shaking his head.

"Yeah?" I asked, blocking and aiming a punch at his shoulder. He stepped back before aiming another punch.

"Yeah, she's trouble. Last night we had a bit of a run in, and she was acting like she was this thing above the rest of us." He shook his head as he threw a punch and I blocked, throwing an uppercut at him.

Weird. Emmet was acting completely normal...

Acting.

It was almost as if I had already made up my mind that Azura was telling the truth and Emmet was probably hiding a lot of sh\*t from me.

"Was she? She didn't really seem the type to get into other's business." I replied.

Emmet was a friend, one I trusted with almost everything... The only thing I had kept from him was Azura being my mate and what was between Jackie and I... I

know the reason I didn't tell him about Azura being my mate was because, just like me he hated the Elite.

Emmet's and Eric's father was killed by Rayhan Rossi, for the crimes committed against Delsanra under Endora's reign. In turn, their mother passed away less than six months later. Leaving two more orphans in a pack that was created from broken families.

Rogues. Although we were all just rogues gathered together, there were many different reasons we had become rogues. Some of our ancestors were thrown from their packs for different reasons. Some were for disrespect or betraying their alphas, and there were many who didn't deserve to be thrown out. Then there were some who left for their own safety from abusive leaders.

I remember there was one old man back in the cavern who was kicked out of his pack, because his mate was the woman the alpha wanted and saw him as a threat... He was killed when I was around eight.

Emmet's hatred ran as deep as mine, and what we often hoped would become a better place... never did. We were the happiest duo when we learnt we were going to be a real pack... Until that was all taken away and the fear that we would never truly be safe if we opened up, became embedded deep within us.

Deep down I wished there was a misunderstanding about all of this... but I couldn't see how.

"Na she was getting a bit iffy. It's obvious her mate doesn't want her bro. Send her packing." "You seem in a rush to get her out of the picture. I heard what went down from Eric. Really curious why would she f\*\*king accuse you of hurting Jackie though." I remarked, knocking his fist aside and catching his jaw.

He swore and frowned, stepping back.

"You played dirty."

"Hm did I?" I asked running my fingers through my sweat-soaked hair.

Our eyes met, and he shook his head.

"You know, I don't hide anything from you man... I lost my cool over some sh\*t and she was trying to calm me down. In my anger I grabbed her neck. I left the apartment to calm down." He said looking disappointed in himself.

I was good at reading people, but right now I didn't know if he was telling the truth or lying... Although I wasn't officially Alpha, I could still use my Alpha command, but I hated using it...

Forcing people to do something by force. Because if I end up being wrong, I'm the one who would have f\*\*ked up, and would only create that hostility within my people. However, I also knew Emmet knew me well and he knew how my brain worked. He would have been ready for this questioning...

I'll ask Jackie, she was far easier to read.

"So you hurt her." I said, instead.

He looked disgusted in himself as he nodded.

"Yeah... I messed up, but you know how it can get sometimes, right when you lose control?"



I frowned, feeling a sliver of guilt wash through me.

I had hurt Azura when I lost it over Corrado.

*Sht, now I felt like a f\*king hypocrite.*

**“Make sure it never fking happens again.” I warned him seriously. My eyes flashed. “And never hurt her again. You’re meant to be her protector, not her fking abuser.”**

He looked surprised at the aura that was raging around me, but that anger was half directed towards myself.

I had hurt Azura too.

“Got it.” He said curtly.

I nodded and we continued sparring in silence until Emmet spoke up.

“You dumped Nikki.”

“Yeah.”

He let out a whistle.

“That’s some crazy s\*\*t. She’s hot, come on, she got you. Plus she’s smart, mature and a good match. Why man?”

“She just didn’t do it for me anymore. Did she tell you herself, or Jackie?” I asked, wondering what Nikki had said, I was certain she wouldn’t mention Azura but still... if she had, I’m sure Emmet would have mentioned it.

“Na Jackie told me, she said she was really upset, Jackie felt super bad for her too. She gave you her all, you know?”

“It was over weeks before I ended it.” I

replied with finality, and he didn’t push it.

I couldn’t get into it after meeting Azura, no matter how much I had f\*\*\*\*\*g tried. Sure, we f\*\*\*\*d, but it was to get it out of my system, and it began to leave a bitter taste in my mouth after it was over with.

We ended our training session. Usually, we head back to shower and stuff, but I planned to stop to see Jackie at the hospital. I told him I’d be going for a jog.

I had just knocked on Jackie’s office door when she called me in. I stepped inside,

shutting the door behind me. That distinct hospital smell lingered, despite the lavender air freshener.

“Leo.” She sounded surprised, as she stood up looking nervous.

That’s new, Jackie never got nervous if I showed up.

“You just finished your training session... with Emmet.”

“I do hope you aren’t mind linking him right now Jackie.” I replied, walking over to the desk.

She shook her head, her heart racing as I looked her square in the eyes.

“No of course not. Why would I?”

“Good. I have a question or two, and I do hope you answer them correctly.”

She nodded.

“Emmet told me what happened last night, so did Eric. I want you to answer my questions with a simple yes or no.”

“Did Emmet hurt you last night?”

Her heart was thumping, and she nodded hesitantly.

“Yes, but it wasn’t-”

I raised my finger in warning and she fell silent.

That was a truth.

I braced my hands on her desk, leaning closer, my eyes meeting hers that now held fear.

What’s to be afraid of if you have nothing to hide?

Emmet must have told her our conversation, and they would stick to the same story.

“Is this the first time it has happened?”

“Yes.”

That was a lie.

She was nowhere as good at lying as Emmet...

Which meant Emmet was abusing her...

I nodded.

“L-Leo, he just- it was just a one-off, he didn’t mean to hurt me.”

“If it happens again, you are to tell me immediately,” I stated, my voice overlaid with my wolves, my alpha command resonating through my words.

Fear filled her eyes, and it f\*\*\*\*\*g irritated me that this was someone I did thought could share anything with me.

“I’m still the Leo you grew up with Jackie, you can share your problems with me. I may not be the official alpha... but I will have your back.” I replied quietly.

She nodded looking away, and I turned and left the office.

The moment I left the hospital, I broke into a run, my mind a storm of emotions and thoughts.

Emmet would be removed from his position as Delta until I see how things go. Even if he said it was a one-time thing, that would have been enough to remove him from a position of power...

The wind rushed through my hair as I sped up, pushing myself to my limits, moving faster and faster. The urge to

shift was intense, but I refused.

I thought I was doing a good job, and I had always remained approachable to the pack members. Was this it?

Did no one see me as someone they could

confide in?

Why had it taken someone who had only been here for a mere few days to point this out to me?

Had Nikki never seen the signs?

Had I never seen them?

Would this pack continue to support one another when I was no longer around?

Sharp pains ripped through my stomach and I gritted my teeth, pushing onwards. I saw black spots blur my vision, but I wasn't going to let it get to me.

I could taste blood in my mouth and swore internally.

What will happen to this pack when I'm gone?

What about Corrado?

I kept going, hearing my heart pounding, the rush of my blood loud in my ears as my body screamed with the flaring pain that now rushed through it.

The lasting effects of Endora's torture had left me with unhealable internal damage... and it was catching up on me...

I know I don't have much time left.