

Hybrid Aria

Chapter 46

Reid's POV

We all finally came to, I could feel my Pack members waking, I lifted my head in search of Zane. Only to realise I wasn't in the industrial area anymore but a bunker. I rolled to my side, my eyes landing on Abel, Aria's father. Zoe and he were going over something on the steel table across from me. I sat up, dropping my feet over the edge of the couch I was placed on. "You're awake about fucking time. Now get up and help me find my daughter." Abel spoke, I could hear the venom in his words, and I jumped up growling. Abel turned to me his anger clearly on display not even trying to hide what he is, his eyes burning brightly, reflecting oddly under the lights. "Maybe you can answer that, they should have taken you, not my mate!" I screamed, grabbing a hold of his shirt and flinging him back into the table. Zoe raced to his side but was too slow before he charged at me. Grabbing me around the waist, we fought, throwing punches back and forth. I noticed Zoe taking a seat out of the corner of my eye, looking annoyed. I headbutted Abel and felt his nose break on impact. He stumbled backwards. Just as he went to lunge again, Zoe spoke up. "Enough we have to find my granddaughter and great-grandchild this shit

isn't helping." We both stopped glaring at each other, both of us breathing heavily trying to catch our breath.

"I see being mated to my girl has made you stronger," he said rebreaking his nose into place. I knew he was holding back slightly. I shouldn't have had the upper hand on him, but I think he needed to blow off steam and I was the more durable target in the room.

"Where is the rest of my Pack?"

"I could only bring you; I am not a bloody donkey. How many did you want

to bring back here?" He snarled. Zoe hit the table with her hand bringing our attention back to her, the Pack will have to wait.

"I have scoured the entire City trying to pick up their scent, they covered their tracks well," Abel said, annoyed at his lack of progress.

"How long have I been out?"

"Only about twelve hours," Zoe said matter of factly. Ryder wasn't happy about being out so long, they could be anywhere by now.

"I enlisted the help of some humans; a lot of people noticed the war happening on their doorstep and are also scouring everywhere trying to find a lead."

"Humans?"

"Yes Reid, they aren't stupid. They know what happens in their City they just

choose to turn a blind eye to it, but now I have spoken to some, human or not

these monsters killed innocent children they won't stand for that, they are

going to help move yours and those of David's Pack that are injured to the

stadium, they are willing to help if needed, we just need to find them first.”

Zoe added.

I nodded. It felt strange knowing they have turned a blind eye. I knew a few

high up members of the city knew of our existence but never in a million

years would I have thought the entire City knew, times were definitely changing. We had a war on our hands and could really use the extra reinforcements, maybe this is a good thing them knowing.

“So, what do you know? So far?”

“Not much I just got off the phone and was about to tell Abel what I know,

but then you woke up, and I couldn’t get a word in with you two trying to kill

each other” Abel turned to her giving her his attention. He lent back on the

table, and I folded my arms across my chest, waiting to listen as well.

Now

realising our mistake, we weren’t going to get anywhere fighting amongst

ourselves.

“Well, he didn’t have much, an old friend heard about what happened and

called me. Apparently, the Hunters dispersed years ago, but everyone was

called back with the promise of immortality if they helped catch the Hybrid.

Apparently, their numbers have grown massively and that a man by the Name

of Kade Barclay is now running things. He said he noticed some of the original labs had been undergoing refurbishment, that he has been watching

them for a while keeping tabs on them, he is on his way to help try locate

them.” I nodded and looked at Abel. He looked livid and his face changing to

a crimson colour with his anger. Like a kettle about to boil over.

“Did you say Kade Barclay?” he asked.

“Yes, why? Have you heard of him?” Abel nodded deep in thought.

“Yes, but he is human. I don’t know how he could still be alive.” My eyebrows furrowed, and I felt Ryder press against my skin listening in.

“What do you mean, he should be dead?”

“He is human, and the only Kade Barclay I know was alive in the eighteenth

century, it would be impossible.”

“Could be someone else with the same name,” I suggested he nodded but

didn’t look like he believed that.

“Say it is this Kade, how do you know him?”

“He captured me when I was younger, him and a group of Hunters noticed I

wasn’t aging figured out what I was and hunted me down, I was placed on a

ship brought here to some underground labs, he was a mad scientist, crazy

smart for the times and had a few small breakthroughs in medical science.

After he caught me, he started looking for ways to prolong life and create

immortality. As far as I knew it never worked, he also tried to replicate my

Hybrid gene. He became obsessed with becoming like me. He used to test my

blood on other werewolves. He even managed to capture a Vampire, using

them like guinea pigs trying to mutate their genes and make them like me. All

of them died from his science, and after a while, I managed to escape when

they were moving me to a different compound, they sent off litres of my

blood to a French scientist. He claimed he found a way to change the DNA

and mutate it. I haven't seen him since I left the country. I returned a hundred

years later forgetting about him and assuming he died."

That was one hell of a story, was it possible he did find a way to create

immortality? Ryder was thinking the same thing.

"When will your friend get here?" I asked, looking at the clock, it was already the middle of the night.

"He should be here soon, he isn't far from here," Zoe stated. We both nodded

our heads.

Not even ten minutes later we heard a knock on the door upstairs, Zoe looked

to the TV screen above the bunker entrance, a man was waiting at the door

with an armful of papers.

"That's him, I will go let him in. Wait here and don't kill each other."

She

gave us both a pointed look, and I chuckled. We were past that now, our little

dispute was forgotten.

I walked over and looked at the documents on the table which were actually

the City's blueprints. Every building, including mine, had underground tunnels. Something to look at in the future would be destroying those tunnels

or at least blocking access from underground. I noticed one of the tunnels

leading into the City ran along the boundary lines between both mine and

David's Packs.

I pointed to it, and Abel nodded. "Yeah, I'm fairly sure that's how they got in

without being noticed. If you follow that tunnel, it leads to nowhere though,

only to the city library and cuts off halfway through in the other direction, if

these maps are still correct. It could have changed by now, I think these maps are outdated, they belonged to Joe,” Definitely something we needed to check out, we were going to have to go into the tunnels and see where they lead.

Chapter 47

Aria's POV

Wendy looked up at the noise that ripped from Christine. Christine climbed to her feet, having not noticed Wendy's crumpled form lying beside her, her eye's only on her prey. That prey was Amber, her own daughter. I struggled with my restraints, my hand slipping out from the wrist cuff, leaving only my elbow now stuck in the second cuff along that arm. David, noticing the crazed look, started calling out to her, fighting to release himself, anything to distract her from hunting her own defenceless daughter, who was unconscious and unaware of the danger she was in, from her own mother. Wendy grabbed Christine's leg, but her bloodlust had completely taken over her. She didn't even look down at the tug on her leg, her eyes solely focused on that of her daughter. "Wendy, you have to stop her, I can't get free." I screamed. My bone in my upper arm snapping under the pressure I was exerting trying to break free. My bone breaking through the flesh just above where my elbow should be. I

screamed from the horrendous snap, my nerves in my arm feeling like I just tore straight through them. My arm bending, I was able to slip out of the cuff, my right arm dangling at a weird angle, blood running down my arm and dripping on the floor. I could already feel my arm shifting back into place and the wound healing as I endured the pain of my bones rearranging. Christine, smelling my blood, turned and looked in my direction. The first thing I noticed were her amber eyes, except the pupil was blood red. I don't know what they gave her, but it was clear to me whatever it was, it wasn't just my blood. Whatever they did altered her DNA. Right now, I was staring back at the perfect predator. No recognition on her face that I am her friend, her Luna. I realised in that moment whatever was left of Christine was gone. Wendy staggered to her feet between us, but Christine's eyes never left mine. She was hunting, and I was her prey. Wendy lunged forward falling into Christine's body and knocking her on the floor before landing heavily on top of her. Wendy was sweating profusely, and I could tell she was exerting what little energy she had left trying to stop her. They wrestled on the ground, Wendy trying to pin her down, but she was no match for her. Christine threw her off, Wendy smacked into the steel table her head smacking the side of the cage Lily was trapped in.

Amber groaned and shifted in her seat, dazedly looking up. Her groan, a distraction to Christine as her eyes snapped to that of her daughter. "Mum?" Amber said, her voice a murmur as she tried to work out what was going on. David started screaming, trying to get the attention off her own daughter. I saw his braces starting to pull from the wall when his shin bone snapped, trying to get his leg free. I struggled with my other arm, breaking my left hand before sliding it out of the wrist cuff. I was close, I just needed to free my other arm. Christine lunged directly over the table at Amber. Amber's scream jolted Wendy to her feet just in time for Wendy to grab her around the waist. Adrenaline must have been the only thing that got her to move so fast because Wendy was there fighting her own best friend to stop her from destroying the one person she loved most in this world. Wendy slammed Christine into the wall next to me before Christine kicked her in the stomach, making her double over. I saw the look in her eye, nothing was going to stop her from killing all of us once she was done with Amber. The hunger in her eyes proved there was nothing left of her to save. Tears poured down my face as she lunged forward. I moved, my hip dislocating as I threw my entire body toward her, my hand punching straight through her chest. I felt my hand smash through her ribs and sternum, her blood coating my arm before I felt the beating of her heart in my hand.

She stopped and looked down at my arm that was in her chest cavity.
My

fingers wrapped around her heart before squeezing. An agonised look
crossing her features as I ripped her heart from her body. She stood
upright

for a second, still staring at the hole in her chest before her body
collapsed in
a heap on the floor.

“Please forgive me, Zane!” I screamed his name as I felt her link to me
snap,

my heart felt like it had been squeezed with hers and ripped away, as
her

teether to me snapped. Her life gone, and at my hands. Wendy
screamed her

voice piercing my ears and pulling at my soul. She threw herself at
Amber

trying to cover her eyes from seeing her mother’s death. Wendy was
too late

though, everything happening so fast. I knew she saw me; her Luna
and her

mother’s friend just rip the life out of her.

“I had no choice.” My voice breaking at the realisation, my entire body
crying out for her, crying for Amber, crying for the heartache I know I
just

caused Zane. But most of all, crying out for Reid, who I know would
have

also felt what I just did.

Amber was hysterically screaming out for her mother, trying to break
free

from the cage of Wendy’s arms, as she held her trying to shield her
from

what I had done.

I killed one of my best friends, I know Christine would have wanted me
to if

it meant saving Amber, but that doesn’t stop the hurt I have caused
and feel. I

knew I just destroyed and traumatised her daughter, destroyed her mate. But
what choice did I have? I had to choose. It was either Christine or her daughter, and I know deep down I made the right choice, the choice she
would have wanted.
“You had no choice Ari,” David spoke next to me. One of his legs was free,
but his arms still braced to the wall. His claws extended, and I knew whatever
they gave him was wearing off, I also knew because I could feel it slowly
disappearing from my bloodstream.
We need to get out of our restraints before they readminister another dose. I
looked at Amber apologetically, sobs wracking her entire body. The bleeding
in her mouth had stopped, but the gash on her head was still deep and not
healing. I ripped my arm from the last brace. I could feel the skin tearing
from my body like I was being degloved, but I didn’t care I was mad, my
anger numbing the pain. I would heal quickly, I just needed out of the restraints. I won’t let them hurt anyone else.
My body fell forward smacking into the concrete floor, I felt my shins snap
from the unnatural way my body was lying on the ground while they were
still braced to the wall. Wendy let go of Amber and helped lift me up, she
struggled under my weight. I was able to slide one leg out, having to twist my
ankle to release myself. I felt my leg heal just as the door opened.
Men
rushing inside. I placed my leg on the ground, and Wendy went into defence

mode, holding them back. I broke my ankle and manoeuvred my other leg out just in time, for them to run back out of the room sealing it shut. I looked up when I heard an exhaust fan start, I knew instantly they were trying to gas us out with Wolfsbane. After a few seconds Wendy started coughing. "Cover your mouth with your shirt." Both Amber and Wendy covered their mouths dropping onto the floor. The room started to fill with white smoke, I turned to David and started ripping on his restraints, they started pulling from the wall with his help he was able to get free, falling on the floor next to my feet. I couldn't see out the windows, the fog making it increasingly difficult to see. I started choking on the fumes, my lungs filling with its toxic gas. I dropped to the floor, covering my face with my shirt. We just had to hold out longer, wait for the gas to be turned off. I heard Lily in the cage coughing and looked up to see her naked inside the cage, the wolfsbane must have forced her wolf to change back. She coughed and choked, gasping for air. But she had nothing to shield her face. I crawled toward the cage before tearing a piece of my shirt and passing it to her through the mesh, poking it inside with my fingers. She looked up at me panicked. And I gasped to see her eyes had remained the same as that of her wolf, half blue and half orange glowing like embers of a flame.

Chapter 48

Reid's POV

Zoe's friend was extremely useful, I could tell years of being a Hunter himself had him still wary of Abel and myself. I could also tell; he was trying

his best to conceal his discomfort. Hunters are raised in families who have

generations of Hunters following in the footsteps of their forefathers. I didn't

expect him to drop everything he has been raised to believe. I could tell he

had only just come around to the idea that not all of us were bad, that didn't

make him more comfortable though, so Abel and I let Zoe do most of the

talking. This was her area of expertise even though she retired decades ago.

Abel and I were organising what was left of both Packs into scout teams,

which was easy over the mind link for me, but David's Pack discovered Abel

didn't need to be a Pack member. Being half Lycan allowed him to communicate with David's Pack members, he was able to contact Michael for

me. I wondered why Aria never talked about the fact she could mind link any

wolf. I also learned that Michael lost his mate in the war, Elizabeth. My Pack

took the biggest blow; we lost two hundred and nine Pack members; David's

side only lost seventy-one members. The Crescent Pack, another neighbouring Pack outside the city, was on their way over to give us a lending hand. I was grateful, but we didn't have the best relationship with

them. We were currently waiting for the Crescent Pack Alpha to arrive before

we made our move.

Abel also was able to verify Kade was, in fact, the same man from his younger years. We were still trying to figure out how the heck he had managed to prolong his life. Johnathan the Hunter that was helping had taken

plenty of surveillance footage of trucks coming in and out of the city heading

towards the area where the tunnels cut off one of those photos were of Kade.

We knew now they must have built a headquarters just outside the city. Our

scouts at the moment were verifying that's where the tunnels lead to.

Right now, we were waiting for people to start arriving. When we heard the

familiar ding of the diner bells ringing, I knew instantly it was the Alpha from the Crescent Pack. I looked at the screen above the bunker door.

I

looked at Abel, and he nodded. I walked upstairs.

Walking upstairs, I came to find four enforcers and the Alpha Trent and his

young son. Who looked to be thirteen? I thought he was insane for bringing

his son until I remembered my brother and I were taught by our father the

same way with hands-on experience.

"Alpha Trent, thanks for coming," I said, holding my hand out. Alpha Trent

was a giant of man, his arms flexing as he shook my hand. He had shoulderlength

blonde hair that was tied at the back of his neck and dark, almost black

eyes. Anyone else would be intimidated just by the look of him, but I felt no

such things. They were the third biggest Pack, but after our loss, our numbers

were pretty much the same as theirs now.

“Alpha Reid, nice to finally put a face to the name, this is my son Damien.”

His son put his hand out, and I quickly shook it giving him a nod.

“If you want to follow me, I will show you downstairs, please be mindful

there are two retired Hunters so I would appreciate if you didn’t kill my mate’s grandmother or her friend, they are helping us locate my mate and our

missing Pack members” He nodded once, but I was a little concerned still. It

was unheard of to have Hunters working alongside the very thing they hunted.

I was halfway down the stairs when I felt it, a wave of emotion hit me. I grabbed onto the handrail and doubled over. Zane would be here any second,

and if I feel this bad, he would be ten times worse. Forcing myself back up

the stairs, I shoved past everyone.

“Alpha Reid, what’s going on?” I looked back at them. Trent looked up at me

alarmed.

“I need to get to my Beta,” I gasped out, forcing my legs to keep moving up

the stairs. I had just walked out to the diner’s dining area when I saw Zane’s

car run straight into a telegraph pole out the front. The howl that resonated

through the air chilled me to the bone. I ran to open the door just in time for

Zane’s wolf to break through the door of the car, ripping it clean off. His

howls agonised as he threw himself at the ground.

I ran towards him, Zane had no control left, his wolf taking over as I felt

Christine’s teether to us break, her life slipping from us. Zane’s agonised

screams resonating through my head at the loss of his mate. And our Beta

female. I hesitantly walked over to him; his wolf was whining, completely devastated.

“Zander,” I called to Zane’s wolf, he lifted his head at the command of his

Alpha, he took a step towards me, teeth bared, I knew he wouldn’t attack me.

I knew his wolf well; he made a noise that sounded strangled. “You need to give Zane control.”

His wolf whined and then howled, I could hear how broken he was, I could

feel it. I looked back towards the diner. Alpha Trent and Abel were watching

a knowing look on their faces. I didn’t have to explain anything. The sounds

he was making told everyone what broke him. But right now, I needed him to

focus, move through the pain he still had to find his daughter.

I put my hand on his head. “Zander, give Zane control, we still need to find

your pup, your little girl buddy come on.” He whined before I watched him

shift, Alpha Trent walked out with a towel Zoe had given him. I threw it over

his naked body. Tears running down his face as sobs wracked his body. I had

never seen him like this, my strong best friend, now broken. Alpha Trent

helped me get him up and inside the diner.

We placed him on a chair, Abel came out with a change of clothes and handed them to him. He took them with one hand. His eyes looking at us

were empty and hollow. It was like looking into the eyes of my father, nothing left, just an empty vessel.

After a few more minutes of silence, he pulled himself together and stood up pulling the pants up before doubling over again. I turned around horrified praying to the goddess it wasn't Amber, but then I felt it too. My breathing becoming harder, my skin burning, my eyes watering. Something was terribly wrong. I could hear Trent yelling at his men to do something, anything. He wasn't prepared to deal with this, none of us were when we realised we were all linked to Aria the way we were. I didn't even have a chance to warn him before both Zane, and I passed out. The pain becoming too much. If this keeps up, we were never going to have a chance to find them. My last thought was trying to mind link Aria.
"Keep fighting, stay alive, so we can find you."

Aria's POV

I tried to fight it, tried to hold my breath, but the wolfsbane burning my flesh had me screaming only to inhale its toxic gas. Just as I passed out. Reid's voice popped into my head, he sounded weak and in pain.
"Keep fighting, stay alive so we can find you." His words giving me comfort as I succumbed to the darkness.
When I came too, I was strapped to a gurney. I turned my head to the side to see Lily in the cage. She was awake and observing everyone walking around the room. I rolled my head to the other side to see Wendy strapped down along with David. Amber was missing. I tried to ask Lily where she was, but

my voice was completely gone. I must have breathed in more than I thought.

Lily was covered in burns, the skin on her face all blistered. Her hands blistered, but I was surprised to see she was awake.

The only conclusion I could come to was that her wolf kept her alive, I just

hoped Amber was still alive. Wolfsbane was extremely potent, and I am

surprised by the amount that has been used on us repeatedly that we were all

still alive. I was immune to death, but the rest of them, they weren't. I heard

Wendy awaken beside me. She looked over at me panicking when she

realised we were strapped to tables like some science experiment.

Whatever

was coming next, I knew it wasn't going to be good.

I tried to look around. We were in the same room only the table was gone

and, in its place, the three gurneys we were placed on.

"Where's Amber?" asked Wendy. I shook my head, not knowing when Lily

spoke.

"They took her," I looked at Lily, her blue and gold eyes gleaming back at

me, but she didn't look scared or sad. She looked angry. I wasn't sure if I was

looking at Lily or her wolf, it was hard to tell the difference with her eyes

remaining like that. Her voice did sound different though older than the sixyear-

old girl she is.

The door opened and in walked Kade. A woman walking in with him.

Her

red hair tied tightly in a bun on top of her head, glasses perched on the end of

her nose, she was around my age. She carried a small case in her hands and a clipboard.

“Start with the Hybrid,” he said, looking towards me and pointing. She nodded her head and walked over, standing beside me. I wondered how she

could justify doing whatever it was she was about to do, to women and children; did she feel nothing towards us. I couldn’t imagine watching a child

and other woman being tortured, I wondered how she sleeps at night. Peacefully or restless? Do her sins weigh heavily on her? She opened the box

pulling out two syringes one filled with a green liquid. The other was empty.

She jabbed the empty syringe in my arm before drawing blood. Her eyes met

mine, and hers quickly darted away guiltily, yes, I knew she didn’t have a

clear conscience and that her sleep haunted her. I could smell her fear and

something else. Guilt.

When she pulled the syringe out, she handed it to Kane before Picking up the

syringe with the green liquid in it.

“What is that?” I asked my voice croaky, praying to god whatever they were

about to give me wouldn’t hurt my baby. I don’t know why I turned so maternal all of a sudden, but as soon as she neared my arm panic for my baby

kicked in, fear consumed me but not for me but for the baby growing inside

me. I squirmed trying to get free.

“Oh, it’s a mutation of your father’s blood, I have been saving it waiting to

catch another Hybrid, I want to see if I can make you shift” Shift?

Hybrids

couldn't shift, was he insane? I had no doubts he had a few screws loose. Just

as she stabbed it in my arm, Wendy blurted out the one thing I was hoping to hide from them.

"Stop, she is pregnant, use me," The woman looked up concerned, her finger hovering above the plunger that could kill my baby. I was too scared to move

in case I accidentally injected myself. Kade walked over, lifting up my shirt,

revealing my bump. He pulled a stethoscope from his pocket and pressed it

against the centre of my stomach and listened. I knew what he could hear, the

slow thumping of its heartbeat. He looked up, surprised. He nodded at her.

"Remove it." The woman looked relieved. She pulled it from my arm, and I

relaxed. My fear dissipating but only momentarily. "Grab a bigger syringe, I

want you to inject it into the foetus." She looked appalled.

"What?"

"You heard what I said, now get a bigger needle."

"I can't, I won't do that." I watched as he grew angry, he reached over and

grabbed her leaning completely over me.

"Either you do it, or I will inject you with it." She shook her head before he

let her go. I started struggling against my leather cuffs. Wait leather? This

will be a piece of cake. I watched as her hands shakily drew out a bigger

needle, she put it in a vial drawing out the green liquid. Her hand shakily

moving towards my stomach. Fucking leather, are they for real, we managed

to get out of steel braces did they really believe wolfsbane would weaken me that much? Just as her hand went to jab me, Wendy started yelling at her to stop pulling against her restraints before coming to the same conclusion I did. I felt the needle press but not break the skin on my stomach before I moved, the cuff ripping from the chain that held it to the table. I grabbed her hand, her scream echoing off the glass windows. I sat upright, just as we heard an explosion, the entire building shaking.

Chapter 49

Aria's POV

The blast from the explosion shattered the windows of our glass cage. Kade being thrown backwoods and into Lily's cage. I still had hold of the woman's hand, that was no longer attached to her arm as a huge shard of glass sliced her arm off, from just below her elbow. The woman is screaming trying to stem the bleeding. I tossed her hand on the ground before undoing my ankle cuffs. Complete and utter chaos ensued. Wolves coming in from everywhere ripping apart anyone they found. Wendy was in battle with a man, still weak, she couldn't put up much of a fight, and I noticed his eyes changing to that of Christine's only he seemed to have more control. Lily was unconscious in the cage, the blast must have knocked her out as her cage was damaged. Kade

stood up dusting himself off, I jumped up when he moved with so much speed, I knew he wasn't just a human at least not anymore. Running at me, I stepped out of reach before shoving the gurney between us, the only problem was that left Lily trapped in the cage on the side he was on. But clearly, I was his target as he paid no attention to her whatsoever. The table David was on was thrown on its side, and I could hear him struggling to get loose before I heard him yell. "Aria, duck," My body dropped instantly as the table was thrown at Kade and smashing into the brick wall behind him and landing awkwardly covering Lily's cage. Kade shifted just in time and David launched himself at him shifting mid-jump, his claws and teeth sinking into his chest and neck. Kade punched David's wolf, knocking him to the side. I ran towards him, hitting him before he could stab David with the needle he had grabbed from the floor knocking us both through the brick wall and into the main part of the building where wolves and Hunters were fighting. I groaned having the wind knocked out me, Kade elbowed me in the face and shoved me off. His eyes changing to a fluorescent blue. What the fuck was he? I had never seen eyes like his before. He stood up, the needle still clutched in his hand, I watched horrified as his fangs protruded from his mouth and claws like a tiger came through, hair sprouting from his arms as he half shifted. Only he

wasn't a wolf; he still stood on two legs, and his face remained the same besides the fangs and eyes. He had the making of a wolf yet wasn't one. We circled each other, trying to get an advantage. Glancing around, I noticed he wasn't the only one that had partly shifted into a wolf. The man Wendy was fighting was the same. The building caught alight. I could hear what sounded like chemicals or gases blowing up bursting and sending sparks everywhere, catching whatever it touches alight. My attention being diverted, when I see David run from the room, heading towards the new door that had been blown out on the side of the building, he had Lily in arms. I noticed Amber's limp body over his shoulder. I wondered how he found Amber as she wasn't in the same room with us. That distraction cost me, as Kade saw it as an opportunity to get the advantage as he plunged the needle into my arm. I felt the poison enter my bloodstream and an agonised howl ripping through the room, I looked at the needle, then at Kade who had a triumphant grin, which was soon destroyed as I see Ryder launch himself from the floor above us biting down on Kade's face. I felt the room shake but not from an explosion but from whatever it was that I was poisoned with. I wobbled on my feet as extreme vertigo washed over me. I felt drunk and stumbled around deliriously, grabbing anything I could

to remain upright. Then I saw my father's face next to mine. *Where did he come from?* I drunkenly thought he caught me as I fell to the ground, my eyes looking up at the ceiling. My entire body going numb, as I am paralysed. I hear people talking before I hear my father scream at Ryder. "Leave him, take my daughter, that bastard is mine." I heard a savage growl, my father's shirt ripping from his body like he was on steroids. His eyes blazing almost red before he left my line of vision, my head rolling to the side. My eyes searching for anything in the smoke and chaos. I could smell the lingering smell of burning plastic and feel the heat of the flames as they got nearer. The entire building was on fire, and I couldn't move just watch as the flames got closer. "Reid," I coughed out as I started choking on the smoke that was filling the air. What had he given me, it didn't seem to do anything but paralyse me and make me feel sick? Then I see Reid's face hovering above mine, I could tell he was naked by his bare chest. "Let's get you out of here," he said, scooping me up, my head falling backwards before he adjusted me, so it was resting on his shoulder heavily. He turned around, looking back at my father, who was still fighting Kade. Flames were everywhere destroying the entire building; parts of the roof were falling, and Reid sang out to all the wolves and humans present. "Humans?" I mumbled my tongue, starting to go numb. "I will explain everything later."

“Everyone get out, the building is going to collapse.” His Alpha voice rolling over me, I could feel the power behind his words as everyone ran from the building. Reid carried me outside, leaving me on the grass before running back into the burning building. All I could see was the sky, which was black with smoke, it was night-time. I couldn’t move, I just lay there. I felt a hand brush my hair from my face, my eyes looking up to see David sitting next to my head, it was his hand I felt.

“Where did Reid go?”

“To help your father and Zane, they are still inside.” I felt my heart rate increase, fear taking over. They were in there while I lay paralysed, not able to help. “What about Lily?”

“I’m here,,” she said, grabbing my hand and leaning over the top of me.

“Amber too, she is awake as well,” I listened carefully and could hear her sobbing somewhere off to my side.

I don’t know how long passed but Reid and my father finally came out with Zane. I heard Amber start screaming hysterically, wailing. I heard Zane pick her up and whisper soothingly to her.

“I know baby girl, I know.” Hearing them made tears fall from my eyes. I killed her, I killed my friend, killed their loved one. The guilt was eating at me, I hope they will forgive me.

“Reid?” I called out, my voice breaking. He came into my line of vision and knelt beside me, pulling me up, so I was leaning on him.

“Why can’t I move?”

“It’s the drug, I think your body is rejecting it.”

“What was it?”

“We aren’t sure, we think it was some mutated gene of your own blood, but your father got him. The Crescent Pack are helping your father move him to their cells for questioning.”

The Crescent Pack, that was a name I hadn’t heard in years, no one really had an alliance with them, they tended to stick to themselves. I wondered why they suddenly wanted to help.

“Let’s get you home,” he said, picking me up. I started to get feeling back in

my legs when we got to the car, but nausea rolled over me, and Reid helped

me manoeuvre, so I didn’t throw up all over him, instead emptying the contents of my stomach next to the car.

“Better?”

“A little,” My gums tingled and my fangs protruded.

“Where’s Lily?”

“Already in the car with David. Zane has Wendy and Amber in the other car.”

He pulled me into the back, so I was sitting across his lap. Lily touched my

back softly with her small hand. I managed to turn my head, getting enough

mobility back to turn slightly. Reid, seeing I wanted to turn to face the front,

placed me on his lap, my back pressing against his chest. I felt his hand go to

my stomach before going underneath my shirt and rubbing my belly. His

hand felt warm on my stomach as he rubbed my belly in circles.

We drove back to our Pack house. By the time we got back, I had full

movement back. Whatever he gave me must have been a dud luckily,
maybe
the Moon Goddess was watching over us after all.
The drive home was quiet but peaceful. It was so strange sitting in a
car with
David in comfortable silence. Going back to when we were still part of
the
Black Moon Pack, I would have laughed if someone told me Lily would
have
her father back wanting to parent and that we would all become a
family
again. Seeing it with my own eyes now, I knew things were going to
be good
between us, we just have to mourn those we lost first and rebuild our
Packs,
but I had no doubt that David was going to step up for his daughter
and be the
father she deserved all along.
I looked at Lily and smiled sadly. Her blue and yellow eyes looking
back at
me. I was so proud of her, and I knew that Lily was strong enough to
endure
it no matter what happens in the future, strong enough to move past
what
happened and any new challenges. Which I knew we would have
them,
because her wolf and her had been altered and I could tell it was
permanent.
But we would get over these obstacles too when they arise. We finally
made
it home, it was a sombre feeling as we all got out of the cars. Not all of
us
made it back and the weight of that hung heavily in the air.

Chapter 50

Epilogue

Lily's POV

Nearly 12 years later

I watched as my sister chased after the kids. She was an excellent mother, a little overbearing at times and always so watchful of everything they did, including me. I couldn't get anything past her. When she had her firstborn, a little boy, they named him Ryker. I could tell her life was moving on for the better. When the twins came along, Arial and Lana, I was ten and decided to move back in with my father. Aria had enough on her plate with running the Pack and looking after the kids. I often felt guilty about her being forced to raise me, but at the same time, I'm glad she did. I knew I never would have made it to adulthood without her. My father and I have now built a bond the way it should have been in the beginning, although I also class Reid as my father, giving me two. When the twins were born, I felt a little out of place. Life moved on, yet I stayed the same, only growing older. My life has been thrown into chaos since my wolf and I never had a chance to bond, having been forced to shift so young. For years Aria, my father, and Reid tried to help me learn how to control her, but nothing we did worked, and eventually, we gave up trying. When she had control, it was hard taking it back from her. My wolf was completely altered,

and I don't think I will ever be able to let her out willingly. She can't be trusted.

I knew I was a danger to my nieces and nephew, so I made the decision to

leave. It was safer that way. Aria and Reid tried to get me to stay, but I couldn't put that burden and worry on them. Aria thinks she owes it to me to

fix me, but she doesn't realise she doesn't actually owe me anything, if anything, I owe her for throwing her life away for me. For everything she has

done. I still occasionally stay with them. Still see them almost daily, I just

hate not being at home.

Most of the wolves of my father's Pack house are older, and if I lose control,

I know they can take me down if needed. I won't risk that here with the kids

present. I would never forgive myself if I hurt one of them.

As I walked through the clearing towards where Aria was playing on the

swings with the kids, she looked up, a smile lighting up her face. I waved

heading toward them.

Ryker, seeing me, jumped off the swing mid-air running towards me despite

the panicked look his mother gave him. He was eleven now and looked so

much like his father with his black hair and silver eyes. The girls had black

curly hair, but their mother's amber eyes. Ryker threw himself into my arms.

Catching him, we tumbled backwards onto the grass.

"Aunty, Aunty," he squealed. I hugged him tight, smelling his hair. He always smelt of cinnamon. Aria comes over, standing over the pair of us

looking down at the pair of us on the grass.

“Ryker, what have I said about jumping off the swings like that? You could have hurt yourself.” Ryker rolled his eyes, and I smiled before giving him a wink. He was a wild child, always up to mischief. Maybe he gets that from me.

Aria held her hand out, and I grabbed it, letting her pull me to my feet. She embraced me in a hug before holding me at arm’s length, her judging eyes penetrating as she gave me the once over.

“You’ve been partying again. You know you need to stop this, you’re about to take over the Black Moon Pack. It’s time to grow up, Lily.” I sighed the same lecture every fucking time. Doesn’t she get sick of giving the same speech?

“Don’t roll your eyes, you know I’m right. You are about to meet the new Alpha of the Crescent Pack today, and you smell like a brewery,” she scolded.

“Fine, I will change, okay?” I left out the part that my father, Reid, and I had been in discussion already about me standing down. I don’t want the Alpha position. I know with my wolf, I can’t be Alpha. Aria doesn’t know this. I think she knows something is up. We have been waiting to let her know, deciding to come out at the meeting. I knew she would pitch a fit. But we have a plan, and today she will find out about it.

“I have already met Alpha Damien, and I don’t care what anyone thinks. My life, my body, I will do what I like, Aria,” I argued back. She went to say something, but I beat her to it.

“But if it makes you feel any better, I will change, okay?” She looked tired,
the kids and I suppose the stress of me has caused her many sleepless nights.
Yet she still looked the same, no different, never aging along with Reid. Even
the other Pack members aged slower than most because of the link to her.
Aria having Vampire and Lycan blood had its advantages. My sister was a
pure Hybrid. The second last of her kind, her father was born from an original Vampire and a Lycan, we only found all this out when her father
came back into her life when I was six, when the Hunters attacked and destroyed everything including me.
As I walked back into the Blood Moon Pack house, I made my way upstairs
to Aria’s room on the top floor. As I was walking up the stairs, I saw Amber,
my best friend and accomplice, although I feel Zane sometimes wishes I
weren’t such a bad influence on his daughter with my wild ways and partying.
“Lil, are you here for the meeting?” She called out to me.
“Yep, come upstairs with me, Aria wants me to change,” I said, rolling my
eyes. She walked up the stairs a knowing smile on her face, she had also been
scolded a few nights before for sneaking in late. Her father Zane and the Beta
of the Blood Moon Pack gave us a stern talking to, then he rang my father
like he was going to do anything. I only have to bat my lashes and dad was
wrapped around my finger. I know he doesn’t like punishing me because of
my childhood, so why not play on it.

"Where's your father?" I asked nervously.

"Probably off with Wendy, doing something,," she said.

Wendy and Zane both lost their mates in the war with the Hunters. A few

years later we were shocked to find out they had been granted second chance

mates. Our shock getting stronger when they announced they were getting

married and were each other's second chance Mates. Amber was upset at

first, no one could replace her mother, but Wendy was a great stepmother and

helped raise her, so eventually, she came to see it as a good thing.

When we got upstairs to Aria's room, I walked in not expecting to see Reid

getting dressed.

"Shit sorry Alpha," I said as he was standing only in his black pants, his pants,

his shirt still undone as he quickly buttoned it up.

"All good Lily, you know where her closet is," he said, pointing to it in the

corner of the room. Aria must have warned him I was on my way up.

"You're not gonna scold me, too, are you? Because if you are, I will rock up

like this," I said cheekily. Reid smiled.

"No, I'm sure Aria will give you enough shit. Are you ready for today?"

"Yep, just want to get it over with and then bail, you can deal with Aria." I

stated.

"She will come around eventually. What about meeting Alpha Damien? You

haven't seen him in twelve years, and I know your father had that falling out

with him last year."

"That's dad's business, not mine. I don't care for this Alpha Damien. I will

just be glad when I don't have to keep going to all these Alpha meetings."

He nodded. "Amber, get your father to meet me in the boardroom please," he

said, walking over and kissing my head in a fatherly way. Amber quickly left,

obviously feeling awkward with Reid getting dressed in front of her.

Not that

nudity was a big thing with werewolves, and he had pants on so besides his

masculine chest you couldn't really see anything.

"Get ready, the other Alphas will be here soon. I know they won't like it when they find out that my Pack will be bigger than theirs once you

hand the Pack over to me, so prepare yourself." He left the room, and I walked into the

closet.

One thing I loved was Aria's sense of style. I was always borrowing her

clothes, it annoyed her sometimes. I rummaged through and grabbed out a

pair of jeans and a shirt before throwing on one of her black leather jackets

before putting my sneakers back on. Looking in the mirror, I felt I looked

decent enough, and no way was I letting Aria dress me, she would have made

me wear a dress. But looking in the mirror, I looked great. I was tall, not

freakishly tall but taller than Aria, my long blonde hair falling in waves down

my back to my waist, then there were the eyes which is what most people

saw straight away, I had hoped they would go back to normal. I hated them,

people always stared, not that they would ever say anything with my father's

presence. Yet, they made me self-conscious, you could tell there was something wrong with me, no matter how hard I try to pretend I am okay. I

know what people call me.

Unhinged. They aren't wrong, though. So, I have learnt to accept it.

My half

amber half sapphire eyes staring back at me are a constant reminder of what

those sick Basterds did to me.

"Fuck what anyone thinks," Layla, my wolf growled in my head. She really

was a hard case to crack. One minute she almost seems normal, then others

she is just a savage, primal and acts out of instinct, we still don't know what's

wrong with her and our bond.

"Behave, please don't embarrass me," I whispered back to her.

"Behave? You embarrass yourself, got nothing to do with me.

Besides,

everything will change soon." I wondered what she meant, and I could feel

her pacing in the back of my mind. She never made any sense.

"Everything will make sense, make sense?" She rambled.

"What will?" I asked, annoyed.

"When we turn eighteen, yep eighteen." Clearly, she didn't know what she

was talking about, so I gave up trying to get answers. I walked out heading

back downstairs only to run back into Amber, who was trying to sneak off

with her mate. She found her mate on her sixteenth birthday, I haven't found

mine. Layla and I don't think we have one because of what happened years

ago. I was often jealous that everyone else in our grade either found their

mates already or had boyfriends. People steered clear of me. I'm the

unhinged one, the dangerous one, keep your children away parents would say.

Even if we did have a mate, I would have to reject them. I am not mate material. No one wants a broken mate. Layla didn't agree, she thinks reckoned our mate would accept us. She also said she will kill me if I reject

our mate. Like I said, she is unhinged, to kill me; she also kills herself. My

wolf one minute is lucid, the next batshit crazy. I shake my head at the memory. Amber holds a finger to her lips, and I smile as she and Shaun sneak

out the back no doubt to let their wolves free in the forest surrounding the property.

I make my way down the stairs when I get hit with the most intoxicating

scent. Mmm, someone must be baking chocolate cookies, my mouth instantly

watering. I hear voices off to the side coming from the kitchen. I quickly

duck around the corner and run for the board room. I can't afford to be late; I

open the door, and all eyes turn to me.

Shit, I am already late. My father has a lazy smirk on his face like he expected nothing less. Reid didn't even look in my direction at all, he knew I

was on my way down. Aria was glaring. I shrunk back under that gaze before

realising I'm also an Alpha technically, so I hold my chin high and walk to

my seat, ignoring her boring eyes. I notice the Alpha from the Forest Pack is

already here, and the Alpha Thomas from the Red Moon Pack, but the Crescent Moon Alpha was also running late. I sat in my seat. I hated the

Crescent Moon Alpha. I heard he was obnoxious and liked to sleep around. I met him when we were rescued from the Hunters and haven't laid eyes on him since. Only heard the rumours about how he killed his own father and took over the Pack; apparently, he is ruthless and merciless when it comes to his Pack, which is now the biggest Pack. I knew he would be pissed when he found out mine and Reid's Packs were merging, making ours the biggest and strongest in the country. I stared at the ceiling waiting for the last Alpha to arrive bored already. Only looking up when that intoxicating scent hit my nose again just before the door opened and in stepped the Crescent Moon Alpha. I must admit he was hot as fuck. He froze, his eyes looking around the room before landing on mine. He looked shocked before he composed himself and walked into the room, taking the seat across from mine. My wolf was going crazy, trying to take control. "Settle the fuck down, what's gotten into you, Layla?" She didn't answer and just kept pushing against my skin.