

Telephone

Lucas was trying to decipher Haley's clue. Lacy's comment about telling me something drew my attention. Emmaline ran from the room like her hair was on fire. I looked at Dylan, growling, "What happened?" Dylan shrugged, "I am REMISS that I do not know. No one linked the Beta. We have DISCUSSED that I get links. I have to be prepared. The high school students will be getting a Dylan talk again. Lacy didn't tell me anything about Emmaline, and I haven't talked to Travis yet. To be fair, we've been kind of busy with you getting into a prank war you aren't prepared for with a fairy princess."

I growled, "Get Travis to my office, now." Dylan sighed, "I know your grumpy because your collection is currently MIA, but maybe take a moment to calm down. Meditate or something." I growled, "MEDITATE? Really Dylan? Get Travis." I stalked out of the safe room that had held my game collection, my clue in hand. My parents' laughter followed me down the hall.

When Dylan and I reached my office Travis was already there. Travis sighed, "So, I guess you guys heard? I should've linked Dylan when I found out. He's a human, and he just doesn't understand our ways." I growled, "Who is human? What do you think I've heard?" Travis groaned, "Umm Grayson is human."

I interrupted him, "The Grayson who kissed my mate and took her on a date last year? That Grayson?" Travis' eyes went wide, "Umm... I don't know about that. That's a question for one of the transfers." Dylan said, "Link Sam or Chelsea. They are with Peter and Drake if you really want to know Lucas. I think we all know that you know the answer though."

I nodded and linked Chelsea, "Chelsea, can you ask Drake if the Grayson I'm hearing a story about is the same Grayson who took Emmaline to a dance and kissed her?" Chelsea immediately answered, "I don't have to ask, it is the same Grayson. Didn't Emmaline tell you about it?" I replied, "There was a situation when she got home, and now she's at training." Chelsea sighed, "Oh boy."

I shut my link and spoke out loud, "It is the same Grayson. Continue the story, Travis." Travis looked at Dylan. He offered, "Maybe Emmaline should" I growled, "Tell me." Travis sighed, "Apparently, Grayson hugged her in the hallway." Dylan sighed, "We link a Beta. People know this. I have told them thusly." He got on his phone. I was sure they were all going to be chastised in a memo chalk full of humor."

Travis continued “Then well... She told Grayson you guys were dating because he thought I wasn’t letting him sit by her in our second period because I liked her. He may have... kind... of said... that you were a cradle robber.” I roared, “WHAT?” Travis winced.

Dylan said, “He’s just the messenger. Now, the pack is running for their lives and hiding. Those in training are terrified. The pack link is gold right now.” Travis said, “Emmaline defended you. The human said he’d always be there for her, and she went to class. She told Chelsea, Sam, and Valerie the story, which the whole class heard. Grayson did not have a good last class period. He made it to the bus unscathed because after the pack meeting yesterday no one wanted to get in trouble.”

I growled, “HE CALLED ME A CRADLE ROBBER! TO MY MATE’S FACE?!” Dylan said, “Now, now. Don’t get your boxers in a twist. No one believes that. Emmaline certainly doesn’t. If anyone actually believed that, in our circles, I’d just let Alpha no fun know. He’d kill them. He probably has no idea what to do with himself since he’s calmed down since his fairy came into his life. He’d welcome this chance to go back to his kill first ask question later roots.”

I growled, “Someone does think it, Dylan. He happens to be the one human who has kissed my mate!” Dylan said, “Well, there’s that. Someone has to be the outlier.” I growled, “SHE HUGGED HIM!” Travis said, “She wasn’t raised around wolves. She just doesn’t get it.” I stalked out of my office with Dylan on my heels.

I stormed into the training facility. I watched Emmaline win her last fight; she was impressive. She picked up things the instructors told her quite quickly. I wanted to claim her so badly, throw everyone out of the gym and take her on the mat.

Dylan linked me, “Don’t you get that look on your face. You made me make up this training schedule yesterday. I work so hard. My extra gym equipment shipped today. No destroying the gym claiming your fairy until tomorrow.” I growled at him but didn’t move. I just watched Emmaline.

Dylan linked me, “She’s good, but that’s not surprising. Fairies are good fighters when they train.” I nodded, “Yes, maybe if they all trained we wouldn’t have kicked their ass in the war we just had. Only their royalty are well trained and skilled.” Dylan reminded me “Yet they never fought us. Not a single person with royal blood besides Hexxus. He was the dumb dumb who wandered into Alpha no fun’s territory. I mean really, he couldn’t have trained. Alpha love his precious fun sized fairy was on him like white on rice. It was such a sad memo. I was expecting pizzaz and there was none. He was such a disappointing fairy.”

I shrugged, “Ok, so his skills weren’t great. We didn’t fight other royals because there were not actual battles fought. It was little skirmishes here and there.” Dylan

snorted, “And yet Alpha no fun got the fairy princess out of it. PRICK.” I rolled my eyes, “She’s his mate.” Dylan sighed, “Who he would’ve gotten regardless of whether or not she was his mate, but yes, yes she’s his mate. I swear to god, everything falls in that man’s lap. He wants the fairy princess. He gets his agreed marriage. Then they meet and what do you know? She’s his. Naturally. I should’ve seen that coming.” I rolled my eyes at him.

The training wrapped up and all I could think of is I was so distracted about my stupid gaming collection that I didn’t even smell another man on her. I linked Dylan, “What if she regrets that I found her when she was so young? She got immediately pulled into a serious forever relationship.”

Dylan replied, “That’s most girls dream, Lucas. Every girl wants their perfect guy to sweep them off their feet, who loves them to the moon and back. She’s not a regular sixteen year old either. She was abandoned by her mother. To add insult to injury, the man she thought was her father found out she wasn’t his and erased her from his life. I can’t even imagine if my dad had done that to me, especially at thirteen.”

He paused then said, “No, imagine your dad doing that to Lacy. That’s what happened to Emmaline. She thought you spoiled her because she slept on a bed. A BED. She is not going to regret not flirting with or kissing other boys. Her stepfather sunk her careless free days several years ago. She’s also not human, nor was she raised as one.”

Pain laced my heart thinking of the pain her stepfather had brought upon her at such a young age. She should never have suffered a moment in her life. Valerie shot out of the gym saying she had a phone date. I didn’t know she was dating. I linked Dylan, “Valerie is seeing someone?” Dylan shrugged, “This I know. She messaged someone online on an app. Now they are in looovvvee.”

I lost my temper. Dylan had to go and be practical. Why was he being practical? My Beta, the big kid over here spouting out logic when another man hugged my mate. He was ready to kick a girl out of the pack for telling his mate to leave, and now I had to be rational.

I made tracks to my office. Dylan linked me, “You’re walking pretty fast.” I glanced back and almost growled. I yelled in our link, “Are you skipping, Dylan?” Dylan answered, “I am. We are about to get a fairy show because we have our own fucking fairy. It’s beautiful.” I growled at him, “I’m glad my anger brings my Beta such joy.” Dylan replied, “I’m glad we are on the same page.” I thought this could get awkward with your anger bringing me such joy. Glad our friendship can stand this trial.” I glared at him.

Our conversation showed the glaring difference in how we were raised. I was trying to remember she didn't understand pack life. As irrational as it was, I wanted to be her first kiss. That memory should've been mine, and that stupid human who insulted me stole her first kiss. Dominic agreed, "Not even a good kiss. A peck, she called it a peck. We should kill this human." I was trying to find a reason to argue that but currently I couldn't.

Emmaline thought this was me going Alpha male. Oh, did my little mate have another thing coming. This was not me going Alpha male. I linked Dylan, "Am I high?" Dylan answered, "No, but we should put a pin in that. I should get brownies for you and Alpha no fun. Can you imagine him high? GOD. Why have I never thought of that? Just remember Emmaline wasn't raised in a pack. She doesn't get it. She doesn't understand what the scent of other men does to us. Remain calm and explain. I'm sure she will understand."

I growled asking, "How can I be calm? She's going off about how I would hug Haley as if that's the same. I've never kissed Haley Conners." Dylan snorted, "You would've been cut out of your former bed buddies life so fast if you had. I'd have an ulcer from stress worrying about your life. I'd be sending him all the whiskey hoping he'd drink it and forget you had." I rolled my eyes.

Dominic asked me, "How can we explain so that she will understand? I don't want mate hugging other men. She will smell like them." I agreed with him, but I didn't know how to express this to Emmaline. I tried. Dominic snorted, "That was a terrible explanation. You suck at this, Lucas." I growled, "I am TRYING to stay calm." Dominic retorted, "And that makes you a horrible communicator?"

Emmaline didn't back down. Dylan linked, "I know that look. You cannot kill all the males in high school." I snapped, "I wasn't going to." Dylan said, "So you say. Your face says other things." We argued. Out of nowhere I was pelted with snowballs. I knew from the look on her face it was an accident.

Dominic linked me, "She's so cute. She's so mad she's hitting us with adorable little snowballs." I was flabbergasted, "You find this cute?" Dominic said, "Yes, it's not like she poured water on us. She clearly didn't mean to do it. It doesn't even hurt. She's adorable." I had to agree, it was actually really funny. I was about to laugh right alongside Dylan when I saw Emmaline's face; she was scared.

I rushed to assure her it was ok. Dominic said, "Make sure she knows I'm not mad. She's adorable." I teased him, "You big softie." We had a brief reprieve before the argument resumed. Lacy linked me, "She just doesn't get how we are yet, Luc. Give her time. This is a lot of change for her." She was right.

Dylan linked me, "Your fairy is feisty." This was moderately infuriating. We came from two different backgrounds and I didn't explain my side very well. Dominic

threw in, “You did do a really bad job explaining.” I growled at him, and he closed our link.

I linked Dylan warning him, “Leave unless you want to watch me claim her.” Dylan grabbed Lacy and left. I was on Emmaline the second the door shut. I thoroughly claimed her. When we finished, I’d never understood Eric more than in this moment when he said he’d never let Haley leave him. I knew I’d kill anyone if Emmaline was romantically interested in. No one would have what was mine, even if she came to see me as the monster I am.

I knew we’d narrowed down how Emmaline was raised. It was either with demons, or witches and warlocks. That meant she grew up around wick’s, hellions, or spears. Wick’s were what witches and warlocks called their mates. Hellions were what Demons call their fated mates. Spears were what they called their chosen mates.

Hearing her describe the relationship between her mom and stepfather made me sad. I was infuriated that she’d been a daddy’s girl. How dare he do that to her. It wasn’t her fault. Bjourn didn’t have enough torture techniques in his bag of tricks for that man.

I realized I wasn’t going to get my point across to her today, or maybe even tomorrow. This was going to have to be something she realized herself as she stayed here observing mated relationships. It was a sign of respect, to keep distance from unmated males that were not family in a pack. I also just didn’t like some human insulting me. Especially one that had kissed and hugged my mate.

I linked Dylan, “You can come back if you want.” Dylan laughed, “I want. We are on the way. I can’t miss my favorite show!” I rolled my eyes. We talked about fairy practice. Maybe I should search with the wolves while they practiced. Eric would help me. The girls took off to do homework.

Dylan waited until he heard the door before asking, “Are you ok? I have the gym ready to go with your righteous fury.” I snorted, “Thank you, but it’s not necessary. She just doesn’t get it. We know her stepfather was either a warlock or demon. Her mother wasn’t his fated mate; his died. So, they didn’t have this type of relationship.”

Dylan shrugged, “To be fair, you didn’t explain it well at all. You just told her she was yours, which she is, but that doesn’t really explain the problem.” I sighed, “Maybe Lacy will tell her.” Dylan laughed, “It’s hard to explain something when you’ve just been raised to instinctively understand. It’s our way of life. Witches live more like humans which is why I lean towards her stepfather being a warlock. When Haley’s done being pissed at you, ask her to explain it. You know it will be the best explanation of all time.” He had a point. He usually did though.

We finished up our paperwork, glancing up when Travis knocked on the door. I showed him my clue. I asked, "Do you know what this is?" He studied the clue before asking, "Does that actually mean something?" I nodded. He questioned, "What is this for?" Dylan answered, "Our fun sized ninja fairy had his gaming collection commandeered and replaced with Tinkerbell figurines. To get it back, he has clues to solve."

Travis laughed then sobered, "That's rough, Lucas." I sighed, "Everyone else finds it hilarious. Why shouldn't you?" Travis smiled, "I came up here to let you know the guys in the pack talked. We are going to keep Grayson away from Emmaline at school. My last class is on the opposite side of the building. Tim has a class near hers, so he's going to make sure Grayson doesn't cross her path again."

I smiled, "That's the best news I've heard all day." Travis said, "Sorry to burst that bubble, but someone shaved Tessa's eyebrows and wrote on her forehead." I sighed, "We already know. The someone is Haley Conners. Apparently, Tessa is lucky to be alive. Eric had to call upon his bedroom skills to keep her calm. You know how the Hackura feel about respect."

Travis' eyebrows raised, "So, the fairy Hackura princess is protective of her cousin?" Dylan laughed, "Very much so. You should spread that around. Hijinks ensue if our Luna is disrespected. I sent a memo about it already. Also, her name is some variation of ninja fun sized fairy princess. Get it right." Of course, he had.

Travis nodded seriously and started to leave. I asked, "Hold up, Travis. Do you know anything about Valerie's boyfriend?" Travis shook his head, "Only that she messaged him on Instagram and is crazy about him." I nodded and he left.

Dylan and I quit working to go to sleep. When we got up the next morning, we were working through our paperwork and disputes quickly so we would be free this evening. Dylan wanted to take Lacy on a date, and I had fairy training. Where I planned to figure out what I could about my gaming collection.

Around noon my phone rang. Dylan answered. He turned to me amused, "The Ryan Forrester of the Forrester warlocks out in California is on the phone for you with a request." I nodded. Dylan muted the phone and pulled up a file. He informed me, "He's the son of David and June Forrester. His older brother Dustin recently married Aubree Duchane. Ryan has a twin named Katie and a younger sister named Evelyn. Evelyn ran away, and they are searching for her." I instantly felt for this warlock.

I asked, "When did she run away? Is that why he's calling?" Dylan shook his head, "I don't know when she ran away. We don't have that. I'm sure they didn't put the word out, because I doubt she'd get all the way here." I nodded and motioned to him. He put the phone on speaker.

I greeted, "This is Alpha Lucas." Ryan Forrester spoke, "Alpha Lucas, I would like to request permission to come onto your pack lands next weekend. I want to meet Valerie Hutchins in person, and not just talk on the phone. I really need to meet her." I was surprised. I surmised, "You're the man Valerie has been talking to on the phone. The one she met online?"

Ryan answered, "Yes, I am. I want to surprise her. She always talks about how much she loves your area. My brother and his wife are touring the Red Run area to find housing. My sister in law is an architect and her firm put her on the project to rebuild the school that burned down. She believes if she can do a good job when they return to California a promotion is guaranteed. I want to take advantage of their trip and stop by your territory."

Dylan said, "That's umm... interesting that a firm in California would put in a bid to rebuild a school out here." Ryan responded, "A building is a building. I really think Valerie is my wick." I laughed, "The conversation with Valerie is that good? You really believe she's yours?" Ryan answered, "I do." I agreed, "Alright Ryan, you can come surprise Valerie. Far be it from me to stand in the way of true love. My mate and sister will be very excited for Valerie. They are all friends."

Ryan said, "Val said that you recently found your mate. I believe she said her name is Emmaline and that your sister is Beta Dylan's mate." Ryan hesitated before adding, "I heard you recently found your sister, and I have to say it gives me hope that I'll find my baby sister one day." I was sincere when I told him, "We will help in any way we can. I understand that position more than anyone."

Ryan admitted, "We take any help where offered. I can't imagine she'd get all the way to you out there, but it can't hurt to keep an eye out." I stated, "Bring her picture when you come. I'll circulate it." Ryan said, "I would, but my father... Evie leaving destroyed my parents. After six months of no leads my father destroyed every picture with her in it. He believes she's dead and is never coming home to us, and he isn't handling it well. They were very close. My mother can't even talk about it. She's crying as regularly as she is downing bottles of wine every night."

I sighed, "I understand. We all handle grief differently. My father was broken when Lacy ran. My mother carried the charge to hunt down every lead to bring her home." Ryan said, "If you wouldn't mind, I'd like to speak to Alpha Eric's mate while I'm there."

I frowned, "I can give you his number. Why do you want to speak to Haley?" Ryan sighed admitting, "We are having a bit of a fairy problem with our coven. Since she's their princess, I was hoping she could talk to the fairy's." I laughed, "She will probably call her brother." Ryan sighed in relief, "Hopefully. Back to my

surprise, I know it's a big ask but please don't tell your mates about this. I don't want anyone slipping up around Valerie that I'm coming to meet her."

Dylan laughed, "I would never. I love surprises. Your secret won't cross my lips." I said, "I doubt Emmaline will even ask me, but I'll keep your secret as well. Thank your sister in law for us. The school burning down in our allies territory was upsetting for them. It had a side bonus of several pack members finding their mates much sooner than they otherwise would have including myself. But the school does need to get rebuilt so the kids have a better teacher to student ratio." Ryan said, "Thank you, Alpha Lucas. I really appreciate you allowing me onto your territory."

I hung up. I asked Dylan, "Do warlocks think we are unreasonable? He didn't seem to think I'd let him come meet Valerie." Dylan shrugged, "Who knows how things are run in California? Dylan's spider senses, they are tingling. I have thoughts. I NEED ANSWERS!" I asked, "About?" Dylan said, "When I have answers, you will know nosey rosey."

I shrugged, "I should probably warn Haley there's a fairy problem in California, but... she took my gaming collection so no warning for her." Dylan laughed, "I'm sure that will in no way shape or form come back to haunt you." I smiled, "My collectables need to have some form of revenge. I can't get into a prank war with her, she's already kicking my ass. I don't even want to know what she'd counter with if I retaliated. I still can't figure out that ridiculous clue!" Dylan snickered.

We got through the rest of the day. I was waiting for Emmaline's fitting to end. My dad linked me, "Your mother is driving me insane about Emmaline's dress. It's apparently a disaster. Is there any chance you would move the ceremony so I can get some peace?" I laughed, "Sorry, dad. We need it done by Friday." My dad grumbled, "That's just great."

The second Emmaline reached me, Haley popped in. I briefly wondered if she installed cameras when she was here last. Emmaline grabbed my hand and suddenly we were in Eric's yard. I swayed and saw spots. I felt like my stomach had been left back in my territory. I linked Eric, "She's calling this jarring? I may throw up." Eric replied, "It passes quickly, thank god."

I felt a hand on my shoulder. The nausea passed and I greeted him, "Hello, Eric. FUCK YOU for the lack of warning about popping for the first time." Eric laughed, "I'm sorry I didn't think about it, or I would have told you." I asked, "Have you hit your head recently?" Eric was confused, "No, why?"

I pointed at the fairy I'd fought at his wedding. I reminded him, "You do remember I fought that guy at your wedding because he was trying to take your mate, right?" Eric growled, "Yes, I do remember that. Haley's guard has orders should he ever

touch her to kill him immediately, which he knows. Besides, he's taken a liking to Trixie, Aiden's half-sister. That's why he keeps coming to training." I laughed asking, "How does Aiden feel about that? Or Trixie?" Eric smiled, "Trixie quite likes Farrin, and Aiden is thrilled. I think he's practically envisioning their children being super powerful."

Bjourn joined us as I pulled out my clue. I asked, "Do any of you know what this is?" Before anyone could answer I heard Tucker's mate say she was pregnant. Haley yelled at us not to say anything. Eric explained, "Haley is understandably sensitive about telling someone's partner they are pregnant before they tell them themselves." I sighed, remembering how enraged she was that she didn't get to tell Eric about the triplets. I agreed, "That's understandable."

Nathan Connors joined our conversation, "I know what your clue means, but I don't want to get on my daughter in law's bad side. Jackson showed me the picture of what she did to your things. I consider you like my own son, but I'm not crossing that girl."

Bjourn laughed. I narrowed my eyes. I asked, "Do you know about this?" Bjourn smiled broadly, "But of course. I told my sister I wanted to be part of her next prank. By the way, you should update your security software in your safe room. It's several years old, far too quick, and easy to crack." I growled. Eric roared with laughter.

Jackson said, "You've gotta love her." Darrin said, "I'm so glad you married her Eric, and that I get to call her sister. He can't even retaliate, Haley worked with the freaking crowned prince of the Hackura. You're fucking screwed, Lucas." I groaned, "Is my collection even in this realm?"

Bjourn laughed, "I'm not telling you. My sister is having fun, and I want her to have as much fun as she can. She missed out on her childhood. Being with Eric has opened her up even more to us. I won't spoil a single second of this for her."

I rolled my eyes, "OH COME ON! Now you're going to make me want to drag it out so she can have her fun. Fuck you, Bjourn." He just smiled at me. Eric asked, "Is everything going ok with the rogues?" I watched Emmaline practice snapping. She was doing really well. "I haven't heard a peep out of them. Our pack is constantly running our borders."

We watched the partial fairies practice. A pop behind us startled me. Someone spoke, "So, they started already." Bjourn snorted, "Clearly they are already practicing, fairy king." I turned surprised at the bite in his tone.

Aiden looked at my hands answering, "Yes, yes, Assassin prince you hate me. Blah, blah, blah, it's very tedious and boring to me now. Are wolves learning

morse code? Fairies enjoy morse code. I didn't realize it was coming back in this realm."

My jaw dropped. I yelled, "It's morse code?" Aiden laughed, "I see now it says it's a clue. Well, it seems I messed up my sister's prank. What is the prank?" Jackson pulled out his phone and showed him the picture. Aiden laughed. "This is fabulous. What did she replace with the Tinkerbells?"

I answered, "My gaming collection that I've spent over a decade collecting." Aiden smiled broadly, "Ah, she did say she had a plan to get you back for not asking her about Emmaline and keeping our cousin from us. I must say this is much better than anything I was going to do."

I grumbled, "Why would you do anything? It's not like I would have called you to ask about a partial fairy." Aiden smirked, "Because you hid my cousin from me as well. Fair is fair." I had an inkling what Haley did was nicer than what he would've done.

Eric asked, "What are you doing here, Aiden? You don't come every practice, and you came last week." Aiden sighed, "When Marcious heard Emmaline was coming he all but demanded I come. I, of course, didn't agree until he offered me a favor." I asked, "What favor?" Aiden laughed, "I don't know yet, but when I need a favor from my cousin I will have it." Bjourn said, "Yes, because heaven forbid you just do something for a family member."

Aiden just laughed at him. Eventually he answered in a hard tone, "You seem to forget I did everything for my brother. That got me betrayed twice. Then he went off and stupidly got himself killed. Not only did I lose a brother I lost my best friend. To make it worse, I lost him because he went against me again and betrayed our sister. AGAIN. I don't do things for free anymore. The only exceptions are for my sister, my mate, and my children. I'll revisit the policy when my niece and nephews become old enough to say anything besides momma and dada. Excuse me." He walked over to Haley and Emmaline.

Eric said, "I think that's the first time I'm seen Aiden ruffled, Bjourn." Bjourn smiled, "Good. He deserves to be ruffled." I spoke, "I am concerned he is showing interest in Emmaline." Eric snorted, "I have a support club meeting on Friday evenings for annoying ass fairies. I'll give you the conference line and you can bitch with Tucker, Liam, and me." Dylan would find a way to listen to us for sure.

Eric nodded and then growled when Aiden mentioned he got Cassie a pink rabbit, I asked, "You don't want her to have a pink rabbit?" Eric said, "Arion got Haley a rabbit when she was little. It was one of the nice things he did for her." I sighed, "Got it." I groaned realizing Haley had more clues.

I asked, "How many clues did she make?" Eric bit his lip. Bjourn spoke, "When she hid my mother's designer clothes and replaced them with Walmart clothes she had forty-five clues." I shut my eyes lamenting, "I do NOT have time for this shit." Eric howled with laughter. Bjourn offered, "She might have done less this time." Darrin said, "Or more." I growled, "Screw you, Darrin."

Haley was having Emmaline practice freezing. I winced, "Maybe it's not the best example, me being hurt." Jackson disagreed, "Emotions seem to be what bring out their powers. It's the best example if Haley want's Emmaline to be successful." I didn't like it, but I could see Emmaline's panic when the toy wolf almost hit the ground before she froze it.

I asked, "Should I panic that Aiden seems entirely enthusiastic about this?" Eric shrugged, "You should feel cautious. Haley told me that freezing is a big deal, and that no one has been able to do it for a long time." I groaned, "Perfect." The other fairies were really excited about Emmaline's progress. Even Farrin.

He looked over to our group and I growled at him. He winked and blew me a kiss. His joy was short lived when the girl with him asked him why I didn't like him. That wiped the smug look off his face. I asked, "Is that Trixie?" Eric nodded. Aiden popped over to hug Trixie, he said hi then went back to watching Emmaline. Her freezing ability was improving rapidly.

I took out my phone and texted Dylan a picture of the clue. I told him it was morse code, and he was all over it. I knew he'd have it solved when I got home. I also told him to upgrade the security software in my safe room. He replied that he wasn't the geek squad. I rolled my eyes and focused back on my mate.

I didn't enjoy Aiden's excitement over my her. Bjourn spoke, "Do not worry, Haley's lion. Should he become a problem, I'll spend some quality time the fairy king. If anything happened to Emmaline it would upset my sister, and I won't have that." It was oddly comforting to hear.

I said, "Emmaline's sister's make me more nervous than he does. I don't want them to pop her to Faerie without me." Eric spoke, "Haley has an agreement with full blooded fairies. They can't take the partial fairies against their will."

Bjourn added, "Or we get them" I sputtered, "What? Why would they agree to that?" Bjourn smiled, "Because Haley said it was that or she would hide them, and they would never find them. With her resources they agreed." Eric said, "I get every fifth one." I asked, "How many have you got?" Bjourn frowned, "Just the one. I am holding out hope for more since the I.Q of the full blooded fairy's is dangerously low."

I asked, "What's Emmaline's sister's name that's training her now?" Eric answered, "That is Hexxi." I watched for a second. I was on the move when dolls started coming to life to attack my mate. It took Jackson, Eric, and Nathan to hold me back. Eric got in my face, "Haley won't let her get hurt, Lucas. It's just like our training." I stopped fighting them but kept on growling.

I said, "Hexxi's instructions suck." Eric explained, "Haley keeps telling them that the partial fairies didn't grow up understanding magic, and that they need to give better instructions. Her advice seems to fall on deaf ears."

Haley whispered, "I'll step in if any of them get close to hurting her. Hexxi enchanted them not to hurt her, she needs to learn how to do this. Trust me and trust her." I stopped growling but I didn't like it. We all watched, astonished, as her hands glowed blue. Aiden turned to Haley in complete shock. He said, "But that means she can..." Haley just smiled as the doll's eyes turned blue.

Emmaline jumped away, but Hexxi got drenched as the doll turned to water. The fairies lost their collective shit. I turned to Eric, "I guess Haley didn't tell them about the turning to water part." Eric laughed, "She didn't. She said this would be more fun, and that they deserved it because they always doubt the partial fairies." I admitted, "They do kind of deserve it."

Aiden was enjoying Haley's fairy side. He turned and winked at Bjourn who hissed at him. Bjourn grumbled, "I swear some days that fairy wants me to kill him. I sense a challenge in his winks." Jackson said, "It's not a challenging wink. He's just rubbing it in that Haley has fairy traits." Bjourn snorted, "She has all their good aspects, and none of the bad. She is better than them." No one disagreed with him.

Eric warned me, "You'll need to watch Halber, the cousin." I glanced at him, "Have you met him?" Eric shook his head, "No, but he will probably try to fuck Emmaline." I growled "They are cousins!" Eric said, "Hexxus was Haley's cousin. Siblings are the only relatives off limits. Close cousins are supposed to be off limits to fairies, but Haley proves that's not true. Just watch him." I groaned, "Fabulous."

Eric continued, "They will talk about Emmaline's powers in Faerie, and male fairies will come to her." I growled, "She's guarded." Eric said, "Fairies charm guards away. They have to be royal to compel strong wolves. You need someone with Alpha blood on her. Haley will have to put up the protection around your territory she and Bexley did for ours." I asked, "What is it?" Eric shrugged, "I don't know, some fairy shit that doesn't allow men who want to have sex with my wife for her powers in." I agreed, "Then yes, 'I'll need her to do it then in mine as well."

When Marcus joined us I linked Eric, “Where was he?” Eric answered, “If Bjourn was here, Marcus was running the area borders around the house. He was looking for fairy’s who weren’t supposed to be here.” Eric glanced at Marcus then added, “It appears he found and killed one.” I looked at Marcus’ shoes and saw blood, as did Aiden. Marcus smiled at Aiden whose lips drew into a tight line.

We all went inside. Emmaline started to eat like she’d never seen food before. I linked Eric, “What’s happening to my mate?” Eric answered, “It’s a fairy thing. When Haley uses a lot of her powers, she needs food to replenish. The females of the pack currently in their hormonal state are quite put out; she can eat like a herd of elephants without gaining weight.” I laughed at him.

He glared at me, “You laugh but I hear about it at LEAST twice a day now.” I shrugged, “You shouldn’t have fucked your wife so well that she sent your pack into heat.” Eric glared, “You just wait. Emmaline has earth fairy powers too.” I shrugged, “Barely.” Eric smirked “From what I’ve seen from the practices that doesn't matter.”

Aiden was pushing Emmaline about her father. I was about to say something when Haley stepped in. Aiden still wanted her story. I linked Eric, “She has told me the story without names. I know the basics.” Eric nodded, “That’s a good step. That’s how things started with Haley and me. She told little pieces, and I still get pieces of the puzzle these days. Just don’t make the mistakes I did. I pushed her to open up and didn’t even realize what I was doing. Things between you two should stay between you two.”

I knew that must be hard for him because their mom had always preached about having no secrets. I winced remembering the time Eric had kept one for Jackson when we were kids. It was his harshest punishment.

Haley shocked us all and began to tell Emmaline her story. Eric gripped his chair. I asked him, “Would this be another piece of the puzzle?” He growled, “I LOATHE that fucker! She was maybe three years old, and he slapped her. Fucking asshole.” Marcus and Bjourn’s eyes began to blaze. Fabian should be glad he was already dead.

I couldn’t hide my astonishment when I asked Eric, “He raped her when she was six? On her birthday?” Eric nodded, “Yes.” I stammered, “That’s... Fuck. I’m so sorry.” Eric growled, “I am glad something wasn’t taken from her because I would never want her to imagine I was them.”

I looked at him in shock, “She never would.” Eric nodded, “There was one who wasn’t rough with her, he prepared her; granted she was mostly unconscious during that encounter. He had some sick obsession with her mother, and pretended Haley was her.” I assured him, “It’s not the same, Eric. You love her and she loves

you.” Eric nodded, “Yes, I would’ve waited to be with her if that’s what she needed. I do love her more than anything, and I hate that she went through this shit.”

I paused when Haley commented on her height. I asked Eric, “Do you know why she’s short?” Eric said, “Her physical gave me a pretty good idea. What they did to her was barbaric. Every single bone in her damn body was broken multiple times.” I couldn’t think of anything to say to him. My heart physically hurt for Haley and I resisted the urge to rub the pain in my chest.

I looked to Eric in horror as Haley continued, “Why would Haley drink lemonade?” Eric said, “Be very glad Marcious hid Emmaline. Fabian was a monster.” I said, “That doesn’t even cover it. I’m here if you ever need to talk about how you feel about what she went through.” Eric answered, “Ethan said she shouldn’t be alive.” I was repulsed by that thought. I begrudgingly admitted “Technically neither should Emmaline. Rogues attacked her and she managed to kill them. Our mates are survivors.” Eric nodded.

I was in shock over Haley’s story. I knew some of it, and I knew she was condensing it down even now. No one should ever suffer as she had. Great. Now I was grateful to Emmaline’s father. I snapped back to attention when Haley spoke about Hexxus.

I linked Eric, “He carved a word into her head?” Eric said, “Yes, I’ve seen what’s left behind. She fell asleep one night, and I thought there was something in her hair. I was going to get it out for her. I went out with Jackson the next day and slaughtered the rogues we found.” That was fair, I’d do the same.

Haley’s version of leaving Faerie astonished me. I asked Eric, “WEAK? That’s not a word that should ever be used to describe your mate.” Eric replied, “I know. She’s doesn’t see herself clearly.” I replied, “Well, mine thinks yours is a ninja fairy godmother princess assassin. Who happens to be her personal superhero.” Eric actually smiled.

Haley mentioned coming here to this realm. I imagined the family that picked her up was truly horrified by her appearance. Had I ever seen a child in that state I would’ve gotten them help then searched for whoever had done that to them. They would’ve paid.

I glanced at Marcus when she brought him into her story. He seemed to be remembering their first meeting. I could see that both of Haley’s brothers were haunted by the memory. I linked Eric in shock, “They changed their policy about partials? Because of Haley?” Eric replied, “Wouldn’t you?” I would, actually.

I realized Haley's point in telling her story. She was pointing out King Titus was a good man, and so was Marcious. Haley didn't blame her dad, but she had a very different upbringing than Emmaline. Emmaline had a loving father for thirteen years. Then he became a cold, cruel man because of something that wasn't her fault. Emmaline missed the relationship they had. Haley never had a loving father figure until Titus came into her life. She could not miss what she had not had.

Haley explained she still had parts of her story she kept to herself. I linked Eric, "Good lord what else happened to her?" Eric said, "What didn't happen to her is a better question. Fabian sold time with her to his disgusting ring. You know he promised her to more people than King Damon. She was ashamed she never used her powers or got away sooner." I frowned, "She was a child. I'm sure she thought her dad wouldn't know where she was if she left." Eric confirmed, "That is exactly what she thought, and why she stayed."

I was surprised Haley thought she hurt Marcus. I linked Eric, "What? Haley would never hurt Marcus." Eric sighed, "It hurt his feelings that she held back details. She didn't lie to him, but she didn't give him a full picture. It hurt all of them, but she didn't hurt him. We still struggle getting her to understand we are hurt by what happened to her, not by her. Marcus was hurt she was raised in a way that she felt she couldn't completely open herself up to him. He was hurt that she felt she should have to carry that pain inside her, alone."

I sighed, "I see where she thinks she hurt him though." Eric said, "We all do, it's just frustrating because she has this need to make everyone happy and tends to blame herself for everything that goes wrong." I smirked teasing him, "Except for the friend zone." Dylan had far too much fun with that memo when Caleb sent it. Eric laughed, "Except the friend zone. She refuses to accept blame for that one. It makes me ridiculously happy."

I was grateful Haley shared the story with us. I knew it was condensed, but Haley Conners would always be one of the bravest women I knew. Aiden was visibly shaken. Nathan put a hand on Aiden's shoulder. Aiden shot him a grateful look. I actually felt sorry for him.

Emmaline and Haley began talking about training her to fight. I linked Eric, "I'm not going to lie, I'm really glad the princess of the Hackura is going to teach my mate to fight." Eric smiled, "So am I. Plus, I get to see you more often."

I linked Eric, "Will Haley be ok if I hug her?" Eric nodded, "I just asked her. She's hugged you before, and she knows it's coming." I quickly hugged her then whispered in her ear, "Thank you for sharing with her. She's my whole world, and she idolizes you. You are the bravest person I've ever met, Haley Conners."

Aiden offered to pop us home. I was immediately suspicious. I linked Eric, “On a scale of one to ten where are we at on being worried.” Eric answered, “We are at a five. He’s probably just going to warn you because Emmaline didn’t grow up around fairies. She won’t understand when they start showing up and pushing her for sex.” I growled.

Aiden popped us back to our home. Dylan linked me, “The fairy king is here?! And I get no warning?! For shame, Lucas!” I said, “Evidently, he wants to talk.” Dylan replied, “Why do I feel like I just got told the girl I love told me we needed to have the dreaded talk?” I shrugged, “Because you have good instincts.” Dylan sighed.

We walked to my office, I turned asking, “What would you like to discuss, King Aiden?” Aiden smiled, “You may call me Aiden. You’ll be family one day when you marry my cousin.” I grimaced, “Joy.” Aiden laughed, “I don’t understand why you and my sister’s wolf don’t see that as a good thing. Oh well. I am here to let you know you’re going to want to take extra care with Emmaline. Hexxi has surely let all of Faerie know what she saw Emmaline do tonight. They’ve become very interested in the partial fairies since it became known how powerful Haley is.”

I asked, “Don’t they care about Maribella and Trixie?” Aiden laughed, “Farrin is Trixie’s mate. They respect the fact that he can light them on fire.” My jaw dropped, “Eric said they liked each other. He didn’t mention they were mates.” Dylan was literally taking notes.

Aiden laughed again, “I doubt my sister’s wolf knows since Haley doesn’t know. Should you want confirmation, ask your mate.” I said, “Why doesn’t Haley know?” Aiden smiled, “Trixie was raised in the human realm, and all this is new to her. She’s exploring their relationship quietly. Farrin respects that, and Trixie doesn’t care he declared her off limits in our realm. As my half-sister, Trixie feels more comfort in my presence than in Haley’s. She talks to me about the situation, as does Farrin.”

I snorted pointing out, “Won’t Haley be upset?” Aiden looked confused, “Did you not hear her tonight? She believes people’s stories should be told at their pace. She will understand why Trixie didn’t tell her or anyone besides me. Again, that’s not why I’m here.”

He waved his hand continuing, “As for your question, I did warn Maribella’s wolf. He doesn’t allow full blooded fairies in his territory because of what happened to him. After one fairy approached Maribella and was brutally murdered, they’ve left her alone. Emmaline doesn’t have that deterrent.”

I growled, “Ok, I’ll murder a fairy. Then she will.” Aiden sighed, “I wasn’t finished. Maribella was taken and experimented on, so she is leery of fairies. The

fairy that showed up scared her. Her wolf reacted to his own issues with fairies and her fear. Emmaline isn't scared of us." Damn him for having a point.

Aiden pressed, "Emmaline is powerful, but not as powerful as Haley. She's also not as accurate, but for a water fairy the skills she is showing are desirable. Take my warning how you like, but if anything happened to you or Emmaline it would upset my sister. I think you will agree after hearing her story tonight, she doesn't deserve that."

Dylan linked me, "What story? I missed a story? No more fairy lessons without me." I answered Aiden, "Since when do you care so much about Haley?" Aiden smiled sadly, "I am man enough to admit I made many, many mistakes where my little sister is concerned. I let myself be caught up in her being a partial fairy. I couldn't publicly show her the love I have for her. People have this notion our private life was that way, and it wasn't. Ask Haley if you'd like, but we had good times. I love my little sister. I didn't know the water and fire fairies and even the earth fairies to a degree loved their partial fairies. Only the sky fairies thought them to be less than human."

Aiden looked away admitting, "I was embarrassed my mother fled to the earthly realm after my father died and then she came back pregnant. She used magic to have my sister that only royals can use. Haley was conceived outside a concupiscence. My brother and I were both felt she acted rashly. I never should've taken that out on Haley or allowed her to be hurt like I did. I will regret those actions the rest of my life. I took bad advice, and I lost a lot because of it. All I can do is move forward with Haley and not make those mistakes with Trixie. So, take my warning for my cousin as you wish. Never doubt my love for my sister again though." With that Aiden popped away.

Dylan said, "I have so many questions that I can't even pick one to start." I took pity on him, "Well, I'll recap. Emmaline did amazingly at practice. Haley didn't tell the fairy's she could turn an opponent to water, which by the way is really weird but awesome to see. Haley and Eric will be in our territory tomorrow to work on fighting training with Emmaline. We are alternating territories for that. Emmaline froze three items simultaneously and got pretty good at snapping. Haley shared a condensed version of her childhood. I find myself wanting to thank Marcious for staying away from Emmaline so Fabian never found her. Even though Emmaline went through her own hell here."

Dylan raised his eyebrows, "Well, that didn't help me at all! Now I just have more questions. Ok, let's go with, what possibly happened to Haley that was so bad that YOU are grateful to a fairy who abandoned your mate, leaving her with a mother who let her be run out of town?"

I explained, “Haley is short because the growth plates in her legs were broken so many times, they stunted her growth. On purpose. They wanted her to be ridiculed by other fairies for being short.” Dylan frowned, “Fairies aren’t short.” I nodded, “I believe that was Fabian’s point. He made her drink lemonade.”

Dylan gasped, “What?” I nodded, “That’s the serious cliff notes version.” Dylan sat down, “Well, I just love my fun sized fairy more now. Poor thing. I will have to make sure she has fun in her life. God knows that Alpha stick up his butt can’t give her that. Enter me. I SHALL help them both.”

Dylan sighed then said, “Putting aside my new mission in life, your morse code clue translates to telephone. How did you figure out it was morse code? Did Haley take pity and give you a clue?” Before I could answer he added, “We have a security company coming by to update the software. Why do we have a security coming to update our software?”

I shook my head, “Haley didn’t give me a clue. Aiden thought wolves were learning morse code like they do. What telephone? That’s not helpful at all.” Dylan shrugged, “I don’t know, but I know you did not answer all my question. STOP THE MADNESS! I NEED ANSWERS! Why are we updating our software?”

I snorted, “Because Bjourn Cambridge broke into my safe room with ease. He basically said it was child’s play the software was so old” Dylan shrieked, “PRINCE BJOURN CAMBRIDGE STOLE YOUR COLLECTION FOR HALEY? I feel like you should be honored. He’s going to be a king.”

Lacy came in asking, “Are we talking about your morse code clue? I’m just saying, I’d check the new telephone in the pack house.” Emmaline gasped. I looked over asking, “What new phone?” Emmaline said, “She... she must have put an old school telephone booth with a working phone in the pack house. I thought you’d gotten it when I saw it the other day.”

We all got up and ran over to the pack house where Peter, Drake, Sam, Valerie, and Chelsea sat. I ran into the phone booth and picked it up. I told the group, “It’s just a dial tone. What number do I dial?” I tried the numbers for the word telephone while Lacy explained what was going on, but nothing happened.

Emmaline spoke, “Try the numbers for my lion, that’s what Haley calls you.” I came out and kissed her hard. Sam said, “That is not long enough for a number.” Drake laughed, “She’s a fairy princess though, she could make it happen with magic.” I dialed and it started to ring. Emmaline smiled triumphantly.

A voice came across the other line, “Ah, and the prank phone finally rings. I was beginning to think this thing was defective.” I sighed linking Dylan, “Oh good, another fairy.” Dylan laughed. I asked out loud, “And who might this be?” The

fairy laughed, "I am the Queen of Faerie. You can call me Lucinda, as you are Haley's lion and little Emmaline's mate." I asked, "How do you know about this prank, but King Aiden didn't?" Lucinda laughed, "Haley gave me the phone for my daughter Aiylee to give you your clue. You do want the clue right?"

I heard someone say, "Who is that Lucinda?" Lucinda laughed, "Haley's lion." Aiden quickly guessed, "You are part of her prank?" Lucinda answered, "I have the prank phone for Aiylee to give the clue." I asked, "Can I have my clue please?" A little girl came on the phone asking, "You are Haley's lion? Cousin Emmaline's wolf?" I smiled, "I am. You must be Aiylee. That's a very pretty name."

She giggled, "Thank you! Your clue is a rogue was found murdered in the woods. You've narrowed it to six suspects: Nathan, Nick, Darrin, Steven, Aiden, and Marcus. The note on the body said: 28-6-19 / 75-7 / 44-7 Find the made up killer and find the first piece to your treasure."

I groaned asking, "What on earth? Hold on! I need to write that down." Aiylee said, "I guess I can hold on. Aunt Haley said I couldn't give hints. She didn't say I couldn't repeat it." I asked, "You know who the killer/clue holder is? Did Haley tell you?" Aiylee scoffed, "No, I figured it out, and she told me I was right." I got her to repeat the clue and wrote it down, then thanked Aiylee and hung up.

I studied it but had no idea what the hell it meant. I yelled, "FUCK! Could Haley make something simple?" Dylan laughed, "Well as your ever helpful Beta, I can tell you the suspects are Nathan and Darrin Connors, Steven McDermont, Nick Kyle, Aiden Holloran, and Marcus Cambridge." I glared at him, "I already knew that! What the fuck are the numbers?" Dylan shrugged, "The alphabet was out with the first number." I pulled out my phone and called Eric.

He answered, "Lucas?" I complained, "My next clue makes no sense, but your brother and father are on my list of suspects." Eric said, "I'm sure they can't tell you anything unless you prove you solved the clue." I groaned, "Great. Thanks, Eric." I hung up.

Emmaline grabbed my arm, "Let's go to bed." I nodded and looked at Peter. His dad was a suspect. I asked, "Is your dad suddenly secretive?" Peter laughed, "No more than usual." I nodded, understanding that as Alpha's we had our secrets.

Emmaline led me back to her room. I was in a daze. I told her, "You really did a good job tonight, baby girl. I'm so proud of you." The words were barely out of my mouth when she attacked me. She whispered, "I need you, Lucas. Now." I growled. Emmaline snapped herself naked. I lost my shirt but kept my pants.

She hissed, "Drat!" I smiled, "It's good progress." She pouted demanding, "Take your dang pants off, Alpha." I quickly complied, "As my Luna commands." I

yanked my pants off and Emmaline jumped on me. She bit down hard on my neck. I growled in response and licked her mark. She shoved me down onto the couch. Was she going to ride me. I asked, “Baby girl are you...?” That was all I got out before she lowered herself on me. She rode me like she’d been doing it for years.

I leaned my head back on the couch and started to arch my hips. Emmaline screamed, “LUCAS!” I turned her, kissed her, and put her on all fours. I pumped into her as she gripped the carpet and she moaned. When her walls clenched around me, I couldn’t hold back and pumped my load into her.

I told Emmaline, “Feel free to do that anytime.” Emmaline laughed breathlessly, “I’ll ask Haley tomorrow if that was because I used my fairy powers.” I smiled, “It’s ok to get horny.” She laughed, “I know. I’m just curious if it will be like that every Wednesday.” I smiled, “I could be talked into that.” She smiled, “Oh yeah? Talked into it?” I winked at her.

I changed the subject, “We are going to Eric and Haley’s territory on Saturday for her surprise birthday party.” Emmaline smiled, “I know, Lacy told me. The girls are going shopping for bed sheets with me Sunday.”

I asked somewhat bewildered, “Bed sheets?” Emmaline nodded, “Yes. You’re buying a new bed, so I’m getting the bed sheets.” I laughed, “I’m getting new bed sheets too?” She nodded, “WE are getting new bed sheets. No amount of washing can take out the Christy smell, so the girls are going for new bed sheets with me at the mall.” I smiled, “Your guards will be with you.” She sighed, “If that makes you happy then fine.” I smiled and kissed her. I pulled her to me, and we went to sleep.

Emmaline had established a routine. Going to train, shower, then heading off to school. I found Dylan in our office. I asked him, “So what are we doing today?” Dylan sighed, “Paperwork and pack disputes. What else would we do? Our lives are oh so dull. The security company is here updating your security, which is pointless if the Hackura want to break in, but no one asked my opinion.”

I tried to entice him, “We could solve a clue?” Dylan snorted, “Maybe if we have time. I’m a work wolf. All work and no play makes Dylan such a dull wolf.” He was a big kid at heart, but he really was the best Beta. We worked all day.

Alpha Kyle called in the evening. I greeted him by his first name to test it out. We really did talk all the time now, “Nick.” He snorted, “Lucas, evidently we have a witch and warlock coming to town.” I laughed, “I heard and it’s two warlocks.” Nick snorted, “You have one and I have one. The witch told me her brother in law wants to meet a girl in your pack and you agreed. She said he’s over the moon for this girl. He believes she’s his wick and they don’t expect to see him much. For Christ’s sake if our pack members start meeting their mates on the internet, I don’t even know what I’m going to do.”

I laughed, “Well, at least Haley Conners isn’t going to be in your territory. She hates warlocks and witches.” Alpha Kyle laughed, “She can’t kill them until the school is rebuilt. You’ll tell Alpha Eric about them, right? The witch said her husband and his brother want to meet the fairy princess due to some fairy problems.” I sighed, “I’ll tell him when I have to. After the things I heard last night, I don’t want to bring up full blooded fairy problems to Haley.” Nick ended the call.

Dylan advised, “Maybe you should tell Haley so she can prepare for this request.” I shook my head, “Nah, it’s not like Ryan is a fairy that she needs to prepare to see. Besides, my collection still needs some form of revenge.”

Dylan shrugged, “I see we are back to ignoring my advice. It’s fine, I’m used to it. On a different note, I will have to get pissed off if our pack members who just turned eighteen start meeting their mates online. I waited six years, you waited eight. Alpha has to win everything Conners waited thirteen. These kids are scrolling through Instagram hashtags like hey this guy is cute. OMG! He’s my mate.”

I laughed, “Finding mates is a good thing. If they can find them easier than we did, then good for them.” Dylan snorted, “I miss cynical Lucas, you used to glare at those pricks who just met their mate hours after they turned eighteen. I should’ve been glared at. My mate should’ve been SO EASY for me to find. I am so nice to everyone, and the universe was so very mean to me. I want a gift basket to make up for it.” I laughed at his ranting.

Before I could respond, Emmaline ran in. She was in such a hurry a book dropped out of her bag. She kissed me quickly, “I’ll get that later, I’m running late! Hi and bye!” She ran out. Dylan frowned, “Even now, your mate comes to give you a kiss, but none from my mate.” I laughed at him some more. He sighed, “I am under appreciated. It’s such a heavy burden. I’m asking your dad for permission to do the mating and wedding ceremony with Lacy.”

I stopped what I was doing and looked up at him, He continued “I love her, Lucas. I’m going to take care of her.” I smiled, “Lacy couldn’t ask for a better man. As long as she’s ready, then as her Alpha and brother, I give you my consent.”

Dylan smiled, “Oh she’s been dropping subtle hints. There was a picture of an engagement ring circled and ripped out of a magazine on my pillow yesterday. She’s lucky I am trained to decipher such complex clues.” I laughed, “That’s Lacy.” Dylan smiled, “That it is.”

We worked until it was almost time for Emmaline’s training with Haley. I walked to the gym and found Emmaline pacing. I quickly asked, “Emmaline? Are you

ok?” She shook her head, “The princess of the Hackura is going to train me to fight. ME! I don’t have enough skills to learn from her. What was I thinking?”

I smiled, “Baby girl, the princess of the Hackura is also the princess of the fairy’s and your cousin. She will form a plan around your skill set just as her brothers did for her. One of them started her training from scratch.” Emmaline nodded agreeing, “You’re right.”

Just then a pop sounded. Eric and Haley stood in front of us. I spoke first, “I talked to your niece, Haley. She’s a nice girl.” Haley smiled, “I know. She was wondering why she hadn’t gotten to give her clue yet.” I growled, “If you’d made it a bit less complicated, I would’ve called her sooner.” Haley smiled, “You fuck with the fairy, my lion, you get the hijinks. Have you figured out who the killer/clue holder is?” I said, “No.”

She just laughed and looked around the gym. She complimented me, “This is a very nice facility. Did you use the same person Eric did?” I nodded, “Yes, Eric did his remodel first. I thought it looked great and asked for the number.” Haley smiled, “Go sit somewhere and let us start.”

Eric and I walked away. Eric held out his hand, “Let’s see this clue.” I gave it to him and he laughed. He offered, “You could just call all six and say you know it’s them.” I snorted, “She probably has a fail safe for if I get it wrong.”

Oddly, I do want to figure it out. Bjourn made me feel like I can’t take her fun away from her. That asshole. I had a security team updating my software today because of him.”

Eric laughed again and we settled in to watch our mates. Eventually I asked, “How do you watch this? I don’t like watching Emmaline fight, yet it makes me proud.” Eric admitted, “Thor paces, we comment on how we don’t like it, but are proud of her. Then we fuck her like we haven’t seen each other in months afterwards.”

I laughed asking, “Thor? The rumors are true then. Duke changed his name for Haley? Dylan did tell me that memo went out, but I hadn’t asked you yet.” Eric nodded, “He did. Now we growl at anyone who calls him Duke.”

I commented, “Emmaline was particularly amorous last night.” Eric smirked, “Haley felt really bad she didn’t warn Emmaline about that. Since Emmaline used her fairy powers so much and got accustomed to her light at practice, and she’s met you her light demanded sex. Haley didn’t have the same experience, so she sometimes forgets to tell the other partial fairy’s to be ready.” I nodded and sat back to watch Haley coach Emmaline.

