

# **My Hockey Alpha #Chapter 241 - Read My Hockey Alpha Chapter 241**

## **Chapter 241**

Chapter 241: Zombieland

Nina

Enzo and I walked for a while longer after that. The rain only kept getting heavier, making me wish that I had thought to bring some sort of protection against getting soaked, but as the tall pointed roofs of the mansion eventually came into view over the treetops I realized that we might not be out in the elements for much longer... Hopefully.

We quickly got off the road when we saw the mansion come into view, and decided to see if there was another way in this time since there was a possibility that Selena would expect us to come out of the spot we had been in before.

However, as we made our way through the woods and we could eventually see the full view of the mansion, Enzo and I quickly realized that there was no way to get in; even the side entrance that we used before was under heavy guard.

There were twice as many guards now, and all of them were heavily armed and on high alert. If it weren't for the rain and the rapidly darkening sky, I was certain that they would have seen us.

"Shit," Enzo whispered as we crouched behind some bushes and peered through the branches at the dozens of guards patrolling the entire perimeter of the mansion.  
"There's no way in."

I bit my lip as I wondered what we should do. Enzo was right; there was no way in. The security, after our last mission, was airtight.

We waited for a long time, watching to see what would happen. Maybe there would be a slight break between the guards' shifts like last time; even if it was only a few seconds, it would be better than nothing. But, much to my dismay, the guards eventually changed shifts without any gap. The new shift

of guards came out before the other guards ever left, leaving us with absolutely no window to run up to the side of the mansion. I was also fairly certain that the inside of the mansion was crawling with guards as well.

Finally, Enzo turned to look at me with a deep and solemn frown on his face.

"I don't see a way that we can get in without being seen," he said, sounding apologetic. "Either we'll have to go home and give them some time to relax their security before we come back, or..."

"Or we'll have to surrender," I said, never breaking my gaze from the mansion.

"We could try that," Enzo replied quietly. "There is a slight chance that they have orders to bring us in, which would at least get us close to Selena. But they'd likely take all of our stuff, and..." His voice faded. He seemed as though he was going to say something, but decided against it. I wasn't carrying anything of any real value or use, as I knew that conventional weapons would only prove to be useless against Selena. My mind wandered back, then, to whatever it was that Matt secretly stuck in Enzo's hand before we buried Richard. Was whatever that was somehow related?

I opened my mouth to ask, but before I could, Enzo looked back at the mansion and made another point.

"They could have orders to kill us on sight," he said, pointing at their guns.

I nodded. Of course, that was the most likely outcome. But I knew that they would only shoot Enzo, and not me. Selena would never kill me; not when she was well aware that my death would result in her own.

For a long time, I sat there in silence and wondered what to do. The mansion was located in the middle of a rather large stretch of open land, meaning that there was no way to get up to the building without

being seen. The guards seemed to stretch all the way around the perimeter of the mansion, so we wouldn't be able to circle around and go in through the back.

Maybe Enzo was right. Maybe we would have to wait and come back when they relaxed their security. Either that, or we would have to wait for Selena to come to us, assuming she hadn't given up on trying to make Enzo her mate.

However, as I crouched behind the bushes and chewed my lip nervously, I suddenly had another idea.

It wasn't so much an idea as it was a feeling. It was the same instinctual feeling that I had when I felt the rogues coming earlier. It was the same feeling that I had when I originally went through the portal, and felt as though I just suddenly knew what had to be done. Whatever this feeling was... It was just like that.

When I suddenly stood, Enzo's eyes widened and his hand shot out to grab my arm.

"Nina! What are you doing?!" he hissed.

“Just trust me,” I whispered. Although, if I was being honest, I didn’t even feel as though I could trust myself at that moment. For some reason, I felt as though I had to put my trust into something intangible, some unknown force that I still didn’t understand.

I felt something surge through me. A lightning bolt flashed in the distant sky, and at the same time it felt as though another lightning bolt flashed through me, giving me power. I didn’t know what was happening as I slowly stepped out from behind the bushes, ignoring Enzo’s pleas for me to come back.

The guards began to notice my presence. I heard them shouting at each other, and several of them raised their guns. But I kept going.

Something happened inside of me at that point. I couldn’t explain it, but I knew that all I had to do was focus my energy, and so I did.

I focused as hard as I could, imagining that there was a ball of light inside of me, and I imagined that I could control that light.

Several of the guards ran closer, their guns raised and trained on me.

“Put your hands up!” one of them yelled.

“Nina!” Enzo shouted. He jumped out from behind the bush and ran after me, causing the guards to train their guns on him next as he put himself between me and the guards with his arms outstretched.

“Get down! We’ll shoot!” another guard yelled.

Meanwhile, I kept focusing my energy. I squeezed my eyes shut, blocking out the guards’ commands. And then...

Silence.

I opened my eyes.

The guards had lowered their guns, and were now staring at us with blank, wide-eyed expressions. One of them even dropped his gun, as though his hands didn’t even work anymore. Behind them, the other guards that had been coming after us had also stopped in their tracks, and stood in the same dumbfounded positions. Their bodies looked slack, like puppets with no puppet master.

Enzo turned to face me, his eyes wide.

“What did you do?”

I shrugged and shook my head at the same time, just as shocked as he was. "I... I don't know," I said. I walked up to one of the guards and waved my hand in front of his face. He blinked, but that was it.

Somehow, I managed to daze all of the guards at once. There were at least thirty spread across the front lawn to the mansion, and all of them looked equally as out of it. I didn't know how I did it, or how long it would last.

But I did know one thing: I had just given us a chance to get inside of the mansion.

And as we ran across the lawn, pushing our legs to carry us as fast as we could possibly go, I only hoped that I didn't just prematurely give away our location to Selena.

## **Chapter 242**

### Chapter 242: Caught in Limbo

Nina

Somehow, I managed to daze all of the guards at once.

But Enzo and I didn't have time to stand around and try to figure out how I did it. There was no knowing exactly how long this spell of mine would last, and for all we knew Selena had already been alerted to our location. We seemed to have an unspoken agreement to run as fast as we could, and that was exactly what we did. We ran across the large lawn that led up to the mansion, weaving through the stupefied guards, and bolted up the steps to another door that was slightly off to the side. We could reuse the same entrance we had used before, but we also couldn't simply walk in through the front doors. Instead, we used a small wooden door that was tucked into the corner of the mansion; and, much to my surprise, it opened to a set of stairs that were going down.

With one last apprehensive look at each other, Enzo and I shut the door behind us and began our descent.

The stairs led to some sort of old root cellar. The floors and walls were all made of cobblestone, and when I flicked on my phone's flashlight, I noticed that there were rows of shelves containing all sorts of weapons.

This wasn't a cellar; it was an armory.

And it was a packed one, at that.

Enzo walked over to a shelf that contained a large amount of swords and picked one up, inspecting it in the light of my flashlight.

“Damn,” he said quietly, turning the blade this way and that. “It looks razor sharp.”

I swallowed nervously. “Put it back,” I said. “We need to move.”

Enzo nodded and slowly put the sword back on the rack. I never explained to him the premonition that I saw in the portal about my life being intertwined with Selena’s, but I had a feeling that he knew something about it. But now wasn’t the time to talk about it.

I had to push away the thought that we might not ever get to talk again after tonight. If I was going to die, then I didn’t want Enzo stopping me. Selena had to be stopped for the sake of both realms, and if Enzo knew that I was potentially marching to my death, then he would let the world burn instead of letting me do it.

All I could do to keep myself going was hope that what the old man said was right; that no one needed to die.

But, of course, those were just the ramblings of an old man.

Enzo and I quietly made our way through the armory, which branched off into several tunnels. The longer we walked, in fact, the more I realized that there must have been an entire tunnel system under the mansion.

“Hey,” I said, peering into one of the dark tunnels. It went so far that I couldn’t even see where it turned. “Do these go under the entire mansion?”

Enzo shrugged. “Probably,” he replied. “It would only make sense; the first royal family that built this mansion probably had all sorts of escape routes. It’s probably how your father and Selena escaped when the Crescents tried to assassinate you.”

“Just thinking about it makes me sick,” I said with a shudder. I wondered what had happened that night; how did it come to be that the Crescents only managed to steal me and kill my mother? Was it just pure luck that my father got Selena out?

“It’s alright,” Enzo replied gently, squeezing my hand. “You don’t have to worry about that now. There are bigger things to think about tonight.”

However, Enzo’s words didn’t make me feel any better. In fact, they only made me feel worse.

I couldn’t hide it anymore. A thick, choked sob caught in my throat and echoed through the damp tunnels. I clamped my hand over my mouth, but there was no stopping it at this point. The tears were already flowing.

Enzo stopped and pulled me close, hugging me tightly while I cried. His chest muffled my uncontrollable sobs, but it wasn’t enough to silence me completely.

“Hey, hey,” Enzo whispered, pulling away just enough to bend down to my level and hold me by both shoulders. “Shh. Talk to me.”

I shook my head, but Enzo’s gaze never wavered, and I knew that I couldn’t hide it anymore.

“I’m afraid,” I whispered. “I’m afraid that I’ll need to kill Selena tonight. And when I was in the portal when we came to rescue you, I...” My voice faltered. I couldn’t continue any longer, and another sob escaped my lips.

“I know,” Enzo replied. “I’ve heard the legend. But it’s just that: a legend.”

“But what if it’s not?” I cried. “What if I don’t have a choice?”

Enzo shook his head. “Do you trust me?” he said.

I wiped my tears with the back of my hand. “W-What?”

“Do you trust me?” He spoke slowly, deliberately. Even in the darkness, I could see his soft brown eyes fixed unwaveringly on me. I nodded, biting my lower lip to stop it from quivering.

“Yes,” I replied. “I trust you.”

“Good.” Enzo stood and took the flashlight out of my hand, then began to lead me further into the tunnels. “All you have to do tonight is trust me. Nothing else.”

As we continued to walk through the tunnels, Enzo’s words echoed in my mind. They mixed with the words that Frank said earlier; was that all I needed to do? Have faith that things would work out? But there were so many things that could go wrong. How could I have faith when my entire soul was filled with nothing but dread?

At some point, we reached the end of one of the tunnels. There was a wooden door at the end. Enzo put his finger over his lips to indicate for me to be quiet before he slowly pushed on the door, then peered out for a few moments. Once it seemed that the coast was clear, he pushed it open the rest of the way and ushered me out.

There was a set of stone steps in front of the door with a heavy tapestry blocking the way. I slowly pulled the tapestry aside, keeping an eye out for any guards, but no one was there. In fact, I quickly realized that we seemed to be in some sort of enormous dining room. The room was dark and empty, and when Enzo stopped beside me and spoke, even his whispers echoed throughout the massive arched ceilings.

“The banquet hall,” he whispered. “It makes sense that there would be a tunnel entrance here. Assassins love the chaos of parties.”

I swallowed nervously and nodded as I looked around. I could only imagine the terror that would come along with discovering that someone at your own party was poisoned or killed in some other way; the screaming, the people running around, the crying children... I tried not to think about it.

As I looked around, I noticed that the walls were painted with ornate depictions of what looked like werewolves and humans. I took a step closer to get a better look.

The first panel depicted humans and wolves running together with the light of the full moon over them. The wolves were enormous; three times the size of any of the humans. But some of the humans rode on the backs of the werewolves, weapons in hand, as though they were allies.

I took in a sharp breath when I saw the second panel.

The humans became violent. A man stood over one of the wolves with his spear plunged into its chest and his foot on its head, looking victorious. The other wolves scattered and fled. If I closed my eyes for a second, I felt as though I could picture it.

The third panel depicted the wolves, walking solemnly through the forest. They seemed to be following some sort of faint light. But I couldn't make out what it was, because the next panel was torn to shreds.

"The fourth panel was ruined when the Crescents attacked twenty years ago," a female voice suddenly said from behind me.

Enzo and I both gasped. I dropped my phone onto the marble floor and spun around, feeling my heart drop when I saw who was standing behind me.

"Selena."

## **Chapter 243**

### Chapter 243: A Sisterly Bond

Nina

"Selena."

Selena grinned. "Weren't expecting me to find you, huh?" she asked in a sing-song voice. "I guess you should've thought about that before you decided to daze every single one of my guards at once. Nice move, by the way. I must admit that I'm quite impressed."



I narrowed my eyes. I went to take a step forward, but when I did, I suddenly came to the realization that some invisible force was holding my feet down to the floor. I felt heavy all of a sudden, like my body was filled with bricks. It even hurt to breathe.

"You know, no matter what you two seem to think, I'm not an idiot," Selena said, checking her fingernails nonchalantly as she sauntered up to us. Beside me, Enzo looked as though he was trying to speak, but something was holding his mouth shut. When Selena heard his mumbles through his closed lips as he tried to speak, she just laughed abrasively at him before turning back to look at me.

"No one thinks you're an idiot, Selena," I said, curling my hands up into fists at my sides. "Quite the opposite."

Selena chuckled. "Is that why you've been trying to stop me every which way you can?" she asked, then leaned closer to me and lowered her voice. "I found your friend from earlier, by the way. What was his name? Frank? It's a shame... He was so loyal to you, and for what? All he did was scream and call his wife's name at the end."

My eyes widened. "What the fuck did you do to him?" I growled. I tried to lunge at Selena, but it was no use. My body was too heavy, and I only fell forward onto my hands and knees like my limbs were made

of wet noodles.

"You know, I planned on letting you go after all," Selena said, pacing away to gaze up at the paintings on the walls. She then glanced over her shoulder at me as I continued to writhe uncomfortably on the floor. "Do you know the story of our people?"

I didn't answer, but it didn't seem to matter. Beside me, Enzo also fell to his knees. I felt his hand brush my ankle, like he was trying to reach out for me, but I knew that his limbs were too heavy like mine. But I could move just enough... Just enough to grab something out of my boot and slide it up my sleeve.

"I'll tell you," Selena said without waiting for an answer. She reached up, tracing the second painting with her finger, and sighed. "Our ancestors were naive. They trusted humans; they thought that humans could live in harmony with werewolves... But they couldn't. Humans ruin everything." She paused, and walked over to the third panel. "After hundreds of years of peace, the humans got too cocky for their own good. Their egos grew. They decided that they wanted all of the power, and that werewolves were just a threat to them. So, they killed our king. Our Alpha. But, what they didn't know was that the Alpha had a mate, and she was pregnant."

Selena then turned away from the painting and walked over to me. She crouched, a sick smile spread across her face, and reached out to brush a piece of hair out of my face. I felt so heavy that I couldn't even flinch away; I could only lay there and stare up at her.



“Some of the humans found out about the pregnant Luna,” Selena said, her face darkening. Her hand lingered on my hair, and I felt her fingers wrap around it tightly. “The humans had witches, and those witches put a powerful curse on the Luna. She was pregnant with twins, but when they came out, only one was alive. The other had been strangled by the living twin’s umbilical cord. But it didn’t end there: the second twin died soon after, also of asphyxiation. No one knew why; it just happened right before their eyes, like an invisible hand was choking the infant to death. So, of course, that began the chain.

No twin born from the Alpha’s seed can live with the other... But none can live without. It’s inconvenient, to say the least.”

My eyes widened. The premonition... It was a curse. All along, it was a curse.

But curses could be broken.

“W-Why?” I muttered, somehow managing to speak through the weight on my chest.

Selena simply shrugged. “I’m just fulfilling the duty that our ancestors should have fulfilled long ago,” she said. “It’s about time we cleanse the world of those disgusting humans, sister. But you keep trying to get in my way... I knew you would, ever since the beginning. Ever since I was old enough to think for myself, I could feel your presence looming over me. The moment I saw you in the flesh, I knew that the curse had to be real; if it wasn’t real, the Crescents would have murdered you when you were a baby, just like they should have done.”

“Y-You don’t need to do this,” I whimpered. “There’s no need for... violence...”

This seemed to anger Selena. She stood abruptly and stormed over to Enzo, who had been slowly inching his way toward me. She crouched to his level and grabbed his hair, and at the same time she held up her free hand as though she was about to cast a spell.

“Violence is the only thing I know, sister,” she growled. “I was willing to change when I discovered him, but then you took him from me. And maybe now, if I show you how it feels to have something you love taken from you for good, you’ll join me. Think about how strong we could be together.”

Selena paused, her eyes searching Enzo’s face. She bent down and planted a kiss on his frozen lips as though she was saying goodbye.

But Selena didn’t see what was in Enzo’s hand.

Something blue.

I knew what needed to be done. Frank was right; there was a way to stop this without anyone dying. I still didn't know if it would work, but I had to try.

I squeezed my eyes shut and searched for my wolf. She was in there; I was sure of it. If I could just find a tiny spark, a flicker of life, I knew that I could gain the strength to move...

There it was. It was faint, but it was there.

When I opened my eyes, Selena was looking up at me with a grin.

"What?" she asked, laughing. "Don't wanna watch?" She snapped her fingers, and suddenly I couldn't blink; but it didn't matter. I gathered the strength, thanks to my wolf, and pulled the knife out of my sleeve. I sat up, and held it to my wrist.

Selena's eyes widened as I began to dig the blade into my flesh. Red beads of hot blood began to gather on my skin, and at the same time, Selena's wrist began to drip red too.

She gasped and yanked her hands away, holding her bloody wrist tightly.

"W-What are you doing?!" she shrieked.

I gritted my teeth and dug the knife a little deeper. "I'll do it," I said. Medical school had taught me exactly which vein to cut to make me bleed the most, and if I did it, I would be dead within minutes. So would Selena.

Selena let out a whimper and lunged for me, dripping blood on the floor, but I jerked away and dug the knife a little deeper.

"If you hurt Enzo, I'll kill us both," I growled. "Neither twin can live without the other, after all."

## **Chapter 244**

Chapter 244: Hesitation

Enzo

I should have known that Selena would suddenly appear. I supposed that I got too comfortable thanks to Nina's strange powers; I should have pulled her away from the murals and continued on our journey.

But even if I did do all of that, maybe Selena would have found us anyway.

As I laid there on the floor, I felt as though there was a ton of bricks on my chest. An invisible force pinned me to the floor, making my limbs feel heavy and weak. The spell invaded my throat and my mouth, keeping me from speaking.

Beside me, Nina fell to the floor when she tried to lunge at Selena. I fell soon after. I tried to reach for Nina, as if touching her would somehow keep her safe, but I was too weak. Even moving my hand a few inches to try and touch her felt like daggers shooting through my flesh and bones.

Even then, I pushed through the pain in an attempt to get to Nina. I would let every fiber of my being rip to shreds if it meant protecting her. If only I could get just a little closer...

Selena saw me moving, and diverted her attention away from Nina. I supposed, in a way, I was just glad that she was focused on me and not Nina. She stormed over to me and grabbed me by the hair, yanking my head back as she raised her hand to cast a spell that would kill me and leave Nina to suffer.

But she had no idea that I wanted this, and that I had a trick up my sleeve that I prepared long in advance.

The antidote.

Matt had retrieved it for me when he got the shovel to bury my father. I had asked him telepathically to bring me a syringe full of it, and while Selena was on her rant about the history of humans and werewolves and the subsequent curse that was placed on the Alpha King's offspring, I worked the syringe out of my sleeve and removed the cap covering the needle with what little strength I had left.

But that used up most, if not all, of my strength. I had to wait for Selena to be close to me, but also off guard, before I could manage to inject her. I needed to make sure that it was deep and that she couldn't jump away before I had a chance to inject her fully. Every last drop of the antidote needed to go into her body.

And Nina somehow seemed to know what to do.

Even without her wolf, Nina had proven time and time again to have more powers than I ever thought she would have. She opened portals, created shockwaves, read minds and dazed tens of guards.

If I could have laughed, I would have; because Selena had met her match.

"I'll do it," Nina said, digging the blade into her skin a little harder and causing red droplets of blood to fall from Selena's wrist onto the floor. "If you hurt Enzo, I'll kill us both. Neither twin can live without the other, after all."

I knew that Nina wouldn't kill herself. She was too smart; she knew the human body too well. She placed the blade just close enough to the artery in her arm — the one that could end in her death if it was cut — to be convincing, but I knew that she would never cut it. She just wanted Selena to think that she was going to kill them both, and she was doing a hell of a job of convincing her.

"You bitch!" Selena shrieked, lunging for Nina again. Nina jerked herself away and out of Selena's reach.

Selena's ankle came into view. I gripped the syringe tightly, flashing a look at Nina; she was looking right at me. In a way that was so subtle that Selena could never see it, Nina nodded ever so slightly. She was telling me to do it.

Gritting my teeth, I mustered up what little strength I had left...

And I lunged forward, plunging the needle into Selena's leg.

"O-Ow!" Selena shrieked, scrambling backwards while the needle stuck out of her leg still. She yanked it out with a grimace and threw it on the floor. "What did you—"

But before Selena could finish, she began to writhe and scream in agony, clutching her leg. Nina fell, too. I pushed myself up onto my hands and slid over to her, pulling her close as soon as I could. My eyes searched her face as she screamed along with her sister, and all I could do was hold her tightly and pray that it would end soon... And that she wouldn't face the same consequences as her sister.

Even if Nina did turn back into a human, however, it was better than the alternative.

Finally, the two of them stopped screaming. Nina's face softened in my lap, and her eyes fluttered open after being squeezed shut. Through her tears, she looked up at me in surprise for a few moments before we heard the sound of Selena scrambling to her feet.

"Ha!" Selena snarled, still clutching her leg as she stood and backed up against the wall. "Your poison does nothing to me. See? I'm still standing."

Nina and I looked at each other for a moment.

"You okay?" I asked, using our telepathic link so that Selena couldn't hear and could continue to rant in the corner.

Nina nodded slowly and subtly. I held in a sigh of relief, though; even though I was glad that Nina still had her wolf — whatever flicker of it that was in there, at least — it could have also meant that Selena still had her powers, too.

Selena's face darkened when I finally looked back up at her, cradling Nina in my arms. She was shaking all over, and was already covered in a thin film of sweat. I watched, feeling almost amused, as she raised her hand and mumbled under her breath.

She was trying to cast a spell on us.

But it didn't work.

"What the fuck?" she murmured, looking down at her hand. She shook her head and made the sign again to cast a spell, but once more, it didn't work.

When I originally decided to use the antidote against Selena, I had no idea as to whether it would work on regular werewolves or not. We had only used it on rogues before, and although the antidote rained on us when we put it in the sprinkler system and saved the campus, it had no effect on us. But it made me wonder if it could theoretically work on a regular werewolf if one were injected with a higher dose. It was nothing but a shot in the dark; a last ditch effort to try and change the course of fate. Selena didn't need to die. Nobody needed to die tonight. She just needed to be stripped of her power.

And now, that was exactly what happened.

Thanks to the antidote that was created by Tiffany and recreated by Nina, Selena stood in front of us, weak and powerless.

She was human.

## **Chapter 245**

Chapter 245: Luna

Nina

Enzo jabbed the needle into Selena's thigh and pushed the plunger down, injecting her with the bright blue serum. There was a brief moment of realization before the agony began.

Selena started to scream in agony, and so did I. It felt as though my entire body was being burned from the inside. Surely, within a few moments I would be dead from the pain. The two of us writhed on the floor, until I eventually felt Enzo's arms wrap around me and he pulled me up into his lap.

It felt like an eternity, but the pain eventually stopped. Selena almost instantly scrambled to her feet, ranting and raving about how Enzo's poison didn't work on her.

But I knew that it did.

“You okay?” Enzo’s voice echoed in my head. I nodded slowly and subtly; I didn’t feel any different. I could still feel a flicker of my wolf inside of me. If I still had my wolf, then did Selena still have hers?

She raised her hand, tears streaming down her cheeks, and tried to cast a spell on us. But it didn’t work. No matter how hard she tried, it didn’t work.

“W-What did you do to me?!” she screamed, trying over and over again to cast the spell. “What did you do?!”

Enzo let out a low chuckle. At the same time, I felt the weight on my body lift; whatever spell Selena had been using before to keep us pinned to the floor dissipated now that she didn’t have her powers, and Enzo stood and helped me up along with him.

“Feel any different?” Enzo asked Selena.

Selena began to scream even louder. She instantly fell to the ground and began pounding her fists and kicking her legs, almost like a child throwing a tantrum. “Where’s my wolf?!” she shrieked, her voice shrill and grating. “What did you do?!”

Enzo turned to look at me, and I nodded. Selena was human; there was no doubt about it. Somehow, the antidote was capable of curing regular werewolves, not just rogues. I was impressed and shocked by Enzo’s quick thinking. I never would have considered using the antidote against Selena; I always thought that it was just useful against rogues. When we infused the sprinklers with the antidote, it didn’t turn Enzo into a human, but I realized now that it must have needed to be injected — and probably with a higher dose — to work on full-blown werewolves.

Suddenly, Enzo grabbed me around the waist, pulling me close, and kissed me deeply. Selena’s screams faded away, and as we kissed I felt the taste of salty tears on my tongue. I was crying, not from sadness, but from happiness.

“See?” Enzo said when we pulled away. “I told you to trust me.”

I stifled a laugh. “You’re always right.”

Thanks to Enzo’s quick thinking, we had stopped Selena without anyone having to die. And maybe someday, if she ever changed for the better, I could turn her back into a werewolf with my Claiming ability. But for now, we needed to take her to my father.

“Let’s take her to the Alpha King,” I said over Selena’s screams and cries. “He’ll know what to do with her.”

Enzo scooped Selena up off of the ground, kicking and screaming, and slung her over his shoulder like a sack of flour. He then marched over to the banquet hall doors and flung them open.

In the entryway, quite a few dazed guards stood around looking utterly confused. They all watched in awe as Enzo marched past them with Selena over his shoulder.

“P-Princess?” one of the guards said. But he wasn’t looking at Selena; he was looking at me.

“Where is my father?” I asked. The guard pointed to a heavy set of wooden doors, and Enzo and I walked over to them.

“Help me!” Selena screamed at the guards. “I command it! I’m the real princess!”

But the guards didn’t do anything; maybe they were too confused from being dazed earlier, or maybe they didn’t recognize Selena now that she was a human. Either way, it didn’t matter, because Enzo flung the doors open with his free hand and we marched inside to see my father, the Alpha King, sitting on his throne.

The throne room was lit by an elaborate chandelier that hung from the ceiling, as well as candles lining the carpet that led up to the throne. The Alpha King had his head in his hand, and looked up and gave both of us a confused look as we approached. Enzo marched up to him with me in tow and threw the screaming and crying Selena down at his feet.

Without a word, the Alpha King slowly looked down at Selena. He then looked back up at Enzo and I, and his eyes lingered on me for several long moments. It was now that I realized something: he didn’t look well.

In the candlelight, I could see dark circles under his eyes. His face was pale and gaunt, and as he looked at me, I realized that his eyes were cloudy and void of emotion. He didn’t say a word.

“D-Dad?” I whispered, stepping forward. Selena was still curled up on the floor, mumbling to herself about being human. I stepped over her and approached my father, then knelt at his feet. “It’s me, dad. Your missing daughter. Nina.”

My father just stared back at me. I waited for a long time, but he said nothing, and only blinked stupidly at me. Finally, I glanced over my shoulder at Enzo, who looked just as perplexed.

“Sir,” Enzo said, “don’t you recognize your missing daughter? The lost twin?”

But the Alpha King said nothing. I stood slowly as I realized that something was wrong here; Selena was a human now. Her powers were gone, and therefore the spell that she put on the Alpha King should have dissipated by now. Was it simply taking a while to wear off? Surely my father would recognize me at any moment...

And yet, he only continued to stare.



I started to get a bad feeling about all of this. I backed away to stand with Enzo, who wrapped his arm tightly around me.

"Maybe we should leave," he whispered, making my heart sink. I didn't want to leave. I thought that I would come in here and be reunited with my father, but he was only staring silently, unblinkingly, like a zombie.

Suddenly, Selena began to sit up. She wiped her tears with the back of her hand pathetically.

"M-Mother?" she whimpered.

I looked up at Enzo. Mother? Our mother was dead. Unless...

Enzo and I seemed to come to that realization at the same time. The Luna. Frank had talked about her earlier, about how things had gotten bad since she married my father. What if she was behind all of this, and Selena wasn't working alone?

And then, all of a sudden, a white shoe stepped out from behind the large throne. A white dress followed, and out stepped a pale woman with equally white hair and bright red eyes, like an albino. She stood in front of us with a smirk on her face; she was stunningly beautiful and ethereal, and yet somehow terrifying at the same time.

"Hello, Nina," she said.

## **Chapter 246**

Chapter 246: All the Power

Nina

"Hello, Nina," the Luna said.

She wore all white. Even her hair, her eyelashes, and her eyebrows were pure white, and her skin was as pale as a ghost. The only bit of color on her were her red eyes, staring out at me with disdain. But while her eyes glared coldly at me, there was a smile on her face. I felt as though I was looking into the face of someone who wanted nothing more than to kill me.

"M-Mother!" Selena yelled, scrambling to her feet. She scurried over to the Luna, blubbering and whining over the fact that she was a human now. But the Luna only grimaced and, much to my surprise, shoved Selena away.

With the force of the Luna's shove, Selena fell backwards down the small set of stairs that led up to the throne, where the Alpha King still sat with a blank expression on his face. Selena crumpled to the floor and continued to sob quietly, curled up in a fetal

position. With an agitated sigh, the Luna picked up her skirt and slowly walked down the steps, then placed her shoe on Selena's head and rubbed it into Selena's temple.

"You're pathetic," the Luna growled. "I can't believe you let yourself turn into a filthy human... You're useless, and I never should have trusted you with this job."

"M-Mother, I'm sorry!" Selena whined, clawing at the Luna's skirt with her hands and begging. "Please turn me back! I promise I'll do better this time!"

The Luna only rolled her eyes and stepped over Selena. Enzo and I began to back away, but the Luna just followed us. She raised her hand and snapped, and I heard the doors to the throne room slam shut

behind us. I heard the sound of a large, heavy deadbolt clicking into place from the other side; we were locked in here with her.

"Who are you?" I said. "What do you want?"

The Luna stopped, staring at me for a moment. I felt as though she was appraising me as she looked me up and down, like an animal up for auction.

"You really are your father's daughter," she said, rolling her eyes once more. "The stupidity must run in the family." She turned away then and walked back up to the throne. Enzo and I looked at each other and seemed to come to the conclusion that we both needed to make a run for it. I lifted my hand to open a portal, hoping to do it before the Luna turned back around, but without even looking at me she seemed to know what I was doing and snapped her fingers again. In that instant, I felt another invisible force shove me to the ground. It was even stronger than the spell that Selena cast earlier, and both mine and Enzo's knees buckled beneath us. I felt as though I couldn't even breathe.

The Luna walked up to the Alpha King, who still sat staring blankly ahead. I wanted to plead with him to come to his senses, but I couldn't. The invisible force weighed heavily on my throat, and it took all of my strength just to suck in lungfuls of air. All I could do was watch as the Luna stopped beside him and stroked his hair, almost like he was a pet, while she stared down at all three of us on the floor.

"You were supposed to be the smarter one, the more powerful one," the Luna said, staring down her nose at me. From this angle, she looked enormous and even more terrifying. "And I suppose, you are. But you're too obsessed with those filthy humans, and that will be your downfall."

I furrowed my brow. What was she talking about? What did she mean when she said that I was supposed to be the smarter and more powerful one? Did she mean... That I wasn't supposed to be the one who was stolen? That it was supposed to be Selena, and that I was meant to stay behind and be her puppet?

But even then, I still couldn't ask any of these questions. The pressure on my body was too great. I felt as though I would sink through the floor, down into the earth. It began to burn, too, even more than the burning that I felt earlier when the antidote was running its course in Selena's body. I began to writhe in agony, and so did Selena, just from my pain alone. Enzo began to squirm and grunt beside me as well; I felt his fingers brush mine, and I latched onto them.

The burning became even more intense. A choked scream escaped my throat as I felt as though my body would turn inside out and dissolve into embers. I squeezed my eyes shut, feeling tears immediately begin to stream down my cheeks.

"If you would only realize that I'm just looking out for the best of our species, then I would let you live," the Luna said, sounding incredibly nonchalant for someone who was torturing three people. She raised her voice to speak over Selena's screams, like her screams were nothing but a whistling tea kettle. "But now, I've had to realize something of my own. And what I've realized is that your godforsaken family is only going to stand in the way of my plans. I can't have that."

"W-What are you talking about?" I groaned, somehow managing to speak through the pain even though it felt like I was vomiting up hot coals. "W-what plans?"

The Luna laughed. When she did, it sounded light and airy, like a summer breeze. It didn't at all sound like the laugh of a villain; but when I looked up at her, her red eyes were still cold and emotionless. Beside her, the Alpha King only appeared even more out of it. How long would it be before he met the same fate as Richard?

"Surely you're not serious?" the Luna laughed. "Can't you tell already? I want to cleanse the world of the filthy creatures that destroyed our species!"

My eyes widened as another wave of pain washed over me. I let out another involuntary scream; I was going to die from this pain. I was sure of it. There was no escaping it. The Luna was too powerful, and

no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't get up or make the pain stop.

All I could do was close my eyes and squeeze Enzo's hand as I waited for death to take all of us.

But then...

Silence. The pain disappeared, and the sounds of our screams were replaced by the sounds of the wind blowing through the trees and the crickets twittering in the night.

I slowly opened my eyes, and found myself laying in the center of the forest clearing; the same clearing that we left through last time. Beside me, Enzo groaned and sat up. I

sat up alongside him, my pain feeling like a distant memory now, and furrowed my brow as we stared incredulously at each other.

“Are... Are we dead?” I whispered.

Enzo shook his head, and looked at his hands.

“No,” he replied, looking up at the sky. “We’re home.”

## **Chapter 247**

Chapter 247: Between Realms

Nina

“We’re home,” Enzo said, looking at his hands first and then up at the sky with puzzlement drawn across his face.

I looked around with the same amount of confusion at the forest around us. It was dark out, and the waning moon gave us enough light to see. I recognized this forest clearing well; it was the exact clearing that we left from last time. In the distance, thanks to the leaves having mostly fallen off of the trees by this point, I could see the flat surface of the athletic field and the rough outline of the hockey arena after that. How did this happen, though? How did we get here?

Neither of us had any physical injuries. The pain that the Luna inflicted on us felt distant, like it had happened ages ago. I still couldn’t believe that I was even alive, and I even pinched myself to see. Of course, I felt the pain. I wasn’t dead, and Enzo was right: we were home.

But I still didn’t understand how that happened.

“Did you do something?” I asked Enzo, turning to face him. “Did you teleport us or something?”

Enzo slowly shook his head and furrowed his brow. “No,” he replied. “I couldn’t. Not with the pain.”

His words made me frown. I was completely astounded. I hadn’t opened a portal; the Luna had made sure to stop me before I had a chance. All I remembered was closing my eyes and thinking I would die, and then... I was here, in the forest outside of campus. The Luna wasn’t anywhere to be found, and neither was Selena.

But then, I noticed something.

"My wolf," I said out loud, my eyes widening. "I can feel her. It's not just a flicker anymore."

Enzo's eyes widened as well. "Can you communicate with her?" he asked.

I shut my eyes and searched inside of me, prodding my wolf. She seemed to be waking up slowly, but she was there.

"Cora?" I asked, my own voice echoing in my head. "Are you there?"

My wolf's presence strengthened, and finally, I heard her respond for the first time in ages. Tears instantly came to my eyes. I hadn't been able to communicate properly with my wolf since I escaped Edward's lair.

"I'm here," she replied, sounding groggy after what must have felt like an eternity spent sleeping. "Did it work? Did I teleport us out?"

"She teleported us," I said to Enzo. I suddenly stood, too astounded by my wolf's words to sit any longer. "Somehow, she teleported us out of the werewolf realm."

Enzo stared at me incredulously for a few moments, his mouth agape with surprise. It was clear that neither of us knew what to say at first.

"That's impossible," he finally said, standing alongside me. "No one can teleport between realms. You need to open a portal."

I simply shrugged. "I don't know," I replied. "She said she teleported us."

As Enzo and I stood there, something else came to my attention: Enzo's scent. As my wolf woke up, his scent became a little stronger. It was still faint, but it was there, and it made my heart suddenly leap as though I had just run a marathon. Enzo seemed to pick up my scent, too, and his face lightened as a smile spread across his lips.

Neither of us spoke. We didn't even need to process what had just happened yet; all we cared about was that we were home, alive and safe, and my wolf had returned. Not only that, but we could pick up each other's scents again. A wild laugh escaped my lips and I threw my arms around Enzo, kissing him deeply. We smiled against each other's lips as we kissed. It felt so sweet and natural, and his scent overwhelmed me, drawing me closer to him. I had never felt so at peace before. Despite the fact that the Luna was still out there and had the Alpha King hostage, at that exact moment I only cared that I was safely in Enzo's arms.

But then, something else came to my attention.

Someone was groaning off in the distance.

Enzo and I suddenly pulled away, our lips making a wet smacking noise as we pulled apart. Our bodies stayed glued together, my hand pressed against his chest as we snapped our heads in the direction of the groans.

It was a female voice emanating from behind a tree. My eyes widened as I recognized the voice, and I subsequently saw a familiar shoe poking out from behind the tree.

It was Selena.

Enzo and I both shot each other an apprehensive look before we decided to slowly approach Selena, both too shocked to understand what had happened. How had Selena come with us? Did she still have her wolf after all and we just didn't know it?

"Ugh..." Selena groaned. As we walked around the tree, we saw her laying in the dirt, surrounded by pine cones and pine needles with a twisted grimace on her face. She was rubbing her head with her eyes squeezed shut, but when she heard us stop in front of her, her eyes suddenly shot open.

"Selena?" I asked, still confused.

Selena suddenly tried to scramble to her feet, but failed. As she tried to get up, I saw what looked like a nasty bruise on her temple; she must have hit her head when the Luna shoved her down the stairs earlier in the throne room.

"Get the fuck away from me," she snarled, backing up against the tree and pointing at me with a shaking hand. "Back off."

"Okay," I replied, taking a step back and holding my hands up in surrender. "But... How did you get here?"

"Ugh... Fuck if I know," Selena replied. She gingerly touched her temple and winced, and when she pulled her fingers away, there was a bit of blood on them. "I was laying in the throne room, waiting to die, and now I'm here. What did you do, you freak?"

I shook my head and looked up at Enzo, who looked just as dumbfounded as I did. "I... I don't know," I replied. I wasn't entirely sure if I was willing just yet to reveal to Selena that I had somehow managed to teleport between realms without a portal; there was no knowing yet if she did still have powers after all, or what she would do with that information. It did seem, however, that Selena must have somehow gotten teleported along with us. Was it the twin bond? That was the only realistic explanation; Selena was in danger with the Luna around, and it made me wonder if our twin bond made her teleport along with me, to keep us both protected.

Even though I wasn't particularly thrilled that Selena had come along with us, and neither was Enzo, I couldn't help but think that maybe it was a good thing. After all, in the hands of the Luna there was no knowing what would have happened to Selena.

Surely the Luna knew about the twin bond, and may have killed Selena on purpose knowing that it would kill me, too.

But what was I going to do now with my evil sister?

## **Chapter 248**

### Chapter 248: Control

Nina

Selena groaned miserably as she sat on the forest floor with her back propped up against a tree. Enzo and I threw each other a concerned glance before both of us stared down at her. I didn't see any other injuries aside from where she hit her head when the Luna pushed her, and my gut told me that she was exaggerating her pain. Whatever the Luna was doing to us earlier, I realized now that we were safe and free of pain, was purely psychological. Theoretically, Selena shouldn't have any pain other than what was in her head, but the way that she kept rubbing and wincing all over her body made me think otherwise.

I still didn't know exactly why she came along with us, but as my wolf slowly returned to consciousness after her long coma, she explained it to me; and my suspicions about the twin bond were right.

"She must have tagged along when you two teleported," Cora explained. "I didn't do it on purpose. It was because of your twin bond. Although..."

"It's better this way," I responded mentally as I continued to stare down at my whining twin sister. "It's better if she's here, with me, where the Luna can't kill her and thus kill both of us."

Suddenly, however, Selena seemed to be out of control of her maturity and decided that she was too angry to sit around any longer. She suddenly scrambled to her feet and tried to make a run for it, causing Enzo and I to just stare after her incredulously for a moment as she tried to run through the dark forest. With a sigh, Enzo walked after her — she wasn't very fast as a human — and grabbed her shoulder, causing her to scream.

"Get away from me!" she shrieked, wrenching her shoulder away from Enzo. "Murderer!

Traitor!"

"Calm down!" Enzo replied, holding his hands up in surrender. "No one is trying to hurt you. You're going to hurt yourself, though, if you keep acting like this with that head injury."



“Don’t tell me what to do or how to react,” Selena snarled, jabbing her finger into Enzo’s chest. “I’ll scream if I want to!” Selena then opened her mouth to scream, but before she could, Enzo sighed once more and poked his thumb into the center of her forehead. Before she could even react, his touch made her eyes flutter closed and her knees buckle beneath her. Enzo caught her before she fell onto the ground, then looked over at me with confusion written across his face.

“Maybe we should take her somewhere to keep an eye on her until she calms down,” I said, passing a hand over my tired face. “She’s only going to get herself — both of us, actually — hurt.”

Enzo nodded and scooped her up in a fireman carry, then walked over to me. “We’ll have the pack keep an eye on her.”

...

Now that Selena was asleep for the time being, Enzo and I took her back to the infirmary. We also had no way of knowing exactly how long it would be before the Luna came after us, or if she would even come after us. She was so different from Selena; her tactics were still a mystery to us. We didn’t know if we would need to prepare to fight, whether we would need to hole up and hide, or even whether we should leave down for everyone’s safety. Not only that, but it was also becoming apparent to me that the Luna was potentially working with the Crescents. She seemed to be under the impression that all humans needed to be cleansed from the earth, which was a distinctly Crescent philosophy. For all we knew, she would send a horde of Crescents to come after us and take over the town again.

It was late when we arrived at the infirmary. I hadn’t realized just how long we had actually spent in the werewolf realm; it all felt like a blur. We were lucky that Frank had even been willing to help us,

because without him our journey would have been even longer; but the fact that Selena supposedly killed, tortured him, or both, made his help feel like it was in vain. I felt as though I had led an innocent man to death.

When we arrived at the infirmary, however, my thoughts were instantly broken by the view of all of our friends sitting around the table. They all jerked their heads up as we opened the door, their mouths hanging open with surprise.

“Enzo?! Nina?!” Luke shouted, having been the first to see us, and jumped up from his chair.

It was a happy, yet tearful, reunion. I hugged my friends for what felt like an eternity, sobbing into their shirts as I tried to string together everything that had happened since I last saw them in a coherent way. None of it really made sense, though; I was in such a state of shock from it all that it didn’t even make sense to me, and I had lived it. It wasn’t

until Enzo explained everything that our friends finally seemed to understand what happened.

“So... She’s human now?” Jessica asked, staring down at Selena’s sleeping body. We’d laid her out on one of the infirmary beds, and she looked shockingly peaceful for the first time since I had met her. For once, her face actually looked soft and innocent and not evil.

I nodded. “Thanks to Enzo,” I said, looking up at him with a weak smile. “He’s the one who snuck in the antidote.”

Enzo shrugged. “You thought quickly, too,” he replied, gesturing toward the wrist that I had dug the knife into. It was already healed now that my wolf had returned, not that it had ever been that deep of a cut anyway. As soon as I saw the flash of bright blue in Enzo’s hand, I knew that I only needed to distract Selena long enough for Enzo to inject her, and so I only pretended to cut my radial artery.

“How did you know it would work?” Luke asked, his eyes wide. “The antidote, I mean. You’ve never used it on full-blown werewolves before, right? Only rogues?”

“Neither of us knew for sure,” Enzo replied quietly. His arms were folded across his chest as he looked down at Selena. “We just had to hope that it would work. And if it didn’t...” His voice faltered. I reached out then and took his hand, squeezing it gently.

“It doesn’t matter what would have happened if it didn’t work,” I said. “What matters is that it did work. And we know more about the antidote now, which could be helpful against the Crescents. Which, by the way...” I paused, licking my lips, and swallowed the lump in my throat. “We should be on guard. I think the Luna might be working with them. The only other person who might know for sure is her.” I pointed at Selena.

There was a silence before Matt suddenly spoke up. “We’ll keep her under close watch,” he said firmly. “When she wakes up, we can question her. Now that she’s a human, she’s not so strong or scary. Not at all.”

I nodded, still staring down at my sleeping twin sister. I hoped that Matt was right; hopefully, when Selena woke up, she would be able to offer some information on the Luna’s plans. If not... We would be in the dark.

## **Chapter 249**

As I stared down at my twin sister’s sleeping body, I couldn’t help but think that she looked oddly peaceful and innocent for the first time since I had met her. It almost made me wonder if there was a version of Selena in there somewhere that wasn’t evil and full of schemes.

My friends and I sat in the infirmary for a while longer, talking about what happened in the werewolf realm. The Luna was still in control, and we had no way of knowing what she would do to us and the entire world. If she really was so hell-bent on cleansing all humans from the earth, then something made me think that she had a lot more allies than I realized.

When we fought Selena at first, I thought that she was working alone. I thought that she was just a bitter and scared child who was afraid that I would steal her mate, and nothing more. Even when I discovered that she was working with the witch, I thought that that was it; surely no one else was working alongside her.

But oh, how wrong I was.

Selena wasn't even the mastermind behind it all. The Luna was the true mastermind, controlling both Selena and the Alpha King like puppets. Was the Selena that I had come to know even the true Selena, or was she another victim of the Luna's? If we managed to fight the Luna and stop her, just as we had with Selena, would we discover that Selena had a spell on her? Would the spell break to reveal a normal girl who wasn't nearly as evil as we thought?

However, only time would tell. We needed to question Selena about several things, starting with whether or not the Luna was working with the Crescents; and we needed to figure it out as soon as possible, because if the Luna was going to show up at any moment and wreak havoc on our town, we needed to be prepared.

Eventually, Selena began to wake up as we all sat around.

"Ugh..." she groaned, reaching up to touch her temple again, only to find that it had been bandaged up while she slept. Her eyes cracked open, squinting even against the dim light of the infirmary, and she slowly swiveled her head to look at us.

"Rise and shine, princess," Enzo said, sounding condescending. I nudged him with my elbow and shot him a dark look, shaking my head. Right now, we didn't need to be angering Selena; we needed her to be calm so that she would give us some information.

"Where am I?" Selena croaked, looking around confusedly. "Am I back home?"

I stood from my chair and walked over to the side of her bed. When I came into her field of vision, she groaned again and even attempted to spit on me. I jumped out of the way, grimacing as I saw the ball of spit land on the ground near my feet.

"You're in the campus infirmary," I said, trying my best to stay calm and not antagonize her. "I took care of the bruise on your head."

"Gee. Thanks." Selena frowned deeply and slowly sat up. I tried to help her, but she slapped my hands away and even growled a little. It seemed that, even without her wolf, she still had those same wolf mannerisms.

"We need to ask you some questions," Enzo said, walking up to her next with his hands in his pockets. "And we need you to answer them."

Selena looked around at all of us, then scoffed. "I'm not saying shit," she replied. "Fuck you guys."

"Hey!" Lori suddenly exclaimed, storming up to Selena and causing Selena's eyes to go wide when she saw the angry look on Lori's face. "Watch it. You're already on thin ice after all of the trouble you've caused. Despite everything, Nina saved you and even went so far as to patch up your stupid little head. You should be begging for forgiveness."

Selena just glared back at Lori for a long time. No one spoke during that time, and the air in the infirmary felt so thick and heavy that I was certain I could cut it with a knife if I wanted to. But finally, Selena's icy blue eyes slid over to me and looked me up and down, and she folded her arms across her chest.

"I'm still not talking," she growled. "Mother will come and save me soon, and then you'll all be sorry."

I couldn't help but laugh. "She is not your mother," I replied. "She hates you. You were just a pawn in her game and nothing more. Don't you remember how she treated you when she found out that you were a human? Doesn't your head still hurt from the fall and the way that she shoved her shoe into your temple? Or maybe I should rip off that bandage and remind you how much it hurt."

My sister didn't say anything, but I could see a flash of something in her eyes. I could tell that what I said resonated with her, at least a little bit. Honestly, I felt bad for her; the Luna had her so manipulated that she genuinely saw her as her own mother, leaving her oblivious to the horrendous things that the Luna was trying to accomplish. The Luna could have killed Selena, and Selena never would have blamed her for it.

"Come on, Selena," Enzo said. "Just talk to us. Is the Luna going to attack? Is she going to kill the Alpha King?"

"Ha!" Selena laughed. "Mother would never kill Daddy. Don't you know how much fighting that would cause? Hordes of men would attack the mansion thinking that they could become the next Alpha King. Mother isn't stupid."

I couldn't help but let out a small sigh of relief. At least the Alpha King was safe, at least for now. But it still didn't answer whether the Luna would be on her way to slaughter everyone she could get her hands on soon.

“Listen, Selena,” I said, placing my hands on my hips. “I know you don’t want to die. And the Luna, whether you want to believe it or not, is going to try to kill you. You can either give us information to help us stop that from happening, so we can protect you, or you can be stubborn and basically just lie down and let her murder you along with thousands — millions, if she gets her way in the end — of people. Is that what you want?”

Selena was silent for a long time. I could see her pursing her lips and chewing the inside of her cheek, and her eyes were narrowed as she glared at me. But at the same time, I knew that I was right; she didn’t want to die. She still had an ounce of self preservation in her body.

“Look, I don’t know when she’ll attack,” she finally said. “For now, she has what she wants: the throne. With daddy manipulated, she has all of the power. But you’re a threat to that, so it’s only a matter of time before she sends her lackeys.”

“And who are these ‘lackeys’?” Enzo asked. “Are they Crescents? Rogues? Both?”

But it seemed that we had exhausted Selena’s generosity, because she didn’t answer. She simply shrugged and laid back down on the bed, turning over to face away from us. I sighed and looked at Enzo, who looked back at me with wide eyes.

There was nothing that could be done. Perhaps, in time, Selena would offer some more information. Maybe she would even break free of the Luna’s brainwashing and would see that we weren’t the enemy, and she would help us. But for now, all we could do was keep a close eye on her until that moment came.

And for now, I just wanted to go home with Enzo and pretend that things were normal for just one night.

## **Chapter 250**

### **Chapter 250: Hearts Still Beating**

Nina

Luke and Matt decided to take shifts keeping an eye on Selena. I didn’t think that she would be able to accomplish much, and it seemed as though my words about the Luna opened her eyes a bit earlier, but I was still glad to have my friends around to help with that. I would have done it myself, but I was utterly exhausted from everything. It had been almost forty-eight full hours of hardly any sleep, aside from the couple of hours that Enzo and I slept in Frank’s truck, and sleep was calling to me.

We decided to go back to Enzo’s apartment. I grabbed a few things from my apartment before walking over with him, and when we entered, I was immediately hit with a wave

of nostalgia. It had felt like an eternity since I had last set foot in this place, even though it had really only been a month.

“Home sweet home,” Enzo said, unlocking the door and swinging it open to reveal his dark, quiet, and oddly comforting dorm. “It’ll be good to get some sleep. You hungry? Need to shower?”

I nodded to both of those things. I was starving, filthy, and completely exhausted. Enzo directed me to the shower while he figured out dinner, and after standing beneath the hot water for upwards of twenty minutes and allowing it to wash away almost all of my worries, I returned to the living room wearing nothing but one of Enzo’s oversized t-shirts to see that Enzo had ordered a pizza and brought out a bottle of wine. He had the television on with a movie picked out, and had ordered some sides with the pizza.

“You didn’t have to do all of this,” I said with a chuckle as I approached, drying my damp hair still with a towel.

Enzo shrugged. “I was hungry, and I know you are, too,” he said gently. “And besides... I know you haven’t been eating well since... Well, since everything. I’d like to change that.”

I couldn’t help but smile. Enzo was right; ever since what happened with Edward, my appetite had been nothing but an uphill battle. I had lost a visible amount of weight, and it was getting to the point where I could feel the toll it was taking on my body. Even though things weren’t quite back to “normal” yet, and I honestly wondered if that would ever really even be possible, I was ready to have a small sense of normalcy in my life. And if that sense of normalcy began with eating pizza and drinking wine in Enzo’s apartment, then I was glad for it.

For a long time, we sat and watched the movie that Enzo picked out and ate too much pizza. By the time it was finished, I felt full and satisfied, and snuggled up against Enzo on the couch.

“I’m really glad to have you back,” I said, looking up at him from where I laid on his chest.

Enzo smiled down at me. “I’m glad to be back, too,” he said quietly.

There was a bit of a silence. I bit my lip and sat up, and looked at Enzo with some intensity. “Promise you won’t go anywhere dangerous without me again.”

Enzo raised his eyebrows, but nodded anyway. He reached out and took my hand, rubbing it with his thumb as he gazed into my eyes. “I won’t go anywhere,” he said gently.

“Promise?”

“Promise.”

A few moments passed where Enzo and I just looked at each other in silence. The movie had ended a while earlier, and now the room was dark and quiet again. Being here, with him, filled me with a sense of comfort; and when his eyes traveled hungrily down my body as I sat in front of him, I couldn't control myself any longer.

With a grin, I suddenly grabbed him by the neck and pulled myself onto his lap, straddling him. As I did, I heard a surprised groan escape his lips; but before he could say anything, I twisted my hips down into his lap, causing him to moan again, and kissed him deeply.

The energy between us was like static electricity. His touch was intoxicating, sending waves of pleasure coursing through my body. I could feel the warmth of his hand on the small of my back, pulling me closer, as if he couldn't bear to have even an inch of space between us. I surrendered to the sensation, melting into his embrace, losing myself in the depths of his passion.

In one swift movement, Enzo threw me down onto the couch and pressed himself on top of me. Our kisses grew more urgent, fueled by an undeniable hunger. As his hands roamed over my body, tracing the curves and contours, I could feel the heat building within me, an ache that only he could satisfy. The world around us ceased to exist as we became entangled in each other, our bodies moving in perfect harmony.

He reached down and lifted the shirt of his that I was wearing, his finger running along my panties and causing me to shiver. I was already soaking wet before he even touched me, and he grinned as he looked up at me.

“You sure did miss me, huh?” he asked with that signature smirk that I hadn't seen in so long.

I nodded, biting my lip, unable to speak as he continued to trace his fingers along the outline of my pussy. He pressed lightly at first, clearly reveling in the way that I shivered beneath his touch, before he pressed more firmly and eventually slid my panties aside to feel the real thing without any barriers.

As soon as I felt his thick fingers slide over my clit and work their way into my pussy, a loud, uncontrollable moan escaped my lips. Even just his fingers made me feel full, like that was what I needed to be complete again. My moan made Enzo's grin widen, and he pushed his fingers in a little deeper as though he was trying to dig another moan out of me, and he accomplished just that.

He pressed his palm of his free hand into my clit and rubbed gently while he fingered me, causing my back to arch. I felt as though I was right on the verge of coming. Instantly I became even more wet, and I was certain that there would be a wet spot on the couch where I laid, but I didn't care.



But, just as I was about to come, Enzo stopped and pulled his fingers out with a mischievous smirk. He leaned over me for a few moments, watching my face as I panted heavily beneath him.

And then... With a smile, he reached up, and slid his fingers into my mouth; the same fingers that he used inside of me. I heard a moan come out of his mouth as I licked and sucked on his fingers, tasting myself.

What he did next was fast and unexpected, but intoxicating all the same. In the dim light, I could see him move his pants down just enough to reveal his hard cock. He didn't even need to use spit, and simply thrust himself inside of me, causing both of us to make our eyes roll back in ecstasy. I moaned around his fingers that were still in my mouth as he began to thrust back and forth.

Together, we moaned more and more loudly. I reveled in the sound of his animalistic growls, feeling as though it released something primal in me. When he finally pulled his fingers out of my mouth, he wrapped them then around my neck, and the pressure from his hand only heightened my sensations. I arched my back, crying out. I needed to come.

Enzo, seeing this, smiled again.

"Go ahead," he groaned, fucking me more deeply and harder than ever before, but only in a way that made me feel even more pleasure. "You can come."

My legs fell open as I came around his cock. I felt myself tighten and tense around him, causing him to grunt more loudly. He bent down and kissed and bit into my neck as I came.

There was so much sensation coursing through my body that I felt as though I would pass out. I didn't know how loud I became, or what I said, and I only felt limp within Enzo's strong arms. His thrusts inside of me were merciless, but only in the best way. It had been too long since I had last felt him like this; I wanted every inch of him inside of me.

When I finished coming, Enzo came, too. He let out a loud, deep growl that rumbled in his throat like thunder as he finished, and as he filled me up, I felt a whimper escape my lips from the feeling of fullness.

Finally, we collapsed onto one another in a heap, our sweaty bodies pressed tightly together. I was certain that I could stay like this forever, pinned beneath him right here on his couch, feeling him lost deep inside of me.

And as we laid there, gently kissing and nuzzling one another as we returned to our senses, I couldn't help but smile.

Because soon, I was positive that I would finally be able to shift. And then, after that, I could finally become Enzo's mate after all this time.