

# Alpha's Blind Luna Online Free

## Chapter 71

### Chapter 71

We didn't speak, didn't move for a long time. Just held each other, holding tight knowing this moment would be fleeting. But this was the first time in two years someone hugged me and I'd be damned if I was going to waste it.

"Hector?"

He hummed into my shoulder and it sent a wave a goosebumps over my skin.

"Thank you."

Lifting his head up, Hector looked at me in the eyes. "How can you say that? This is as good as forcibly marking you, Auri. I made the choice that you had no input. I just... I couldn't listen... couldn't watch as they did that to you. I'm sorry, I was weak. I..."

My finger came up to his lips, hushing him. "Stop, Hector. You saved me from another five rounds after that." His eyes widened but I continued. "If anything, you might have saved me for all of those in the future too. It's okay. You aren't forcing me, Hector. It's not the same."

He shook his head and my finger fell from his lips. "You're wrong. It's the same. The lesser of two evils doesn't make it good. It's still fucking evil. I still..."

Softly putting both my hands on the side of his face, I pulled him forward and kissed him. My lips softly pressing against his surprised ones. He didn't move, didn't reply but I didn't need him to. It wasn't for him to show me he loved me, I knew that already. What he didn't know was that I loved him. All this time, I had been connected to Logan and I was not going to break apart the mate bond but it was gone now. Would I have chosen to mate right now? No. I would have liked time. Apparently though, I'd had two years of it. I was glad it was Hector. I thanked the Goddess it was him. I felt for once maybe things did work out in the oddest of ways.

"I love you." My whispered words widened his already surprised look.

“Auri, it's not...”

I sighed. “I have for a long time Hector. With Logan, I couldn't. Eventually, I wanted... I knew... hoped... one day it would be you.” Chuckling, I leaned back a little. “Not like this. Maybe something a little more romantic but I thought... maybe...”

“Auri, stop. Nothing can make this better.” His fists were balled up and his eyes cast down again.

Stubborn old fool. Years he pined and now that he had me, he was pushing me away. I didn't reply though. I knew probably the only one who could pull him out of this would be Ryder but with all the silver, it wouldn't happen. For now, all we could do was wait. Scooting over to the wall, I laid my back against it and patted the spot next to me. He still didn't look up but he did slide his way over, our sides melding together.

“Vale is going to be mad.”

I hummed. “Why?”

“He's been growing out his hair because he wanted to see if he could get it longer than yours.”

Smiling, I laughed. “Well, he's won.” Lifting my hand up, I brushed the top of my head. It had grown out from the last time they shaved it off but it was only about an inch long.

Hector absently chuckled. “I never thought I would see the day your hair was this short but it looks good.”

“Easy to manage at least. Maybe I'll keep it short for a while.”

His hand came up and his fingertips brushed through my hair. “It's so soft.”

My head fell against him and our fingers intertwined, our hands holding tight together. We were quiet for a spell before I took a deep breath.

“How bad is it out there?” “Fucking chaos. Goddess, Auri, it's like a goddamn world war out there. Nowhere is safe. No one is safe. At one point, Vale fucked up and added fuel to the fire. Poor boy didn't mean to but then Zeke just swooped in and took care of it. He's made a name for himself, Ezekiel

the Peacekeeper. I don't know how he does it but damn if he isn't the only thing standing between the few lives we've lost already and hundreds of thousands of lives we could have lost."

I smiled. Zeke was always the right choice. I knew my instincts weren't wrong about him. About handing him the most dangerous documents as well as every safety net I had ever built. Pride filled me but also dread that it wasn't over yet. That they had to go through two years already without me.

Looking up at Hector, our eyes met and his hand came up, brushing my cheek. He looked so torn. I closed my eyes and leaned into his touch.

"I missed you, Auri."

My heart leapt into my throat and I squeezed his hand. "I wanted to see you again but not like this. Never like this."

"I know. But I couldn't care less how it happened. Torture me a thousand days. Ten thousand even, if it meant I could see you and hold you like this." I smiled and looked up at him. His eyes weren't looking at me though, but at the wall ahead.

Sitting up, I noticed his forehead was starting to perspire. Lifting my hand up, I wiped the drops that were forming away.

"It's kicking in it looks like."

I watched his Adam's Apple rise and fall. "I'm sorry, Auri."

Shaking my head, I moved and straddled his legs. His hands grabbed my waist tightly, locking me from moving but my focus was on his face.

"It's not you who should be apologizing. I'm mused, damaged goods. What you just witnessed, that has happened twice a week for the entire time I've been here. Not to mention the side action some try to sneak in. That and the experiments and procedures they do. I'm not even whole. I'm sorry you're going to be stuck with something like that, someone like me."

He growled. "Don't you dare say that, Auri Meadows. Don't you fucking dare."

"Then stop fucking apologizing. Stop looking at me like I'm the last person you want to mark. The last person you want to mate with. You look at me in

disgust and horror like I'm..."My voice rose but it was cut off by Hector kissing me.

It was passionate and forceful. My surprise left my mouth open for his tongue to slip in and explore. This was our first real kiss. I slipped my hands around his neck and I kissed back, with as much love as I could muster. We broke after a minute, his forehead touching mine.

"I love you, Auri. I always have and I always will. I never wanted our relationship to be forced. I always wanted you to be able to choose."

"I choose you. If it wasn't for Logan all these years, it would have been you. Now it is."

He chuckled and shook his head. "Not like this... never like this..."

I grumbled, "Stubborn old ass."

This made him laugh and his hand cupped my cheek. "I feel myself slipping."

"It's okay, let it go. I'll take care of you. I promise. Hell, you're lucky this skips the painful part. But you'll probably go through a second later."

"Me? Why me? It's the she-wolf..."

Shaking my head, I chuckled. "It's not. Cause if that was the case, Ezekiel never would have gone through heat. It's based off of power. How powerful your mate is. And I'm... well... Frankenstein's monster... after all." I gave him a small smile but I could tell he wasn't buying it.

Before he could retort or ask or do anything, his eyes flickered and I saw the darkness take over. His nails dug into my side where he held me at my hips. Hector's whole body started to shake as I watched him trying to fight the serum; fighting the heat as he stared me down. I was sitting on his bare thighs but his dick was erect between us, standing to attention.

Taking a deep breath, I moved further down his legs so that my head could fall into his lap. Then, without a second thought, I licked his shaft from base to tip. The shaking stopped and he froze, his eyes looking down at me. I swirled my tongue around his tip before I completely took his head in my mouth. A growl rumbled from him but it only spurred me on. I was going to get him through this heat.

His dick hit the back of my throat several times but I was enjoying the sounds he was making far too much to stop. When he came, his seed coating my throat, I smiled. Swallowing, I licked his still fully erect cock clean. Hector's hands reached under my arms and pulled me up when his lips crashed against mine. While the other kiss was passionate, this one was needy and wild. He nipped my lips and even my tongue. As he did, his hands settled back down on my hips. He held me tight, lifting me and setting me down so that his wet dick slipped between my folds. I moaned against him as he snuggled his way into my vagina. Goddess, he stretched me out. He was t hick and long and I felt so full I wondered if I pressed down on my stomach if I could feel him inside of me.

I started to move my hips and his growls turned to moans. Moving up and down, I found a grueling rhythm that put my strength to the test. It also put his ability to hold out to the test. Pleasure had always been a tough one for me. Slowly, I had gained some sensitivity back that was enough to make sex enjoyable again but nowhere near as explosive. Rarely did I ever actually come and if I did, it was from more than one spot of stimulation.

They had been experimenting with different parts, trying to fix me in some ways. They filled in just about everything I had lost when Morgan saved my life. They tried to work out regaining my ability to feel but it was no use. After a while, they gave up that battle. Along with trying to put vampire lungs in me, seeing if they could make it so I wouldn't have to breathe. They considered it a failure after three times. Putting my own lungs back after every time. However, the feeling of pleasure that was radiating through my body, was a level I hadn't felt. Not even on Nova, did it feel this good.

My strangled moans started to follow his as I rode him for dear life. At first, I had my hands on his thighs but I had to move them to his shoulders, holding on. He growled again and I leaned forward, my head resting on his shoulder. Goddess, his body was huge. He made me feel so damn small. I cried out when he bucked his hips, his dick slamming into the very end of me. Doing it again, I screamed his name. Goddess, I was so close.

As he slammed into me third time, I felt his teeth sink into my shoulder. Shuddering, I moved my head and did the same to him. The pleasure exploded and I squeezed his cock for dear life as he came in me.

Slowly, we both pulled our teeth out of each other. Hector's back fell against the stone but his hands still held my waist tight.

His eyes were shut and I wondered if the combination of the marking and the release kicked the serum out of his system. Leaning forward, I rested my head on his chest, curling up against him. He was still inside me but I just enjoyed the connection. Slowly, his hands came up and wrapped around my shoulders.

My eyes closed as I felt the bond reweave itself. Except this time, the bond snapped into place, I was hit with the full force of Hector's emotions. Regret, sadness, fear, loathing, were the strongest and I had to take a deep breath. The silver was supposed to stop the connection so while I knew the bond was there, it shouldn't be fully connected. I let my emotions, my love for him, my acceptance, even a little happiness blanket all of his negative ones. I was able to takehold of his love for me that swam under the surface and intertwined that with my own.

Hector's body went from rigid to soft and his tight hold turned into a loving embrace.

"I love you, Hector. It might not be as much as you deserve or as much as you have for me but I love you as much as I possibly can. I hope... I hope that's okay."

"It's more than okay. It's more than I could ever dream of. Goddess, I love you. More than anything in this world. I love you, Auri."

Smiling, I snuggled into him more. It was small but I could feel the slight sparks dancing between us now. Was our bond so strong it beat out the silver? Or was it just my power that now ignored any and all weaknesses? Sleep started to take me but I needed to test the theory. There might be a chance I could get out of here with Hector or at least set him free. That would be enough. The weakness fell onto me and I slipped into a dreamless sleep.



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### **Chapter 72**

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When I woke, I was back hanging up against the wall. My wrists had already re-dislocated and I knew they must have used something to knock me out. Who knows how long I was actually asleep. Worry wormed its way through me

but I realized after a bit it wasn't mine. I lifted my head up, resting it against the wall. Hector was stuck with me. As much as the bond shouldn't be felt with all the silver, I didn't have the strength to pull up my walls. He would just have to feel everything for now.

"Auri?"

I slowly peeled my eyes open and looked at him. He let out a sigh of relief.

"You've been out for a long time."

Showing him a small smile, I leaned back again and closed my eyes. "You could say they keep me se dated all the time. Giving me extra just adds more potency to it. I'm too weak, my body can't fight it anymore."

Hector grew quiet and I slipped in and out of sleep. I was awake by the door scraping open and Oran stepping in, followed by two guards.

"Good morning newly mated wolves, how's itgoing? Feel the bond solidify? Do we need another round of heat to help?"Hector growled at him."You obviously don't know shit about bonds."

"Alright alright. Testy much? Is it because youwoke up and she wasn't in your arms? That you can't... protect her."Oran chided Hector.

It worked. Hector tried to rocket from the floor at him but the chains held tight. Oran just laughed, shaking his head. He looked over to me who hadn't moved. I refused to give him the satisfaction for as long as I could.

"We have the big operation today! Aren't youexcited?"

"Why would I be excited for you cutting meopen? Again? You've done this the entire time I've been here."I answered, deadpanned. All the while trying to calm the anger radiating off of Hector. It would only get him in trouble.

Oran clapped."I'm glad you asked!"I groaned but he continued."This is a special procedure. One that we have yet to actually have any wolf live past but I have a feeling with your power and all the building up we've done, it shouldn't be an issue."

Rolling my eyes while they were closed, I wondered how many of the times he opened me up that was the case. This made my eyes fly open and I glared at Oran. "Leave him out of this."

"Oh my dear, but this is too big. Too much."

Obviously, he would have died if we just put him under the knife same as you. But now, now that you two are mated and share a bond..."His lips pulled back in a maniacal grin. "... let's hope you can use some of that power to keep him alive as well."

My heart sunk. Fear filled my veins but I couldn't look at Hector. I knew he felt what I was feeling and as much as I tried to be strong, this was well past that ability.

"Oran, I could die by giving him all my power to save him. You wouldn't want that now would you?"

Oran burst out laughing. "Well now! There is the fight I missed. The games that we used to play. No Auri, you can't give him all your power because if you die, he dies. It needs a long continuous drain to heal and acclimate the body to it. I promise you though, it will be worth it. Two of my very good colleagues gave their life for this. You wouldn't want that to be in vain, would you?"

I swallowed and balled up my fists. Snapping his fingers, Oran had four guards and three people in lab coats shuffle into the room. They pulled in the metal tables. Closing my eyes, I felt the pinch from the needle they shoved in my neck. There was no reason to fight it. It would only hurt me or worse, they would take it out on Hector. My body felt heavy and the chains gave way. The two guards lifted me onto the table and secured me with the silver bonds. It didn't help that the whole top of the table was coated with it. I hoped they knocked Hector out completely for this.

They rolled me out before putting Hector on his table. Usually, we went to a small room, where two or three of the lab coats would operate on me. Today, they rolled me into a huge room. There were people scattered everywhere. Some in coats, some in scrubs, and then guards at the door. This was much bigger production than usual. The table was secured and they left me. Hector was wheeled in moments later, his eyes closed and his breathing was steady. There was nothing through the bond and I was glad they knocked him out.



"I want this done simultaneously. It can't be botched on either of them. This is our chance." Oran strode in with a coat on.

The whole room burst into action. Everyone started to step up on either side of Hector and I. I wanted to reach out to him. Hold his hand, something but I could barely lift my eyelids, let alone my arm. He was close enough though I could smell him. Taking a breath, I tried to push past the silver, allow some power to come out and encompass him. It was then I was hit with his scent. It was moss and cinnamon. I swallowed the lump in my throat.

"Good, keep doing that. He may survive this yet." Oran was leaning over me and I glared at him. "We need you awake so your power can keep going but I'm afraid you need to be dead for a few minutes. We will wake you back up, don't worry, but you better be quick on the draw for that power. Otherwise, you'll both be dead." His voice was light and chipper. I wanted to make him eat the damn silver table. Oran's death would be my crowning achievement in my life and I would retire.

"Let's begin!"

At his words, he stepped away and more lab coats came forward. Closing my eyes, I focused on the power flowing through me and then flowing through Hector. Instead of pushing it out of my body, I channeled it through our bond alone. A continuous flow of power between the two of us. Even though I couldn't feel the pain of it, I could feel them drag the knife down and open me up. It was a feeling I never thought I would feel, let alone get used to, but here we were.

"Are you there?"

"Yes, Dr. Mathis." "Alright, in 3...2...1..."

For a split second I felt a searing pain and the life leaving Hector before darkness consumed me in a instant.

"Wakey, wakey, your highness."

Squeezing my eyes tight, I tried to take a breath but I felt like I was suffocating. Was I dying again? I could feel the pain through Hector and I panicked. Remembering what Oran said, I focused on the circulation of power between myself and Hector. It filtered through my body, through our

bond, through Hector and back. A constant and even flow. It could burn him, kill him, or kill me if I fucked it up.

“That’s right. Keep going. Give it a little more,Auri.”

I winced and tried to ignore the solid beep of the machines. Pushed past the darkness that was creeping around the edged of my consciousness. After all this, I wouldn't lose Hector. Not now, not ever. He would live, even in he hated me after all this, after the monster I had become, I wouldn't allow him to die. After a single, deep breath, my eyes opened and the room was bathed in a golden light. I had tapped into my power further and I upped the power that was circulating. Suddenly, the two machines started to beep and I felt the bond hold stronger, easier to push power through. Swallowing, I relaxed into the table. There was cheering around the room and celebrating. It went quiet after someone cleared their throat.

“Remember, this is only two-thirds of the issue. We have had wolves survive this operation. Not two at once, but we need to monitor them closely. Take them back. Leave full slack and put them together. She is required for this to work and their bond needs to be close. If they can make it past day six, we have done it.”

There was shuffling and I heard Hector’s table

being moved before I was moved after mine.

Could they not just put us in a normal bed? What

I wouldn't give to sleep in a bed, with a pillow

and actual sheets. Goddess, it could be 100 thread

count for all I cared. It could be made of wool.

Anything was better than the concrete. Alas, it was not to be. I managed to open my eyes and stared as they attached Hector’s ankle and wrist manacles. But they laid him in the middle of the room. His chest, the stitched up wound was already healing and I smiled.

They attached mine but the guard carried me and tucked me into Hector's side. I don't know if the amount of power I was circling through the bond could override the silver completely but the sparks that raced over my skin when I

touched him, shocked me. His scent filled me and I laid my head on his shoulder. Slowly, I fell asleep in his arms.

“Auri, I'm worried.”

My eyes fluttered open and I looked up at Hector. One of his hands was on my head, brushing through my short hair while the other brushed my cheek.

“You've been asleep for a few days.”

I gave him a small smile. “Sorry, it's taking a lot in me to keep this going. I feel like it's getting worse, getting harder to focus the power.”

“Just let it go... it's okay... I don't want...”

“Hush, Hector. Stop. Don't you dare. I won't let you get out of this that easily.”

He chuckled and leaned down, kissing my forehead. His back was against the wall and I was curled up in his lap. True to their word, they hadn't separated us. Time though was a mystery as there was no clock, no windows, no set rounds. Hector's wound was healed, making it look like nothing happened. Even mine had healed, which he was surprised at. I wasn't. I knew some of the things they did to me now forced me to heal without my wolf.

“Auri, we are going to get out of this. I promise.” I chuckled at his determination that filtered through the bond. “As long as you're free, that's all I care about.”

“Goddess, don't say that. I won't lose you after I've found you. Not again.”

Lifting up my hand, I brushed his cheek. It tickled from the beard growing in. “You know, I think you've grown more handsome over the years. You had such a baby face when I first met you.”

Hector's mouth dropped open and he started to laugh. “Now I know you're high.”

“What? It's true. I'm sure Ryder hated the grey but it looks good. It even peppers your beard.”

His eyes sparkled as he looked down at me. “Flattery will get you nowhere.”

Humming, I let my hand fall down his chest, feeling the sparks through my fingertips. I knew he felt them too because his body shook for a moment. Smiling, I curled into him.

“A few more hours. Just a few more.”

“Alright. Sleep.” The soft brushing of his hands and his scent relaxed me into another dreamless sleep.

A slow clapping brought me out of my stupor. Hector must have fallen asleep because he jolted awake as well. I peeled my eyes open and looked over to see Oran, flanked by two lab coats with clip boards. He was clapping, the look on his face was bright.

“Well, well, can you believe it. You two have made it eight days. That's longer than any other wolf has made it. They came to check on you yesterday and was able to confirm everything has gone swimmingly.”

Sitting up, Hector put a protective arm around me. He pulled me close, as we looked at Oran.

“I am so peached that I could just destroy the High Council now and get it over with.”

My brow furrowed. “What the hell are you talking about?”

“Oh, that's right. Her highness has been away all these years. You don't even know what's going on out there. I'm surprised lover-wolf over there hasn't filled you in. Well, no matter, you have many, many years ahead of you. You could almost say an infinite amount.” His smile became maniacal again.

“What's that supposed to mean?” Hector growled out.

Oran feigned surprise, putting his hand to his mouth. “Oh no, did I not say what that operation was going to do? How silly of me.” “You never did before.” I replied dryly.

“Well, missy, we replaced your hearts.”

Both of our eyes met his and his glee was crazed.

“Yes! Did you know that the key to vampire's ability of immortality actually lies within our hearts? The venom coats the inside of our hearts and it pumps

through our entire body, coating everything in that venom. That's what stops us from aging, stops us from dying. It all starts from the heart."

That same heart felt like it was sinking into the pit of my stomach. Hector's grip on me tighter and I felt the slight shake in his grasp.

"You see, it turns out it take six days to fullyfilter the venom throughout the body. After many, many trials, six days was always the max because as soon as the process was completed, the werewolf would die, unable to be turned. But you, you had the power to filter the venom through your body and of course, our dear Hector over here. You two, are now the first of your kind. You... are the first immortal werewolves!"



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### **Chapter 73**

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Shock couldn't even begin to describe what I was feeling. My mind raced and I felt like I was just looping around in my head. All my thoughts were jumbled. Putting together everything that they were doing to me, it didn't make any sense. They healed me, made me stronger, continued to experiment on me but it had done nothing but really build me up.

"Why... why would you even bother doing that tome?"Hector seemed to have the same swirling confusion.

"Honestly, immortality is lonely. It was agamble, sure, but now you two have each other for forever. Aren't I nice? You call me a monster but here I am, saving your love life and an impending doom of the death of your mate."

My head started to shake and I looked over at him."All this, why all this, Oran? It doesn't make sense. None of it does. You've built me up. Your experiments, replacing the things I lost, healing abilities, giving me my voice and my eyes, immortality..."

"Don't forget your power."

My brown furrowed.

“Oh dear, your Alpha King power was being stifled. Shoved down over your title of Luna Queen. You were always Luna Queen first. While it gave you some power it was the power of the Alpha King that is your greatest strength. My dear protege, my apprentice, my adopted son, he wanted to create a more powerful Alpha King and swoop in and raise him. His plan may have worked, if you hadn't been in the picture. Before severing the connection between Logan and the Alpha King power, he tripled that power. However, you were barely accessing a third of it because of that stupid Luna Queen title.”

“So you had the connection between Logan and I severed, removing me as Luna Queen.”

He smiled. “Exactly! Once that was done, you now have full access to your power, a power that needed to be nurtured. You, Auri, are my greatest creation between Micah and I.”

I still couldn't understand why. Oran seemed to read this in my face because he started to laugh. His pacing picked up, walking the entire length of the room.

“You see, Micah broke you down to your very core. He wiped you clean and built you back up. Built you up into what we wanted. Even popping in your life every so often to give you extra pushes in the right direction. Though sadly, my son got too greedy and he paid for it. But what he left behind for me was his creation, you.”

Hector growled but I put my hand on his chest. I would love to reassure him that Oran was wrong but I would be lying to my mate. Oran was right. It was something I struggled with early on, that Micah, the whole Blood Hunter Coven built me and I was nothing but what they created.

Originally, I thought that would end when I killed Micah. After that though, I came to realize that was not the case. All my decisions and my feelings were based on the things I had gone through in my life. The things they had done to me, for better or for worse.

“But why...”

“I finished our work dear. You were never supposed to leave his grasp. Especially not after he found out you were the Alpha King. He realized how much he fucked up. I stepped in to help finish his work. Building you into a force that no one could stop. Our champion, my champion, the King Killer.”

Hector growled. "In what world would you ever think she would do your bidding? That she would ever listen to you? Micah built her into his perfect demise. You've done nothing but repeat his mistakes."

Oran shook his head. "One of these decades you will understand what it means to look ahead past this century." He sighed. "I don't need to ask her to do anything, you silly wolf."

"Because you've already installed the principals and prejudices in me by Micah breaking me. All you did was give me more power to enact them." My voice was quiet and I didn't look up at him.

"Exactly! Now she gets it! Bravo! You will always be our champion because of what we have done to you. I don't need for you to do anything. Even if it ends my life, even if I have created my own reaper, you will always be what we wanted you to be. You will continue on and take action against those injustices you feel strongly about. Now, you have the power that not a single fey, vampire, witch, or werewolf can stand in your way."

Burying my head into Hector's chest, his arms felt like a safety net I needed right now. I thought I could fight Oran, fight whatever the hell he was doing but he was seeing the full picture of my entire life. I had already lost. He won years ago and was only completing his work. My fear, that I would never feel the same autonomy that I felt before being captured by Micah, was justified. Worse, Hector was pulled into this stupid fucking clownfest of my life.

"So what now? You just going to let us go?" Hector was livid.

"Not quite. I need to get some things done before I let you loose on this world. I have to go for a few months but I will be back. They will do a few more additions because it never hurts to be a little more powerful. Once I am back, we shall see if I just let you walk out the front door. Or if I need to test you a little before you go."

He smirked and shrugged. Waving to the lab coat behind him, he nervously stepped up but in a flash I felt a needle prick my skin. Hector swiped at him and his coat got shredded but I could feel the burn of the liquid.

"My parting gift. It's not fair that Hector got to go into heat. Especially since he will be the one to go into heat again. Let's let him get a taste of his new mate's pheromones, shall we?"

Oran laughed as he followed the doctors out and the door slammed shut behind him. We were quiet for a long time and I didn't move my head from his chest, nor did he remove his hands from holding me.

"Auri, you can't believe him. You can't take his words to heart."

"How... how can I not when I know they are true? He's right. He's absolutely right."

Hector pulled my chin up to look at him. "Astra is gone, my love. You shed that skin. You have loved and cared. You have become the woman you are not just from your experiences with them but having children. Growing into the woman you are today. Don't think for a moment they had anything to do with those memories, that kindness and love."

I smiled up at him. He brushed his hand across my cheek, down my neck and shoulders. His eyes were far away as he watched his hand brush over me. It was such a featherlight touch but still the connection raced the sparks between us. As he moved back up, his emotions twisted. Hector's hand covered the mark on my shoulder and his lips contorted in a grimace.

"Whatever you're thinking, stop." His trance was broken but the grimace didn't leave. "You know I can feel what you are, right?"

"I never wanted it to be like this."

Chuckling, I shook my head. "What? Didn't want to be captured by the monster of the Blood Hunter Coven himself? Didn't want to be tortured or cut open? Didn't want to be taken from our family?" His eyes widened but I touched his shoulder where I had marked him. "This is the only good thing that's come of this situation, Hector. You are my only good. I never wanted you to be stuck with me, but I would never change this. Change you and I. You're kinda stuck with me for now."

A smile wove its way on his face finally. "If there is anyone I'm stuck with, it's Rydere. You're the better one."

Laughing, I closed my eyes. His fingers brushed my eyelids.

"What about these? You can see for yourself; for the first time since you were four right? First time you could see since Kai passed."



“The cost was too high. It's never worth it when it costs someone's life.”

My eyes opened slowly as I looked at Hector. I kept the smile on my face. “It's nice seeing you though. Seeing the man you've become.”

He shook his head. “Not with this scratchy ass beard. Goddess what I would give for a razor. How Ezekiel and Bryan maintain it blows me away. It's a fucking...”

“Flavor saver?”

Hector fake gagged. “Don't say that. It's disgusting. I don't need to look anymore manly than I already am. I don't have a problem in that department.”

I laughed and shook my head. “No, no you don't.”

His eyebrows rise and he chuckled. “Is the serum kicking in?”

Glaring at him, I sat up and just barely touched my lips to him. “Do I need a serum to be attracted to my mate?”

Breathing against him, my lips teased his. Finally, his hand grabbed the back of my neck and he pressed his lips to mine. They were hungry and I smiled against him. “Don't tease me, Auri.”

“Why not?”

His eyes met mine. “Because you make me forget where we are. Years, I was afraid to even dream of your lips on mine. Don't tease me with that notion.”

“I'm yours, Hector. It's not a dream, not fake. I'm here, you're here. Whether or not Oran made it happen. You can't keep pulling away just because you imagined it going different.”

Before he could answer, I tensed and my nails dug into his shoulders. My temperature started to rise and my skin felt like it was on fire. Oran was right, this was nowhere near the intensity of a normal heat but fuck if it wasn't familiar. Breathing heavy, I let my forehead fall to Hector's chest, trying to calm my hammering heart. What's worse was that my control was slipping and more power was funneling through me than I meant to allow.

"My love, you're okay. Calm down. I'm here." Hector's voice soothed the storm in me. He must have felt the spike of my emotions as I tried to reign the power back down.

"I'm sorry. This is my fault. All of this. If I would have just died in that explosion. Before Micah ever got ahold of me. I should have gone with Kai, I should have..." My hands gripped him harder but he stroked my back.

He pressed his lips to my head. "Don't say that. Please. All these years we've had side by side, those are moments I cherish. You wouldn't have Vale or Týr or Syf and Freya. Think of everything you've done and built."

"And to re down. I've lost my family, Hector. I lost my babies, thrust a war on Vale. Goddess knows Logan and I were a shit show. I tore you from your pack, you and Bryan. Everything bad has my fingertips on it. Some way I've forced a war into this world."

"Stop it, Auri!" His hands moved to squish my face and pull my eyes up to meet his. "Stop this now. You have saved far more. Without you, I would have died. So would have many. So just stop. I love you, Auri. Even if it's fucking eternity I will always love you and you will not leave me. Do you understand?"

I chuckled as he swiped a tear off my cheek.

"You are my everything, Auri. With or without the bond. You will not talk like that. Not in front of me. If you need me to show you how much I love you, then damn it Auri, I will."

Hector flipped our bodies so he was on top, shivering between the coolness of floor matched with the touch of his skin. His lips touched my collar bone and his tongue dragged down the valley between my breasts. My heart beat erratically and I squeezed my legs together. He wasn't having it though, as his knees spread my legs apart. For a moment, he rested his head on my sternum.

"Goddess, you smell divine, love. Who needs a forest when I can just bury my face in you."

"As much as that sounds like heaven, I don't think I can wait. I..." my breath turned ragged. "... I need you. Now."

His lips kissed and tugged at my nipples, making me arch. The pleasure was still a level I hadn't felt in decades. Every part of me was sensitive and as he teased his head at my entrance I was fully prepared to come just from that. Hector slammed into me without warning and I screamed his name, my back arching up off the floor. After the first orgasm, Hector continued, his eyes blackened and lust pouring through the bond. It wasn't the second or the third that made me lose consciousness but as we came together on the fourth, I slipped into the darkness of the stars.



## **Alpha's Blind Luna Online Free**

### **Chapter 74**

#### Chapter 74

It had been surprising quiet. I guessed three weeks had passed. Hector's beard now being my indicator of time passing. At one point, he begged one of the lab coats to shave it off but they didn't do anything. Once a week I got my injections and Hector received a meal that I was thankful I didn't have to eat.

Despite that, somehow, Hector looked bigger, gaining more muscle and height. I wondered if it was because of our bond or it was because the power I imparted into him. Either way, the guards gave him a more wary eye and it made me laugh. For the most part, they kept our chains slack, allowing us to be together. The only time was the meal time or if they were hauling me away for more additions.

Yesterday had been one and I slept most of the rest of the day. After that, they had actually pulled the chains tight and we were stuck apart. It was wearing on Hector and I wondered how close we were to his heat. His replies were more growls than anything.

The sound of scrapping reverberated in the room and a lab coat, one of my usual prodders slipped in. It wasn't her usual walk or strut in, nor did she have any guards with her. The door was left slightly ajar as she walked in, giving Hector a side glance. Adjusting her glasses, she stepped up to me and put her lips to my ears. "I asked for them to hold you up so I could speak to you."

My eyes narrowed but I didn't move.

“Oran will be back in two weeks. But you can't stay here. Not anymore. You need to leave.”

Widening my eyes, I did turn my head to see her.

“Tomorrow is my day off and I will be off campus. I will leave my key card, jacket, and wallet for you. I'll leave the door open but you need to get out of those.” As she brushed the chains, my fingers wrapped around something she placed in my hands.

“Why now? Why help us now?” I whispered, Hector wasn't even paying attention to us but I kept my voice low.

She sighed. “Even I have my moral limitations. You're pregnant. If any of the other scientist found out they would tell Master Oran right away. But I know...” She paused for a second. “He wouldn't let you leave. Allow them to grow before experimenting on them. Already it shouldn't have happened with as much vampire you are now which made lead to him breeding you more. But he would take them all. Children... babies... are my line.”

My eyes widened and the sheer panic that now coursed through my veins alerted even Hector. “Get away from her!” He growled, completely mistaking the situation.

“Thank you. We'll take it. Don't be here though. I intend on leveling this place as we leave.”

She nodded and scurried out of the room. Ten minutes later, our chains loosened and I fell to the floor on my knees. I didn't move though, as I tried to formulate cohesive thoughts. Opening up my hand, I inspected the lighter sized object. Pressing the button I jumped as a small red laser burst out of it. Well, that would cut the silver. I held it tight in my hand.

“Auri, come here, now.”

I smiled and put the laser in the crevice of the wall before going over to Hector. I climbed into his lap and cuddled up against him. He brushed his chin against my head and I giggled.

“I want this beard fucking gone. It's driving me insane.”

Pulling his head down slightly, I gave him a soft kiss. “Calm down, I'm here.”

Inhaling deeply, his forehead fell to my shoulder. "Why do I get so riled up? Bryan wasn't like this with Nicole. Logan and you spent loads of time apart."

"That didn't make it easy." He wrapped his arms around me and pulled me tight to him. "But insufferable? I feel as though I'm on edge all the time. Like I'm a ticking time bomb. What am I, a teenager?"

Laughing, I shook my head. "It might just be getting close to your heat. Our bond is... strong. Maybe because of our relationship and because of the power that's been filtering through us but it might effect it in different ways. I honestly don't know."

He hummed again and nuzzled into my shoulder. "I don't want to be away from you."

Smiling, I leaned my head against him, I nodded. "Same, Hector. I feel the same."

We awoke to our chains being pulled. I panicked for a moment, scrambling off Hector and grabbing the laser in my right hand before letting the slack tighten and pull me up. Hector was thrashing against his. His eyes were dark. He was maybe two or three days away from his heat. I'd heard about this being an issue but never had I seen it happen.

The door opened and my favorite asshole guard Chet walked in. He had a twenty-watt grin on his face. I had no doubt this was going to end badly.

"George bribed one of the scientists for some knockout juice for big boy over here. I think it's far too long since we've had a go ahead you, mutt."

I frowned. "And risk angering, Master Oran? You've got balls."

"He won't know. You won't tell him, will you?"

Laughing, I shook my head. "Of course I'm going to tell him. I'm going to name every single one of you fuckers off and then tell them each one of you will have a bite mark on your fucking dick if you come anywhere near me."

His hand flew across my face but it was weak. "Behave, mutt. Otherwise I'll use your precious man over here to get you to step in line."

Walking over to Hector, he slammed the syringe into his shoulder, emptying the contents. I couldn't outwardly show anything but my panic started to rise. I wasn't going to be able to carry a passed out Hector while traversing this place to get out. But I couldn't stop it. Chet turned and smiled.

“See you in a couple hours sweetheart. You better get that mouth ready.”

I growled at him as he left. There wasn't anymore time. Flipping the small laser in my hand, it easily melted through the silver chain. My hand dropped but I leaned down to my legs allowing me to stay steady while I cut the last chain. The cuffs would be there for a moment but it didn't matter.

Running over to Hector, he was already half-lidded and losing consciousness. Closing my eyes, I tried to burst some power into him, like an adrenaline shot. It seemed to make him more coherent but that wasn't saying much.

“Hector... Hector, I need you with me right now. You can't give in, you can lose it, okay. We are getting out of here. I need you all together.”

“Auri, you know you're very pretty.”

A smile formed on my face. “And you're high. Pull your arms back.”

As he did, I laser cut the chains so he also just had the manacles on. Now I had to play the waiting game to see if the lab coat really was going to be true to her word. And hopefully do it before Chet came back.

Thirty minutes of counting, the door opened slightly. A bag was placed on the inside of the door. Reaching out, I grabbed it but a hand grabbed my arm.

“The debit code is 4356. Take anything you need. Run. Run like hell.”

I took a deep breath. “I need two more things.”

Her face came into view of the door. “I've done...”

“I need two beer bottles. They drugged him. Apparently, they are planning on their usual round about today. I have to play it off somehow.”

She tsked and disappeared. I grabbed the bag and brought it over. Inside were pants, a shirt, lab coat, key card, fake glasses and a pretty cute knit hat. Also inside was a flowery wallet with cards but no cash. I let out a sigh of relief when I pulled out an extra large Security uniform for Hector.

After dressing, I had to help Hector to stand and dress. I would say it was the first time but him and Bryan would do binge nights I would need to pick them up from the city. It didn't happen often but I'd had practice in our early days. The memory made me chuckle as I skewed his hat a little. I untucked a corner of my shirt and skewed my hat as well. I heard glass and two bottles spreader in the door. Running over, I grabbed them.

"Thank you."

"Good luck. If you get caught..." Her eyes met mine. "... don't get caught alive."

Swallowing, I nodded and opened up both the beer bottles. Pour out some of the contents, I handed one to Hector.

"Don't drink it, just hold onto it for dear life."

Hector sa luted sloppily and I sighed. This was a fucking stretch. Throwing his arm over my shoulder, I snuck my hand around his waist and helped walk him to the door. Pulling it open, I peered out but no one was in the hallway. Reaching into the lab coat pocket, I pulled out a little laminated map of the place that found when putting on the clothes. Apparently, everyone got lost in here.

"Don't say a word from here on out, okay? Let me do all the talking."

"You're the boss."

Rolling my eyes, I turned right and walked down the corridor. I'd come out of some scrapes but if this worked, this would take the damn cake.



## **Alpha's Blind Luna Online Free**

### **Chapter 75**

#### Chapter 75

We ambled five minutes before we ran into anyone. Luckily, it was no one who knew us. They didn't even stop as we swayed with the two bottles in our hand. I stopped at the power room. It was out of our way but I wasn't about to leave this place running after everything I had gone through. Leaning Hector up against the wall, I unlocked the door with the keycard. It was too easy. No

one was monitoring the room and it was as easy as pulling levels well past the red marker. It was sophisticated but at the same time, simple. I wondered where we were that would build a power system this easy to fuck up.

Quickly, I closed the door and pulled Hector back over my shoulder and we ambled our way down the halls. Unfortunately, this route took us past the guard common room for the east side. Sure enough, three guards stood outside, chatting. They looked us up and down.

“What the hell...”

Flaring my nostrils, I pointed my pinky at them, while holding the beer bottle up. I did my utmost to slur my words.

“Did... you know... today is my fucking birthday?”

Two of the guards backed up, one putting his hands up. “Is it now?”

I huffed. “It is! 213 fucking old.” I waved my bottle at them. “I get the day off... but... I got nowhere to go. No one to fuck. Do you... even know... how that feels?”

“Actually, I...”

“No! You don’t!” I roared over him. The two behind him giggled as they stepped out of the line a fire. Stepping up, Hector swayed and slammed into the wall but miraculously kept his beer from spilling. “This poor sap caught me crying and thought alcohol could cheer me up. Well, I’m not cheered up. He’s fucking piss drunk and I... I get to drag his ass outside for some air. But... two wrong turns! I need signs! Where are the fucking signs?!” I yelled at him.

At this point, the two guards that stepped back were unable to hold in their laughter. I grabbed Hector and adjusted him. “Air. I want fucking air not this recycled bullshit that smells like farts because you all think it’s all a fucking joke to rip ass in front of the.. the... air suckers!”

Third struggled hard to keep a straight face. “Yes ma’am.”

Harrumphing, we ambled past them and I stumbled for effect before slamming my keycard against the exit door. Kicking it open with my foot, I felt the sun on my face and breathed in the air. It had been the first time in years I felt the sun.



We continued to amble past the building but once we reached the fence, the acting was over. Tossing our beers to the ground, I took out the little laser and cut out of the fence. Taking Hector's hand, I pulled him through and started to run. There was a hill that flattened out into some trees but it was at least a mile. As we hit the tree line, Hector started to pull out of his stupor. What I would have given to stick around and watch the place explode but I wasn't willing to give our lives for it. Racing through the trees, I tried listening for anything close by.

"Auri, what the hell..." He didn't sound high, just very confused.

"Not now. Run. I think there should be a road north of us."

Neither of us spoke as we ran. I didn't think it would be better for us if we shifted. We would be out of clothes and I had no idea where we were. Hearing a car, I adjusted our path and we raced up a steep incline and climbed into a paved road. Pulling off my coat and hat, I tossed the two pieces, making sure I had all the pockets emptied. I also tucked my shirt back into the pants. Everything was loose on me but we didn't even have shoes. Hector tossed his hat but there wasn't much else to his outfit. There were no road signs and without a phone, I had no information to go on.

"Let's keep walking, see if we can't hitch a ride if a car comes by."

"How the hell did you just get us out?"

I smiled. "Some help and drunk ambling. Come on, we are still too close. If they catch us again..." My thoughts went back to what the lab coat said. "... it's going to be over for us."

Hector reached out and took my hand. He didn't ask anything else and we walked hand in hand down the road. The sun was going down as a shock wave and the sound of an explosion rocked through the area. Hector flinched and turned back to where we had walked from.

"The hell..."

"One of many. I'm going to destroy everything that fucking vampire has and then I'm going to kill him." I growled.

Hector reached out for my hand but this time he pulled me to look at him. "That was you?"

I nodded.

“Fuck.”

We continued walking but I stopped when I heard a vehicle driving down the road. Waving my hands, it was an old beat-up truck and an older man was driving. It was a little two seater cab with a short bed in the back. It wasn't full but it had some cates piled up.

He pulled up beside us, taking in our attire before speaking. I nearly sighed in relief when he spoke Chinese, Mandarin specifically. My Mandarin was much better than my Cantonese, that was for sure. As politely as I could, I asked where he was headed and he replied into Beijing. Taking a deep breath, I asked if we could take a ride in his truck bed. That I didn't have any cash on me but I could get some at an ATM. He waved me off and motioned to the back. Giving a quick bo w and thanking him, I pulled Hector and jumped into the bed of the truck.

It was a minute but he pulled out back on the road and I looked up to see the plume of smoke billowing into the air from the explosion. I pulled out the laser and tried cutting the silver off my arms. The first two I was successful but not without burning myself. The ankle ones went much smoother. Every time one broke, I tossed it out of the bed of the truck into the side of the road. Leaning over, I did the same to Hector without burning him once. He rubbed his wrists for a moment.

Taking a deep breath, I stemmed the flow of my power since now I wasn't pushing against the silver. I did close my eyes as I tried to reach out and mind link with Hector. 'Can you...'

'I can hear you. Give me a second though, Rydereis going off.'

I smiled. 'Tell him I say hi.'

My legs brushed up against his in the small bed and Hector chuckled.

'That shut him up.'

'Good. We need to plan.'

'I'm assuming you know where we are. What wasthat? Chinese?'

I nodded. 'He's headed into Beijing so we are currently on the far East side of China. It's not ideal but it could be worse.'

Hector shook his head. 'How could it be worse, Auri? We are in fucking China.'

'Well, for starters we could be in Russia and my Russian is not very good. Mandarin I can speak fairly fluently. If we were near Hong Kong I'd have a harder time with Cantonese. So yes. It could be worse. We can get a hotel room. Gather ourselves for a bit.' I bent my knees and rested my arms on them.

'No. We should jump on a plane. Go home. Figure this shit out there.'

I shook my head. 'We can't.' 'Why the hell not?' His voice rose.

'Because you're going into heat, Hector! You want to do that on a fucking plane? We might get lucky and we have a day but we don't have passports or IDs or even a fucking phone. Don't yell at me when you haven't thought this through yet!'

He shifted under my glare, his face falling. 'I'm sorry. I just... I was pissed for being drugged when I knew they were coming in to rape you and suddenly we are running through the forest.'

'We are free, that's what matters.' I shot him a smile.

His legs opened up and he patted the metal floor bed. Turning around, I nestled between his thighs, my back up against his chest. His fingers intertwined with mine and I closed my eyes, leaning my head back further.

'I need to rest. Just for a second. That was a lot. Wake me if he speaks to you.'

His lips pressed against my head. 'Sleep. I got it. I'll keep watch.'

I chuckled. 'Like the old days?'

He hummed. 'Like the old days.' I don't know how long I slept but it had been a few hours. It took even more when we finally reached Beijing. It was overwhelming for me but Hector pulled me in close and held me. I wasn't used to more than a room full of people but now suddenly there was thousands.

Leaning over the crates, I spoke to the older gentleman. Asking him to drop us off by an ATM so I could get him cash for the ride.

He waved me off again as he continued to drive. He drove a ways into the city before stopping in front of a supermarket. I jumped out, my feet hitting the warm sidewalk. There was an ATM in front of the building and I raced over to it. Pulling out my wallet, I started to put the card in.

"If you're ever in Spice Alley, look for me!" Before I could even punch in the code, he drove off.

I smiled and shook my head. Hector stood behind me and looked over at the ATM.

"Whose card is this?"

"One of the lab coats that helped give us the clothes and opened the door." I looked at the current balance and coughed. There were nine figures in this account. Taking the max about of cash the machine would give me, I shoved it into the wall et and looked around. There was a tall building that looked like a hotel. It looked nice and I took Hector by the hand. We turned down the road and walked the block to the entrance of the hotel.

"Auri, this place is fancy. We literally don't have shoes right now."

Hushing him, I rolled my shoulders and walked in. He followed close behind and I walked up to the desk. She definitely did a double take with how we looked but said nothing about it. The receptionist's English was not great so when I spoke to her in Mandarin a look of relief and shock crossed her face. She gave me a rundown of the prices and Hector was right. This place was expensive but I handed her my card with 5 hundred yuan bills. As she started to ask for my ID, I looked down at the bills I was handing her with the card.

Recognition flashed in her and she gave me a small nod before swiping the card. I had requested the penthouse for 10 days and when the card approved she handed it back to me. Giving me two room keys and a pamphlet, she stood and motioned to the elevators. Smiling, I made sure Hector was following as I stepped into the elevator. Scanning the key at the elevator, it started to move up and we waited in silence. It opened up to a beautiful living room, dining room area.

Turning to Hector, I smiled. "We made it out."



## Alpha's Blind Luna Online Free

### Chapter 76

#### Chapter 76

"Goddess, I can't remember the last time I had a shower."

I chuckled as Hector looked into the bathroom. "Imagine how I feel."

"Did you want to take one first?"

Shaking my head, I was reading over the information the front desk provided. Apparently, there was a shopping district not too far from where we were. I looked at the little map printed on the page.

"Auri?"

"Oh! No no! Go take a shower. I'm going to head down and pick up a few things. At least some food for you. See if we can't look semi-normal."

Hector walked into the kitchen where I had been leaning on the counter looking at the booklet. "Want me to go with you?"

My eyes roamed over his naked figure. Sure, we had been naked for weeks but this was a completely different environment. It was hard keeping the smile off my face as I took him in.

"No. I blend in a little more than you do." "I can blend in."

This made me laugh. "Hector, you're almost a foot taller than the average height here. Not to mention you absolutely are something to behold." My eyes wracked over his muscles again. "I got it. I'll be back in a couple hours. Get a shower and take a nap."

"I don't know if I feel comfortable letting you go out there alone." He came up and brushed his hand against my cheek.

"Don't worry. I can speak the language and I have a map now." I held up the paper. "I'll be fine. They aren't looking for us, not yet. We will have to see if they even do. Oran might cut his losses and just leave us be."

Hector's lips made a thin line on his face but I smiled. Walking around him, I grabbed the room key and headed to the elevator. He watched me as the doors closed and I took a deep breath. Yes, I would be okay but if there was a lot of people, it would be harder. I needed to get used to it. Get back into society. Little bird was gone, they had not broken me this time and I refused to let them get to me. I felt like I should feel worse. I felt like I should be broken and sitting in the corner but for some reason, I wasn't. The adrenaline had already worn off and I expected to crash but it never came. Was I really so used to this kind of pain that it didn't bother me anymore?

It wasn't too bad of a walk and I don't think many people noticed I didn't have shoes on. At least, not with my head held high and walking with confidence. There was a lot to be said with how you carried yourself, even in the worst of situations. I remedied the issue with shoes first. I brought Hector and I three pairs. Nice shoes, Converse knockoffs, and some flip flops. I slipped the flip flops on as I continued my shopping. It was an expensive part of town but I felt no guilt as I swiped the lab coats card. She had been inside my body so much sure she knew about it more than I did. This was a little payback.

A few shirts, two nice button-up shirts, two pairs of jeans, a pair of slacks, socks, underwear, a razor kit, and Hector was done. I picked up two jeans as well, some slacks and a pencil skirt. As well as two fitted button up shirts, a jacket, and some regular t-shirts. Socks, underwear, and bras were the next thing but I didn't bother putting them on. I needed a shower. A long, hot, soapy scrubbing shower.

I stopped when my nose was hit with an onslaught of wonderful smells. There was a section that had street food vendors. I spoke to some of the locals and asked what was the best there. They recommended a few of the places but said to stay away from the ones with too many tourists. I thanked them and paid cash for the four bags of food I now carried back to the hotel.

The front desk woman smiled at my overloaded hands and she was nice enough to grab the elevator for me. In total, it took me three hours but I figured it was fine. Placing the bags on the table, I set out the food and peeked into one of the two bedrooms. Hector was snoring softly on the bed and I smiled. As much I wanted to leave him there to sleep, I knew he needed to eat. Sitting on the edge of the bed, I brushed the hair out of his face. The motion woke him and he sat

up straight. I smiled at him.

"I have food. You need to eat. We can sleep later."

He nodded and swung his legs over the bed. Taking a deep breath, I tried again not to ogle him. Back in the kitchen, I moved the clothes bags over.

"Damn Auri, what did you get?"

"Everything? There is underwear and... a razorkit."

His eyes widened and he immediately dug through the bags. He pulled out the razor box.

"Wait till you eat!" "Hell no. This animal is getting off my face. Now." He growled and I chuckled, shaking my head.

He disappeared for a few minutes before coming back. I had been sipping on a water bottle that was stocked in the fridge and I nearly spit it out as he walked back in. Damn if he wasn't fucking handsome shaved. If anything, he looked more manly without it. His strong jaw and cheek bones screamed model and I swallowed.

"I have never felt such relief. What did you get?"

I hummed before my brain realized he asked me a question. "I could explain it in Chinese but not very well in English. Just know it was recommended by the locals. They even told me which stalls to stay away from, which was really nice."

Hector grabbed a plastic fork and dug into one of the to-go boxes. He moaned as he put a forkful in his mouth.

"Oh goddess, I missed spices."

I chuckled but I looked down at the dumpling in my hand. It looked and smell good but I was worried.

"Auri, eat! You haven't eaten in... what...?" "Two years."

His fork froze in midair and he looked at me. "What?"

"They never fed me food. They injected me with what I needed. They did too many surgeries and I'm sure they didn't want food in my stomach. As soon as I got in, I didn't have another bite of food."

I could feel his worry and pain for me through our bond. Looking down at the fluffy dumpling, I took a deep breath.

"I don't even know what my stomach will do at this point. I don't feel hungry anymore. It's like I just don't need to eat but now... I guess I have to get over it." I tried to force a smile.

"Auri... you don't..."

I shook my head and took a bite of the dumpling. It felt weird. It was a foreign feeling but as I swallowed it, I didn't immediately feel like I wanted to throw up. So I figured that was a win. Slowly, I took small bites of the dumpling as Hector kept an eye on me but tucked into his food.

After I finished with the one dumpling, I took a drink of water. Walking around the kitchen counter, I kissed Hector on the cheek. He nearly spit out his food and it made me chuckle.

"I'm going to shower and head to bed. Try not to eat too much. I don't want you getting sick."

I walked into the luxurious bathroom. Tomorrow I would soak in the giant tub but right now I just needed to scrub myself down. Get years worth of filth and memories off me. Using the hotel shampoo and conditioner, I scrubbed my short hair and used the body wash with the little scrubber and scrubbed my skin raw. It still didn't wash enough off but I knew there was really nothing else I could do.

Turning off the water, I grabbed a towel and moaned as I felt the soft plush against my skin. The small things I had forgotten, luxuries that didn't exist. Wrapping it around me, I headed back into the bedroom. My hand brushed the top of the bed. Walking to the right side, I pulled up the covers and sat on the bed. Feeling eyes on me, Hector was leaning in the doorway, arms crossed over his chest.

"Bed soft?"

I hummed. "Very. Not sure if I can sleep on it though. I might sleep on the floor with some blankets."

He growled and walked over. Climbing in, he looped an arm around my waist and pulled me into it. I squealed but his grip pinned me to the bed.



"You will not sleep on the floor. I won't allow it. Not even if I have to sleep like this." His head nuzzled into my neck and his leg crossed my body, pinning me even more.

I smiled and pulled the blanket up. "Alright, alright."

He didn't move though and soon his breathing evened out. My eyes closing, I listened to the soft sounds as I had the previous nights. It lulled me to a safe sleep.

I gasped as I woke up, looking down at Hector's head between my legs. Moaning, I grasped the bed and twisted my body against the onslaught. His tongue slipped between my folds and his fingers slipped in.

"Hector..." I hissed at him. It was dark out and the city lights streamed between the curtains that we left open.

He looked up but his eyes were dark and I chuckled.

"Rydere, does Hector know you took over?"

He shook his head and then gave a quick lick that made me yelp. "You going to tell him, mate?"

Shaking my head, I leaned back into my pillow. "You really shouldn't do this to him. Some might call you a disobedient wolf."

He hummed and the vibration made me shiver. "He got weeks with you while I was locked away. He mated you, got to love you. I want my turn."

I sighed as his fingers left me and he kissed up my stomach and brushed his teeth over my nipples.

"I don't think Hector sees it that way."

"Then he is a fool. You have always been our mate. Stolen from us. Now, I'm never letting him let you go. That I can promise you."

I put my hands on his face and pulled him up, taking his lips in mine and kissing him. "I love you. You know I do."

"I know mate. You know we love you as well."

His hands roamed over me, taking in every inch of me. Barely releasing my lips from his, it was needy and passionate and I loved it. The sparks racing over me as his hand skimmed over me. With one smooth thrust, he slipped inside and I gasped. Rydere growled and purred as he moved back and forth inside of me. I dragged my nails down his back and he arched his back, slamming all the way inside me. He came just as I tightened around him.

We both were breathing hard and he snaked his arm under my shoulders and fell to his side, bringing me with him.

"Can you feel the heat coming?"

Ryder e nodded. "It's like an itch, an irritation that keeps getting worse. It makes me on edge."

"I'll take care of you two. I need to make a trip to the market, see if I can't grab some soothers. I wish I was a little more prepared."

He chuckled. "Prepared. Yes, we are always prepared. You just up and disappear. Thinking you are invincible. Making us chase after you."

I huffed. "I don't think I'm invincible, Rydere. I just know my worth."

This time he growled and took my chin to look directly in his dark eyes. "No, you don't. You think everyone else is worth more than yourself. I'd sacrifice every single one of them for you, love. They mean nothing to me. Only you. It has only ever been you."

Tears filled my eyes but I didn't let them fall. After so long with Logan, watching his decent over the years, it was warming to hear just how far Rydere, and I knew Hector, would go for me. Logan sure as hell wouldn't. Hell, he wouldn't even fight to keep me in the pack. Our home we built together over the years.

"I think we are just too old for all these shenanigans."

Ryder e nodded and kissed the corners of my eyes, taking the tears away. "Is it true? We have forever now?"

I shrugged, snuggling into his chest. "Oran may have been lying but I don't know why he would. I guess we will just have to see. Moving forward." Sighing,

I closed my eyes. "You better pull out or Hector will know exactly what we did while he was asleep."

Rydere's chest rumbled but he pulled out slowly. I missed him inside me but I hoped to get up early to see if I could run around to get the mix for his heat, groceries, and a couple laptops for us. Phones would be useless if I didn't grab a plan but at the very least I could use the hotel Wi-Fi to get onto the internet. See if I couldn't connect with Pipsqueak.

"Goodnight, mate. I'm glad you're alive. Still with us mind, body, and soul."

I wanted to correct him but I couldn't bring myself to bring down his mood. Hector's distance also scared me a little. I knew it prickled through the bond but there was so much going on right now, I hoped he would settle out of it. Out of the feeling like he'd cornered me into the decision. I wanted this with him. It felt right. I felt loved and wanted. He saved me. If anything I felt horrible for dragging him into this mess, dragging him into what could absolutely be immortality.



## **Alpha's Blind Luna Online Free**

### **Chapter 77**

#### Chapter 77

I sat in the back of a taxi headed back to the hotel. The last thing on my to-do list was adding another 5 days to our stay. I worried Hector's heat may be worse than mine or even Ezekiel's. It had been a struggle to keep my power reigned in. It felt unruly and wild. But I did itch to see how much more power I had compared to before. There wouldn't really be time to test it now. For now, I just needed to focus on Hector and maybe getting reconnected to the world.

The taxi stopped in front of the hotel. I grabbed my bags full of food, herbs, two laptops, and a few other necessities. Walking in, the receptionist was about to come around to grab the elevator when I stopped her. It was a quick an easy process to add another few days onto the stay and then she helped me into the elevator. As I was headed up, the door opened and the entire floor was dark. Setting the bags on the counter, I narrowed my eyes and looked around but I couldn't see anything.

Walking into the bedroom, I saw Hector sitting with his back against the bed. Coming around, I squatted down in front of him but his eyes were closed.

"Hector?" He didn't answer, only put his head in his knees. Putting my hand on his forehead, it was burning up. Sighing, I quickly removed my shirt and I pulled his head to my chest. His arms wrapped around me, sending a shiver down his spine.

"I'm sorry. I didn't think it would start this early. We need to get you up into the bath. Can you make it?"

Hector shook his head.

"Alright. I'm gonna help you up."

Weaving my arms under his, I grunted as I hefted him up. I could tell he was trying to help walk but sometimes a wave would come over and his legs would crumble. We made it to the bathroom after a few minutes and I leaned him against the sink. Quickly, I turned and put the cold water on while I undressed him.

"I thought I knew what pain felt like. I thought I knew..." Hector squeezed his eyes shut.

Chuckling, I shook my head. "It's not as bad as giving birth. Trust me. You'll be okay."

"Fuck."

Helping him step into the bath, he sunk down in the cool water and I could almost see the steam from his body. Kissing him on the head, I ran back into the kitchen and grabbed the herbs that I got. It wasn't everything that we usually had but it would have to do. Wrapping it up in some cloth, I soaked it in hot water first before coming back into the bathroom and setting it into the bath. Undressing, I climbed into the bath with him. Immediately, my back was against his chest and his arms were wrapped around me. Hector's head fell to the crook of my neck.

"This feels better."

I smiled. "I'm not going anywhere. I promise. We will get you through this."

A wave hit him and he squeezed me tight, his legs closing around me. Part of me was glad I wasn't going through this for a second time. But I wanted to take the pain away from Hector as well. It was the last thing I wanted him to go through. I didn't know if the pain was worse because of my power and I severely hoped not.

“Do you remember when it started?”

He shook his head against me.

“It's okay. The pain will be over soon. You'll get a little reprieve before the actual heat kicks in.”

“You don't... I mean...”

I growled and turned to look at him. “Don't you dare, Hector. You're my mate. I'm not going to just abandon you. What the hell?”

He sighed and his body slumped against mine. There was no fight left in him, not with how much pain he was in. I knew there wouldn't be any fight while he was going through the rest of the heat but I worried. Hector still didn't think of us as real mates and it hurt. It hurt but there was only so much I could do. Whatever happened moving forward, I would need to just take in stride.

“Do you remember the first day we met?” I leaned my head against him.

“Which one? The first or the second?”

I chuckled. “The first.”

“You mean when you made all three of us nearly pee our pants? I remember watching you, this epitome of power and yet still a complete mystery.” He stopped, a wave of pain hitting him.

“I honestly couldn't believe that any werewolves would be dumb enough to try and get in the middle of one of my operations. But there you three were. Trying to steal documents from the office we were planning on burning to the ground.”

Hector's chest rumbled. “We weren't planning on getting caught. We didn't take into consideration...”

"My heightened hearing? Obviously." I paused and smiled at the memory. "You three ended up strapped to some chairs while Oscar was trying to get information out of you. I think it was the first time in a while that I actually had Kai come forward during an operation. I needed to see the three idiot wolves."

Shaking his head, he sighed. "I remember staring at you, taking in all your bad-ass-ery. I figured you already had a mate, considering you looked at least as old as I was."

"Wishful thinking. I had just turned sixteen I think."

Hector snorted. "Yeah, let's not go there. Still though, I felt a draw to you. I knew it wasn't a mate bond but still... it was there."

"You could almost say the goddess knew we would end up together in the end. Setting us up at second chance mates."

"Those don't exist, Auri." His voice was barely above a whisper.

I brushed my hand over his cheek, letting the sparks fly between us. "Why not? Why can't they? Why can't we? Is that really so hard to believe?"

He was quiet and I knew he was still struggling. Turning around, I put my hands on his face and forced him to look at me.

"Hector, I love you. I always have. You are mine as I am yours. Stop thinking about the way it happened. Please, I'm begging you."

His eyes searched mine for a while but then I kissed him. Our lips moving together as his hands held my waist, our bodies meshed together. Hector was so gentle and I knew it hadn't worked. My plea would only reach Rydere but not Hector. I wanted to growl in frustration but when we broke, he leaned his forehead against mine.

"I'm sorry, Auri. I'm so sorry."

I leaned back to look him in the eyes, to try and search what he was saying sorry for. His eyes turned dark though and his grip slid down to my ass, tightening. My mind started to race. It was unheard of to go straight into the heat from the pain but between his eyes and the raging hard-on he had, somehow he had skipped over the reprieve. Taking a deep breath, I took in

his pheromones and growled. His lips captured mine and he pulled me tight, his fingers digging into my skin. "To bed, Hector. Please. I need you."

Almost robotically, he stood up and carried me to the bedroom. We were both soaking still from the tub but it didn't matter. Nothing matter than his hands all over my body, our bodies meshed together, and not a single breath wasted. His lips only left mine to kiss breasts, bite my collar, or just taste my skin. The ecstasy overwrote everything and I sank into the fever of his pleasure and heat.

I sat, curled up in the patio chair, looking out over Beijing. Shaking off the ash from my cigarette, I took another puff, letting out the smoke. I was glad I put more days down on the suite. It had been much longer than mine and Ezekiel's. Now, Hector had been asleep for a day. I'd hope it was over now, my body couldn't really take much more. I hadn't been this sore since I first started training with Papa.

Letting out some smoke, I sighed. I would need to get back into contact with everyone. I couldn't image how pissed Vale would be and then there was Bryan. Shit, Bryan was the one I didn't want to face. After he lost Denise, I pulled him in close to let him lean on me. Him and Lucy both but abandoning him like that, he must be beyond livid. Taking a large drag, I sighed. Ezekiel probably has blamed himself all this time, Jax and Danger too. At the very least, I was going to get one of Pipsqueak's famous sermons.

I shook out the ash again and looked over at the far end of the patio. "You know, it's creepier the longer you stay there."

A few seconds passed before the presence I had been feeling morphed into a full body. He wasn't smiling as usual but I expected that.

"Auri."

"King Uriel."

I took out a cigarette and held it out to him. He chuckled hollowly before taking it. It seemed to light itself but fey magic ran deep in his veins. It almost was funny seeing him use such a small amount of magic for something trivial. He leaned over the balcony while I lit another cigarette for myself.

"She's gone, isn't she?"

Leaning my head back against the chair, I looked up at the clear sky. "Yes. She had fire. Also wouldn't stop talking. Even when I couldn't reply back."

He chuckled. "Yes, if given the chance she would talk you into a grave. Is there a reason I feel her through you though?"

"Her eyes. They used her eyes to give me sight."

Uriel turned and looked at me. The sadness and loneliness apparent. He knew his mate was dead, he probably was just following the slight trace of her magic, a magic that now was within me.

"That explains a lot. But also brings more questions."

I chuckled. "You and me both. I knew Oran was crazy but what he said, it doesn't make sense. Finishing Micah's work, as though I'm going to be useful to him in the future. All because of the torture they did. It doesn't make sense. I get what he's saying, I've often thought I'm literally a product of my torture but..." I took a drag of my cigarette. "... I don't see where this ends up good for him."

"Vampires, like us, think the long term. Something that can be hard for your kind to grasp. When I make a decision for my people, it's never for something that's going to affect one or even ten years down the line. It can be hundreds." Uriel turned back to look out over the balcony.

"I'm going to destroy him. He shouldn't still be alive anyways. I'm going to destroy everything in my wake." I growled out, grinding my teeth together.

Uriel let out a puff of smoke. "What about him? He's your new mate right?"

"It's creepy that you've been watching long enough to call that out." I looked over my shoulder to Hector who was sleeping soundly on the bed, wrapped up in the sheets. "He's going to leave. I wouldn't be surprised if the next time I went to bed, I wake up alone."

"What do you mean? He's your mate isn't he?"

I nodded. "He is. He's a good wolf and an even better friend. What happened, him marking me in that place, it's against everything in him. I know he loves me. I love him. We always have. Hector will need time to come to grips with



that he's done. To understand that it doesn't matter how it happened, that it was supposed to. One day ..."My voice trailed off.

Uriel walked over to me and sat down on the foot rest of the chair I was sitting in. He put his hand on my leg. "Are you okay with that?"

"I have no choice, Uriel. He will leave and I won't force him to stay when all he sees when he looks at me is forcing his mark on me. I'll miss him but we've been separated before. It won't be forever. That I do know. In the mean time, I can ensure that he won't get hurt in my destructive path." I smiled.

"Let me help. I want the bastard who killed my mate to die."

Shaking my head, I smiled at Uriel. "You have a race to be king over."

"I've got a council who can take over. Plus, I can go missing for ten years and no one would blink an eye."

Rolling my eyes, I shook my head. "I'm going to have to get used to that."

Uriel leaned forward and cupped my cheek. His thumb brushed under my eyes. "They aren't her color anymore."

"No, according to Hector, these are the same color eyes as Vale has. So I'm assuming it's my own. I don't really know though. Even when I had Kai, her eyes replaced mine. So what I do remember, it's always gold."

He leaned back and nodded absently. "I'll find you once I set up the council. Together, we will burn Oran to the ground."

I smiled and nodded. A single blink and he was gone. It wouldn't be bad teaming up with him. One, I knew he was powerful enough to hold his own and then he could help teach me to control my own power. Putting out my current cigarette, I walked back into the room. Sitting on the bed, I ran my fingers through Hector's hair. Somehow it was always so soft. As much as the beard was an interesting change, I much preferred him clean shaven. A smile crept over my face.

Hector was really someone I could be with forever. I'd have to be patient. Let him go for a while. Let both his heart and the mate bond take over. Let Ryder bug him enough to come back to me. Until then, I'd keep my contact with everyone at a minimal. If I was about to step back into the Huntress, or

maybe as Astra, and leave a ridiculous trail of destruction. At least, until I got my hands on Oran and made him suffer before I ended his miserable life. Then I'd get my hands on Logan and kick his ass.

Curling up next to Hector, his body move to pull me closer, his head tucked into my neck. Closing my eyes, I savored the moment, the feel of his touch. Sleep took over and I didn't fight it.

My eyes opened as the sun streamed through the doors to the balcony. I sat up and rubbed my eyes. Sighing, I s wu ng my legs out of bed and jumped into the shower. It was quiet as I enjoyed the warm water. Walking into the kitchen, I pulled out the laptop I had purchased over a weekago. I booted it up and started to set it up.

I looked back at the empty bed. The suite suddenly felt too large for just me. Hector had taken his clothes, the laptop I got him, everything but razor kit that was still in the bathroom. Part of me was hoping he would say goodbye but I knew he wouldn't. Taking a deep breath, I cracked my neck and rolled my shoulders. We weren't kids anymore and I would see him again.

The screen finally booted to the main page and I brought up the video chat program I used. Logging in, I called Pipsqueak.

"You fucking cunt." 1

I chuckled. "Is that how you want to start your lecture?"

Her eyes widened and she leaned into the computer screen, her pixie face taking up the entire view of the camera. "You can talk?"

"Talk, see, and kick ass. There is a lot to gothrough and not a lot of time. Uriel and I are going to burn the world down. I need your help."

"Uriel? As in, King Uriel? What the hellhappened?"

I looked out the window at Beijing. "Buckle up, bitch. It's a hell of a story."



## **Alpha's Blind Luna Online Free**

### **Chapter 78**

## Chapter 78

\*\*\*Ezekiel's POV\*\*\*

I sat across Vale at desk in the office. We are both immersed in different paperwork. I could feel his gaze fall to me sometimes but I didn't look up, trying not to be distracted as much as I already was. This paperwork was important and it needed to be approved, signed, and submitted as soon as possible. Having my beautiful mate sitting across from me did not help. He had come home a couple weeks ago. It had been almost a month he was gone this time and I found that it never got easier to be away from him.

Worse, the pack house was quiet without him. Auri was gone. It already been years and I think both Vale and I had started to accept that the strongest person in our lives was gone forever. Not to mention Hector. He was always gone from the pack house. Suddenly though, he started to not take any of our calls, even from Pipsqueak. We knew something bad happened but Vale said he was still connected to the pack. So there was some semblance of hope. Lucy had moved into town with her mate and the two of them were heading up the hospital now.

Bryan was another story. He was alone now. I tried to lent him theu hu t he was wasting away. It got to the point where I started to send him with Vale when he left just so he would get some fresh air. Apparently, he only smiled every time he walked into the large library at the High Council. He received special permission to enter the library. Keeper Thomas and him hit it off so well that they could be found huddled in the corner debating some dumb history fact. It was hard to watch but he got older so much quicker without Auri or Hector to keep pa ce with. It frustrated me that Hector just left him alone; not checking in. Bryan always said it was fine but the low look in his eyes said otherwise.

I cursed, I'd read the same sentence three times now and I just wanted to kick something. Vale's prickling gaze was not helping.

“What Vale? You’ve been staring at me for an hour now.”

Looking up, he was smiling sheepishly. I shook my head. My irritation could never hold against him. Not with his eyes nailing me to the chair, making my dick twitch.

“What do you think about having family?”

I blinked at him once, then twice, trying to see if he was serious. His face seemed to show he was, if not a bit embarrassed bringing it up. Setting the paper in my hand down, I laced my fingers together and I looked him in the eyes.

"It's something I've thought about over the years. You know that. We talk about it sometimes."

"But you haven't really said anything about it outside that you've always wanted one."

I sighed. "I can barely get time for you to myself. You're bouncing between here, the High Council, or different packs. As much I would like pups, to have a family, I honestly never thought you were ready for it."

A frown covered his face. He looked down at the papers on the desk in front of him. "I want to stay here. I want to be here all the time."

"But..."

"The world is exploding."

I chuckled and nodded. "Now just doesn't seem to be the right time. That's okay. I don't mind waiting, Vale. I'm not that old."

"We don't know how long I have, Zeke."

My eyes looked over him as his face fell. I knew what was bothering him. The conversation we have a couple of weeks ago. It was still bothering him now. My lips pressed on a line and I let my eyes fall as I leaned back in my chair. "I don't want to be left without you Vale."

"You might not have a choice, Zeke."

Clicking my tongue, I let out an exasperated breath. I regretted finding those journals. Auri was meticulous in her notes about everything. Her handwriting perfect as most everything she deemed important was written down by hand. I'd found some old journals of hers, ones that were placed in a way to tell me no one was supposed to find them. At least, not unless someone was cleaning out the pack house. I'd just happened to be looking for some information and knocked over some books, creating a domino effect that revealed their hiding spot.

There were five journals in all. Four were written accounts of her life, from when she was just a child all the way till she moved out here with us. I'd read the four and I had been horrified. The things she had been through. The accounts that differed so drastically from the accounts in the history books. I nearly fell back into a depression. The fact that Auri knew what she was doing, having been through it before, when she took my place. She didn't deserve that all again. But over and over, she picked herself back up. Over and over she stepped forward when I don't think even the strongest would have. I envied her, admired her, and was in complete awe of her. The journals though highlighted every detail, including things that kept me up at night. I hadn't told Vale, or anyone about them. Those I now kept in my personal safe; away from everyone.

The last book was more of a theory book. Random thoughts that she was looking into it. Or had done research on in the past. These I did share with Vale. Some of them were silly. The major one cropping up with the library of Alexandria and the possibility that it had survived. Vale even knew of this slight obsession but not to the extent that she had been searching for it in her free time. However, one theory had taken us not just by surprise, but shook us to the core.

In the past, the new Alpha King was born when the previous Alpha King died. That was the base understanding. There would always be an Alpha King. Once one died, the next was born. Auri was the first Alpha King to survive after giving birth to an Alpha King. It was also the first time that in centuries that the Alpha King had been born within the same family.

She said it didn't make sense though. Yes, she technically died when Vale was born but that Vale, was stronger, grew faster, was already presenting as more of an Alpha than their first born son. That was unheard of in itself. Following that theory, Auri believed Vale was always the Alpha King, conceived as the new Alpha King. Meaning, the death of an Alpha King was not the spark of the birth of a new Alpha King. But rather, the birth of the new Alpha King, marked the death of the old one.

This theory hit us hard, Vale especially. It meant that as Alpha King you could not control your death. The one thing that if you were safe and stayed hidden, it still didn't guarantee you lived till old age. Instead, if a pup presented strong Alpha aura it could mean the end of Vale. No matter what he did. Unless, somehow like Auri, he managed to survive. However, she was never meant to be the Alpha King in the first place. That alone might have been enough to save her.

I knew Vale tried to play it down. How much it scared him. We had no control over our deaths really but we also act safer as to not put our lives in danger. Vale was struggling that even if he threw his life away, it wouldn't end unless a new Alpha king was conceived. In that same vein, even if he did office work for the rest of his life, he could die in six months if a pup was conceived. Now, I could see his fear. See it in wanting to live his life as much as possible now.

“Zeke...”

I tore my eyes from my own hands where I had zoned out. His own hands, clasped together as he rested his chin on them.

“Vale, I know...”

“I want to have a family, Zeke. I want to use this time I have. If it means I cut my time going to the High Council, delegate more, then so be it. It's already hard being away from you. I just...”

My hand reached out and I cupped his cheek. “I know, Vale. Between feeling the turmoil in you and knowing how much I hate when you leave, I understand. I do.”

Reaching into the desk, Vale pulled out a red folder. His fingers tapped it and he was chewing on his cheek.

“Vale?”

He sighed and slid the folder to me. “While I was gone last time, I ran into some issues at a pack. They had a bad attack. It left a lot of pups without parents.”

Opening up the folder, I glanced over the paperwork. There was a page on the left side with multiple pages of information. They were mates, the man being a Beta of the pack. His mate was actually of Alpha blood in a separate pack. Their picture showed their smiling faces but I knew from the context they had died. The two pages on the right had a little information about their pups. Twins, a boy and a girl, who were left without a family. They had a small amount to their name which it looked like was being offered with each of them. However, the two of them were only three months old.

"They have no one, Zeke. The pack is ill equipped to handle how many children are left and the Alpha can't take on his Beta's pups because he has five of his own. His Luna also passed..."Vale trailed off.

I stared down at pictures of the two pups, wrapped in blankets."Vale..."

"I know. I just... I wanted to talk to you about it. It's not ideal. Especially now but we are more equipped here than the entire pack. I want to start this with you. I want to build my life with you for however long we have."

Vale's voice was sad as he got up. He came over to me and got down on his knee. "It's been a few years since we've mated. It's been crazy and not at all smooth but if anything, now, you and I, are stronger for it. I want this with you."

"You're scared..."

"Of course, I'm scared. I'm scared of leaving you. Scared that I won't have the time I want or need with you. I don't want to regret that I didn't do anything because we were scared. That we were afraid at every turn that I might die."①

I looked down at the folder. "I'm scared you're going to leave me alone, Vale."

He smiled and cupped my face this time, brushing his thumb across my skin. "I know, little Alpha. With pups though, you don't be alone. Hell, we can't guarantee our lives anyways. Our time can still be cut short. Yours and mine. But that can't rule out lives. We still need to live."Vale closed the folder in my lap. "It doesn't need to be now. It only just seemed like a good opportunity to help. If we aren't ready, we aren't ready. I just wanted to have this conversation with you."

I nodded, not speaking. This was a lot to put on me at once. As much as I wanted to just jump on board, there was a high possibility I would end up raising kids alone. I knew we would have to adopt but now it seemed so far away.

He stroked my cheek and pressed his lips to mine. I couldn't help it, the sparks ignited me and even in the turmoil I responded passionately. He brought me out of my spiral and as he broke, touched his forehead to mine.

"Give me some time, Vale. It's a lot."



“I know. This is a decision for us. Not just me or you.”

Giving him a quick peck, I placed the folder on the desk and headed out of the office. Leaving Vale to continue his work, I headed out of the pack house. I grabbed a pack of cigarettes and headed out to the rocks. Vale hated when I smoked, I think it was because it reminded him of the struggle that his mom went through. It, however, reminded me of our long secret chats when she was hiding from Bryan, Hector, or Vale. We would talk about everything and nothing. Some things we talked about only fell into place after I read her journals. Taking a drag, I sat perched on a rock, looking out at the sea.

Two things were happening. Yes, Vale was right. We shouldn't live every day afraid like one of us was going to die. Technically we all were, so it didn't make sense that we fear every day. We could never know if an Alpha King was conceived, so it could all come as a surprise anyways. But at the same time, Vale was still making this push out of fear. Fear of what he would be missing, regret not doing. ①

While that was a 'live every day to the fullest' kind of mentality, it scared me. I would be left without Vale. Surviving without him was not something I was willing to do. Having children, complicated that. Vale would have to leave but we wouldn't. I knew I had the love and the support system of my pack. But was it my pack without Vale. Until the new Alpha King took over, maybe, but then where would I belong. Our kids would have this place. Be whatever they wanted but I would be nothing without Vale. That scared me, more than anything.

I would be alone. As alone as Auri felt. She struggled with it. Her kids grown, her finding ways to help was the only way to keep her from falling. Being without Logan felt like a hole, one that loneliness dug into and corrupted her, she used to say. I wondered if she found peace, after Logan getting removed from her bond. If she could finally breathe.

I love Vale and I would be by his side always. He completed me. On my own I was strong but once you had your mate, you became thirds. One being you, yourself. Two bring your wolf. Three being your mate. All parts of the same soul.

I remember talking with some gypsy werewolves when I was young. They spoke of the mate bond both as the greatest gift and a terrible curse. I didn't understand when I was younger. Mates were loving and the relationship ideal that every wolf wanted. Something you longed for in your life. Now, it all made



sense. I'd read through Alpha King Odin and Alpha Eros' journals while at the High Council. It was more apparent there, especially since Alpha King Odin died only ten years into their relationship. Alpha Eros' journals in the end were a stark reminder of the curse when one is left alone. Hell, I could see it Bryan every day.

"Mind if I bum one?"

I didn't look up, passing the box and the lighter to the outstretched hand. Inhaling and exhaling slowly, the smoke pouring out, I grimaced. Auri would slap me right now. She would say of course you want kids. Now. Not only to take advantage of our time but because those pups needed us. They were alone in this world. It being far too cruel to them than it should have been. Chuckling, I shook my head.

"Amused?"

"Just thinking that Auri would slap me if I said any of the thoughts I was thinking out loud."

There was a low rumble behind me. "I think she'd slap you for calling her Auri and not Mom."



## **Alpha's Blind Luna Online Free**

### **Chapter 79**

#### Chapter 79

My eyes roamed up to the voice and the cigarette dropped out of my mouth between the rocks. Hector was standing before me. Cigarette between his fingers, brought up to his lips. He was thinner, gaunt. A look in his eyes that said he was far away, a pain I saw when I came back from the Blood Hunter Coven but then so much more. His hair was cut short and he was completely clean shaven. Getting up, I threw my arms around him and hugged him. He chuckled awkwardly but did pat my back a couple times before letting go.

"You've been missing for almost a year! What the hell happened?"

He sighed, smoke coming out as he did. "It's a long story. One probably best left for everyone to be present for."

I nodded, still taking in that he was here. "Are you hungry? We can get some food set up. Something to drink?" I glanced down at the duffel next to him. "Your room is untouched. So you can drop your stuff off."

There was a moment of silence before his eyes finally met mine. "Right now, I'd like a cigarette or two and look over the sea." There wasn't anger or irritation in his voice but it also held no emotion. A complete lack of. No smile and no frown. The only thing that was even a hint that there was still something left to Hector was his eyes. Screaming in pain, screaming that they had seen too much and wanted nothing more than to close. I pulled out a second cigarette and lit it, standing next to him quietly. We both stared out, listening to the waves crash against the rocks.

"Why would you say Auri was going to slap you?" His question filled the space between us.

I pulled the cigarette from my lips. "Vale wants to have pups. We talked in passing about it but never concrete. Till he handed me a folder today with two little orphan twins, pups from a pack that their parents died. He wants to adopt them."

"You don't?"

My foot dug into the ground. "I do. I want a family with Vale more than anything."

"But..."

"Between the shit storm happening out in the world right now and... and after reading Auri's theory on the Alpha King conception, I don't want to end up being left alone. Left alone with pups." Hector hummed for a moment. "You're right. She would slap you."

I barked out a laugh. "See."

"You can't stop doing what you want just because of outside factors. It's always going to be something, Zeke. It's going to be the Blood Hunters, the High Council, a war, the mafia, extremist groups, storms, drought, drugs ... you name it, it can happen. There will always be an excuse to find." He took a drag of his cigarette. "But there won't always be time with your mate. Being parents, having kids, is scary. It's not easy. We are talking bassinets, nursery, cribs, diapers, bottles, clothes, toys, first aid stuff for rashes,

sickness, nose issues, ear issues. The list goes on. Then realizing you are the one who these children are looking up to and you have to literally teach them everything they know."

He pulled the cigarette out and his eyes glossed over for a moment. "It's scary to think that either one of you may get run over by a car when crossing the street or we end up fighting on the front lines of a war that was never our fight to begin with. It will always be scary. But the point is right now, you can provide those kids something they don't have. Something that you and Vale share. Something that will stand the test of time and even past death."

My eyebrow rose. "Money?"

Hector grinned for a moment. "Love, Zeke. Love is the one thing that you can provide that, right now, those orphans don't have. Something that you and Vale have an abundance of. If you're willing to share it. It makes things less scary, less lonely." His words trailed off and he looked back over the sea, lost in his own world.

Putting his cigarette out in the ashtray I had set out by the edge, Hector reached for his bag and slung it over his shoulder.

"I guess I have to face the music. You don't mind if I make something while we get everyone in?"

I shook my head. "It's your home, Hector. I would be happy to help."

"We need to call everyone. So I don't need to repeat myself multiple times."

"The whole crew it is. Though Morgan I don't know about and Pipsqueak... well..."

He followed me back up to the house. "We can leave those two out. I'm assuming they're up to date. All things considered."

My head turned to look at him but he gave away nothing in his face. I opened up the door and we came face to face with Vale. Originally, I had shut down the bond so I could think in peace but now, irritation, anger, with a fair bit of worry wove through him.

"Where the hell have you been?"

Hector didn't even flinch at Vale's tone. "As I said, I don't feel like repeating myself six times so we can wait till everyone is here."

Vale put his hand on shoulder. "Hector, we were worried. You should have checked in. Something. The only thing we knew was that you weren't dead."

"Even that's debatable at this point." Hector chuckled and turned into the kitchen, ducking out of Vale's grip.

Vale looked at me and I just shrugged. I mind-linked Bryan, Simon, Lucy, Jax, and AJ who were all in town today doing different things. They questioned if it was immediate and I said it was. I knew they were all mid-projects but the information that Hector could have was important. We watched as Hector moved around the kitchen seamlessly. Pulling out different ingredients, even reaching in the very back of the cabinet for some. Once he had a multitude of spices, some chicken, stock, and vegetables, he pulled out two pans and got to work on turning up the heat. Hector started throwing in a ridiculous amount of spice into the mixture with the stock and even some cream. My eyebrows rose and so did Vale's.

"What? You're tongue numb now?"

There was a moment of pain that flashed on his face. "I can't take bland food anymore. Spent some time in India and learned what real spice meant."

"I think I'm going to pass on this snack." I made a face. My tolerance for spicy did nothing but drop after everyone left and I ended up doing a lot of the cooking myself.

"We will need to work on that then." Hector flashed me a smile but again, it's hollowness made my spine shiver.

Vale disappeared after a few minutes taking a phone call but I watched Hector work in the kitchen. It was different; he was different. His actions smoother, quicker, no effort wasted. It was a delight to watch in the kitchen and I wondered if he was the same in fighting. He looked younger. The sound of his voice, his words, and his eyes showed a man much older than even Bryan and his hair still had the peppered grey in it. But there was something else,

less lines in his face. Not to mention when I hugged him he seemed larger but I couldn't remember the last time he had actually been back. At least a year, maybe more.

The room started to smell amazing and I smiled, sitting on the kitchen stool. The front door opened and I leaned back. AJ and Jax walked in, taking a moment to sniff the air.

"Goddess, what is that smell and can I bathe in it?" AJ groaned and laughed.

Jax was quiet but nodded his head with his brother. He was far more quiet now. What happened with Auri broke him and he wasn't the same. Then, while him and I were out on a mission, he found his mate. She was engaged and intended to be a chosen mate for an Alpha. At first, she was completely smitten with Jax. She was Jax's salvation out of the depression he'd fallen into. Until the day she was supposed to come back with us. I'd never seen a rejection in person and I never wanted to see one again. I remember him just falling to his knees while she had a smirk on her face, taking the hand of the Alpha she was chosen for. Since then, Jax turned into a quiet introvert.

He was an amazing Beta and never lost his touch but his demeanor changed. His personality and his joking nature with even AJ was lost. I felt like him and Hector now may be able to find some common ground. AJ and Jax froze, staring into the kitchen at Hector who had thrown a kitchen towel over his shoulder as he stirred the pot of spices.

They both turned to each other before glancing back. Bryan was walking in, followed by Simon and Lucy. Everyone must have met up before walking across the highway down the driveway. Bryan sniffed the air and shook his head, while Simon smiled wide.

"Reminds me of my days in India. Damn, that's authentic."

AJ and Jax walked over to me. AJ put his hands on my shoulders. "Fifty bucks says he punches him."

"Hell no. I know he's gonna get punched." I looked up to see AJ smirking.

Bryan walked in and looked in the kitchen, his face hardening to straight anger. "Hector?" Hector looked up from his pan and a slight smile before pulling

the kitchen to wel off his shoulder. He set the spoon down gently and squared his shoulders as he faced his best friend.

“Fuck, did he get bigger?”AJ whispered.

With him not hunched over or slumped, Hector took up a lot of the kitchen. My initial thought must have been right. He was somehow bigger now. That fact didn't seem to detour Bryan though.

“You mother fucker!”Bryan yelled at him, striding forward and taking a swing at Hector.

My eyes watched Hector's hands as they came up slightly but they stopped. Bryan's fist connected with his face but Hector didn't even budge. A second ho ok came around and hit him on the other side, still he took it passively, not moving. Bryan was huffing, his face flushed red.

“Feel better? Or you need one more?”

Bryan growled. “You fucking dropped off the face of the earth and you think two hits are going to make me feel better! You little cunt!”

I bit my lip to not smile. Hector was the youngest of the t rio before Auri had shown up. Auri described the three of their friendship beautifully and it showed here. “If I could have, I would.”

“Oh yeah? What the fuck kept you so tied up you couldn't even fucking give us a location?”

Hector turned picked up the wooden spoon and turned back to the pot, stirring it. “I was imprisoned by the BloodHunter coven.”

Suddenly the smirk on my face dropped. We all looked at Hector's back. The only sound was from the wooden spoon along the bottom of the pan. Vale came down from upstairs but the look on his face said he heard everything. Hector walked to the pantry, rifling through until he found some bread that he deemed okay.

“There should be enough if everyone wants to try some.”He turned around, slicing the baguette into slanted pieces. “Normally, I would toast it in a pan but that's way too much work right now.”

“Want me to grab the toaster for you?” Jax spoke up and I was actually surprised. It wasn't like him to initiate a question.

“Would you? Floppy bread isn't good for scooping up.”

AJ chuckled but Jax headed around, pulling out the toaster from one of the cabinets. All the while Hector pulled out bowls for everyone. Jax plugged it in and started to put the sliced of bread in it. Hector put a hand on his shoulder.

“Sometimes things work out for the better. Don't allow someone to change who you are. It's hard. It hurts. But allowing them to change who you are is not the way to live.”

Jax's eyes widened and he looked at Hector. “How did you know? I didn't...” Jax looked at everyone else in the room.

“I can tell, Jax. Don't let it define you like you are now. I'll call you out on it every time.” Hector gave him a small smile and for the first time in a while, Jax genuinely smiled back.



## **Alpha's Blind Luna Online Free**

### **Chapter 80**

#### Chapter 80

We all watched as Hector dished up some of the almost curry-like concoction. Jax put the bread in one of the breakbaskets we used. He took everything to the table but Hector held one bowl back. Opening up the fridge, he took out the container of sour cream. Putting a large dollop in the center, he smirked and held out the bowl to me. I took it and looked down at it. It smelled amazing even with the sour cream.

“It softens the spice. You should be able to take it now.”

I rolled my eyes but swung around and took my bowl to the table. Everyone was sitting down and it was so long since we had done this. Sadly, everyone was more serious.

"Anyone have any news before I start? I'd like to eat a little before I talk my head off."

Hector grabbed a baguette slice and dipped it into his bowl. Everyone seemed to take that as a go ahead to eat. Lucy was the first to start.

"Hospital is all set up. We also managed to snag two OBGYN doctors for the hospital. I had to bribe them quite a bit but we've got them. Outside of the family doctor we have in town."

"Did we need to expand the residential area?" I asked mixing the curry with a piece of bread.

She shrugged. "Honestly, I think we will need to eventually."

Simon and I groaned together. Vale chuckled as did Bryan.

Simon shook his head. "We should have another wine shipment in the next month or so. Also, Finnegan wanted to dip into whisky. We've looked into a few options but it seems fun."

"Fun he says. Extra work is what it means." AJ grumbled.

Simon shrugs. "It's an experiment. Honestly, it's relaxing and half the time you just stick it in the barrel then leave it for years."

Everyone quieted as we all ate, a moan or two escaping people as they ate. I started down at my bowl for a moment.

"Vale and I are going to adopt two pups."

Vale's eyes widened and he looked up at me. I smiled at him and his face beamed back at me. Everyone was shocked but Hector smirked, nodding to me. "So we'll probably need your guys help." I added. 1

"Not Dad. Don't let him help. Don't let him fill the place with pool noodles." Lucy laughed.

Bryan glared at her. "You grew up safe and sound!"

"I broke my arm when I was three! Don't bother them Dad!!"



Hector added, taking a quick bite. "She's not wrong. Auri even kicked him out when he tried helping with Tyr and the twins."

A chill ran through the group at mentioning her name. It was something we didn't mention. All of us dealing with a various degrees of guilt, pain, and sadness. Hector looked around at us and sighed.

"I guess I need to get to my business. Before everyone goes to their corner." He took a bite of food before finally moving the bowl away from him. Placing his elbows on the table, he leaned forward. His eyes glazed over for a moment before coming back.

Vale leaned back, his arms crossed over his chest. "How about the last time we heard from you? You were headed north after Ireland?"

Hector sighed. "I was going to a rumored lab in Iceland. I'd pulled the information from the offices in Ireland. Pipsqueak helped me sort out the encryption and I headed up there. I'd been making waves though. I'd hit too many in two short of time I think." Grabbing his water glass, he took a sip. "Iceland is actually really green, did you know that? Rolling hills, very much like Ireland. It's lovely. The air is clear..."

"Hector." Vale growled out.

'Give him a moment, Vale. It's not him losing focus, it's him collecting himself so that he doesn't drown in the feelings.' I mind linked Vale directly and he gave me a long hard stare before settling back down.

"They were waiting for me. Let me come in close to see that Auri wasn't there. Then they tightened the rope. I took out as many as I could but there were too many. Even someone skilled can be outmanned." Hector looked at me and nodded. "I was dropped in a complete concrete room. No windows. No lookouts. No food or water. Then the beatings came; the torture. Asking why I was there. What I was looking for. How many had I taken out. What other locations did I know of. It was constant. The pain was constant. I felt myself slipping, felt my soul starting to leave. Rydere was already suppressed and I was alone. I know I was muttering like a madman. But one day it stopped. The pain stopped. I was being transported to a different facility."

Everyone was on edge. My nails were digging into my legs until Lucy, who was sitting next to me, took my hand. The memory flashed of what I had gone through, I knew somewhat the pain Hector felt. Bryan had a look on his face. I

think it was regret. That he'd been angry or upset this whole time over his friend being gone. Leaving him behind. When really, he'd was probably going through his worst.

Bryan swallowed hard. "How long till they moved you?"

"Months? I think. Your sense of time gets lost." Hector shook his head, as if trying to rid his mind of the memories.

Jax was the one who put a hand on his shoulder and it seemed to ground him. "Where did you end up going?"

"I didn't find out later, not until we escaped but it was in the eastern part of China."

"We?" AJ looked at Hector, leaning his hand on the table.

Hector looked up at me, his eyes dark but not with his wolf. It was dark with memories. "I met the head of the BloodHunter sect. I met Oran."

Vale swore, his chair coming out from under him and falling to the floor. He put his hands on his head. We had thought... we'd guessed but Hector had proof now. He had seen him not just alive but working.

"Vale sit down." I called to him in the middle of his pacing.

He turned on his heel. "How can I? How can I when it's the previous High Councilor? How can I when we have proof now that my Dad needs to be executed for crimes against his race?"

I fell silent, looking down at the bowl in front of me. Bryan pipped up.

"Sit your ass down, Alpha. You can't do shit right now and pacing won't do anything either. So sit and shut up till the end."

Vale stopped and a few of us snickered as he finally sat back down. "Sorry. Continue Hector."

Hector, though, was far away. His eyes boring into the table. Jax squeezed his shoulder again and he looked up. "Oran spoke to me. Told me I was going to be used against the one person he needed to cooperate. Who'd been fighting him tooth and nail. He drugged me after that. But the first time I came

to, he used me. Used me by putting a silver brand on my skin and my scream to get her to comply.”

“Her?” Bryan was whispering now.

“Auri. The first I saw her, two fucking years. She was hanging from chains on the wall. Rail thin, no muscle, no fat. She couldn't even put weight on her legs for a while. They stopped feeding her food. They just injected her with shit.” Hector closed his eyes. “They... they used me against her. The threat of hurting me, she... she just gave in every time. Even using her against me. They did... things. Mostly to her... experiments. She'd come back and be out for days. I...” his hands went into his hair.

“She was alive though? She was actually alive?” Vale was hysterical.

“As alive as she could be. She... I...” Hector was struggling.

Reaching out, I took Hector's hand that had fallen off his head onto the table. “Breathe. It's alright. We don't need specifics.”

Vale was about to argue but I glared at him. Immediately, he shut up.

“One of the days... they were... they were going to...rape her. They drugged me so I wouldn't fight. But she said she got help and we managed to get out. I came to while we were running through the trees, away from the facility. It exploded while we walked on the side of the road. She flagged someone down and spoke Mandarin to him. Found out where we were and asked for a ride. A few hours later we were in Beijing. Free and out of the clutches of the coven.”

Vale's brows were knit. “Then where is she? Why isn't she here with you? Why hasn't she contacted us?” His voice rose a little bit at the end.

“She wanted to bring them down. Take Oran down. All she wanted to do was fight and I was done fighting.”

“She left you...” I

Hector didn't say anything for a while. “I spent some time in India. Worked as a cook. Then hopped around Egypt. No ID, no phone, nothing. I just was a nomad really. Managed to get my hands on a less than authentic passport

and after doing a couple of smuggling jobs for the local vampires, I made enough to fly back."

"Fuck! Why didn't she contact us? I mean, how long were you running around India and Egypt?" Vale couldn't hide the agitation in his voice. The frustration and anger carried through the bond as well. "She's been hitting different sites. I don't know how she's gotten more information than me, but she's hit ones both Pipsqueak and I couldn't find. I believe it's with the King of the Fey as well." ①

My eyebrows shot up. "She's with King Uriel?"

Hector shifted slightly. "Yes. I believe King Uriel's mate was killed by Oran as well. Their combined power is a level that could begin and end a war. So, she's most likely already spoken to Pipsqueak and Morgan."

"Goddess, why is she so infuriating?" Vale threw up his hands.

We all laughed and Hector smirked. The first true sign of emotion I had seen.

"So... what now?" Lucy looked at all of us, ending with Hector. "What happens now?"

Taking a deep breath, Hector spoke first. "In regards to Auri, nothing. Maybe keep an eye out and warn packs to stay away from her. She also might be going as Astra or the Huntress now as well, I'm not sure. But as long as we stay out of her way, we won't be counted in the collateral damage." His smirk was gone entirely. "She's taking no prisoners, no one is getting away. It's... a bit frightening if you actually look at the numbers."

Vale narrowed his eyes. "Okay. So basically we have a werewolf on the rampage but getting rid of BloodHunter labs. Could we use that?"

Lucy shook her head. "With that news reel that's still floating around... it creates sides. Either you got the labs or you aren't. Endorsing her would be taking a side. So I would say it's better to let her go her thing. It actually might be why she's taken up a different name. It doesn't associate her with us. Especially if she's taking no prisoners." ②

I chimed in. "Plus, with only the stupid program, people don't really understand the full extent of the BloodHunter covenant and what even was incorrect when it came to it. Even more may be against her with her choice to not only shut down the locations but draw blood as well." 1

Vale rubbed his forehead. His frustration through the bond was apparent but there were so many different threads of it, so many things he was frustrated at that it made me chuckle.

“As for me...”Hector leaned back in his chair.“I’d like to get back to some semblance of normalcy. If I need to, I’m happy to move out of the pack house since I’m not technically leadership anymore.”I shook my head.“I’d prefer it if you stayed. But it’s about to get a little noisier than normal if thats okay with you. I missed a daily sparring partner.”

“What about me?”Vale looked hurt but therewas amusement behind his eyes.

“Not only do you not want to train daily but it'snearly impossible to get you up before 9 a. m. so yes, it would be lovely to have a training partner again. We can add you to the patrols too, if you would like.”

Hector nodded but stopped.“I... I wouldn't mind. However...”He was chewing on his words.“I won't shift.”

This hushed the table entirely.

“Is everything okay? I'm sure I could...”

Hector gave Lucy a hollow smile.“Thank you, but no. It's ... not medical. I'd just prefer it if it was left at that.”

“I’ll work something out.”I smiled at him andhe nodded to me.

“So when are you picking up these pups?”Simonsmirked, leaning forward on the table.

“I’ll contact the pack, let them know when wewill be coming.” Vale's frustration was buriedunder pure excitement.

I leaned back in the chair as well.“We’ll need to set up the room first. Make sure we have everything before we bring them in.”

“Shopping trip!”Lucy squealed and shook myarm.

Laughing, I nodded.“Once we are set up, we will go get them together. So AJ, Jax, you will be in charge for a bit.”

“Goddess save us all.”Simon mumbled and AJthrew a piece of bread at him.

This made all of us devolve into laughter, with even Hector smirking. For the first time in months, it finally felt back to normal. Like our family was back and the pack house was more of a home than it had been. I knew it wouldn't last, but I could enjoy the moment for now. That and I had the feeling of excitement might change in Vale the closer we got to picking up these pups. He might be able to feel it from me but I was scared. Starting a family was what I always wanted but babies, taking care of them, is a monumental task. One I didn't know if we could ever be completely prepared for. A pack was one thing but two little pups were something else entirely.

Vale's hand reached out across the table and took hold of mine that had been resting on top.

"We can do this, Zeke. We are ready. Everything will be okay."

Bryan snorted. "As ready as any parent can be."

Lucy smacked him in the chest. "You not helping is also you not provided unsolicited advice as well." <sup>①</sup>

The table dissolved into giggles again and I felt more at peace than I had in years.

