

Rings and Markings

Lucas tensed as Haley and Emmaline trained. Confused, I asked, “Why can’t we hear them?” Eric snorted, “Haley probably charmed it so we couldn’t hear. She linked me to talk to you about Emmaline’s concupiscence.” I grinned asking, “What do I need to know?”

Eric explained, “Once she reaches fairy maturity at seventeen, she’ll have hers. I don’t know if it will be the day of her birthday or a month later. Haley had her first one a month after she met me. Tucker’s mate had hers a month and a half after they met. You’re the only one who met your partial fairy before they turned seventeen. So, basically we are test subjects. We don’t actually know how often they happen for partials. Haley’s had two so far. She thinks she’s going to have four every year. The goddess mocks me for people bragging about my stamina.”

I watched as Haley swung and hit Emmaline. I cringed. Eric continued, “They have at least one a year, but as I said it can be up to four. You need energy drinks everywhere. That was a game changer on her most recent concupiscence. Her first one, I was exhausted.”

I laughed, “Would that be because you were worried about Farrin telling her that he could please her better?” Eric growled, “I was, yes. Bexley informed me afterwards that apparently we have more stamina than fairies. Now, my territory is crawling with fairy females before their concupiscence. They all want a werewolf partners now.”

I smirked asking, “Are theirs as crazy as heats? Heats are purported to be a crazy twenty-four to forty-eight hours.” Eric laughed, “I fucked her for five days straight with twenty minute meal breaks on occasion. We slept for a total of sixteen hours. Their need is off the charts, you need to get toys to play with. They help. Orgasm denial is paramount when you’ve reached the point that you need sleep. I had to deny Haley for about three hours. That’s how our twenty-four hour day of sex finally ended.”

I gaped at him. Finally, I asked, “Twenty-four hours straight?” Eric nodded, “Yes, you’ll need Dominic. Thor took over when I was exhausted.” I tensed as Haley hit Emmaline again. Eric offered, “I have problems watching Haley fight Bjourn and Marcus. Emmaline is already an excellent fighter. I Can’t imagine how this feels for you, but she will be better because of this training.” I agreed. I just didn’t like it.

Dylan ran inside and over to us dragging Lacy behind him. Eric groaned. Dylan immediately started talking, “It appears we had a situation, and NO ONE linked us about it. I have sent SCATHING emails and links to pack members, Lucas.

They've forgotten me. How you ask? Well, I just don't know. I do so much and receive nothing in return. It hurts me so. It cuts me oh so deep."

I sighed asking, "What situation?" Lacy looked down before admitting, "Chelsea went into heat." I yelled, "FUCK! How could no one tell us that?! I didn't see a fight in the yard. Tell me Peter was here. I'd hope someone would mention if he was going to kill a member of our pack for having sex with Chelsea."

Dylan said, "No, no, he was not here." I groaned, "Lacy HOW could you NOT link us?" Dylan laughed. Lacy explained, "Well, there was a group of mated males guarding Chelsea. I happened to be with your mate, who's a fairy... sooo..." My jaw dropped, "You had Emmaline fight until Peter got here? I'm guessing no one was turned to water because I'd hope to GOD someone would link us about that. Emmaline didn't say she accidentally turned someone to water before her lesson."

Eric laughed. I shot him a look that didn't faze him at all. Lacy grimaced, "I told her to pop and bring Peter back here." I put my head into my hands. I gritted my teeth, "She doesn't have a lot of popping experience yet."

Lacy smiled, "Emmaline actually saw Chelsea in danger and acted. One of the guys was going to get to her when Emmaline popped beside her and popped her away. Emmaline said she ended up at the school across the street from Peter, Drake, and Garrett who were at Al's. Peter has Chelsea and Drake made Sam leave with him." I sighed. Well, that would've ended badly without my mate. Thank the Goddess she was there.

I took out my phone and called Nick. He answered, "Lucas, I hear we owe your Luna a thank you." I snorted and laughed, "That's what I just found out. I wanted to make sure Peter and Chelsea were safe now." Nick confirmed, "Yes, they are safe. Peter took her up to a cabin we own. Drake, Sam, and a few other mated males went up to stay in Drake's family cabin next to ours to patrol and make sure no rogues sneak up on my son and his future Luna. We really appreciate Emmaline's quick thinking. I heard she blasted them with some snowballs and hail to protect Chelsea. Your little fairy is developing her skills at Princess Luna Conners training I take it." I answered, "Yes, her first lesson was yesterday with the partial fairies, and Haley is here working with her fighting skills now."

Nick laughed, "Ok, I've really got to get my own partial fairy in the pack." Eric laughed, "The full blooded fairy's that come with them are a headache, but they are worth it." Nick sobered, "Alpha Eric, hello. I didn't realize you were there. Though, your Luna is there I should've known."

Eric smiled greeting, "Hello, Alpha Kyle." I said, "Is there anything else, Nick?" Nick laughed, "Yes, always use my first name now. You call me to damn much not

to.” I laughed, “Alright Nick, I’m sure we will talk soon.” Nick chuckled, “I know we will.” with that he hung up.

I looked over, “Lacy, in the future link Dylan or me. That put a lot of pressure on Emmaline. She could’ve popped to the diner where there were more unmated males present. There would’ve been a fight and damage done to Al’s.” Lacy nodded, “I just panicked and thought hey here’s a fairy who can pop.” I laughed, “That’s the furthest pop she’s done. Thank God she catches on quickly.”

Eric spoke, “Not to change the subject, but apparently Haley is taking this fairy godmother thing quite seriously. She asked her cousin, Miley, what the reference was to. They watched Cinderella together. Miley hadn’t had Haley watch it yet. Haley laughed hysterically about the bippity boppity boo lines, but she appeared to be taking notes. We ended up in Faerie for a little bit gathering things.”

I laughed, “I’m sure that will make them both happy.” Eric nodded, “I know, my mate is quite literal.” I laughed, “I have noticed that.” The girls went to the pool. Haley must have linked him because Eric yelled at them to go.

Dylan covered his ears, “DUDE! No need to shout, we can all hear you.” Eric laughed, “You can, the fairies don’t have enhanced hearing. My Angel needed to know when to start their race, Dylan.” I asked, “The Hackura have better hearing like we do.” Eric nodded, “Yes, they do as well as sense of smell. Haley doesn’t share those qualities.” I said, “So, Haley does actually have some fairy traits.” Eric sighed, “Yes, she does.”

Lacy changed the subject, “I hear you have pups now, Eric.” Eric smiled, “I do. EJ, Alexander, and little Cassie. They keep us on our toes, as I’m sure Lucas and Emmaline’s will do for you all one day. My pups can already pop to me, Haley, Titus, Veronica, and pretty much anyone they want. Bjourm is a favorite of Alexander’s. When Aiden is in our realm, all my kids pop to him.”

I yelled, “They can pop?!” Eric nodded, “They can push, make people tell the truth, pop, put up a shield, and Haley thinks they can all heal. She suspects Alexander is the strongest healer. I think that Alexander is just such a good healer that she suspects all of them have some ability. Time will tell. I think the moon goddess is laughing at me. I wanted pups and a mate for so long and complained about not having them. Selene was just like here you go impatient man. Here’s your very strong mate and pups just like you.”

I was stunned. Popping pups. I whispered, “We are fucked.” Eric laughed, “I wouldn’t change any of it. Every threat, every enemy killed, is worth it for my family.” I looked at Emmaline before admitting, “I know what you mean. I might have to develop a ruthless reputation like you have.” Eric laughed, “Because your reputation is currently the Alpha of rainbows.”

Dylan snorted, “Do my ears deceive me?! Did you, Alpha no fun Conners, just make a joke? You hang out with fairies some and you think you can take my thing? Your thing is being serious. I would never dream of taking that from you.”

Eric wiggled his eyebrows, “Maybe she brings out that side of me. People say I’m more approachable now.” Dylan snorted, “I’d say it was all the sex you’re having but you did that before. God, why are we friends? Approachable... now, I’ve heard it all. I’m approachable. Your face just keeps splitting, doing this terrifying thing now that she’s in your life. The rest of us have talked, it’s scary.” Lacy asked, “You mean his smile?” Dylan teased, “I suppose it could be called that. We call it terrifying.”

Eric looked at Lacy, stating, “You have your hands full with that one. I for one am glad you are home and his mate. It keeps him away from mine.” Lacy laughed, “Come on, Eric. Dylan was messing with you. You do realize you never gave a crap about any of the girls I saw you or Lucas with. Dylan’s never had so much ammunition on you before.”

Eric growled at Dylan who winked. I linked him, “You’re playing with fire.” Dylan retorted, “So, I’ll have my water fairy Luna on hand to save me should I catch fire. You’re such a good Alpha getting me the literal element I need as a fire starting wolf.” I barely held in my laugh.

When our mates stopped swimming I commented, “Haley actually kept up with her pretty well. Emmaline smoked our pack, and they are state champions.” Eric laughed, “Haley won’t be happy she lost. She and Bjourn love to win.” I laughed pointing out, “Fairies are competitive too.”

Eric rolled his eyes, “True. Her competitive streak matches her Hackura brothers though. Bjourn tries to find a challenge in every action.” I laughed, “Like thinking Aiden’s wink was a dare to kill him.” Lacy gasped. Eric said, “Yes.”

My mom charged in as Haley and Emmaline were talking in the pool. I asked, “What’s wrong, mom?” My mom looked over at Emmaline. She frowned, “Emmaline missed her dress fitting appointment for the Luna dress.” I quickly explained, “Chelsea went into heat. Emmaline had to pop her to the school. Peter was across the street at Al’s, and Drake had to drive her home. She didn’t just skip it.” My mother sighed, “I knew she’d have a good reason. The dress is just a mess. Our body types aren’t similar, and I just don’t know how we will get the tailoring done in time.”

Eric laughed. I raised an eyebrow at him. My mom narrowed her gaze at him. Eric linked me, “Mention the dress to Haley.” Of course. I asked, “Godmother duties?” Eric nodded. When Haley and Emmaline joined us, my thoughts drifted. This situation with Chelsea made me think that Sam and Chelsea would be moving out

sooner than graduation. At minimum, Sam would be until her heat came and went. Drake wouldn't risk this happening to her.

Eric brought me back to the conversation linking me, "I told you Haley would fix the dress." I replied, "Haley will probably get a thank you card from my dad. I think he's about had it with the dress discussions." Eric snorted, "I'd imagine he has. Haley's dress was stunning after she used her magic on it."

Haley coached Emmaline through snapping and conjuring things. Dylan linked me, "Perfect! She can snap hair dry! She can do it for Lacy. My wonderful mate has thick hair like a lion's mane. Takes like thirty minutes to dry. I can think of so many things to do in thirty minutes. Dylan has such plans." I shook my head but didn't answer.

Emmaline was in her Luna dress. I linked Eric, "It's more like a sack than a dress, but she's still beautiful." Eric answered, "Haley will fix it, but your mother was right to be worried. I'd have told her to buy a new damn dress if I was your dad." I laughed, "He did. My mom told him it was a tradition, and the dress has been passed down for thirty years. Apparently, she'd be damned if Emmaline didn't have some piece of the dress with her."

I linked Eric, "Not to disagree with your mate about the promise this dress has... on second thought, I think it has great promise... to be thrown in the trash." Eric laughed, "You remember the pictures of the dress my sister in laws wore, yes?" I nodded. Emmaline described what she wanted. I could buy that. I linked Eric, "Can Haley really do that dress?" Eric smirked, "Yes."

Suddenly, I was getting kicked out of my own gym. Eric linked me, "We might as well leave. My mate insists on these things." I only agreed because the outside of her eyes were turning gold. Eric dragged me outside. Dylan linked me, "I love her so much. We need another fairy. Two of them is twice the fun and double the trouble." I growled in our link.

Once we were outside, Eric pulled out his phone. I stared perplexed at the picture of Haley in a dress he was showing me. Eric explained, "Shana took that after Haley used her magic on the dress." I gaped at him for several minutes. Eventually, I asked, "THAT'S the same dress your sister in laws wore to Luna ceremony? I recall it looking very different. She looks like she stepped out of Frozen."

Eric laughed admitting, "Apparently, she envisioned the sleeves that way because Miley made her watch Frozen when it came out. She liked the top of Elsa's dress. Emmaline's dress will be exactly what she wants it to be."

My dad linked me, "Do you think if I bought a dress in Emmaline's size that looks like the Luna dress, your mother would notice if I said I fixed the problem?" I

snorted, "I'll handle it." My dad grumbled in our link; he was on his computer searching.

Lacy started squealing so I figured the magic had happened. I told Eric, "I know Emmaline wishes she could talk to her siblings. Haley is making her feel less alone in the family department. I can't thank her enough." Eric smiled sadly, "My mate has experience in the feeling alone department. She doesn't want anyone to feel that way, especially her family."

I asked, "How does she have the time? I mean is Haley still taking college classes at the university in your territory? I haven't talked to Emmaline about college yet. If Haley can get Emmaline's popping under control and you'd be willing to have some guards there; I might figure out how to not destroy my office while she goes to school."

Eric's relief came through in his tone, "Haley offered to take online classes after Jim and Nick got shot. If Emmaline wants to attend, I can assign people to guard her if that's what you need. I'm sure Haley would help her find online courses if she wanted. Haley is going to offer her a job."

I was stunned, "A job?" Eric nodded, "She needs someone to help manage her partial fairy database. She wants to give Emmaline a laptop, but she doesn't think she would take it as a gift. She has one position open for data entry for a partial fairy, and she's going to offer it to Emmaline." I sighed, "I guess if she has to be in someone's territory, I'd prefer it be yours." Eric smiled, "With the laptop she can do the work from here." I smiled, "I love you and your mate." Eric laughed and slapped my back, "Let's go back in. Haley says she's out of the dress and your mom has it put away."

Haley did offer Emmaline a job. Dylan linked me, "YES! I need her to go through those files immediately I must find more cast members for my show! Emmaline will know who is mated to another wolf in our pack. This is a joyous day." I laughed then linked Eric, "Do all fairies get that database or is it part of the job? Or does she want Emmaline to practice her fairy power of being the soul searcher?"

Eric answered, "I don't know if a name is enough to go by for Emmaline yet, but we will find out. All partial fairies get a copy. It's charmed so that only someone with fairy blood can open it." I stared wide eyed asking, "Haley doesn't want other groups having it?" Eric replied, "She doesn't want vampires to get it and seek out their own personal fairy on tap." I sighed admitting, "That's smart." Eric nodded.

I was staggered when Haley gave Emmaline her base pay rate. I linked, "Uh, Eric the minimum wage in Tennessee is seven dollars and twenty-five cents an hour." Eric laughed, "I know. Haley doesn't really understand all that. She thought twenty dollars an hour sounded fair. I thought she was going to charge city hall when she

heard the minimum wage in the state. She said that was taking advantage of people, and the state should be ashamed.” I laughed, “It’s probably best you stopped her. Did you have to fuck her to get her to calm down again?” Eric smirked, “I barely control myself around her as it is. I take any and all reasons to fuck her.” I snorted, “I get that.”

Eric warned, “Fairies are very sexual creatures. After her concupiscence, Emmaline will probably be hornier... and needier for that matter. Haley wants to show her an earth fairy tradition that results in crazy fairy sex since Emmaline has you. Haley also wants one of Emmaline’s sisters to do the water fairy tradition with her. She just wants to wait and see which sister she is more comfortable with.” I looked at Emmaline. She was wearing my shirt. I wanted to drag her away and fuck her. Why was she so hot in my clothes?

I linked Eric, “I think my mate just gave you a reason to employ your favorite tactic of calming her down. She’s getting mad about how my mate lived her emancipated life.” Eric smirked, “My mate wore yoga pants and swimsuit; she was getting thoroughly fucked already.”

I realized Haley really had no idea Eric was planning her a surprise party. I linked him, “You are like a party ninja. She really has no clue.” Eric linked back, “They never threw her a party in Faerie, and she only wanted dinners with her Hackura family when they wanted to celebrate. Apparently, Fabian was especially cruel on her birthday, so she doesn’t really like to celebrate.”

I raised an eyebrow asking, “Is this going to bite you in the ass?” Eric smiled, “It’s a party and there’s a shit ton of pink. She’ll love it.” I laughed, “Why didn’t Aiden do something for her birthday? Or her mother?” Eric’s eyes darkened, “They had a quiet dinner; whereas her brothers got birthday bashes.” I nodded, “She deserves the mother of all birthday parties.”

Once they left, we headed back up to the house. My dad was waiting. I linked him, “Dad, you could’ve linked me.” My dad answered, “Your mother is driving me insane about the dress. I just wanted a moment of peace.” I withheld my laugh when my mom came in. My dad groaned, “Son, I never want to hear about this damn dress again so long as I live. I’m currently bidding on one online.” I replied, “I told you it was handled. Haley fixed it.” I explained over link as my mom did out loud. My dad was relieved, “I love Eric’s mate. I would adopt her if I could.” I laughed.

Somehow this turned into needing to shop. Dylan linked me, “I’ve barely seen Lacy which means my happy little self is going to the mall. How is this our life? We are literally clamoring to go the mall. Seeing Alpha Hoity Toity twitterpated over his ninja fun sized fairy Hackura mate should’ve warned me thusly. I was unprepared for the mate bond.”

Dylan was messing around. I growled linking him, “You’re not letting your Luna sit up front with me?” Dylan replied, “Hey, hey boss man. She’s the future Luna until tomorrow. She needs to learn you have to call the front seat. I’m giving her a sibling moment. Let us have this.” I rolled my eyes.

I linked Lacy, “You need to give Dylan shit about this. I want to sit by Emmaline, and not worry about him calling shotgun all the time.” Lacy laughed, “Consider it handled, Luc.” We got out to the car and Lacy acted like she was very offended and upset. Dylan pouted.

I linked him, “What happened to be excited about sitting shotgun?” Dylan grumbled, “Having a mate takes getting used to changes. I always call shotgun. How was I supposed to know Lacy wanted to sit by me?” I laughed, “Maybe she wants you to want to sit by her.” Dylan groaned, “My Beta blood knows better. Don’t you worry, I took mental notes. I need you to distract them at the mall. I want to go look at the ring Lacy wants.”

I retorted, “Lacy will distract them both by dragging them around. I’ll go with you to look at rings. Maybe I’ll get an idea too.” Dylan glanced at me asking, “Are you going to propose too?” I shrugged, “I’m waiting for Emmaline to be ready. That doesn’t mean I can’t be prepared with a ring on hand when she says she is.” Dylan nodded.

I linked Lacy when we arrived, “I need her to be busy for thirty minutes minimum.” Lacy snorted, “Sure, I could do that. IF you tell me why later.” I laughed, “If I get lucky and find what I’m looking for I could do that.” Lacy said, “Deal! You’ve been shopping with us. I’m sure I can get you an hour.”

Dylan and I split off from my parents leaving them on a bench outside a store. We hustled to the other side of the mall. I told Dylan, “We have at least thirty minutes, I roped in Lacy.” Dylan snorted, “Then you better buy a ring, so she doesn’t know I bought hers. I must keep the intrigue in our relationship alive, Lucas.”

I assured him, “I’ll just tell her I was looking for one. If I can’t find one, she’ll ask Emmaline what she wants. I’ll end up with magazine cut outs on my pillow too.” Dylan nodded. A salesperson sensing a sale after seeing Dylan pull out his magazine page came over. He asked, “Can I help you gentlemen?” I said, “I’m just looking.” Dylan stated, “I need this ring, in a size five.” The salesman smiled, “Of course. Come with me.” Dylan walked over to me with a bag less than three minutes later.

I asked incredulously, “You already got it?” Dylan smiled, “I had a picture, and they had the ring in the right size. One does not need to linger. I am a man on mission.” He took it out and showed me. I offered, “She’ll love it.” Dylan scoffed, “Of course she will. She picked it out. Sometimes I don’t think you listen to me.”

I went to the next case and saw the perfect ring for Emmaline, I just felt it. I called an attendant over, "I want to see that ring." The attendant smiled, "This is from our Enchanted Disney Collection. It's a Cinderella inspired ring emerald-cut London blue topaz wrapped in an octagon frame of round diamonds and another of baguette-cut and round diamonds. Small round blue topaz flanks the centerpiece and dazzle in bezel settings underneath, while diamonds shimmer along the band."

I linked my mother, "Would you by chance know Emmaline's ring size?" My mom answered, "I may or may not have had her try on rings at her fitting for her Luna dress. She's a five and half. It's like I know my son or something." I replied, "Thank you, mom." She answered, "You're welcome."

I told the salesperson "It's perfect. I need a size five and half" Dylan did a double take, "You know her ring size? You didn't even ask me! What am I here for if not to have these answer for you? I even knew that one."

I smiled, "Have no fear, I still need you. I didn't know her ring size. My mom did." Dylan sighed in relief, "Of course Debbie does. Have no fear everyone, it was a false alarm. I'm still needed." I ignored the speech. Talking to myself I said, "I'll just lock the ring in the safe until Emmaline's ready." I paid and we left, leaving a giddy sales representative behind us.

We threw away the sacks from the store and put the ring boxes in our jacket pockets. We had sat down next to my mom, who was bouncing in her seat with sparkling eyes. Before she could ask to see the ring, Emmaline and Lacy came over to us.

Lacy linked me, "I got you your thirty minutes. She shops on a mission; it was not an easy ask." I replied, "I appreciate your effort. I know shopping is so hard for you." Lacy retorted, "I like normal shopping. Not mission shopping. I like to browse." I smirked at her.

On our drive back, Emmaline drifted off to sleep almost as soon as we left. Lacy unbuckled her seatbelt, crawled over the middle seat. She whispered, "Why did I have to keep her busy? I need my payoff right now. She was in and out of stores. I was about to take her over to the jewelry cases to see if her fairy side would stand by sparkly things for longer than twenty seconds."

I laughed and reached into my pocket. I warned, "Don't squeal and wake her up." My mother was bouncing again when I pulled out the jewelry box. Lacy opened it and squealed in our link, along with my mother. I hissed "You two!" Lacy whispered, "I didn't squeal out loud. This is beautiful! It's from the Disney line, right? Oh gosh it's perfect. Blue to show off her water side. It's actually pretty common for earth fairies to like emerald rings because of the green. She will LOVE this, Lucas."

I told them, "I just saw it and felt like it was made for her." My mom of course asked, "When are you giving it to Emmy?" I teased, "I'm told that typically happens when I ask her to marry me and she says yes. I'll wait until she's ready. I just want to be prepared for that moment. It's going in the safe for now."

Dylan interjected, "That was upgraded with our security update. No one shall steal my Luna's engagement ring." I muttered, "I doubt the Hackura will steal Emmaline's ring." We all laughed. When we got home I carried Emmaline inside and she never woke up. I put her down and walked to my office. I put in the code and put her ring in the safe. Dominic grumbled when I walked back into her bedroom because he wanted to claim her since she was wearing our shirt. I laughed, "In the morning Dominic." He grumbled but agreed.

I woke up to Dominic yelling, "WAKE UP! Mate is in the shower!" I sat straight up and walked into the bathroom. I stripped off my clothes and jumped in behind her. It turned out to be one of my best decisions. Emmaline marked me.

I saw stars and Dominic took over howling with joy. I heard the pack join howling right along with me. I had no idea how she did that, she didn't bite as hard as a human would. Dominic snarled at me, "WHO CARES? CLAIM MATE!" I was going to. My little mate wasn't getting out of bed for a while.

Someone knocked on my door. I was too far gone to use my sense of smell to figure it out. I linked Dylan, "I swear to god if that's you I'll..." Dylan interrupted, "It's Lacy. She wanted a ride to school. I'll take her, since apparently I have the time. As if I would go up there with those noises. I swear you've just forgotten who I am as a person. It offends me." I answered, "Have her get Emmaline's homework." Dylan snorted.

I kept her in bed all day. When we stopped, we had a heated discussion about Chelsea's situation. I didn't know how to articulate a she wolf's heat. Chelsea was already claimed, but her heat called to unmated males. Chelsea was in pain and needed Peter, but any male would've made the pain go away. We protect mated she wolfs so no one gets killed for mating with a mated she wolf during this time; it's the animal instinct in us. I didn't think she would understand. I was certain Haley would agree with her.

We changed the subject until Dylan said we had things to do. I passed my mom on the way out. She winked at me, linking, "Thanks for getting me more time to get her ready for tonight." I didn't see my dad, but he was around because he linked, "I'm getting you one of Isabella's cakes. Your mom didn't know how Emmaline would get ready on time being at school." I snorted. Isabella Miller was the former Beta Female of our allies, Yellow Hills. Her son, Beta Matt Miller had taken over for his dad with Alpha Chase Daniels. Her cakes were delicious and famous.

I walked to Dylan at the end of the hallway. I told him, "I need to shift and do a quick run." Dylan snorted, "What do you think we had to do before the ceremony? Your wolf is making our entire edgy." I stopped walking, "That's why you came to get me?" Dylan retorted, "Do you have any idea how anxious everyone is right now? Besides, Haley popped in and left you a present that you just have to see." I nodded, "When we get back." Dylan smirked. He seemed rather gleeful.

We stepped outside and shifted. Dominic was thrilled to get to run. By the time we made it back I felt much more settled. Dylan shifted back and grabbed some shorts for us. He broke the silence, "Can you feel that? The tension in the air has drastically reduced." I laughed, "How much paperwork do I have?" Dylan assured me, "Your dad and I worked on it. It's pretty light today because everyone's really excited that we are getting a new Luna." I nodded and walked into my office. The first thing I saw was a black sheet covering something in the middle of my conference table.

My dad spoke, "I really do want to adopt Princess Luna Connors." I snorted, "Her dad is a king who loves her. Let's not cross King Titus." My dad laughed, "I'd offer to if he didn't. Of course, I won't cross the Hackura king. I was just teasing."

I lifted the sheet and my jaw dropped open, and I let the sheet hit the floor. I stared in shock at Christy's disheveled appearance. She had no eyebrows and her hair had been cut unevenly. Dylan handed me a note, that I read.

My lion,

I'm sorry that I didn't have this back to you sooner. I was quite busy and Chriscovetous here entertained my Hackura sisters in law for days. They were having such fun I didn't want to end it and spoil their entertainment. Maybe when you look at this you will remember not to trust people who aren't me about who's a fairy who's not. ALSO, it's a good reminder that yours and Eric's psychotic ex's are FUCKING PSYCHOTIC.

Haley

I couldn't help but laugh. It was so Haley. I told everyone, "Well, this isn't a great place. I'll move it to the end of table." My dad yelled, "WAIT!" Dylan just laughed. I felt an electric jolt go through me. Haley voice echoed, "HELL NO, MY LION! The Reminder of bitches be crazy will remain until I say otherwise!"

My dad said, "I tried to move it earlier too." I laughed, "Does it always say my lion, or does it change based on who touches it?" Dylan answered, "It always says my lion. Because our little assassin fun sized fairy princess is deadly but adorable."

I called Eric. He answered, "Lucas, long time no talk. Do you already miss me?" I laughed, "I have a head on my table that I'm unable to move." Eric retorted, "Welcome to the club, Lucas." I sighed, "How long will it be here?"

Jackson laughed joining the conversation, "Eric still has his head. So, I don't think you're getting you are getting rid of it anytime soon." I laughed, "Haley is quite the inventive little thing, isn't she?" Eric laughed, "That she is. She's popping to you for Emmaline's ceremony. She's on a tangent about how other people should be invited to a Luna ceremony not just Alpha's. Can you have someone guard her while she's there? They wouldn't have to do much. She's popping with Blade as well per our agreement." My dad's eyes bulged. I assured him, "I'll assign a warrior to help keep eyes on her." We hung up.

I saw Emmaline's school book. She had accidentally dropped it and the page stuck on the periodic table of elements and the numbers caught my eye. NO WAY. I pulled out my clue and looked at the numbers.

Dylan stated, "I just love her so much. Her pranking skills are next level. The periodic table of elements. It's too good. What's next? I can't wait. Yes, I can. No, no I can't. I must know what's next Lucas. Decode away."

I instructed him, "Write down what I say and we will see if it makes any sense." Dylan nodded and got a piece of paper and a pen. I said, "28 is Ni, 6 is C, 19 is K, 75 is Re, 7 is N, 44 is Ru, and 7 is N." Dylan started laughing. I asked, "What does it spell?" He showed it to me, "There's no D in the periodic table so she improvised but I see what she's saying." I growled. I grumbled, "Nick Red Run. He fucking knew I'd be calling him."

I had Dylan call him. Nick's amusement came across quite clear in his tone, "Lucas, I really do think we need to schedule a daily call." I growled, "You have my next clue and a piece of my gaming collection." Nick asked, "And why do you think that?" I sighed, "Because the damn periodic table of elements tells me so." Nick barked out a laugh.

Eventually he said, "Sorry, Lucas. She agreed to pop to our pack next Wednesday when her biggest group of partial fairy's show up. We are going to see if my unmated wolves could find their mates. She even said she could do it twice a year as she discovers more partial fairies." I rolled my eyes, "She'd probably have done that for you anyway."

Nick Admitted, "It was also a little fun. I want my own fairy for the pack. Anyway, I do have a piece of your collection and your next clue. You have to come here to get it though." I groaned, "Fine. I'll be there tomorrow afternoon. What piece of my collection do I get back?"

Nick laughed, "I am not allowed to tell you. Nor am I allowed to give you the clue over the phone. The rules were very clear." I growled "Of course they were." Nick was far too amused when he responded, "See you tomorrow, Lucas." I closed my eyes, "See you tomorrow, Nick."

Lacy came by to see Dylan then headed upstairs to the girls. Dylan and I went outside. I gave my approval for the setup. Several members of our pack were visibly excited and getting ready. Dylan informed me, "I cancelled trainings for the evening. I figured you'd be ok with that." I nodded, "Yes, just this once it's fine." Dylan smiled, "While you're in Red Run, I'm going to propose to Lacy."

I smiled, "You already talked to my dad? Good for you. I'm happy for you, both of you." Dylan teased, "Yes, I talked to him. It's amazing what one can get done when you don't make the beast with two backs all day, boss man." I laughed, "It was well worth it." I turned my neck so he could see my mark.

Dylan admitted, "That looks better than I thought it would. Human marks usually take a little longer to heal, and they are usually blunt looking." I smiled, "Yes, but Haley taught mine how to conjure teeth like ours." Dylan snorted, "Of course she did. We fought the most unimaginative fairies in our war with them. I'm embarrassed for them. I must speak to king post haste. They do nothing for his image." I rolled my eyes.

We decided to stay outside as people began to trickle over to talk. Dylan told me, "Haley does in fact take her duties as a fairy godmother seriously. Emmaline has shoes and jewelry from her for today." I didn't get to respond before Haley popped beside me with her Hackura guard. Blade nodded to me and faded away. Several members excited chattered about seeing a Hackura guard.

I linked Alex Hanes, "Make sure to watch out for Alpha Eric's mate." He answered, "Like I could get to anyone before her Hackura guard, but as you say Lucas." I replied, "Thank you." I turned to Haley, "I hear you got Emmaline shoes and jewelry." Dylan cut in, "And they are perfect. She loves them, you adorable fun sized fairy you."

Haley smiled, "I hope she likes them. In the Cinderella movie, the shoes seemed like a very important fairy godmother step." Dylan bit his lip then replied, "Yes, the shoes are important in the movie. Vital even." Haley smiled brightly, "I knew it! Eric said it wasn't necessary, but I told him the story hinged on the damn shoes!" I laughed, "You are right. I figured out your next clue."

She shrugged, "I know." I huffed asking, "How do you already know?" Haley smiled, "Nick called. He assured me that you had figured it out correctly and didn't cheat. I can't have you cheating, or you get punished." I snorted, "I don't even

want to know. I didn't cheat. Why can't he give me my clue over the phone?" Haley tilted her head asking, "What fun would that be, my lion?"

Dylan started eating popcorn. I sighed, "I could figure it out faster." She explained, "You only got the last one over the phone because the telephone was the clue. The periodic table of elements clue had nothing to do with phone." I admitted, "That's true."

Dylan interjected, "I love you so much, our special princess." She smiled greeting, "Hello, my friend Dylan. How are you?" Dylan laughed, "I'm fabulous. It's been a good day." He lowered his voice continuing, "I'm proposing to my mate soon. I got the ring last night." Pack members went crazy when they heard him.

I linked everyone, "Lacy will be out her shortly, and no one will ruin our Beta's surprise." Everyone calmed down. Haley gave Dylan a quick side hug barely touching him, but she still did it. She told him, "I am very happy you, Dylan."

He was surprised, but smiled, "Thank you Haley. I can't wait to put a memo together for your wonderful super possessive mate about this momentous step in our relationship. We are side hug level. The memo practically writes itself." He would too. He was probably going to craft the memo on his phone right now.

I said, "Why don't you walk Emmaline to me Haley?" She looked at me, "I was just going to stand out of the way. Eric said Luna ceremonies are usually just for pack members and the Luna's family." I laughed, "We can't have a dual princess related to my Luna do nothing. Walk her to me, please. It would mean a lot to her." Haley smiled, brightly, "As my lion and cousin wish."

The second I saw Emmaline in her white dress, I imagined a different kind of ceremony. I longed to make her my wife. I had waited so long for her, but I would wait just a bit longer. I wouldn't rush her; she was young still. She looked stunning, and her jewelry was clearly from Faerie. It had that gleam to it.

Dylan linked me, "Dum dum da dum." I laughed responding, "I should be singing the wedding march to you, my friend." Dylan answered, "I think you'll be close behind me. You do have a ring after all." I quickly said, "When she's ready."

Emmaline's ceremony was perfect. I nearly came when she said I do. Dominic and I wanted her to be legally mine. Dominic pointed out, "Mate is emancipated. We could propose. Humans can even understand that." I reminded him, "I don't want to rush her." Dominic sighed, "Then maybe we should start bringing up whether or not she is ready once a month. Or every week, I'm flexible." I laughed, "Of course you are big guy."

The ceremony ended. Dominic was practically flying because Emmaline rode on his back. We ended up taking her to our favorite place to think. Dominic and I took turns with her. Eventually, I took back over. “Dominic, I want to be sweet with her now.” Dominic huffed, “I could be sweet. She ASKED for it to be harder.” He had a point. One thing that brought me up short was when I felt a power within her and she glowed green for a second. I would have to ask Eric if he knew what that meant.

With her dress back on, I nearly had her pop us to Vegas. I had a ring and she had a dress. Haley would probably do way more than take my gaming collection if I eloped with Emmaline though. I ran us back to the house.

My parents were waiting inside. My mom gushed, “That was a beautiful ceremony, Emmy! You looked stunning!” Emmaline replied a little awkwardly, “Thank you... mom..” My mom beamed at her though. Emmaline linked me, “I’m kind of hungry.” I smiled and said out loud, “Let’s go eat, my little Luna.” She laughed as I led us to the kitchen.

Gemma was there with plates of food. She greeted us, “I thought given the late lunch she had the Luna maybe hungry after all this.” She set out some chicken with a salad and curly fries. I raised my eyebrow at the fries. Gemma linked me, “They seem to be a favorite of hers from the snacks I made for her and Chelsea’s study sessions.” Gemma started to leave.

Emmaline said, “You know I want you still call me Emmaline, Gemma.” Gemma laughed, “If that’s what you want, Emmaline.” Emmaline smiled, “Yes, it is.” Gemma nodded and we ate our food. I told her, “We are going to Red Run tomorrow to get my next clue.” Emmaline laughed, “So it spelled Alpha Kyle. No, that wouldn’t work. She must have spelled Nick. She had use the N twice too, but you’d know Ren Run was really Red Run.” I stalled my fork midway to my mouth, “You knew what the code was?” She laughed, “I knew you needed the periodic table of elements to solve it.”

I grabbed her and started tickling her. I asked, “You didn’t share that because?” She was laughing, “You didn’t ask!” I stopped tickling her, “Next time, I’m asking you, little Luna.” She stuck her tongue out at me and kept eating.

Eventually she told me, “I guess I’ll get up early and do two trainings back to back since we have Haley’s party tomorrow too.” I nodded, “You could do that if you wanted.” She nodded, “I do. I missed my two today since... we stayed in bed all morning into the afternoon. Then your mom wanted me to relax and get ready.” I laughed, “As you should’ve. Dylan cancelled evening class as everyone was very excited to celebrate you becoming our Luna.”

When we finished eating, I took her into the movie room. Told her, "Pick anything you want to watch, baby girl." She smiled and ran over to the shelf grabbing a movie pretty fast. I asked, "What did you pick?" She blushed, "I know it's silly, but I picked Enchanted. I saw trailers for it, but never got to see it." I looked at the movie. I'd never seen it; it must be Lacy's. I told her, "Whatever you want." Her face was so joyous, I didn't even care this was a cheesy love story. She drifted off to sleep almost immediately as the credits rolled. I picked her up and carried her out.

My mom smiled when she saw us, "You take such good care of her. Just how I raised you to do. You make me very proud." I smiled, "I love her, mom." My mom smiled, "I know. She loves you too." I teased, "I heard you're getting a son in law shortly."

My mom's eyes shined, "I'm so happy for Lacy and Dylan. I'm so glad she's finally home. I missed her so much Lucas. I'm... I'm a little mad at her for not asking me or your father any questions. Hell, ANYONE besides Christy about Alpha Hammond wanting her. Eric would've fought with you, and everyone knew that then and still does now. No one would want to come against you and Eric together."

I sighed, "A vampire king did just come against us both." My mom rolled her eyes, "Because he got fairy blood into his system. It makes them lose all their marbles." I sighed, "I know that. You're entitled to your feelings, and they are valid. But you'll need to find a way to process them. Or it will fester into something far worse than we've already been through," She sighed. I told her, "I'm going to get Emmaline into bed. Goodnight." She smiled and kissed my forehead.

I carried Emmaline upstairs. I pulled her close into me. I linked Dylan, "When does my new bed get here?" Dylan grunted, "Monday. Goodnight." I shivered not wanting to think about what he was doing and fell asleep holding my mate.

I woke up to Dylan shouting in my head, "WHY ARE YOU STILL SLEEPING? WAKE UP!" I sat straight up, "What's wrong? Are there rogues?" Dylan snorted, "No, you have a Beta proposing to your sister, and he's nervous. Get out here and run with me." I groaned, "I might have to demote you from my best friend to a horrid wolf I tolerate." Dylan snorted, "No one else would be your best friend. I have sent far too many memo's over the years. No one shall dethrone me. Please man, Fang is pacing."

I sighed, "Fine, just remember how I got up this early for you." I came outside to find Dylan literally pacing. I said, "Dylan..." He exhaled, "Finally." He shifted before I could say anything else. I sighed and let Dominic take over catching up to Fang, which was easy. I linked Dylan, "She literally put a picture of the ring on your pillow. She's your mate, she will say yes. Calm down."

Dylan seemed to calm slightly, “That’s true. I didn’t think of that. She did put the picture on my pillow. What if she didn’t mean now though? What if she doesn’t like my plan?” I sighed, “I regret this already, if there’s anything kinky in this plan you WILL edit it out. What’s your plan?” Dylan shifted back, so, I did the same.

Dylan asked me, “Do you remember that little restaurant our parents used to take all of us to?” I nodded, “The Italian place about thirty minutes away, yes I do.” Dylan nodded, “I reserved a table there for lunch, and I’m having pack members set up rose petals on the baseball field where we used to play.” I frowned asking, “Why the baseball field? I mean I know we spent a lot of time there, but Lacy didn’t play.”

Dylan kicked the dirt, “Just remember you asked that question. It was the first place I kissed Lacy, when she was fifteen. That Troy Aikman prick was flirting with her. I saw them over by the concession stand. You and I were playing a pickup game just by chance. I got so mad seeing him flirt with her. I walked right over to her, she said hi to me, I pulled her to the side and kissed her. I told her not to talk to Troy anymore, kissed her again, then walked away.”

I laughed, “I know. I was wondering if you were ever going to admit why you have him in such hard warrior classes.” His jaw dropped as he yelled, “YOU KNEW?” I laughed, “I have very good eyesight, just like you, you big doofus. I saw you grab someone and pull them behind the concession stand. You came back smelling like my sister. I put the pieces together.” Dylan huffed, “Well no one likes a know it all, Lucas.” I laughed, “You do. It tends to be you.” Dylan puffed up, “Well, that’s one for the books. You admitting I know all. I like it.”

We shifted back and ran for an hour. When we got back, I ordered him, “Go. Do paperwork to distract yourself until you leave for your date.” Dylan smiled, “This is the only time I will thank you for paperwork duties, Lucas.” I smiled, “I’m really happy for you both.”

I ran upstairs but Emmaline wasn’t there. I showered and went down to join Dylan. He jerked his head up. I explained, “Emmaline is doing back to back trainings today. I figured I’d do paperwork with you.” Dylan nodded.

We worked for several hours when both our mates came running around lunchtime. Dylan kissed Lacy, “You look beautiful.” She laughed telling us, “I was the guinea pig for Emmaline’s fairy practice today. Valerie got her makeup and hair done too.” Dylan shot a grateful look at Emmaline, who said, “They were very kind to let me practice on them. I’ve only worked on myself. Lacy said you guys had a date today. I wanted to try out my skills on someone else, it seemed like the perfect opportunity.”

I laughed grabbing her hand, “Come on, little mate. We are going to Al’s then Red Run.” As soon as we got in the car I asked, “How did you know Dylan was proposing today?” Emmaline shrieked, “HE’S WHAT?!” I laughed, “You really just wanted to work on snapping hair and makeup?” Emmaline nodded, “Oh gosh! I should’ve done something more elaborate with her hair!” She hit my arm, berating me, “Why didn’t you tell me?” I held my hand up in mock surrender, “I just found out, and we had some stuff going on here recently.” She huffed and crossed her arms.

We reached Al’s quickly. Emmaline ran inside and hugged him, Liz, and Frank before we sat down. Both of us ordered Frank’s burger. We smiled at each other. I said, “Let’s eat quickly so we get back in time to pick up Dylan and Lacy for Haley’s party.”

Emmaline seemed somewhat surprised, “They are still coming for Haley’s party?” I considered, “I think so. I guess we will see. They could be busy.” I linked Dylan, “Are you guys still coming to Haley’s party?” Dylan answered, “I plan to. It depends on what Lacy wants, but you know I never miss chances to mess with Alpha no fun.” I replied, “Understood.”

Emmaline and I got back in the car. We were listening to a rock station when her eyes drifted shut briefly before she shot up. I laughed telling her, “You can take a nap, baby girl.” Emmaline smiled, “I have a better idea.” She undid her seatbelt. What the hell?

I was stunned to see her hand reaching for my zipper on my pants. I growled, “Baby girl, what are you doing?” She said, “I’m still hungry. I think the Lucas special will hit the spot. Besides, someone told me he wouldn’t crash because he has great reflexes.” I growled, “I meant if I was looking at you or talking to you, not to... Oh fuck!” She put me into her mouth. I had to focus on the road. I gripped the wheel so tight it started to bow inward, and I came growling. She swallowed everything and zipped my pants and sat back in her seat.

She teased, “All better, I feel full now.” I growled, “You’re going to pay for that later, baby girl.” She snorted, “Jeez, you’re very tense for a guy who just had an orgasm.” I dropped my voice to a deep baritone, “I have so many plans.” I smelled her arousal. I was about to act when we arrived. I got out of my SUV.

Nick greeted us, “Lucas, Luna Emmaline.” Emmaline responded, “Just Emmaline, Alpha Kyle.” Alpha Kyle smiled replying, “Then call me Nick.” Emmaline nodded and we walked inside to his office. On his desk was my R2-D2 Funko pop. I snorted, “That’s the first thing she gives me back? Something that I could replace quite easily?” Emmaline laughed. Nick shrugged saying, “Fairies. What are you going to do about them? They are mischievous little fuckers.” I sighed asking, “Where’s my clue?” He smirked and handed me a piece of paper.

Clue 3: 7-2-7-6-8-7

I yelled, "OH COME ON!" I asked Nick, "Do you know what this means?" He shook his head, "I don't." I thought about the alphabet. I announced, "So with the alphabet it spells g b g f h g. Which doesn't mean anything. For god's sake."

I turned to my mate, "Emmaline, do you know?" She shook her head, "Not at the moment, no." I groaned. Nick said, "You're welcome to sit here and try to figure it out. Marissa is fussing over what to wear to Princess Luna Connors surprise party."

I laughed and my phone rang. It was Lacy. I linked Nick, "You may want to cover your ears." He raised an eyebrow. I put it on speaker for Emmaline. I greeted, "Hi, Lacy." Lacy screamed, "I'M ENGAGED, LUC! AHHHHH!!" Nick covered his ears too late. I smiled replying, "Congratulations, Lacy Loo. You too, Dylan." I knew he could hear me.

Emmaline said, "Congratulations Lacy and Dylan!" Lacy squealed, "You'll be one of my bridesmaids Emmaline!" Emmaline laughed, "I don't think that was a question, but of course I will." Lacy laughed, "It was not a question, future sister in law. I have to call more people. BUT I AM ENGAGED!" She hung up.

Nick spoke, "Convey my congratulations to your Beta. Ben just linked me about it. His Beta texting group let him know. I am glad your sister is back home and with her mate." I nodded, "Thanks, Nick. I'll let Dylan know."

We loaded back up into the car with my Funko pop and my clue. Looking at the time, I had to drive a little faster so I would have enough time for what I wanted to do. I veered off the road close to the border of Red Run.

Emmaline looked at me asking, "What are we doing?" I teased, "We are taking a detour." Emmaline smiled, "To the place I swam laps in to avoid being afraid because you had people following me?" I nodded and parked. We both got out of the car.

I commanded, "Strip, no snapping." Emmaline looked around wide eyed asking, "What?" I assured her, "No one is around, baby girl. I would never let another person see what is mine. Don't make me tell you again."

Emmaline gulped and began to shed her clothes. Her shirt went first then her yoga pants, and her bra then underwear. She covered herself with her hands. I told her, "Don't do that." She let her arms fall to her side. I gazed at her hungrily. I nodded towards the lake, "Go jump in." She looked at me incredulously but went and dove off the dock. I stripped and dove in before she surfaced.

I gripped her waist and felt her surprise and when I surfaced. She asked, “Did you break a land speed record or something?” I smirked, “You haven’t seen anything yet.” I thrust into her. She screamed, “LUCAS!” I laughed, “Shhh, baby girl. There are wolves on patrol. If you’re not quite they can hear you.” She clung to me and wrapped her legs around my hips. It wasn’t deep here so I could stand. I fucked her.

I felt something very powerful building within her. Similar to last night, but far more substantial. Her whole body began to glow blue and a ripple went through the water as she came. I followed quickly after growling my release. Emmaline was breathless. She asked me, “What was that? It... I felt this power. I did last night too, but not like that.” I shrugged, “We can ask Haley. I have no idea.” We got out.

I told her, “Snap us dry.” She did very well. Only my hair was left a little wet. She groaned in frustration. I told her, “Hey, don’t be upset. You’re learning and you’re getting better.” She nodded, we got back in the car, and I rushed home.

I told her, “You’re going to want to snap yourself ready before we go inside.” She easily snapped herself ready. She was now wearing a white, tight skinny jeans with a lace top that was navy blue. I growled, “You look good enough to eat.” She smiled teasing me, “You’re biased.” She jumped out of the car and ran away. I was stunned for a brief moment before I took off after her. I caught her before she opened the door.

I whispered in her ear, “You’re pushing me, little Luna. I’m going to claim you all night long.” She giggled as we stepped inside. Lacy and my mother were jumping up and down, squealing. Emmaline ran over, joining the squealing to look at Lacy’s ring.

I gave Dylan a hug, “You’ve always been a part of our family, but welcome to the family officially Dylan.” He was beaming, “She said yes. Don’t you feel so silly for being worried.” I rolled my eyes, “I told you she would.” We sat and Lacy told the story of how he proposed, and Emmaline was oohing and awing right along with my mother. I looked at my watch and sighed.

I told him, “We need to get going for the party. Are you guys coming?” Lacy nodded and slid her engagement ring off her finger. Dylan growled. She turned to him asking, “Has Haley ever had a surprise party?” I answered, “No.” Lacy continued, “Has she even HAD a party? From what I heard from the earth fairy’s; they were never nice to her. I doubt they’d throw her a party.” I answered, “She’s had dinners with her Hackura family. She didn’t want a party.”

Lacy nodded, “You can send a memo to Black Mountain tomorrow, Dylan. I still bare your mark, I’m yours. Tonight though, is all about Haley Connors. She deserves this.” Dylan sighed, “I really hate your point. Stop being so mature.” Lacy

smiled, “You know you’ll send the perfect memo.” Dylan perked up, “You’re right. It will be full of pizzazz. Alpha no fun will have to call and congratulate me. Yes, you’re so smart. I love this plan.”

Emmaline said, “I could try to pop us there.” Before I could say no Lacy said, “Yes, let’s try it!” She grabbed Emmaline. I could tell she linked her. They popped away. I yelled, “SHIT!” My mom laughed, “They are together, Lucas. It’s alright. It was just a little test and some fun.” I growled, “She could’ve popped with us too.” Dylan seemed torn, “Fairies are such fun, but I do want Lacy to be with me.”

Lacy called Dylan’s phone. The second he answered she teased, “Hey SLOW POKES! We are already here. We have to walk a little bit, but we are going to beat you guys. Have fun on your road trip!” With that she hung up.

I called Eric’s office. The phone was picked up, “Alpha Eric’s, office.” It was Caleb, Eric’s Beta. I greeted, “Beta Caleb, I assume Eric is out with Haley.” Caleb answered, “They should be in a hot air balloon at the moment.” I told him, “My mate and sister popped to the party without us with them. They aren’t quite at your house. Can you...?”

Jackson interjected, “They are being watched, they’re about a mile away. Do you want us to pick them up and drive them back here?” I sighed in relief, “If you wouldn’t mind.” Jackson laughed, “I’ll link Jim. Consider it done, Lucas.” I said, “Thank you both. We’ll see you soon. Goodbye.”

Dylan laughed, “It seems redundant, but SHOTGUN!” I snorted, grabbed the presents for Haley from everyone, and got in the SUV. I grumbled, “So you’re an engaged man, and your mate already gets mine to pop her away from you.” Dylan snorted, “Uh huh. You’re just jealous I’m engaged.” I laughed, “I’m just giving you a hard time, but I am a little jealous. I’m ready for everything with Emmaline. I just understand she is young.” Dylan nodded, “You never know. She’s been alone and had to mature quickly. She’s not a normal sixteen year old, and soon she’ll be seventeen. Rules are different among supernatural’s than humans.”

I nodded agreeing, “True. I just don’t want her to feel pressured. I want her to be sure.” Dylan nodded, “I know. She does want you though. We all hear her moaning your name sometimes. I’ve called our soundproofing guy and chastised him for his lackluster job. Don’t you worry. Emmaline has accepted all of this so far.”

The rest of the drive consisted of Dylan telling me about his and Lacy’s wedding plans. Lacy wanted the same kind of mating ceremony and reception Haley Conners planned. We arrived with twenty minutes to spare.

I walked inside, shot over to Emmaline, and whispered in her ear, “Don’t you ever do that again, little mate.” She smiled, “Oh? Why not? Lacy and I had a lot of fun! Bexley agreed to conjure the dream venue Lacy wants. Plus, we helped set up the party.”

I looked around, “Holy shit it’s like their reception, somehow with more pink.” Dylan squealed, “AND HE PLANNED IT THIS TIME! He hated pink before she came into our lives. Hated it. Oh, I love our fun sized fairy Hackura princess. I do.”

Marcus came up with another man who was clearly a Hackura guard. Emmaline gasped as soon as she saw him. I asked, “What?” Marcus made introductions, “This is Thomas. He’s a member of Haley’s guard.” Emmaline nodded, “I... well... I just...” Marcus tilted his head then smiled, “You know who his mate is don’t you, little soul searcher?” Thomas’ eyes widened.

Emmaline said, “Well, yes.” Thomas asked, “Who?” I sighed, “Her name is Angela Prinpur. I don’t know what she is, but she’s not human. I don’t think she’s a partial fairy though. She has a different... I guess aura. She used to live in Muskogee, Oklahoma.” Marcus was already on his phone.

A portal opened. A man appeared and spoke, “Go, Thomas. I’ll guard the princess with Blade. Haley would want you to go find your mate.” Thomas nodded. He smiled, clapping the man on the shoulder and Marcus. He was clearly grateful. He said, “Thank you, Javi. Thank you, Prince Marcus. I will find my Angela.” He turned to Emmaline, “Thank you, little soul searcher.” Thomas went through the portal with a smile on his face. We all stared as it just disappeared.

Emmaline spoke in a whisper, “That was so cool! Did you see that, Lucas? He just opened a freaking portal! To another realm!” Javi and Marcus laughed, but I was right there with Emmaline. I’d seen it before when they were at King Damon’s. It was still fascinating.

Marcus spoke, “Thomas has been searching for his mate for forty years. He never gave up hope he would find them, thank you Emmaline.” Emmaline gaped, “He doesn’t look forty.” Marcus smiled, “We have a long life span just like fairies, little water duchess. Right along with Demons, the hood, and angels. Of course, vampires, but that is different. Thomas is in his fifties.”

A woman came up behind Marcus. I recognized her from the field that day when Claudia froze us. It was Marcus’ mate, Torvi. She leaned over Marcus’ shoulder, evaluating Emmaline before saying, “So, you are Haley’s little Emmaline. She’s very nervous about you liking her.” Emmaline’s jaw dropped, “WHAT? I love her! I always have, and then I met her and she’s like... even more amazing than I pictured her to be.”

Marcus laughed, “Haley tends not to see that about herself. You make her nervous because she’s trying to make connections. It’s hard for her to see herself clearly.” Emmaline laughed, “Who could not like her? Well, I mean the people she kills probably don’t, but if she wanted you to like her... I mean come on! She’s amazing!” Torvi smiled, “I quite like you, fairy duchess.”

Emmaline squealed in our link. “A future princess of the Hackura likes me! Right? She’s Marcus’ mate. Their souls tell me they are.” I answered her, “Yes, her name is Torvi and she is Marcus’s mate.” She smiled, “One Hackura princess likes me and one is my cousin. I can’t process that. I’m so excited.”

Before I could answer Jackson shouted, “Hit the lights! Eric linked they are coming up the drive.” Emmaline linked me, “Everything Eric did for her today was cute. They had a lot of family time taking the triplets with them until their bedtime. Well and their naps.” I smiled. Haley deserved a perfect day with her little family.

I heard Haley gushing about her day, all the wolves did, and many of us were grinning looking at each other in the dark. Eric was right about the Hackura hearing because they were smiling right along with the wolves. I saw Alpha Chase and his wife, Alpha Sophia. They were friends, but I still wasn’t sure marriage was a move I’d have made. He married Alpha Sophia so her pack would let her lead. Then again, I probably would've if I'd been asked.

After meeting Emmaline, I couldn’t help but see it as a mistake. I don’t think Emmaline would’ve been ok with it. I knew if she’d have been married I’d have lost it, and probably murdered the guy. My focus was pulled when I heard Haley say, “Eric Conners, this was just the best day. Maybe you’ve changed my mind about birthdays.” Eric snorted, “Maybe, my Angel? What else do you need? I’ll do it for you.” She giggled.

Eric growled, “Don’t you pop away from me, Haley Conners.” She giggled again, “Aww no catch the fairy to end the perfect day? You always get so excited and so does Thor. You said you’d do whatever I wanted.” Eric groaned.

Emmaline linked me, “I’m going to have to ask about this game. I think we’ve already played by accident though.” I laughed teasing her “That doesn’t count. You were practicing popping not actively making me chase after you.” Emmaline smirked and threw a wink at me.

Eric walked inside with Haley on his back giving her a piggyback ride. Eric flipped on the light. Everyone yelled, “SURPRISE!” Haley’s jaw dropped as she took in everything. She squealed and kissed Eric hard on the mouth. It was quickly getting heated.

King Titus spoke, “Princess, this crowd isn’t used to seeing people have sex as our people are.” Haley giggled and popped to him greeting, “Hi, daddy!” He gave her a hug, “Hello, Princess. Happy birthday.” Haley was making the rounds saying hi when Lacy and Emmaline drifted away from Dylan and me.

Eric came over at the same time Alpha Chase did. Eric smiled, “Little Chase Daniels. You’re not so little anymore, Alpha.” Chase smiled, “Very true, Alpha Eric. This is quite a lot of pink.” I laughed.

Dylan snorted, “It really is. Does anyone remember a certain unmentionable bringing...” Eric growled, “Dylan, not today. Do not say her name today.” Dylan snorted, “Remember this moment. One day, I will remind you what you forgot a certain someone did, and it will be epic!”

Eric told Chase, “My mate loves pink.” Alpha Chase laughed, “Goddess, I’d hope so. It’s good to see you all again. I’m sorry I wasn’t here to help when all that went down with King Damon.” Eric nodded, “Your dad assisted us, as did your wife. Sort of.” I winced. Alpha Sophia had helped, but she’d pulled people last minute a few times. She didn’t explain it either. Alpha Chase frowned then moved along.

I saw Haley and Emmaline animatedly talking, but as hard I tried I couldn’t hear them. Dylan cleared his throat, “We need to get going.” Eric offered, “Your room is always available to you, Lucas. We have rooms open Dylan and Lacy could stay in.” Dylan gave me a pleading look. He muttered, “You would be all gracious and kind. Your face is even doing that terrifying splitting thing again.” Eric laughed.

I linked Eric, “Dylan and Lacy got engaged tonight. Lacy took the ring off before my mate popped them to your territory. Lacy wanted tonight to be all about Haley.” Eric nodded, “Congratulations, Dylan. Tell Lacy that was very kind of her. For agreeing to marry you and not wearing the ring.”

Dylan snorted, “Annnndddd there he is. We missed you. Stop splitting your face like that. It could become permanent.” Alpha Chase asked Beta Matt, “Does Beta Dylan mean him smiling?” Beta Matt replied, “Yes, he does.” They both were snickering.

Eric turned to me, “As far as Emmaline popping away from you to get here, get on punishments Lucas. Haley seems to find it fun to pop away in interesting circumstances, but rarely when she’s mad anymore. I’d get that point across. Quickly.” Dylan snorted, “She still pops away from you all the time. I’d say your sexy bedroom punishments aren’t working.”

Before Eric could answer, Haley popped over to us with Emmaline and Lacy. Haley pouted, “Why do they have to leave? We are having fun! Emmaline told

Thomas who his mate is. Thomas went after his mate, like a valiant warrior.” Eric laughed, “They have to get home. They have an hour drive, Angel.”

Haley’s eyes blazed, “I swear... I should make them drive back. What if I just pop the fucking doubting Derrick’s back? Emmaline and Lacy can stay and I’ll pop them back later.” Laughter came across the room. Marcus hollered, “That’s not the saying, little sister.”

Haley threw her head back groaning, “Why? It’s an alliteration. This realm LOVES alliteration.” Marcus shrugged. Haley said, “Fine. I’ll take you all back.” She grabbed Emmaline and Eric’s hands while the rest of our group followed their lead.

Dylan was reeling from his first popping experience. Haley said, “We will talk soon cousin, my lion, my friend Dylan.” Eric growled. Haley laughed continuing, “And my new friend Lacy. Thank you for coming to my party. It was quite fun, I think. Oh, and congratulations Lacy and Dylan. That’s a beautiful ring on the desk, and it had better be yours. Because if it’s my cousin’s and I didn’t get a phone call that my lion proposed I’m going to leave him in another realm with no way out. Dylan did mention he bought a ring recently though, so I do hope it’s yours Lacy.”

Eric roared with laughter. Lacy went over and put her engagement ring back on her hand. She announced, “It’s mine. I didn’t want to steal your thunder.” Haley tilted her head, “I haven’t met a wolf who can control the weather like me. That’s very interesting.”

Eric explained, “Angel, it means she didn’t want to take attention away from you at your party.” Haley frowned asking, “What the fuck does that have to do with thunder?” We were laughing as she popped them away.

Dylan recovered first. He threw Lacy over his shoulder and ran out of the room. I did the same thing and had Emmaline up in our room in a flash. I set her down. She quickly scampered away. I let her know, “I have so many things to punish you for, baby girl.” Emmaline gulped. I smiled, stepping forward as I stalked towards my prey.

