

The Unknown Lycan Princess Chapter 61

Beth's POV

I am so thankful they let me bring Link here. Now that we know that we are in safe hands in Jess's mates pack I feel comfortable to have my pup with me. Link was so excited that the dragon clan leader would let him play with his dragon after dinner. In the last three hours he has been talking non stop asking if it was time for dinner.

'Maybe with how excited he is about playing with a dragon he might actually eat his vegetables tonight without complaining too much, Ethan said in our shared link.

Alexi and I just laugh at Ethan and then after a minute we both agree it was worth a shot. I am not ashamed to say that I will bribe my child to eat healthy. After everything the poor pup has been through I am glad that in just a short amount of time he has been with us that his appetite has grown tremendously

and he is able to keep all foods down.

Though I have been trying to keep him away from the sweets right now the grandparents have NOT been helping with that. Sneaking him candy and cookies when they don't think I am looking. I expect it from them, but my mates are doing it too and that just irritates me. I don't know if my irritation is tripled by the hormones raging through my body or if it really bugs me that much. I can understand them wanting to spoil him after everything, but we should be standing united as a team. I think after Link goes to bed tonight that I will have a serious discussion with my mates. I can't always be the bad guy.

I am brought out of my thoughts by a knock on the door. There is a beautiful young woman here to lead us to the dining hall. I can't help the growl I let out after hearing her thoughts about Alexi. I mean I know he is hot, but I would think the mark on his neck and the little boy hanging from his hip

would be an indication he was taken. I will never understand these females. Desperate is not a good look on anyone.

She lowers her head at my growl and I try to relax myself. Harmony is being extra possessive right now and wants me to show this girl exactly how we feel about her creating fantasies of her and our mate. I push her back in my mind and I start to relax as I feel both Alexi and Ethan place a hand on me showing the girl I was theirs. To access the complete chapters for free, visit J o b n I b . c o m. We followed her down the corridor and little Link was asking her all kinds of questions. I was a little irritated that she didn't want to answer him and only said, "That is not for outsiders like you to know."

I am glad that we made it to the dining hall quickly because I swear I will let Harmony have her way if she is rude to my pup one more time. Kids are naturally curious and it

is only to be expected that he would be asking questions. “Link baby, you can ask Uncle Blaze and I am sure he will answer all your questions. He is a big red dragon.” I say to my pup. I smirk when I see that she has a shocked expression on her face. Obviously she didn’t expect that.

When we enter the room I see Jess and Blaze and Alexander and Sandra are already at a large table that has enough chairs for us all. We head over to them and leave the girl behind gaping at us. Alexi puts Link down and he runs to Jess and hops in her lap. Blaze is looking a little scared at him. I laugh knowing he is wondering who the pup belongs to. “Link, leave your Aunty Jess alone, and come sit beside daddy Ethan. You are scaring your Uncle Blaze. He isn’t used to seeing such a handsome little boy and he is afraid you are going to take the spotlight off of him.” Ethan said, and we all started to laugh. Even Blaze’s parents laughed.

Poor Link was staring at all of us trying to figure out what was so funny. He shrugged his little shoulders looked at Blaze and said, “Sowwy Uncle Bwaze. I didn’t mean to scare you. I’ll twy not to look so handswome.”

We all laughed at that and I just ruffled his hair as he sat between me and Ethan. Alexi was pouting that Link wasn’t sitting between him and Ethan. I swear my mates can be big babies. I link Alexi and say, ‘You can sit beside him at breakfast you big baby.’

I get a glare from Alexi and then he smirks at me and says, ‘Alright darling. That means during lunch he can sit between Ethan and I then. It is only fair to share. Don’t you think?’

Now it was my turn to pout. He and Ethan just laugh at me and I stick my tongue out at them and take my seat. As soon as I sat down I noticed the mark on Jess’s neck and let out a scream and got up and waddled over to her and hugged her tightly. My mates were

quickly up out of their seats looking around for the threat. I just wave them off giving them a sheepish smile and say, “Sorry. I just saw that Jess is marked. I was excited.”

Ethan growls at that and Jess is quick to shut him up when she says, “Ethan Xavier Smith you stop that right now. I didn’t growl when you marked Beth so stuff it. He is my mate and we accepted each other. What did you expect to happen? Me to stay a virgin for the rest of my life?” Ethan quickly covered his ears acting like a child while everyone else laughed at him. I just rolled my eyes and shook my head.

After dinner was served I decided the anticipation was killing me since he said rituals earlier and asked, “Sir, you said that there are rituals to do in the morning. Can I ask what exactly those are?”

“Please call me Marcus. We are family now. Yes, there are rituals that the gods have placed before the flower may be granted. I

must warn you these rituals were meant for only the chosen one and any who perform the rituals that are not the chosen could lose their lives. So I implore you not to go through with this. Please think of your little one and the little one you have growing in your belly,” he says to me.

I can understand his concern, however this is what I was meant to do. I say, “Thank you Marcus for the concern you are showing for me and my pups. If I was anyone else you would be right to be wary, however Ares, the God of War, himself has sent me here on this task. I was given only two weeks to finish and I am already on the last few days so I have to continue.”

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As if me saying his name called out to him he appeared out of nowhere. “Hi sweetie. Have you had your other food yet? You know those

pups require both for a healthy growth now.”

I shook my head no and as if he already knew he handed me a glass that was full of blood. I thank him, but I am starting to get suspicious of why he is so focused on my other nutritional needs all of a sudden. This is the second time he has provided me with a glass of blood. I thank him and drink it down anyway because now that he said it I was famished for it. The taste was different from the last time. A hell of a lot more potent and I think I probably would have been fine with drinking only a portion of it, but I didn't want to be rude and waste it.

Ares smiled down at me and then made the glass disappear after he made sure it was all gone. My crew were used to seeing Ares just pop up out of nowhere and they didn't react. However, the others at the table and around the room are just staring at us like we have ten heads or something.

“This is my too many to count great grandfather, Ares,” I say with a smirk. Ares is just standing there with his arms crossed over his chest and let out a chuckle.

“Little one, you can just say grandfather. It is easier and less of a mouthful to say,” Ares says to me and then continues talking to Marcus, “Beth is correct. I did send her here to complete the rituals. Have no fear I am confident that Beth will be just fine and pass with flying colors. I would never put my grandchild or her pups in danger.”

“My apologies, Lord Ares. I meant no disrespect. I was only concerned for her wellbeing,” Marcus said with sincerity and reverence.

Ares ignores Marcus and turns to Blaze and Jess and smiles at Jess, but sends a glare to Blaze and says, “You better treat her right. She is important to my granddaughter therefore important to me. You have been blessed more than you will know and I

expect that you will be the best mate you can be and keep that d**k of yours away from any other women. Jessica doesn't need that type of stress in her condition and she deserves better from her mate."

I squeal again as I realize what Ares meant and waddle back over to Jess who has a dazed look on her face. I don't even question how Ares knew but I am excited to know that our pups will grow up together.

Blaze looks stunned and then turns to me and asks, "Please tell me what he means because I am so lost."

I look around the table and see that no one else understood what Ares said so I explain and say, "Well Blaze it means that you will have to get used to being called daddy here soon, and I hope for that whole poo dragon debacle that Jess puts you on diaper duty for the first six months."

I laugh when I see that his mouth just falls open and then there are two other squeals and Jess is surrounded by Blaze's mother and Sandra. They both hugged her and congratulated them. Then Blaze the i***t had to open his mouth and say, "How can that be? We just sealed our bond today. It is too early to know that. We aren't ready yet for hatchlings."

There were quite a few growls from everyone around the table and Jess just gets up and runs out of the room with tears in her eyes. Blaze's mom looks so disappointed in him and his father smacks him hard on the back of his head and says, "You i***t. I swear I don't know where your mother and I went wrong with you." Blaze just looked at him confused so his mother continued where her mate left off and said, "You basically just said in front of the whole clan and your mates' family that you didn't want your hatchling, and you hurt your mates feelings. I swear I don't understand you young men

these days. Hatchlings and mates are a blessing and some couples never get to experience what you have been gifted so quickly.”

Blaze’s eyes widened and he jumped up from his chair running out of the dining room after he said, “Oh my gods. I didn’t mean it like that. I just meant that we haven’t even talked about having hatchlings yet. We aren’t prepared to have one. We have nothing for them. I have to go find Jess.”

I am glad that he realizes his mistake and I hope Jess lets him explain. Men are not good with words and I know from experience that they don’t think before they speak. I grab Ethan’s hand because he looks like he could just kill Blaze for I am not even sure whether it was for impregnating his sister or for what he said to her. I look at Ares and I point at him and say, “Don’t you even think about getting in between that mess. Let Jess take care of him. She is stronger than you think.”

Marcus and Anna just look at me horrified that I would talk to a god that way. I just shrug my shoulders and continue eating. After I take a few bites I wipe my mouth and say, “So how many rituals and what can I expect?”

Marcus clears his throat and says, “Well the first ritual is to prove you are pure of heart. I don’t exactly know what will happen because we are forbidden to be in the chambers while the ritual is being done. The second you will have to prove your intentions for the flower are pure. Finally the last one you need to shed blood to prove you are the chosen one.”

I give a pointed look at Ares and cross my arms before I say, “Care to explain to me why you only said that I needed to ‘find’ this plant, and not tell me about the other tasks that would need to be completed to procure it?”

Ares didn't look the least bit bothered by my question and if I took a wild guess I would say that he was amused by it. He said, "Little one, I can only give you so much information. Sadly those are the rules and Fate is quite a stickler for the rules of prophecies. Trust me, you don't want to be on the bad side of Fate."

Then just like that he disappeared. I swear he does that crap on purpose to annoy me. I turn to look at Marcus and say, "So what time tomorrow morning are we starting this?"

Marcus shook his head as if to clear his mind and said, "I would suggest after you have breakfast. It can take a while to complete the rituals and once they start they cannot be stopped for anything. So we will make sure that you have provisions in case it takes longer than a few hours."

I nod my head and then finish eating. The table is quiet and soon Jess and Blaze rejoin

us and Jess has a brilliant smile on her face and Blaze is strutting around like a proud peacock. I guess they worked their misunderstanding out. I am glad. After everything Jess has gone through today she deserves to have her happiness.

After we all finish eating, Link bounces on his seat and asks, “Ok. I ate all my veggies. Can I pway with the dwagon now?” Marcus laughs and says, “Of course little one, but we have to go outside first. My dragon is too big to be let out inside the roost.”

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Ares POV

After I left Beth and her friends I came back to the palace of the gods and walked in to find my father. Of course the old man wasn't alone. I swear I don't know how my mother puts up with his adulterous ways being paraded in front of her. I can't say that I am that much better, but I make sure my wife

doesn't have to see it. We're gods and we live eternally and eternity can't get to be quite boring with the same person always nagging you all the time. I closed my eyes and cleared my throat hoping that would be enough and thankfully it was. I did not want to go through with what happened last time. I have seen my father's d**k one too many times and once was already one too many.

"You can open your eyes now, son. She is gone and I am decent," Zeus laughed as if it was funny.

"You can't blame him dear. Not everyone wants to see you and your conquests," Mother says boredly.

Zeus just rolls his eyes and asks me, "So did you give the girl my blood as I instructed?"

I nod my affirmation and Zeus just smiles. I am still not sure what exactly he expects to gain by giving Beth his blood. If I remember right it does nothing for the gods, but it

makes the mortal stronger. If he keeps feeding Beth his blood she may be even stronger than he is. Or her pups might. I am brought out of my thoughts when I hear Zeus ordering for a harem of women to be brought into the throne room for him to choose his next bedmate.

I walk away and roll my eyes. Once I am out of the throne room I notice that Fate is standing there leaning on the wall across the way. I sigh hoping that I can walk past without her addressing me. I am not in the mood today to deal with her attitude. I do have to say that if everyone's life was literally in my hands that I would be a wound up mess too, but there are other ways to let that tension out than being a b***h to everyone around them.

“So. Zeus is giving his blood to a pregnant mortal,” Fate said it as a statement and not a question. I nodded my response knowing better than to open my mouth.

“Good. That is what Destiny has declared needs to happen to ensure the future of the gods.” Fate turned and walked away then.

She always leaves me with more questions than answers and this time I know just who to go to figure out what the hell she means by that. I knew Zeus wasn't doing it out of the kindness of his heart. Typical that he is totally on board for anything that saves his ass.

Alicia POV

Ugh. These f*****g mutts won't let me ride on their backs and I have had to walk on foot the whole way. My stupid wolf isn't even responding to me and she is so far in the back of my mind I can't even feel her anymore. I can't shake this sense of loneliness I have been feeling since we left the rogue compound.

This stupid vampire keeps eyeing me with a smirk as if he knows something that I don't.

I can't wait to get this stupid mission over with and get back to the compound. I swear to the gods if I come back and find him balls deep in another omega I may just chop the damn thing off so he can't do it anymore.

We have been walking for hours now and I don't even know if we are close to these stupid abandoned lands or not. No one is answering my questions and are basically ignoring me. I swear when I am Luna they will all bow down to me and have to kiss my feet to make up for the way they are treating me right now. I bump into a hard surface and that brings me out of my thoughts. I looked up and noticed that I ran into a damn tree and everyone was laughing at me.

"Why did we stop?" I couldn't help but ask. I rubbed my nose a little to try and ease the pain.

"Well princess we stopped because it is going to be dark soon and we need to make camp. We are just a few miles from the

border of the abandoned lands and we are not stupid enough to go there in the dark. By all means please continue if you want. Save us all the trouble of having to hear your nagging the rest of the trip.” The vampire said with exasperation and got a few cheers from the rogues.

I looked around and noticed that there weren't any tents or anything and everyone was just laying in the dirt and using their bags as a pillow. What is wrong with these people? What if it rained? What about wild animals? This is unacceptable and I make it known but I am just ignored. I huff off to find a relatively safe place for me to lay down. Hopefully upwind so I don't have to smell the disgusting rogue stench of rot and death. Hell, even the vampire smells better than they do.

I was not comfortable at all and it took me hours to even find a relatively decent way to lay to even try to get some sleep. Tomorrow

will be a better day I hope. I will finally be able to kill that damn b***h that caused all my problems with my pack and alpha. I drift off to sleep with the images of me ripping her heart out of her chest making a smile form on my lips.

Beths POV

Watching Link climb all over Marcus' dragon was a sight to see. I took lots of pictures and videos. It didn't take long for Blaze to join them with his dragon and Link was in kiddy heaven. I watch how Blaze interacts with Link and I know Jess will be fine. It may have taken him a minute but he will be a good dad when their pup or hatchling or whatever it will be comes. I yawn and even though I have had plenty of sleep I still feel so tired. These pups are really taking my energy out of me. I hope that I won't need to take a nap during the rituals tomorrow.

“Darling, I think it is time to get you and Link up to the room and ready for bed. You

will have a long day tomorrow and will need as much rest as you can get,” Alexi said as he wrapped his arms around my waist from behind and placed his hands on my stomach.

I know he is right, but I don’t want to take this away from Link and I tell Alexi that. He just gave me a look and I said, “Fine. Five more minutes and we will go in and get Link ready for bed.”

“Thank you baby. We appreciate you compromising with us on this,” Ethan said.

That reminded me of what I was going to talk to them about. I turned to Jess and asked if she could keep an eye on Link for a few minutes while I had a ‘come to Jesus’ meeting with my mates about Link.

The guys follow me until we are far enough away that Link won’t hear what we are going to talk about. I look between the two of them and they both are just looking confused. So I decided to let them stew for a

few more minutes and when they start to squirm under my glare I say, “So. We need to set some ground rules for the pups. I don’t appreciate you going behind my back and giving our pup sweets when we agreed that he wasn’t going to get any of those yet until he got into the habit of eating nutritious foods first.”

I will give them credit. They looked a little bit ashamed. Knowing them though it wasn’t from doing it and more for the fact that they got caught and called out on it. Ethan was scratching the back of his neck and looking at his shoes like they are the most interesting thing in the world and Alexi has his hands crossed behind his back and looking up at the trees as if there is something that will pop out at any moment and he doesn’t want to miss it.

“Well, what do you have to say for yourselves?” I said as I crossed my arms over my chest.

“We’re sorry baby. He just looks so excited every time he gets some and looks so sad when we tell him no. Those puppy dog eyes he does just melts my resolve every time.” Ethan said with a sheepish smile on his face.

I looked to Alexi to figure out if he had anything to add and he just said the same thing. I rolled my eyes and threw my hands up in the air, completely frustrated with these two men. “Well you can stop that right now. I will NOT be the bad guy all the time.

We need to be a united front with him and our other pups. If we just let them get everything they want they will be spoiled brats and who knows. They could turn out to be just like Alicia and Amber and think that the world owes them something just because they want it. I refuse to have my pups act that way.” I said and I watched as both of them slumped their shoulders in defeat.

“We’re sorry darling. We will do better. We didn’t realize that what we were doing was

upsetting you this much. I see your point on spoiling the children. We will do better at it and work on being the united front the children will need from us.” Alexi said and my face softened as I nodded accepting his apology. I walked up to each of them and placed a quick kiss on their lips then walked away to gather up our son.

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Beth’s POV

***** time jump to the next morning*****

I woke up earlier than the boys because these babies decided it was time to use my poor bladder as a trampoline. I extracted myself from my mates and rushed to the bathroom as fast as my waddle would let me. After I have done my business I hop in the shower and just try to relax my body and muscles with the hot water running over me. I think about everything that could happen

today and decide that worrying about it isn't going to help me complete the tasks at hand so I take a few deep breaths and release all the stress out of my mouth with my breath. I found my resolve and finished washing up in the shower. As I was drying myself off a still sleepy Ethan walks into the bathroom and doesn't even see me as he walks straight to the toilet to take care of his morning business. I chuckle to myself as I slip out of the bathroom and to the closet that has some clothes for us to use. I chose to go with some leggings and a flowy floral top that flows nicely over my bump.

After I am finished I walk out and check on Link and notice that he is just waking up. I walk in and greet him and help him get ready for the day after he uses the bathroom. I dressed him in a cut short and t-shirt set that ironically had dragons on it. When I was done with Link I left him with a few toys in his room and went to check on my mates.

They were both dressed and ready for whatever today will bring us. I can't say that I am not nervous, but I need to be strong for my friends and mates so they don't worry about what could happen. I walked up to them and sat between them on the bed. I grabbed one of each of their hands in my own and brought them both up to kiss the back of their hands. I let out a deep breath and say, "You know that these rituals are just a formality right? I was literally made and born to do this. I am not worried about me. I know I will make it through this challenge and any other the gods throw at me to be able to free my people."

"Darling, we are your mates. We are going to worry about you regardless of the situation. I for one worry every time you walk down a flight of stairs right now. Let alone you doing some rituals that we can't be with you while you are doing them. It is our job to protect you and our children. If we don't

worry we won't be doing our jobs correctly," Alexi said.

"Yeah, remember it isn't just our mate that is going to be going through this challenge. You are also carrying our pups, baby. So we are worried four times over. Dex is going crazy in my mind not wanting to let you and Harmony out of our sight right now. He feels something is going to happen and we are worried about it and you. I have never felt this way before and I don't like the helpless feeling I am getting," Ethan said.

I thought about what they both said and I asked Harmony, 'Do you feel the same way Dex does? Is there something to be concerned about?'

'I feel uneasy, but it isn't about the rituals. There is something else in the air. I feel like whatever bad is going to happen will be AFTER you complete the rituals.'

I nodded my head to Harmony and then said to my mates, “Harmony feels the unease too, but she said it wasn’t towards the rituals. She said that whatever it is will be after the rituals are done. So we can relax a little on the rituals. Just make sure that everyone is prepared for afterwards because whatever this feeling is that our wolves have we should give it as much seriousness as we would if we could see a threat.”

“Alright darling. We’ll talk to everyone over breakfast about what your wolves are feeling. Maybe Marcus and Blaze will be able to handle the threat before it becomes a problem if they know to look for something. I want to send Link back to Roman after breakfast. I would feel safer if he weren’t anywhere near any problems that might arise. If I could I would send you and Jessica both back. Women in your condition shouldn’t be stressed like this,” Alexi said.

“I agree with Alexi. If we can’t have all three of you sent back to the Vampire kingdom, let’s at least send Link back. It would make me feel better, and if we need to we can possibly bring more warriors through. As long as Marcus is ok with that of course,” Ethan said.

“Alright. I agree, as much as I would love to keep Link by our side it would definitely be safer for him. He has been through so much already he doesn’t need to see any more death or blood if we can keep him from seeing it,” I said to them. We decided now was the best time to head for breakfast so we grabbed Link and started to head to the dining hall. I couldn’t help but notice some of the looks we were getting. I wasn’t sure what was going on because you could see amusement from some and plain old anger and disgust from others. I let my curiosity get the best of me and opened up my mind to figure it out. I checked with the amused one’s first and I realized they were finding

Link's outfit funny. I almost forgot about the little dragons all over his clothes. I couldn't help but chuckle to myself about it again.

Then I decided to check on the angry ones, figuring it was also aimed at my son's choice of clothing. I was right, but there was more there. Apparently that witch Arabella has been spreading rumors about us. It amuses me that she has them believing that I have bewitched the leaders of this clan. I guess I am more gifted than I thought because according to these thoughts I can manipulate the mate bond and take it from one person and give it to another. I shake my head at that and return from other people's minds. I noticed that Ethan and Alexi were giving me questioning looks and I just mouthed 'later'.

We made it to the table that had our group and the leaders of this clan. When Marcus saw Link's outfit he laughed so hard he was spitting orange juice out of his nose. Once he was able to compose himself he said,

“Interesting choice in outfit little man. Do you really like dragons that much?”

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Link smiled brightly and nodded his head. Then he ran straight to Marcus and climbed up on his lap and chatted away about how much fun he had playing with the dragons last night.

I smiled as I watched my son open up after all the trauma he has had in his short time on this earth. I turned my attention to the food spread on the table and my mouth literally watered. I swear these babies were constantly making me hungry. I filled up a plate with bacon, sausage, hash browns, and eggs. Then I noticed the waffles and filled up another plate with two waffles and topped them with strawberries in a glaze and some whipped cream. I sat the plates down in front of me and started to dig in. I was halfway through my waffles when I looked

up and noticed that the table was oddly quiet. I looked up and noticed everyone looking at me with wide eyes. Jessica especially and I just smirked at her and said, “This is what you get to look forward to in a few months. Maybe you have three in there too?” I couldn’t help adding in the last bit at the end. Serves her right for looking at me like I am an alien for feeding my unborn pups. Hmph.

“I will not be eating like it is my last meal every time I sit at the table. I can only be thankful that this time you haven’t put anything strange together on that plate of yours,” Jessica said and turned her nose up at me.

I just looked at her and after a minute of us just staring at each other we both busted up laughing cause we both know that my cravings have been quite odd. Poor Blaze asked what kinds of concoctions I have been craving and as Jessica explains them to him

his face turns green and he pushes his plate away from him as do most of the men at the table.

The women then all get into a conversation about all the different things they craved while they were pregnant. I have to admit some of what they were saying actually sounded really good. Now I was wanting to have some of it. I was cleaning up my plate that had all my other goodies when Ares decided to pop up again. I wasn't as shocked as everyone else at the table was. I had a feeling he was going to pop back up this morning. So far he has been popping up during my meals to hand me a goblet of blood. So I just held my hand out to him without looking and as I expected a glass was placed in my hand.

I took a sniff of it and again I felt my mouth water. I gulped it all down and to my horror I was still thirsty and craved more. To my shock Ares handed me another cup and just

smirked at me. I rolled my eyes and gulped it all down too and finally I felt like I was completely full. “Thanks,” I said.

He just nodded his head at me, and went over to Marcus and took Link into his arms. “Hey bud. Do you want to spend some time with Grandpa Ares this morning? Your mommy and daddies have some things to do and I would love to have your help with some very important things only a young man of your caliber can help with.”

Link’s face lit up and he puffed his little chest out in pride and then he looked at me with pleading eyes and all he had to do was to say please in his cute little way and I crumbled. I nodded and Link squealed excitedly and I looked at Ares as I pointed my finger at him and said firmly, “You better watch him like a hawk. There had better not be a single scratch on him when you return him to me. Understand?”

“I’m hurt that you would think you needed to tell me all of that. This is my grandson and I would never let him get hurt on purpose,” Ares said with fake hurt, but I could see the mirth in his eyes. Then as usual he disappeared in thin air taking my son with him.

“Darn it! I forgot to tell him no weapons,” I said with horror.

“It will be ok baby. I trust Ares to take care of him, and if he doesn’t I trust that you will put that god back in his place,” Ethan said as he kissed the side of my head.

“Marcus, before we leave to do these rituals we would like to have a private conversation with everyone,” Alexi said. Marcus nodded his head and said, “We can go to my office if everyone is finished with their meal.”

We all nodded and got up from the table. We followed Marcus down a few hallways and finally into a large office that had a classic

rustic style to it. It was cozy but also shows you meant business. I chose to sit on the comfy looking couch and everyone else followed suit finding a seat where they could. I was surprised that there was so much seating in the room.

After everyone was settled we got into the feeling that Dex and Harmony had and what Harmony had said about it. “I would like to know how you feel about us portaling in a dozen warriors or so to help with the protection of the clan. I am not sure what all is going to happen, but if our wolves feel that it could pose a problem I would rather be safe than sorry. I don’t want your people to have to fight our battles for us either. Whatever is coming is because of us that much I know and feel,” I said.

“I appreciate that you are concerned for my people, but if there are going to be people causing a problem in my territory then my people will fight. I will accept the help of

extra warriors just so that we can make sure this problem is handled quickly and effectively,” Marcus responded.

I nodded my head and turned to Alexander and Ethan and said, “So six wolves and six vampires?”

“Maybe a witch or two would be beneficial too. We don’t know what kind of threat this is and we need to make sure that all the bases are covered. We could get a few strong witches and place protection spells up around some buildings that will guard the people who can’t fight like the elderly and the young ones,” Sandra said.

I looked at Marcus and he nodded his head in agreement. “Ok. So I will open the portals for the pack and for the castle when you have the ok from Arthur and Roman,” I said.

It took about an hour to get everything done and we now had six vampires, six wolves, and two additional witches. What surprised

me most was that Arthur and Roman are among the warriors.

After everyone was situated with their tasks, Marcus walked us over to where the ritual would take place. I don't know what I was expecting but a cave was not it.

When we walked in there were three doors. Each door was labeled as one, two, three. In the middle of the room there is a glass case and inside is the flower that I was sent to retrieve. Marcus explained that each door holds one part of the ritual. They must be done in order. After each task is completed fully and correctly then a part of the glass case is removed.

I gave everyone in the room a hug and when I came to my mates I gave them each a kiss and said in mindlink 'I love you both and will see you soon' .

I took a deep breath and let it out as I walked up to the first door and turned the

door knob. I walked into the room and the door slammed shut behind me. Well I guess this is it, was the last thing I thought before everything went black.

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Third person POV

****Outside the room of rituals****

Once the door had closed behind Beth her mates took deep breaths trying to calm themselves. Ethan was having a fight with Dex in his mind. Dex hadn't been worried about the rituals because he knew he would still be able to connect with Harmony and be able to assess his mate and pups' health and wellbeing and would be able to sense if they needed any help or were in danger. As soon as his mate stepped inside that door and it shut, so did his connection to them. Ethan was trying everything in his power to control his wolf and make sure that they

didn't interrupt the ritual unless absolutely necessary.

Alexi on the other hand was trying to calm himself down. His inner beast was calm as could be and that infuriated Alexi. Shouldn't his inner beast be more primal than the human counterpart? He had faith in his mate, however he wasn't sure what she would have to go through. He knows a lot of the things that Beth has been through in her short life and a lot of it has happened in less than a year. He is worried about what all this stress is going to do to her mental health. Not to mention the babies that she is carrying the stress could prove too much. Jessica and Blaze along with Marcus and Anna were sitting in the corridor as well waiting with bated breath the news of the first ritual. Marcus knows that the first ritual is the one most fail on and he didn't want to say that to Beth or her companions. Proving you are truly pure of heart can be daunting. He isn't sure what to expect

honestly. All he has ever heard are the screams from within the door after some time had passed. Then the door would open on its own and the person would come flying out as if the room was spitting them out. It was rather intense to witness and the first time it happened he nearly crawled out of his skin almost expecting a monster to appear at the entrance of the door.

Sandra elected to stay outside of the building where the rituals were held. She felt stifled inside and needed the fresh air. She was concerned for her granddaughter, but she also had a tremendous amount of faith in her abilities. In all her years of life she had not met one person herself included who could be classed as pure at heart as Beth. What everyone around them doesn't know is that while Beth can read people's minds Sandra can catch a glimpse of Beth's mind each time she reads her. To access the complete chapters for free, visit [J o b n I b . c o m](http://JohnIb.com) . It is like as Beth is entering the minds of others

she leaves the wall that is erected to become see through. That is the best way she can describe it. She can see into it, but she cannot interact or grab onto any of the information. It is like watching a silent movie. Unfortunately everything that Sandra has seen has been nothing short of horrifying. How a child could be treated in such a way from people who are supposed to love her is deplorable. If she could get her hands on Beth's father and his family she would show them what it feels like to be belittled, bullied, and treated as a live-in maid in their own home.

Alexander could sense his beloved's anger rising the longer she stood in the same spot brooding. He wasn't sure what she was thinking about, but he knew he needed to put a stop to it or this dragon clan would have one pissed off witch on their hands. That is not a sight he wishes to see any time soon. He shivered as he remembered the first and last time Sandra was so infuriated

that she literally caused a whole town to be burned to the ground. She was literally spitting fire. He walked over to Sandra, grabbed her hand and started to walk her into the forest that was just behind the building. As they walked they didn't speak, just enjoying the silence and togetherness in this stressful time.

Arabella stood from afar just watching the outsiders mingling around the hall of rituals. She didn't know why they even attempted that stupid flower. No one has yet to survive going in there. She was disappointed though when she noticed that it wasn't the person she wanted to go in there. She was sitting there all cuddled up to Blaze. When she saw Blaze place a hand on the tramps stomach after she whispered something into his ear she was infuriated. She was about sent over the edge when she noticed he had bent down and placed a gentle loving kiss on her stomach. Arabella couldn't take it anymore. She marched out of the hall and as soon as

she was outside she shrieked as she turned into her dragon and flew away.

How could Blaze impregnate that b***h so fast. They have literally known each other for a couple of days at most. She had been trying to trap Blaze into a mating for YEARS! Not once had Blaze ever been intimate with her without some type of protection in place and he has never released inside of her much to her annoyance and disappointment. Not that she wanted to have kids, but she knew that his parents would never let him abandon the woman whom he had sired a child with. It just wasn't done with their kind. As she flew she noticed that she was at the edge to the borderlands and she noticed a large group of outsiders. She thought it strange and wanted to vent out her anger so she decided to see what these strangers wanted and if it was not to her benefit which nothing ever seems to be here lately she would slaughter them all.

Arabella was smiling as she walked back into the clan's lands. She couldn't believe her luck! The group of outsiders she encountered were here to solve all of her problems. She just had to figure out how to get them inside the borders without Marcus being notified, and she knew just the person for the job.

Inside the Room of Rituals

Beth fluttered her eyes open slowly. She couldn't remember what had caused her to blackout like that. All she remembered was walking into the room to start the rituals. At the thought of the rituals she sat up straight and looked around her surroundings. She was surprised that she was sitting in an open field. It was like she was teleported to a different place like she was to get to her great grandmother's cabin in the woods. Beth stood up and looked all around her and noticed that there was a path that started to glow and she decided she needed to follow it.

She walked for some time before she heard a commotion in the distance. It sounded like a little kid screaming for help! Beth picked up her speed as best she could and raced to the screaming child. What she ran in on made her blood run cold. There was a little girl of no more than three years old being surrounded by two large men with menacing looks to their faces. Beth didn't even think about it and rushed over to the little girl and pushed the two men out of the way and said, "Leave the girl alone. You want to mess with someone then mess with someone your own size." She felt Harmony in her mind growling at the men ready to half shift to save them if she needed to.

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Before anything else could happen the two large men smiled and then disappeared in front of her eyes. Confused but thankful that they were gone she turned around to the little girl to try and give her some comfort,

but when she turned around the little girl was gone as well. The path started to glow again and like before she chose to follow it. She was on edge now thinking about what had just happened. She was still a little concerned about how they just completely disappeared on her. She wanted to know what happened to the little girl.

After some time of walking again she determined that it was part of the ritual otherwise they wouldn't have vanished into thin air like that. At least she hoped not. She felt like she had been walking for hours when the path stopped at a river. The first thing Beth noticed was a stone bench along the riverside that allows the person sitting there to be able to dip their feet in. Beth's swollen feet and ankles were rejoicing at the feel of the cool water on her feet. Beth sighed as she relaxed into the bench seat.

Beth sat there for a good fifteen minutes just enjoying the relaxing feeling coming over

her. It was nice with everything that had been going on around and in her life to just take this moment to enjoy the beautiful view that nature was gracing her with. It was at that time that her pups decided to start wiggling around in her belly and Beth giggled and said, “Well good morning to you three too. Let’s not get too rambunctious there. Mommy isn’t anywhere close to get help if something happens.” She lovingly rubbed over her very large belly. She had a feeling it would not be long now until her pups made their appearance into this world and Harmony agreed with her.

After a few more minutes of enjoying the time she had she heard a noise coming from behind her. As she looked back she noticed a beautiful young woman walking out of the forest. Beth kept staring at the woman because she felt like she had seen her somewhere before. The woman smiled at her and sat beside Beth. “Have we met before?” Beth couldn’t help but ask.

The woman gave a sad smile and shook her head and said, “No, we have not met before. I wanted to thank you for taking care of my son like I couldn’t. Link is a very special boy. I am just glad that he has you and your mates to love and care for him. I can rest now peacefully knowing that my pup is in good hands. I know that with your guidance and love that he will grow to be an exceptional young man. So again, thank you.” Tears were falling down both of their faces when she finally finished saying what she wanted to say.

Beth was shocked at first, but then she pulled the woman into her arms and just embraced her in a hug. Whether the hug was for comfort or thanks she didn’t know, but she felt she needed to say something to the woman, “Please, don’t thank me. I would do it again in a heartbeat. Link has taken a piece of all of our hearts in a short little bit of time. He is such a sweet little boy and we have you to thank for that. All the good

qualities he shows now is a testament to how well you did with and for him with the conditions surrounding you. I will make sure that Link knows how much his mommy loved him while she was with him, and how much you love him and that you are always watching over him now. I will make sure that your son doesn't forget you," Beth made the vow to her.

The woman smiled and mouthed a thank you as she slowly disappeared from Beth's vision. Not long after another woman appeared and Beth knew right away who it was. "Hello Selene. Are you here to perform the ritual to determine if I am pure of heart?" Beth asked.

Selene chuckled and said, "Hello to you too Beth. Yes and no. I was in charge of performing your ritual, but it is already done. You have shown you are truly pure of heart. First you ran right into danger without regard for yourself or your unborn

pups to save a random child. Not many people who were in your situation would have done the same thing. I just have one question for you and your ritual will be complete.”

Beth nodded for her to continue so she went on and said, “If you were able to do so would you bring Link’s mother back to life even if it meant that you would never see him again?”

Beth was taken aback by the question, but there was no doubt in her mind or her answer when she said, “Yes, I would. I will always love Link as if he was my own, but if I had it in my power to bring his mother back to life I would because that would make Link so happy to have her back. Just by the big heart that Link has I know that he gained that from his mother’s teachings so I know he would be well loved and cared for. That is all any parent wants for their children. To be happy and healthy and if bringing Link’s mom back from the dead to achieve that then

I would do it no matter the cost I had to bear for it.”

Selene smiled pleased with her answer. Beth truly was pure of heart. “Congratulations, sweetheart. You have completed the first ritual. You have proven beyond any shadow of doubt that you are pure of heart. The fact that you would be willing to bring your adopted son’s mother back from the dead just for his happiness no matter the consequence to you speaks louder than anything. Now go get some lunch and be prepared for the next ritual.” Selene waved her hand in front of her and before Beth’s eyes a door appeared and opened. Beth could see her mates on the other side of the door and she walked out of it and into their waiting arms.

Marcus, Anna, Blaze, and Jessica come over to them and congratulate Beth on completing the first ritual. As they all talked about what Beth had to do they had a spread of food in a

room off to the side of the corridor for lunch. The mood around the table was that of excitement. Marcus had never seen anyone make it past the first ritual in his time. His father said that there was once a time when someone had tried and they were able to get to the second phase, but they didn't survive that. Marcus was anticipating how Beth would handle the next ritual. He wasn't sure exactly how she was supposed to prove that her intentions for the flower were pure, but he was a little more confident now that she passed the first one without any issues it seems.

Meanwhile at the border

Alicia was pacing back and forth waiting for that woman to come back. It was just her luck that the person she was after would get on the bad side of the people who guard these lands. She was almost giddy at thinking how quickly she can get this task done and prove once and for all that she was

meant to be a Luna. She didn't care that it was of a rogue pack because she has overheard enough to know that they are trying to free and gain control of the Lycan army that has been locked away for over a thousand years. They just had to wait for Arabella to arrive back with a way to get in there without being detected.

It was close to lunch time when she caught sight of Arabella coming out of the dead trees. There was a smile on the woman's face so Alicia was hopeful that Arabella did as she said she could. When Arabella was close enough she said, " You can all come over the border as soon as I smash this vial on the ground. You won't have long, maybe a minute to completely breach the border before the warning system comes back into play. So make sure you have everything gathered and let me know when you are ready."

The group hurriedly gathered all of their belongings and stood at the ready to cross. Once Alicia gave the go ahead, Arabella threw the vial on the ground and watched as a black smoke curled around the sensing mechanism and once the black smoke started to brighten she knew that it was time for them to cross. She motioned them to quickly move and just as the last person crossed the border the black smoke vanished into thin air. Alicia couldn't help but smirk knowing that this was going to be a lot easier than they had originally thought it would be.

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Third Person POV

After Beth had lunch with her mates she was getting ready to head into the ritual room to start her next test. After her first test she was confident that everything would be ok. She realized that she just needed to be honest with herself in her actions and

thoughts. She needed to keep in mind why she is doing all of this. She needs to free her people who have been trapped for things they didn't even do. The actions of one man cursed the whole of his people. It was so sad when she thought about it.

Right as her hand was about to turn the handle she sensed more than saw Ares. So she called out startling Marcus and Blaze as she did so. They still weren't used to how Beth just says whatever she wants to the gods. "Ares, I know you are there. So instead of hiding out like some old creeper, why don't you join us in the physical realm? Hmmm?"

A deep booming laughter was heard in the semi empty room and Ares slowly manifested himself as Beth was standing with her hands on her hips and her left foot tapping on the ground. Obviously not amused by his antics. She has more

important things to deal with than a moody god who got his kicks on spying on people.

“Calm down Beth. I’m sorry. I wasn’t trying to be a, what is it that you called me? Some old creeper, was it? I am just here to make sure that you are taking care of ALL of your nutritional needs,” Ares said looking pointedly at Beth who yet again forgot to drink some of her meal.

Beth let out a long drawn out sigh and said, “I didn’t drink any blood for two reasons. First being that I am not at home and do not want to upset anyone by my differences, and two I am still full? Is that the right word to use? From the last time you ensured that I met all my “nutritional” needs.” Beth made sure to use air quotations for nutritional to let Ares know that she isn’t buying what he is selling.

“You may not feel the need to drink right now, but those babies inside you do not have that same feeling. Open up your senses to

your pups. You will see that they are starving for you to drink.” Ares stated while giving her a look that said ‘Go ahead and try to argue with me’.

Beth just sighed and did what she was asked to do. She didn’t even remember that Sandra had helped her to be able to communicate with her pups. She closed her eyes and saw Harmony inside her mind and surrounding Harmony were three very cute little wolf pups. It felt a little surreal to be seeing them like this. Once the pups noticed her they came barreling into Beth knocking her on her butt while they started to lick attack her face or any other part of her they could reach.

Beth opened up her connection with her pups and noticed that Ares was right. They were practically starving for blood right now. She felt so horrible that she was neglecting what her pups needed. She gave each pup a snuggle and rubbed Harmony on

her head and stepped back out of her mind. She looked up at Ares with tears in her eyes and said, “You were right. I didn’t realize that I was practically starving my babies.” Beth started to sob because her hormones were all over the place right now. Now that she opened up that link with the pups she was dying of thirst. Like magic Ares produced a large goblet filled with blood.

As Ares watched Beth drink down the blood he realized that her hunger is getting stronger for the blood. He knew then that it was only a matter of a few days before those babies would be here. Ares didn’t realize it to begin with but after his encounter with Fate he had found his way to Destiny to ask her what the hell Fate had meant by her comment. He wanted to know what it was about Beth receiving Zeus’ blood that will save the gods. He wanted to make sure that she was not going to be put into any danger. He refuses to be a part of hurting his granddaughter. Now that he has been able to

spend some time with her he actually realized that he found something that made his usual monotonous life just a bit more bearable.

Flashback Third Person POV

Ares stormed through the palace of the gods and found his way to Destiny's quarters. He didn't even knock because why would he let his prey know he was coming. He chuckled to himself as he thought of all the ways he could play with the goddess to get the information that he wants. Destiny was one of the few Goddesses that he kept relations with and it just so happened that he knew exactly what would get her to talking.

As he walked into the rooms that made up her home he found her already in bed naked waiting for him. "Took you long enough. Fate must have thrown you off guard by her comment on the mortal girl. If I didn't know that she had your blood running through her veins I would be concerned that you found

yourself a new toy.” Destiny said with a sexy pout on her lips.

“So you set that up for me to come see you. Is that right pet?” Ares said in a dominating voice that caused Destiny to shiver and moisture to pool between her legs. Ares saw her reaction and continued to dominate the little goddess.

In the midst of passion Destiny had said that in order for Beth and her children to survive the upcoming battles she would need to deliver her babies. For this to happen they needed to make the children more godlike than mortal, and in order to do that feeding them the blood of the king of the gods was necessary. After ingesting the blood one time it would boost the children’s and mother’s natural abilities, a second time would shorten the gestation time by a few weeks, a third time would shorten it by a few months, a fourth time would ensure that all of them would have a lengthened lifespan.

End of flashback

Ares watched as Beth drank the fourth cup of blood down. He knew that she and her pups would be safe now until the end of the trials. He waited until Beth was closing the door to the ritual room before he turned to the others in the room and said, “Now that Beth is busy you boys need to head out and intercept the band of rogues coming this way. They have inside help so be careful to only trust those that are in this room. I have said all that I can, but please be quick about it. Beth shouldn’t be too long now. She will be doing both rituals at once. Leave Jessica and Sandra here to protect Beth until she can leave the rituals.”

With that said Ares disappeared. What everyone didn’t know was that Beth never closed the door and she heard everything that Ares had said. She knew she needed to get done with these rituals so that she could help protect the people that she loves and

the new friends they have met. With that thought she straightened her shoulders and marched further into the room after the door finally shut fully.

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Beth's POV

Beth was walking down a dirt path again. This time however it didn't look as beautiful as before. This path was a dark and twisted one. She felt like there was someone watching her moves as she made her way down the path. She came to a fork in the road. In between the two different paths was a sign with instructions. Upon further inspection of the sign Beth was shocked and surprised to read what was written. It said:
Darkness needs light as light needs darkness.
Good needs evil and evil needs good.
There are two paths and only one way to go.

Your heart's true desire will manifest a test.

Once a choice is made it cannot be undone.

Sacrifice is a leader's main cross to bear.

Are you strong enough to bear that cross?

Choose a path and soon all will be revealed.

Beth reread the passage over and over. She had a feeling there was a hidden message in there somewhere. She analyzed the first few lines and realized it meant in order to have light there needs to be darkness just as there needs to be evil for good to exist. One is dependent on the other. There will always be light and dark times and good and bad people, nothing can change that. To access the complete chapters for free, visit JohnIb.com. She relaxed a little as she realized that she isn't in control of other people's actions. She knows deep down that she is a good person and being a leader of people isn't going to change that. She will have the opportunity to make sure that things that

happened to Link and his mother never happen again in her kingdoms.

Beth looked back at the paths and she noticed that one had a golden glow to it and it called to her. She decided to read the passage one more time to make sure she remembered it and followed the golden glow. She walked for about 15 minutes and came to a clearing. In the middle of the clearing was the flower she was looking for. Beth took a deep breath and let it out slowly. She started to walk towards the flower when she noticed something shimmering in the distance. Upon further inspection she sees two bodies laying on the ground. Once she was close enough she gasped as she realized it was her mother and Dimitri. There were tears streaming down her face as she ran as fast as she could to their bodies. She fell to her knees at her mother's side and just sobbed into her chest for a few minutes.

Beth felt a hand on her shoulder and she turned her head to see that Selene was standing there with a kind smile on her face. She looked at Beth with sympathy and said, “Beth sweetie. You have a choice to make. The flower has restorative and healing capabilities. You can choose to use it to bring your mom and Dimitri back to life or you can use it to free the Lycan people. You can only choose one darling. Let your heart and mind guide you to the right choice for you. When you are ready to choose, just call my name and I will be here.”

Beth was elated for a minute until she realized that she would be choosing between her mother or her people. How can she make such a choice? She felt like if she chose one over the other then she didn't care about one as much as the other. Did that make her a bad person? If she chose her mom would the Lycan people even know? If she chose the Lycan people would her mom know?

Beth sat down on the grass and just stared back and forth between her mother and the flower. As her eyes landed on her mother again she realized she already knew the right answer, and it didn't make her a bad person or a bad daughter. Her mother has always taught her through actions and words that not one person is more important than another. With that thought she realized that the lives of two people were not more important than the lives of thousands.

As much as she missed her mother and Dimitri, she could not be selfish and condemn thousands of people into an eternal limbo when she knows her mother and Dimitri are enjoying their afterlife. Or at least that is what she hopes. With a resigned sigh she walked over to her mother and Dimitri and kneeled down between the two and placed her hand on each of theirs and said, "I'm so sorry but I can't choose you. I love you and miss you so much mom, but you have always taught me that everything

happens for a reason. If I brought you guys back I would be happy for a while, but what about all those people who would perish because of that choice? I can't in good conscience leave thousands of people to perish because I miss my mommy and feel sorry for myself. I can't do that, and if I did I would be teaching my children that the individual is more important than the whole. What kind of leaders would that make them? I understand the last part of that passage now. This is a sacrifice I have to make as a leader, but I will bear that burden for the better of the supernatural world. I will see you again one day mom. Just know that you will always be in my heart, and your grandbabies will always know who you are and that you would have loved them so much if you were given the chance to. Goodbye mom, I love you." She was sobbing now. There were tears running down her cheeks as she called out to Selene.

Selene appeared and had a sad smile on her face. Beth simply whispered, “I choose the Lycan people.”

Selene approached Beth and said, “Beth I am so sorry you were forced to make this choice? It was not my intention of opening those fresh wounds. The ritual room picks the tests and we just have to follow them. They are intended to show the truth behind the person, and you have shown that you are pure at everything and we would be honored to let you have the flower after you complete the last test today. Please give me your hand and after I make the cut walk over to the flowers and pick just one. The blood on your palm will touch the flower, and if you are truly the chosen one the flower will be able to be plucked and taken away from this place.”

Beth placed her hand in the palm of the Moon Goddesses and watched as she sliced her palm. Beth walked over to the flower

and grabbed it in her hand. She took a deep breath and pulled the flower from the plant. At first it seemed as if it wasn't going to come away, but eventually the stalk snapped and the flower was in her palm glowing brightly and then slowly the brightness dimmed so that the flower looked as if it was shimmering under moonlight. Beth turned around to look back at Selene but she was no longer in sight.

Beth noticed that her mom and Dimitri were still laying there so she decided to kiss them one last time to say goodbye. She knelt down and placed a kiss on both of their foreheads and each time felt a slight spark of static electricity.

Beth stood up and walked towards the beginning of the path that had led her here and saw that it led immediately to the door. As she exited the room she noticed that the hallway was empty. That didn't seem right. If she recalled correctly Sandra and Jessica

should have been here to guard the door. Beth conjured a small jar to place the flower in and then it disappeared as Beth had hid it with the prophecy of the fallen.

There was a commotion up ahead and Beth took a deep breath and with determined steps she decided she would face whatever was ahead without fear. As she started to walk down the hallway she noticed that the commotion was coming from around the corner as she thought, but it was coming from inside a room that's door wasn't closed all the way. After listening to see how many people were possibly in the room she realized that it only sounded like two people. She opened the door and what she saw made her blood run cold. On the floor unconscious with blood pooling underneath them.

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Third Person POV

Shortly after Ares left

Ethan looked at Alexi and they both nodded. Marcus was furious that there were rogues in his territory, and concerned that the warning system hadn't gone off from their entrance from the border. Blaze looked towards his mate and pulled her into his arms and gave her a quick passionate kiss before he said, "Stay here baby. You should be safe in this building until we neutralize the problem. Protect your friend and our hatchling. I love you."

He followed Ethan and Alexi out of the building and ran towards the edge of the clan and in the distance they all saw a group of about 20 rogues. Among them Alexi recognized a vampire that he thought had died a long time ago. Lord Alfonso, Natasha's father, seemed to be one of the leaders of this group of rogues. Ethan noticed Alicia was there too standing beside the vampire. He was furious. How can his own packmates betray them like this, and with the rogues that have been terrorizing them.

Alicia stood beside the vampire. She didn't care enough to find out his name. She only cared about getting this mission done and going back to the rogue pack and taking her rightful place as their Luna. When they exited the forest, much slower to everyone's displeasure, they came out to a clearing before they saw a village ahead. At the edge of the village Alicia recognized Ethan. She gave him a smug smile knowing in her heart that he was about to die and that her poor bitchy sister was about to lose the man she was betraying her pack for.

“Attack!” Alicia shouted to her group and the rogues didn't need to be told twice. They have been itching for a fight since they left their home and they were excited to know that they would be able to be rid of this self-entitled she-wolf.

As the rogues ran straight to the small group of people waiting on the edge of the village they grew confident thinking that it would

be easy. A couple of wolves and a couple vampires weren't anything to them. They outnumbered them. What they didn't know is that there were dragons among them. They weren't warned and they didn't even know that dragons existed to be wary.

Arabella watched from the forest with the other 10 rogues. She knew Alicia was going to be impulsive so she offered to take some of the group to the ritual building to get that stupid fat woman away from here and hopefully take care of Blaze's mate at the same time. After she saw the groups engaging with each other she led the other small group she had with her to the ritual building where she knew they were hiding them.

As they entered the building Arabella felt a soft hum going along her skin. She wasn't sure what that was but she ignored it and sent a few rogues down one hall while she took the others down another. She knew the

two halls would connect into the same room just from different sides. She heard that the original leader of the clan had never lived in a building before, always preferring to be in his dragon form more often than not. He got terribly lost when he entered into a building so he made sure that if he had to ever come into the building he would always get to where he was going no matter which hall he chose.

If they were hiding anyone in the building she knew they would need to go both ways in the hall to ensure they didn't escape. Once they reached the room she saw Blaze's mate talking with an older woman who was with them at the cave. She wasn't sure what she was, but she wasn't worried. After all dragons were a far superior species to any of the supernatural creatures out there. The only supernatural that would be superior to a dragon was a god and she has never met or seen a god.

She signaled the other group as soon as she saw them and they jumped the two women. They dragged them down the hallway and threw their incapacitated bodies on the floor. Arabella walked up to Blaze's mate and stabbed her in her chest and abdomen several times. Feeling satisfied that she would not survive from the blood loss they left them there. Arabella was basking in the glow of knowing that Blaze was soon to be hers once again.

The rogues searched every room they could enter and could not find what they were looking for. There was one door though that refused to open. It didn't seem as if there would be anyone in there. There were no lights shining from the inside or anything. They were curious why those two women were standing by this door, but didn't think too much of it after they searched the whole building. They all exited the main part of the building heading towards the exit. Their target wasn't in this building. The rogues

decided that they would search every home in the village until they found her. They didn't care if they had to burn it all to the ground. Then they heard a door open in the building and they all turned around to listen; then they all went towards where the locked door was.

Beth ran to Jessica and Sandra. She noticed that Sandra was just unconscious and didn't have any injuries that were bleeding. That was when she noticed all the stab wounds on Jessica. Beth was worried when she saw the several stab wounds on Jessica's abdomen. Beth prayed that Jessica's baby would be ok. With tears running down her face she ripped her own shirt off of herself to use it to put pressure on Jessica's wounds. Beth prayed to the gods to give her the ability to heal her friend.

Suddenly a bright white light glowed from Beth's hands that were putting pressure on Jessica's wounds. After a few seconds the

glow stopped and Beth was amazed to see that all the stab wounds stopped bleeding and quickly began to heal. Before Beth could think too much on it she heard several paws in the corridor. She put a quick invisibility spell on the room they were in. She was hoping that if they saw that the room was empty now that they would assume it was Jessica and Sandra that made noises trying to escape, and leave the building behind in search of them.

Beth sent a mind link to her mates letting them know what was going on in the ritual building but she couldn't get through to either of them. She was starting to get worried when she watched the group of rogues go past the room they were hiding in. Beth knew she would have to face this alone. With both Jessica and Sandra out of commission she knew that she would have to try to neutralize the problem herself.

Beth gathered herself up and conjured up her trusty frying pan and she was grateful that she still had the ring that Ares had given to her and her dagger appeared in her hand. She walked cautiously down the hall keeping an invisibility charm up. She definitely didn't want to lose the only upper hand she had.

She walked cautiously and then came to a halt at the end of the hallway. She could see about five rogues just standing there waiting for something. Beth decided to take this time of their distraction to make her move. She went to the one closest to the exit first. She sneaked up behind him and slit his throat quickly and then moved out of the way before the other rogues could bump into her. She backed up to the edge of the corridor waiting for them to react to what happened.