

The Unclaimed Human Luna

Read Chapter 1

Chapter 1

EI POV

Her life had been turned upside down and inside out. Her father Taro, had passed away not even a year ago and now her mother had not only met someone. But had married him and now they were moving out to Bear Lake, Utah. Not somewhere that Eliza wanted to go, she didn't know Logan Greystone. Only that he was some wealthy Real Estate Developer who lived in what her mother told her was a lavish gated community in the most amazing apartment complex that he owned.

That they were going to live there, on the top floor, that she would love it there. Everyone was really friendly and everyone in the apartment complex knew each other and got along. There would be lots for her to do this summer. He had one son, who was 22 years old, named Conner and she would meet him and his friends when she arrived.

EI had argued about going. She had not long turned 18 and was considered an adult and able to stay in her family home by herself. She wanted to stay here with the people she knew and all her friends before she left to go to Italy to study. That was her plan, it had always been the plan to go to the University of Bologna, it's where her father had studied, it's where she wanted to study, was supposed to go.

But apparently, one Logan Greystone didn't think it was appropriate for her to do so, and to her horror, her mother had told her that Logan was right, that her university of choice was just too far away, and she couldn't go. The funds allocated for her studies abroad were now in Logan's hands and he was going to find her a nice university to attend here in the states.

They had argued relentlessly about it when her mother came home, her application was already in, and Logan had taken it upon himself to cancel it. No one had even considered her or talked to her about it, he'd just gone ahead and done it. What she wanted did not matter to anyone anymore. She'd been denied the right to stay in her father's house. They hadn't even packed any of it up, to go with them on this move. She was pretty sure that Logan didn't want anything of her father's. All she had been allowed to bring were her things, a few suitcases. That was all.

It was a long drive and she was sitting in the backseat unhappy and both her mother and the man who was supposedly now her new father, according to her mother. An

arrogant SOB as far as she was concerned, were both chatting away all happy. When she had refused to get in the car yesterday and leave, stalked off, he'd practically demanded of her to get in the car, and she'd told him, or yelled over her shoulder, uncaring of what he wanted. That she had a bloody right to go and say goodbye to her friends. Then had continued to stalk away from that man.

Then she'd just not gone back to the house, had gone off to Cordi's place and flopped down on her bed and nearly cried, it wasn't fair everything in her life was now gone to s**t. She'd come home yesterday from her job inside the local university library, a job she loved, to find a strange man inside her home and her mother in his lap. She'd not met this Logan before. Had glared right at him before she'd got an introduction and then been told they were all packed and she should get in the car. It was a long drive to Utah.

She'd not even known they were coming or expected her to go back with them. Knew her mother had been out there in Utah with him, she had been living on her own for the past few months, while her mother was off with her new boyfriend, well now her husband, some rich a*****e that was now apparently in full control of her life and her life savings.

She had stayed at Cordi's, not gone home at all, ignored all the calls her mother had made, ignored the text message that had stated 'Elize, this is Logan you will come home now.' Had showed it to Cordi and muttered let's get the hell out of here, and they'd done just that. Got in Cordi's car and driven away to a party that was going on at some guy's house that Cordi's brother knew.

They'd stayed out all night and she'd had a few too many drinks, needed it, she thought. Wasn't even old enough to drink, but to hell with it. If she was going to be forced to move and live in some stranger's house who now thought he was her father and could tell her what to do. She wasn't about to make it easy on him.

She was going to be difficult, which really wasn't like her at all. She was usually a nice, polite, well-mannered girl. Her father had raised her well, but this year had been tough. Her mother had seemed to have just forgotten about her husband, a man she had supposed to have loved with all her heart. She hadn't mentioned the man's name not once in the past three months of meeting Logan. Frowned at El even when she brought him up, it was like she didn't even want to recall him.

El wasn't going to forget him, he had been kind and loving, wanted her to explore the world and have all her dreams come true. He was nothing like the new a*****e in her life. Who'd not taken kindly to her being out all night. Come home hung over and near vomit on him. Had been aiming for his shoes, the man had been quick to move out of the way. She didn't think she'd ever seen someone move that fast before.

She'd gotten his raised dad's voice at her and told her to go and shower. He wouldn't have her stink up his car, the minute she had been dressed she'd been shoved into that car of his and told not to cause any more trouble.

Within less than ten minutes, Logan and her mother were chatting happily, about going home and spending time together. It wasn't her home and she didn't want to go, she was being made to go. Spent that very long drive staring out the window or texting Cordi about how she hated her new stepfather.

The only comment she had made was why weren't they taking anything from the house? That she wanted to keep her father's car. "The rest of the important things for you will be shipped Eliza." He'd told her "They will arrive in a few days."

She'd said nothing after that, just muttered something about her father's car, had better be there or she'd make his life a living hell. There had been silence after that comment. She was making it plainly clear to all that she did not want to go with them. Didn't think it was necessary at all. The yelling yesterday with her mother should have told them all they needed to know.

Had actually pointed right at Logan and stated "I don't know him, he's not my father, never will be. I'm not bloody going."

He'd stood back and watched the two of them argue about her going with them. Hadn't stepped in until her mother was near crying about Eliza yelling at her "Did you even love my father, cos you moved on bloody quick." Had stated hurtful words because she was hurting herself. Because she didn't want to leave her family home with all her memories of growing up here with her father. He'd only been buried 9 months ago. It had only taken her mother 6 months to forget him.

Her mother had half whispered, half sobbed "Don't I get to be happy too?" and that's when Logan had stepped in and told her to grow up. She was 18 and should act like an adult. Now she was being forced to move to another state where she knew no one at all. Into a man's house that she did not know, didn't want to know.

They only stopped for food and to fill up the car. It was a large four-wheel drive, not that she cared, it was too flashy for her liking and it reeked of money. Everything about this man was expensive, but she already knew that about him. Her mother had told her he was wealthy. El didn't really care about monetary things. Just wanted to leave and go study abroad, she and her father had been putting money aside for as long as she could remember for her to go abroad, a university fund. It had been in her dad's name and then transferred to her mother's, who'd stupidly handed it all over to Logan and now she had nothing.

She'd seen the massive gates that had rolled open for them to pass through and heard her mother's excited voice state that they were home, to have a good look at the community here. She just knew she was going to love it.

El doubted it. It was only going to be until she could get her money and get out of here, go overseas and get her degree, hell she might never come back. It wasn't like her mother would care, she was all consumed by Logan now.

El did look out the window at the gated community they were driving through, it was tidy and neat, nothing seemed out of place really, a bit odd, it was late in the evening, and she didn't see a single street light. Though there were many homes with lights on in them. Not a single house looked run down to her, and Logan commented "how about I drive through the mall and you can see where the teens hang out."

She'd not cared to answer, but he had done so it wasn't all that big, a few shopping boutique's and two cafes. One bakery and a swimming complex that had plenty of water slides, there were kids in there playing and swimming. There was a large open park with many people barbequing. She noticed next to the swim centre.

They saw many people look up and wave and Logan wave back, also saw her mother wave back and smile at them. She did not, though she found many eyes on her, as the car moved on. It was still a ten-minute drive to the apartment complex.

That place was huge, looked like a grand hotel, had columns out the front and a massive set of grand stairs that led up to it. There was a big, grassed area on either side of the stairs, with a few bench seats along it. She could see a young man standing at the top of the stairs, wearing light grey slacks and a white dress shirt. Looked like Logan, could only be his son Conner, she guessed.

Logan pulled the car up right at the stairs and got out, she sat and watched as her mother didn't move a muscle and waited for Logan to walk around the car and get the door for her. Who had she turned into?

El opened her own door and got out herself, glanced up at the man standing at the top of the stairs. He was staring at her, saw him look her over. Said nothing, he just returned his eyes to his father effectively dismissing her. His dark blue eyes had been hard and cold on her, and she got the distinct impression he didn't want her here anymore than she wanted to be here herself.

"Father, Brittney." He addressed them.

"Son, how was everything while I was away?"

"Fine..." his eyes moved back to her and then he stated, "I can handle the family business."

"I'm aware, no issues then?"

"None I couldn't handle." He stated.

“Good, Connor, this is Eliza, your new stepsister. Eliza my son, Conner.”

His eyes were back on her, “Hello.” He stated, sounded board.

She just looked up at him, and said nothing until her mother prompted her “El, play nice.”

‘Why?’ she thought to herself “Hi.” She stated, mimicking his board tone and turned away from him.

“Eliza, now I know your 18, so I thought you could have a place of your own. I got you a one-bedroom apartment up on the top floor.”

She heard his son mutter something unintelligible and watched Logan glare at him, must have picked up what she couldn’t. The man simply turned and walked inside. “Conner, you will get Eliza’s belongings and make her feel welcome.” Logan had grated out. So, it wasn’t just her he got annoyed with.

She stood and watched as Conner stopped walking as he was about to go inside the apartment complex, then turned and glared at her, “We’ve got people for that father.”

“Yes, we do. But you also need to play nice.”

Seems she was right. He didn’t want her here at all. Well, she was gone the minute she could be. El could see his jaw ticking as he stalked passed her, but he said nothing. She had noticed that it was only her things that had been packed up, nothing of her mothers. Didn’t need it apparently, Logan had bought her everything she could possibly want, or would do.

“I’m not staying with you and mother?” She questioned as they walked inside.

“I also thought she would be with us, Logan.” Her mother commented.

“I thought about it, she’s 18 and needs her own space.” Had seen him turn and look right at her. “I have only one request, Eliza, which you will follow at all times. You will never enter my office without knocking and being asked to come in, even if the door is open. Is that clear?”

“Crystal.” She muttered and got glared at.

“That tone won’t be tolerated either.”

“Really what are you going to do? Kick me out, good go ahead. Pack me off to Italy, I’d like that.” She shot right back.

Could feel anger rolling off of him nearly right away, stood there and stared at him as he stared at her. "I won't tolerate disrespect, young lady. You will learn that quickly here."

"El, please just try and get along, this is your home now. Please give it a chance." Her mother sighed "I know it's different but..."

"Are we staying or going?" It was Conner, and she knew he wasn't addressing her, was looking right at his father.

"She is staying, it's what Brittney wants."

'Not what I bloody want.' El thought to herself.

"Then move it and show her to her room. I'm not a porter."

She was taken to the top floor of the apartment building, which was five stories high, and got out of the elevator and walked down to the western end and she heard her mother murmur "Its far away from our suite."

"It's best that way," Logan told her simply.

"But all the way on the other side of the building? I don't know if I like that."

"She will be fine. You'll see."

All the way on the other side of the building she thought to herself. This man who apparently owned this building and married her mother without even meeting her, not once, was making a clear statement to her: she was not a part of his family. Was as far away from him and his family as he could possibly put her.

Her room was neat and tidy, a simple one-bedroom apartment, large and comfortable. She had her name on the room door: Eliza Hunt. Well, at least she wouldn't get it mixed up with all the other rooms down here, seeing as there were no apartment numbers on any of the other doors down here.

Conner put her suitcases down and was gone without a word. He didn't want anything to do with her at all. That was clear. Got herself a crappy stepbrother as well as a crappy stepfather.

"There's a fully stocked kitchen for you through that door," Logan told her. "Your mother had all your favourite things to eat brought in for you. There is a nice ensuite with a soaker tub. I'm sure you'll like that and your walk in is massive. Settle in and we'll have breakfast in the morning, I'll send Conner to get you."

"Yay." She muttered and got a disapproving frown from him. Then he just turned and left, taking her mother with her.

“You should unpack.” He stated right before he closed the door.

El turned and looked around the room. She’d not been given a key or anything, though she’d not seen a lock on that door either. Walked over and looked at it, there didn’t appear to be one, just great in a strange place with no lock on her door. Would request one she thought first thing in the morning.

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Chapter 2

Conner POV

Eliza was coming, another human to come and live here inside the pack, wasn’t one bad enough! It was not something he wanted, he hated the thought of it, to be honest. Her mother was human as well. Had not even gotten a wolf after being Marked and Mated on the last full moon, she was still human. She was going to make the pack weak, and he knew it.

Also, he knew his father was not about to just go and hand over the pack to him, because she was human, their pack traditions stated only once you found your Mate, Marked and Mated them, could you take over and only if the current Alpha felt you were ready as well. He’d been looking for four years now, and still had not found his Mate. Now having a human here was going to hinder that.

Mating balls were not going to be able to be held every full moon and he was going to have to go away to other packs in search of his Mate now. Another hassle to contend with while doing a double degree at Utah State University. He was currently taking classes even in the summer break, as were his unit. His father had many requirements for him to attain before he would consider him competent to run the pack to take over. He had to prove to him he could, it was not just going to be handed to him when he got his Mate.

Meeting those demands were a nightmare sometimes. It meant that every summer he had more classes to attend. His workload was astronomical. On the bright side, he wasn’t there all day four days a week, would be at the university, so he wouldn’t have to put up with Eliza. She looked like a real b***h to him, got that resting b***h face down pat, though she was pretty, he noted, even with her resting b***h face. Wore ripped

jeans and a simple tee shirt, a pair of flat sandals and no make-up either. It didn't look like she was a girl to take care of her appearance. Not his type at all.

She got out of his father's car and he already knew she was going to be a problem. It was very clear to him that she didn't want to be here. The fact that they were a day late said it all. His father had called to tell him she'd run off and not come home, so they had to look for her before setting out. Not found her either. She'd finally showed up and hungover at that, gone out drinking all night and ignored all that man's calls as well as her mothers.

It was likely that she was going to be some sort of delinquent, he thought on hearing his father's ranting about her attitude about coming here. Had hung up and left him to deal with it, his father had nearly sent Conner to get her. He couldn't thank the goddess more. He had a compulsory quiz to sit which got him out of that nightmare.

Hearing her talk back to his father though, that had intrigued him, she had some guts to stand there and stare him down, likely that Italian b***d running through her veins, she didn't much look like her mother who was short and blonde. Had long black hair, olive skin and the most unusual silver-grey eyes he'd ever seen, that were quick to flash with anger.

He did not like being used as a porter, they had omegas for that. He knew his father was trying to make him interact with the girl, but he was not interested in making friends with the human girl. And from her words she was not interested in being here either. Why make her come if she didn't want to? It just hindered them, not her. With her here they had to watch everything they said.

He couldn't shift to his wolf Atlas, and that ticked them both off. Atlas liked to run free every day. Conner also liked to f**k vigorously wherever he so chose, with whoever and usually that was out in the woods. With her here wandering about that had to be curbed, his father would not approve of Eliza seeing their wolves go at it all over the place.

Conner liked it out there in the woods. Breathing in the fresh woodsy scent helped him to not think about the she-wolf he was currently doing, that she wasn't his Mate. Atlas didn't much care for him doing the she-wolves of the pack at all, only wanted his Mate. But Conner had needs that needed to be sated on a regular basis. Not that that was going so well these days.

He wasn't surprised that his father had opted to put the girl in the west wing of the packhouse. There was no one down there, it was to be his wing when he took over. Not that he was allowed to use it yet. Still had a room in the east wing. Did stroll down there and look at the rooms and occasionally thought about what he wanted in there. His suite, which stood empty, was large and took up the entire western face of the building, had six bedrooms, but was not decorated.

Had a nice view of the western side of the pack, his father and Brittney could see Bear Lake from their suite. He wanted a view of the forest, and felt more comfortable with that. Didn't much like the lake. Only went there to hook up on bonfire nights or parties at the lake houses. Could swim, ski, sail and do all that crap, but would much rather spend time in the woods hiking or camping, rock climbing and abseiling, spelunking occasionally.

Now he had to put up with a human stepsister and his father had put her down in a room in the west wing. Knew it was because no one was down there. To keep her away from hearing the wolves go at it, they got loud. Smiled to himself, he did love hearing his she-wolves scream as he took them, though his needs did run higher than most around here. Sometimes he had a different girl every night. The pack knew he f****d around and also knew he would not be taking anyone who wasn't his Mate as his Luna.

So as long as they were happy to ride him, he was happy to pound them good and proper. He kept his needs to the ranked members' daughters though, and didn't want to hurt the lower ranked ones or omega's, but there were a few that were freaking hot. And they looked at him like they wanted him, were willing to let him do them, but he wouldn't. They were tiny and petite and he didn't think they could handle him and not just the size of him, but the power he could thrust with. Likely really hurt some of them as he would a human, it's why he stayed away from them.

Eliza was easy on the eyes that was for sure, very pretty with those silver-grey eyes, had some nice curves. Not often do you find a she-wolf with an a*s like that, perfectly rounded for gabbing on to. Most she-wolves were lean and had no a*s really. She had a nice set of breasts too, and a tiny little waist. If she was a she-wolf he'd be on her quickly. Would enjoy looking at that a*s while he pounded the hell out of her.

But again, she was bloody human, and she wouldn't be able to handle him. Also had no idea if she was pure or not. He didn't do virgins. It was not his thing. Liked his woman experienced and ready to take that pounding he needed to dish out. Liked it rough, it's all he liked, it was the only way to get off. His Beta, Adam, told him he didn't know what he was missing. Taking a she-wolf all slow and deliberate was amazing. That he might just enjoy hearing them beg for it, to pick the pace up and really give it to them. He doubted it, had never had the inclination for that.

The man also enjoyed getting around but his style was much different, they did like the same type of woman, but Adam was all about pleasing them and Conner, if he was truly honest, wasn't, he just needed someone to get him there, and not all did. More often than not, he could get them off, but not himself. Maybe one in 5 she-wolves could get him there if he was lucky. Sometimes the one that got him off today couldn't tomorrow. It was very frustrating for him.

Knew it was something to do with his wolf not wanting to, Atlas always huffed and stalked off to the back of his mind to ignore what Conner was doing with a she-wolf that

was not his Mate. Sighed as he flopped down on his bed. Needed a body right at this minute, in fact, was annoyed and wanted to pound it out.

Mind-link to Emma, she was always up for it, giggled right at him and told him to give her like 5, watched her walk into his room and pull her clothes off, stand there and start touching herself. He was naked had stripped off when she'd said yes. Watched her till he was good and hard and then just yanked her into his bed to have her.

Pulled her onto all fours as he always did and took her hard and rough like he wanted to, she never complained, m****d and gasped, grunted a few times when he really got going, putting all his strength into it and finally cried out his name when she came, flopped down on his bed when he stopped and sighed "That was so good, Alpha."

"Mm," he wasn't much for talking after s*x, and she knew she was supposed to get up and leave, would do so. He got up and showered and when he came back she was gone, as expected. It was just s*x, good but not enough to get him there tonight, it seemed. She might look 20 and act 20, but was nearly twice his age, had no mate. Had never found one, was just out there f*****g anything that could get her off. He could get her there, so she rarely said no to him. She also wasn't interested in sticking around for a sleep over, it was not her thing either.

Conner strolled out of his room and went to get food, down in the pack-house dining room, it was late but there was always food around. Even in the middle of the night, there was a buffet of loaded sandwiches and premade toasties to be cooked.

"So, what's your stepsister like?" Adam's voice came to him as he walked into the dining room, shirtless and just in shorts, had been out in wolf form it seemed.

"Got a good resting b***h face. Doesn't want to be here. Which is good because it means she'll piss off at some point."

"Man, you can be cruel sometimes. This is new to her. Give the girl a break."

"Why, a human like her mother."

"Don't let your father hear you say that, likely get a beating."

"I did get a beating for disrespecting Brittney that first time he brought her here, if you recall."

"I do." Adam nodded "A Mate is a Mate."

"I would never take a human Mate. Weak and pathetic, Brittney didn't even shift or get a wolf. How is that supposed to make the pack stronger?"

"It is what it is, and your dad loves her."

“Loves f*****g her you mean, that is all. It’s nothing more, just mate bond s*x.”

“You really are a cynic, aren’t you!” Adam shook his head.

“I want a Mate, but I also know it’s not love, just a really good f**k for both sides.”

“See that’s not how your supposed to look at it.”

“Come on Adam, you heard what I heard when mum left dad.” Everyone in the Alpha’s office had heard her state that just because the s*x was good didn’t mean that she loved him or he her. It was just that they were bonded, that they were together. Then she’d rejected him and left him, when Conner was ten. Left the position as Luna to the Pack, to go and be with some other wolf from another pack. He’d never understood it.

She had left him here, abandoned him to live with his father and his domineering demanding ways. Had been told she’d never be allowed to take Conner with her, to which she had looked at Conner, stated ‘I love you Conner, you are my son, but you will stay here.’ Never even fought for him. Then she had never ever come back to see him, not once. Not even so much as sent a birthday card, didn’t come for his wolf’s arrival at 16 or his 18th birthday or his 21st.

Had just left him to go live elsewhere with another, someone that loved her apparently. It was likely he had brothers and sisters out there that he knew nothing about. Would likely never know, he didn’t even know where she was. His father would never tell him. Told him she was dead to him and this pack to forget about her.

He’d tried to over the years but, she was his mother and a part of him, even though she’d abandoned him, still missed her, and wondered about her. Where she was, did she find happiness, did she regret leaving him behind or had she simply moved on and forgotten all about him, her first born son.

So, yes, he was a cynic, would take his Mate and try to keep her happy so it didn’t happen to him. Though, from his recollection, his father had not so much as skipped a beat, had gone out and started f*****g around pretty much the next day. His Mate leaving him had meant nothing to him. It seemed, that had always been a curiosity to Conner.

Then he’d met Brittney three months ago and was almost a different person overnight, smiled at the mere mention of her name. A new Mate gifted to him, though she’d been human and previously married, had a fully grown human daughter with her now dead husband. That bothered his father, but as long as no one brought it up, he was fine.

Now Brittney was Marked and Mated and they were at it all the time, though his father had admitted he was disappointed she didn’t get a wolf, he still wanted her, and didn’t like anyone disrespecting her. Wouldn’t stand for it. Connor’s only concern was that he knew his father was actively trying to get an Heir from his human Mate. Had heard him

tell his Beta Jared, he couldn't wait to have an Heir with her, knew that child would be good and strong, stronger than Conner even. That bothered him a lot.

He was the Heir and it had sounded like he was going to be passed over if Brittney could give him an Heir. She wasn't so young and she was human. Their reproductive cycles weren't like wolves. The woman was 41 in human years, and it might not be possible. Conner didn't like it. It had made him wonder a lot about his mother and father.

The way they'd only had one pup, just him. The way she'd just left him, seemed uncaring, the way his father hadn't really cared either. Made him wonder if they weren't Goddess Gifted Mates to each other at all. If that was the case and Brittney was, and he knew she was, he could tell by the way his father was bloody smitten with the human. Then his father was right, that child would be stronger than Conner if it had a wolf.

She could still produce a human child, being human herself. The man was a fool for taking a human Mate. No Alpha wanted a human Heir to their pack. Would only cause it to be weak. Yet there his father was trying to get one from Brittney. It was likely she'd only produce human children, seeing as she'd not been gifted a wolf. Wondered if that would matter to his father at all.

"I did, but who knows what that was all about."

"I'd be willing to bet not gifted to each other, chosen so he could take over the pack. But he told everyone she was his gifted, likely the two of them had some sort of agreement between just the two of them."

"Thought a lot about it have you?"

"Of late," he admitted.

"You planning on doing that, are you?"

"No. I need a Mate, or the s*x will be horrid for me."

Saw Adam shake his head but say nothing. "So, what does she look like?"

"You'll see her tomorrow, I'm sure."

"Not willing to cough it up, huh? Pretty then, beautiful perhaps?"

Conner stared at him, knew what the man was doing, trying to see if he was attracted to the girl "Human, Adam." He stated, Adam knew Conner wouldn't touch a human, didn't even like having to see them fall at his feet at the university on a daily basis. And they did, not that he was interested, though Adam and his whole unit, Brayden and Cameron all had s*x with humans sometimes at the uni instead of attending class. Conner was not like that, had allowed a few to get hansie with him once or twice when younger, but

it didn't turn him on. Those girls were always reeking of perfume, and it just irritated his sense of smell.

Had one girl ask him what the problem was when she'd been going down on him and he'd not c*m, like she'd expected him to, he'd looked right at her and stated, point blankly as he'd moved her away from him and done his pants up "I don't like your perfume." Had gotten up and walked off.

She called him a rude prick, he'd looked at her and said, "Yes I am, you offered to suck it." and saw her gasp. He was a rude prick sometimes and girls just made him angry some days more than others. He'd much rather just f**k than let someone play with him. Watch them play with themselves and then give it to them when he was sufficiently turned on and ready. Like he had today with Emma, but she knew what he liked.

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Chapter 3

EI POV

Conner banged on her door and opened it before she could answer, stood staring at her "Breakfast." He'd muttered and turned and walked away. Expecting her to follow him, it seemed, took right after his father.

She walked behind him, he was wearing a pair of dark blue jeans and a white tee-shirt that was straining at all his muscles, he needed a bigger size, she thought absently as she followed him, he was carrying a backpack slung over one shoulder. He was going somewhere, she thought, probably to the gym, clearly worked out a lot.

He took the stairs, trotted all the way down without stopping five full flights, didn't so much as look to see if she was keeping up with him or not. Saw him greet a few others and three fell into step with him. They all looked at her, "Eliza." He waved a hand in her general direction as he turned down the next set of stairs.

They all smiled at her "Hi." They all stated at once.

"Hi." She nodded, noted they too were dressed like he was and all carrying backpacks, "Where are you all off too?" she asked out of curiosity.

"The university." One of them answered her.

She frowned at them now, but shrugged it off, they must be taking extra classes. Who knew? It was the weirdest breakfast she'd ever eaten. Well, the food was delicious but the place to eat was like, odd. There were heaps of people down there, it was a massive dining room, from what she could tell. Her mother smiled right at her, no Logan, she noted as she looked around, "Logan had to take a phone call, sends his apologies for not being here for your first real meal."

She doubted that, probably just didn't want to be around her. Her mother walked her along a massive buffet and told her to have whatever she liked. She took poached eggs on Turkish bread with a side of bacon and a cup of coffee. Though saw many others heaping massive amounts of food on their plates.

She sat down and ate and looked around. Everyone here seemed to work out and even some of the women and girls she noted were just wearing gym clothes had defined abs, felt a little on the flabby side compared to them. Wasn't at all what she would call fat. She had what she thought was a nice body, always got complement on her curves. But she was not super thin or ripped like those girls.

"You'll get used to it, they all eat like this around here." Her mother chuckled, "Took me some getting used to as well." Looked at her mother's plate, it wasn't piled high like the others, but it was more than what she would normally eat.

Though that wasn't the oddest thing about breakfast, it was when Logan actually walked into the room, the whole place went almost dead quiet. Then he stated, "Everyone, I'd like you to welcome Eliza, Brittney's daughter." Waved a hand at her and she found near on everyone's eyes on her. "She'll be staying with us for the foreseeable future, make her feel welcome."

Foreseeable future? That was not what she wanted, though she did not say that out loud, thought better of it. She just raised a hand in greeting when it seemed she must do something. Then everyone just went back to eating. How could one man just make a whole room stop talking when he walked in? Shook it off.

The day was spent walking around with her mother. She'd seen Conner and his friends all get into a Lexus four-wheel drive just as flashy as his father's and leave, to go to uni, she supposed.

Watched as everyone smiled and talked to her mother, called her by her name. Everyone seemed to know who she was. Asked her how they all knew who she was, got looked at. "I told you it was a really close-knit community, everyone knows everyone."

She was driven down to the lake, it was nice, and her mother asked her not to wander about of a night-time. There were some wild animals that lived in the woods around

here, wolves mostly. She'd just nodded, didn't really have a problem with that, liked being outdoors, had seen wolves in the wild before with her father. Knew better than to mess around.

The lake was really nice, it was the first place she could see herself coming and sitting, swimming even, though she was still going to try and get herself off to Italy. Still didn't understand why she suddenly couldn't go.

Brought that up with her mother as they walked back from the mall, only to be told Logan said 'it's too far away, too dangerous for a young girl to be going to study abroad'. It was a crock. "Then can I have my college funds back. Some of that money is actually mine, it wasn't all dad's, and you just gave it away without my permission."

"El, Logan is going to put it to good use, you will get an allowance we've already discussed it, just need for your new credit cards to arrive is all."

"Is all. That money was mine and now it's just his. Did you give him dad's house too?"

"El."

"No, did you? Did you just give him everything you and dad owned?"

"He's very good with money, what we owned was a pittance to him."

"Oh my god, you did. Didn't you?" She gasped. Couldn't believe it, her mother had just given him everything. How stupid was she? If this marriage of hers didn't work out, she would have nothing at all. Would be broke and destitute, have nowhere to go even.

"El, our life is here now, we don't need any of that stuff anymore."

"If he sells dad's car, or gets rid of it. I'll key every car he's got." El muttered a little angry now.

"Eliza." Her mother gasped "You will do no such thing."

"I swear I will." She snapped "That is my car and I have a right to something that was my father's. Just because you have forgotten about him doesn't mean that I have." She yelled at her mother and stalked off up the path. The woman was not her mother, did still act like it sometimes but had completely lost her mind to this man.

She found her own way back to the apartment building and headed to her room. She had nothing left but what was in this room. She realised this was it. Her whole life in three suitcases, and one of them had been books. Sank down on the couch and pulled her laptop out, saw the Wi-Fi pop up and connected to it, expected there to be some sort of password but there wasn't. A bonus she guessed as she logged in and looked

through her emails, found that letter of acceptance of her withdrawal from her university of Bologna, Italy, in there and nearly cried as she read it.

Logan had actually cancelled her admission, was actually going to force her to stay here in this place. A part of her had thought her mother had been joking, but there it was in black and white. Now what was she supposed to do with herself? She'd worked damned hard to get that acceptance, had even managed to get on campus living.

Called Cordi and told her. Cordi couldn't believe it either. She told her "Girl, you are 18, just get on a bus and come back here, what can they do really?"

"I don't know, it's really weird out here, and I told them I didn't want to come. You know I was put in the car and made to come. What if that man just sends someone to get me?" and she wouldn't put it past him.

"Do you feel safe, El?"

Thought about that, really thought about that. Nothing bad had happened, she didn't feel unsafe. She just didn't like it here. "I guess so." She sighed.

"You got your own place, you said?"

"I did, so far away from mother it's like he's trying to keep us apart. Doesn't want me anywhere near him or her. I don't like him."

"Sounds like a right a*s."

"He is." She muttered.

"I could drive out there with a few of the girls and we could hang out. We're all on summer vacation."

"It's a gated community, I'd have to ask permission."

"Then go and ask. Surely your stepdad doesn't expect you to just give up your entire life in the blink of an eye."

"He does, mum gave him everything, signed it all over to him. There's nothing left."

"What is she crazy?"

"I think she is Cordi. Or perhaps this whole place is a bloody cult and she got sucked into it, sucked in by him. It's really weird here."

"Go and ask, we'll come. We might be able to get you out."

El didn't even know where anything was, or how to find her so-called stepfather. She walked around on the ground floor looking at things. This place had everything and there were teens all over the place, though most just stared at her and then turned away. 'Welcome my a*s.' She thought, these people, they didn't like newcomers, that was for sure.

Ended up calling her mother to find out where she was, in Logan's office, she was told. "And where is that?" El had to ask. She'd been told never to go in there, but not where it was.

Heard her mother chuckle "Oh, sweetie it's on the ground floor. I'll meet you by the entrance."

She headed there and found both her mother and Logan standing waiting on her. He was frowning at her, what a shocker, only seemed to smile at her mother, likely happy he'd sucked her into giving him everything she owned.

"Eliza, I hear you have some concerns about my managing your mother's funds."

"I have concerns that she gave you my money and now I have nothing." She muttered.

"If you want that back, I will write you a check."

"I'd rather you do a bank transfer right now. I'm not going to be reliant on you."

Saw his frown deepen even further. "You are now part of this family, and I have organised for you to have access to unlimited funds, young lady. It will take a day or two for the cards to get here, is all."

"My father's car?"

"On its way, I did not sell it." he snapped at her. She could see he was angry. Obviously her mother had relayed their conversation to him. Didn't like being questioned at all. Used to people doing as he told them to. "Give me your bank details, I'll send it through right now. How much of that money was yours?"

"All of it. It was my college fund. For me to go and study abroad."

"Well, you can study here now."

"I don't want to. I want."

"Enough Eliza. What you want and what will happen are going to be two very different things from now on. My world is very different to yours, a period of adjustment will be required for you to be here."

Stared up at him, "Then let me leave and go back to California. I can stay with Cordi, seeing as mother has signed everything over to you and I no longer have a home to go to."

Saw his anger now, watched him take a breath and try to calm himself even, "Like I said, a period of adjustment is going to be needed. I run things a bit differently from what you are used to. This attitude of yours needs to stop. Your mother and I are married now. You need to give it a chance here."

"I didn't even want to come here, you should have left me back there to go overseas to study, then you wouldn't be getting my attitude now, would you!" She shot right back.

"I will go and write you a check before I lose my temper, and trust me Eliza, you don't want to see that." Watched him stalk off and bang into a room.

"El, please just give it a few days?"

"How long is a few days to you? You got sucked into a cult and now I'm bloody stuck here. You should have left me out of it."

She saw her mother's eyes go wide at the word cult, "Honey it's not that."

"Then what the hell else do you call it, marrying a stranger and giving him everything we own and now living here, I'm not allowed to have what I want. He just told me that. What you want and what will happen are two different things." She repeated Logan's words back to her mother.

"Please, it was an adjustment for me too. Please just give it the summer. If you don't want to be here after that, I'll find you a nice place on campus at uni."

"Oh really, at the university of where? I just got the acceptance of my withdrawal from my university. Logan canned it remember."

Saw her mother sighing, "El, he just thinks you should study here is all, not be so far away."

"Why, so I can be sucked into this cult like you got?"

"Enough." It was Logan and he was angry. She could not only hear it but feel it as well.

Turned and looked at him and took a step back away from him as he approached her, backed right up when he stalked towards her, heard her mother call him. She found his hand on her wrist in a vice-like grip, pulling her to a standstill, stopping her from backing away from him. "Your money Eliza, go bloody cash it, see for yourself that I'm not after your mother's money." Shoved a check into her hand and thrust her hand away, took her mother by the arm and snapped "My office."

Looked down at her wrist when the door banged shut with her mother and Logan on the other side of it, a full reddened handprint around her wrist. It was going to bruise and she knew it, still hurt even though he wasn't touching her anymore. Moved her eyes to the cheque. It matched the amount in her college fund.

Turned and walked out of the apartment building. She'd not seen a bank here to cash it, walked away down into the small town, asked someone if there was a bank here to cash a cheque. The woman had shaken her head and said "no, you'd have to go into Logan, for that."

"I just got a cheque from Logan." She'd frown.

"Not Logan Greystone, the city of Logan. It's about 40 minutes by car from here."

"Oh, thank you." She'd nodded to the woman.

Sighed there had to be a bus or something, looked at her watch it was only just on 2pm headed down the main road they'd come in on. The man at the gate looked right at her, "Can I help you?"

"Yes, you can let me out."

"May I ask why?" He enquired.

"Because I want to go out."

"You need a car to get anywhere from here, Eliza is it?"

"It is. My car has not arrived yet. So, I'll take the bus. I'm sure there is one."

"Does Logan know you're going out?"

Glared right at that man, "Why do I need his permission to leave?" she snapped.

"It is the rule for newcomers," he stated.

"So, I am locked in." she muttered and turned and walked away. Pulled out her phone and called Cordi as she walked away, "I can't leave, the gate guard won't let me. Newcomers need permission."

"That's not good, El."

"You're telling me." She muttered. "I don't know what to do Cordi." She stopped walking up the road a piece and sank down on the ground, leaned back on a tree and sighed "How the hell did my mother get sucked into this s**t?"

"I don't know El. What do you want me to do? If you can't get out. I don't think they're going to let us in."

"Agreed." She muttered. "Might have to just try and sneak out during the night. I'm not bloody staying here, Cordi."

"Well, if you get out let me know where you are, I'll come get you."

"Thanks." She clicked the line closed and looked about her, it was very mountainous here, an hour's drive from here to Logan. Googled how long it would take her to walk from her current position to Logan. And g*****d showed a good 10 hour walk and at night in an area she didn't know. Perhaps she should just ask for a car to go into Logan to cash that cheque. If it didn't bounce, that was.

Got herself up. She first needed to find a way to get out of this gated community, headed off into the woods behind her, found a man strolling along, looked right at her as she tried to walk past him, and he stopped her. "Can I help you?"

"No, I'm just walking." She commented and went to move past him, only to be stopped again.

"I'm sorry, this is the border of the community, it's best you turn back, miss."

She looked around her, there was no fence here, she was on the border, hadn't even known she was near it. Just presumed gated meant fully surrounded by a fence. This was good news to her, that meant she could sneak out during the night. Though she wasn't going to be able to take much with her, she had come with suitcases, not backpacks.

"Thank you, I didn't know that." She smiled at him friendly like and turned and walked back the way she came. Spent the afternoon wandering in the woods, got turned back several times in several different places, just laughed a little each time and said oops sorry I didn't realise. It was dark by the time she got back to the apartment complex, and she found a dozen people standing around. They all turned and looked right at her.

Saw both Logan and Conner standing amongst them. "Where have you been?" Logan asked her.

"Exploring, or aren't I allowed to wander about?" she asked, already knew she wasn't allowed to leave. Had been told so. He'd cut her that cheque, but she at this point had no way of actually leaving to go and cash it. He knew that when he'd given it to her. Likely why he'd written in the first place, wasn't actually concerned about her cashing it because she couldn't.

"Of course, you are, but after dark there are many dangerous animals about, we were just going to send a search party for you."

“Don’t bother. I like the woods and being out in them in the night doesn’t scare me. My father always took me camping and hiking. Could take us two days on a trail to get to a good campsite.” She walked passed them all.

“Eliza, I don’t want you walking about in the woods at night.”

“Just like you don’t want me leaving either.” She muttered softly to herself, going through the door into the apartment complex. It had been a long day and she was tired and hungry. “Oh Logan, I’d like a lock on my door. It doesn’t seem to have one.” She turned and looked right at him.

Saw him blink a little surprised by her request, she thought.

“Alright, I don’t think it’s necessary, but if you want one.”

“I do.” She stated flatly “Would feel safer having one.” Then turned and walked away. Was going to need one at some point, she thought. She’d heard enough about cults to know young girls weren’t always safe inside them.

“You’re completely safe here Eliza.” He called out after her.

“I doubt that.” She murmured to herself as she headed up the stairs. How could a place you’re not allowed to leave make you feel safe? Trudged up the five flights of stairs and down to her room, found a man putting a lock on her door already. That was quick, she thought.

He smiled and nodded to her. “It’ll be a key card entry like a hotel miss.”

“Alright.” She nodded. It took him only an hour to set it up and show her how it worked. Didn’t even make a noise, just tapped the card on the panel and the door simply unlocked for her to push open. She thanked him and he was gone a few minutes later after packing up.

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Chapter 4

Conner POV

He got home to hear the gate guard tell him it looked like Eliza was trying to get out and leave. It didn't really concern him at all. Let her, was what he thought. Was kind of hoping the girl would get out and leave, never come back. Nodded to let the guard know he understood and left it at that.

Adam looked at him. "You're not going to do anything?"

"No, it's likely father already knows and is monitoring her whereabouts. If she leaves, so be it."

"Not very brotherly, of you." Brayden chuckled.

"She's not my sister, and if she doesn't want to be here, she should leave. Father only brought her here because Brittney wanted her daughter here. If that woman hadn't asked him to, that girl would be out there in the human world where she belongs."

He'd continued on driving up the road, and let it go. Was unconcerned about her, she was not his problem at all. If she did manage to get passed the border patrol, good for her, not many did. Though occasionally it did happen. He'd done it. There were a few gaps when the guards were lacking or tired. He tested them periodically to see if he could get by. To check the perimeter security himself.

Hit the gym when he got home and worked out with his unit, showered and sat to eat dinner, wondered why it was so quiet in here, realised his father and his unit nor Brittney were here. Looked at Adam "What's going on?"

"Don't know, it's odd though, dinner is usually a family thing. We all eat together."

"Agreed." He nodded, but if it was rogues, he and the boys would have been alerted and gone to deal with it. Let it go, if there was a problem he'd be informed.

Watched as he walked from the dining room as several people were moving about, appeared to be searching the ground floor and he frowned. Now he knew something was going on, turned his eyes up to the first floor and tuned his hearing in, they were searching everywhere. "I bet that dumb girl is missing, got lost in the woods." He muttered.

Heard his whole unit chuckle and they headed off to find his father. He could see Brittney looking worried, as he walked into his father's office. "What's going on?"

"El's missing." Brittney murmured. "I couldn't find her for dinner, not in her room."

"She was trying to leave the pack all day. Did the patrollers inform you which borders?" He stated and found all eyes on him. Could tell from his father's furious look, that no they had not. "I was informed by the gate guard when I got back, just on three o'clock."

"It's nearly 9." Brittney was holding on to his father's arm now.

Though the man's eyes were glazed over, his anger didn't abate at all. He had a hell of a temper, Conner stood and waited, knew he was going to get rounded on for not informing him either. Though he just presumed that the border patrols had been smart enough to inform their current Alpha of his stepdaughter out there in the woods pushing at the boundaries. It wasn't like the borders were noticeable, all were off the beaten track. Only a few dedicated paths out to the borders, she could well be lost in the woods, he supposed. Couldn't just pull on her tether and track her down either. Couldn't mind-link to her and ask her what the hell she thought she was doing.

If no one was actively trailing the girl, she could be anywhere within their boundaries. Goddess, they had a very large territory and unless she was on a trail or near a border, she likely could well be lost out there. Even injured Brittney was going to have a fit which would set his father off.

Saw that man look right at him and snap. "They reported it to you."

"I thought you would have known already. I wasn't here or in charge, you were."

"No one has seen her on the border for hours, last seen by the south-eastern border, zone three." He snapped. She was not Conner's responsibility unless his father was off pack territory and to be honest, he was likely to let her leave. Open that gate for her and tell her to go, not to come back. Hated having humans here.

"We need to organise a search party, in human form."

"Of course, we do." He drawled in a sarcastic tone "Can't go in wolf form with a human running around."

"Enough Conner." His father shot at him. "Get outside and organise the men."

"Sure." He turned and walked out. "I wasn't the one who lost her." He muttered "But I'll be the one to find her, I guess."

Stalked all the way outside his unit with him, called a few more to him and was discussing a grid search of the pack territory. Starting from the south-eastern border, only to have her stroll on by like nothing was wrong. Was not afraid to be out the woods by herself of a night-time. Interesting girl. Though it wasn't what she said and asked for that drew all their attention, it was the muttered words about 'not being able to leave', and then 'I doubt that' to being safe here. That had all their attention. She did not know that their wolfen hearing would pick up her words. But they all had. The gate guard had said she'd been trying to leave, and she'd not been allowed to.

The border patrol reported that she'd apologised and just simply turned and walked away like she wasn't concerned about being redirected. Though she had tested four

different borders now. She was actively testing the borders, he thought. She was going to try and leave at some point, the question was how long it would take for him to let her out. He was going to the minute his father was off pack territory. If she doesn't want to be here, good riddance to her.

Looked at his father. "She's fine."

"I don't like it."

"Well, perhaps you should have someone watch her, or let her leave if that's what she wants. Doesn't seem to me, she likes it here."

"I can't have her out there, Conner. Is the Luna's human daughter and what if one of our rivals decides to take her, use her to get to the Luna?"

"Deal with it when it happens." He shrugged "She's human, no wolf is going to care about her."

"You're a fool. Sometimes you know that right. A rival will use anything to exploit a weakness within a pack."

"It's your weakness, father. If it had been up to me. I'd have not bothered with the girl. Wouldn't have brought her here at all. Let her go off overseas where no one would have known who she was or is. But no, you brought her here and from what I've seen, against her own wishes."

"She'll come around, it's been one day, Conner."

"Mm, and already she's tested how many borders. She's getting out, got a determination streak to be gone from here. One you weren't counting on because your Mate told you, she was sweet natured and kind. I've not seen any of that."

"I'll make you watch her yourself if you don't keep your mouth shut." His father shot at him.

He really wanted to yell back at him, but snapped his mouth shut, he did not want to be trailing that girl everywhere she bloody went. Turned and walked back inside, one little human causing him a headache, He had a feeling it was going to lead to a much bigger problem. Only been here a day and already was himself itching to get off pack territory to get away from her.

"Boys let's go out tonight." He stated, "Go clubbing or something."

It was agreed upon they would head back into Logan and hit the town, pick up a few she-wolves as well, have some real fun. Leave his father to deal with the mess he'd created for the pack by bringing a human here, that clearly didn't want to be here.

Dressed up and did his hair, headed on out with the boys, thankful it was Friday night and no classes tomorrow. They weren't the only ones headed out. He noted a few other cars were on the road and leaving the pack. It was going to be a good night, finally some relaxation and a proper wind down for him.

The club was pumping and there were many wolves here tonight, he was drinking and watching, enjoying his time out of the pack, didn't even mind watching the she-wolves all grinding up against each other, or the constant smell of arousal in the air either. Not something he usually liked, but he was looking for someone to pin to a wall and do tonight. Atlas had already vacated to the back of his mind and curled up.

Saw several girls watching him. They were from another pack, allied to them. Most there were, only occasionally did you find one or two that weren't. Could see them just watching him and wondered if they were up for it, together? It certainly looked like it to him. Though it didn't particularly excite him, he could do it.

Walked passed them and stated "VIP room 2 if you want to join me" downed his drink and put the empty glass on the table, strolled to his VIP room and waited, only one came. The blonde girl, she smelled of warrior rank to him, smiled at him as he sat there casually on the leather lounge, then walked on over and straddled him. Leaned down to k**s him. He stopped her, a mere inch away. "Turn around." he stated, and saw her blink.

As he pushed her off his lap and turned her around, pushed her skirt up and then pushed her over, no panties. He liked that "I like it this way." He commented, when really all he wanted was to not have to look at her face, "I also like it rough, if you're not up for it, best state it now."

"I can handle that." She said, looked over her shoulder at him and smiled.

Saw Adam stroll in as he was unzipping his pants, smirked and then just turned around to leave "Get the light." Conner called to him, if this girl wanted to look at him, he needed less light on her.

"Don't you want to watch?" she murmured, all teasing as Adam flicked the switch.

"I don't need light to see you or watch myself f**k you." And then he took her, heard her cry out. Pushed hard and fast in and out of her, held on to her h**s and pounded the hell out of her, even after she was done, kept going trying to obtain his own release. She was grunting now, trying to enjoy it, he thought, heard her tell him to stop, and nearly snarled at her but yanked himself from her as asked to. Didn't even get close to cumming.

He got up and did his pants up, looked down at her as she stared up at him, in the darkened room, he could see her expression, she was uncomfortable. He'd been too much for her. "I warned you," he sighed "You alright?"

“Yeah just.”

“I know, I’m a lot to handle,” He muttered, and he was. Helped her up. “Take a minute for yourself, use the room. Thanks for the f**k.” He murmured and strolled out of the room, leaving her in there to clean herself up. Made his way back to the bar and bought another drink. Sighed to himself as Adam leaned on the bar next to him.

“You don’t look happy for a man who just f****d a pretty girl for nearly an hour straight.”

“Hmm, wasn’t that good.”

“That’s what you always say.”

“What can I say Adam, I got particular needs.”

“No, you don’t, you just don’t let yourself connect to any of them. It’s just a f**k to you. Why don’t you take a minute to k**s the girl, get handsie and rile yourself up.”

“I ain’t got an issue getting hard, Adam.”

“No, you don’t, just f**k a lot you do, and never happy with it either. Because you won’t let yourself, like the girl, always want a stranger.”

“Not always, Emma and I have been doing it for years.”

“Has she ever slept over?”

“What? No, why would I let a she-wolf stay over? That just begs for trouble.”

“No, it doesn’t, Conner, I do it all the time. Enjoy waking up knowing there’s a warm-blooded female next to me that I can have again. Wake her up the nice way.” He smirked.

“Not interested.”

“And that there is your problem.”

“Let’s go, I’m done here.” Conner banged his empty glass on the bar and headed out the door. The smell of arousal was now just bugging the crap out of him. Wanted out of that place, away from it all, one day his Mate would come along and he’d be able to have her all he wanted, she would be built for him. For his needs and he’d be able to f**k her vigorously all bloody night long without her grunting at him as she stopped enjoying it.

The more he took her, the more she would be turned on, and the more she would be turned on, the more he’d scent her arousal and want to keep going, a nice circle for him.

It was likely that only his Mate would ever truly satisfy him and his needs. Where the hell is she? He shot up at the moon goddess. Annoyed with the woman for stubbornly refusing to put them in the same place on a full moon.

It was only a few weeks away and he didn't yet know what he was doing with it, staying put or going off to another pack to try and find her, who the hell knew. Drove home to shower and climb into his bed alone as he always did, was just about to close his eyes when he was informed that there was a human sneaking around inside the pack.

'Is it Eliza?' he questioned and tossed his sheet off of himself, annoyed. Knew that girl was going to be trouble.

'Appears so.' Was the response a moment later.

'I'm coming. Shift and give her a bit of a scare.'

'What the Alpha will kill me?'

'Do it.' Conner snapped as he pulled jeans and a tee-shirt on and headed out the door.

Found her 20 minutes later, face to face with his border patroller in full wolf form, she was just standing there, not moving. His eyes moved over her jeans, tee-shirt, lightweight jacket, joggers on, and she was carrying a water bottle and her handbag. Oh yes, she was trying to escape the pack. Only didn't know it was a pack of werewolves and that escaping wasn't really an option unless she was given one.

Clapped his hands loudly as he got up close to them, "GO Away." He yelled at the wolf and saw it turn and run like it was fleeing from him, knew the wolf would just go back to patrolling. Then looked right at her, "going somewhere?"

"I like being out in the woods, at night."

"You were warned not to be out here. Luckily for you it was just one and not a pack of them." Put his hand on her arm and pulled her away "Back to the apartment complex." He really hated dumping it down for humans.

Saw her try to shake off his hand. "Just walk, Eliza." He muttered.

"You going to bruise me too." She muttered, still trying to pull herself free of him.

"What are you talking about?" Conner frowned. "no one here would dare hurt you." And he knew they wouldn't. They'd be fully explainable to their Alpha and Luna. Dropped his hand though.

"Never mind." She muttered and then, to his complete surprise, turned and ran from him. Back the way that they had come. Back in the direction of where that wolf was, she was crazy, it seemed.

Conner watched her go and shook his head. Bloody humans gave her a ten count and then went after her, she wasn't going to be hard to catch was only human, grabbed hold of her and actually heard pain in her gasp. He didn't grab her that hard, knew better where humans were concerned.

Saw her rub her wrist, when he let go and pull away from him. When he tried to see what was wrong "I'm not going to hurt you Eliza, just let me see."

"Why bother, it's not like you care."

She wasn't wrong on that, but if someone here had hurt her there was going to be trouble, she was the Luna's daughter and that would be fully punishable. Reached out for her arm and nearly snarled at her when she dodged him. No one in this pack denied him, let alone when he was just trying to investigate for the truth.

"If you won't show me, then at least tell me who it was?"

"Just go away." She muttered.

Closed his eyes briefly and reined in his temper, reminded himself she was human and didn't know anything about them. Wondered if this was why the comment about not feeling safe and wanting a lock on her door.

Used his wolfen speed to get a hold of her sleeve, saw those eyes of hers flash angrily up at him so bright in the moons light, like liquid mercury, almost seemed to swirl around in their intensity as she glared at him.

Pulled her sleeve up and frowned at the bruising on her wrist, a full purple handprint. No wonder she wanted a lock on her door, someone here had injured her. He was actually looking at the size of the hand print. It was very large, moved his hand over it about the same size. So, a ranked member it seemed.

"Who was it?" he grated out, was going to have to report this to his father and her mother.

"Your father." She shot back.

His hand fell from her now, in complete shock at her words. It wasn't like his father to injure one, especially a human who knew nothing about them. He wanted to ask her if she was certain, but that look on her face told him he didn't need to, she was practically daring him to tell her she was lying. Frowned deeply, there wasn't much he could say. He knew his father had a temper, but to hurt his own Mate's daughter, that wasn't going

to go down so well. "I'll speak with him myself." He muttered "Back to your apartment please Eliza." He would at least try to make an effort with her right this minute.

She didn't want to be here, had been looking for a way out, because her mother's husband had hurt her, grabbed a hold of her and left a bruise on her. It would be nothing to a she-wolf would have just healed up and thought no more about it. But not a human, that bruise was going to be there all week long, maybe even more. Everyone was going to be able to see it.

She finally turned and walked back towards the packhouse. How was he going to confront his father on this? Brittney was going to be furious. She might be human, but now, had his father's venom running in her veins and that did make her a little on the angry side sometimes, she displayed some of his father's characteristics occasionally.

He walked Eliza all the way back to her apartment, she didn't say a single word the whole way there, didn't attempt to run off either. Though he did come across several pack members coming back from the club and were looking at him walking with her, it was very late near 4 in the morning. Hoped none of them were stupid enough to start any rumours.

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Chapter 5

EI POV

She had no idea if Conner believed her that it was his own father. He certainly did appear shocked by her words. He didn't re-question her, though she was certain he wanted to. Had thought she'd been able to get out, had gotten a good few kilometres into the woods before she'd come across that rather large wolf.

Had stopped walking at the sight of it, didn't really know what to do about it, knew she was not to run, but that was about it. Standing her ground seemed to be the only option. Conner hadn't seemed to be afraid of it, simply yelled at it loudly and it had bolted off into the woods. Where he'd come from or why he was out there at this early hour of the morning she didn't know.

But a tiny part of her had been glad she supposed that he was there, that he was so very big and imposing, confident in his ability to make that wolf go away. Walked along

next to him, felt really tiny next to him, she realised, he was a good foot taller than her, she thought absently. He didn't try and talk to her at all, simply escorted her back to her room, saw her inside and was gone.

Stayed in her room that morning, didn't want to go downstairs or be around any of them, was called downstairs to Logan's office just after 10am, by her mother. Wondered what would happen if she just didn't go down there. Had nothing to say to that man at all. Just wanted to stay away from him, there was no way she was getting her mother away from him. Or at least it didn't seem that was going to be an option at that point.

Made her way down the stairs at her leisure to find her mother standing by the door to the man's office. She'd not been inside it yet, had seen him bang into it yesterday, but that was about all. She didn't hide the bruise on her wrist. She was not one of those women that would shy away from it. He was a man who wanted to hurt a woman. She'd show them all what he'd done. Screw him.

She saw her mother's eyes move right towards it, and frowned, expected her to ask her about it, but she didn't, just waved her into the office. Was about to walk in when she stopped, he'd told her to never walk in, to always knock and be granted permission even if the door was open, and it was right this minute, open.

She could see him sitting at his desk, Conner standing next to him and someone else, another man in there, hadn't met that man yet. Her mother looked right at her, and she reached out and knocked on the door, got frowned at by all in the room.

Stood there, and after about ten seconds of silence stated, "I don't wish to incur your anger again," held up her wrist "Might get more than a bruise this time." Saw that man's jaw tick like crazy, he really didn't like it when she talked back to him. Well, it wasn't likely to stop till she was out of here. Perhaps he would simply toss her out on her a*s, and she could go back to California.

"Come in Eliza, let's discuss that bruise."

"Discuss?" she questioned as she walked in. "Have you ever hit mother?" she put her thoughts about him right out there for all to hear.

Saw anger flare right in him, "NO." he snarled right at her.

"I don't think I believe that." She shrugged, "You sound like you would have, the way you grabbed her yesterday and dragged her into this very office, might have a bruise on her right this minute, under that long sleeve blouse she's wearing."

Watched as both Conner and the man behind him put a hand on Logan, looked from one to the other and then back to him, pointedly and he knew what she meant, he wanted to get up and hurt her and they were stopping him right this minute.

"El, he's never laid a hand on me." Her mother was standing next her. "I assure you of that."

"I don't know if I believe you either." She stated and looked at her mother. "You did give him everything, and moved out here. Now I am here and don't want to be, and I can't leave. I was told yesterday, I can't, by the man at the front gate. I believe he said "New comers must get permission from Logan." She turned and looked at him. "I'm not so easily swayed as my mother." Looked at her mother "I don't trust him and have no reason to." Looked at her arm pointedly, looked back to Logan "I'll call the police next time and have you charged with assault. I know my rights."

She saw shock register not just on Logan's face but on all three of the men staring at her now, guessed no one had ever threatened him with legal action before.

"Eliza, I am sorry about the bruise to your wrist. I would never intentionally harm you." Logan sighed now.

"Really? Hmm, I believe right before you did this," raised her wrist at him, so he could get a real good look at it. "you told me I wouldn't like you losing your temper." Looked at her wrist, then to her mother "did he make you marry him, make you give him all our things, so we have nothing. Are you forced to be here?"

"Eliza, that's enough. You just need to get to know Logan." Her mother snapped right at her.

"Hmm, pretty sure I saw the real side of him yesterday. My father would never have hurt me."

"He's your father now."

"Oh no he's not. Will never be my father." She shot at her mother. "Just because you forgot about dad, and moved on doesn't mean I have to." Turned and headed for the door "He's not even been dead a year and you moved on like he was nothing to you." She felt the sob rise even heard it escape her, couldn't hold it in.

Hated that her mother had just forgotten about her father, took less than six months, didn't even understand it, how was she still not grieving the loss of her husband of 20 years? Ran all the way back to her room and slammed the door shut. She didn't want to be here, but couldn't it seem leave of her own free will.

They might as well put some bars on her windows, this place was just a fancy a*s prison. Flopped down on her bed and let the tears flow, she did miss her dad. Missed how loving and caring he had been. The fun that they would have going camping and talking about all the things she was going to be able to do once in Italy. The life she was now never going to get to have. Because her mother had married a brute of a man. That had taken it all away from her.

Heard the knock on her door a little while later and ignored it, didn't want to talk to any of them, didn't even care who it was. Wanted to be alone. Felt a hand touch her shoulder and heard her mother's voice "El, I'm sorry you feel this way. I do know this happened very fast."

"Just go away." She muttered. "I don't want to talk to anyone."

"El?"

"Just go away." She repeated herself, and moved away from her own mother.

"Please, El?"

"I want to go home." She whispered and she did, just wanted to go back to where everything in life, though had been sad, had at least been normal. Where her friends were, where she'd had a job and a dream to save for.

"This is your home now."

Said nothing to that, they probably all thought she was just some stupid teenager throwing a tantrum when really all she wanted was her old life back. Everything had been stripped away from her by that man downstairs, without so much as a care for her thoughts on the matter. He'd taken everything from her and just expected her to say thanks. Be okay with it and happy about it. Who the hell did that when their life was turned upside down?

Stayed in her room all day, ignored the text message from her mother to come downstairs for lunch in the dining room, said she and Logan would like to have a meal with her. El, highly doubted that man would want anything to do with her. That's why she was way over here on her own. He'd said she was welcome, but she knew she was not.

It had not escaped her attention that she was the only one in this part of the building, had been separated from all that lived here, and she knew why, because she didn't belong here. He'd wanted her mother here, but not her. He kept her out of sight so he didn't have to see her, recall she was there.

He had told everyone to make her feel welcome, but those other teens had not done that, no one wanted her here, so why wouldn't he let her leave?

It was likely her mother had asked for her to be here, she was the only one to seem happy about her being here, not that she saw her either, was always with Logan when she did see her. She got up and walked over to the window to look outside. There were plenty of people here, just not ones that wanted her to be here. She was a complete stranger to them all. Not one person had smiled at her other than those three boys with Conner yesterday, and she wasn't about to go and find them, didn't even like Conner.

She was not about to try and make friends with his friends. Nope. Would rather sit in her room and do nothing all day long. Stare at the walls and pretend she was somewhere else.

She had a fully stocked kitchen, a TV that seemed to have every pay channel there was, and a bathroom, somewhere to sleep. Could hole up in here and just pretend she was somewhere else altogether.

Did just that, put Netflix on and immersed herself in a Mandarin Drama called Eternal Love, sat on her couch or lay on her couch and spent hours watching and reading subtitles. Ignored the phone when it chimed, ignored it when it rang, ignored when there was a knock on the door to her room.

The only person she would talk to was Cordi, had told her she'd tried to leave and couldn't, didn't know what to do about it. Cordi didn't know what she could do either. Told her to call the police and tell them where she was and that she wasn't allowed to leave.

Didn't exactly know how that would go down, had threatened to call the police if he touched her again, had shocked him completely to say the least, but had no idea what he would do if she did actually call the police. Looked at her wrist and thought about his words. Wouldn't like to see him lose his temper. If this wasn't him losing his temper, how bad was that when it happened?

Thought about her mother and wondered if she was indeed in danger, if leaving here would make that worse. If calling the police would make him so very angry, he'd turn on her. She didn't want that for her mother. Would have to stay and watch, she supposed, look for those signs of abuse. Long sleeves or high collars to hide bruising, like she was wearing today. Look for even the smallest signs of fear in her mother, a flinch or a fake smile, nervousness.

There had to be something. If she saw it and found out he was hitting her mother she was going to call the police and not tell anyone, they'd just turn up here and arrest him hopefully. And while that man was away from her, she would make her mother see the truth and get her away from him. It was all she could do for now, wait and watch.

Didn't want to be here, but it also seemed she needed to be here. Turned the TV off and crashed out. It was late at night.

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Chapter 6

Conner POV

Who was this girl? Challenging his father at every turn, and she didn't understand the consequences of her actions. If she was going to stay here, she was going to have to be told exactly what they were or, at some point, his father's wolf, Hale. Was going to rip right out of him and tear her a new one, literally. Though her anger, he saw, was not just about being here.

The girl still grieved for her biological father and didn't think it was right her mother had moved on so quickly. It was not something she could likely ever understand. But he saw that this was going to be a real problem. She was not wrong either. He did know Brittney had given everything to his father, trusted him with the girl's college fund. It wasn't gone but she didn't understand that. She clearly thought it was gone though.

Just another reason not to bring humans into packs, he let go of his father when she left the room in tears, saw Brittney bite her lip and look at Logan for help. He could not help her. The girl clearly resented the man, thought the worst of him now and had a right to, been here all of one day and he'd hurt her physically.

That bruise she was not going to hide from anyone, show everyone, was not trying to hide it, wearing only a short sleeved tee-shirt, it was on full display. She was also likely to tell everyone it had been his father as well, seemed uncaring about what she said and to whom. The man had dug himself an unknown hole and getting out of it could well be hard.

He'd told his father not to take away her university choice, to allow her to go. Though that had been more for his own selfish reasons, he just didn't want a human in the pack. Now it seemed his father should have listened to him.

Telling him this morning that she'd tried to leave in the middle of the night, and he'd had to go and bring her back, had made his father frown. Telling him why he thought she was looking to leave had made the man sigh heavily, knew what he'd done was wrong instantly, and ask how bad the bruising was. Told him to see it for himself, but also told him he thought that's why she'd asked for a lock on her bedroom door. Didn't feel safe.

His father had certainly not endeared himself to the girl, and didn't seem like he was going to be able to either. It got even worse during the course of the day when Brittney was upset that her daughter wouldn't talk to her, wouldn't text her or answer her calls, had told her to go away. She had shut her own mother out and now Brittney was unhappy.

An unhappy Luna was never a good thing, made the Alpha unhappy and gave him a need to fix it. But the man had no idea how to fix it, didn't have a teenage daughter to know how to handle her. He couldn't go up there and order her to forgive him. Though he could go up there and apologise, Conner didn't think she'd care for that at all.

He'd been pacing around all afternoon now, it was starting to drive Conner insane, told him to go and be with Brittney, ask her what she wanted him to do about it. Then he saw him sit down at his desk and place a call.

Told the pack movers to get that car of Eliza's father here asap, she needed something to feel more like herself then hung up. Conner looked right at him. "Why don't you just give her a pack car?"

"Because she wants her father's car, and apparently threatened to key all my cars if I sold it."

"Did you sell it?" Conner sighed, he wouldn't put it passed his old man to do that. Sounded like she was going to be a bloody handful, which is what she was, from what he had seen.

"No, I had it put in storage. I was going to let her settle in and ask her to pick a car, hoping she would and then I could get rid of her family car. She wouldn't need it, only put it in storage because she'd muttered something about driving it out here herself. But now I see she needs something from her old life."

"Something of her father's specifically. You might also want to let her out of the pack, if you want her to stay here. Forcing her to stay is only making it worse."

"You just don't want her here." His father snapped and got up, stalked out of his office and left Conner there with his Beta Jared.

Looked at that man, "He needs to rein in his temper or he's going to really hurt his Mate's daughter, and I'd be willing to bet that will not go down so well. Brittney might be Mated to father, but she is still human."

Saw Jared sigh, "His temper is not so bad with Brittney here. But Eliza shows no respect."

"Doesn't understand she has to." Conner stated flatly, "Because she has no idea what we are or where she is."

"Cut him some slack Conner, he's trying."

"Well, not hard enough. He rides me about being nice to the human girl, but he's the one who injured her. Made his own bed there."

Saw Jared sigh and nod "He does understand he's screwed up and is paying for it, I believe Brittney has retired to their suite and isn't talking to him at this point."

"To be expected, humans are different to us. What are we doing this full moon?"

"Nothing, letting it pass, I believe; you might want to attend a mating ball in another pack."

Nodded and walked out of the office and up to the first floor, to where the Luna's office was located, and let himself into it. Found the invites and flicked through them, g*****d with annoyance, he'd been to every one of these packs in the past year for mating balls, it was unlikely he'd find a mate there. Knew there would be a few new she-wolves at each one, a handful at best.

Flipped through the list that Brittney was supposed to organise to come here, he shook his head. She was not yet experienced enough to be doing this on her own. Though he did note on that file, it stated to be withheld for the foreseeable future, was in his own father's handwriting. Felt Atlas snarl inside his mind at the thought of not being allowed the opportunity to scent out his mate.

Conner didn't much like it either, not with what he'd overheard his father saying about a new heir and one with a stronger bloodline than his own. Had no choice but to walk away, he was going to have to visit other packs, though with his father and his temper flaring up around Eliza, they were going to need him here as well. Especially with Eliza not caring about how she lashed out, he could see himself having to get between her and his father. Who the hell knew when that would happen?

Would go and let Atlas out for a run, did just that, walked off into the woods behind the packhouse and made sure he was out of sight of it and then stripped his clothes off to shift into Atlas. He was a large grey wolf, with brilliant blue eyes, unlike most Alpha Wolves who were normally black, but he still had the sheer size of an Alpha Male. Conner told his beast to run and hunt but to steer clear of the western side of the packhouse windows. There were many things to hunt out here and he was off pack territory before long, tracking and hunting. There was no need for him inside the pack, so outside of it was fine.

He was off tracking and hunting moose by the smell of it. It didn't seem to bother Atlas that he was by himself and really shouldn't hunt a moose on his own. Atlas found what he was looking for and stalked it, chased it, cornered it, and then just ripped into it and ate what he wanted to before heading on back to the pack. His wolf did like a good hunt.

It was well after midnight when he strolled on through into the pack, no one mind-linked to him to ask where he'd been, which just meant nothing had happened while he was gone. Showered in the mud room and crashed out right away, hadn't gotten much sleep the night before, a few hours at best.

Slept like the dead and woke up fully rested and wide awake, smiled to himself, today was going to be a good day. He just knew it. He never woke up feeling this well rested, stepped out of his room to find Eliza wandering the top floor looking at things. The art work on the walls, and names on the suites cleared his throat and looked right at her.

"I'm certain father wouldn't want you down here, in his wing."

"I'm sure he doesn't." she nodded "So I'm not allowed to leave or walk around the place I live in. Might as well just put bars on my windows and doors then." She stated, sounded annoyed to him, but then just turned and walked away, muttered under her breath "I'll go back to my cell, shall I."

Conner stood there and pinched the bridge of his nose, more than difficult. Shook his head, would stay away from her, or she'd likely tick him off as much as she did his father.

Trailed her down the corridor and watched her bang right back into her room. Shook his head so much for sweet-natured and polite. Didn't think he'd heard her say please or thank you even once since coming here. Made a point of not going near the girl at all. If he didn't come across her, he didn't have to deal with her or be civil.

It was a long week, of his father's temper barely in check, because Eliza had locked herself away in that suite of hers and just wouldn't come out. Not even when his father and Brittney had gone up there and told her that her car was here, hadn't brought her out of her room.

Apparently, she had yelled something through the door, about why bother having a car when I'm not allowed to leave, still ticked off and holding a grudge against his father, it seemed. His father was going to have to find another way to try and get through to her. There was only one other way and Conner had told him his thoughts on it, about letting her go to study abroad. Had been shut down and once again told "you just don't want her here."

There was nothing anyone could do, to bring her out of that room of hers. Had called it a prison and was now acting like a prisoner as far as he could see. Was actually being childish in his eyes. She hadn't tried to socialise with anyone, as far as he was aware, so hadn't made any friends to go and hang out with.

Though he was certain she wandered about during the night and looked at things, got the occasional whiff of her perfume when walking about in the mornings, it was gone by lunch time but definitely there in the morning. Smelled it mostly on the stairs and in the indoor pool room, though never saw her in there.

He was walking along following it this morning, just out of pure curiosity to see what she was doing. Atlas was more than happy tracking the scent, it seemed. She had walked

right out the front door at some point during the night, from what he could tell, who knew at what time though.

This made him actually wonder if she was in her room during the day, or if she left early and no one noticed. It was possible no one was keeping an eye on her. That could account for Brittney feeling like she was being ignored. It could well be that Eliza simply wasn't in the room. He could check that with a swipe card to her room. Knew where it would be.

Her human scent was only light, some sort of body spray that consisted of jasmine and vanilla, he thought. It was light and soft, it also seemed Atlas liked it, didn't have an aversion to it. Their sense of smell was keen and strong perfumes irritated them, and could cause headaches for them both and this led to Atlas being cranky at times.

The sun was barely up and the day was a bit windy already. They lost that scent and frowned. It was too light to track, with the wind and everyone else walking around already, their scents invaded and overlapped hers until it was just gone. He could try again tomorrow. Headed off to have breakfast before going to uni for the day. Might even get up early and see what she does. Or check on her before he went to bed to see if she was in there.

Someone needed to go and open the girl's door. It seemed both her mother and his father had decided the best course of action was to leave her alone. To let her sulk is what his father had stated. He had also said something along the lines of, she was going to run out of food in there some time, so she would have to come down to eat.

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Chapter 7

EI POV

She spent a lot of time sleeping during the day over the course of the week, seeing as she was bored to death, and awake of a night-time. The place was extremely quiet during the night, so she took the opportunity to have a look around by herself. Found the indoor swimming pool was open and took a midnight swim a couple of times. It surprised her that it was a mineral pool and that it was heated.

Not enough to be considered warm, but enough to take that cold edge off the water so one could just slip right in and swim without issue. She had spent a few of the hours talking to her friends. Chuckled to herself when her closest male friend, Xavier, texted her that if he was there, he'd be humping her silly, like he used to.

She'd smiled, missed that about him, and had let herself get into sexting with him nearly nightly, though tonight she was on her own, he was obviously asleep. But she was in the mood to sort herself out, so she was stripped off and touching herself. It had surprised her that her mother had packed her two vibrators. She didn't even know her mother knew about those, but if she hadn't, she'd not taken offense to them and packed them along with her clothes.

El got one out and sighed softly to herself as she moved it around to enjoy the feel of it, cranked it up a notch as she was getting close, gasped as she felt the first waves of o****m start to roll through her body, closed her eyes and m****d out loud.

Her eyes snapped open as she felt a hand slide along hers, and then the bed dip, and found Conner kneeling on the bed looking right at her "Let me help you out." He murmured softly a full smirk on his face.

"W...what?" she stammered and tried to pull away from him.

"Stay still you'll enjoy it better." He grinned and then he had her vibrator and was moving it against her. As his other hand slid up her thigh to her stomach and held her down a little. Gasp as he hit her clit in just the right way, and that o****m was suddenly crashing over her. He didn't stop moving it, kept it going till she was clutching at the bed sheets, another rolling right through her, bit down on the cry that was near bursting from her.

Then it was gone from her "Well now Eliza, wasn't that fun." Opened her eyes as she felt the bed dip even more and found his eyes right there, as he kneeled directly above her, her breathing was still ragged and heavy "shall I sort out all your needs?" He murmured softly his lips moved to her ear "I think I could more than sort you out."

Turned to look at him wide-eyed and his mouth was suddenly on hers, practically devoured hers as his hand slipped between her thighs and stroked down through her folds, gasped as it teased her entrance, heard him g***n and then his mouth was gone from hers moving hungrily down her body as he pushed a finger inside of her. Cried out, it was long and thick and he was already moving it in and out of her. His mouth was hot on her breast, she heard him g***n the work 'f**k' and then his hand was moving even faster. His mouth hit her clit and she was suddenly thrusting up to meet his hand wanted more and she knew it, was going to come again, cried out his name as he pushed a second finger into her, pumped his hand faster. Couldn't stop the o****m arched up as her body clamped around his fingers.

Then they were gone and she was left panting. One hand shot to her mouth as her eyes moved to him, saw that smirk on his face as he looked up at her from between her thighs and then his tongue was tasting her in long slow licks, swirled around her entrance and he was groaning deeply himself sounded like he himself was fully enjoying what he was doing to her.

Then his tongue was pushing inside of her, tasting her eagerly, closed her eyes and gave into it completely, let him taste her, it felt so damned good. She pushed her h**s up to get more of him and he didn't disappoint, he was tasting all of her. His mouth so hot on her core.

"Conner." She gasped as his mouth left her, he was again looking down at her, a smile in his eyes. It was the first time the man had ever smiled at her, and it made her heart start, bit her l*p as she heard the zip on his pants go down.

She felt him sliding himself so hard and big against her, watched as his eyes closed and he sighed, "F**k." and was then moving against her, gasped up at him as he pressed down hard onto her, pushing himself hard and firm through her wet folds, then his mouth was on hers once more and his whole body was rocking against her.

She pulled at his shirt and he chuckled softly, ripped it off himself and then her hands were on all those hard muscles on his chest and abdomen, wanted to touch him everywhere, clung onto him as she felt a new wave of pleasure rolling through her body. Gripped at his h**s and ground herself hard up against him "Conner." She gasped.

Felt him pull away a little and saw him shake his head a little, "We can't." he muttered "I wouldn't normally."

She reached out for him as he started to get up. "Please." She didn't want him to go, wanted to take that next step.

"You'd better see what you're in for then." And he was up and stripped naked, he flipped the bedside light on and slipped back onto the bed, looked down at her as he knelt between her legs and looked her over. "Goddess, I do want you right this minute Eliza." he told her.

She looked at him, slid her eyes down his body and "Sweet baby Jesus." She gasped at the size of his c**k. It was huge.

Watched as he put a hand on either side of her shoulders and looked down at her, those dark blue eyes of his, seemed to be looking right into her soul. "Be certain, it's likely going to hurt at first." He told her.

She slid her hand down his chest and his abdomen, touched his hard c**k and saw his eyes close as she slid her hand along its length. It was never going to fit and she knew it. But she really did want it, wanted to take that next step.

His eyes opened and then his mouth was on hers, brushed her hand away and started sliding himself against her again. His mouth moved from hers and to her neck, felt his hand slide down her body, down her thigh and hook behind her knee, pulled it up and then pushed himself inside her. Pain shot right through her, and she cried out from it, couldn't help it. Heard him curse out loud and then look down at her. Knew that he knew she'd never had s*x before.

Then he shook his head slightly and dropped his mouth to the crook of her neck, kissed it deeply and pushed even harder, gripped on to him and bit her l*p "Breathe Eliza." He told her softly in her ear, "The pain will ease." But he was still pushing in, not even all the way in yet. His mouth was on hers and there were fingers stroking her clit as he rocked slowly.

"I can't take it," she told him.

"Yes, you can." He g*****d and then thrust just once, hard and fast.

A scream ripped from her. She knew he was there all the way in, was clinging on to him "Relax." He murmured softly, his mouth moved over her neck and his hands were caressing her body and then he was moving slowly, taking her gently, touching and kissing her the whole time. Sighed softly at some point and started to move with him.

Heard him g***n "f**k yes." The man was as vocal as she was, found his mouth on hers once more as he picked the pace up a little, could hear his breathing become heavy like hers and clung on to him, could feel pleasure starting to really build and cried out as she came, clamped so tightly around his hard c**k. Heard a deep heavy sigh of her name come from him as his body pushed hard against hers and then he lay on hers, knew he'd c*m to.

Then those blue eyes were on hers, and she bit her l*p. She didn't even really know how this had happened. He didn't like her, and she didn't really like him. Saw him smile, "That was damn good." He told her his hand slid down over her breast, his eyes followed his hand trailing down her body. She bit her l*p even harder when he touched her clit softly, rolled a slow circle over it and watched as his head not only lifted but tilted all the way back. His eyes were barely open and felt him start moving again, "Goddess." He g*****d, "I need more of you, Eliza." He looked right down at her, "A lot more." And he was moving already, taking her firmer and harder than before, dropped down onto his elbows and his hands gripped in the bed sheets as he started to thrust harder and faster. She clung on to him, lost to the pleasure of being with him. Arched up to him as she was climaxing, biting her l*p to hold in a scream.

"Scream for me." He demanded, and felt his teeth on her lower l*p, pulled it free and she screamed his name as she felt him thrust deep and hard again, hitting the top of her o****m. Her whole body arched up to him. Her nails were digging into his arms. He held himself inside of her and g*****d "f**k yes." Then he was gone, sliding out of her, lying on the bed next to her, his breathing as heavy as hers.

El had no idea what this was, but it had been amazing. The pain of losing her virginity to him had been washed away by so many bloody o****s, she'd never in her life experienced that before. Moved her eyes to him on the bed next to her, his eyes were closed, and he had a hand up above his head, his body was glistening with sweat.

Saw his eyes open and looked at the watch on his wrist when it started beeping, an alarm of some sort. Cursed out loud and then he just got up, grabbed his clothes and was gone from her room in a hurry. Didn't even know what to do with herself. He'd not said anything to her at all about what had happened.

Lay there in her bed, and chewed on that lower l*p of hers, she didn't know what the rules were, what he wanted from her. Only that once he'd started touching her, she couldn't say no, had wanted to at the start but couldn't, the man knew exactly what he was doing. Obviously very experienced, though that look, when he realised she'd never been with anyone before, she'd thought he was going to leave then.

She got up out of bed and stumbled just a little, her whole body ached and between her thighs was more than a little painful. Looked at the clock it was only a quarter to five, used the toilet and ran the bath in her room. While it filled, she stood under the hot shower, leaned on that wall and closed her eyes.

Snapped them open as her mind's eye filled with an image of him making love to her. It hadn't been just s*x, she knew that, too much touching and kissing, Cordi had a boyfriend and she'd gotten all the details. She knew s*x was just that, no touching, just going at it. Had accidentally walked in on Cordi and Collin once, had turned and walked out real damn quick.

The question was what was she supposed to do now. She didn't know, got out of the shower and into the bath, winced a little, Cordi had told her a nice long soak in a tub always helped her after a good long l**t-filled night with Collin. So, she was going to try it.

Looked at her phone. If Cordi was here, she'd tell her. Didn't know if she actually wanted anyone knowing that Conner had just stripped her of her v-card. Would think about that, wait on what was going to happen she supposed. Would have to go downstairs and find him, talk to him, she guessed. Didn't know how that was going to go. The man had not said one nice thing to her the whole time she'd been here. The only times he'd shown anything other than disdain or annoyance was when he'd seen the bruise on her wrist.

Dressed in loose-fitting dark blue jeans that sat neatly on her h**s and pulled on a simple but nice light blue tee-shirt, she would make the effort to go downstairs today. She needed to find out what this was. Didn't want to let it linger. It would only mean overthinking a lot.

She heard her phone chime at 7 and smiled at Cordi's name. 'Hey girly, how are things going, are you alright?

Send back 'Um, a bit confused...I kind of lost my V-card last night.' She bit the bullet and told her.

'Who with!!! You said you haven't made any friends out there.'

'Conner.'

'Your stepbrother? Did he force you?'

'Stepbrother, yes, force no. But he just got up and left afterwards. It's weird.'

'I hope he's not a real a*****e El, was it good?'

'Yes...more than good.'

'Glad to hear that. So, what are you doing now then?'

'I don't know, going to find him before he goes to Uni and ask him what this is I guess.'

'Bold as ever. Go deal with him. If he's an a*****e kick him where it hurts.'

Sent back a laughing face and headed out the door. Sent her mother a message to ask about breakfast. Got a reply near instantly 'I'll meet you there.'

Took a breath in and headed down the stairs, was still a little uncomfortable in the lower department, but she could only guess that was to be expected, took her time, found both her mother and Logan standing by the staircase waiting on her, saw them both smile at her. "Morning Eliza, we're happy you want to join us today." Logan smiled at her, he was trying to be nice today it seemed.

She nodded her head and walked next to her mother into the dining room, swept her eyes around the room and saw Conner look right at her, had the same hard annoyed look he always gave her on his face. She smiled a little at him only to have him raise an eyebrow, at her, as if to ask what she was looking at? and then turned away dismissively from her.

Didn't want to acknowledge what had happened, perhaps just not in front of his father and her mother, or his friends. Perhaps it needed to be a private conversation. She tried not to read too much into it. They likely did need to talk about it privately first, she guessed. So, she sat and ate breakfast quietly with her mother and Logan. They were all seated at the same table, he didn't look at her once the whole time. It didn't feel good at all, and she just knew he was going to be that same a*****e.

Saw him get up and leave with his friends, excused herself a minute later and went to see if she could catch him out by his car, to ask him if they could talk privately. Stepped into the foyer of the apartment complex and stopped dead at the sight of him leaning up against the wall, a girl all leaned into him, his arms around her, they were circled around her waist.

Stared right at them for a moment and then looked to him, his eyes met hers, though only briefly, and then he leaned down and kissed that girl, right in front of her. She felt a swell of pain touch her chest, he was just an a*****e, and he was making sure his statement was clear. Oh, she got it, turned and hurried away, refused to run even though every part of her screamed to run away. She did nothing more than trot up the bloody stairs away from him. Wouldn't let him see her run away.

Banged into her apartment and leaned on the door as tears burned her eyes, she'd given herself to a complete a*****e, dashed her tears away and texted Cordi 'He's just an a*****e, got another girl already. Or had one and cheated on her with me.'

'f**k El, I'm so sorry.'

So was she, but she wasn't about to let him see he'd hurt her, broken a part of her. She too could play at not caring. Had learned how to look uncaring to hide the pain of her father's death. So that people would stop asking her if she was okay, when she clearly wasn't but just didn't want to talk about it.

She walked into the bathroom and looked at herself. Washed her face and glared at herself for even thinking he would be anything other than an a*****e. Needed to get away from here, she knew her father's car was downstairs somewhere.

Logan would have the keys, she supposed. Had heard him and her mother talking about a meeting before the boys went off to university for the day. Glared right at herself angrily for the tears that had spilled, he didn't deserve her tears. Opened the cupboard and pulled out her make-up, stood there and did her make-up, knew just how to make her eyes shine bright. Then she pulled her hair out of the ponytail she'd had it in, brushed it and left it loose, changed her tee-shirt for a soft green cashmere cropped sweater that left her midriff bare and pulled on black three inch boots.

Grabbed her handbag and that check and took herself back downstairs, she would show him it meant nothing to her as well. Even if it's not what she felt right that minute. Knocked on Logan's office door, they were all in there. Him and his friends.

Eliza stood waiting at the door, saw them all turn and look at her, glanced at Conner briefly, saw a frown mar his good looks, as his eyes swept over her, but what else was new, he never smiled at her.

She'd not smiled once since being here either. She knew how much a smile would change how she looked, moved her eyes to Logan directly, ignoring everyone else when he asked her what she would like.

Smiled right at him, her most friendly smile, thankfully she'd taken drama at school. "Morning Logan, could I please have the keys to my car."

She saw the man smiling right back at her, looked a bit like his son, she thought absently. "Of course, you can. May I ask where you are going? You look lovely this morning."

Could be charming if he wanted to be. "Thank you, I'd like to go into town and bank that check, may I?"

"Of course." He nodded and she watched him open a draw and pull out a set of keys, "Now, before you go." He stated and stood up and walked over to her "I have some rivals in business, and I will worry about you outside of my company's grounds."

Raised an eyebrow at him as she accepted the keys from him. "So if you could please come right back, I won't have to worry about your safety. So, an hour there and an hour back and say an hour in Logan itself, if you're not back after three hours, I'll have to send someone to find you, to make sure you're okay. Do you understand?"

"I understand, I will be coming back. I will stay till the end of summer and watch you and mother. If I'm not happy with what I see, I will leave and take her with me. Do you understand?" she asked his question right back at him. She kept that super friendly smile on her face the whole time.

"Eliza, your mother and I are married."

"And if you hit her just once with that temper, I know you have, I'll be calling the police and having you charged with spousal abuse." She smiled at him.

Saw him sigh now, she may be staying, and smiling right at him now, but she would stay for her own reasons. "At the end of summer, I am going to leave, go to Italy and study abroad. But till then I will watch you. So yes, I will come back from the town."

"We can discuss your education later, three hours, Eliza. If you're not back by then, I will send Conner to find you."

She turned her eyes right on Conner. "I am not interested in your son, coming to find me for anything." She stated as she looked right at Conner. Saw anger flare in him a little. Smiled when she realised it seemed he could dish it out but not take it. "Thanks for the keys, Logan. Have a nice day, I know I will." She turned and left the office, a bounce in her step for all to see.

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Chapter 8

Conner

What the f**k, had he done? He knew better than to freaking f**k a human girl. Let alone his bloody stepsister, and he knew the minute he'd taken her she was a bloody virgin. He didn't do that either. No humans, no virgins, they were his rules. Made them himself.

But letting himself into her room last night, with that key card, to see if she was in there or out in the pack somewhere, he had found her smell of arousal all around him. Had seen her laying over there on her bed all pent up and getting ready to o****m, had more than turned him on. Found himself hard in less than a second.

Hadn't even thought about it, had just walked on over there and assisted her. How could he not? She was practically already there, and he had damn near been drowning in the waves of arousal coming off Eliza. Even Atlas was sitting up inside his mind. Had snorted right at him, he seemed fully amused by Conners sudden need to touch the girl, k**s the girl and goddess be damned she had tasted so freaking sweet to him.

He'd lost all control of himself and he knew it, the girl smelled like vanilla and jasmine and her lips tasted like sweet strawberries. Couldn't bloody get enough of tasting her, bloody ravaged her sweet p***y. Hearing her call out his name only turned him on even more. A part of him knew he was going to get his release tonight with her. f**k, he'd not c*m in nearly six months, and everything about touching this girl had his c**k twitching and aching so badly to be inside of her.

Knew he shouldn't but just couldn't stop, not even when he'd taken her and realised she was pure, felt her hymen break and smelled the scent of fresh b***d as he'd paused, it was too bloody late then and he knew it. He couldn't stop what was about to happen. If he was honest with himself, he hadn't bloody wanted to.

Needed a release and was going to have it, she was going to give it to him and she did, she was so freaking tight around him, took all of him, every damn inch of him. f**k it had been amazing and to hear her enjoy it only hardened him even more. Couldn't stop touching her, told her he needed more and he did. Had gotten his release, felt himself c*m damn hard inside of her. But needed more, wanted more of her.

Wanted to hear that scream he knew was in there, was bloody music to his ears, everything about her was arousing everything in him. He'd never felt like that with anyone before, heard Atlas chuff at him as he lay there on the bed next to her, his wolf wanted to look at her, and he'd realised in that one moment.

It wasn't just him, Atlas had watched on enjoying it. He was damned glad when his alarm for training went off. It couldn't be! He'd left that room in a bloody hurry. Stepped out into the corridor and felt like the air in the hallway smacked him right in the face, her sent was gone and normal air was like a solid wall, bringing him back to reality. 'I will not be Mated to a human.' He shot at Atlas.

Heard his wolf snort at him 'A mate is a mate.'

'I will not claim a human as my Mate.' He shot right back and yanked his pants on and headed for his room to shower and get her scent off of him. He couldn't let any of his unit know he'd been with her, he certainly didn't want his father or her mother knowing for that bloody matter.

He was not going to be here for the full moon, he would get the hell out of this pack and go and hunt a she-wolf mate in another pack. He was not going to be mated to a weak human girl. Her mother had not turned, she would not. Didn't have the genes to do so. Got snarled at by Atlas, for his thought of not being there on the full moon.

'She is not our Mate Atlas, just a human that we caught f*****g herself, and helped out.' He snarled at his wolf. Who stalked off to the back of his mind. It couldn't be true, the goddess wouldn't do that to him, she made him, created him, knew he would never want a human for a mate. So, it wasn't that, he'd simply been caught off guard by what he'd seen her doing to herself.

He did like to watch girls go to town on themselves. It was part of his thing, that's why Emma and he were good together. She enjoyed being watched and he enjoyed watching her. He had to get that bloody human girl away from him. Make her stay the hell away from him and go find his actual Mate.

Beat the hell out of everyone at training, though it was just him. Atlas was still ticked off with him, refused to assist in anyway, all his unit got hits into him today, and when Adam cracked him right in the jaw, he laughed "What's going on Conner?" they were all looking at him.

"Atlas is ticked off and refusing to play."

"What'd you do to him?"

"Nothing." He muttered "Is just ticked off about not having a mate I guess."

"Isn't that normal?"

“Yes.” He’d muttered.

They’d trained and he’d showered again, gotten ready for the day and gone down to breakfast, saw Eliza walk into the dining room with his father and her mother, and nearly snarled at the girl. If she had told her mother he was going to put a beat down on her so bad. She looked right at him and smiled a little. This was the first time she’d come out of her room in a bloody week, and he knew why, was here to see him. That small smile said it all.

Sat there and just raised an eyebrow at her, then dismissed her. She would get the message for sure, it was just a one-off thing. He could feel her eyes on him more than once over breakfast and knew it wasn’t over. The message was not clear. ‘This is why you don’t do virgins.’ He told himself, they get clinging and expect the world from you.

Left that dining room and snagged the first she-wolf he came across, pulled her right up against him and smiled down at her, could feel Atlas snarling inside his mind at the she-wolf. Slid his arms around her and asked her if she wanted to make out. Not something he would ever normally do. He’d had s*x with this one before somewhere in the last few years, couldn’t recall when. She smiled up at him.

He was listening for Eliza, knew that girl was going to hunt him down to try and talk to him. He was not wrong either, heard her coming and saw her look right at him, complete shock on her face, looked right at her and then just leaned down and kissed the she-wolf in his arms, felt her melt all into him, heard Eliza hurry off and flicked his eyes at her, going back to her room.

Well, he hoped she bloody stayed in there forever and never came out. Put that she-wolf away from him and said “Thanks.” She blinked as he turned and walked away.

“Well, that was new Conner.” It was Adam. “Is there a reason for your sudden change of ways?”

“Not particularly. I just thought I’d try what you said.”

“And?”

“And nothing, not a damn bit of interest in that.” He muttered.

But he had done everything Adam had told him he should do with a she-wolf to Eliza, touched her and tasted her, and she’d not only pleased him, had sated him twice. There was no proof she was his Mate, could not scent her. She was not his Mate. No human would be his Mate ever.

Walked into his father’s office to have that meeting he’d been talking about, wanted to increase border patrols to make sure Eliza didn’t get out, needed Conner and his unit to

go out tonight and test the packs boundaries. No biggie, and if he was honest with himself, he wanted away from the pack-house right this minute.

He turned at the sound of a light knock on his father's office door, and his eyes fell on Eliza standing there all dressed up. Her midriff was bare for all to see. He didn't like that at all. He slid his eyes over her, was wearing heeled boots and that soft green cashmere looked amazing with her olive skin and black hair all splayed about her shoulders.

She was all made up with make-up and those silver-grey eyes of hers landed right on him, then just dismissed him, like he had done her, and he got it. She was trying to annoy him with how she was dressed, how little did she know him. That was not going to work on him. He didn't care she was human, and he was not interested in her.

He was nearly blinded by that smile as she smiled at his father, saw her eyes shine with it and really wanted to punch the man for making her smile at him like that. Could feel Atlas getting angry that she wouldn't smile at them like that. This was going to be a nightmare. 'Not our mate, contain yourself.'

She really did have some guts, was going to stay for the summer just to watch him and her mother, look for signs of spousal abuse and report the man to the police. She was like a dog with a bone, that one bruise to herself, seeing his father's temper. Sparked something in the girl, something protective, and she didn't seem to care that her words were going to tick his father off. Wondered if she wanted him to get ticked off and hurt her. Repeated his words right back to him, a full challenge to an Alpha Wolf, only she had no idea he was one.

Conner had never seen a human stand up to an Alpha Wolf before. She smiled at his father the whole time, kept her tone light and normal, but the threat that was relayed was not to be taken lightly.

Nearly snarled at the girl for stating she 'was not interested in him coming to find her for anything.' Knew she was making a loud and clear statement to him about staying away from her, and it angered Atlas to hear her say those words, if she had been his Mate but didn't know it that could well have been a full rejection of him. His wolf didn't like it.

Angered Conner more than a little as well. He was the alpha wolf and she was telling him she didn't want him, he could have any damn one he wanted, including her. Watched her walk away with a full bounce in her step, glared right at her as her h**s swayed more than normal. She didn't look back, not once, and that annoyed him too.

Stood up before he knew what he was doing, wanted to go and put her right in her place. If he bloody wanted her he would bloody have her, she couldn't tell him no.

"Conner?" It was his father's voice that snapped him right out of his need to go and wring the girl's bloody neck, turned and looked at him.

"You'll watch her in town, yes?"

"I think she is more than capable of going to the bank and back."

"But you and the boys will be going anyway. Just keep an eye on her, would you?"

Glared at the man for a long minute and saw him raise an eyebrow at him. "Fine, but watching a human in the human world will show your rivals your weakness. You should ignore the girl and let her go about her human life. They'd be none the wiser, is not in a pack car. They won't know who she is or where she came from."

"Hmm, that might be a good idea. Well, at least just drive by, for me. Don't interfere or interact."

"Fine." He muttered.

They went back to the meeting side of things, and he forced his attention off of the bloody girl, that was making him angry, making his wolf annoyed with him.

He let Adam drive as he sat and stared out the window. The car was quiet. They all knew he was ticked off about something, likely to feel it in the air around them. "Conner, your father is right, she's only human and will need protecting. We don't even know if the girl knows how to fight. If she is attacked."

"Is human, not my problem. I didn't want her here, voiced as much." And he had "Now I'm dumped with protecting the girl."

"Doesn't take much, stays in her room." Adam murmured.

"I don't care, as far as I'm concerned, she can go back to California and stay there."

"She's your stepsister now Conner, can't you cut her some slack?"

"No, having a human in the pack that knows nothing hinders us all. It's annoying, and I don't think father ever has any intention of telling her either."

"He will, will have to at some point."

"He's canned all the foreseeable Mating balls. He's not about to do it anytime soon." Conner muttered.

Heard all of them sigh now, none of them had Mates yet. "We can still go to other packs." Brayden offered up.

"All the invites are from packs we're allied to. I checked. There would be a handful of newly turned 18-year-old she-wolves in any of those packs." He sighed heavily "We've all been to those packs before."

"Well, we could strike out and meet a few at other campuses." Adam sighed.

"We could," Conner agreed "I'll see who I can reach out to and see what packs are having packs we're not affiliated with coming to balls. That should help."

"See, we're not down and out yet."

"No, we are not. I will find a bloody she-wolf Mate, if it kills me." He muttered and heard the three of them laugh. They had no idea just how serious he was. He was not going to be inside their pack come the full moon. Not for one bloody second of it.

They saw her car parked on the street near a bank and he used his wolf's sight to see if she was in there, was not. That was interesting. "Not in the bank," He muttered.

"Down the street." Adam pointed.

Eliza was strolling along the street towards them texting on her phone. He watched her actually chuckle and then saw a man bump right into her on purpose, could only see the back of him, but he was dressed in the latest fashion, expensive clothes. Felt Atlas snarl inside his mind as that man's hand slipped to Eliza's h*p as if to steady her, his thumb resting on her bare skin.

His jaw tightened as she gasped and apologised for not looking where she was going, thinking she was in the wrong, when it was the man himself. Watched her brush his hand away from her h*p and heard the man ask if she was here to meet someone. Wound his window down to smell him, he was human. Saw her smile at him and apologised again, told him she had an appointment to attend.

Watched that man give her his business card and introduced himself as Milton Valentine. Just bloody great one of the local rich boys, Milton was just on 19 and he was a smooth-talking ladies' man, set to inherit quite a sum of money when his grandfather passed. Millions, in fact, saw her smile and nod thank you. Then she turned to walk away.

He saw Milton's hand curl around her forearm and a low growl got ripped out of him before he could stop it. He felt the car stop as his hand was on the door handle and got out of the car. Atlas was making him get out whether the car was stopped or still moving, for he was furious.

"Don't do anything stupid Conner." Adam shot at him.

Everyone in the car knew he and Milton did not get along. The man, though only 19, was not dumb, was in their double major, had started uni at just 15, was very bright and the girls flocked to him as much as they did Conner. Only Conner didn't fraternise with humans. Saw Eliza turn to look at Milton and that man put his hand right on her face.

"You have the most stunning eyes I've ever seen." He told her, full of charm today, it seemed. He was barely containing Atlas now, he was not handling this man touching what he thought was his, or wanted to be his. Who the hell knew which it was.

"Thank you, I got them from my father." She smiled at him.

"Milton, take your filthy hands off my stepsister." He snarled right at him and saw that man look right at him, a little surprised by his sudden appearance.

Then back to Eliza, "I didn't know you had a stepsister. Isn't she lovely?" He practically drawled the last three words. His hand fell away from her face, Milton knew better than to tick Conner off.

"And off limits to the likes of you."

"Me?" Milton laughed. "I'm a perfect gentleman."

"Bullshit, a man w***e is what you are." He heard the gravel to his own words, it was Atlas insulting the man, not Conner. It was Atlas's way of telling Eliza he was garbage and to stay away from him. Seeing as he couldn't show himself to her. His bloody wolf was interfering.

He reached his hand out to grab Eliza's arm only to have her step further away, looked at the empty space in his hand where her arm should have been and then looked right at her expecting and explanation. No one walked away from him.

"Well, I'd say you're both assholes then." She stated, flicked Milton's card at him and walked around him and off down the street, away from both of them. He wasn't mad at her attitude towards him because she'd rid herself of Milton's card and phone number and walked away from him.

"She's got you pegged, hasn't she, Conner? You are an a*****e." Milton shot at him.

"Why, because I wouldn't do your sister, and she lied about what happened and now has a reputation as a lying b***h. Because she got caught out in that lie."

Saw Milton's eyes fill with anger and then he just turned and walked away. "I like your stepsister, she's pretty." He shot over his shoulder.

“Stay the hell away from her.” He snarled right back and turned to see where Eliza had gone, was just walking into the bank. Didn’t like it one little bit, that man was going to be trouble, especially now that he knew Eliza was related to him.

Their two families did not get along at all, not after his sister Vivian tried to claim he’d forced himself on her. Lucky for him, the club she’d been at, trying to get him to do her in, was owned by the pack. Had cameras everywhere.

Ms. Vivian had claimed he dragged her into a VIP room and made her do unspeakable things to him and then he’d f****d her against her will. What the camera’s showed was that he’d turned her down at every opportunity and then had her kicked out of the club after she dared to run a hand down his pants in an attempt to entice him.

He’d not taken kindly to it, knew she wanted him, she had told him they would make a great power couple. What she didn’t understand was that he would never take a human into his world. Make her his Luna and that her touch had been vile to him. Though he had proven his innocence easily enough, he had been arrested for it till it was cleared up.

Now their two families did not coexist very well at all, they’d had a business alliance up until that point, and though Vivian had been sent abroad as punishment by her grandfather for her behaviour and accusations. Which his father had splashed all over the news here, ruining her reputation as the sweet innocent heiress she portrayed herself as. His father had also severed all ties with their company here in Logan. The Valentines had lost millions because of Vivian.

He walked back to the car and got in, “He’s going to be trouble.”

“Didn’t seem like she liked him to me,” Adam commented.

“I don’t think that will matter to him, now he knows she’s my stepsister.”

“Might want to tell your father that one. Put a proper tail on him, if you think he’s of concern.”

“Probably a very good idea.” He agreed.

His car didn’t move from the street until Milton was in his car and had driven away. Then they headed off to the university for the day. He saw Milton’s car in its usual spot and saw him in class as well. At least he wasn’t out there trying to get to Eliza.

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Chapter 9

EI POV

EI drove herself into Logan. It was a really nice mountainous road, very pretty, she thought to herself absently as she drove along. She parked her car and headed off to the chemist to get a morning after pill. She'd not recalled Conner using protection and didn't want to risk becoming pregnant to him, had listened in health class. It only took one time, even your first time, you could get pregnant and she was going to be responsible for herself. Also, she booked herself in to see a doctor and would sort out birth control, do that responsibly as well.

Not that she thought it was going to happen again with him, but she wanted to be safe just in case. Though she was pretty darn certain that his demonstration this morning was meant to tell her she was nothing to him. That, what had happened was a simple one-night stand. She wasn't going to risk it.

Sitting in a coffee shop sipping a mochacino, she thought about what happened in town. Conner, getting into it with that guy named Milton. She had barely met him, bumped into him by accident only. It had been clear from watching the two of them, they did not like each other. Why he bothered to step up and have words with him she didn't know. He'd made it clear she was just a f**k, and nothing more.

Saw him move to grab her arm and side stepped his hand, saw him look at her as if he couldn't believe she'd actually done that. But why would she let him touch her ever again after what he'd done to her this morning. Heard him call Milton a man w***e, and she was done. She walked away and left them to it. Let them argue about it. She didn't really care, was only going to be here a few months and then she was gone.

Had no intention of calling that Milton guy, he was to h*nsie, touched her h*p and then her face. What stranger did that? Certainly, none she knew of. It was most likely he was a man w***e. She was not interested in another a*****e.

Went and put that cheque in the bank and heard it was going to take three to five days to clear, hoped it wouldn't bloody bounce, was going to need that money to live on once she left. If it bounced, she would know that Logan was a real piece of s**t, and would tell her mother so. If it bounced, she was going to do her level best to get her mother out of there. It was likely, as she thought, a cult of some sort, but she had to wait on the proof of it. A small part of her wanted that cheque to bounce, or have him cancel it so she could take it to her mother and show her the man had no intention of giving her their money back.

Got her appointment and prescription filled out, took herself back to the pack and found Logan waiting for her, got out of her car and looked at him "You were gone near on 5 hours."

"I had things to do."

"Like what, Eliza?"

"That is personal." She told him, "but here I am back where you require me to be."

Saw him frowning down at her as she walked up the stairs, "You went to the doctor why?"

Stopped walking and looked right at him, "You had me watched?"

"I told you I would send someone for you if you weren't back in three hours."

"You're a control freak." She muttered and walked away from him.

"Eliza, I don't like the disrespect you show me."

"Ditto." She shot at him and continued to walk away and up to her apartment. Couldn't actually believe he'd had someone go and find her, watch her, that was just bloody ridiculous. She was capable of driving into town and running a few errands.

Closed the door to her apartment and sighed to herself, looked at the room and frowned as she glanced around. It had been cleaned in here. Moved her eyes to the bed it had been made. Walked over and realised it was not just made but the sheets changed as well. She didn't ask anyone to clean her apartment.

Saw several brochures on the coffee table and walked over to pick them up; Utah State University, Utah State University Brigham City, The University of Utah, plus a bunch more all here in Utah, one in Idaho and two in Wyoming. Shook her head.

She had told Logan that after summer ended, she was going abroad to study. He'd stated they'd discuss it, guess this was his way of discussing it. A bunch of places he thought were acceptable for her to study at. Not at all what she wanted or was going to do either. She made herself something to eat and noticed as she did, the kitchen's pantry and fridge had been restocked as well.

Wondered if her mother had been in here? or if it had been one of the cleaners? She'd seen roaming about the apartment building. Shook it off, had to be a cleaner, if it had been her mother, she'd have asked a million questions about the state of her sheets. Who the boy was and when was she going to meet him? Not something El was about to go blabbing to her mother. She could discuss it with Cordi. She was her closest friend had known Cordi since she was five years old. There were no secrets between them

and no subject was off limits, or taboo. Heck Cordi had told her the day she'd lost her V-card to Collin. Nothing didn't get discussed between them.

Got a text from her mother to ask if she'd looked at the brochures for schooling.

Got up and took those bloody brochures downstairs. As she texted her back, she could have them back. Found her mother coming up the stairs from the ground floor, "El, why don't you use the elevator? These stairs are tiresome."

"I can't" she shrugged, "I don't have the code for it." Saw her mother stare right at her and then sigh and shake her head "I'll give it to you."

"Don't bother, the stairs are fine. If Logan wanted me to have the code, I'm sure he would have given it to me." She walked to the bottom floor.

"I'm sure he just forgot, is all."

"Mmm." She held the brochures out to her mother, "I'm going to Italy. I don't need these."

"El, I'd prefer you stay here and study. I'll miss you too much if you go overseas."

Looked right at her mother, never before had she ever uttered that, was or had always been excited about her going to Italy, to the university El's father had attended. Now she was saying she didn't want her to. Logans, influence she thought.

Continued to hold them out to her "Take them back to your husband."

"El, please honey. Just look at them, see what they offer at least." Her mother pushed them back at her.

"I don't need to; I'm going to Italy."

She saw her mother's jaw tighten and she actually looked angry with her. "Just look them over, it's not going to hurt Eliza. I expect you to do this or you'll be going nowhere at all. I'll make sure Logan doesn't even let you leave this place." She snapped right at her and then turned and stalked away from her.

Watched her mother bang right into Logans office, slammed that door good and proper. Seems she was going to be bloody stuck here. Walked outside and over to the grassed area in front of the apartment building and sat herself down. Looked down at the brochures, needed to do this to get the hell out of here.

Was going to never be allowed to leave, was once again starting to feel like a prisoner, had been given a one-day leave pass, and now was back and locked in. She was damn

certain her mother had gone right to Logan and told him exactly that. That she wasn't allowed to leave, and she knew he would do it. Had done it once before.

She was sitting out there when she heard both her mother and Logan coming this way. They were talking, turned and looked at them, walking hand in hand, smiling and laughing with each other. She turned her attention back to the grass.

"El, we need to talk."

"I'm sure you think we do, mother."

"Eliza, did I not speak to you about respect earlier?" Logan chastised her.

"You did." She nodded.

"I expect you to extend that to your mother, as my wife. She is given respect by all here, including you."

"That's nice to know." She said drearily. "What do I get, but made to come here, locked up here?"

"You're not locked up, El. We just want you to settle in, is all. We also really want you to consider studying here. Please look at the brochures I had sent to you." her mother stated.

"Sent to me. Couldn't bring yourself to walk to my room. Or is it that it's just too far away, you forgot where he put me?"

"Eliza." Her mother snapped, heard the warning tone.

She stood up from the ground and looked at her. "So far away from everyone, segregated me completely, from anyone and everyone that lives here. It's very clear to me, I'm not actually welcome here."

"Eliza, that is not what happened."

"Isn't it!" she looked at Logan. "There is no one down there, just me alone in a part of your apartment complex. You could have put me anywhere, but you chose that place away from everyone. Chose it to keep me separated from even my own mother. She didn't even know you'd put me down there, till you dragged me here."

Saw him take a deep breath in and knew she was pushing his buttons, stared right up at him, didn't care if it made him mad, her deduction was right, and she knew it. Had walked the halls, been told by Conner himself, she wasn't allowed in their wing of the top floor. She was not family. Had told him exactly what she'd felt. Like a prisoner.

He stared right back at her, and she could see his jaw was ticking, it looked like he was getting real pissed off with her staring him down.

"El, please we can discuss a room change another day. I'll find something for you tomorrow, something not so far away from everyone. You are right. I was unhappy with where you were put, did not get informed of that."

"Brit, I explained why?" Logan looked to her mother, and she saw her mother nod.

"Let's leave it for now, discuss it tomorrow. El the University brochures, please look at them at least."

"What do you think I did while sitting out here? I looked at them. None of them are what I want. I want.."

"Eliza, you will choose one of these. This is what I am willing to pay for. I'm not about to send you overseas to another country just to study art. You can do that, at any university."

"Yes, I can, it was my father's university and I plan to follow in his footsteps. I will be going."

Saw that temper of his flare and his eyes harden on her, watched her mother put a hand on him, "El, if you're going to behave like a child and not even consider it. Then I will treat you like a child, and ground you."

Stared right at her mother incredulously, "You can't ground me. I'm already a f*****g prisoner, up there in solitary confinement. This here is just a yard pass."

"Enough Eliza." Logan snarled right at her.

Her eyes whipped right to him, and she felt fear pour through her body, as he glared right at her, and took a step away from him.

"This is not a prison." He continued to snarl at her, strode towards her, looked completely furious with her "and you will show some bloody respect or so help me, I'll punish you." He roared at her.

Her whole body was trembling, and she could feel the tears welling up. Every part of her body and mind screamed at her to run away from him, turned and bolted away from him, just ran away too scared to be anywhere near him.

Ran right into the woods and just kept on going, didn't even care to look where she was going, just wanted the hell away from him. Ran till she couldn't run anymore, and then just sank down on the ground. She didn't recall ever feeling so afraid of anything or anyone in all her life, fear had just flooded through her like a gate had been opened and

she knew she had to run or she was going to die. Knew she was right about him all along, he was a terrible person, and she was not safe here.

She sat there and hugged her knees to her chest, didn't even know what she could do right that minute. Just tried to breathe and calm down. Finally, she managed to calm herself, though how long it took she didn't know, got up and looked around her, didn't even know where she was. Could see the flickers of the lake down through the trees, headed down to it, and then just found a place to sit. The sun was going down, had been lost in the woods all evening, it seemed.

Leaned her head back on the tree and stared at the darkened lake out there as night fell, heard her phone ding and ring a million times, it was her mother and an unknown number, dismissed them all or just didn't bother with them at all. Didn't care right this minute, wondered how far it was across to the other side of the lake.

Knew she was never going to be allowed to leave, perhaps this was the only other way out, a very long swim to freedom, had been granted it today and stupidly not driven the hell away from here, had opted to come back to try and get her mother to see sense. But knew now that was never going to happen.

Even when that man had been yelling at her, a full rage threatening her, she'd done nothing to stop him, just stood there and watched on. Hadn't even come after her, hadn't messaged her to see if she was okay until hours later. She was right, she was not welcome here, needed to find a way out. Didn't think she was going to be able to just get in her car and drive out the gate right this minute. Swimming the lake was likely her only chance. She wasn't a bad swimmer at all, but this lake, when she googled it, said it was 8 miles wide. Did not think she could swim that far. Sat there and chewed on her l*p.

Turned and looked into the woods behind her at the sound of a wolf's howl, and then several more, just bloody great, a pack of wolves roaming about, though they didn't seem close to her. Stayed put and quiet. Switched her phone to, do not disturb mode so as not to attract their attention, knew it wouldn't so much as vibrate while in that mode.

Text Cordi she believed she was in trouble and was going to find a way out. Was once again locked in."

"I'll come get you."

"No, I don't think it would be safe for you here. I'll let you know when I'm out."

"Be careful, El."

"I will be."

She put her phone down as she stared at the darkness of the lake. This was likely her way out. She just needed to be able to come down here without causing suspicion of any kind. She stood up and looked at the lake, wondered if she should just go now. Didn't have something waterproof for her phone or any water or snacks and she was going to need all that. 8 miles of swimming and then who knew how long to walk to the nearest town to sit and wait in a hotel for Cordi to get to her.

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Chapter 10

Conner POV

The day was very long and dragged on, every damned class Milton smiled right at him, and then talked about meeting a really cute girl in town to his friends, how he intended to bed her. It was ticking Atlas off to no end. He'd had to get up and leave the class at one point, before Atlas ripped out of him and tore that man's head clean off, in front of a room full of humans. Outing their kind, to everyone in the room.

His wolf was completely out of control where Eliza was concerned. She was not their Mate, they did not scent her. But just a few damned hours with her and it seemed his wolf wanted her to be his Mate. Again, Conner had to remind him he was never claiming a human for his Mate and Luna. Only angered his wolf even more.

He got snarled at himself, 'a Mate is a Mate.'

'Not our Mate, do you scent her?' he'd roared right back at his wolf, he was completely out of control and needed to calm the hell down. Or they were going to be at odds. Hell, were already at odds over the human that was his stepsister.

Then he was informed by his father that she'd not returned as expected and had to close his eyes and take a deep breath, told him to send someone to look for her. He was at uni. Busy getting his degree. He was not going to keep track of her. She was not his bloody job. Hell, for all he knew, she could have driven off and headed back to California. Told Atlas to 'shut the hell up' when he growled at him because he hoped she had done so.

Took the boys out for dinner and a few drinks after classes finished at seven, didn't want to go back to the bloody pack, knew they had to test the borders tonight, but that

was a random check that could be done at his leisure. Atlas had finally stalked off to the back of his mind and left him alone. Finally got some peace and quiet. They all sat and chatted after dinner, were all sipping a nice bourbon, only to have their drinks interrupted when all their phones rang at near the same time. Sighed heavily, they all did.

That only happened when s**t hit the fan. They should have been home an hour ago and now they were an hour away. If there was trouble brewing, they weren't likely to make it on time. He answered his phone, as did all of them. Knew each one was being called by their fathers, standard protocol when s**t was hitting the fan.

"Yes father."

"Eliza is missing."

Closed his eyes and pinched the bridge of his nose, though he did note, it was not the tone his father would normally use. No annoyance at all, he almost sounded regretful.

"Likely drove herself back to California." He murmured.

"No Conner, she came back here and...we argued. I lost my temper and Hale and I roared at her disrespect. She bolted off into the woods, terrified of me."

That snapped open his eyes and he shook his head "Where an hour away at least."

"Get home and help with the search." His father snapped and clicked the line closed.

"Just f*****g great. Got a whole pack of wolves and they can't find one bloody human in the territory." He muttered. Stood up as did the others, they were all off the phone as well. Liked having this restaurant here in Logan, meant he could say whatever he wanted, only wolves ate here or worked here.

He could feel Atlas coming forward and nearly swore out loud, kept it to himself lest his unit find out what the hell was going on. He didn't want nor need that. With any luck, he could deal with her if it was the case and no one in the pack would be any the wiser as to what she was if she was that.

He didn't trust himself to drive, told Adam to, the man didn't seem to care and hopped on in behind the wheel and they were off.

"So," Cameron sighed, "Just where in the pack can one human girl hide?"

"Who the hell knows, father stated he and Hale lost it at her attitude and terrified her. She could bloody be anywhere. The north side of the pack is huge, as is the western."

"Do you think she got past the border?" Adam mused "we were supposed to be checking that tonight?"

"Anything is possible." Conner muttered.

"Not going to be able to track her the normal way." Brayden murmured "her scent is barely detectable at the best of times."

Conner turned and looked right at him in the backseat.

"What?" Brayden asked.

"You smelled her?" Conner asked.

"Yeah, she's walked passed me a few times. I noticed how delicate she smells. Why, haven't you?"

"Is human! Why would I care what she smells like." He stated and turned back to look out the window. He knew exactly what she smelled like, and it was light and delicate, the damned morning breeze rid her scent from the air easily.

"I think it's pretty." Adam told him.

Turned and looked right at him "You've smelled her as well? Did everyone smell her?" he grated out, he didn't like that they were all smelling her. 'She wasn't theirs to smell'. Shook that thought off, 'is human what do I care', he reminded himself.

"I don't mind humans," Adam chuckled. "you're the only one with an aversion. If she asked me out, I'd say yes."

Closed his eyes and pinched the bridge of his nose as he felt Atlas snarl inside his mind at the thought of Adam touching her. He wanted to tell him to go ahead but had the distinct feeling Atlas's behaviour would out him to them.

They drove into the pack around 10pm, and sighed, knowing they had yet to find her, and his father was waiting on the packhouse steps for them. He looked right at him "Why aren't you out looking for her?" he asked.

"She was terrified of me, I'm not the one she wants to come across."

"Probably not." Conner nodded "where was she and which way did she run off." He asked though he could already feel Atlas pushing forward to try and scent her. He had enjoyed tracking her the other day.

"She was out here, and ran off around the building on the western side, up into the northern woods."

Shook his head, "So to the biggest part of the pack, that is unmonitored until the border. How long before you set the search party in motion?"

"I waited for a few hours, hoping she would calm down and come back, even if it was to get her car and leave."

"I take it she didn't." he could see the old Toyota Camry parked in a parking space.

"No, and no one has seen her, that was about 4."

Stared right at him now "She's been missing 6 hours?" the man was insane to leave her out there for that long.

"Yes, we can only presume lost out there, and we can't very well search in wolf form, now can we? It would be quicker but..."

"But she's human." Conner snarled at him "This is why we don't bring humans here." He snapped at his father and stalked off in the direction she had run off too. He'd seen her run before, thought about how far she could have gotten running like that. Was doing the math inside his mind. She'd still be inside the pack's territory if she stayed going north. Though that was all mountainous and she could well be out there injured somewhere, fallen into a ravine in the dark, for all he bloody knew. Pulled his shirt off and was kicking his shoes off a moment later.

"Conner?"

"Shift it'll be quicker if we search with our wolves. I've seen her run. It's not that fast, she will still be in the territory." He muttered as he took his pants off, "keep your clothes with you, and if you smell her or find her, don't go approaching in wolf form. Likely just make her run off again."

"What are you thinking distance wise?" Adam asked him as he started stripping his clothes off.

"I think the average human walks about 4 to 5 kilometres an hour. Been missing for 6 hours, ran for what ten maybe fifteen minutes with full flight or fight response activated. So is definitely still inside the pack somewhere. If not, she found a gap in the border and slipped through it, though the only border that close that is not monitored is the lake."

Brayden sighed "You wanna, bet she's by the lake, no one has seen her, watched his eyes glaze over and waited, though Atlas was itching to get out and go and find her, he was putting him off shifting, to do this the logical way.

"No border patrols have seen anything."

“So, the only place not fully watched is the centre of the packs lake border.” He nodded “Take my car down there. Atlas will get there quicker.” Finally, he let his wolf rip out of him, made sure he stopped and picked up his clothes, knew she was not going to be happy to see him if he found her.

Atlas was gone at a full run towards the lake, there was a good breeze blowing, he knew Adam and Cameron’s wolves were off spread out away from him but also heading for the lake. They were all linked to him.

Picked up her scent though it was faint and not always there, asked everyone to stand still and let Atlas howl. Both his beta and delta wolves howled a moment later, and then they all just stood still and listened.

Atlas’s head was tilted. He was listening for her to move at the sound of his howl. Most would get up and move at the thought of wolves getting close to their position, and faced with more than one when on their own, was not something anyone would want.

Mind linked to his father “have Brittney call her, I think she’s close.”

‘You found her already?’

‘No, Brayden figured six hours missing there was only one place in the pack not monitored, the lake zone,’

“That’s not where she was headed, Conner.”

“Well, Atlas gets a whiff of her scent every now and then down here. Call her, the phone will ring, and we’ll all be able to pinpoint her.’

There was nothing at all and there was no movement, no ringing phone or even a chime or vibration of one.

‘Anything?’ His father asked a minute later.

‘No, has she picked up even once?’

‘No.’

‘Turned it off then is my guess.’ He muttered. Was out here hiding somewhere.

Atlas moved on trying to catch her scent in the breeze, finally picked it up properly ten minutes later and felt relief wash through his wolf. Got everyone to shift back, in case they found her first. Heard Atlas tell them all to go back he’d get her and wanted to kill him for it. As he shifted himself and dressed. Headed on down through the woods to the edge of the lake. Looking both ways, he knew Brayden was coming. He could see the cars’ headlights in the distance coming down the trail.

Looked the other way and scanned the edge of the lake, it might be pitch dark out here, but the moon was three quarters full, and it glistened off the lake, and there she was standing by the water's edge, just staring out into the lake about 300 meters north of him. Atlas was happy inside his mind to have found her. 'You need to stop this s**t Atlas, she's human and not our Mate.' His wolf just ignored him.

Conner walked down the path to where she stood and stopped a metre shy of her, "Do you know half the people living here are currently looking for you?" he muttered, allowing his annoyance at having to come and find her to show in his tone.

"Are they?" she stated in a bored tone, didn't sound like she cared at all.

"Yes, your mother and my father are worried sick."

"I doubt that very much. What do you want, Conner?" she asked without so much as even looking at him.

"I'm here to take you back."

"And if I don't want to go back?"

"I will have to make you. Do you really want that?" he asked.

Found those silver-grey eyes of hers turned on him and saw them practically glow as they caught the moonlight, saw his wolf really look at her. He had to admit even to himself, they were beautiful to look at, almost shone like the moon itself when she was full, in this light. Shook that off, his bloody wolf's feelings were starting to push onto him.

"No," she stated, "I don't want you touching me. Not ever." She stated coldly.

Stared right at her, his jaw tightened. Again, words that a human could utter to rid herself of their Mate if they didn't know what they were. He could feel Atlas's concern about her word usage. Twice today she'd stated things that could be seen as a rejection. Not that she even knew what it was or what she was saying.

He didn't much like hearing it himself, for that matter, and wondered if that was his wolf's feelings once again flowing to him. But he did understand her reason for not wanting him around her. He had been a real jerk to her in order to make her stay away from him. "Then I suggest that you walk down the trail to my car that is waiting, or I'll be picking you up and tossing your a*s over my shoulder. They're your options. Pick one."

Saw her just walk around him and say nothing, had that resting b***h face, that he was so used to seeing back in place. 'What do you expect after what you did.' Atlas snarled at him.

'I did it for a reason.' He shot right back. He should never have touched her, let alone all the other bloody things he'd done to her.

Followed her back down the path, linked to his father that he had her. That she was just at the lake's edge the whole time. Actually, got a thank you from his father for finding her. He sounded relieved, he could inform his Mate that her daughter was okay and on her way back.

Conner also told him she didn't want to go back. It was pretty clear. And heard that man sigh heavily.

Yes, he'd royally f****d up with his stepdaughter, so much so it might not be fixable at all. Seeing a wolf on the surface all aggressive for a human, could really screw them up. Could well imbed a fear into them that lasted a lifetime. His father knew this. If that happened, Brittney was not going to be happy at all.

Though listening to her, the way she had talked to him, even. A bored, emotionless tone, doubted she would be one of those. But didn't doubt she wasn't looking for a way out right now. Stated it point blankly 'and if I don't want to', stated that because she didn't want to. Was curious about what made his father lose his temper. Could have been anything, but he knew the man was trying to keep himself and his wolf in check. She'd been here all of a week and a half and locked herself away for a week of that.

Saw Brayden smile at her and say "Good to see you're okay El."

She didn't say anything at all, though Atlas didn't like the way he called her El, instead of Eliza, it was too friendly. She just got in the truck when Brayden opened the door for her. Conner watched him tilt his head as she got in the truck and was trying to sense out her feelings. He frowned at the man, yes he was the future Gamma.

Hit that man before he picked up on anything else he shouldn't. He got a raised eyebrow at him. 'Human' he shot down the mind-link 'also not a pack member. So not your job.'

'She was terrified. I heard, I'm just..'

'Well, don't, it's none of your business. If father wants her sussed out, your dad can do it. Get in the bloody car.'

'You really need to let this human-hating thing go. You know that right. It's unhealthy.'

Glared at him and then just got in the truck himself. Left her in the back, though tilt the mirror so he could see her, she just sat and stared out the window, didn't say a damned thing. Wondered if this was always what she did when upset or angry. She just closed her mouth and ignored everyone. If he recalled correctly, his father had stated she said pretty much nothing coming here. Had been unhappy about it.

It was likely this was her when she was unhappy. Really looked at her in that mirror, in all likelihood he'd never seen her happy here in the pack. That smile this morning at his father, had been designed for him to make him think she didn't care. Could feel Atlas was annoyed by the thought she was unhappy.

Though he had seen her chuckle in town, she had been texting someone, likely one of her friends back in California. A place she would rather be, a place that was much more suited to her than here. Needed to send her home, he thought and turned to look out the window himself, watched the darkened forest pass by as they headed back.

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