

The Unclaimed Human Luna

Chapter 11

EI POV

The truck pulled up right at the apartment complex and she got out, saw her mother and Logan both standing up there on that top step. Turned her eyes away from them and walked up the stairs, dodged Conners hand that tried to take her arm and marched herself right passed them.

“El, sweetheart, I was so worried.” She heard her mother state.

She just moved on, passed them and into the building, headed for the stairs, didn’t care to be anywhere near that man at all. Her mother had been standing there and his hand had been resting on the small of her back. Even after what had happened, she saw nothing wrong with his behaviour. The woman was beyond saving in all likelihood.

She climbed those five flights of stairs to find both her mother and Logan waiting for her. They had used the elevator to beat her up there, “Eliza, I would like to apologise for yelling at you like I did.”

She didn’t care for his apology at all, knew he didn’t mean it. A man like him would always apologise only to lose his temper again another time. It was the pattern of abusive men or women, for that matter.

Abuse and then apologise, placate and repeat, that’s all it was, empty words to get one back under control, to have one stay put and do as they were told. Walked passed both of them without saying anything, had nothing to say.

“El please, he truly didn’t mean to frighten you.”

“You’re a fool mother, one day that temper will be directed at you, and he’ll beat you senseless for some stupid reason that makes sense only to him. You know it, have seen it before.” Turned and looked right at her “Or have you forgotten already, what happened to aunty Sarah.” Moved her eyes to Logan, briefly. Then back to her mother, “Died, remember. Beaten to death by her husband for some stupid reason, she’d made him angry, spoke up against him and he beat her to death for it.”

She saw her mother sigh now, “It’s not like that.”

"You sound just like her now, you know. I will not be a victim like you." She stated and turned and walked away, back to her room and banged the door shut. How many times did they take Aunty Sarah to the hospital? or to the doctor to be patched up? How many times did she make excuses for that man? That was her abusive husband. How many times did they hear the very words her mother just stated? "It's not like that." Hundreds of times over the years.

They'd not been able to convince her aunt to leave her husband, they had tried a lot, the woman had been in some sort of denial or fear or just so damned demoralised she couldn't see a way out. Then one day they'd gotten a call to state she was dead, found in her own home bludgeoned with a frying pan. Left to bleed out and die by her own husband.

They'd all seen that man's temper, it was less than Logans. But those very words from her own mother, she was not going to leave him, and Eliza knew it. It was unlikely she was going to be able to save her own mother. Was going to get that call one day herself, and she just knew it. Closed her eyes briefly and pushed that thought aside.

She'd warned her, reminded her of what her sister had been through. If she couldn't see it herself even with those reminders, then it was likely already too late.

Probably also why she'd not been invited to their so-called impromptu wedding. Hadn't even met the man her mother had met and then married like six weeks later. Gone on a month-long honeymoon with him, and then simply announced they'd be moving in with him.

She had a whole new wardrobe as well, never dressed like she used to. Logan had bought her all new clothes and wanted her to dress how he liked, not how she liked. El saw that as just another sign of being controlled by that man.

Wondered how many people here were afraid of that man, likely everyone she thought. His temper was easily unchecked. She'd seen it more than once now. Looked down at her wrist, it was no longer bruised. But he'd not cared if he'd hurt her. Called her family, which likely just meant in his eyes he could beat her and feel like it was justifiable.

Walked over and showered and changed, sank down on her bed and texted Cordi, 'They found me and brought me back.'

'Any trouble?'

'No, but I tried to tell mother what he was, remind her about aunty Sarah, she stated it's not like that.'

'Not good, El.'

'No, I'm going to leave when I can get the chance, though he had me watched in town. Now I wonder if he'll watch me here to?'

'Sounds like it, El. Be careful.'

'I will.'

Just lay there and stare out into the darkness of the night, needed to get back to the lake, it had taken them ages to find her down there. If she went there for swimming, surely that wouldn't be suspicious at all right. She got up and went through her clothes to find her swimwear. She only owned a few bikini's, not exactly good for long distance swimming.

Looked at the three pairs she owned. A black string bikini; she was not going to wear that, she only wore that for sun baking. Then there was her high-waisted blue and white ruffled halter top bikini, covered more, probably better for swimming but used that one too lazy around the pools. Then there was her boy-leg yellow and orange strip bikini with a fairly modest halter neck top that showed only a little of her cleavage. Was going to have to go with that. It was the one she would play beach volleyball in, or frisbee at the beach with her friends.

Put the others away and placed this one on the couch in her room, found a pair of joggers to wear on her walk down to the lake, would need good shoes when she got to the other side. Her walk was going to be long. It had taken a good 25 minutes for that drive back along the road to get here to the apartment building. It was going to be a long walk.

Though she was hoping there would be a walking path that would be quicker for her to take than the road, if not a stroll on through the woods it would be. She knew it was east of the complex, not so hard to find. Hunted for her beach towel and laid it out as well.

Stood staring at her clothes wasn't going to be wearing much when she got to the other side. She needed something waterproof for her phone and wallet to go in. Headed to the kitchen and found some zip-lock bags that would hold her things. Wallet and phone, there wasn't one big enough for her shoes to go in. She didn't even have a backpack. Didn't know exactly how she was going to get herself out of the building with things zip locked up.

Perhaps she could just get up and leave right at sunrise, when everyone was still sleeping. That could work. She didn't want to leave her father's car here, but had the feeling she wasn't going to be allowed to just drive out the front gate. Though she would try it, she thought, if she was sent back, she would drive down to the lake and make that hideous swim across it.

She might have to put it off for a day, to find a backpack she could use, would try and source one in the morning. Maybe she would be able to leave in the afternoon. Laid

back down on her bed, she was tired. It was after midnight. The plan was to get a backpack and put her stuff in it. Put that in her car and try to leave via the front gate. If denied, she would head for the lake and the longest swim of her life.

She'd not seen any water sports activities down there, but that didn't mean they didn't have any. Maybe she could find a kayak or sailboard. She could actually use both of those. That would be good.

Perhaps her acting skills could come in handy. Go apologise to her mother for her outburst and ask her about water sports activities. Surely that wouldn't be too obvious. Her mother knew she could kayak and sailboard, not very good at surfing, but had tried it. She could use jet ski as well. Now that would be a good option, she could just turn it on and roar away from this place, not only to the other side of the lake but the other end as well. Cross the border into Idaho and call Cordi from there. That was a good plan. Surely she could get away that way.

Took a long breath in and released it slowly, play the apologetic daughter card to get the hell out of here. Away from these assholes, that her mother thought were lovely. Didn't understand that at all. She tried to get some sleep. Although she was tired, it was difficult with her brain trying to run through scenarios of getting out of this place.

What would happen to her if she got caught? Wondered how many times she'd be brought back before they just locked her up completely. Or maybe the constant trying to leave would show them that she really didn't want to be here, and they would eventually just let her leave, send her away. That would be nice.

Slept in, well past the sunrise and sighed to herself when she saw it was nearly 11am, so much for getting up early, had been too tired from her freak out yesterday. Ate something and dressed in jeans and a tee-shirt, went downstairs to find her mother. She was pretty certain she would be in Logan's office. Saw her coming along the first-floor hall towards her.

"El, honey, can we please go and talk?"

"Sure." She nodded. "Where?"

"I have an office we could use. It's private. It would be just you and I."

"If Logan is in there, I'm not going in."

She saw her mother just nod her head and then motioned for her to follow, El did. There were lots of offices down here, she noticed. She walked into the one that was, she presumed, her mother. It was large and spacious, though what she did here was anyone's guess. She'd not worked in an office before, had been a primary school teacher.

Eliza was curious as to what she did around here, hadn't seen her do much of anything other than stand around with Logan, walk with Logan. She saw a picture of her mother and Logan on her desk and looked at it. She was wearing a very beautiful dress, a wedding dress it looked like, and he was wearing a suit. Their wedding day, she guessed, looked like it was not impromptu at all. Looked very flashy and likely planned.

Turned her eyes from it and looked at her mother, actually saw guilt in her expression, let it go. What did it matter, she wasn't welcome here. Why her mother insisted on her coming was a mystery to her. She seemed happy those weeks here without her around. She should have left her in California.

"El, I'm sorry."

"I don't really care mother." She shrugged and sat down. "you and Logan did what you wanted."

"I didn't want you left out. I just got so caught up in things and then it was the day, and you weren't there. It was too late to get you here."

"Like I said, it doesn't matter. I wouldn't have come anyway."

"El." She sighed.

"You want the truth, I wouldn't have. Still think it's too soon after dad died. So, I likely wouldn't have come anyway." It was the truth.

Watched her mother sit behind her desk, looked a bit sad about what she'd heard
"Honey, I know it's been a little rough here for you."

A little rough, she thought, that was an understatement. She got ditched the minute her V-card had been given away. Barely three hours afterwards and Conner had gone out of his way to prove to her it was nothing to him. Rough was not the right word. She'd been denied her right to leave for most of the time she'd been here, and bruised and felt threatened by her stepfather. The man clearly hated her as much as his son did, and neither of them appeared to want her there at all.

"I'm bored in my room all day by myself mother. What is there for me to do around here? If I must stay here, then I need something to entertain myself."

"There is plenty to do here," she saw her mother smile now, liked the idea of her wanting to stay. "I'll take you to the entertainment zone and you can hang out with people your own age. Make some friends."

"I tried that, they all stared at me and then dismissed me like Conner does."

Saw her mother blink in shock, "I don't understand."

"It's simple, I don't fit in." she shrugged "I don't belong here. Surely there is something I can do on my own to keep the boredom away. It occurred to me last night that there is a massive lake nearby. Are there water sports activities I could do? Dad used to take me jet skiing or sailboarding. And I would go kayaking with my friends when off camping with them. All of these things I can do on my own."

"Yes, there are those things to do here, but I'd rather you make some friends, El. Logan even has a really nice boat out there on the lake. Perhaps we could all go and have a family dinner on it. The four of us."

"The four of us?"

"Yes honey, you and I, Logan and Conner, you can get to know them. I'm sure you'll like them if you give them a chance."

"No thank you mother." She shook her head. She was not interested in sitting down to have a meal with either of those men. "Can Cordi and some of my friends come visit? It is summer break." Might as well ask and see what response she got.

"I think you should settle in before bringing friends here. Once you adjust, I'm sure it can be arranged for them to come visit."

"How long will that be?"

"That depends on when we see you settle in and make some friends, want to be here."

That would be a more difficult act to put on. She didn't want to be here, wanted nothing more than to get the hell away from this place. From Logan, from Conner himself, hated having to see him after what had happened, hated having to pretend it didn't hurt. Knowing that he'd simply used her to get his rocks off.

He was an a*****e of the worst kind and she didn't want to have to see him at all. "That could take a long time." She stated honestly. "I don't feel welcome here, I told you how I felt yesterday, I meant that." She had voiced it now not only to her mother and Logan, Conner knew as well, not that he cared.

"Honey."

"Stop, I don't want to fight with you anymore, I don't want to fight with anyone anymore, I'm done fighting. I give up. Tell Logan he wins. But I cannot live all alone here and do nothing. I need something to do, or I will go insane. A jet ski or sailboard, hell a canoe or kayak will do I can spend my summer on the lake."

"Okay, I'll talk to him. But this is not about him winning El."

No, she thought it was about him always having his way, but she didn't say that to her mother. "I'd also like to request he stay away from me. I'm not at all comfortable around him."

Saw her mother sigh softly, then after a moment just nod her head, "For now, I think that is also the best."

"How do I get to the Lake from here? I don't exactly recall how I got there last night."

"There is a path. It's a long walk though, you could take one of the cars. Your father wouldn't be suitable for the road down, but you can have one of Logan or Conners trucks. There are a few here, and they don't use all of them at the same time." Saw her mother stand up. "Come, I'll show you."

"I don't need a car, the walking trail will be fine, I like a bit of hiking." She stood and followed her mother out of the office to find Logan coming this way. "Dad and I used to hike all the time."

"I know, but around here."

"Wolves. I've seen one." She nodded "Didn't really scare me, just a shock." She shrugged, "Get the feeling I'd be safer with them, then others here." She muttered.

Saw her mother look right at her and frown, but it was true, though that wolf had been there it had not attacked her, seemed more curious than anything else. She'd not presented herself as a threat and it hadn't either. Likely they both startled each other that night.

"Eliza again, I would like to apologise to you for my behaviour." Logan stated, stopping a few feet from her.

"Mother, I'll take my leave." She said, could play nice with her mother, but was not in the mood to play nice with him.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 12

Conner POV

Conner stood on the fifth floor hallway and heard Eliza remind her mother of what spousal abuse looked like. They had seen it first hand. Lost her aunt to it, killed by her husband, he now understood her reaction to his father's anger, wouldn't bow down to a bully and be a victim.

It was too late for his father, he thought, she'd seen his temper, been bruised by him and then he and his wolf had roared at her. She was never going to believe he wasn't a monster, or at least not anytime soon. Also accounted for her threats to call the police, she actually did fear for her safety. Likely also feared for her mother.

It was not going to help that she'd not been allowed to leave. In her eyes it was likely everything she was seeing had been soured by that one tragedy with her aunt. She was never going to settle down here and be happy here. Did not in fact want to be here.

Watched the way she looked right at his father, and then spoke only to her mother. She was not willing to be a victim of domestic violence. He was leaning on a wall down the hall behind both his father and Brittney. Their happy, smooth life was no more. They'd brought a human teenager into a pack of wolves, and didn't want to tell her the truth about what they were.

Not that he would recommend it now either. He saw her just go to her room and sighed, he'd likely not helped the situation, been a real a*****e to her, when she was already likely just scared and in pain, he'd thought she was just a brat. When in all likelihood, she'd just closed herself off to hide her feelings from everyone.

Hell, he should have recognised it himself. He had done just that when his mother had left, turned into a surly, unpredictable child with a temper and had hated the world around him for his mother leaving him. It was only slightly different. Her comments about her father not even being dead a year, she was still grieving as well. She had a lot going on.

"Father, may I have a word about what happened to set you off?"

"Told me she was a prisoner, yelled it at me. In fact, locked away in solitary confinement."

Conner moved his eyes down the hall they were standing in. "Hmm, I can see why. Though she already voiced that to me the other night."

"And you didn't think to say anything?"

"What do you want me to do? I told you not to bring her here. It was not a good idea. That she was 18 and old enough to live as an adult. Hell, father, did I not tell you to let her go to Italy?"

"Enough, Conner."

"Do you say that to her? Just like you do me. Because it's more than annoying, ticks me off some days. I can only imagine it ticks her right off. Being locked in here, up here, away from everyone else. I see why she thinks that she is a prisoner. You made her that."

"It's for her own safety."

"No, it's not. It so she won't hear wolves f*****g." he stated flatly, "Won't accidentally hear her own mother when you're f*****g her."

"Conner, you will show respect."

"Yes, of course I will. Till you get an heir from Brittney and pass me over." He grated out and turned and stalked away from the man himself.

"What the hell are you talking about?" He could hear his father following him, they were probably about to punch it out. Wouldn't be the first time.

"I heard you state, your heir with Brittney would be even stronger than I am. I also know you've cancelled all the foreseeable mating balls inside this pack."

"I cancelled those because Eliza is here, not to hinder you finding your Mate. Son, I want you to find your Mate, to be happy. I want that for all our wolves, but Eliza is human and to see what happens on a Mating ball, she'll not understand it. Likely scare the hell out of her."

"Well, you already did that, didn't you? She's terrified of you now, thinks you're going to beat her or her mother to death, with that temper of yours. You can't ask her to respect you, and then demand it, when she has no idea what you are or why she has to."

"You seem to know her pretty well, Conner."

"I am the one you send after her, make watch her. You ditched her as your responsibility the minute she got here. That wouldn't be lost on her considering she didn't want to come here, and doesn't want to be here either. You should send her back to where she belongs, the human world." Conner ignored his wolfs snarling at him. They'd not scented her, and he didn't intend to either.

"I will take myself and my unit to other packs for Mating balls. When I find my Mate and take over, I will release your prisoner, give her back her freedom and maybe, she'll come visit her own mother at times of her choosing. Not think so badly of this place."

"She will come around, Conner."

"I doubt it, no one here has endeared themselves to the girl."

“Then you do that.”

“Not going to happen, I don’t want humans in the pack.” Dodged the fist that came at him. He knew it was going to come, because it was an insult to the current Luna. She was, after all, human. He needed the fight with his father, had picked it on purpose.

He wanted the distraction from thinking about Eliza and how she must feel, it was starting to not sit well with him, his wolf’s obsession with her was starting to affect his own thoughts. He did not want that, he needed her gone and the sooner the better. What Conner was not expecting was for Atlas to surge forward and really try and take a piece of their father.

Atlas was all claws out and snarling at him, within a minute of them punching it out, his wolf was really trying to injure him. Waves of anger were coming off of his wolf that he’d not ever felt before, and were directed at his father. He was a bit confused as to why, until his wolf ripped out of him and launched himself right at his father with all his Alpha aggression on display.

Then it dawned on Conner, that Atlas was trying to make his father and his wolf feel fear. This was not about Conner picking a fight anymore, it may have started that way, but now this was about the fact that his father and his wolf had terrified Eliza. Atlas wanted to return the favour.

Couldn’t reign in his beast and calm him or control him, not even telling him he’d be nice to Eliza worked. His wolf was in a rage over her fearful state, over her feeling like a prisoner. Then they were ripping into each other all teeth and claws, an Alpha Wolf fight right here in the packhouse for all to hear.

Conner heard Brittney scream for help as their wolves fought it out in a hallway not that far from Eliza’s room. If she came out of that room it was not going to be good, she’d hear it. See it. If she even walked down here during the night or in the morning, the destruction their beasts wrought on the place would be clear for her to see. Including the claw marks in the carpets and on the walls as their wolves rolled about and bounced off the walls attacking each other. Both their wolves were evenly matched in a fight.

Conner felt the sting in his side and then the pain and burn of wolfsbane flooded through Atlas, and then darkness claimed both him and his beast.

Conner woke up on the floor in that hallway, with a splitting headache and sat himself up. He found his father sitting on a chair looking at him. G*****d internally, he could still see the man was being healed by his wolf. Hadn’t been out long, dosed him only with enough for it to stop Atlas, for his beast to be pushed away and stop the actual fight, nothing more. Sighed and shifted himself to lean on the wall.

He wasn’t the only one in the hallway now either. His father’s unit was there, and so was his own. They were all standing looking at him. He cursed his wolf internally, if any

of them picked it from that fight he was royally screwed. He was handed pants and dropped them across his lap as he inspected himself, was as torn up as his own father was. Only he wasn't healing yet. Atlas was still not back yet, didn't think it would take long, though, if he was awake, it was only likely to be a matter of minutes before Atlas was up as well.

"What the hell Conner?" His father grated out at him, anger etched every word.

"I don't f*****g know." He muttered "I just wanted a real fight, Atlas just kind of lost it. Thinks you're trying to stop us from finding our Mate I guess." Took the opportunity to cover up the actual reason while his wolf was not there. "Doesn't like it. We are of the opinion you want your and Brittney's child to take over when she has one."

Heard his father sigh, he knew no Alpha Wolf liked being passed over for another, it could make sense to him that Atlas was pissed off about it. Considering how bloody hard his father pushed him, double freaking degrees and courses through summer. He was relentless about it, in fact.

"Is he awake yet?"

"Is he attacking you?" Conner muttered right back.

"Conner, I'm not passing you over. I'm just excited about having a baby with my Mate, that is all. You'll understand that one day yourself."

Conner closed his eyes and leaned his head back on the wall. He was really beginning to doubt that. With Atlas's relentless obsession with his human stepsister, and the rejection that was coming from him. Or him making damn certain he never scents her out, if she is their human Mate. He scrubbed a hand over his face and got up off the floor and pulled those pants on as he could finally feel Atlas waking up. "Leave it father, I don't want him pissed off anymore than you do. I couldn't stop him, I did try."

Saw the man nodding, "We can discuss the mating balls Conner, I'll try to get you and the boys off to other packs. I do want you all to find your Mates."

Nodded at him and walked away, this fight was not something he wanted to happen again, especially if it always came about around Eliza. His father was not a stupid man, neither were the current Alpha Unit. Hell, his own would pick it quicker than his father. Needed to keep them off of that and keep them thinking this was about Mating Balls or being passed over. It's the only way he'd get away with a rejection of the girl without anyone knowing about it.

Conner stood under the hot, steady stream of water in his shower and let it wash all the b***d off him, once he was fully healed by Atlas. His wolf was quiet and didn't want to talk to him, felt him just curl up in the back of his mind and close his eyes. He was

keeping his thoughts to himself, probably a very good idea. Conner could only handle so much of his wolf's attention on Eliza at the best of times.

Dressed and called the boys to him, it had been a long day but they still had to go and test the pack boundaries. The best way to do that was to scent mask themselves and head out in human form. They were lighter on their feet that way.

Atlas didn't seem to care at all. It almost felt as if his wolf was moping back there inside his mind. He didn't know if it was about the fact that he'd taken on his own father? or if he'd been dosed with wolfsbane by his own pack? or if it was because Eliza felt trapped here? and wanted away from him, from all of them.

Spend the rest of the night trying to sneak out of his own pack, testing the patrollers, surprised a few of them, got surprised by two himself, who'd seen him coming and hid from him only to jump him, "not on my watch Alpha." One had laughed at him softly. Another had been leaning up against a large outcrop and murmured "Where do you think you're going boy?" his most fatherly tone, though it was laced with a little amusement. They all knew that with his and his unit scent masked, they were either testing the border's weaknesses or actually trying to sneak out.

Most thought it was just funny to catch them, others just stated, "I know how to do my job." Only Cameron got through one section of the western border in one of the more mountainous regions and that was because their roaming patrol had too big of a gap, due to the terrain, when they'd seen him on the other side apparently had g*****d.

That patrol route was extended for the night. They would fix it up and likely add another patroller out there starting tomorrow, so that there was no gap in the future. Not that he thought Eliza was about to go running off into the mountains to get away, the last time she'd been out doing that she'd been down near the gate itself, likely trying to get around it and then would head back to where the road was. That was the logical conclusion he'd made.

He was going to sleep like the dead all day long, didn't really like pulling all-nighter's enjoyed at least a few hours of sleep each night. Showered and crashed out in his bed after pulling all the drapes closed, did enjoy having block out drapes in his room so that daytime could feel like night-time. Set an alarm to get up by 1pm or he was going to miss his afternoon classes at the university which started at 3pm today, was only going to get 5 hours sleep but that he could live with. Would make for easy sleeping when he got back home tonight.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc.), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 13

EI POV

EI walked around Logan and moved on down the hall, heard her mother tell Logan “You need to fix this, I don’t want her to leave.”

“I will, I promise you Brit.” Logan sighed right back.

Eliza walked away only to have her mother catch up to her, surprised her more than a little, looked at her questioningly. “I said I’d show you, I meant that EI.” her mother smiled at her.

“Alright.” She nodded “That would be nice.” It actually would be nice to spend some time with her mother. They hadn’t really done that, they’d drifted apart since she’d met Logan.

Her mother walked her all the way down to a path that was marked Lake Trail. “I’m not big on hiking EI, you know that. It was you and your dad’s thing.”

“It was.” She nodded. Her mother had not minded going camping, but only if it wasn’t hiking to get there. So, it had been her and her dad’s thing mostly. He was always so active, a man who loved the outdoors.

“So, it’s about an hour’s stroll down there but it’s almost an hour and a half to get back up.”

“That’s fine with me. I’ll just take a backpack with drinks and snacks. Oh, um I don’t have a backpack, you didn’t pack one.”

“I can get you one. It might be second hand though.”

“I don’t mind if it is, though a proper hiking one would be good, weatherproof. That way, if I get caught out in the rain my things will stay dry.”

She saw her mother smile at her. “I’m really glad you’re willing to stay EI, I love having you here.”

“Can I ask a question?”

“Yes, of course.”

“Am I once again unable to leave?”

She saw her mother sighing, "Logan is very strict on the rules here, El. I know you think its harsh, but sometimes around here, things get a bit hairy. The rules are there for everyone's safety. Yours included."

"So, I'm not allowed to leave once again."

"I don't know, I didn't ask him that. I would think you could go into the town of Logan for shopping and things. But I also think he'd want someone to go with you right this minute. Is concerned you'll just drive back to California."

"Why can't I? I am an adult."

"With nowhere to live or a job, El."

"I had a home and a job, but was removed from both. Even had an education all lined up, that was taken away from me too."

"It does seem that way. I'm sorry El. I was the one who insisted on you coming here. I want my daughter close to me. Might seem selfish, but, I'm your mother and I love you, El. Could you please just think about going to university here? It's only an hour's commute to Utah State. That's also where Conner and the boys go. Where most of the people here study. They seem to like it there, you could too."

Sighed "I guess I could consider it."

"I would really like that. We could take a drive out there and look at it, speak to some of the lecturers and maybe the Dean and get you in. I'm certain Logan could swing that for you."

"I'd rather get in on my own merits."

"Well, I know you will, you got into..." she trailed off.

Knew why, she didn't want to bring up that her studies abroad had been revoked by a man she didn't even know. Didn't even know a stranger to her could bloody do that. It made her wonder what kind of connections Logan had to be able to do that, or did he just throw money at the university.

"Could I go and look at it on my own? I don't really want someone asking questions for me, or pushing for me to go there, it would just be a look at the place nothing more."

"That's all I ask El, is for you to be open to the idea."

"Alright, I'll probably have to make an appointment with them, to get shown around."

"I can do that."

"No, I can do it." El stated firmly.

"You will let me know when."

"I will tell you the details." She nodded.

Wondered if this was the opportunity she needed to get out of here, if they would let her go on her own, she could just keep on driving, if she booked an appointment for a proper tour that could take hours and she might be able to stay all day and really get a feel for it, if she couldn't go on her own might well be stuck here even though she didn't want to be.

"Can we go find that backpack?"

"Of course, there is a whole storeroom down in the basement for lost and found or donated items. Let's go and see what we can find. If you like the university, you could purchase a few things there: a new backpack, a nice jacket maybe with the uni's logo on it."

"You're pushing mother, I'm only going to look, and I didn't say I would do it right this minute."

"I know, I know. I'm just a little bit excited that you might stay."

She was walked down a flight of stairs and into a massive laundry room. Once back in the apartment building, everyone turned and looked at them. Smiled and nodded to her mother, she smiled right back at them and told them all to just go about their jobs. This one lady came up and asked her if she was looking for anything in particular and once she knew, they were directed to another room and in there was all manner of donated school clothing and bags. She was told to help herself. She did just that, none of them were particularly waterproof from what she could tell, but might have another way out at this point, so she collected one of a size that was comfortable for her to wear.

Eliza returned to her room after her mother made her promise to have dinner with them in the dining room at six. Couldn't seem to get out of it. She had no real excuse, seeing as she didn't have a job or school to attend.

Packed her little backpack for her swim across the lake, she was hoping it wasn't going to be needed now. Used her laptop to browse the university and get an appointment for a tour, had to wait until the day after tomorrow, but one more day inside this gated community was worth her freedom. She could do a day here.

Go to the lake and read a book or something. She had seen the massive library on the first and second floors. It was huge. Had perused some of the books during her night walks in there when no one was awake and taken a few from the shelves to read.

Checked the weather. It was going to be nice and warm, a good day for sunbaking and maybe a little swimming as well.

She attended dinner to find not just her mother and Logan there, but several others and some boys and girls around her age. Just knew it was a setup for her to try and make friends, though out of the four that were there at the table, two of them had already dismissed her before. Didn't look particularly happy about being at this dinner either. She sat where told to, next to her mother, who sat next to Logan.

He smiled right at her, and welcomed her to the table, introduced her to the people at the table, his three CEO's Jared, Clayton and Parker, one she'd seen before in his office, Jared. She also got to meet their wives as well and the teens they were their children. Aged between 17 and 19, she answered a few simple questions that were asked of her, left those two girls, Julie and Rene, who'd dismissed her before, alone, they didn't seem to mind.

The one teenage boy that was sitting smiling at her introduced himself as Marlo. He was a large lad that was certain, with longish blond hair and light blue eyes. He knew he was good looking. It was all in the way he was leaned back in his chair, the way he winked right at her and told her he was certain they would get along just fine. Heard her mother giggle, looked at her with a raised eyebrow, she was not here to date anyone. Wasn't likely to do that in a long time, not after her last encounter. But she smiled at him and said what was expected of her, "That she would like that." He was the same age as her, he'd told her he'd just turned 18 a month ago, and asked her how old she was.

Heard Logan clear his throat but the boy's mother and father both just chuckled, she told him 18. He smiled even more at her if it was possible. He asked her a lot of questions about herself, didn't shut up the whole time. At least he was friendly. Her hand stilled as he asked if she had a boyfriend back home.

"No," she answered.

Saw him smile and nod, "Would you like to go see a movie with me?"

"Marlo." It was Logan. "Please give Eliza a chance to settle in before hitting on the girl."

"I'm not looking to date anyone." She stated, looking right at him and she wasn't.

"I'm only looking to be your friend El. You're new here. Why don't we hang out after dinner? I'll introduce you to some of my friends. They're not as snobby as some." He murmured and moved his eyes to the two girls at the table who didn't like her. She saw them both roll their eyes at him and go back to talking to each other.

"I'll think about it."

"Now, El. Did you get an appointment for a tour of Utah State?"

"I did, mother. The day after tomorrow I need to be there for a 10am tour. I'd like to go on my own though."

"Logan?" it was her mother, and she moved her eyes to the man as well.

"Of course she can. Conner and the boys will already be there, they can help or make sure she doesn't get lost. I'll give you Conners' number Eliza, and you can call him if you get lost, while there."

"No thank you. I don't need that. I have a map of the campus already, I won't get lost." She didn't need nor want Conner's number at all.

"Well, I'll give him yours, Eliza, just to be on the safe side. I would like you to let your mother know when you arrive."

"Don't give my number to your son, it's not at all necessary. I'll text mother."

"Thank you, Eliza." He smiled at her again.

"Honey, how long is the tour?"

"It takes about an hour and a half but I've got a few meetings with representatives for the degree that I would be looking at attending. So I will be there most of the day. They do encourage you to stay the entire day and explore and ask questions. So, I will do that."

"You're last meeting time?" Logan asked.

"What does that matter?"

"Just so I know what time you'll roughly be home."

She nearly glared at that man, had to refrain herself and just answer his question. "4, I have to wait around a bit for one of the professors to become available, but I don't mind, and I've booked in for a 30 minute appointment." It did look like a nice university, had her Bachelor of Arts and a Minor in Linguistics as well. Which would have been what she was going to study in Italy, though she did note the language options were not the same, was going to have to choose another one if she had to come here. Had been going to study Italian, but now would have to really think about that.

So, if worst comes to worst, and Logan did refuse her to leave, she could study there, so she had opted to really go and look at the place. It did look nice.

"So, Eliza, I hear you like water sports," Logan stated. He really was trying to interact with her, she realised, didn't much like it or want it, but she could see her mother was squeezing his hand. He was doing it for her, she realised.

“Yes, my father was into nearly everything.” She nodded.

“Well, we have a good selection of water activities, mostly used on the weekends, but if you like, I could have some of them taken down to the lake for you tomorrow.”

“Cool, I have a day off tomorrow.” Marlo smiled at her. “We can hang out at the lake all day.”

“Like what exactly?” Eliza asked.

“I have a jet ski.” Marlo smiled at her. “Can you use one? I could teach you myself.”

“I know how. I can also sailboard, and kayak.”

“Excellent, why don’t we hang out? It’ll be fun. Logan, is that all right with you?”

El frowned, why did everyone ask for the man’s permission? “Of course Marlo, though it’s going to be windy tomorrow, perhaps sailboarding would be more fun. Eliza, would you like that?”

She nodded, and he smiled right at her. “Excellent, I’ll make sure everything makes its way down there for you, first thing.”

Saw Marlo smile at her. “I’ll meet you out front, say after breakfast, we can take my truck.”

“Alright.” She nodded. She had planned on spending the day at the lake anyway, though had been planning on reading and sunbaking, but sailboarding would be fun, and if they had them that could be a good way across the lake. Keep her things dry too. Though that left the dilemma of getting one there for herself. It sounded like they weren’t down there in a boatshed, but somewhere up here.

Pity, that would have made her escape easier, she had to play along and gain a bit of freedom, so that man wouldn’t have her watched like he’d done in town. She just knew he was going to have Conner and his friends watching her or looking out for her. So, a few days of acting like she was going to give this place a go, and get along with everyone, and then hopefully he would relax and give her a bit of time on her own. If she got right into sailboarding over the next few days perhaps, he’d let her go on her own. That would be the ideal thing, no one would come looking for her if they thought she was just hanging out on the lake like normal.

She’d already laid the groundwork for that, told her mother she’d spend the summer on the lake, knew she had told Logan, otherwise he wouldn’t have asked about it at all. She was going to use that to her advantage.

Tomorrow, a full day away from this apartment building and Logan, just down on the lake, it did actually sound nice to her, would just have to watch herself with Marlo. That boy looked like he had plans other than water sports and she was not interested in that at all. She didn't need any more attention on her than she'd already gotten.

Asked to be excused after dinner, it was granted and she saw Marlo stand up and blinked at how tall he was, the boy had been all slouched back in his chair the whole dinner, he had to be over 6 feet tall. Saw him smiling right at her reaction to his height. "Come on El, there's a good horror movie running in the theatre, wanna go watch it."

"Not a fan of horror movies." She shook her head. Turned and walked away, found him falling into step with her.

"What do you like to watch?"

"Um, I guess corny stupid movies that make you laugh."

"Really, now that's an interesting choice. Tell me the name of one so I can understand that a bit better."

"My dad and I had this ritual every year to watch Sharknado movies."

Heard him snort "Stupid funny indeed. Now I'm certain I could pull some strings down in the theatre to get one of them up and running for you."

Looked right at him "I'm not looking to date anyone." She told him outright and she wasn't.

"Just hanging out, El. I don't mind stupid funny, though I like Tremors myself."

El laughed now, "Really?"

"Yep, giant underground monsters eating people, and each movie just got stupider funny."

She chuckled and nodded "That they did, something else my dad and I used to watch."

"Well, now I can get that up and running. For sure. You want to watch it on the big screen?"

Did she want to do that, he did seem nice and was offering to hang out with her "Not a date."

"Not a date." He laughed.

“Alright then.” It was only just after 7 and she wasn’t tired, had slept till late in the morning.

Saw Marlo smile and then just took her hand in his and led her off through the ground floor of the apartment building to the movie theatre “Marlo can I ask a weird question?”

“Go on.” He nodded.

“Why does this apartment building have an entertainment area like a mall?”

“We can get snowed in during winter, it keeps the young ones entertained and out of their parents’ hair. Logan pretty much just gives us whatever we want. Just nods usually at any given request, and a few days later it arrives.”

“Why?”

“He wants us to be happy, that is all. I heard you’ve had a bit of a tough time with him. He’s not so bad, you know. Just overbearing a little.”

“He’s a control freak.”

“Won’t argue with you on that one. Even more so when it comes to his family. Kept Conner on a very tight leash most of his life, still does in fact, irks Conner, pisses him right off some days. Now you’re his family and he’s doing that to you, it will take some getting used to. He doesn’t really get the need for personal space.”

She saw many eyes on the two of them as they walked into the theatre area, saw several girls glare at her, in fact, and tried to pull her hand from his, she didn’t need them thinking there was something going on there with him. Got the feeling those girls were not happy about it at all.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc.), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 14

Conner POV

They'd come home late last night, because he was trying to make sure that Atlas stayed away from his sudden obsession. The packhouse had been in darkness and he'd taken the elevator, not the stairs. It was closer to his room than hers.

His beast was settled and sleeping and as long as he didn't actively think about the human, neither did his beast, it seemed, so that was a start. He was happy about that.

He ate breakfast with the boys in the dining room as always and there was no Eliza there either. She was holed back up in her room, he supposed. No real surprise on that front, after his father had scared the hell out of her. They were headed out of the dining room after a long breakfast. Their first class didn't start till 10 this morning. Strolled with the boys into the foyer and saw Eliza trotting down the stairs practically bloody naked.

He slid his eyes right over her, she was just wearing a tiny yellow and orange bikini, and a pair of white shorts that stopped an inch below her bottom, had on white sandals, and there was way too much skin showing for his liking. Watched as her breasts bounced as she trotted down the stairs, felt his wolf Atlas stir inside of him, and heard Adam give a low whistle, and had to refrain from punching his own Beta. For lusting after the girl.

"Conner." It was his father, but his eyes were on Eliza and just how scantily clad she was dressed.

He saw her eyes move around the room. She too, had heard his father state his name and those silver-grey eyes of hers meet his. Locked onto his for a few seconds and then dismissed him, felt annoyance well in him.

Tracked her across the room, saw her actually smile and wave at someone and his eyes moved in that direction, to see who in this pack could make her smile and be happy like that for all to see. Only to find Marlo, Adams' younger brother, smiling right back at her.

Barely contained Atlas's snarl at seeing that boy, smiling at her, he could see Marlo was just wearing board short and a singlet top, was bare footed, they were going off together. Also noted that the boy was clean shaven and his hair was all nicely styled. They were going on a bloody date, he realised.

"Conner."

"What?" he snarled at his father, finally dragging his eyes away from Eliza, got that don't you speak to me in that tone, look from his father and took a breath in "my apologies father, what can I do for you?"

"I need you and Adam to run some gear down to the lake before you head out this morning. It seems Eliza is into water sports and Marlo has kindly offered to hang out with her today."

'I bet he has', Conner thought to himself, that boy had just turned 18 and has designs on Eliza. It was pretty damn clear and not just to him, but to anyone watching on.

"No real surprise in that, grew up in California." He stated to his father as he saw her go outside with Marlo.

"Mm, I'm just happy she's making a friend, and it was good that she had dinner with all of us last night," he saw his father actually chuckle now. Though he'd not known she'd had dinner with him, he didn't think she'd want to go near his father ever again. "You should have seen Marlo," his father smiled now, was happy, Conner realised "maybe the full moon will come and she'll find herself with a Mate." He sounded more than happy about that.

"Really you want another human here?"

"Enough, Conner. The girl needs to find friends and fit in. Your attitude towards her displeases me. Now go and take a couple of jet skis and sailboards down there, a couple of kayaks too. They were the things she mentioned she could do."

"Fine." He muttered and stalked off.

"Be nice to the girl when you get there." His father shot at him.

Yes, he thought, be nice to the girl that my wolf is utterly obsessed with, she'd likely end up naked and moaning his man, before screaming it. Shook that off as he headed out the front door of the packhouse.

Marlo's brand new white Mercedes G-Class was all shiny and freshly washed as well. He'd gotten it as a gift for his 18th, just a few weeks ago. It was parked out the front of the packhouse. Conner watched as Marlo held the door open for Eliza and she climbed up and into the passenger side.

"No wonder the boy was up early this morning primping and preening himself." Adam chuckled "My little brother got a crush on your stepsister."

Conner didn't say anything, but his jaw was tight, and his teeth were gritted at the thought of her with another, and Beta blooded at that. What the hell was she doing? He'd taken her virginity, knew she didn't just go around giving it away. But now she was going on a date with Marlo.

Stalked himself over to his own car, Adam hopped in the passenger side, still smiling. He seemed happy, Conner realised. "It's not going to happen Adam. Her and Marlo."

"Why not, it could. Her mother is Mated to your father. She could well have a Mate here. The full moon is only a few days away now."

"Don't bloody remind me, we still need to find a pack to go to for a mating ball." He muttered and felt full annoyance roll off of Atlas, because of him not wanting to be there when the moon set.

"I think they look good together." Adam chuckled, "and you never know she might get a wolf."

"It's very unlikely, her mother didn't."

"Just because her mother didn't Conner, doesn't mean she won't. Has her father's b***d line as well. Got some real unusual eyes that girl."

He pulled his truck up at the shed where the trailers with the lake gear were stored and got out, "two of everything, I just don't think it will happen." He muttered "Go and get that truck over there hooked up with two jet skis."

"Sure." Adam headed off to do just that, and Conner stared at the equipment here in the shed. He was unhappy about her spending the day with Marlo. The boy was her age and on the prowl, it seemed. He stalked into the shed and pulled out his own sailboard and loaded it up along with another, then got out his Kayak and loaded it up on the roof racks of his truck. Along with another.

Didn't waste a moment in getting down to the lake, got out of his truck to see her sitting on the ground on a towel, laughing with Marlo. "Marlo, get over here and help me unload the truck." He snapped at the boy.

Saw him look over and then just hop up "Sure Conner." Didn't seem phased by Conners anger, likely used to him barking out orders. Came on over while Eliza sat there and looked out at the water, ignoring him altogether.

Turned away from her and unloaded the gear with Marlo, "these are yours Conner."

"I am aware of that, she doesn't have her own here, so, mine she will use. You will use the other." He grated out.

Saw Marlo look at him with a raised eyebrow but then just shrug it off. Adam arrived with two jet skis. One was Marlo's and the other was Adams, which made him frown. He probably should have told him to bring his down here for her to use. Didn't want her using someone else's.

Walked over to where she sat looking out at the lake, she didn't look up at him at all, just continued to ignore him. "You need to wear sunscreen, or you'll burn. It's going to be hot today." He told her.

She didn't so much as look at him. He was getting more than annoyed about it, took a breath in and tried to calm himself and his annoyance. "Use my gear, it's in good

condition. I'll see to it that you get your own within a few weeks. Have you got a preference for colour or style?" he asked her. He was actively trying to engage her in conversation, be nice to the girl. It was what his father had told him. It was hard to be nice to her, when all his wolf wanted was to have him mate the hell out of her.

Atlas was currently breathing in her delicate scent and purring inside of his head at being this close to her.

There was no point in telling his wolf she was not their Mate, he didn't bloody listen. Didn't even seem to care that he couldn't scent her. Atlas only cared about the fact that Conner had succumbed to the scent of her arousal and his need to touch and taste every part of her. Not something he'd ever done with a girl before.

Only cared about the fact that he'd derived a great deal of pleasure from touching her, had been sated by her twice, his whole attitude in her bed had been different from anyone else he'd slept with, and that, according to Atlas, was what made him think she was going to be their Mate. Or would choose her for himself if not his Mate. His wolf was insane, choose her if not gifted to them, who wanted a chosen over a gifted, and all because the s*x was good.

Telling Atlas it was a one-off thing, didn't work. His wolf believed Eliza would continue to sate his needs, like no other. Conner was of the opinion it was just a one-off thing. He'd gotten off on others, though not often, and certainly not twice in a row by the same girl or as good as she'd been for him. His wolf was enjoying being this close to her, though that was clear.

"Don't bother. And I'm certain..." her eyes turned right to his "Marlo will let me double with him."

Anger was rising in him, he could feel it welling inside his beast as well. "I'm trying to be nice, Eliza."

"Why bother with that now?" She muttered and turned her eyes back to the lake.

"Do whatever you bloody please." He grated out and turned and stalked off, latched right on to Marlo's arm and looked right at him, shot down the mind-link 'She is the Luna's daughter, you will be courteous and respectful. You'll bloody keep your hands to yourself. Do I make myself clear?'

'Of course, Conner.'

'I mean it, Marlo. One bloody hickey on that girl and you and I will be having serious words.'

Heard him laugh as he walked away 'So protective of your new stepsister. I kept my hands to myself last night when we watched a movie. I'm sure I can as well today.'

That whipped Conner's head around. He'd taken her to a movie last night, so she'd had dinner with him and gone to a movie with him. Barely held himself together as he watched Marlo drop down next to her and offer to apply sunscreen to her back and her reply of "I could use some help with that."

Had to get in his truck and leave before he lost it completely and both Adam and Marlo realised what was going on with him or his wolf. Who was now yelling at him to get back down there, to be the one to spend time with her. He called his unit to him the minute he was out the front of the packhouse, and was gone to the university to be away from her. He needed to be away from her before his bloody wolf ripped Marlo a new one.

Though the day did not go so well for him, he was cranky, and his wolf was agitated all day long, knowing she was with another back inside their pack. Had refrained himself from calling Marlo and speaking with the boy.

Though it didn't help when Adam showed him a picture of Eliza in just her bikini sitting smiling up at the camera with Marlo behind her on his jet ski, the boy was too bloody close to her. That was a given. Especially seeing as she was practically naked and leaned back against him to get that photo. Was doubled up with Marlo just like she said she would be doing.

Didn't know if she was trying to royally tick him off or was trying to show him, she didn't care what he thought. Only knew that every bloody minute after seeing that photo his wolf was pushing him to go back there. Didn't want her alone with Marlo. Took himself off to the bathroom and glared right at his own reflexion, saw his wolf's eyes flicker right at him 'Not our Mate, back the hell off Atlas.' He needed to get his beast under control, or everyone was going to know what his beast thought she was to him. 'I don't want the pack knowing what you think. I will not be claiming her even if she is what you think. I will not accept a human Luna. I told you this already, so cut it the f**k out, Atlas, or I'll shut you down myself with silver.'

Got snarled at by his own beast 'You'll regret it.' was the angry retort he got from his wolf, before Atlas stalked off to the back of his mind and gave him peace and quiet finally. Then he told the boys he didn't want a single distraction coming from them, he had to many of those with their studies, that they really did need to focus upon it. They all just looked at him and shook their heads, they did have a group assignment to do and that was currently what they were trying to work on in the library. But they were also being distracted by a group of girls across the room.

It was really starting to annoy him. He would normally just ignore it, they weren't she-wolves and so it didn't interest him at all, but nowadays it bugged the hell out of him. He didn't even like seeing one of his unit, with a human girl for that matter at the moment, let alone the flirting that was going on between Brayden and the blonde chick right at that very minute. She was more than interested. That was a given.

She didn't appear to be a student here, just a friend of one of them visiting for a day or a few days, "For Goddess sake Brayden." He muttered "Go do the girl already." Didn't much surprise him that the man was up and gone in less than 30 seconds. Both Adam and Cameron laughed and leaned back to watch Brayden, with his new-found attraction.

"Why don't you all go, I'll work better without the distraction." He sighed after 5 minutes of them chuckling, they were gone as well and he was left to work on the assignment by himself. At least he could focus now, there was relative quiet around them. He nearly snarled at Adam when he told him they were all going for dinner and a drink, and asked if he wanted to come and join them. Knew the answer was going to be a no.

He didn't do humans, so they were on their own, "What time are you planning on coming back or for me to pick you up, where in one car you know."

"There's a company car always at the restaurant. Go when you're ready, we'll head home when it suits us."

"Fine, just remember early classes tomorrow. Have to be here by 8."

"I know, then the weekend and the full moon awaits us. Ask your dad where we are all going before then, hey."

He watched Adam pack up for all of them, and then they were gone. So much for the group assignment they were supposed to be doing. He stayed and completed his part of the assignment and then printed it out one for each of them and then headed home. It was nearly 10 by the time he got there.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 15

EI POV

EI didn't care for the fact that Conner was giving her his own personal sailboard to use, she didn't want anything to do with that man. As for the sunscreen, she was not stupid. Of course she was going to wear it. Always wore it, though tanned up nicely after a few hours in the sun.

Marlo was actually really nice and fun to be around, and some of his friends turned up, both boys and girls, and she got an introduction from him to them. A few of the girls were not so happy with him sitting with her all day and his attention, she noted, was on her. She even saw a few of the girls trying to get his attention and calling out to him.

“Are they always like that?” she murmured.

“Only when Adam or Conner are not around.” He shook his head “don’t worry about them, they’re used to being the centre of attention, that little curly-haired doll. She is Brayden’s little sister and if I so much as look at her the wrong way, I will get a beat down.”

“Who’s Brayden?” she asked.

“Oh, you see the guys that hang out with Conner. Well, the big blonde guy, that’s Adam. He’s my older brother, then there’s Brayden. He’s the one with black hair and Cameron is the brown curly haired one. That’s Conner’s social group, they’ll be the next in line to run things around here.”

“All of them?”

“Yes, currently Logan is in charge, then there’s my dad and Brayden’s dad and Cameron’s dad.”

“Keep things in the family, I see.”

“Yes, we do,” he nodded “Been like that for generations now. Will continue to stay that way.”

“That’s just weird.”

“No, that’s how big multimillion dollar companies run is all. We’re no different.”

“What does Logans’ company do and why does everyone live here work for him?”

“Logan has got lots of businesses, and as for everyone living here, that’s how he likes it El, all his employees in the one place. We even have a private hospital here in the gated community. Don’t need to go anywhere for anything most of the time, with the exception of food shopping and clothing shopping.”

“It’s weird.” She murmured again.

“Only to you, those who grow up here, think you would be the weird one, out there in a world that doesn’t just treat medical issues on the spot and we don’t pay for it here either. It is completely free, just walk in and state what the problem is, be treated for it and off you go.”

"Wow, wouldn't that be nice. Are your doctors' real doctors?" she asked, couldn't but help it, had never ever heard of a place that treats everyone for nothing.

"Of course, they are." He laughed. "Some of them train all over the country, can usually go to any university they want."

"Good for them." She muttered "Logan ripped me from my university and told me I can study here now."

"What? He's not normally like that. Where were you supposed to go?"

"Italy."

"Oh, yeah we don't really get to travel abroad so much, though the girls often move away at some point."

"I doubt I'll get that option, wasn't even allowed to go out the front gate for over a week."

"Logan can be controlling, but once you settle in and he sees that, he'll loosen up a bit. I'm going to start at Utah State next semester, got a few summer classes right now. You should come. It's nice there, you'll like it."

"I've got a tour tomorrow." She nodded "Was given a bunch of brochures of places Logan thought was acceptable for me to attend."

"Good, I'll likely see you there then. We can hang out for lunch if you like. I'll give you my number and just message me when you're ready."

"Gonna ditch class for lunch with me."

"I might, if you're nice to me for the rest of the day." Smiled up at him, as he nudged her a little and then stated "Lets show this lot how to make a splash out there, got up and pulled her up and over to his jet ski, where he hopped on behind her and they were off.

She did actually have a good day, and some of his friends were nice to her, so she got to know a couple of people around here. They had a big barbeque lunch down by the lake and headed back mid-afternoon.

Where she found both her mother and Logan, waiting, it seemed, for her return, how they even knew she didn't know. Her mother was smiling right at her as she hopped out of Marlo's truck, he strolled around to meet her. "Did you have a nice time, El?" her mother asked her right away, seemed eager to know the answer.

"Yes, Marlo is nice and so are his friends." She nodded.

"Good, I'm sure they'll be happy to spend time with you."

“Are you making them?” she asked right back, it was a little weird.

Heard Marlo laugh “No El, she is not, neither is Logan. I like you and I wanted to spend the day with you. Come on, let’s go inside and change. We can hang out as a group in the entertainment zone for a bit before dinner, yeah?”

She nodded “That would be nice.”

“Eliza.” It was Logan. She turned and looked at him. “I thought tomorrow after dinner your mother could show you a few apartments closer to where we live, though there are some renovations currently underway on the fifth floor, so be careful up there alright.”

“When did that happen? I didn’t see any when I walked about the other night.”

“This morning only. A whole hallway is being redone, it’s a bit messy up there right now. But tomorrow apartment hunting for you?”

“I guess that would be nice.” She nodded.

Felt Marlo tug on her hand “Come on let’s go change.”

Headed towards the stairs and Marlo frowned at her, “Why always the stairs, El? I’ve seen you take them more than once.”

“I have no access to the elevator, it’s coded and I wasn’t given a code for it.”

“What? That’s just stupid, I’ll talk to dad and get you one. You live on the Al...fifth floor, of course you need one.”

“The stairs are fine, Marlo. It’s a long hike up, but I don’t mind really. My high school had three-story buildings kind of used to stairs.” She shrugged.

“I’ll fix it.”

“Please don’t.” she shook her head, and headed up the stairs, only to have him fall into step with her. Not having a code for that elevator reminded her she wasn’t really welcome here, and was probably going to need that reminder, if she was going to be making friends. Staying put for a while to make it look like she was settling in, so she was granted that freedom to come and go as she please and they wouldn’t notice if she was missing for a whole day.

Was actively going to try and get along with everyone here for the next month and then hopefully she would be out of here for good. That was the plan anyway, needed Logan to stop asking her when she was due back. Would leave and come back willingly and then one day just leave and not come back.

Didn't want to risk it right this second, didn't think he'd leave her alone at all, send someone to bring her back, likely bloody Conner at that, and she wanted away from that man.

Showered and dressed in a pair of dark green casual Thai Harem Palazzo pants and matched it with a black smocked off the shoulder crop top. Pulled on a pair of strappy sandals and brushed her hair and pulled it up into a high ponytail so it wouldn't get in the way of whatever games they were going to play downstairs.

Smiled at herself, liked her harem pants. They were so very comfortable, headed off only to find Marlo waiting for her on the fourth floor landing, all showered and ready in nice fitting jeans and a tee-shirt that hugged every inch of his muscular chest and abdomen. Leaned off the wall and smiled right at her. Slid his eyes over her "You scrub up well El."

"So do you." she returned the compliment. "Does everyone around here look like you?" she waved a hand at his muscular body.

"Mm, yeah. It's kind of expected that we all work out and keep ourselves fit and healthy. You won't see many that aren't all muscled up, some more than others. Depends on their training regime, I guess."

She just nodded "I kind of feel unfit and flabby around all the girls here." She murmured.

"You're nothing of the sort. They train just like we do, is all." He smiled right at her "I like the softness of your curves. Not every guy wants a ripped abdomen and no a*s on his woman."

"Hey!" she gasped, knowing her butt was a little rounder than everyone here's was, but jeez he didn't have to point it out.

Heard him chuckle softly and then his mouth touched her ear "I like your a*s, perfect for grabbing onto it would be."

"Don't." she shot right at him.

"I won't, Conner will kill me for touching you. Warned already not to."

That stopped her in her tracks. "Why would he do that?" He certainly didn't care, had made it very clear to her that he was not interested, was an a*****e.

"Hmm, you're his stepsister. It's his job to protect you now, I guess."

"Well, he can go and shove it. Is an a*****e." She muttered and walked on down the stairs.

“What’d he do to you?” Marlo chuckled.

“Nothing, don’t worry about it.” she muttered again, but what hadn’t that man done to her, had done everything to her and she’d bloody let him, only to have him be in the arms of another girl within hours. Had been seduced by that man and dumped by that man in a matter of hours. Still couldn’t believe she’d let him do that to her.

She’d never let any boy do those things to her. Well, most of those things, she and Xavier had dry humped each other a few times and gotten off on it but their clothes had always stayed on, she’d told him she was going off to Italy, and didn’t want to just do it and have it mean nothing.

Though if she had not had that plan, she probably would have let him be her first, he was one of her closest male friends, was always fun and happy, known him for years. But no, she’d just let some man she barely knew have her instead. Only to find out he was a real a*****e. Wasn’t going to let it happen again, that was for sure.

Shook it off, needed to, had enough to contend with just seeing him around, the annoyed looks he gave her, he didn’t want her here and she wondered if he’d done that on purpose now, to try and make her leave. Well, if she could have left she bloody would have. Now she had to plot and plan to get out of here. Pretend to like it here and be nice to everyone, including Logan himself. She didn’t want to do that, but was going to have to, to gain his trust, she supposed.

She hung out with Marlo and his friends and had dinner with them all in the dining room. She could see her mother with Logan and his regular group of men and women, she supposed, down at their usual table. She caught her mother’s eye a few times and she was smiling at her. Liked that El was trying to make friends and wanted to be there. Was going to at least try. Sighed internally, she was lying to her own mother, in order to get out of this place.

She watched a movie with Marlo and his friends after dinner, and was walked back to her room all the way to her door by Marlo. She looked at him and smiled, “You don’t have to walk me up here, you know.”

“I know, I wanted to. It’s quiet up here and we’re alone at that.”

Backed up when she realised what he meant, she shook her head. “Marlo, I don’t really know you.”

“You will over time, El.” He smiled and placed a hand on the wall beside her head. “May I k**s you El? I want to.”

She shook her head ‘no’ “I’m not looking for anything like that, Marlo, I’m sorry.”

“Hmm, pity. We could be a nice couple. I wouldn’t rush you into anything, El. Take it nice and slow. I’m not after s*x if that’s what you’re worried about. I’m quite a patient person.”

“Thank you, but I don’t think I want to date anyone at this point.”

“We can still be friends though.”

She nodded “Yes.”

“Alright, if you change your mind, just let me know. I like you, El. You’re funny and outgoing, we seem to enjoy the same things.” His eyes were on hers and he smiled right at her. “You have the most beautiful eyes, El.”

“I know everyone tells me that.” She nodded and they did. Rarely did any man or boy pass up that opportunity if they were looking to start up a conversation that was flirty.

“Like liquid silver, practically glow when you’re actually happy.”

“Mm, I’ve heard that before.” She smiled “Go home Marlo.”

He chuckled, nodded and headed off down the hallway. “Oh El, I’ll see you tomorrow.”

She smiled at him and nodded.

“Oh, El, one more thing.” He turned and smiled right at her, just as she saw Conner coming up the stairs behind him, “you and I should go dancing under the full moon, this weekend.”

Her eyes moved from Marlo to Conner, and she saw the more than annoyed look on his face would have turned Marlo down normally, didn’t want to encourage his thoughts about dating her. Moved her eyes back to Marlo. “I’d like that, sounds nice.”

Saw him grin right at her and then just turned in for the night, didn’t care what Conner thought, didn’t care for his annoyed look right at her as Marlo asked her to go dancing.

Walked into her room and locked the door behind her. She must remember to lock it from now on. She did have that lock now. She’d thought it had been locked the other night, but clearly it had not been. Checked it this time, it was locked.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 16

Conner POV

He'd walked into the packhouse to see Marlo and Eliza strolling up the stairs together and felt pure annoyance roll off of Atlas at seeing it. Walked over to the stairs and headed up there himself. He was angry to hear that boy hitting on her, wanting to k**s her. Heard him tell her so and that tone he'd used, it was all charm. If she let him k**s her, that boy's head was coming off.

Then, to hear Marlo have the hide to ask her out, tell her that he didn't want to have s*x, actually using the bloody word, which could only mean he was thinking about it. Very bold of him, he heard her turn him down and felt relief flood through him, not just his wolf but himself as well.

Barely contained himself as he climbed that last flight of stairs to look down the hall to where she stood by the door to her room. Only to hear Marlo actually ask her out on the full moon itself. The man was looking for her to be his Mate. No wolf would ask a human, hell even a she-wolf, to be with them on a full moon unless they were looking to see if they were their Mate.

Conner saw that she saw him, saw her expression change near instantly at the sight of him and then she bloody agreed to go dancing with him. He just knew it was because he was there. It took all his self-control not to let Atlas rip out of him and rip Marlo into pieces. Saw that boy turn, a full smile on his face, to her agreeing to go on a date with him.

It was gone the moment he realised Conner was right behind him, just two steps down glaring right at him, Atlas near to being on the surface at that. It was very likely the boy and his wolf could feel the anger pouring off of him, right that very minute.

Heard her door close and snarled "What the hell did I tell you?"

"It's just dancing." Marlo stammered.

"I told you to keep your hands to yourself."

"If she's my Mate you can't do anything, Conner," he put forward. Though he sounded more than a little nervous to him. There was no guarantee she would be, he might like her and want that, but Atlas was damn certain she was not and wouldn't be standing for it. That was for sure.

Atlas was having none of that, stepped right up to him. "She is new," he grated out, "she is human and is the Luna's daughter. You will show respect, and if I hear you're kissing

that girl, it'll be me you're dealing with, your future Alpha you'll be dealing with. I suggest, Marlo, you walk away from that human."

Saw him swallow hard, knew Atlas was staring right at him, that his Alpha Aura was rolling out of him a little, couldn't bloody stop his wolf from doing it. He was fixated on the girl for the stupidest reason. That the s*x was good.

He stepped aside and growled "Go back to your floor and bloody stay there." Then stalked off up the rest of the stairs and down the other end of the packhouse to his own room. The full moon was only two nights away and Atlas was getting way out of control. Was currently prowling around inside his mind, flicking his tail aggressively back and forth. Wanted Conner to go down there to Eliza's room and be with the girl.

He hadn't been able to control himself the last time he'd been in that room with her, he was not about to go down there again. Knew she wouldn't want it either. Showered and slipped pyjama pants on. Tried to go to sleep, but his wolf was more than annoyed, angry with him, as well as Marlo for that matter.

She'd looked really nice in those clothes, her tiny waist emphasized by the fit of her top and the way her belly had been on display, so soft and he knew it was, had touched it, kissed it all before, there wasn't one hard ripped muscle on the girl. Had found that her softness was more than attractive to him. Shook it off and tried not to think about that night with her.

He closed his eyes and tried not to think about her at all, only to find an image of her standing there in the hallway once more in his mind. Knew it was Atlas pushing it at him, sighed he was not going to win this battle, his wolf wanted him thinking about her. Conner had to admit he also liked the pants she'd had on; they were nice, more than nice, had fitted across her h**s perfectly and then just flowed down in a soft flowing material. Bloody woman was also wearing his favourite colour, dark green. It was not by design he knew that, it was just a mere coincidence was all.

'Give it up Atlas please, I'm tired.' He murmured to his wolf as he rolled over and buried his face in the pillow. Felt Atlas huff in annoyance when Conner told him he was not leaving this room or going down there to hers. Stalked off to the back of his mind once more and finally let him be, so sleep could claim him.

Woke up mid walk down through the packhouse, his wolf in full control of his sleeping body, 'Atlas, what are you doing?' He practically roared at his own wolf, he could see where he was going, making his way down to the western wing of the packhouse. To Eliza's room and he knew it, damn beast had waited for him to fall deeply asleep and asserted himself to take full control of his human body without his knowledge.

'Enough Atlas.' He yelled at him 'Turn back right this minute.'

He couldn't get control back, was being forcibly shoved to the back of his mind, found Atlas right in front of Eliza's bedroom door, a hand on either side of the door frame, and wondered just what his wolf was doing. When he leaned forward and pressed his head to the door, his eyes were closed, and he was focused on something.

Conner frowned, this was the oddest behaviour he'd ever seen, focused himself on what his wolf was trying to sense out and frowned, couldn't understand it, didn't know what his wolf was doing, then felt his whole body get pressed up against her bedroom door and his wolf growl a little.

Prayed no one was up right this minute, he had no idea what time it was, prayed no one would see him or his wolf rubbing his human body on her bedroom door. 'Don't you dare scent mark her door.' He yelled at his wolf every damned wolf in the packhouse that came up here would smell it and his father would be on him in a bloody second. He was damn glad these doors were solidly built and soundproof when Atlas growled even more and started humping the door.

He tried to wrest control from his beast, pull him away from the girl's door, managed to get him to take a step back finally, only to see his own hand move towards the door. That key card to her room in his hand 'Don't you dare, Atlas.' He yelled at his beast 'Not your Mate.' Knew his wolf was going to Mate her, he could bloody feel it in every fibre of his being.

'Needs us.' He shot right back and then the door was open and Atlas stepped him right into her room and closed the door quietly. Receded the moment his eyes landed on her, Conner was now inside her room, she was all naked and crying out on her way to an o****m.

The smell of her arousal filled his nostrils and he damn near g*****d as his c**k hardened instantly. 'She needs us.' Atlas told him.

Stood there and just watched her as she used that vibrator on herself, realised she wasn't quite getting what she needed, was trying to, 'f**k Atlas.' He muttered and stripped his pants off, walked across the room and got right into that bed with her.

Saw those silver-grey eyes snap right to him and crashed his mouth down onto hers, and pulled her over to him, grabbed her leg and pulled it up over his h*p, heard her gasp and got rid of that toy of hers. It wouldn't do her any good now she'd had him. Pressed his hard c**k up against her and g*****d right into her mouth, he felt her hand push at him to try and stop him.

"Don't fight it Eliza, I need you and I know you need me right this minute."

"No." she gasped "Get out."

He slid a hand up her back and into her hair, tugged her head back and dropped his mouth to her neck, right to her mark spot and felt her practically melt, in less than ten seconds, her body was moving against his and she m****d right into his ear.

Slid his hand down her back and over her backside, gripped it and pulled her hard against him, rolled on to his back and pulled her on top of him, found her mouth and kissed her once more, hungrily, devoured her mouth with his, as his hands gripped onto her h**s and rocked her against him, till she was rocking herself against him.

Found her face buried in his neck and g*****d as she rubbed her body against his, grinding herself hard and fast against his c**k, could feel her cumming rolled her over to take full control and look down at her as she started crying out, found that sweet spot and slid himself right over it firm and slow and watched her cry out as her o****m peeked.

He didn't stop, he couldn't. He needed to have her, slid his hard c**k back down through her wetness and to her entrance and pushed himself in, one firm thrust deep inside her and g*****d out loud, she felt amazing to him, so freaking tight and hot around him.

Started moving, keeping it slow and steady, had to remind himself she was still human, still new to all of this. But goddess his control was barely there, was gone the moment her hands found their way on to his body, touching him, wanting to touch him. He looked down at her and found those eyes of hers looking right up at him.

Leaned down and kissed her, put a hand to her face and sighed when she kissed him back, felt her legs wrap around him and that was all he could take, slid an arm around her tiny waist to hold her to him as he took her hard and fast, every part of him that was touching her was hot like it was on fire, and the scent of her arousal was drowning him.

Heard her crying out as wave after wave of pleasure started rolling through her body, knew she was getting close, so was he for that matter "Eliza, say my name." he gasped, his breathing was heavy and ragged.

He wanted to hear her call out his name when she came, needed it he realized, more than wanted it, needed to hear her voice crying out for him, to know she was enjoying every minute with him as much as he was with her. "Please Eliza." He practically begged her a moment later, had never begged a woman to say his name before, had never had to. Never even care right before this minute for anyone to call out his name.

She was coming quickly now, nearly there, and finally his name burst from her lips, his seed spilled from him the moment he heard her cry out his name, couldn't hold anything back from her. Her pleasure was his pleasure, it seemed. Held himself inside of her. His mouth on her neck, his body heavy on hers and he knew it, but it felt so damn good being naked with her. He didn't want to move.

Closed his eyes for a moment and just let himself enjoy being with her, no Atlas pushing his thoughts at him, just himself, breathed her in and sighed "Goddess Eliza," could already feel himself getting hard again, was going to need to have her once more.

Started to move slowly, taking her gently this time, his mouth moved along her neck in soft k****s to her ear and then down her jaw till his mouth was on hers, slow and gentle like he was taking her, could already feel her body moving with his. A soft m**n escaped her, and he slid a hand down her body to caress her breast and stroke over her n****e. It hardened at his touch and he g*****d. Cupped her breast and it fit perfectly in the palm of his hand, looked down at her, to find those eyes of hers right on him, smiled down at her, "I want all of you Eliza." He told her as he picked up the pace a little, and then even more "Goddess, I need you." he g*****d could feel Atlas pushing his alpha wolf stamina at him knew his beast wanted to watch everything, feel everything. Was looking right down at her as he took her, her lovely breasts bouncing with each thrust. He moved his eyes lower, watched himself take her, slowed his strokes down to really watch and goddess, it was the hottest thing he'd ever seen, her body accepting his, accepting all of him, thrusting up to meet him and wanting him.

Moved his eyes back to hers, she was still looking up at him through half-closed eyes, gasping and moaning in pleasure, her hands clinging to his arms. "Look Eliza, I want to see you, watch me pleasure you, look down and see." He told her softly.

Waited for a moment looking right into her eyes the whole time, until they lowered and looked between them so she could see him taking her, g*****d as her arousal built even stronger, watching was turning her on, "you make me so freaking hard Eliza." He told her "No one has ever made me this hard before." He wanted her to know that for some reason.

Saw those gorgeous eyes of hers turn right back to his and then her hands were on his neck and pulling his mouth down to hers, he went willingly. 'More.' Atlas growled at him, and Conner didn't disagree with his wolf. Kept it slow till she was arched up and her body fluttering all around him, crying out for him once more.

Pulled himself from her, rolled her over the moment she finished cumming and took her from behind, thrust hard into her once more "f**k yes Eliza." He g*****d and started taking her, his hands on both her h**s watching what he was doing, put a hand to her neck and pushed her down a little to get that bit deeper inside of her and to see everything, was taking her eagerly and hearing her cry out repeatedly, feel how wet she was and the way she pushed back at him wanting more of him.

He wasn't too much for her, everything he wanted he was able to have, only pleasure came from her, m***s and cries. It was music to his ears, leaned right over her as he thrust hard to c*m himself. M*****d her name right into her ear as he held her tight to him. Then slipped from her slowly and felt her shiver and gasp a little and smiled to himself.

Lowered her to the bed completely and lay there on top of her, didn't want to leave right this minute, just breathed in her delicate scent, sighed softly to himself. She could sate him so damned good. 'We're not done, Conner.' Atlas told him 'one more time, I want to watch her c*m for us.'

For once, he didn't even argue with his wolf, he was too lost in the scent of her to care right this minute. A part of him knew he shouldn't be in here with her. Both of them would regret it tomorrow. But that part of him that wanted to be buried inside of her, smell her arousal once more was winning right this minute.

Lifted himself up off of her and tugged her over in the bed and looked down at her, touched her face gently and then just kissed her long and deep, could feel Atlas pushing all he had at him to mate her, let him. He knew he was in real trouble with this girl, but couldn't, it seem, deny her or him.

Took her once more and goddess she wanted it as much as he did, couldn't get enough of him anymore than he could her. His mouth was on her mark spot hot and eager and he was thrusting like crazy, really taking her, could hear her screaming with pleasure, Atlas was howling inside his mind and only then did Conner realise he was trying to actually Mate her, Atlas was pushing everything they had at him.

Yanked himself from her body before he knotted her and Mate her completely, was gone fled the damn room, only glanced back at her on the bed briefly right before he banged out into the hallway, stumbled about a bit and fell down to his knees, it was so bloody painful, his body had been about to knot hers and now she was not there to be knotted.

Atlas was in agony being ripped from her, from claiming what he wanted 'We can't.' he gasped at his wolf.

Conner knew he was right, he could not knot the girl. She was bloody human, it could really damage her, couldn't ever do that. Not unless he had claimed her, Marked her first and she would have to claim him back. Only then would knotting her be safe for her. She didn't even know what he was. They were completely out of control in that room with her. He had to get away from her and he had to stay the hell away from her.

Managed to pick himself up off the floor and make his way back to his room, his whole body was an aching mess, and he knew why, he had denied his true nature at the most crucial point. Atlas had receded to the back of his mind, and was also still a ball of pain from what they'd nearly done.

Looked at his watch on the bedside. It was barely 3 in the morning, took a freezing cold shower and tried desperately to get rid of how hot his body felt, not that it helped at all with the shaking as he walked back to his bed and laid down. He did hope she was alright, that one look back at her on her bed, that split second glance at her had seen her hand on her mouth and her eyes had been tightly shut, going to cry he thought, or

was trying not to. He could have caused her pain when he ripped himself from her body. He didn't know. He couldn't go back in there and ask her if she was alright, not without wanting to finish Mating her. Conner knew that she was going to hate him now, really bloody hate him.

He closed his eyes and scrubbed a hand over his face. This was not good. Nothing about having that girl here was good. Needed to make her want to stay away from him, might already have just done that. He didn't know, she'd stated she was going to stay all summer before going away to university. Could he survive that long with her inside the pack? He didn't know, only knew that he had to find a way to keep her away from him. Also, knew he wouldn't do it with the use of a she-wolf, like he had done the last time. That would likely really hurt her now. He was as sure now as Atlas was that she was going to be his human Mate. Could not scent her out yet, but craved her, couldn't bloody get enough of her and she could take him and handle all his needs. All tell-tale signs that she was his human Mate.

Why would the Goddess do this to him, give him a human Mate? He didn't understand that at all. He was going to have to reject her, find a way to do it. Words that would work for one that doesn't know what you are to them. Or get her to state it, she'd come close enough before it was likely she would get it right out of pure instinct, just had to wait till he knew for certain.

Though he foresaw even that was going to be a massive issue, Atlas was going to go ballistic if he tried to make her say those words, so how did he do it without pissing his wolf off completely? Could think about it right this minute, his wolf had not just receded in pain, but seemed to have buried himself way down deep inside his subconscious mine. Barely able to be registered by him right this minute.

It was going to have to be her doing, not his. He could accept it easily enough without having to state his rank if she knew nothing about what he was. A simple I don't want you either, would do it, or should do it. The only problem he saw there, was, would Atlas let him utter those words. He would have to get them out quickly. Or she might just find herself bitten by his wolf without knowing what was going on and attached to him forever.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 17

EI POV

She didn't understand it, how she just couldn't say no to that man, his touch on her skin, the way it felt to be kissed by him. He just showed up once again inside her room at the most intimate moment and had told her she needed him, that he needed her.

How did he even know? And she had been struggling to reach her o****m, had never really had that problem before, knew her own body and how to sort out her own needs. But just couldn't, it seemed to get there now, not since she'd been with Conner that first time.

Then there he was and his every touch had been amazing, his every k**s had made her feel like he wanted her, needed her, he'd taken care of her needs and before he'd taken her even. She couldn't stop him, not the first time, not the second or the third, her hand was on her mouth right this minute, as tears trickled from her eyes. He was just gone, ripped away from her and ran from the room.

It hurt to not have him with her, her whole body was shaking, and she felt cold all over at the sudden loss of him, pain welled inside her chest and she knew there were sobs coming. She was desperately trying to keep them inside of her. She didn't want to cry over that man, but it seemed she just couldn't, not do it, held them back for what felt like an eternity of pain.

Dragged her cold shivering body from her bed to a hot shower, and slid down the wall to just sit on the floor and finally let the sobs rack her entire body, as she hugged her knees to her, her forehead on her knees, curled up into a tight little ball of cold shivering pain, even the hot water wasn't warming her inside.

She felt so cold and alone right this minute. She barely knew the man, had been treated terribly by him that first time, and she knew deep down inside, that it was not going to be any different when the sun came up. That nothing had changed between them.

He had a girlfriend. She had seen her with him that day, a pretty ginger-haired girl. She was tall and every part of her was lean and toned. She was nothing like that girl. The complete opposite of her, in fact, she didn't have an ounce of muscle on her like that girl. Didn't even understand why he came to her, used her like he did.

How was she going to survive being here, leaving this room and having to come face to face with him, when it hurt so much. It was her fault as much as his. She should have stopped him, said no and meant it, yelled and screamed at him to get out. Instead of leaning into him and kissing him back, wanting him and she knew she had. Hadn't fought him at all.

His touch created something inside of her, that she just didn't understand. Had no idea if it was just because he was the first guy she'd ever slept with and wanted to keep that connection. Wanted to believe it wasn't just him using her. Or if there was actually

something real there that neither of them could deny, once alone in a room together. Only knew that now he was gone she felt pain inside her chest.

Didn't know how long she sat there in the shower, or how she managed to get up and move out of her bathroom. Looked at the state of the bed, the sheets were a complete mess and she could smell s*x in this room. Damned near reeked of it, couldn't get back into that bed, it would smell of him, like walking through the deep woods after rain, the smell of pine needles and damp earth after freshly fallen rain.

Took a deep breath in, and made herself walk over there, pulled all the sheets from her bed and then shoved them down the laundry chute she'd found in her walk-in the other day. Then just grabbed pyjamas and pulled them on along with her dressing gown and curled up on the couch and stared aimlessly into nothing.

Perhaps this was the reason her mother couldn't leave, perhaps she just couldn't say no to Logan, only Logan wanted her in return. Eliza was under no illusions that Conner was going to be just like he had the last time with her. He was just a cheating a*****e and she was the mistress, it seemed. Didn't like that thought at all, it just made her feel even more cold and lonely on the inside.

Forced herself to get up and eat something when her alarm went off, she at least was getting out of this place today, could spend all day at the university and not be anywhere near him. Spend her day trying not to think about him or what had happened between them.

Got dressed in a pair of tan cargo pants, and pulled on a long sleeved white high-collared knit top, it also covered that hickey on her neck, that he'd left. Didn't want anyone seeing that. Didn't want to look at it herself for that matter. Just caused more pain to see it there in the crook of her neck. At least it was in a place she could cover it.

Pulled on a pair of black lace-up chunky boots, which she always wore with her cargo pants, tied her hair up into a ponytail and looked at herself in the mirror, looked horrible, she realised, tired and miserable, just how she felt right this minute, didn't know if make up was going to fix anything, at least she'd stopped crying a few hours ago and the puffiness of her eyes was gone, she just looked tired and like she'd not slept in days.

Stood and did her make-up, though only made it light. She didn't have a steady hand today to put her eyeliner on, so didn't do it, just foundation, mascara and soft pink l*p gloss. She wasn't out to look good, she was just trying to hide how tired and drawn she now looked.

Made her way downstairs to head off to her tour to find both Logan and her mother waiting for her, in the foyer of the complex, didn't really want to have to deal with them at all. Had enough going on with her right this minute. Didn't have the energy to be honest to argue with either of them.

"El have a nice day at the university today and honey really do think about it please."

"It is a good university, Eliza, and you'll meet lots of people your age. Make some friends for sure."

She just nodded to them both "Remember I won't be home till nearly 6." She commented.

"We know honey. I heard Marlo say he'd been looking for you today, is going to be there himself."

"I know, we're having lunch." She nodded.

"It's good to see you are making friends with kids your age finally, Eliza."

"I have to go, or I'll be late." She stated and excused herself, she didn't want to be talking to anyone right this minute. Walked around them and headed out to her car. Drove herself to the university and parked.

She got there 10 minutes ahead of schedule and saw a coffee cart, got herself a double shot latte with vanilla syrup as well, needed the hit of caffeine and the sugar to function. Had been awake since 1am, she thought, not an ounce of sleep since Conner left her either.

Still felt like crap and couldn't seem to pick herself up or shut herself down completely. Block it all out and just move on. Not even her drama classes were being able to be pulled on right this minute. Something was really wrong with her right this minute.

She strolled along with the group of potential students, chatted with a few of them. Some of them were from all over the country, it seemed like they wanted to come here to this place, it had a good reputation, it was massive too. It housed a lot of students and had other campuses affiliated with it that you could attend as well.

She was walking along after the tour was over with a map in her hand, just strolling around looking at things that had been pointed out but not on the actual tour itself. When she heard Conners' deep voice grate out "What are you doing here at my University?"

Lifted her eyes to look at him after a moment to take a breath in, and deal with having to look at him and that angry scowl she knew was going to be on his face. Pain welled near instantly inside of her and then anger just burned and then bubbled up inside of her. He'd been the one to come to her, he'd been the one to leave her, it was not her fault. How was he so angry with her, when it was his doing coming to her room.

Lowered that map in her hand and turned her eyes right to him as she stopped walking, allowed all her anger to land right on him, knew she could look mean and nasty instead of sweet and innocent, had that Italian temper when she fired up properly.

Glared right at him with all she had "It's not your university Conner. I can be here if I want to." She grated right back at him.

"I don't want you coming here, Eliza, pick somewhere else to go to." He shot right back at her.

She could well imagine he didn't, looked absolutely furious just with her thinking about it, "Then tell your a*****e of a father to let me go to Italy, and I'll go there."

Saw his jaw ticking in an instant and she didn't think it was because she'd insulted his father, no it was because he likely already knew his father was pushing for her to go here. Wasn't going to let her leave and go overseas.

"There are plenty of others in the state. Choose one of them, go stay on campus elsewhere, you don't belong here. Eliza." He shot right at her.

Stared right at him, could feel that well of pain getting worse with every damn word he spoke, ignored that fact that Adam was telling him to calm down not be so mean. They didn't know just how cruel he was in all likelihood.

Oh, she knew she didn't belong here. Didn't need him telling her that and reminding her of it "You're right on that, I don't belong here. I don't want to be here. I don't want to be anywhere near you, or you f*****g family." She yelled right at him, didn't even care that she was practically screaming at him in a very public place. Screwed up that map in her hands and hurled it at him "I hate you Conner." She screamed as she felt the tears burn in her eyes, as pain ripped at her, didn't even understand why it bloody hurt to tell him that. Turned and stalked away from him before she was crying right in front of him.

Needed to get away from him, she would bloody leave, get the hell away from him, felt a hand on her arm as she stalked off, turned and swung her arm, didn't want anyone touching her, her hand connected as hard as she could hit, with a face. It wasn't Conner though. No, it was one of his friends, Brayden, she thought.

Saw him stumble back and let go of her, to touch his own face, looked completely shocked by the hit he'd taken, she might be small but could hit real good, had been bullied once or twice and learned the only way to deal with that was to stand up and fight. Her hand had connected in a full open-handed slap right to the side of his face. His eyes were very wide now as he stared down at her.

She didn't even apologise to him, it wasn't him she'd thought had put a hand on her. She had thought it was Conner, turned and stalked away from him back to her car. No one followed her or came after her. They let her leave, got to the exit of the car park and

knew she was to turn left, sat there for a full minute and then snapped her right indicator on.

'You want me gone, I'll bloody go' and she was. Just drove away from that school, from him. From where she was supposed to live. Was going home, back to California. She didn't care to be here anymore, wanted the hell away from all of them. Needed to go back to her life.

Heard her phone ring about half an hour later and looked at it, Marlo. Sighed pulled the car off the road and stared right at it as it rang, he would be wondering where she was, couldn't say she'd left to go home to California. Didn't want anyone knowing that. Let it ring out, she didn't trust herself not to cry if she had to talk to someone.

Text him "Sorry Marlo, I met a few like-minded students on the tour and were going to have lunch in Logan." It was a full lie, but it was all she could come up with, she had completely forgotten about her lunch with him.

"Alright, perhaps we can hang out later." Was his reply.

"Sure." She replied and sat in her car, another lie. He'd been nice to her, admitted he liked her even and here she was lying to him. But couldn't tell him the truth. What if he told Logan? How far would she get? No, this was her chance, she wasn't due to return to that place he owned till nearly six. And it was only just after midday. She would be halfway home by then. Far away from all of them, before they even realised, she was gone.

Closed her eyes and sighed. Would he come for her? Would he send someone for her? She hoped not. She was 18 and didn't have to stay there, though all her important documents were still there in her room. She'd not actually been planning on leaving today. But here it was, leaving and with nothing but her license, her passport and birth certificate were back there, had no idea if she would be able to get them back.

Maybe she could have Marlo mail them to her. He seemed nice enough. Called Cordi and got her message bank, "Cordi, I'm out, and coming home. Get there tomorrow sometime." Clinked the line closed and put her car in gear and pulled back out onto the road. This was it, she was taking control of her life.

Going back home to California where her friends were, she wondered if six hours was enough to get away from that place. Pulled over to get something to eat around three and sent a text message to her mother after some thought while she tried to eat food, "Hi mum, I met some really nice students here today and we're all going to have dinner together, they're studying the same as me. I made some friends today. It was nice. So, I won't be home till late. Just thought I'd let you know."

It took a few minutes for a response to come back. "That's great honey, Logan would like to know where you're going to eat and roughly what time you'll be home though."

Shook her head, of course he would. The control freak needed to know where she was, so he knew where to send his people to bring her back. Little did they know she was already several hours away.

"I don't know, one of the parents is finding a place now, for like 7, I think. But there will be a group of us and their parents as well, so I'll be safe." Used the word safe because Logan used it.

"Oh, we could come and meet them."

"No, that's fine." She typed right back "I'll text you when dinner is over, does that help?"

It took a full minute for the reply to come back, "alright. Have fun honey."

"Will do." She sent back and then sat and stared at her phone. She had just lied to her mother about where she was and what she was doing. Was in fact never coming back and had just given herself a bigger window to escape that place. Hoped Logan wouldn't take his anger out on her mother, but it was all she could do.

If she told her mother she'd left she knew they'd be coming for her, now she had plenty of time to get away. Well into the night, no one would even come looking for her till like 9 or 10, if they realised that she wasn't back by then. Wondered if she could text them, she was home and in her room, was tired and ready to crash out. They'd just missed her coming in was all. That would give her the entire night, and probably half the morning as well.

Could be home by then if she drove all night, that was. Actually, ate and drank, and was feeling a little bit better knowing she was out and had gotten away. But she was starting to get tired already, had been awake now for fourteen hours. But still had a very long way to go.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 18

Conner POV

Conner did not sleep, as much as he wanted to, he could not, it took well over an hour for the pain in his body to reside, and then he was just lying there staring off into the

darkness that was his room. A room that was his till he was Marked and Mated, sighed heavily into the darkness, might be in here for a very long time at the rate he was going.

Got up in the end, seeing as he couldn't sleep, and packed for his trip to the New Moon Pack, to take their pack members to the mating ball that they had been invited to. A ball he needed to attend, to not scent out Eliza, sighed again. And wondered who, in their right mind, didn't want to scent out their own Mate? When they had an inkling as to who it was, and just refused to be around when the moon set to know the truth of it.

Punched his alarm at a quarter to five and mind-linked to the boys to skip training and pack, they would leave directly after their last class at the university.

They didn't seem to mind, heading off to a Mating Ball was always a good thing, and now they knew they couldn't hold those here in the pack, having to go away for a weekend once a month wasn't such a bad thing. Kind of like a weekend getaway, they weren't required to do much, just show up, eat, drink and find a mate. Laze about for a whole evening, a day and then come home the next day.

It was actually really nice for the visiting pack, nothing to worry about, just chatting away and getting to know others. Hanging out with your friends, hooking up if they were allowed to, depending on the inviting pack.

Some Alpha's and Luna's frowned upon that, didn't think it was a good idea, others didn't so much as care either way. He'd been to the New Moon Pack dozens of times, they'd been allied forever or for as long as he could recall. It was a pretty open pack, and there was no super fancy Mating Ball, it was just a massive spit roast out under the stars.

The whole pack had the feel of a luxury camping resort, there was nothing over two stories' high, and most of their wolves lived in log cabin-type buildings with three or four families per cabin. It was a little weird coming here if you didn't know them.

But Alpha Thomas was friendly, kind of a hippy, nothing really was vetoed here, to the point that if you wanted you could go and smoke up a storm down in the greenhouse and get nice and high if you liked that thing. He'd been there and done that, so had his whole unit at some point. Was pretty sure they would do it again when they got there.

Sometimes it was fun watching wolves trying to get high. It could take a lot to do, some wolves just let their human counterpart roll around on the ground happy as larry, others didn't like the loss of control sensation and burned it out of the system fast. For him, he'd done that twice but not in years, and wasn't interested. He needed to be on alert when he was here and in charge. He had seen his father down there in the greenhouse more than once though.

The man probably needed to do more of it, to mellow out a little more and release that temper of his, though Jared had stated it wasn't so bad after meeting Brittney and the man wasn't wrong, or until Eliza had turned up and challenged him at every turn.

Shook that thought off, didn't want to think about her. He dressed for the day, took his suitcase downstairs and put it the back of his Lexus RX Luxury SUV, and then headed for the Luna's office, to find that list of people allocated to the mating ball. Collected it for himself and mind-linked to each of them to tell them to meet them out at the uni just on 2pm. That's when his last class ended and they'd leave from there, to make sure there was enough room in the cars to bring back Mates at least two available seats per car. Each of the pack trucks could seat five comfortably.

His father made sure they had a whole fleet of vehicles that were used just for Mating Balls and attending other packs for assistance there were twenty of them. They were Mercedes G Class vehicles that were all white, and all seated 5 individuals, so they could take a hundred warriors for assistance if need be. His father, like himself, always travelled in his own car, though his father's was a Lexus Flagship, Luxury SUV.

Headed off to uni the moment breakfast was eaten, the boys were a bit annoyed with him for that, leaving earlier than the normal, but that was because they were all tired, hadn't come home till nearly midnight due to being out with the human girls and they were tired, and he was riding them all about that group assignment that they'd ditched.

Conner stead fastley kept his mind on class work and was completely unaware of Eliza being at the university this morning, until he saw her walking along through the university holding a map, to show herself around, it seemed. He looked her over, knew why the high-collared shirt, he'd left a deep mark on the crook of her neck, she looked tired he thought absently. Probably didn't sleep any more than he did.

Atlas was still gone from him, and it annoyed him that this one human girl was causing him so much turmoil. She was always just showing up wherever he went, always saw her when she moved about the pack. Was the one to have to track her down if she was bloody lost in the pack somewhere.

"Hey, Eliza's, here." Brayden had said and pointed her out to all of them.

"Marlo did say he was having a lunch date with her today. I think those two are hitting it off quite well." He heard Adam chuckle. "He was up early telling mum and dad she might be his Mate, and she'd agreed to go dancing on the full moon with him. So very excited this morning, young and in love." He laughed, both Brayden and Cameron laughed as well. It seemed they all thought it was cute and funny.

Conner could feel his anger notching up at the thought of Marlo going on a date with her. He'd warned that boy to stay away from her, yet he was still going on a bloody date with her. Without Atlas around, he could do and say as he pleased around the girl. Wanted to make her leave so there was no lunch date with Marlo.

Picked a fight with her, to get her to leave. Though he had not expected to see so much anger pouring out of her over it, and he could actually see the tears pricking in her eyes. Then she was screaming how much she hated him right to his face, in front of his unit. Which made him feel very uncomfortable inside his chest at hearing those words screamed at him.

A dull ache pulled at him, and he knew why, if she said those words after he scented her out, their bond was going to be severed. It wasn't going to take much for her to sever ties with him, she seemed to just know what to say to get rid of him. Every time that girl shot angry words at him, he knew if he'd scented her, it would be over for them. Her own instincts, it seemed, were to reject him.

Then she was just gone, stalking away from him, before those tears he knew were there were falling down her face. He saw Brayden go after her, his Gamma off to try and calm her, couldn't bloody help himself. It was his nature to want to comfort her. Not that the man knew what she was going to be, and he was going to keep it that way.

Could hear Adam and Cameron telling him, well chastising him really, that his words had been uncalled for, that he should not be mean to her, to ease up on the girl. She was still trying to fit in and even heard Adam state 'Get over this human-hating thing you have' down the mind link at him.

Watched as Eliza slapped Brayden damned hard and glared right up at him, he had not been expecting her to hit the man, hadn't seen anything like that in her before. He'd really pushed her buttons today, it seemed. Internally, he sighed to himself, not even he liked seeing how upset she really was, if he was completely honest with himself.

Watched as his Gamma real back more than one step and then touch his own face, must have hurt quite a bit. It certainly sounded like it did, and he wondered if she thought it was him trying to stop her. Him she was trying to hit, wanted to hit by the look and sound of it.

Then she was gone, walking off once more, knew she was going to leave and go back to the pack. That was what he wanted right this minute; he didn't want to have to see her with Marlo. Didn't want Atlas coming back and finding her with that boy. Anything could happen if his wolf found her dating someone else right this minute.

"What the hell is wrong with you Conner, pain was rolling off of that girl." Brayden snapped at him as he walked back towards him. A full handprint on the man's face could be seen.

He knew it was, had seen it for himself. They just didn't know why, not the real reason. It had been nothing to do with the words he'd stated, but that they had been together yet again and then he'd left her, and was trying to make her leave to hate him. Needed her to so that rejection would be easy for her to state.

“She really does hate you right this minute, that’s what I felt from her. What the hell Conner, she’s still trying to fit in, you need to get over your stupid human s**t. She’s your stepsister and isn’t going anywhere.”

Glared right at him and then turned and walked away. That dull ache in his chest had gotten worse with his Gamma’s confirmation that she really did hate him. Needed to be by himself right now, knew none of them would follow him. They were all annoyed with him for being mean to her. They themselves had no issues with humans.

He drove out of the university himself, they had their bags in the back and were met with a dozen pack cars who were all headed off to the mating ball, up in Idaho. To a pack they were affiliated with and had three packs they didn’t know attending as well.

A three and half hour drive up to the Caribou National Park in Idaho, to where the New Moon Pack was situated, he knew them, they knew him but there were going to be plenty of unmated male and female wolves that he and his unit and the pack members hadn’t seen yet.

At least his beast was still elsewhere right at this minute, it didn’t seem to bother him that the full moon would be here tomorrow and they were not in the pack, or anywhere near Eliza. Or at least not yet, anyway. It could well be a problem when he came back from being by himself.

Was shown to his room and took a long hot shower before attending an informal dinner and checking out the other packs, they’d arrived a little late having to go right from the university after classes finished at 2pm. There were plenty of she-wolves here for this thing, that was good. Needed that for his men, for the pack.

His pack was out drinking and meeting and greeting other pack’s members. He introduced himself to a few of the Alpha’s that he didn’t know, and they all sat and chatted, he was much younger than most of them and they were all Marked from what he could tell. Some from up north, and others from Montana and Wyoming had come from all over the place, he realised.

Saw his unit head off to go dancing with some of the others, he himself opted not to, that ache in his chest just wouldn’t bloody go away at all. Retired to his room to be alone, needed to be alone so he could be a little on the miserable side, his wolf had abandoned him and was still not back, been hurt by Conners sudden leaving of Eliza, and now his human mate hated him.

He told himself repeatedly it was what he wanted, for her to hate him, but it wasn’t sitting well with him at all, could easily bring to mind those eyes of hers with those tears brimming, she’d held them in, wasn’t going to let him see her cry. Though he knew she would have, at some point, let them fall.

Brayden had told him all he needed to know, she was full of pain, rolled off of her, and he was the cause of it. He couldn't even call her and ask her if she was alright and right this minute a part of him wanted to. Kind of needed to know if she was alright and not knowing was causing that ache inside his chest to linger and he knew it.

Might not want a human Mate, wanted her to hate him and reject him, but he was in pain because she was in pain, despite what he wanted, he was unable to stop being drawn to her, couldn't it seem not, even not think about her, right this minute.

Scrolled through his phone and realised he didn't have her number, couldn't even call her right this minute. Doubt she would pick up anyway. He wouldn't if he was her, and he wasn't about to call Marlo and ask him how she was doing. That boy was likely with her though. Looked at his watch. It was just after eight. She must be alright. If not, his father would be on him about her.

It was likely that she was just back in her room trying to avoid him. Hell, it was a certainty that she was going to be avoiding him. Even that thought brought that bloody ache back to him. He wanted to strangle his own wolf for knowing what she was to them and telling him.

He called his father to see how things were going, though didn't bring Eliza up even though he wanted to, had to say nothing. It wasn't like him to bring any girl up in conversation and he wasn't about to raise suspicions where his father was concerned. Though it didn't take long for the man to bring her up.

"Did you see Eliza at the university today? She was attending a tour today."

"I did, around lunch time." He stated he had seen that girl get angry and be upset and then leave. "But only briefly, how did it go?" he asked. Surely his father would know, they would have been on her the minute she got back to the pack. On her to find out if she would be attending it. It was his father's preference for her, to keep her close to the pack and as safe as possible.

"Good, she made some friends, is out to dinner with them and their parents, as we speak, not due home for an hour or so."

"You let her?" he frowned. That wasn't like his father, to let her go off with unknown people. Hell, they could be wolves for all any of them knew, not allied at that. That was certainly not like his father to do.

"Of course, I did, Conner. I am trying to make her feel more comfortable here, and that includes letting her hang out with friends she makes outside of the pack."

"Fair enough." He replied, kept his tone reserved, didn't want his father picking anything up. At least she was alright, had calmed down and gone out to hang out with people

she'd met today, it seemed. Took some comfort that his attitude towards her wasn't so bad that she'd holed herself up in her room once more.

"How's it going up there?"

"Good, three unaffiliated packs, met some new Alpha's. I was courteous and polite, a little reserved, seeing as they were not allied. Just like you taught me to be."

"Good, get any tingles out there Conner."

"No." he answered, knowing he wouldn't either. Nearly sighed out loud at that thought, "The boys are all off dancing and getting acquainted with the she-wolves."

"Alright, it would be nice if you or some of them could bring a Mate home."

"Yes, it would. Don't get your hopes up, father. I looked about, didn't even see anything that attracted me, to be honest with you." He hadn't actually looked, was not actually interested in looking, knew there was nothing here that was going to interest him.

"Sometimes, Conner, you never do until it just smacks you in the face. You might have known your Mate all your life and not once looked at them like that and then boom, she's all you can think about. All you want. You'll find the one son, your only young yet. There is plenty of time to find your Mate."

"I know we have very long lives, could take decades or more even."

"Don't give up hope, she's out there somewhere, just waiting for the right time to meet you in all likelihood."

"Probably." He murmured. "I'll let you go. Go spend time with Brittney. I'm sure Eliza will be just fine."

"Of course she will, and I'm already curled up with my Mate." He chuckled.

Conner rolled his eyes "Night father." And clicked the line closed, did not need to hear that from him. Curled up with his mate was just a polite way of saying they were either naked already or were well on their way to being naked.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc.), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 19

EI

By 7pm she was so tired that she had to find a place to stay, found a hotel and booked herself in at Cordi's order. She'd been pulled over on the side of the road, her concentration had been lacking and she'd nearly driven off the road, had been talking to Cordi at the time, who yelled at her about driving when tired.

Eliza had told her she just wanted to put as much distance between her and them before they knew she was missing was all. Cordi understood but reminded her crashing the car was not an option, so she found the nearest hotel and booked herself in for the night. Didn't even have any clothes to change into, she was going to have to sleep in what she had on and wear them all day tomorrow as well.

Looked at her phone. It was nearly dead as well, flicked Cordi a message about her phone nearly dying and was going to switch it off to conserve the last of the battery for tomorrow till she could find a place to buy a new charger and then just crashed out for the night.

Slept like the dead for 10 solid hours, it was still dark outside, but she was up and awake, had already paid for the room, so could leave anytime she liked. She'd managed to drive all the way to Mesquite, Nevada yesterday. Only had a 5 hour or 6 hour drive to get home to Cordi's place, with stops. Looked at her phone and wondered if she should turn it on at all or just leave it.

She didn't have to pick up any calls or answer text messages, but wanted to be able to let Cordi know she was up and leaving already. It was only 5am and she would be there by lunchtime today. She also needed to know if they were looking for her, and had sent someone after her. Knew that control freak Logan would want to yell at her and tell her to get her butt back there, knew he would tell her if he sent someone to fetch her. Had told her that before, and she was certain he'd done it, so she understood that she was to return to his gated community. His bloody cult where he probably thought he owned her.

Turned that phone on and waited for it, for all the messages to come through, got nothing from her mum or Logan. She did get a few messages from Marlo, she half smiled, and sent a message back. "Sorry Marlo got in late went right to bed."

Wondered if she should text her mother the same thing, left that alone if they didn't know she hadn't come home then she still had plenty of time to get all the way back to California. Got in her car and headed out. She stopped for breakfast an hour later and bought a charger stared at her mother's text message.

"El, how was dinner? Will you come down and have breakfast with Logan and I?"

They didn't know she wasn't even there, bit her lip and dared to answer it. "Morning mum, I'm really tired. I got in later than expected. Sorry I didn't call or text but I'm home safe in my room. I'll see you later on, okay."

"Lunch then honey, we wanted to talk to you about university."

"Lunch is good, see you at 1." Closed her eyes, didn't want to lie to her but had no choice in the matter. Wondered how long it was going to be, that she was getting away without Logan not knowing she'd not come home. He seemed to just know everything, let it go. Didn't really care she was out and free and only a few hours from the safety of Cordi's house.

It was nearly 10 in the morning when her phone rang and it was her mother, ignored it. It rang right back, then there were text messages. They finally knew she wasn't there. Had lied to them and was not in that gated community at all. Got a call from Marlo a little while later and sighed, didn't pick that up either.

It barely stopped ringing or dinging and when she did stop and finally answered it, at noon her mother sounded frantic and then furious at her. Yelled at her for lying about where she was, that they knew she wasn't home, hadn't even come home. Demanded her to get her butt back there and when she simply stated "No." then her mother demanded to know where she was.

"I'm going to grandma's. I'll live with her." she stated. It was another lie, but it would put them all off where she was headed. Her grandma lived in Seattle. It was well away from where she was going and would give her another day to get the hell away and hole up somewhere.

Her grandma would also never turn her away, would welcome her with open arms and she knew it, also knew that her mother would know this. "Don't come and get me, Conner made it very clear I'm not welcome there. Will never fit in." and she clicked the line closed.

Threw that man under the bus, wanted to hurt him like he had hurt her. She recalled his father telling him to play nice the day she arrived, that man knew Conner didn't want her around. Now she would put him in the line of his father's anger. She was gone and not coming back. Conner had been the one to tell her to leave and so she had. He could take the blame if his father was furious about it.

Though really, why would he be? Only her mother really wanted her there, no one else. Hoped they wouldn't come looking for her.

Drove down Cordi's street and parked the car out the front, saw Cordi coming, "You look like s**t El."

"I feel like s**t to be honest." El nodded and hugged her friend. "I'm just glad I'm out."

"I don't think it's going to be that easy, your mother called me like an hour ago and asked if I'd heard from you."

El sighed "I told her I was going to grandma's."

"Perhaps she called her."

"It is likely, and I of course, had not called grandma to let her know I was coming."

"Maybe you should, at least they'll go there first. Come inside."

She walked in and found Collin there. He smiled at her. "Free I see."

"For now." She nodded as her phone rang again, looked down at it and frowned, she didn't know that number. Ignored it "Cordi can I shower and borrow some clothes."

"Of course, El, you know where it is. Go clean up."

El nodded and called her grandma on the way, "Honey where are you? Your mother is worried sick, said you're missing and on your way here. Are you?"

"Yes, I am. I don't want to live with her new family, they're mean to me." She told her, had gotten that bruised wrist from Logan, seen his temper and what could she say about Conner himself. He was just cruel to her at every opportunity.

"Oh, I didn't know you were having trouble out there, your mother said you were still adjusting, but even I knew it would take time."

"I don't want to stay, grandma. That husband of hers, she gave him everything and he got my application to Bologna University cancelled. Didn't even ask me, just did it. Told me I had to stay here and study."

There was silence on the line for a long moment, then she heard her grandma sigh. "When will I expect you to get here?"

"A day or two I kind of just drove off without knowing where I was going, but now I'm headed your way." Another lie, though she would probably actually end up there at some point, couldn't live here at Cordi's forever.

"Eliza Hunt?"

Bloody woman was a lie detector. "I will come there, but...not right away can you just tell mum I've called and told her I'm coming to you."

“Are you actually coming?”

“I have nowhere else to go.”

“Fine take your time, be safe and call me. Where are you, EI?”

“I’d rather not say grandma, if you don’t know...”

“Fine, you will call me every day, till you get here, do you understand?”

“Yes grandma.” She heard the line click off and sighed, had forgotten how difficult it was to lie to that woman, a human lie detector, nothing got by her at all. Showered and changed into a pair of loose-fitting jeans and a tee-shirt. Found Cori and Collin sitting on the lounge together as they always were, couldn’t separate them at all, they’d been together solidly for a year, and they were still such a lovey dovey couple.

“I called grandma, bloody woman smelled a lie even over the phone.”

Saw the pair of them laugh at her as she sat down, “So what happened to make you leave EI? I know it was the plan to leave but you got out quicker than expected.” Cordi asked.

“Mm, I was granted permission to go and look at the local university, told them I would do it on my own, had a run in with Conner while there and he told me to leave, so I just did, realised I was out, and no one was watching me.”

“And they just didn’t notice you didn’t come back?” Collin frowned at her.

“Conner wouldn’t care, likely wouldn’t tell anyone.” Felt more pain touch her chest at that thought but knew it was true, he didn’t want her there. “I was supposed to be at the uni all day, I made up a lie about meeting some others that were going to study the same as me and we all decided to have dinner. Told her I’d made friends, which I knew she wanted me to do.”

“Your mother is gullible.”

“Got sucked into a cult, so yes, gullible is correct.”

“Well, you’re out now and you got that ticket to Italy already purchased. You just got to change the dates right.”

G*****d “I left unexpectedly; my passport is back there.”

“I****t, you should have been carrying it on you the whole time.”

"I know that now, I had a bad night and just wasn't thinking to be honest." It was the truth she had not had the brain power to think about anything at all that day.

"Anything to do with that mark on your neck." Cordi pointed at it.

"I don't want to talk about it." she muttered.

"Conner?"

"Yes, I don't understand it, Cordi. I don't like him, he doesn't like me."

Saw her friend sigh and just nod her head, "Life is confusing at the best of times, sometimes people just attract for who the hell knows what reason."

"Agreed. It's stupid and I know he has a girlfriend. I saw her myself, yet I still couldn't say no to him, Cordi."

Heard Collin sigh "Perhaps there's a weird a*s connection between the two of you, some sort of love-hate relationship."

"You two are so weird." She shook her head "All in love all the time, going to study at the same university, take all the same classes, don't you want space of your own, time for yourselves?"

"No." the pair of them chuckled.

"We're going to do everything together." Cordi smiled at him and he smiled right back at her.

"Well, seeing as I have some time, before they hunt me down, take me shopping I need clothes."

Cordi smiled at her "Now you're talking."

They shopped and had a meal, and she ignored many calls and text messages from her mother and Logan, also from Marlo himself. Then she just turned her phone off altogether. She was sick of them all trying to talk to her and find out where she was.

She wasn't going back, and if they did make her go back then she had to organise another way out before then. She was going to get the hell away from all of them at some point, likely this was not a full out, she was going to need a better plan than to just run off to Cordi's or her grandma's. Needed a proper plan, she already had a ticket purchased in her name for Italy, Cordi was right. She just needed to get her passport, change the flight date and get on a flight out of the country without telling anyone where she was going. The question was, could she do that?

She had bought the ticket herself, hadn't even told her mother about that, she'd been off with Logan getting married at the time. Not a care in the world for her daughter, so El had started sorting out her trip to Italy on her own, seeing as her mother hadn't been around to do it with her.

But now she had to have that passport that was back there in her apartment inside Logan's building, and she didn't think he was just going to send it to her if she asked for it and she didn't have the time to report it missing and get a new one issued before she was due to go to Italy either.

Spent the next day sitting planning what she needed to do, how to get out for more than a day, have a reason to leave and be on her own, come back here to California and spend some time here. There was only one she could see, one card to play. Was going to have to play it hard when it came time to do so. But surely it would work if not, that hellish swim across the lake it was going to be.

Either way, she was getting out and going to Italy for her studies.

She was getting her life back.

Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 20

Conner POV

Conner was sitting around with the other Alphas and their Units chatting away. Finally, it seemed that Atlas was awake or on his way back from the recess of his mind, could feel him prowling inside his mind right down deep; the moon setting was only 4 hours away and that beast knew it. He heard his phone ring and frowned when, before he could even answer it, so did his entire units.

Looked at them all and they were all looking at him as they reached for their phone's. He also noted every Alpha and their units sitting around him all looked at them, they all knew what it meant, s**t was likely hitting the fan back home. Conner excused himself and his unit. Everyone just nodded.

He nor his unit answered their phones in front of everyone. If they'd all been allied, he would have, but had protocol to follow, around unaffiliated packs. Headed for his room, saw it was his father, looked at Adams' phone in his hand, it was Jared.

"In private boys." Was all he said.

His phone stopped ringing and it didn't ring back, there was no message left, his father was waiting for him to call him back, knew he would. He stepped into his room and called him. He didn't even get a hello out before his father was snarling down the line at him "What the hell did you do boy?"

"On what?" Conner answered and felt Atlas finally arrive to the front of his mind, which now felt heavy as his beast looked around, actually, turned Conners head and looked at the room they were standing in and snarled nearly right away.

"Don't you snarl at me son. Eliza ran away."

The snarl had not been meant for his father; his wolf was displeased about not being in their own pack. Though now he felt his beasts' anger rise instantly that his father had lost her. "So why are you blaming me? I'm not even there."

"Because Conner, she finally picked up the phone after hours of ignoring it, we thought she was here, told her mother she got in late, and they'd have lunch to discuss her attending Utah State. It was fine, we thought. But when I saw her car wasn't here, I inquired with the Gate guard, and he told me, she never came home."

"Father, just tell me why it's my fault, I don't need the whole bloody saga." He snapped as he pinched the bridge of his nose.

Heard his father snarl right at him, the man was fully pissed off, it seemed. "Well, Eliza told her mother and I quote 'Conner made it very clear I'm not welcome.' What the hell did you say to her."

Closed his eyes now, "We had a bit of a run in at the University and I told her to leave. I didn't mean runaway; I meant go back to the pack." Could feel Atlas's anger welling up even more and wondered just how long he was going to be able to keep his beast reined in. He knew how and what Atlas felt about the girl, knew his beast had no issue with the fact that she was human. That was a Conner issue only.

"Well, she left. Obviously took your words another way. Only now I just managed to find out where she is going, still trying to confirm that, in fact, before I have to start sending people all over the place looking for her."

"Perhaps, father, it is for the best she's gone. If she doesn't want to be there. You should not make her be there."

“You know the reasons, Conner. Your stupid f****d up reasons about not liking humans, get the hell over it. Brittney is upset and frantic, which son I’m now putting on your shoulders. When I confirm where Eliza is, you will be dropping everything and going and bringing her back. You so much as buck up about it. I’ll be beating you senseless when you get home, toss your a*s in the cells for months.”

Conner wanted to scream at his father but held it in, knew his old man would do exactly what he said, he’d been punished before, gotten a beaten over his remarks about Britney and put in the cells for a week. His father would have no qualms over doing it again. “Well, when you know I guess call me back.” He snapped instead, and clicked the line closed.

‘Where are we?’ Atlas snarled right at him the minute he was off the phone.

‘A mating ball in the New Moon Pack.’

He felt Atlas snarl right at him ‘Why? We don’t need to be here. Where is Mate?’

‘We don’t know she is our Mate?’ Conner shot back.

He could feel his wolfs aggression pouring off of him, as he turned to his door opening and his entire unit walked in, they were all off the phone, knew they would all know what was going on, all got orders from their own fathers on what was expected of them.

Not one of them looked happy to him, Brayden was near glaring at him. Adam was the first to speak, though “What the hell Conner?”

“I didn’t tell her to run off.” He shot right back.

“I should have seen it.” Brayden muttered “She was so very hurt by your words yesterday, Conner.” He shook his head.

Felt Atlas bristle and snarl ‘What did you do?’

‘What I had to.’ He shot right back at his wolf, Atlas had already been gone, hadn’t seen their fight or her reaction. Likely if he had, the damn beast would have been out of him to console her, and his whole bloody unit would know what she was to him.

“So, we got orders.” Adam told him, “I’ll be going with you and if you so much as state anything unkind to Eliza, I’ve been ordered to report it. Freaking Beta Ordered by my own father, Conner. I will have no choice in reporting it. Brayden and Cameron will be staying here and monitoring the mating ball and take the warriors and their new mates back to the pack.”

Just bloody great Beta Ordered, to report all interactions between him and Eliza, he was going to have to keep himself in check the whole time, not to mention trying to control

Atlas as well. His jaw was ticking like crazy, Atlas, he could tell, was furious with him. Eliza had runaway and it was his fault.

“So where are we going?” Adam muttered, he could well have a Mate in one of these unaffiliated packs and was now likely going to be gone before the moon set to find out if he did or didn’t.

“I don’t know, apparently they’re still trying to confirm that.”

“We’ll wait then.”

The three of them were just watching him and he knew they were all annoyed with him, likely it had been repeated to them that it was Conners’ words that had sent her away. Despite the fact that, that was actually what he wanted. Her gone, and going back to her life and he did. She was human and unhappy in their pack. He did feel a bit guilty right this minute. It was better for her out there in the human world. Where she could live a normal life and he could find a she-wolf to be Mated off to.

Felt Atlas snarl right at him at that thought ‘Shut it Atlas after what you did. This is not just my fault.’

‘You hurt her, not me.’ His beast growled at him.

It was nearly an hour before his father called him back. “Where is she?” he asked.

“Going to her grandmother’s in Seattle. She wants to live there. Apparently, my family is mean to her.”

“You did bruise her, and you and Hale snarled at her and terrified her, so what can you expect, father?”

“It wasn’t me who made her runaway Conner, she was going to stay all summer and watch me with her mother. It was your bloody attitude that made her leave.”

“You were the one who started freaking her out. I barely have anything to do with the girl. Just have to clean up your bloody mess where she is concern. Tried to sneak out because of you, ran away into the woods terrified, because of you. I had to be the one to bring her back both times.” He snapped at his father.

Heard the angry roar down the phone, as did his whole unit, for that matter, “This is your doing, Conner. She left because of you, voiced it as such. You will bring that girl back here to the pack and make her feel welcome, get over your stupid issue, whatever it is, or you’ll find yourself and Alpha without a pack. I’ll bloody give it to the human girl. Make her the heir and you’ll be, bloody nothing.” His father snarled right at him.

Turned that phone from his ear to look right at it, stared at it incredulously, he wouldn't dare give the pack to a human girl. "You wouldn't dare." He finally snarled right back.

"Try me boy. Go and bring that girl back or so help me, you'll be punished so severely you'll never look at a human like a lesser creature without fear of reprisal." The line clicked off, he'd felt his father and his wolf's anger with him. Knew they had a temper and knew he bloody meant it. His jaw was ticking.

'It's supposed to be her pack anyway.' Atlas shot at him 'get what you deserve for hurting Mate.'

'Not our f*****g mate.' He snarled at his wolf 'I didn't scent her, did you?'

Could feel his wolf getting ready to rip out of him, was all bristled up, and ready to go and hunt his so-called Mate 'Stay put Atlas.' He shot at his beast. Knew his entire unit was watching him, could see him wrestling with his beast for control.

'Seattle is a long way away; it will be quicker to drive, not run.' He finally shot at his beast, who snarled right back at him but stopped fighting for control. Looked at his unit. They were all watching him. They had all heard his father's threat, they also knew his father likely meant it. If he was dethroned, what would happen to them? Would they become her unit? It was likely. Hell, he knew they would, either that or they'd all also lose their positions within the pack.

Stood there and breathed to try and calm down before he spoke, he was more than angry about his father's words, about having to go and track her down yet again, only this time with a bloody full moon upon him, looked at the time and snapped "how long does it take to get to Seattle?"

Saw Adam google it "almost 12 hours, if we drive non-stop."

Pinched the bridge of his nose, he was still going to be able to scent her out when he got there, could do that 10 hours or so after the moon set. And that wasn't going to happen for another 3 hours. "Plot the course. We'll leave after I've spoken with the Alpha here. Go pack." He told Adam and then looked at Brayden and Cameron, they were both just watching him. "Do your job, don't give father a reason to be mad at you."

"Don't you either, Conner. Just remember she's only 18, trying to adjust to a life she doesn't really understand anything about." Brayden told him "Please just apologise to Eliza, be nice and actually mean it. Your words yesterday were harsh. Too harsh for her, it seems."

He honestly didn't know how he was going to handle coming across her under the weight of the full moon. Would rather never do that, leave her out there to be free and human. Never claim her, didn't want a human Mate. Certainly not one that was prone to bolting away at every little thing she didn't like.

Watched Brayden and Cameron leave the room when he just stood there for a full minute and said nothing. He had to be nice to the girl or Adam would report it, was under an actual order from his own father to do so.

‘Serves you right.’ Atlas snarled at him ‘We go and get Mate now?’

Conner ignored his wolf, he had no choice in the matter if he wanted to keep his title, and he knew his father would disinherit him. Just to please his own Mate, he could be one hell of a mean son of a b***h when he wanted to be. The current Luna was upset and that meant so was the Alpha and his need to fix it and placate his Mate, was now his top priority. She may be mated to his father, but that didn’t mean she wouldn’t leave him, if her need to have her daughter with her, wasn’t met.

His own mother had left him for another because she was unhappy and she was a wolf herself, a human would be more difficult to placate; and leaving him, who knew, might well be easy for her to do. Conner didn’t know, just knew that even once Mated, you could just up and leave, reject at will for whatever reason one saw fit. It didn’t even look like it hurt to do so.

Certainly, hadn’t hurt his mother or father, they’d both shown no signs of pain upon rejection of each other. He’d heard it was very painful, could kill one if the rejection wasn’t wanted. Made him wonder if both his mother and father had wanted to reject each other and if so, for how long?

They’d shared the same bed as far as he knew, seemed happy to him as he’d grown up, his mother rejecting his father had come as a great shock to him. It was completely out of the blue as far as he knew. He’d not seen anything that led him to believe they were unhappy.

Packed his suitcase and realised he didn’t even know where in Seattle he was going at this point. Text his father, he didn’t want to talk to him at all ‘The address in Seattle would be good.’

Got that a moment later, along with her grandmother’s name, Sloan Hunt, her grandmother on her father’s side obviously, no wonder she was going there, missed her father a lot from what he could tell, not even been a year since his death and her mother had married another, was still grieving his loss. Going to her grandmother’s was probably a good thing for her. Would make her feel closer to him, might comfort her a little bit.

“Send me Eliza’s phone number. I will call her and try to talk to her.” he text his father.

Got that a moment later along with “you’d better be the perfect gentleman, Conner.”

Rolled his eyes “Yes, father.” He muttered as he pocketed his phone and headed out of his room.

Gave his luggage to Adam and went to explain there was a family issue that he needed to deal with, that he would leave his Gamma and Delta here to watch over his pack members. Alpha Thomas asked if everything was alright? They were affiliated and he did know his father had a new Mate, that she was human as well. Had been there for her Luna Ceremony even.

"It will be, got a runaway stepsister I have to hunt down, is all." He told him and saw Alpha Thomas laugh heartily.

"Ah you got to love the human girls, so much fun catching them. You should ask my brother some time about his human Mate, run away a dozen times, didn't understand and when she was told, freaked the hell out, then snuck off in the middle of the night. He thinks it's funny now, he didn't at the time."

Conner shook his head "Are they always difficult?" He muttered.

"No, I hear Brittney practically fell all over your father."

"Hmm, that's what I heard." He nodded, he'd not been there for that. But it hadn't taken long to bring her in either. No real trouble with her, seemed to just accept him, dated him for a few weeks, came back here, was told after the full moon what they were and showed, seemed to just accept it, was marked and mated. So, she could get used to the idea of becoming a wolf herself, had her Luna Ceremony, didn't get her wolf and his father had taken her on a holiday for a few weeks before they'd gone and collected her daughter, against her will at that.

He got in the car with Atlas pushing him to drive, he wanted to be in control so that they would get there within the time frame of the full moon setting. She didn't pick up his call when he told his car to call her. Frowned when she didn't pick up, but then realised she wouldn't recognise the number either. Atlas was annoyed that she didn't pick up either, and from what Conner could tell, about that annoyance, it was because his wolf wanted to hear her voice, and make sure she was alright.

Search the [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

If you find any errors (non-standard content, ads redirect, broken links, etc..), Please let us know so we can fix it as soon as possible.