

# Fairy Training

Emmaline tried to explain what had happened in the fight at school, but Lucas already knew. I don't know if meeting Lucas was some sort of catalyst for my powers getting stronger, but I would have to ask Haley. It seemed to be. We had to make a stop at the hospital to make sure I was ok.

The pack meeting was interesting. I had a lot to discuss with Lucas. I searched the crowd for the girl who'd hit me. Her head was bowed in shame and tears were falling from her eyes. I looked at Dylan; to my complete and utter shock he looked furious. I'd never seen Dylan look so angry. He'd always been carefree even when we fought those rogues. Don't mess with Dylan, he has a serious side. It was unsettling that the happy go lucky guy had this side to him. It shouldn't be surprising to me since he is the Beta. Of course, he could be deadly.

I had several things to say about my abilities, but Lucas explained his side. It did make sense when he laid it all out. I let that go. I was actually excited to practice my skills with the pack. That would be fun. I was going to talk to him about the age they start training though. Five was really young. If he thought our kids would be training to fight that young, he had another think coming. I wanted our kids to have a childhood. Mine was cut short, but that would NEVER happen to my children.

This whole situation made me realize there was a lot to learn about packs and etiquette. Werewolves were complicated. Where I came from friends defended their friends. I highly doubt Lucas would sit by if Haley was being attacked even if members of her pack were present. We got off that subject and tackled a few more, which led to sexy fun times. My last conscious thought before drifting to sleep was that I loved Lucas Lyons.

My eyes snapped open and I looked at the clock. It was three thirty in the morning. I felt so rested. Then the panic set in. Oh, no! I'd told Lucas I loved him... Did he hear me? I'd said it softly. My voice was practically gone from screaming his name for hours. Maybe he didn't hear it. CRAP! Every girl said you shouldn't say the L word first. Katie's friends all said that it would scare the guy off. I was pretty sure they were right because I'd read a lot of articles in the student lounges of the MANY schools I'd attended. The one thing every place I'd been had in common was that the L word shouldn't be dropped too soon. This was really freaking soon.

Half an hour later, it was clear I wasn't going back to sleep. I extricated myself from Lucas, then threw on some workout clothes and went to go find where Dylan posted the training schedule. I assumed it was in the pack house. I walked in, pausing for a moment when I saw a giant, old school, decorative red telephone booth. When did Lucas get that?

I walked over and picked up the phone. It had a dial tone. Weird. I walked out of the telephone booth and saw a giant cork board. I walked over to it, easily finding the schedule and saw there was a training in twenty minutes. It was the perfect distraction from my thoughts.

I ran upstairs and knocked on Valerie's door. She opened and looked at me bleary eyed, "Emmaline? What's going on?" I quickly told her, "Get dressed. You, me, Chelsea, Sam, and Lacy are going to the training in twenty minutes. Where are their rooms?" She pointed them out to me before closing her door to get dressed. I got Sam and Chelsea first then knocked on Lacy and Dylan's door last.

Dylan yelled, "For the love of God, WHY?" I laughed, "I need Lacy." Lacy giggled, "Come in, Emmaline." I opened the door and looked at my watch, "Get dressed. We are going to the training in fifteen minutes with the other girls." Lacy stretched, "Alright, drill sergeant." She went to get dressed. Dylan groaned. I asked him, "Are you not a morning person Dylan?"

Dylan sat up, "I AM THE morning person. I'm the king of the mornings, your mate is the one who isn't a morning person. Which is ironic since the man makes me get up so early sometimes. I'm going back to sleep like a NORMAL person. I will inhale all the coffee when I get up." I laughed, "You're the one who made the training schedule."

Dylan pulled a pillow to his chest muttering, "Notice who does not teach said class, little Luna? My happy little coffee drinking self or your mate." I laughed as Lacy came out ready to go. She spanked Dylan on the butt. He wiggled it around, "You tease me, getting me riled up and then leaving."

Lacy and I grabbed the other girls and ran over to the training facility. It was like a state of the art masterpiece. I was practically salivating at the giant pool with racing lanes they had just waiting for me to swim in.

My jaw dropped when I got inside, "Holy crap on a cracker! How rich are you people?" Chelsea laughed, "Lucas is very rich. Which means the pack is rich." The men teaching the class seemed shocked we were there. They split us up for training. I was surprised only a few kids from school were here. Was everyone going to attend two in the evenings?

I beat the guy they'd paired me with four out of five rounds. One of the instructors had given me some tips as we sparred. It was a lot of fun, and it distracted me from my L word bomb situation. The class ended an hour after it started. I could've gone up until school started. I just needed a shower. I did not need to think about my L bomb.

The girls ran over to me. Lacy squealed, "I'm glad you dragged me out of bed. This was actually fun!" Sam laughed, "We kicked ass! What a great kick start to the day. Now, I don't have to fit in two trainings tonight. We should do this one every day. Except for the weekends, I need some sleep-in days." I laughed, "I'm in." We all agreed.

I had no place to go but back to my room. I started pacing the moment I looked at Lucas. What if I freaked him out? Hopefully, he didn't hear me, but that didn't seem likely. Haley made it sound like werewolves could hear a pin drop from miles away.

It ended up being fine. Lucas loved me too. I guess wolves move faster than witches and warlock's. My mom and David had dated for a while. I started my morning with a bang. Nothing could touch me today because Lucas loved me. I got ready for school quickly. When I got outside, Lacy was waiting for me by my car.

I smiled at her, asking, "Hey! I forgot to ask what happened at the front office yesterday. Did it all work out?" Lacy nodded, "It went way better than anticipated! I get to walk at graduation as long as I have passing grades. Which is no problem, I'm a straight A student. Then I have to take three classes this summer to officially receive my diploma." I agreed, "That's great! You get to walk with us!"

Lacy asked, "Us? Aren't you a junior?" I nodded, "I should be age wise, but I tested out of my freshman year. My teachers thought I was bored, so they tested me." Lacy nodded, "Well, little miss smarty pants look at you! My brother's genius little mate. I'm sure he's glad you're graduating early. Have you thought about college?"

I shrugged, "It was never really in the plan. It's not something I can afford." Lacy countered, "Lucas would send you... well not send. Maybe you and I can look into something online. Neither Dylan nor my family would agree to me going away to college after everything that's happened. Is there something you wanted to do, or be when you grow up?"

I teased, "Haley Conners." We both laughed. Lacy said, "But really. Do you have a dream of something you wanted to be?" I thought about it, "Well, I always wanted to be a nurse." Lacy smiled, "Easy enough. I'm sure Dr. Hector would be thrilled. We can always use help." I asked, "What do you want to do?" She smiled dreamily, "I always wanted to be a writer." I replied, "I can see it now: an article written by Lacy Lyons. Your name was made to be a byline."

She smiled broadly, "It will be Lacy Frost one day soon." I laughed, "If you want to write an article about Christmas, they couldn't possibly not publish it." She smiled, "You're right. Thanks, Emmaline." I smiled, "I'm sure Dylan and Lucas will be proud of you. Your mom will scream the first time you get published and

frame it.” Lacy and I were both laughing at the spectacle her mother would create about Lacy getting something published when I pulled into school.

Chelsea, Sam, and Valerie were waiting by the door so we walked in together. Valerie asked, “Are you going to tell us why you were a ball of anxiety this morning, Emmaline?” I turned, surprised that she’d noticed. She laughed at the face I made. She told me, “You were a mess. It’s the only reason I didn’t call you a crazy person for knocking on my door so early.” I sighed, “I was nervous because before I fell asleep, I told Lucas I loved him. All the articles and girls I’ve met in the many, and I do mean many states, ALL say dropping the L bomb too soon or first is the kiss of death for a relationship.”

Chelsea laughed, “Are you serious? That’s why I had to get up before the sun today? The Alpha loves you, Emmaline. He was probably ecstatic.” I blushed, “He was pretty enthusiastic about it this morning.” Lacy grimaced, “Ew.” Sam squealed, “Emmaline got her some good dick this morning!”

Peter and Drake walked over smirking. Valerie added, “He said it back, right? Because I’m not above slapping some sense into the Alpha. By that, I mean Lacy will slap him because she can get away with it.” Drake laughed joining the conversation, “He said it back. I’d put money on it.” I was the color of a tomato at this point.

They all stared at me. I quickly told them, “He said it back.” Drake said, “Damn, Emmaline! You didn’t give anyone a chance to take me up on my bet.” I laughed. Peter offered, “None of us were going to take that bet, Drake.” I snorted, “Tessa probably would’ve.” Chelsea growled, “Tessa has been suspended for the week, so you won’t see her... here anyway.”

My jaw dropped, “Oh my god! Am I going to get in trouble? I’ve never been in trouble.” Sam laughed, “Why is that not surprising? No, you’re not going to get in trouble. You just defended yourself. She’s in trouble because she instigated the issue and could’ve exposed us to the humans in the school.” I snorted, “All three of them.” Chelsea laughed, “We thought there were four, but you turned out to be a fairy.” Peter said, “A royal fairy at that. For the record, I said you were a fairy the whole time.” I winked at him and texted Haley. I need to know what time training started tomorrow.

Me: What time is training?

Haley: It’s a 6:30pm. The triplets go down at 6, and Eric and I prioritize both being present for bedtime.

Me: Aww. That's so sweet. David was rarely there for our bedtimes. Actually, one of my siblings usually put me to bed. Mom would tell me stories if she was home. Usually about you.

Haley: That's fucking weird. My life was not suitable as child's story. Was it a scary story?

Me: LOL no.

I looked up when the warning bell rang. Drake and I separated from the group to head to our first class. Drake teased, "So Mike Tyson, how are you doing?" I stuck my tongue out at him, "I'm fine." He asked, "Was that your first fight outside rogues?" I thought about it, "Not counting those, yes."

Drake laughed, "You do realize you gave her the one, two punch. If she'd have been human, it would've been a knockout." I smiled, "Well, now I'm training twice a day with the pack. Plus, I'm going to ask Haley to work with me on fighting." Drake laughed, "Lord help anyone who crosses you if you train with the princess of the Hackura."

I grinned as we sat in our seats for class. After first period, Travis was waiting outside the door. He was breathing hard. I asked, "Did you run here, Travis?" He smiled, "Yes. I'm going to have to get Dylan to get me permission to leave each class a few minutes early. He'll do it. Which will be awesome because some of my classes are insanely boring."

We started walking. I quickly turned around feeling we were being followed. I saw one of the burly guys from the diner was shadowing us. I frowned, "What's he doing inside? He was one the guys who followed me when you guys were trying to figure out where I was living." Drake laughed, "I'm going to guess he's one of your guards. After yesterday, I'll bet your Alpha decided your shadow needed to be inside." My jaw dropped, "He wouldn't do that, would he?" Both boys laughed without answering. I was guessing that meant yes.

Thankfully, the rest of the day passed quickly. Right before my class with Chelsea, Valerie, and Sam I ran into Grayson. He smiled at me, "Well, hey! You've become little miss popular here. It's good to see you, Emmaline." He gave me a hug. I responded, "We have second period together every day, silly!" He frowned, "That Travis kid never lets me sit with you anymore. Are you guys dating?" I shook my head, "No, he's my boyfriend's best friend's brother. I guess Travis is just protective."

Grayson faltered, "Travis' brother? Isn't that Dylan Frost?" I nodded. Grayson continued, "You're dating Lucas Lyons?" I smiled, "Yup, we met that day he came

in to talk to Mr. Blaze's classes." Grayson looked mad, "Isn't he like thirty? You're sixteen!" I frowned, "He's twenty-six. What does that matter?"

Grayson ran a hand through his hair, "Look, I know I never asked you out again, but I like you. That age gap makes it feel like he's taking advantage of you." He muttered, "And robbing the cradle." I bristled, "He's not taking advantage of me, he's a good man." Grayson frowned, "Alright. I'm here if you need me, ok?" I nodded and walked into my class. I knew it would seem odd to humans, but I didn't like how he talked about Lucas.

Chelsea sniffed me. Sam snickered, "Uh-oh. You smell like Grayson." I sighed, "He hugged me, then accused Lucas of robbing the cradle because we are dating." All three of them growled and to my mortification so did the rest of the class.

One guy stood up, "How DARE he say that about our Alpha!" I gulped, "Umm he just doesn't get it. I handled it." The boy sat down, but he was clearly furious. I was moderately worried Grayson was going to get beaten up. I wished I could do that mind blown thing with Travis to make sure Grayson made it to the bus today.

After class, I walked out with Chelsea, Sam, and Valerie. Valerie asked, "Can I get a ride with you and Lace today, Emmaline? Chelsea and Sam want to drive over to Red Run to hang out with Peter and Drake." I nodded, "Sure, Lacy is probably by the car." I saw Grayson practically sprint to a bus heading back for Red Run. I breathed a sigh of relief when he got on it unscathed.

Drake and Peter came over to us. Peter asked, "What's the word, babe? Am I getting on a bus? Or is my sugar momma giving me a ride in her fancy car?" Chelsea smiled, "Now what kind of sugar momma would I be if my man had to ride the bus?" Peter smiled and kissed her.

We met Lacy at my car. I warned the guys, "Um Drake, Peter, you might need to watch out for Grayson." Peter's head shot over to me, "I was linked that some kids were really rude to him in his last class. What happened?" I winced, "You all and your super hearing is what happened! I was just telling my friends about a conversation, and the whole class got pissed." Drake laughed.

Sam interjected, "Grayson hugged her." Drake laughed harder, then gathered himself, "That's not why they are being mean to him. That's why Alpha Lucas may punch a teenager." I sighed, "For god's sake, it was NOTHING! Grayson got weirded out that I'm dating Lucas because he's older than me."

Chelsea growled, "He called our Alpha a cradle robber." Peter winced and Drake remained silent. Lacy growled, "That Asshole! He said that about my brother?! How dare he!" Drake said, "We will watch out for Grayson. Just make sure you tell Alpha Lucas about this incident, Emmaline."

I groaned, “It wasn’t an incident! He’s human. It makes sense he’s a little worried. It’s not a big deal to supernatural’s who know about mates, but humans don’t understand that.” Peter laughed, “But we aren’t humans.” I glared at him, “Grayson IS a human.” Peter smiled at me before he got into Chelsea’s car.

I grumbled as I got into my car. Valerie and Lacy jumped in. We drove in silence until Lacy said, “So, this Grayson dude. Did you date him or something? Did you break up with him to be with Lucas?” I shook my head, “No, we went to a dance together last year. He pecked me on the lips at the end of the night, that was it.” Lacy smirked, “Does Lucas know about him?” I groaned, “He knows. This is not a big deal.” Lacy smiled, “To a possessive Alpha... it is. You’d better hope he has something that’s distracting him.”

I changed the subject, “Did you kiss anyone while you were traveling?” Lacy laughed, “I like it when you put it that way. Traveling sounds much better than running away. There was a boy in a pack once, but we just kissed.” I smiled asking, “Does Dylan know that?” Lacy shrugged, “Not yet. I’ll tell him if he asks.” Valerie’s phone rang the second we pulled into the driveway. She jumped out of the car yelling, “Bye guys!” Lacy commented, “She really loves that Ryan guy and they’ve never met.” I just nodded.

Debbie practically pounced on me the second I walked through the door, “Hi sweethearts, your men are in Lucas’ collection room. They were running towards it like their hair was on fire. I swear I don’t know where I went wrong with Lucas. That boy is still obsessed with his toys. Emmaline, can we do your dress fitting tomorrow at five in the evening? I’m not sure if we will be able to work your flair into the dress, but we can see.”

That timing was perfect. Our conversation was paused because of Haley’s Tinkerbell prank. How did her brain even come up with this? Stealing a collection was simple. To replace it with Tinkerbell, a famously mischievous little fairy. It was just... next freaking level genius. I really wanted to be Haley when I grew up. I might have to put off the Grayson conversation. Lucas was already upset.

I thought I could improve his mood by finding the clue, but he didn’t appear to know it was morse code. No one else did either. I didn’t know morse code so I couldn’t read the clue, but I did know enough to know it was morse code.

Lacy nudged me, whispering, “Now might be a good time to distract him with your news since he’s not going to figure out whatever fairy language that is.” Lucas’ head snapped up towards us. I rolled my eyes at Lacy, “That’s not Fealish. Haley has spoken Fealish around me many times. It’s actual words.”

Lucas growled, “What news?” I sighed glaring at Lacy who smirked. I exasperatedly exclaimed, “Oh come on! Now is so not the moment.” Lacy laughed.

I looked at my watch, “Oh, um Lacy and I are going to training. See you later. Love you, bye!”

I grabbed Lacy and ran, but not before I noticed Lucas’ eyes narrow. I could hear him growling while I ran up to my room to change. Lacy ran to the pack house to change her clothes. We met up with Valerie. We waited a few minutes for the Sam and Chelsea, but they didn’t come. Valerie commented, “I should’ve known Chelsea and Sam wouldn’t make it. They are clearly still in Red Run.” We were instantly split up when we walked in.

I got paired up with a stronger and older warrior than I was this morning. I only won two out of four rounds, and they were longer fights. The warrior smiled at me, “You are a good fighter, Luna. You’re going to be fighting our top warriors in no time.” I couldn’t stop my smile. Another warrior came over to me. He said, “Luna, for the last fifteen minutes I want you to work on the moves you’ve learned with the heavy bag in the corner.” He observed me for a while before going off to help other people.

When the training ended, I spotted Lucas standing with Dylan. Oh no. Dylan had popcorn. Lucas didn’t look any happier than the last time I saw him. In fact, he looked angrier than he had an hour ago. He must not have figured out Haley’s clue yet.

Valerie yelled, “Bye guys! I have a phone date.” She ran out of the gym. I really wished I could just hear Ry’s voice on her phone call. I shook those thoughts and walked over to Lucas. Lucas commanded “Everyone, leave.” Dylan snorted, “Flag on the play. You made me set up extra trainings. There’s another one in ten minutes.” Lucas growled, “Never mind. Stay.”

He grabbed my hand and dragged me out of the gym. Dylan skipped happily behind us the whole way up to the main house. I shot him a questioning look. He just winked. Lacy looked just as confused as I was.

Once we got to Lucas’ office he finally stopped walking. He rounded on me, “Is there anything you want to share, Emmaline?” Lacy bit her lip. Someone must have told him what happened at school. I sighed, “Ok, I was going to tell you about Grayson tonight, but I gather you’ve already heard.”

Lucas growled, “Why didn’t I hear it from you?” I rolled my eyes, “Because it’s just now five o’clock. I got home intending to tell you, even though I think it’s absurd. Everyone insisted I tell you right away. When we got here you were very upset about your gaming collection. Plus, Lacy and I had training to get to.” Lacy laughed.



Lucas commented, “Which you did very well in. Why wouldn’t you tell me the only other man you’ve been intimate with hugged you?” I gave him a look, “For god’s sake, his lips barely touched mine. It wasn’t really even worth mentioning. The only reason I do remember is because it was my first kiss, kind of. I guess.” I turned to Lacy, “Does a peck count as a first kiss?” Lacy laughed again.

Lucas growled, “Why did you let him hug you?” I raised an eyebrow, “Because we are friends?” Lucas growled, “NO HUGGING OTHER MEN!” I laughed again, which had everyone looking at me like I was a crazy person. Oh hell no.

I pointed at Lucas, “Look here mister, you can go Alpha male all you want. You can rant and rave like a crazy, possessive man; however, you won’t tell me what to do. That’s not cool, and that’s not how we are going to work as a couple. I am not interested in Grayson romantically, and if I want to give someone a hug; I will. I’m pretty sure Haley would give you a hug if she wasn’t pissed at you at the moment.”

Lucas stared at me in astonishment. He started, “That’s different.” I raised an eyebrow asking, “Why? Because she would be hugging you? So, you can hug anyone of any gender even though you’ve had sex with both men and women? How is that fair?”

Dylan snorted and threw more popcorn in his mouth. His eyes going back and forth between Lucas and me. Lacy was biting her lip really hard. Lucas explained, “Alpha males are possessive, and you are mine.” I looked at him, “And? Was that the end of that sentence? None of that tells me why I can’t give someone a friendly side hug. Or a regular hug for that matter.”

Lucas growled, stepping forward, “You’re mine!” Now I was getting annoyed, “I already said and? No one is arguing that I’m yours, Lucas. I’m arguing about your sexiest, antiquated ideas about our relationship.”

Popcorn flew out of Dylan’s mouth as he laughed. He teased Lucas, “Only you could find a sixteen year old who knows what the word antiquated means.” Lucas glared at Dylan. I pointed out, “I’m almost seventeen.” Dylan smiled, “You’re right, I’m sorry Emmaline. The cut off for knowing the word antiquated is obviously fifteen. I don’t know what I was thinking.” I smiled, “As long as you can admit it.”

Lucas growled, “So, you’re saying you’re just going to go around hugging a bunch of men, and I get no say in it.” Out of nowhere, a snowball hit Lucas square in the chest. I could create snowballs?! My jaw dropped as snowballs flew at him. He just stood there letting them hit him. When they stopped, I looked around trying to figure out where they even came from. The answer appeared to be thin air.

Dylan held onto the table as he laughed. I asked, "Lucas... I... Did I do that?" I was a little scared. He walked over and wrapped me in his arms. He confirmed, "You did. It's ok. Haley will help you with controlling your powers. You were just upset." I sighed, "I guess at least I didn't dump water on you." Lucas said, "That is probably for the best. Dominic would've been very upset about that. Instead, he's greatly amused you can pelt someone with snowballs out of thin air."

Dylan shrieked, "Dominic? Dominic is amused? We need to sell tickets to the fairy show, Lucas! This is GOLD! She literally pelted you with ten snowballs from different places in the room. She didn't even mean to. My life has become so much more fun since she showed up and brought me my mate. I love fairies. Let's have the ninja fun sized fairy host a training here in our territory. Alpha stick up his butt Conners won't care now that I have a mate. Maybe another one of the partial fairies will be mated to someone in our pack. Then we will have two of them. We would NEVER be bored again." Lacy laughed.

I said, "Now that we've all laughed. I would like to say I don't and have never gone around just hugging everyone and their brother. I'm not wearing a sign that says free hugs get your scent on me and drive my mate wild. I can hug a friend though, that includes Peter and Drake."

Lucas growled, "They wouldn't hug you." I rolled my eyes, "Fine. I can hug Eric." Lucas agreed, "Fine." I rolled my eyes, "I wasn't asking. You don't control who I can hug. I can tell you I will not hug anyone in any sort of intimate embrace. Ok? Only side hugs or hugs with space. Alright?"

Lucas asked, "Do I have a choice?" I shook my head, "No, you really don't." Dylan laughed, "Modern non she wolf women are fascinating." Lucas sighed, "Sure, Dylan." Lacy laughed, "Pro-Tip Emmaline, shower if you hug a dude." I rolled my eyes, "It's not a regular occurrence. This is the first time I've even talked to Grayson since we switched schools."

Lucas said, "I'm sure the pack won't let him near you again after he insulted our relationship." I sighed, "Since they were so rude to him that he ran onto the bus to Red Run after the bell rang, I'd say not." Lucas smiled, "Then all is well."

The second Lacy and Dylan left; Lucas was on me. He muttered, "You're so sexy when you're authoritative, Emmaline." I stared at him, surprised. I didn't think this was his mood. He yanked my pants off, picked me up, and laid me down on the desk. I was dripping wet. He entered me with his finger.

He mused, "No one will ever do this to you except me." I shook my head, "Just you, Lucas." He growled, "You're mine!" I smiled, "Still just yours." He growled and took his finger out of me, entering me with his hard, erect member.

I groaned, wrapping my legs around his back which raised my hips. I screamed when he pulled back then thrust into me. A sinister chuckle emitted from his chest, "I'm going to fuck you now, baby girl." Did he ever. It was fast paced and intense, but it certainly wasn't quick. Lucas finally exploded into me after my fourth orgasm. I couldn't catch my breath.

Lucas pulled out of me. He tucked my hair behind my ear, "I love you, baby girl. I love you so much. The thought of you being with another man kills me." I pulled back and looked him in the eye, "I don't want anyone else. Is this really about a hug?" It seemed like a serious over reaction.

Lucas looked away, but I wasn't having that. I grabbed his chin and brought his attention back to me. I pleaded, "Lucas, talk to me." He sighed, "You are young and I'm not just a little older than you. I don't worry you'll see me as a cradle robber, but I do worry that you'll wonder if you missed out on dating around."

I admitted, "I've never really wanted to date around. I may not have grown up in a pack, but I grew up with people who had... well, they don't call them mates, but that's what they are. I knew my mom wasn't my stepfather's mate. It showed. You treat me far better than he ever treated her. She gave him three kids, and she was way more in love with him than he ever was with her. I'm a little gun shy about antiquated relationship ideals because he treated her like it was the nineteen twenties or something."

I admitted, "That's not to say I didn't love him when I thought he was my biological dad, because I did. I was a daddy's little girl in a big way. That's why it hurt so bad when he pulled away from me. The further I got away from my home life and saw how other relationships worked; I realized he didn't treat my mother the best. I just don't want that."

Lucas looked deeply into my eyes, "I don't want you barefoot and pregnant cooking in the kitchen. The thought of you hugging other men drives me crazy." I laughed, "Then it's a good thing I didn't have sex with a crazy dude who tried to kill you." Lucas growled, "I would've killed them first, but point taken." He kissed me.

When he pulled back I asked, "Are we ok?" Lucas nodded, "We were never not ok. I was just seeing red at being called a cradle robber by some human who has kissed you." I sighed, "I really don't even know if you could call it a kiss." I leaned in and captured Lucas lips. I licked my tongue across his lower lip wanting access to his mouth. He granted me access and I slid my tongue into his mouth, deepening our kiss. I pulled back whispering, "Now, THAT was a kiss."

Lucas finally laughed and changed the subject, "Point taken, little mate. What time are we going to Connors tomorrow?" I smiled, "Six thirty. I think Haley's just

going to pop us in.” Lucas nodded, “I’m never crossing your cousin ever again. I may annoy her with my repeated phone calls and texts with questions about what other supernatural’s are. Do you know anything about the heist?” I laughed, “I know you asked the wrong questions.” He frowned considering my words.

Dylan came back in with Lacy who winked at me. Lucas asked, “What do you mean I asked the wrong questions?” I smiled, “You insisted she TOOK your collection, but she kept repeating she didn’t. You told her you wanted it back, and she said the same thing. You should’ve asked her where it was because I think she has it.” He stared at me, “You’re right. She just said she didn’t take it.”

I continued, “Didn’t you say that there’s another fairy in Eric’s pack?” Lucas nodded, “Yes, Bexley. She’s also your cousin of some variety.” I pointed out, “Doesn’t it seem likely that Bexley, and possibly a Hackura were involved in the heist? I mean it was definitely one or other, if not both.”

Dylan laughed, “Look at your little fairy decoding this for you, it’s so cute. Normally, I have to do these things.” Lucas sighed, “So you think Haley has my collection somewhere?” I nodded. Lucas groaned, “I can’t retaliate against a Hackura, that would be unwise. I obviously don’t want to get into it with a fairy. I was hoping it was a Black Mountain pack member.”

I laughed, “I don’t think she would use one of them because she would know you’d want that. Anyway, I think at minimum Haley knows where your collection is if she doesn’t have it herself. It will be somewhere Eric wouldn’t find it because she wouldn’t want him to have to lie to you.”

Lucas groaned, “Of course. Why is she so annoyingly smart?” I bit my lip. Lacy grabbed me, “We have homework, bye guys!” She waited until we were halfway to the pack house before saying, “You know what his clue means, don’t you?”

I asked, “How did you figure that out?” Lacy smiled, “Because I pay attention. You told him he asked the wrong questions, and you specifically didn’t mention the clue.” I smiled, “I don’t know what the clue means, but I know how to decode it.” Lacy laughed, “Why didn’t you tell him?” I shrugged, “It feels like something he needs to figure out alone. It’s between him and Haley.”

We walked into the pack house kitchen, where Gemma was waiting. I was confused until Lacy tapped her head. She’d mind blown Gemma. We ate dinner while we studied. Gemma cleared her throat, “Little miss Emmaline, you will never keep a secret like living in a tent again, you hear? We would’ve found a way to help you even if it wasn’t at the Alpha’s shelter.” I nodded.

Gemma turned to Lacy, “And you little miss thing! You don’t believe some wanna be Luna harpy’s lies just willy nilly. You’re not some martyr who needs to save the

world. You TALK to us first. We do not believe the word of one person, especially about things that do not make sense. Understand?" Lacy nodded. Gemma accepted that and walked out of the kitchen.

Lacy said, "I'm pretty sure I got off easy because you were here." Before I could respond, Valerie walked into the kitchen with her phone on speaker. Ry spoke, "Yeah, it's almost my birthday. I'll be twenty-two in about two weeks." My heart stopped. He sounded the same.

Valerie said, "Well, maybe I can come see you for your birthday." Ry laughed, "Maybe you could. I usually hang out with my twin on our birthday at our apartment. You'd like her." Valerie saw us and greeted, "Hi Lacy and Emmaline. Do you want to say hi to Ryan?" More than anything in the world. Lacy squealed, "Hi California Ryan!" I barely whispered, "Hi." Valerie smiled and walked out of the room.

Lacy said, "They are so cute. No one can question the power of social media when one stumbles onto their mate by sliding into their DM's. I swear to you she did. I'm pretty sure Ryan's her mate. She said he's a warlock." I just nodded. I couldn't believe I'd heard his voice. He sounded so happy.

Chelsea and Sam walked in sweaty from their training session. I remembered something. I quickly said, "Hey guys, I need to go shopping for new bedsheets. Do you guys want to come?" Chelsea looked at me oddly before asking, "Why do you need new bed sheets?" I said, "Because I'm not sleeping on a bed where the woman who tried to kill me had sex with my mate did. Lucas agreed to get a new one, and I think it's fair that I replace the sheets."

The girls howled with laughter. Sam agreed, "Yes, let's go this weekend." Lacy interjected, "We will have to go Sunday because Saturday we are going to Haley's surprise birthday party." I wondered if I'd forgotten about that, or if Lucas hadn't mentioned it yet. Everyone agreed we were going to the mall on Sunday.

Wednesday passed by in a blur. I was so excited for fairy training I could barely stand it. After training, I practically ran to my Luna dress fitting. To say it went poorly would be an understatement. Debbie and I are in no way shaped similarly. She has an hourglass figure. I'm had more of an inverted triangle situation with some curves. The seamstress was clearly worried about getting it fitted in time. Debbie smiled in an attempt to reassure me, "Don't worry sweetheart, it will work out." I didn't think she believed that any more than I did.

I had just found Lucas when Haley popped in. She smiled, grabbed my hand, and motioned to Lucas. I quickly grabbed his hand and she popped us away. We ended up in a yard, by a lake with a beautiful chapel.

Lucas swayed on his feet, I asked “Lucas? Are you ok?” Haley explained, “Popping for a non-fairy the first time is a weird feeling.” Lucas snorted, “I’m having an out of body experience and you call it a weird feeling.” She smiled sweetly, “Have you figured out your first clue yet, my lion?” Lucas growled. Haley said, “That’s a no. Come on, Emmaline.”

She grabbed my hand then told Lucas, “I’m sure Eric will be here shortly. Farrin is here today.” Lucas frowned. I asked, “Who is Farrin?” Before anyone could answer Eric’s wolf, along with several others acme running towards Lucas.

Haley led me over to a group of fairies. A female fairy was bouncing up and down as I walked over. Before I could ask, the bouncing fairy hugged me as soon as I was close enough. Haley smiled. I felt the same type of comfort I felt around Haley, which told me this woman was related to me.

She squealed, “Hi, I’m Bexley! Call me Bex, dear cousin!” I smiled, “Alright, Bex.” Another woman smiled as she introduced herself, “Hi, I’m Maribella, your half-sister. It appears our family is fated to very powerful werewolves.” I remembered someone talking about her. She was glowing. Literally. I asked, “You’re Alpha Tucker’s mate, right? I’m pretty sure I heard someone say that.” She smiled, rubbing her stomach, “Yup! Babies on the way and everything.”

Haley squealed. I asked, “Is that why you’re glowing? You’re pregnant?” Haley told me, “It is. Fairies see a glow when someone is pregnant.” That was cool. Haley asked, “Does Tucker know yet?” Maribella laughed, “No, he wouldn’t have let me come, and I wanted to meet Emmaline.”

Haley glanced at Eric. She spoke at a normal volume, “Don’t any of you DARE tell him!” Eric raised his hands in the air. I shrieked, “They can HEAR that? From all the way over there?” Lucas started laughing while Haley just nodded.

Another girl stepped forward greeting me, “Hello, Emmaline. Haley said we had to call you Emmaline.” I nodded, “It’s my name, so... Haley is right.” The girl smiled, “I’m Hexxi.” I remembered her name too.

I smiled, “Another sister.” She nodded, “You’ll be working with Haley first tonight. Bexley is taking all the sky fairies, which is most of the people here. I’m going to work with Maribella for a bit. After that, we will work on your drowning skill. Haley said you can freeze too.” I nodded. Hexxi squealed, “I’m so jealous! I love that one. Dad is so happy.” I froze. Dad. Our dad. Hexxi continued, “He wants to meet you.” I gulped. I didn’t want to have this conversation yet. I wasn’t ready.

Haley grabbed me announcing, “Let’s get to work.” Maribella squeezed my hand before Haley popped me away from the chapel. We ended up reasonably far away from the main group. We were definitely not within hearing distance. Haley told

me, “You don’t have to see Marcious until you are ready. If you are never ready that’s ok too.” I shook those thoughts away, “Let’s talk about that later.”

She agreed, “Alright, let’s work on snapping and conjuring. Basically, you just imagine what you want to be there that isn’t.” I frowned asking, “Is that like conjuring?” She smiled, “Yes, but with snapping I can snap my makeup a certain way, or an outfit onto myself. Conjuring is a little different. Instead of snapping my make up done, I could conjure the makeup to do it myself.”

That made sense. We worked on it for a half hour. I got pretty good at it. I’d conjured makeup and snapped a dress on myself. I even snapped myself back into regular clothes. I paused when I noticed Haley waving. I turned around a second before Aiden popped beside me.

He praised, “Marvelous improvement, cousin. You are quite talented and a quick study.” Haley smiled asking, “What brings you here, brother?” Aiden admitted, “I wanted to see Emmaline’s first lesson. Marcious practically demanded I attend since I’d already met our little cousin. Besides, I wanted to see my niece and nephews. I popped in and gave them a kiss. I may have left my niece a little rabbit.”

Tears filled Haley’s eyes for some reason. Aiden added, “It’s pink.” Haley laughed, “As it should be.” Aiden said, “You should’ve told me you were pranking Emmaline’s wolf. I may have ruined your prank.” Haley laughed, “You told him what the clue meant?” Aiden shook his head, “No, but I told him it is morse code. I thought the wolves were learning it like we do.” Haley wasn’t bothered, “Have no fear, brother. He has more clues to decipher, my fun is nowhere near ruined.”

Aiden smiled at her before turning to me, “I would like to see you try to freeze something.” I gulped and looked at Haley. She smiled encouragingly. I blurted out, “I accidentally hit Lucas with several snowballs when he made me mad.” Aiden and Haley both laughed. Haley said, “Then my lion is lucky you love him, or you’d have pelted him with icicles or hail.”

Haley conjured a toy wolf, “I’m going to throw this in the air. I want you to focus specifically on the water in the air. Call to the water to freeze the toy.” Aiden added, “Imagine if you don’t stop this wolf from hitting the ground your wolf will be hurt.” I clutched my chest and gasped.

Lucas called, “I’m alright, baby girl.” Haley quickly said, “He’s going to be fine. Just channel your power using your love for him.” I nodded. She watched me carefully before she tossed the wolf in the air. I tried to freeze it thinking of Lucas being hurt, but it didn’t work. The toy hit the ground every time. I kept trying.

I panicked when I heard a howl of pain thinking it was Lucas. I froze the stuffed wolf. Cheering erupted. I looked around to see Lucas applauding along with Eric and their group. Aiden began to clap too. He looked really excited. Haley explained, "A new wolf was told to shift back. He's been running around all day. That's who you heard. Lucas is fine." I sighed in relief.

I looked around the rest of the group. My half-sisters were clapping along with Bexley. She popped over and hugged me again, "Gosh, our partial fairy relatives are so awesome!" She popped away as quickly as she came.

Haley said, "Let's try again." I got better the more we practiced. Eventually I was freezing the wolf as she threw it. Haley winked at me then conjured a Tinkerbell figurine along with another wolf. Lucas growled. Aiden started laughing, so, he must have been filled in on the Tinkerbell aspect of the prank.

Haley threw them all at the same time. I froze both the wolves, but Tinkerbell hit the ground. She repeated the process, but I couldn't manage all three. Only two. Haley coached, "You're overthinking it. Feel your light inside you." She touched my chest continuing, "Close your eyes and feel your light as a part of you."

I took a deep breath and did as she said. I felt this joy inside me, smiling I opened my eyes. Haley said, "That's a big piece of you. Your powers want to work with you, feel that." I meditated for a moment getting used to feeling my light. When I was ready, I nodded. She threw all three into the air again. I waited until they began to fall, then I reached out my hands and froze them all. Haley smiled broadly at me. Eventually, they all unfroze and fell.

Aiden spoke, "That's very impressive, little cousin." I smiled, "Thank you, cousin." Hexxi popped over and held up her hand for a high five. I slapped my hand to hers. Haley tilted her head. Aiden looked perplexed. He asked, "What on earth was that Hexxi?" Hexxi smiled, "They call it a high five here. Some of the partial water fairies taught me. You knew right what it meant right, Emmaline?" I nodded, "Yes, we do high fives here when someone does something good."

Aiden pursed his lips and held out his hand up to me as well. He smiled when I slapped his hand. He seemed deeply amused, "It's fascinating, this realm." Hexxi jumped in before he could say anything else, "It's my turn to work with her!" Haley frowned, "We haven't worked on popping yet." Hexxi shrugged, "So? She's my sister, and I say it's my turn!" She grabbed my hand and popped me back to her spot on the lake.

Maribella smiled at me. I noticed all the other partial fairies were leaving. I asked, "Are we having a family training session now?" Hexxi looked over, "No, they only have one fairy side. You have two. Haley came over and sat down with us.



Hexxi continued talking, “What I am going to teach you is a defensive skill. It usually activates for the first time when you are scared. I heard you already did that though. You are very impressive, little sister. Our dad was enraged, while impressed all at the same time.”

She snapped her fingers and life sized dolls were now standing there beside her. She told me, “I’m going to use fairy magic to have them attack you. You can clearly see they aren’t real, but you will have to defend yourself.” She started to speak in Fealish. Umm, what? That didn’t explain anything.

I looked at Haley asking, “Is that the only direction she’s going to give?” Haley frowned and looked at Hexxi who kept chanting. Haley rolled her eyes explaining, “Use your light like you did with freezing. Your light instinctively knows what to do. You have to trust it. Get to a place defensively where you can put your hands on their chest. Then think about flooding them with water.” I nodded right before the freaking dolls came to life.

I yelled, “What?! She can actually bring dolls to life?” The dolls started attacking me one at a time. They were so life-like and creepy. Thank goodness they didn’t look like Chucky. I had a serious fear of that doll. The male doll came at me first. He shoved me down because I was still focused on the dolls coming to life. I needed more time to process that.

I rolled and got up in a fighting stance. We traded jabs, but the doll was avoiding my hands. I yelled, “Screw this!” I tackled it to the ground and touched it with my hands. I just really wanted it to go away. My hands started glowing blue, like they had with the rogue. The doll shoved me away, sputtering and coughing. Then his eyes turned blue. I quickly got out of the splash zone knowing he was about to turn into water.

Hexxi didn’t get out of the way. She yelled, “Did She just...?! WHAT? HALEY!” Haley laughed as the next doll came at me. I killed all four of the creepy dolls by turning them to water. Hexxi appeared to be in shock. Bexley was jumping around, and Aiden looked stunned.

Eventually Aiden said, “I think you forgot to mention something about our cousin, sister.” Haley teased, “I didn’t forget. Revealing her power this way was more fun. Wasn’t it?” Aiden smiled at her, “I do love it when your fairy side shines through. Look at you, evading and pulling epic pranks.” He gave her a hug. Her aura was pulsing with happiness that he’d praised her, but her face didn’t show the beaming pride she felt.

Aiden turned to me, “That was most impressive, cousin. Our family has acquired some unique powers. It seems the royal houses produce quite powerful little partial fairies.” Haley laughed, “Your other half-sister is quite powerful herself.” Aiden

smiled, “She is. That’s not surprising since my father was a royal as well. Marcious will be quite joyful about your first lesson, little cousin.”

Hexxi recovered and pulled me into a hug. Her eyes were wide as she explained, “Haley told me you had some surprises, and that it wouldn’t be any fun if she told us everything. I just... sister.... You... you are amazing. I have to go home and prepare new lessons. I’ll have to get with Halber. He’s the only other water fairy who can do this. He’s our aunt’s child, and he’s very picky about who he hangs out with. Something tells me, he’s going to want to meet you. Haley, you brat, I’ll see you next week.”

Haley winked at her and she popped away. Maribella waved and popped away too. Bexley said, “How impressive, little cousin. I am also very proud of you. Now I’m off to get my Pookie bear all riled up for some Bexley loving.” She popped away.

Haley, Aiden, and I walked over to the wolves who had gathered. Haley made introductions, “Emmaline, you briefly met Jackson, but these are Eric’s other brothers Darrin and Harold. This is my father in law and new werewolf council member, Nathan Connors. I don’t know if you officially met my other brothers, but this is Bjourn. Running towards us is Marcus.”

My jaw dropped, “Prince’s Bjourn and Marcus? Oh gosh. Wow... umm it’s really nice to meet you all.” I turned to Nathan Connors, “Mr. Connors just for the record, I’m a fairy, not a hunter. Just in case it should ever come up.” Nathan laughed, “After that show you just put on, no one would question that you were a fairy.”

We all headed up to the house. Haley dragged me to the kitchen and handed me a whole pizza. I was suddenly ravenous. I ate the whole pizza, and the next one she gave me. Then I had some breadsticks. I groaned, “I’m going to be sick.” Haley laughed, “No, you’re not. It’s a fairy thing. We need to replenish ourselves after using our powers. I would be happier if you ate at least half another pizza.” I smiled, “I only stopped because I thought I was going to be sick.” Aiden laughed and handed me another pizza.

He said, “Since you know that little sister, I’ll expect you to eat more than she does.” Haley stuck her tongue out at him. Lucas gaped at me, but the Connors and Cambridge’s must be used to this because of Haley since it didn’t faze them.

Aiden asked me, “Do you want to meet Marcious?” Haley slapped his arm. Aiden frowned, “What?” I shrugged, “I think so, but I’m not sure.” Aiden asked, “What happened to you? Why were you not where he left you?”

I looked up at the ceiling then countered, “Why did he leave me? Why didn’t he want me?” Aiden frowned, “You were in your mother’s care, as she wished. He saw you many times as a child. You even lived with him for a time. You will

recognize him when you meet him. He just knew what our uncle was doing before me or my mother. He was protecting you.”

Lived with him? I would remember that. I said, “I understand what you’re saying, but it feels like he abandoned me. I was on my own all this time. I was alone until Lucas met me. I shuffled from state to state trying to keep moving until I found a place that I felt I had to stay in. Now, I know it’s because it was near Lucas, but I didn’t know that until recently. I didn’t even get to sleep on a bed until Lucas brought me to his home and gave me a room.”

Aiden pressed, “But why? Why were you alone? Why were you running?” I groaned, “I really don’t even know how to share my story at this point. My secrets are how I’ve survived, and I am a survivor cousin.” Aiden said nothing.

Eventually Haley spoke, “My first formative memory is of my uncle slapping me in the face for calling him uncle.” Aiden gasped, glancing sharply at her. She wasn’t looking at him though, she was looking at me.

She continued, “I’ve tried for years to remember something else, something better; but I can’t. I think I was three at the time. I was always an outcast because I wasn’t a full blooded fairy. I thought I was the only person like me. Everyone looked down on me and ridiculed me except my mother and my brothers. My uncle and my cousins were my cruelest tormentors for a time, they hated me. My favorite moments were when my mother would take me to a special garden and we would eat together. No one dared to say anything bad about me when my mother could hear them. At the age of five, my uncle began to touch me. In this realm they would say he was grooming me, and he was I suppose.”

Everyone had gone completely silent. Aiden’s eyes were filling with tears along with everyone else’s. I was in shock. Eric looked like he was going to tear someone to shreds and the Hackura’s eyes were blazing gold.

Haley’s voice shook slightly, “On my sixth birthday, he started sodomizing me because he never wanted to risk me having a fairy child. Oddly, I’m grateful that he didn’t rape me vaginally or allow anyone else to. I’ve only been with Eric that way and can’t help but be grateful that no one took that from us. The beatings got worse as I got older. I’m sure you noticed every fairy working with us, even the partial fairy’s including yourself, are taller than me.” I nodded.

I had noticed she’s the shortest. Looking at her Hackura brothers I realized that didn’t make any sense. Why was she so short? Aiden leaned forward as if he wanted to know the answer to my question. Haley, devoid of emotion, explained, “As a child my legs were broken several times. My growth plates were stunted. My legs alone were broken at least ten times before I was eight years old. Probably more after that, but that’s why I’m so short. It was intentional on their part. They

told me I would be mocked for being a short partial fairy because fairies aren't short. Many fairies knew I'd had broken bones, but that didn't matter to anyone there. They still made fun of me and said my father must be a short human because no fairy could be so short."

Aiden looked physically ill. Did he not know all this? Eric was gripping his chair so hard he was going to break it soon. Sadly, her story wasn't over, "I was experimented on by my uncle. Because apparently everything else he was doing wasn't bad enough. I don't have a gallbladder and I'm missing a kidney. Here's a tip, don't drink lemonade."

I frowned admitting, "I don't like it. I think it smells weird. I've never even wanted to taste it." Haley advised, "Don't drink it. It's quite painful, but if a fairy is trying to hurt you and there's some around you, throw it in their face." Aiden winced.

Haley continued, "I learned how to use my powers in the library in secret. I never told anyone, not even my family that I was powerful. Even after I discovered I had powers that hadn't been seen in Faerie in centuries, I kept my secrets. My cousin shaved my hair off once because I called him cousin. He carved the word abomination into my skull. It's still there because he did it with iron, and I wasn't as good of a healer back then as I am now. You can still make it out if you know what it says."

She seemed to shake off that memory, "I was waiting for my sixteenth birthday because my mother always told me my dad was coming for me. I didn't know whose tradition that was, and I thought everyone knew mother said that. I wish I had told Aiden because he would've known what that meant. I kept my secrets though. I decided I couldn't stay anymore after a particularly bad beating and rape. I considered myself weak, but I just couldn't live like that anymore. I left a note for my family, and I left. I came through a portal to this realm."

She looked off into the distance recalling, "I had two broken arms and dislocated shoulders. I was bleeding profusely and completely broken physical and mentally. A human family picked me up. They were horrified at my condition. They wrapped me up in a blanket. I vividly remember my first thought was humans were far more kind than fairies. I had heard they were wastes of space my whole life, but they didn't appear to be."

She turned back to face me, "I kept waiting for them to hurt me. Or take me somewhere and leave me to die. Instead, they took me to a hospital. After they left, I panicked because the healers and doctors in our realm participated in my torture. I was in the middle of a meltdown, when a man with blazing gold eyes walked into the room wearing a doctor's coat. I felt an instant connection to him. He yelled and everyone listened to him. He made them leave the room."

She smiled at Prince Marcus, “My brother Marcus had been nearby on a mission. They felt my pain, and my dad sent him to get me. He explained everything to me and promised that he would make everything better. He said he would take me home to meet the rest of our family if it's what I wanted. For the first time in my life someone asked me what I wanted. My opinion mattered to Marcus. He wasn't going to leave me there if I didn't want to go; he was going to stay by side to help me. He promised not to leave me. I told him I wanted to go home with him. I desperately wanted him to be the brother I had always longed for. Part of me screamed at the other half that I was an idiot to believe this trick, but Marcus did everything he said he would.”

She reached over and squeezed his hand, “The human stopped asking questions. He brought me to our home. My family was horrified by my condition, and I could feel their distress over it. The first time I saw my dad, I knew exactly who he was. I look like my mother, but I have his nose and jaw. He was broken at the sight of me. I was afraid he was disappointed that I was his daughter. I only spoke to Marcus for month.”

She laughed, “There was a whole Dr. Pepper bribe. Also, I owed him. He saved me. It took me over a year to fully believe it wasn't some elaborate trick that I had this wonderful family. I promise you my Hackura family loves me. They don't love me any less because they left me in Faerie for the first thirteen years. They think I don't know they changed their policies about their children because of me. They no longer leave them be for sixteen years. They check in and remove the kids in bad situations.”

She whispered, “My dad has never forgiven himself for what happened to me. It wasn't his fault, and I have never blamed him for one second. He's the king, and I'm his only partial child. He was leading by example even though he didn't want to.”

She reached across the table and took my hand, “Sharing your story is personal, Emmaline. No one except you can decide when you're ready to share it. Until I met Eric, I didn't even realize I was still holding pieces of my story to myself. Some I couldn't let go of because I felt they were my personal and private shame that I couldn't taint someone else with. I know what is to feel alone, but I want you to know you aren't anymore. Everyone here would listen to your story and help you with anything you needed.”

She pointed out, “This is a powerful group. Each person sitting here can and would defend you. It's important to remember, you are one of those people. You're not a damsel in distress. Sometimes the brave thing to do is to let someone in. It took me a very, and I do mean, VERY long time to come to those realizations. Marcus was my first attempt at letting someone in, and I still held little secrets back from him.

Those eventually came out later anyway. It hurt him that I'd kept those things from him, and I regret that."

She paused before saying, "You take your time in figuring out when you're ready to share. Anything to do with you dad is up to you. For what it's worth, I believe he is a good man. Not unlike my father, Marcious thought he was doing the right thing. Distancing himself from you hurt him. When everything was settled, he discovered Maribella wasn't dead. He used a charm to find her to make sure she was safe and recovered from what she went through at the hands of my uncle. It can only be used for one person we are related to. He thought you were safe when he made that choice. He tried to pop to you later but was blocked. I will back you up no matter what choice to do with him. I will always fight for you, and what you need or want."

Tears clouded my vision from her story and her words. She shared herself with me. She'd also done it in front of all these people who clearly didn't know every part of that story. She was so brave. I couldn't believe what she'd suffered. She had been right. The stories I'd heard were beyond watered down.

I got up and hugged her. I whispered, "Thank you for sharing your story with me. I will think about what you said about my dad. I just need some time to think about it." Haley wiped a tear from her eye, "As I said, fairies live a very long time. Marcious is a patient man." We both pulled back. Aiden yanked Haley into a hug, "I'm so sorry, little sister." He whispered to her. Then he started speaking Fealish.

I realized a change in subject was desperately needed. I asked, "Haley, I was wondering if you would train me to be a fairy ninja mischievous epic prank puller?" Aiden and Haley both started laughing. Haley answered, "You are already mischievous. I assume you mean you want me to train you to fight?" I nodded. That was the ninja part.

Haley agreed, "Of course I will. Fairy power lessons are on Wednesdays. How about starting defense training on Thursday evenings, starting tomorrow? We will alternate between Eric's territory here and yours." Eric said, "Our territory, Angel." Haley rolled her eyes, "Our territory and yours. I'll come to you tomorrow. Eric and Lucas can have a man date or something. My mother in law says those are important. I think it's far more likely they will watch us fight, and their lust will take over." I laughed, "I like this plan."

Lucas came over and gave Haley a quick hug and whispered something to her. Louder he asked her, "Can you pop us back to our territory?" Aiden quickly interjected, "I'll do it. I need to talk to my cousin's wolf." Eric laughed. Lucas sounded suspicious, "Why?" Aiden smiled, "Because I do." He grabbed both our hands and popped us back to our home.

Lacy was watching a movie with Dylan. Lacy asked, “How were fairy lessons? Hello again, King Aiden.” Aiden laughed, “Hello again, Lacy Lyons. I hope you are staying away from contracts with fairies.” Lacy nodded.

Aiden told her, “My cousin did quite well. Why don’t we leave the ladies here to discuss and squeal all about it? I need to discuss some things with my cousin’s wolf, and with yours.” Dylan stood, “A little warning is all I ask of you, Lucas. I could’ve had a snack ready to go. Now the King is here and I have no gifts or refreshments to offer him.” Lucas rolled his eyes as they walked away. I sat down to tell Lacy about fairy training.