

Hybrid Aria

Chapter 36

Aria's POV

"Isn't this great? We are gonna have a baby," said

Reid, kissing the side of my face. I was in shock.

This was not the sort of news I was going to be

excited about. Zoe wiped tears from her eyes as she

excitedly congratulated us. I just zoned out and put

my walls up, blocking Reid from invading my mind

and my tumultuous thoughts. I didn't want kids; I

have been raising a kid since I was a kid myself.

This was far from anything I wanted. I didn't want

a baby, to bring a baby into this chaotic world, let

alone right now when we were about to go to war. A

war I also didn't want a part of. This was far from any future plan; I had come up with in my head.

The worst part is the excitement on Reid's face, how do I break it to him, that there won't be any baby?

I watched as my newly found father and my mate spoke excitedly about kids and potential baby names. Zoe, noticing my silence, placed a hand on my shoulder and looked down at me, her eyes knowing. Zoe knew I didn't want kids, and after seeing everyone's excitement, how do I tell them I don't want to be a mother. Zoe nodded her head in the direction of the kitchen, getting up I followed after her.

"That's some big news," she stated. While making up orders, I leant on the bench next to her. Keeping my voice low so Reid and my father didn't overhear.

"I don't want this, Zoe. You know this already." She nodded in my direction, so I knew she heard what I said.

"I know the timing isn't great with everything going on, but you will come around eventually dear, Babies are a miracle."

I shook my head. This was no miracle; this was a disaster. How do I tell

Reid? I looked up at the ceiling, things were going to get worse before they

got better and chucking a baby in the mix is just ridiculous.

"I am not keeping it. I don't want this, Zoe. He can't make me." Zoe put the egg flip down and glanced around paranoid someone overheard my words.

"You know Reid, even Ryder won't allow that, Aria. You do anything to jeopardise this pregnancy and Reid is going to lose it. Even I know werewolf

pregnancies are sacred, you will be shunned and forced to leave the Pack

Aria, think of Lily."

"I am thinking of Lily. I have enough on my plate without adding more to it.

I need to focus on her, focus on keeping her safe, I can't do that pregnant.

Besides, it isn't a real werewolf child. It will be a Hybrid so they can think

what they want, it's my body, my choice," my voice coming out louder than I

would have liked. Zoe stuck her head out, looking back into the diner, I did

the same. My father and Reid were both happily bonding over baby news. I

felt guilty for not wanting to keep this baby, but at the end of the day, it is my

choice. Reid isn't the one that has to birth it. I am.

Zoe pulled me back into the kitchen. "You know, you won't get a say in this.

You're going against the Moon Goddess Aria, you do anything Reid will see

it as a betrayal, shit he might even kill you himself. You don't get a say in

this, you know this." I rolled my eyes; this was stupid.

"Here I was thinking since it's my body I would get some say, what about all

pro-choice, women have rights these days."

"Yes, you're right but not werewolf women or Hybrids like you. You don't

get that choice the Moon Goddess chooses for you.”

“Well in my case she chose wrong, I want no part of this.” I could hear Reid,

walking over to see what I am doing. I quickly shut my mouth so he wouldn't

hear what we were speaking about. Zoe seemed to get the message and

remained quiet.

“You ready to leave?” I nodded my head. My father walking in behind him,

stepped past Reid and embraced me in a hug. I wrapped my arms around him

too, it felt good finally knowing the truth and having everything out in the

open, but at the same time, I wasn't forgiving so easily that they lied to me.

“Congratulations sweetie this is awesome news, I can't believe my daughter

is giving me a grandbaby,” he said gripping my shoulders. It would look

funny to outsiders seeing as my father looked not much older than me, I

would have to remember to ask him at what age he stopped aging, and also

more about my family history. My father turned to Reid, “Make sure she has

plenty of blood on hand, even though her mother was a werewolf, she craved

blood like crazy, sometimes even became crazed.”

He nodded, taking in the information. “This is such great news,” my father stated.

“If you think so,” I muttered, not feeling excited in the slightest. Zoe nudged

me with her elbow warningly, and Reid raised an eyebrow at my comment

but didn't say anything. Instead, he grabbed my hand and led me back to the car. *Can this day get any worse?* I thought, as I sat in the passenger seat. Reid started the car and started driving back to the Pack house. I could see Reid's reflection and seen him glance at me a few times, while I just stared vacantly out the window.

"I will get Mavis to come over so she can determine how far along you are," he told me. I didn't reply. The only thing I wanted to know is how to get rid of it. I didn't say that out loud, though. Reid noticing my silence, tried to push through the link to me. I shoved him out.

"What has gotten into you, Aria?" I ignored him. "Is this about the baby?"

Don't worry Hun, I won't let anything happen to either of you. The Pack will keep you safe, I promise." Great, the last thing I wanted to hear. I have no intention of keeping it, and I can see this is going to cause a huge argument. I just hoped he would hear me out. Surely though he wouldn't force this on me. I wonder if Mavis would speak to me alone. I know I am meant to get patient privacy, but I also know she fears Reid and I don't know if she would go against him even for her Luna.

When we got to the Pack house, everyone was waiting out the front. "Can we not tell anyone yet? Please," I pleaded. Reid looked at me funny, I could tell he was a little taken aback by my request.

"Fine we can wait until after Mavis has checked you over." I nodded letting

out a breath. It would be harder if he told the entire Pack I was expecting.

"I am going to lay down for a bit," I told him, wanting to be left alone. I climbed out of the car. Lily came over to me, and I scooped her up.

"Sorry I scared you this morning" I whispered, kissing her chubby cheeks and rubbing

my nose on hers. She wrapped her arms around my neck. "Want to watch a

movie in my room?" Lily nodded excitedly.

"Can we watch the one with the snowman?" she asked.

"Yes, go grab it and meet me upstairs," I placed her on the ground, and she

took off inside. I made my way upstairs and turned the TV on that hung on

the wall across from the bed. Lily and Amber came running in and jumped on

the bed, making themselves comfortable. I placed the DVD in and pressed

play before laying down with them. I got lost in the movie being the first time

I had actually watched it. When the movie was nearly over, Reid stuck his

head in the door waving at me. Amber had fallen asleep, and Lily looked like

she wasn't far off. I climbed off the bed and made my way over to him.

"Mavis is here," he said, pulling me from the room. I followed him down to

the infirmary. Mavis was waiting there in her white hospital scrubs fiddling

with a machine next to the bed.

"Luna." she said excitedly coming over and kissing me on the cheek. "I will

get you to lay down and lift up your shirt." Great, Reid had already told her. I

walked over to the bed and laid down. She squirted a cold jelly-like substance

on my stomach, and using the device in her hand moved it around, she pointed to the screen. I didn't look. But I could hear Reid trying to get me to look at the screen.

"Do you want to hear the heartbeat?" Mavis asked.

"No," I said harsher than I meant for it to come out. Reid ignored me. I could feel his eyes boring into me.

"Yes, I want to hear the heartbeat," he told Mavis. Mavis turned a dial on the ultrasound machine. I could hear the steady hum of a heartbeat. I tried to block it out, but it was now forever burned in my memory.

"You are four weeks and 3 days along. Baby should be due around another

twenty weeks seeing as Hybrid pregnancies don't last as long as human ones

or werewolf ones," she stated. I sat up wiping the jelly off with some paper

towel. I can't believe I have been here only one month; it feels so long ago

that Reid found us, and it also means I got pregnant the first time we had sex.

"Any questions?" she asked.

"Can I speak with you alone?" I asked, looking at Mavis. She looked to Alpha Reid to see if it was alright.

"You can ask any question you like, Aria. Don't be embarrassed because I

am present," he stated, denying my right to privacy. Mavis turned back to me.

I suddenly felt like throwing up, nerves taking over. I knew Reid was going

to flip his lid when I asked my question.

"So, what did you want to know?" I started sweating, both their eyes staring

at me, I felt a bead of sweat run down my neck, and my throat went dry.

“How do I?” I tried to force the words out and glanced at Reid, who was

watching expectantly, waiting to hear what I wanted to know. “How do I get

rid of it?” My words came out so rushed, I didn’t think she heard me.

My

heart rate spiked. I could hear it pounding in my ears. Mavis looked nervously back at Reid who looked like he was about to explode in rage.

Mavis stood up when his claws extended, Reid trying to remain in control.

“Mavis, leave,” Reid commanded, his eyes blazing. I didn’t want her to go,

she looked unsure as well.

“Mavis, get out now.” His voice booming echoing off the walls so loud the

glass windows shook.

Chapter 37

Aria’s POV

I was expecting this. This was the exact reason I didn’t want to say anything

in front of Reid. The fire in his eyes showed his fury. Although I knew he

wouldn’t hurt me, I still feared what he would do next. He was pacing back

and forth, I could tell he was trying not to let Ryder out, who I could tell was

just below the surface waiting to pounce on me.

When he stopped, I froze holding my breath, waiting for him to speak.

Only

he didn’t. He walked over and grabbed my hand, ripping me to my feet with

so much force, I was thrown into him. I smacked into his chest. He stormed out of the room, pulling me with him. I tried to pull my hand from his iron grip, he stopped in the hallway out front of the infirmary. "Don't," he warned as I tried yet again to free my hand. One word but the malice in it made me freeze. Pulling me towards the stairs, Wendy and Zane stepped out of the rec room to see what the commotion was that had Reid so angry. "Everything okay, Boss?" Zane asked, glancing at me before stepping out of the way, as Reid pushed past him. I watched as he pressed on the wall next to the stairs. The wall opened up to a concrete stairwell leading underneath the house. I pulled my arm back, trying to yank it free. Wendy and Zane glanced between each other, trying to figure out what was going on. I looked around panicking trying to find an escape, but there weren't any. Reid stopped trying to pull me down the stairs, realising I wouldn't go willingly. Instead threw me over his shoulder while I struggled to get free. "Reid, stop. Let's talk about this." He ignored my pleas. I could hear his footsteps echoing on the concrete floor as he marched down them. Zane and Wendy looked on horrified, as I was thrown into a cell and dumped on the bed. "Boss, what's going on?" Wendy asked, running to my side and wrapping her arm around my shoulders.

“Any of you let her out, and you will have me to deal with.” They looked at me wondering what it was I had done that would earn such treatment.

“Now get out.” Both of them bolted from the room. I heard Wendy’s voice creep into my mind.

“What did you do, Aria?” Her panicked voice quickly leaving as Reid gripped my shoulders, shaking me out of the mind-link.

“You ask them to let you out, and I will kill them. Do you understand, Aria?

Their deaths will be on your hands.”

“You’re being irrational. You can’t keep me here, what is that going to do?”

Reid paced around trying to think.

“I will not have you murder my child.”

“So, what your going to keep me here until I spit out this baby?”

“Yes, if I have too. After that I will let you out. You don’t get to choose this;

this decision isn’t yours.”

I cut him off. “The Moon Goddess has no right choosing my life, Reid. This

is my choice. It’s my body.” He lost it; I was shoved into the wall, his hands

on either side of my arms while his face was barely an inch off mine.

Ryder’s

eyes coming to the surface, burning rage simmering in the eyes of his beast.

His voice distorted as his growl shocked me to the core, making my hair

stand on end.

“Anything happens to that baby you are carrying, I will not only end you but

everyone you love.” His voice was cold and emotionless. It chilled me to the

bone. I knew he wasn’t bluffing. Ryder wasn’t like Reid, he wasn’t rational.

Ryder acted out of instinct and anger, any emotion setting him off. I hated to admit that I did fear him when he was like this. I knew his threats weren't empty, they were a promise. One I knew he would keep if I pushed him. My mind went to Lily. Would Ryder really kill her? Would Reid let him? The knowing glint in his eyes showed he knew where my mind went first. Where it always goes first, Lily. Everything I have done is for her. I would never willingly put her in danger. I would give my last breath for her; she is and always will be put above my own life. Ryder, realising I understood, retreated. Reid's silver eyes came back, showing Ryder had given him control back. Reid kissed my forehead and then stood up, walking out, closing the concrete door behind him. I ran towards it, but it clicked into place, effectively locking it before I even had a chance to try and escape. I sat back on the bed, looking around at my new living arrangements. It consisted of a bed with a rubber mattress and a steel toilet with a sink attached up the top. This was a prison cell, usually prison cells were for rogues. It was cold and damp. There weren't any windows, so I couldn't see outside and the only lighting I had was from the fluorescent light beaming brightly above me. Deciding to lay down, I pulled the thin sheet over me. Trying to get some sort of warmth. After a while, I felt myself doze off. I wasn't sure how long I was asleep for when I was awoken by the sounds of footsteps on the stairs outside

the door. I felt like it had only been a few minutes but could have been hours.

Reid opened the door, stepping in, only to close it behind him. I sat up.

Reid

had a pillow and some blankets in his arms, as well as some food. I watched

as he placed it on the end of the bed and walked out again, not saying a single

word to me. I grabbed the blanket, wrapping it around me. The food didn't

tempt me in the slightest, all it did was make me crinkle my nose from the

strong smell of the cheese. I usually liked grilled cheese, but now, I couldn't

stand the smell of it or food in general. Laying back down, I soon forgot

about the smell as I went back to sleep.

I dreamt of Lily when she was a baby, only this wasn't a good dream.

A

dream of David taking her away, of never seeing her again as she was ripped

from my arms, screaming, crying out for me. I screamed and smacked into

him trying to get him to give her back, only for him to turn around, and no

baby was in his arms, fear running through me at his empty arms. I awoke

covered in sweat, my heart pounding in my chest as I tried to adjust to the

bright light. Only I wasn't alone, Reid was watching me. An indecipherable

look on his face.

"You have been asleep for three days. I asked your father and Mavis.

They

said it is normal. That its because the baby is growing more rapidly, faster

everyday." I mulled over his words.

I noticed my clothes were different. I was in flannelette pyjamas and had white socks on. Did I really sleep that heavily? How did I not wake up? "I will let you upstairs to shower. You try anything, anything at all, Aria..."

"I won't." I whispered, cutting him off and looking at the open door. My throat felt dry and itchy having not used it for days apparently. Reid nodded and stood up, walking to the door. He waited for me to follow. I sat up stretching, stretching felt different. I felt different, looking down to notice the small bump at the bottom of my abdomen. That's impossible, it's been three days and I could already see a slight bump proving my pregnancy was progressing. My hand went to it, to see if it was real and it was. The bump was really there. Reid watched me carefully like he thought I was going to hurt myself. Pulling my top down, I heard him let out a breath.

"Where is everyone?"

"They are upstairs, you won't be speaking to anyone Aria."

"Can I at least see Lily?" Reid turned back to the door, holding his head high ignoring my question.

"I don't have all day, hurry up," Reid said. He held so much hatred behind his words. It saddened me that one question could turn him against me. Why did I ask Mavis in front of him? I felt stupid.

I walked over to the door, and Reid gripped my arm and pulled me to the stairs leading into the house. Once we were standing in the foyer, I mindlinked Lily.

"Where are you, Lil?"

"Ari? I'm in the yard playing, where have you been? Reid said you are

having a baby,” she squealed in my head excitedly. I held my head as her

squeal vibrated through me like a freight train.

“Shh, Reid has let me out to shower. Come to the bedroom.”

“I can’t Ari. Reid said I can’t see you until he says.” I looked at Reid who

was watching me. He could tell I was mind-linking, probably even listening

into my thoughts. I tried to shove him out, but he shoved harder, forcing

himself back in.

“Aria, I will only warn you once, or I will take you back to your cell.” I looked back at the stairs leading back below the house. I didn’t want to go

back down there, it was cold and too quiet. I started walking up the stairs

towards our bedroom. Walking past the infirmary and past all the bedrooms

before climbing the stairs that lead to the bedroom.

Opening the door, I could barely smell Reid’s scent in the room. It was only

faint like he hadn’t spent much time in here. He answered my thoughts.

“I have trouble sleeping knowing you are locked down there.” He did sound

tired. But I refused to feel sorry for him. I didn’t want to be locked down

there, that’s on him, not me. Walking into the bathroom, I found fresh clothes

sitting on the edge of the sink basin, I really needed to pee. I went to close the

door, Reid forcing it open as he stepped into the bathroom. “Door stays

open.”

“I need to pee,” I told him. He turned to glare at me.

“Door stays open,” he said emphasising the word open. He turned his back on

me waiting for me to go. I refused; I was not comfortable going to the toilet

with him standing there. Reid, seeing me refuse, walked over to the sink

basin and turned it on.

“There, better?” He said, crossing his arms over his chest. I glared at him and

walked over to the toilet and quickly peed. Getting up, I stripped my clothes

off, Reid watched me from the door. I could feel his eyes follow me everywhere I moved, watching me like a hawk. Turning the shower on, I

stepped in. The water warming my cold skin, I braced my hands on the wall

and dipped my head under the steady stream, feeling my insides warm up. I

sighed and relaxed under the feel of it running down my back. Reid was still

leaning against the door, just staring at me, like I was about to run off.

“If you’re gonna stare, can you at least get in? I feel weird with you standing

there like some creeper.”

Reid cocked his head to the side, considering my words before I saw him take

off his shirt. I moved over when I saw he was going to hop in. Reid took off

his pants and stepped in behind me. I started washing my hair when I felt his

fingers take over massaging my scalp. I leant back into him, loving the feel of

his hands touching me. He pulled me under the stream of the water, rinsing it

out. I turned around only to open my eyes and see he was watching me again,

his face emotionless. I reached up and put my hand on his chest, running my

fingers through the small amount of hair.

“Please don’t make me go back down there,” I begged, leaning my head on his chest. Reid placed his hand on my cheek, rubbing his thumb down my cheekbone.

“I don’t trust you anymore.” His words hurt, stung as if he slapped me. I looked up at him, I could feel my eyes burn as tears threatened to break me.

Through the bond, I could feel that he thought I was trying to trick him, get him to drop his guard. I stood back, moving away from him, and I turned my back on him and got out, grabbing the towel that was on the basin and wrapping it around my body.

Grabbing a pair of his thick track pants, I put them on and one of his hoodies.

If he was forcing me back down there, I wasn’t going to freeze. Reid got dressed quickly, afraid I was going to run. I had just finished putting on some socks when he stood in front of me.

“You need to eat.” I ignored him and stood up and walked towards the door.

Reid wouldn’t let me pass, so I waited. “You need to eat, if not for you, do it for the baby.” I glared at him.

“I’m not hungry, just take me back,” I said. If he didn’t trust me, I didn’t want to be around him.

He moved out of my way, and I opened the door and started walking down

the stairs. I could hear voices coming from Lily’s bedroom. Stopping, I opened her door. Lily and Amber were playing with their dolls, sitting crosslegged

on the floor. “Ari!” Lily screamed, throwing herself into my arms. I hugged her tight and inhaled her scent. She always smelt of lavender. I felt

Reid's shadow fall on me as he stepped in the room. Lily froze in my arms and looked up at him. "She came in Alpha; I didn't go to her." She didn't sound scared when she explained herself, but I didn't like the fact she had to at all.

"It's okay Lily, you're not in trouble. You don't need to worry." Reid told her making her relax.

"Reid said you're going to having a baby, that I will be an aunty." She looked so excited I couldn't help but feel excited for her, finding her excitement contagious.

"I have a bump want to feel," I asked. She nodded excitedly pulling at my shirt. Her little hands touching softly on my small bump.

"Can you feel it move? Do you know if it is a boy or a girl? Where have you been?" she asked excitedly, her blue eyes shining with happy tears.

"No, I can't feel it yet. At least I don't think I can, and no I don't know what it is, and I -" I didn't know how to answer her, I can't tell her Reid has had

me locked in a cell downstairs. I didn't want her to be scared. "Maybe Reid will ask Mavis if she can do a scan and we might be able to find out," I told

her, looking up at Reid who was watching me. His eyes were softer. I could tell he was probing into my mind seeing my reaction to Lily's excitement.

"I can see if she can stop by tomorrow. Do you want to know?" he asked me.

I thought for a second. Did I? I just can't seem to picture myself as a mother.

I felt excited for Lily, but could I feel excited for myself? Was a baby such a bad thing? Reid seemed to want this, maybe I would too. "I don't know," I answered honestly. He nodded his head. "You can think about it while you eat" I knew that was his way of saying It was time for me to leave. "Can we watch a movie later? You have been gone for days, where did you go?" Lily asked. I looked at Reid. "That is enough questions, for now, I will decide later if you can watch a movie if you behave," he said. The girls looked excited and went back to playing quietly on the floor. I knew he wasn't referring to them though. He didn't mean if they behaved. He meant if I did.

Chapter 38

Aria's POV

Taking a seat in the kitchen, Reid rummaged through the pantry, making something that I knew was going to turn my stomach upside down. The smell alone of him just getting the ingredients out was enough to make me dry heave. I felt lightheaded and rested my head on the cool tabletop. Reid came over. "What's wrong?" I didn't say anything, refusing to give him any reason to send me back to the cell. Loneliness and the quiet down there was enough to send a person crazy. I was also scared that if I did go back down there, I would sleep. What if I

slept the entire time away, slept until this pregnancy was over or worse never woke up. That thought scared me, the thought of leaving Lily alone in this world without me to protect her. I didn't want to go back to the cell. My own thoughts would send me insane, and I couldn't bear being away from Lily. I needed her like I needed air. She was the piece of my life I was proud of, the only thing I would fight to the death for besides Reid, who I wasn't so sure would do the same for me, at least not anymore. Making sure to keep my walls up so he couldn't invade my thoughts and think I was just trying to defy him. I could feel him probing trying to find a way in.

"Stop blocking me out, Aria," he growled annoyed. "I have warned you and yet you still go against the warning. Are you trying to piss me off?"

"They are my thoughts; you have no right to know them. If I wanted you to know what I was thinking, I would tell you." I told him, taking deep breaths through my mouth, so I couldn't smell the revolting stench of the bacon he placed on the counter. Reid gripped my shoulders, hauling me to my feet.

The room spun before tilting. I bent over throwing up bile and narrowly missing Reid's foot. Walking over holding my breath, I washed my face under the sink and rinsed my mouth, trying to bring my temperature down.

My body felt like it was on fire burning up and to think he wants me to keep going through this for another twenty weeks. Grabbing a tea towel and

wetting it, I walked back over to where I threw up, intending to clean it.
Reid

snatched the tea towel from me.

“Sit, I will clean it.” He sounded furious like he thought I did it
deliberately. I

suddenly wished to be back in the cell, anything to stop this heat that
was

overtaking my senses boiling me from the inside. I sat in the chair and
watched as he cleaned the floor before walking out and chucking the
tea

towel in the laundry. A few seconds later, Wendy walked in with a
mop.

“Here Wendy, I will do it,” I said, trying to take the mop from her hand.

“Sit back down, Aria, I didn’t say you could move.” I glared at him.

“I’m pregnant, not fucking disabled.” I spat back at him, snatching the
mop

from Wendy’s hand. I was not going to make her clean up after me.

Especially something so embarrassing like vomit. When I was done,
Wendy

took the mop and bucket and left. She didn’t say one word to me the
entire

time. I wonder what Reid has said to them, usually even Wendy would
have

pushed the limits with Reid and tried to reach out to me. Only she
didn’t this

time. Was she mad at me too for wanting to abort this pregnancy?

Was I the

only one who thought this was a disaster? Maybe I had gone too far,
gone

against the Moon Goddess.

I sat back down, my stomach starting to settle now that it was empty.

Surely,

I can’t be sick again after throwing up already. That thought was soon
proven

wrong when Reid walked over, placing the plate in front of me. He had
cooked bacon and eggs, toast, and fried tomatoes. I stared at it, not
wanting to

be anywhere near it. I knew the consequences of eating, I could feel it already
in the back of my throat, threatening to come up at any moment. I could
already taste the bile coming back up. Reid grew annoyed, his fist coming
down on the table next to me, making me jump. The wood creaking and
cracking up the centre from the force. I was quite surprised it actually didn't
break and split down the middle. Looking up, Reid was glaring at me. If
looks could kill I would have been turned to ash with the way he is glaring at
me, the venom in his words made my heart sink to someplace deep and dark.
"Fucking eat, or I will force-feed it to you." I didn't want to know what that
entailed, so I picked up a piece of toast and tore off a bit. Chewing slowly
before trying to swallow, as soon as it touched my tongue, I heaved and ran
for the sink. Only just making it in time and throwing up yet again in the
kitchen sink. Reid was at my side in an instant gripping my arm making sure
I didn't run off.
"Is this your plan to starve the baby to death?" How could he think that? I felt
like slapping him. I have no intentions of harming it. I didn't ask for this. If I
could eat I would.
"No, it's the food," I choked out.
"There nothing wrong with it, you will eat whether you want to or not, one
way or another Aria, so fucking choose." I shook my head, rinsing my mouth

again. I could feel my anger start to bubble. How could he think I would deliberately starve myself? I know I need to eat, but food right now is something I won't be able to keep down. Then it clicked. This baby doesn't want food, it's a Hybrid and Hybrids need blood. Just thinking of the rich, soothing taste of blood made my mouth water and brought my need to feed to the forefront of my mind wrapping around my senses. I could hear the soft beating of Reid's heart and a fast fluttering of another heartbeat. I looked around my fangs protruding painfully. Where was it coming from? No one was in the kitchen with us. I realised, it was the only thing that made sense. I knew it wasn't my own. Mine was in sync with it, feeling it pushing the blood throughout my body. This one was faster and softer, the beating not nearly as loud. I looked down at the bump. The soft thrumming was coming from inside me, the life living within me. I looked at Reid, shocked at what I could hear. How had I not noticed it before?

"I hear it." My words coming out distorted while my bloodlust takes over, my fangs getting in the way of my tongue.

"Hear what?" I looked down and placed my hands on my stomach. Reid's eyes followed my hands, watching.

"I can hear it." I whispered. Reid figuring out what I was talking about. Placed his hand over mine. Like he could suddenly feel it, although we both knew that was a couple of weeks off yet. Zane stepped into the kitchen, before realising, he walked in on something. He froze and went to turn

around, but it was too late. My senses were already overloaded, his heartbeat just adding to the pressure snapping the control I had left. I lunged at him, the sound of his heart beating becoming too much. Grabbing him by the shoulders, I bit into the tender flesh of his neck. Zane's blood filled my mouth. I could feel my eyes change as my vision turned red as I drank greedily. Starving and rabid, I had no control, but in this moment, I didn't want control. I just wanted blood and was willing to do anything for it. Zane tried to fight me off, but I was stronger, his hands pushing and yanking more of an annoyance, a distraction but not strong enough to fight me off. Shoving him into the wall and biting down harder this time into his shoulder, I had him where I wanted him pinned to the wall with no escape. It all happened so quickly not even Reid had time to react. I could feel Reid's hand wrap around my shoulders and yank me back, forcing me to let go of Zane. My teeth ripping away taking his flesh with me. I spun around quickly to fend off Reid. Only for his intoxicating scent to hit me, his scent filling my nose, as I breathed deeply my eyes fluttering closed, a growl tearing out of me vibrating through every cell in my body. Zane's blood was nothing compared to Reid's. I craved Reid's blood. Zane's was sweet but bitter compared to the taste of Reids. Opening my eyes, I advance on Reid. I jump at him wrapping my legs around his waist, my arms

wrapping around his shoulders, as I sink my teeth into him, drinking so fast I couldn't swallow fast enough, his blood running down my chin and neck. I could feel Reid trying to pull away, fighting me off. It was only when I heard her agonised scream ring in my ears that I stopped. The sheer pain in that one scream tearing through my heart and shattering my soul. All her fear and pain flooding me through the Pack link as she screamed out for her mate. Forcing myself trying to override the need to feed, I turned to find Zane slumped on the floor next to the kitchen door. Christine clutched onto his shirt, tears staining her face as sobs wracked her entire body. Her wailing as she clutched his shirt, trying to wake him. Wendy and Mitch ran in. Wendy's hands going to her mouth trying to hide her shock as Mitch ran to Christine pulling her out of the way before leaning down and placing his hand on his neck which wasn't healing just spilling out his life's blood onto the tile. Zane's face drained of life as his skin started to lose its colour. Reid shoved me out of the way trying to get to his best friend and Beta. Then I see Amber and Lily step into the kitchen, Ambers screams shatter me as she runs trying to get to her father, only for Christine to grab her shielding her eyes away from her father's limp body bleeding out on the floor. What have I done?

Chapter 39

Aria's POV

I watch in panic as they try to stem the bleeding. When Reid walks over,
ripping me up by one arm and dragging me to Zane's limp body,
laying on
the floor drenched in blood. Christine starts screaming at me. "Get her
away,
she has done enough damage!"
"She can help," Reid says, throwing his Alpha voice behind his words.
Christine looks at me doubtfully but can't go against her Alpha. I hold
the
same doubt. I caused this, how was I supposed to help? Lily looks
pale,
standing in the door, looking at the monster I have become. Reid, not
wasting
any time bites into my hand, making me flinch. I try to pull my hand
back,
but he just yanks me forward. What the fuck is he doing? He presses
my hand
to Zane's mouth, my blood running into his mouth before my hand
starts
healing. Reid reaches up and grabs a knife from the bench and cuts
down my
hand where he just bit me, I squirm as he twists the knife and my
blood pours
down Zane's throat. Reid lets go of my hand, and I fall backwards,
trying to
figure out what he was just doing.
After a few minutes, Zane starts coughing and spluttering spitting, out
the
blood. I watch amazed as his neck starts to heal up. Christine gasps
and
throws her arms around him in a stranglehold. She starts peppering
his face in

kisses, and I suddenly feel relief flood through me that he is alright. I stare at my hand, confused. My blood saved him. How? Reid, noticing me staring at my hand, shook his head at me. He was livid that I had hurt one of his Pack members. I stood up and bolted from the kitchen, intending to try and escape. I couldn't remain here not if it means risking their lives or Lily's life. I yank on the front door handle, only it's locked. I go to kick it open, knowing I could shatter its wood easily when Reid's arms wrap around my waist and rip me backwards. We stumble, and I land on top of him, my back pressed to his chest, his grip unwavering. I struggle and fight to get up. "Stop it Aria," he says as he rolls to his side and stands up, pulling me with him to my feet. I throw my head back, and it connects with his nose, I hear it crack, knowing I just broke it and quickly hold my breath as I feel his blood dripping on my back. Reid lets go with one arm while squeezing tighter on my shoulders, so I don't escape. I hear him break his nose back into place. Why the fuck is he so much stronger than me, I just fed for fuck's sake? "Perks of being mated to a Hybrid, our bond doesn't just link us Aria, it makes me stronger, a better Alpha." Answering the question that ran through my thoughts. Reid pulls me back towards the cells I kick out, trying to get him to drop me, but he doesn't let go. Lily runs out and sees Reid trying to

drag me to the stairwell.

"What are you doing, Reid, let her go," she screams, running over smacking

his leg with her tiny fists.

Reid looks down at her, his gaze softening. I hear his voice in my head. "Stop

fighting, you're scaring your sister, Aria. Look at her."

"You fucking are. Now let me go." I mind linked back. Reid looked down at

Lily, and I felt like punching him when he used his Alpha voice on her.

"Lily, go wait with Amber and stay away from this door." Lily tries to fight

his Alpha voice, but I can tell it causes her pain within a second. She gives up

and walks out. Lily has Alpha blood, but her wolf hasn't awoken yet to even

put up a fight.

"You fucking asshole, you could have hurt her," I said whipping around and

smacking Reid in the side of the head. Reid grunted at the impact but just

managed to get a better grip on me and throw me over his shoulder marching

down the stairs before depositing me on the bed. I went to get up and run for

the door when Reid spun around.

"Don't forget what Ryder told you Aria, and just for your information, I won't fucking stop him especially after what you did to Zane!" He screamed,

making me freeze on the spot. Tears sprang to my eyes. Reid just glared and

walked out before slamming the door shut and locking it.

I sit back on the bed, trying to figure out what my next move is, how to get

myself out of this situation and fix what I have broken. I nearly killed Zane,

Reid's Beta. The look on Christine's and Amber's faces I was sure would haunt me. I nearly devastated their lives and possibly destroyed Christine in the process. I knew there was no way Reid would let me out of this cell now.

Looking around, I started banging on the walls, but the concrete was too thick. Moving to the door, I tried pushing on it, then tried prying it open with my fingers, but the steel was too thick, and I couldn't get a grip on the frame itself, it was pointless.

Sitting back down, I lay on the bed, looking up at the ceiling. Trying to figure out a possible way to get out of this cell when I notice a vent just above the light. I pull on the bed, hoping to loosen it from the floor, I continue to pull and push on it. It gives a little, and I know I can with some effort get the bolts to loosen completely with the repetitive motion. I continue pulling and pushing until I hear the bolts snap, I do the same with the bottom end, eventually pulling it completely from the floor.

Dragging the bed, I moved it under the light. Standing on it, I reach up and punch the vent with as much force as possible. It dents but doesn't budge. I punch it again, the little louvres separating slightly. The third time I hit, it busts open. Gripping it with my fingertips, I pull it down, letting it fall to the ground. Jumping up, I grab the sides and pull my head through the ceiling looking inside. I let myself fall back down onto the bed. The vent narrows

out, and a small child would struggle to get through the gap, let alone an

adult. I huff annoyed I just wasted all that time and energy for it to fail.

Pushing the bed back into the corner against the wall, I stare at the mark

dragging it left on the floor and the broken vent. Reid is going to blow his lid

when he comes in. I pick up the vent to try and hide under the mattress before

laying down.

With nothing else to do, I decide to sleep, but before I even start to nod off, I

hear footsteps on the stairs, echoing loudly through the concrete walls. My

heart rate picks up as I hear him stand on the other side of the door, but not

opening it.

"Zane is completely fine," he says, I hear shuffling before he sits, leaning

against the steel door. I get up and move to the door and sit with my back

against it. I try to pry into his mind anything to know what he is thinking before his voice interrupts me.

"I wouldn't, Aria, you might not like what you find." I stopped because of the

harshness of his words. I lean my head back against the door, waiting for him

to speak.

"Hunters have been caught and stopped on the borders twice since you have

been locked up." I could hear the regret in his voice but decided I must have

imagined it. "We aren't sure why they want you, all three killed themselves

before we could interrogate them," he stated.

"So, what's that mean then?" I whispered back, knowing he could hear me.

“Means they are willing to go to extremes to hide whatever it is they need

you for, David asked if he could take Lily for a few days until things settle

down,” I froze my blood running cold.

“You’re not letting him, though right?” I desperately ask the thought of her

being away from me and in his clutches horrified me.

“He has changed Aria, you have to give him a chance. I know he won’t harm

her; I have spoken to him a fair bit, he has been over here every day to see

her. Lily wants to go,” he says, shocking me even further.

“No, she stays here Reid, you can’t let her go with him.”

“It’s no longer up to you Aria, he picks her up in two days, this is only a trial

Aria. He won’t be keeping her.” I get up enraged. I kick the door and feel him

jump before getting to his feet.

“Anything happens to her I will fucking kill you, Reid. Mate or not, I will fucking end you,” I scream while punching the door wanting to get to him.

“He can’t fucking have her!” I scream, my heart plunging into my stomach.

“I have spent years protecting her from him. Now you’re going to hand her

over to him.”

“She wants to go Aria; he is her father, and I have his word he won’t harm

her.”

“His fucking word, that’s what you’re gauging his intentions off of?”

“No, Aria like I said he has been here every day while you have been in this

cell. I think we can trust him, Aria.”

“Clearly, you’re fucking forgetting we are in this mess with the Hunters because of him,” I spat punching the door, my fist leaving a dent.

“I haven’t forgotten, but this isn’t your choice anymore, Aria. When you

realise my word is law maybe I will let you out,” he said before I hear him stomp up the stairs. Two days, I have two days to try and get out of this godforsaken cell to stop him from handing her over. What the fuck is he thinking, to let her go with him, I don’t care if she wants to, she is a child. She doesn’t understand she is putting her life at risk. I can’t picture David changing enough in such a short time span where I would feel comfortable leaving her with him for any amount of time.

Chapter 40

Aria’s POV

I pace around in the basement, my mind reeling, anger consuming every cell in my body. My skin warming, getting hotter and hotter as my rage reaches boiling point. My claws extend, ripping my nails from my fingers painfully. My fangs push through my gums slowly tearing until they are through. I can taste the metallic of my own blood filling my mouth. I was losing control, a control I never really realised I never had control of in the first place. My entire body felt heightened, my senses overloaded. The light hanging from the ceiling becoming unbearable as it burned my eyes. I jump up trying to grab the bulb. Only instead of grabbing the bulb, I rip the entire light fixture from the roof.

The metal hitting the concrete floor clanging loudly. The cell was plunged into darkness, only it wasn't dark, my eyes adjusting to the change of light instantly, and I could see everything clearly as if it were still filled with light. Well, this was certainly new. I could always see in the dark, but this was completely different. Looking around, I suddenly become aware of every noise. I am also able to hear above me for the first time since coming down here. I can hear Wendy talking in the rec room, telling the girls to get ready for their baths. Hear Christine and Zane, who were obviously busy making up for his neardeath experience in a very sexual way. I wonder if they can hear Reid and me. I shake the thought away, not needing anymore desires other than getting out of this room right now. I listen and can hear Lily and Amber running up the stairs, and I hear Reid's office door click shut. I can hear every person in this huge house, my hearing zooming in and out listening intently. Walking over to the door, I examine the hinges. They are pretty embedded only just sticking out slightly past the frame. The door handle, I know has five deadbolts that shoot into the wall bracing it, so I know there is no way to bust the door open from that side. But on the other side, I might be able to break it and open it just enough to squeeze through. Looking at the hinges, I kick one. The concrete cracks and I realise not only my senses are better, but

I am a lot stronger. I wonder if that is why Reid is so much stronger now, he said it himself that being mated to me has its Hybrid perks, but this seems different. I also noticed Reid's Alpha voice is stronger now. The angrier he gets, the stronger he gets. Looking at the area where the hinges are. I kick it again; a chunk of concrete cracks, and I know it won't take me long to break them. I continue to kick it until I hear both hinges break off the concrete and fall on the ground on the other side of the door. I freeze and listen. I hear Reid's office door open, and I hold my breath. Feeling through the bond, I can tell he heard something but is unsure of what it was. I feel him try and push into my mind, and I let him. Not wanting him to become suspicious of what I am doing. His voice popping into my mind.

"What are you doing, Aria?"

"Still rotting in the cell, like you want," I answer back sarcastically.

"You know I don't want that. You brought this on yourself, Aria."

"Last I checked you locked me in here, so that's on you, not me. You could always let me out." I move and shove the door slightly. The deadbolts on the other end bending but not breaking. I squeeze through the gap, the concrete scratching my flesh.

"I never wanted this, Aria. What did you expect me to do when you wanted to abort our child?"

"Respect my decision, Reid, instead you took my choice from me, and now

it's too late," I reply while creeping up the steps toward the door leading into the house.

"You will come to see this is the right choice. I don't understand how you would want to destroy a piece of us."

"I don't want to argue, Reid. What's done is done," I state listening to hear if anyone is on the other side of the door. Which I find hard with Reid in my head because I am trying to answer him and not alert him to my escape as well as not think of what it is, I am doing. When I know the coast is clear, I open it slightly and pop my head out. I can hear the girls playing in Amber's room.

"Well make me understand then. I want to know why you don't want to be a mother when you're a great one to Lily."

"That's exactly the reason, Reid. I was forced to raise a child when I was a child. I have never once in my life done anything for myself other than raise a kid that wasn't even mine. I was completely alone, raising a baby. I put my life aside for her. I lost every part of myself I liked, as I was suddenly plunged into exhaustion, diaper changes and bottle feeds. While most thirteen-year-olds were out hanging with friends and doing normal things, I was stuck raising a baby. It may seem selfish to you, but I don't want to raise another baby, have all that responsibility thrust onto me again. It's a baby, Reid. Something I will have to raise and keep alive and throw my life away

for yet again." I hadn't realised I had stopped on the stairs until I stopped answering. Shit, I lost focus. I quickly moved up the steps and into the closet on the first level.

Just in time as I hear Christine and Zane walk past. Zane sounds like his normal self; you wouldn't even think he was knocking on death's door a few hours ago. I hear him stop and sniff the air.

"You smell that?" he asks Christine. "I swear I just caught Aria's scent."

"She is in the cells, you must have imagined it," Christine says. I hear them keep walking. Letting out a breath. Reid's voice popping in my head again.

"You won't be alone this time, Aria. You have a family now, you have me." I tried to focus on my task, but his words were bothering me. I could also feel his sadness through the bond seeping into me. I wiped a tear from my cheek and opened the door. I made my way to Amber's door; I could hear Lily playing behind the door.

"Aria what are you doing?" Crap, I must have let my guard down. I could feel him probing then realisation hit him, and I heard the office door swing open down the corridor. I looked in the direction that he would come down, Lily threw the door open and looked at me.

"Aria?" She looked shocked to see me. I went to grab her and run when I suddenly heard Zane behind me.

"Ari, you don't want to hurt her." I looked at him confused. I would never

hurt Lily intentionally. Lily squealed loudly, and I looked at her. My claws were digging into her flesh. I quickly released her shocked, my hands going to my mouth, only to cut my own face. What the fuck was happening? Reid approached me like he was trying to cage a wild animal. "Aria, focus on me." I thought it was strange he would say that. I took a step towards him. Panic taking over, my breathing became rapid. I could hear someone growling. I turn sharply to see who it is. Then I realise the growling is coming from me. Reid steps closer and my eyes flick to his. I see the concern in them and anger. I know something has gone wrong, everyone's body language proving my assumptions. The hallway tense and no one's eyes leaving me, no one moving. Goosebumps raise on my arms. I know if I move wrong, Zane and Reid are going to jump me. My instincts for some reason were all over the place and completely out of control. "It's the hormones Aria, you need to fight it." I try to force my claws to retract, but they don't. My body feels foreign to me like I am just an observer of its actions. Reid moves closer, and I step towards him, he holds his hands out, and I run at him. I know if I snap, he will be the only one to be able to hold me. I grab him around the sides he grunts when my body comes in contact with his. Then my hands feel warm and wet. I look down, and my

claws are embedded in his sides. I hold my breath knowing if I catch a whiff of his scent, I will be gone, all control lost and start hunting them. I go to step back away from him, but he holds me tight against him. "I'm fine, it's already healing." I feel tears burn my eyes. Reid's hands rubbing my back soothingly. "They need to leave," I say through clenched teeth. The memory of Reid's blood, consuming my senses. I hear everyone quickly go after Reid nods to them to get out of here. "Zane is going to take Lily to the Black Moon Pack." I nod, now realising she might actually be safer there than with me right now. We stayed frozen in the hall, my head on his chest, his hands rubbing my back softly but his grip tight. Reid moves his hand under my shirt, his hand coming in contact with my skin. Sparks ignite on my skin. I focus on the feel of them and feel him through the bond. I can feel his worry, but I also feel that he doesn't fear me even when I'm like this. Even uncontrollable, he still loves me. Reid feels me digging through his mind but doesn't stop me. I feel how much he wants me and this baby, how much he loves his Pack and Lily. I look up at him, his gaze steady watching me. "You're not alone anymore, you never will be with me by your side," he whispers before kissing my head. My body relaxing in his hold, and I feel his arms loosen.

“Come on, let’s go upstairs. I am assuming you broke the cell door.” I nod,

but don’t move. Reid tugs on my waist. “Come on.”

“What about the others?” I ask, panicked. Maybe I really should have remained in the cell.

“They won’t be coming back tonight. You don’t have to worry. Mitch and

Wendy have a holiday house a little away from here. Everyone will stay

there.”

“Lily?” I hate the thought of her being away from everyone, especially me.

“She will be fine; David won’t let anything happen to her.”

We had walked up the stairs, and I opened the door, how I missed our bed. I

walked over to it and laid down rubbing my hands on the soft duvet.