

Lesson Number Two

Emmaline was all smiles when walking through the front door of the house with Lucas after her ceremony. We talked to his parents, ate, then watched a movie. It was the type of normal evening I'd been missing for years.

I could swear I'd just shut my eyes when my alarm to get up went off. DARN! I hadn't meant to fall asleep like that. I looked around my room, smiling as I realized Lucas must have carried me to bed again. He also put me into his shirt. I must have been out like a light. I quickly got ready for training.

To my surprise, Lacy was already at the gym. I greeted her, "Hey, I didn't think I'd see anyone from our group here this early." Lacy grumbled, "Dylan freaking tossed and turned all night, I'd finally had enough. I just got up. We have a date today anyway, plus the party tonight. I was going to get up at later and take another class at mid-morning, but now will do."

I laughed, "Maybe we could go watch a movie in between classes. Or we could do back to back." Lacy groaned, "No to back to back. I promised Valerie to be in the one at nine thirty with her." I laughed, "Sounds good to me!"

It was another cardio day. I went over to Alex Hanes, "Would it be possible for me to swim laps instead of run? I'm not positive, but I'm fairly certain no matter how much I run; I'd never be able to outrun a werewolf."

Alex barked out a laugh, "No, I wouldn't recommend that running be your response. If you're fighting a werewolf, pop far away. Predator instincts rise up when we get a chase. Go swim your laps. I'll get you when it's time to stop."

I nodded then ran over to the pool. I snapped myself into my swimsuit and swam until Alex came to get me. He smiled as he told me, "I hope you won't be too tired for your swim lessons here in a little bit with the pups." I wanted to smack myself, "Thanks for reminding me. I'd forgotten that I had that today." He nodded, "No problem, Luna. The kids are really excited." I asked, "Call me Emmaline. Could we have it in the pool today instead of the lake?" He nodded, "I don't see why not." I smiled.

Lacy came over, "If you need an extra instructor, I am apparently available." I smiled, "Sure! That will be fun." I conjured some floating devices, pool rings, and little toys that would float on the water. I ran through the lesson with Lacy. We had two hours to kill.

We ran to the pack house to eat a light breakfast. We talked with Gemma for a while. Eventually she said, "You'd best get to the kids, Luna. My mate says they are jumping up and down waiting." I looked at my watch and took off like a shot

for the lake. Once they arrived, I explained, “Today’s lesson will be in the pool at the gym.” They all cheered and we went into the gym not disturbing the training class.

I got into the pool and split them off into three groups. One group was using the floating devices so they could hold onto it but work on kicking. The second group was using the steps into the pool to dive down and grab the ring and come back up. The third group threw their toy and their parents were guiding them under the water to swim to the toy. I watched the groups and told certain parents to let go of their kids because they were ready to swim underwater on their own. I had other kids ready for the lower steps for grabbing the ring.

The class flew by and the kids had so much fun. Everyone got out and the little girl I’d saved at the barbeque came up and gave me a hug. She told me, “Thank you for saving me that day, Luna. The swim classes are fun!” I smiled, “The water is a lot of fun, but we can’t treat it like a playground. It’s more like a street.” She laughed, “You’re funny.” Her mom waved at me.

Lacy looked at her watch, “We need to get moving.” I laughed, “I’ve got this.” I snapped both of us dry. It worked but I was pretty sure that was because she didn’t get her hair wet. I snapped myself into my earlier workout outfit. Lacy laughed, “Try me!” I shrugged and closed my eyes and snapped. I peeked to find Lacy smiling at me. She was missing a shirt, but she had her sports bra, yoga pants, and tennis shoes on. Lacy complimented me, “Not bad!” She ran over and grabbed her shirt.

Valerie walked in. She tilted her head asking, “You guys are here early? Normally, you are running in almost late.” I Laughed while Lacy explained. Lacy and I got paired off with those who had attended the earlier classes to go over fighting sequences with the heavy bag. Valerie had to get in her cardio. My muscles were quite sore after the lesson, and I desperately needed a snack. Lacy didn’t want anything too big because she had her date with Dylan today.

Gemma fixed us some firecracker wraps. I was in heaven the moment it hit my mouth. “This is perfect! A little spicy and small. This hits the spot, Gemma!” Gemma smiled at us as we left to go to Valerie’s room.

When she opened the door, I was surprised. The first time I’d seen her room it was pretty clean, now it looked like a tornado had come through here. Lacy gasped, “VALERIE! I have never seen your room look like this.” Valerie groaned, “I have a FaceTime date with Ryan. I can’t decide what to wear.” Lacy squealed, “Is this the first face to face?” Valerie nodded.

I asked, “Well, what do you have in mind?” She pulled out her phone and showed me a picture on Pinterest. She explained, “I want this look, but nothing I have

looks like it.” Her picture was of coral skinny jeans with a fitted white and blue striped racerback tank top and white flat sandals. I thought really hard about the outfit and closed my eyes. I took a deep breath and snapped.

I opened my eyes to gasps. Valerie was in the outfit, but not with the shoes. I yelled, “DARN IT! I’ll try again for the shoes.” Valerie laughed, “I don’t need the shoes silly! It’s Facetime. This is amazing Emmaline! Can you snap my room clean?” I closed my eyes again and snapped. I got all but three outfits put up. I was actually impressed with myself about that, it had been a mess.

Lacy squealed, “My turn!” I smiled asking, “Can I do your makeup? I’ve done my own, but I haven’t tried someone else’s.” Lacy nodded, “Do a natural look, with a smokey eye in browns.” I sighed, “Do you have a picture? That seems to work best.” Lacy searched on her phone then showed me a picture. I let everything slip from my mind but the picture and snapped. I opened my eyes smiling, it worked. Her makeup was done exactly like the picture.

Valerie squealed, “ME NEXT!” I laughed and did her make up then the girls moved onto their hair. They both did half up casual. Lacy asked, “Can you get me something like this outfit?” I looked and she’d pulled up a dress where the top was striped navy and white, then had a belt that was coral and flared out into a coral bottom. I laughed, “Coral, blue, and white are popular today. Ok, I’ll try.” I closed my eyes and concentrated and snapped.

Lacy laughed. I opened my eyes and frowned, instead of the bottom being coral it was blue. Frustrated I yelled, “Drat!” Lacy laughed assuring me, “It’s awesome! I love it. It’s perfect for today.” I sighed, still frustrated with myself.

Valerie’s phone rang. Lacy grabbed me, pulling me from the room, but not before I heard Ry say hi to Valerie. Everything in me wanted to run and snatch her phone and see him. I missed him. But at least this way I get to hear him from time to time on the phone. Eventually Valerie would meet him, and she’d probably move to California. Then my gateway to Ry would be gone, along with my friend.

I let Lacy drag me all the way to the main house. We walked into the office. Dylan seemed grateful I helped Lacy get ready with fairy magic. Did he think she would take too long to get ready for their date? When we left and were in the car, Lucas explained what today was, I had to look out the window. I was surprised by a slight surge of jealousy I felt about Lacy’s impending proposal.

It was silly. I knew Lucas would propose if I asked him. I shouldn’t have to ask though, right? It takes the surprise away. Was I ready to get engaged? I looked over at Lucas as we pulled into Al’s. I loved him, and we were forever. I of all people know you never know what tomorrow holds. Your life can change in an instant, but I wanted Lucas I knew that. Holy crap on a cracker. I wanted Lucas to

propose! I really felt like there was a part of my brain that should panic about the light speed at which our relationship was traveling. I wasn't though, I was just content that I'd realized what I wanted. This was freaking weird.

I got out of the car in a daze. I walked in and hugged Al, Liz, and Frank and sent Frank a wink. He smiled, that was our signal when I wanted double fries. When we laughed, I got lost in a daydream. When I snapped out of it, I decided to enact my daydream. Lucas' threat of retaliation excited me. Not that I understood. He couldn't go down on me while driving. I shrugged it off.

When we got out of the car, I was hoping to see Chelsea and Sam. They didn't appear to be around though. Eventually, Lacy called Lucas. I was pretty sure his whole pack heard the news. I was really happy for her, but part of me thought it should be me. This was such a weird day. We left and I was letting my brain swirl with thoughts of how to tell Lucas I was ready without telling him and ruining the surprise of the proposal.

Lucas' detour was amazing. His commanding tone was so hot. I briefly thought his revenge was to get me hot and bothered with his tone and watch me swim laps. Thankfully, he joined me. While we were together, I was feeling more powerful, as though being with him was pushing my fairy side. I could feel the water, as if every particle was charged touching my skin. I had things to ask my cousin.

When we got back in the car my thoughts came thundering in again about marriage. I felt extreme sadness that my siblings couldn't come see me get married. My emotions were all over the place today. When we got home I ran over to Lacy and Debbie.

I looked at her ring as she showed me her hand. I grabbed it, "It looks just like what you wanted!" Lacy smiled, "I KNOW! He follows instructions so well. It's the Beta blood." We both laughed. Debbie said, "You showed him what you wanted?" Lacy nodded, "I might have left a picture of it on his pillow." Debbie laughed, "That's so you. I can't believe my little girl is getting married." We all sat down.

I asked, "How did Dylan propose?" Lacy smiled, "Our families used to go to this little Italian place together, and he took me there for lunch. He had already ordered all my favorites. He even brought his own ice cream so I could have my favorite flavor, bubblegum."

She blew a kiss to Dylan then continued, "Then we left, and he took me over the baseball fields he and Lucas used to play at. I spent SO much time there before I left. Dylan took me to the spot he first kissed me. He asked if I remembered our first kiss, and I told him that of course I did. I turned back around and there he was down on one knee with the perfect ring."

I smiled at her, “That’s a cute story. I’m so happy for you guys!” Lacy didn’t want to wear her ring to the party, not wanting to take the focus from Haley. I didn’t think Haley would care. I wanted to practice popping. Lacy linked me, “Pop us out of here before they say no. Or Dylan goes Beta male about my ring.” I grabbed her hand and thought about Haley’s backyard.

Lacy needed a minute after we popped. I kept a hand on her and looked around. I could see Haley and Eric’s giant house in the distance and sensed wolves nearby. Lacy gathered herself and looked up. She declared, “We aren’t quite there, but this is great! The car ride here sucks!” She called Dylan.

When she hung up, I sighed, “I guess we should start walking.” Lacy snorted and sat down, “Someone will be coming for us shortly. Why get sweaty walking?” I frowned asking, “Why would they come for us? I can’t imagine Eric or Haley are here. It wouldn’t be a surprise party if she was here now.” Lacy laughed, “My brother will call, and oh what do you know; a truck.”

A man with a tall blonde girl, who could be a model rolled down his window from the road. He yelled, “Well hey there Little Lacy! You’ve gotten bigger! You must be Emmaline. Hop in.” Lacy immediately ran over so I figured it was fine and got in.

The blonde girl was scrutinizing me. I squirmed uncomfortably. Jim laughed, “Miles, you’re making her nervous.” The girl sighed. Lacy asked, “Jim, you found your mate too?” The girl snorted, “He better have since I have his name and a giant ass wolf on my neck. I just had our first child too.”

Jim laughed introducing them, “Yes, this is Duchess Miley of the Hackura. Miley this is Lacy, and you must Emmaline, right?” I nodded and gulped, “Yes. Did I offend you, Duchess?” Miley shook her head, “No, but my main bitch is all tied in knots about you liking her. You do like her, right?” My eyes went wide. Who was she talking about? I feel like a lot hinged on this answer.

Jim laughed again, “Miley means your cousin and hers, Haley.” I said, “Oh, yeah. I love Haley, she’s great! Like my own personal fairy godmother.” Miley’s lips twitched, “She did say you said that. She’s obsessed with proving she can be a good fairy godmother now. She asked Aiden if that was a thing that she never knew about in Faerie. He laughed... For hours.” I asked, “Are they?”

Jim told me, “According to Aiden, no. To which Haley said that was a good thing. She was glad she didn’t have one, or she said she’d have to have Miley cunt punt a bitch to Texas.” Lacy and I looked at each other confused. I linked Lacy, “What’s a cunt punt?” Lacy shrugged. Maybe it was a Hackura thing.

When we pulled up to the house Eric's brother Jackson greeted us, "Lucas wasn't happy you popped away, little Luna." I shrugged, "I was practicing, and I offered to bring them with us. He's the one who didn't grab my hand."

Lacy and Jackson laughed. I said, "Can anyone tell me why everyone keeps calling me little? I'm not little." Jackson laughed, "We call all the new Luna's little." Seemed silly but alright. At least it was an answer.

We walked inside. An older woman came over, "You're early, so you get to help set up." I frowned. She wasn't going to ask? I swear I saw a hint of disdain in her eyes, but I must have imagined it because it was gone in a flash. Her soul seemed annoyed. Like the party annoyed her. Why?

I took in the room, "Um, what else could you possibly fit in here decoration wise?" It was wall to wall pink. There were literally walls of balloons that spelled out Happy Birthday Haley in pink glitter words ON the balloons.

Jackson cleared his throat, "Mom, you didn't introduce yourself before demanding set up help." Ok, so it wasn't just me, he caught that too. The woman laughed, "I'm Eric's mom, Cassandra. My son wants pink, pink, and more pink. He wants everything to be perfect for Haley's birthday." I frowned. Just Eric? It seemed like a lot of people around here did. Well, everyone except her.

Lacy and I got put on the helium machine, blowing up more balloons. I observed Cassandra. She seemed to enjoy fussing over every single detail while acting like everything was such a huge imposition.

I was distracted when a pretty, pregnant woman walked over. She smiled, "So you guys got put on balloon duty. I swear Eric is so cute with Haley wanting all this stuff for her."

Two other girls walked up laughing. One said, "Honestly Jessica, you didn't even introduce yourself to them. I'm Molly Connors, this is Shana and Jessica Connors. We are Eric's brother's mates. Of course, we know little Lacy Lyons. I'm guessing you are Luna Emmaline."

I smiled quickly telling her, "Just Emmaline. Do you know what Eric and Haley did today?" Molly sat in a huff. She told me, "Sorry, we are all at that stage of pregnancy sitting after some time on the feet is best. I do know what they did." Lacy asked, "Did you guys get pregnant at the same time on purpose? I've heard of human cycles syncing but not heats. In fact, there's a lot of pregnant women walking around here."

Molly laughed explaining, "Ah well, Haley released some magic accidentally while her and Eric were being intimate on the mountain. It caused all mated she

wolves to go into heat producing these little pups.” I smiled because I already knew that Haley had done that.

I asked, “What are you guys having?” Molly smiled saying, “Twin boys for me. Jessica is having two more girls, and Shana is having a girl and a boy.” I observed, “Twins run in the family then, obviously.” I wondered if Jackson and Eric were fraternal twins. Molly smiled, “It’s the fairy magic. Until our kids, there were no twins on either side of the family. Lacy and I gaped as all three girls laughed.

Molly continued, “As for what Haley and Eric did today, I’m sure their morning started off with a bang. Then Eric packed up Haley and the pups, and they went out for breakfast. He had the restaurant reserved for just them. When it was time for the triplet’s nap, Bexley popped to them with Jackson and took them. Eric then took Haley ice skating, and then had pizza delivered from her favorite place in Chicago, which the triplets were popped in for. Eric rented out an indoor pool for all of our family and hers to play in. Haley had never been down a water slide.”

I gasped, “WHAT?” Molly nodded, “I know! It’s unbelievable. Then the triplets were popped out, and we kept them here the rest of the day. Eric took her to a fancy steakhouse for dinner, and to a special dessert place afterwards. Then he took her to a fancy hotel room that he’d rented out the presidential suite for a nightcap he said. I’ll be impressed if they made it to their hot air balloon ride. They are heading back here when that’s over. Oh, and he had presents that he gave her at every stop. I think Jackson told me for the last one he got a pink diamond band to add onto her wedding ring set.”

Dang. Eric was definitely setting a precedent for the other Alpha’s. Lacy laughed, “Eric just doesn’t do anything small.” Bexley came over giggling. Lacy excitedly spoke to her, “I hear you helped conjure the chapel here. Can I show you my vision? I could pay you. Our pack lands don’t have what I want.”

Bexley squealed and they went over details. It was going to be stunningly beautiful if Bexley could do it. Bexley agreed and said she would loop in Haley to help. They walked away and more people started to arrive. I smiled when I saw Lucas. I don’t know why, but his reaction made me want to keep popping away from him. It seemed to really get him going.

When Marcus came over with Thomas flashes of Angela Prinpur, who I went to school with briefly in Oklahoma, flashed through my head. He took off to find his mate. I couldn’t contain the joy that it brought me to bring them together. He looked so happy and hopeful for the news. More of Haley’s family was worried about me liking her. I didn’t get. She was great.

While we were waiting for Haley and Eric, I spotted a couple standing together. I frowned. I knew they weren’t mates instantly. The man seemed calm, but his soul

seemed agitated and angry. His face didn't show that though. I was surprised to see a ring on the hand of the woman next to him. Her soul was a mess of emotions. Something big was going on with her. I was confused. Why would two wolves get married if they weren't mates? I focused on them. They weren't chosen mates either. I was pretty sure. In fact, he seemed upset with her. She seemed just upset in general.

I linked Dylan, "Are those two chosen mates? I can tell they aren't mates, and I'm pretty sure they aren't chosen mates either." Dylan replied, "Right you are, my little Luna. They are just married." I frowned. My soul searcher side didn't like this at all.

When Eric and Haley came in, I was certain they were going to have sex right there. The King of Hackura stopped them. HOLY CRAP ON A CRACKER! The KING of the Hackura. Dusty, Ry and Katie would die if I could ever tell them that I saw him. I might even meet him, that was just surreal. With Haley in his arms, he looked much less fierce than I thought he would. As soon as Haley popped away, his eyes went hard and he was scanning his surroundings. That was the man I was expecting.

I began to float towards Haley with Lacy at my side. I reached her and she hugged me, "Hello, cousin and Lacy!" I smiled, "Happy birthday, cousin." She smiled, "Thank you. It's been the most amazing day." I nodded, "I heard. Did you make your hot air balloon ride?"

Haley giggled, "I had to pop us there, but yes. I've never been in one before! It was such fun." I told her, "I have a fairy question." Haley chanted her charm so no one could hear us. I was pretty sure I could perform that charm at this point.

Haley said, "Ask away, Emmaline." I smiled, "So after my Luna ceremony. Lucas and I were... umm... in this meadow and we... well.." Haley smiled, "I got it." I nodded, "Ok, so I felt this power building in me when I had my moment it like exploded."

Haley's jaw dropped. She explained, "You unlocked your full fairy earth powers. I'm so sorry, Emmaline. I would've warned you, but I didn't think it could happen until you reached fairy maturity. It's not a bad thing at all. I just would've told you, so you didn't have to worry." I sighed in relief, "So that's what happened in the water then too." Haley squealed, "You unlocked your full water fairy powers too?! HOLY SHIT!" I said, "I think I must have, the power felt much larger in the water. It was like I could feel every particle of water, and it created ripples and a really big wave."

Haley's eyes widened as she asked, "A wave? How big of a wave?" I thought about it then answered, "It was pretty large, the dock got soaked." Haley blinked several times. She told me, "I'll have to do some research. I'm pretty sure you've got some kick ass powers we can train on." Lacy smiled, "My future sister in law is going to kick ass!"

Haley raised her eyebrow and narrowed her eyes on my finger. She asked, "Future as in Lucas will ask one day, yes?" I didn't answer, but Lacy did, "Yeah, one day." Haley's eyes narrowed, but she let it go. I distracted her by telling her about Thomas going after his mate, and she was thrilled.

She sighed in frustration, "Eric linked me that your mates say you have to go. I feel like I just got here." I frowned. I didn't really want to leave yet. She popped us to the guys. Lacy linked me, "Any chance she knows it's doubting Thomas not doubting Derrick?" I shook my head replying, "There is not a single chance she knows the right saying." She grabbed on to Lucas so that Haley could pop us back home.

When Haley spotted the ring on the table, and I could feel her anger simmering beneath the surface in her soul. Her face was the picture of calm though. I wished I could do that. My emotions were always on my face for all to read like a book. I got caught up in Haley being able to control the weather. Excuse me? Can I do that too? That would be so cool. Like if I forget my sunglasses one day bring on the clouds. I could make snowballs and stuff appear. Could I make it snow? How cool would that be?

She popped away, and things quickly got heated. In our room upstairs Lucas was eyeing me like his prey. Lucas stated, "Take your pants and underwear off." I immediately did as he said, remembering earlier he didn't want to repeat himself. He praised me, "Very good, baby girl. Bend over the bed." I complied quickly. His hand smacked my ass so hard I yelped. It was somehow both painful and arousing.

Lucas growled, "You won't pop away from me like that again. Do you understand?" I argued, "But I offered to bring you." He brought his hand down again then asked, "Do you understand?" I gasped, "Yes, Lucas." His hand came down again, and he corrected me, "Say yes, Alpha." I repeated, "Yes, Alpha."

I was surprised at how much that turned me on. I could feel my wetness dripping onto my thighs. Lucas groaned, "Fuck. I can't even resist you when you smell that good." He entered me from behind. I was screaming his name within minutes. He flipped me over onto my back. He told me, "If this gets to be too much say apples." I frowned, "Apples?" Lucas nodded, "That's what will make me stop." I nodded confused, "Alright."

He started thrusting into me again, but he took his hand and lightly squeezed my throat when he thrust. I arched my back off the bed, this was so hot. He continued doing that until we both came, and he came back with a wash rag to clean me up.

He asked, "Was that ok, baby girl? Did you like it? Did you hate it? Not care?" I inhaled deeply, "I liked it. I don't think I would like any harder though. That pressure was great." Lucas nodded and we went to sleep.

I woke up early to train. It was another cardio day. I swam laps. When I finished, the whole pack seemed to be waiting for me to speak. I got out of the pool and asked, "Is everything ok?" One of the warriors asked, "Is it true, Luna? Did Beta Dylan and Lacy get engaged?" I laughed, "Come on now people. That's a question for your Beta couple." Everyone huffed but walked away.

I tried to pop to Lucas. I did a little dance when I ended up right next to him. He looked so lickable. I straddled him, leaning down to lick his mark. He growled low and deep. I attempted a sultry tone, "I want you, Lucas."

His eyes snapped open, and he rolled on top of me. He asked, "Do you now?" I nodded and he slid into me. He rocked us back and forth, not slow but not fast either. He put a hand under my hips and I arched into him. My nipples were touching his chest. That slight movement of having his hands under me, had him hitting that perfect spot within me. I clenched my legs around him digging my nails into his back.

He groaned, "I love you, baby girl." I replied, "I love you too, Lucas." He kissed me deeply before he pulled out. He told me, "That's a wonderful way to start a Sunday." I smiled agreeing, "I'm a fan." I looked at the clock and jumped up, "I've got to get to my second training. Remember I'm going to the mall with the girls today. Oh, and the pack is abuzz with news about Lacy and Dylan. I didn't spoil anything, but they are quite curious."

Lucas smiled, "This is nothing to how they will be when we get engaged." My heart sped up before Lucas added, "When you're ready." I opened my mouth to tell him that I was thinking that would be sooner than he thought when Lacy burst in the door. She grabbed me, "Come on! We have to get to training so we can go shopping! Pop us there, little fairy!" I laughed and blew Lucas a kiss which he caught.

The gym went silent when we appeared in the middle of the mats. Lacy held her hand up for a high five, "Perfect accuracy. You're getting better!" Everyone gasped and surrounded her, all clamoring to look at her ring. Someone squealed, "It's true! You and Beta Dylan are getting married!" Lacy smiled, "Yes, we are."

Alex Hanes his throat, “There, now you all know. Let’s get to it.” Lacy had to do her cardio, so I got a different partner to fight. It was a good thing Haley had taught me not to drop my hands from my face or I’d have taken a few shots to the nose. It was the most intense fight I’d had.

Finally, Alex declared it a draw. Everyone was smiling except me. I thought I’d gotten better at fighting. Lacy came bounding over to me, “Now you’re taking on the top warriors and not losing, and your fairy powers are getting more accurate. You are quite the firecracker! Let’s go!”

We ran outside and jumped into an SUV. I snapped myself and Lacy into new clothes. Valerie was waiting in the backseat for us. I asked, “Whose car is this?” Lacy shrugged, “It’s one of Lucas’ SUVs. I’m commandeering it for our shopping excursion. Our escorts are going to be traveling behind us.”

I frowned asking, “Chelsea and Sam can’t come?” Valerie explained, “Chelsea’s meeting us there. Peter’s dropping her off, and I’m sure he will have pack members guarding her. Drake’s refusing to let Sam out of his sight, or in crowded places until after her heat.”

I asked, “Can Chelsea go into heat again or something? Why does she have guards?” Lacy laughed, “She won’t go into her heat again that quickly, no. I’m sure Peter is going to go all Alpha male on her though.” We played music and sang at the top of our lungs the whole way there.

Chelsea was standing outside the mall waiting for us with Peter wrapped around her. I gaped when I took in her appearance. Chelsea was glowing just like my half-sister Maribella, and all the pregnant pack members I’d seen at Haley’s party. I knew without a doubt that Chelsea was pregnant.

Chelsea squealed and hugged everyone. I didn’t know to do. Peter started to leave and I panicked. I ran after him yelling, “Peter, wait!” He turned with a question in his eyes. He seemed to realize why I was following him and smiled, “Don’t worry, Emmaline. I’m not upset you pelted me with snowballs and hail. You’d better go catch up to the girls.”

I frowned. He didn’t understand like I thought. I asked, “But you have people guarding Chelsea, right?” Peter’s eyes narrowed, “I do. Why?” I sighed, “I just... well... good. That’s good.” He studied me and nodded before he walked away.

I caught up to the girls. I told asked, “Lacy, can you and Valerie go to that store you took me to with the silk sheets? You mentioned Lucas would like those. I want to hit up my favorite store, and I’ll take Chelsea with me.” Lacy agreed, “Sure, I know what colors Lucas likes too.” I nodded and handed her some of the cash I’d

brought with me. She squealed, "I can get you lots of bed sheets with this. Come on, Val!" They left us.

Chelsea asked, "Why did you get rid of them? Peter linked me saying something was up with you." I shuffled my feet. Chelsea pulled me over to a bench. She crossed her arms, "Out with it." I asked, "How close is your protection?" Chelsea shrugged, "Close enough." I pressed, "Close enough to hear us?" Chelsea nodded. I spoke the words I'd heard Haley say, "Make sefre space unheard."

Chelsea's eyes widened, "You're learning Fealish?" I nodded, "I have a book I haven't opened yet, but I've heard my cousin say that a lot so we can talk freely. You know fairy's see a glow." Chelsea cut me off, "Yes, of pregnant... oh my god... oh my god! Are you saying?" I nodded, "You're glowing Chelsea. Are... are you happy?"

Chelsea was crying, but she gave me a hug. I was hoping she wasn't upset I'd said something. Chelsea told me, "I'm so freaking happy!" She looked over and waved someone off. She told me, "Come on. My protection is getting antsy."

We walked around together. I got three pairs of California king sized sheets. I'd had to link Lacy asking what sized bed Lucas had; hopefully, he stuck with the same size. Chelsea and I were walking back to go meet up with Lacy and Valerie when a man who was clearly a fairy walked up to me.

I linked Chelsea, "He's a fairy. I'm shocked our shadows are letting him approach." She replied, "I am too actually. Peter's instructions were very specific." The man stopped in front of me, "Hello, Duchess." He grabbed my hand and kissed it. I pulled it away as quickly as possible.

I stated, "Haley said no one could meet me if I didn't want to meet them." The man pulled back and paled at the mention of Haley's name. He offered, "For relatives yes, which technically I am I suppose. I am Halber. I wanted to meet you, only meet you cousin. I will take my leave; I sense others here. Keep your eyes open, little cousin. Your help is not where it seems." He walked away leaving Chelsea and I speechless. What did his warning mean?

Lacy and Valerie caught up to us. Lacy asked, "Who was that?" I sighed, "Another cousin of mine, apparently. He's going to train me, but he warned me about other fairies." Just at that moment a voice came from behind me, "Aren't you just stunning? Come away with me so I can pleasure you immensely, duchess."

I turned around as my friends growled. Unsurprisingly, it was another fairy. I told him, "Sorry, I'm taken. We were just leaving." He grabbed my arm, and I used a move Haley taught me hitting him in the face. I screamed bloody murder knowing

that would get attention he didn't want. Security came running, Lacy explained the situation and they took him away.

He told me, "I'll see you again, duchess. You are delightfully entertaining." I shivered then I recognized a pack member following behind them. He linked me "I'll get his name, Luna. We can file a restraining order. Fairies have birth certificates here. Your cousin, the princess, will want to know his name as well." I linked him, "Thank you."

We walked out and got into the car with our purchases. I got in the back so Chelsea could sit in the front. She was so excited, and asked Lacy about her proposal. Chelsea linked me, "I want to tell Peter about the pup first. Can it be our secret for now?" I replied, "Of course." I was glad she was still part of our pack and we could link.

I looked at the car tailing us and frowned. I asked, "Wasn't the shadow car the same color as ours?" Lacy answered, "Yeah, Lucas has a ton of black SUV's." My heart felt like it dropped into my feet. They all looked at me.

Valerie asked, "What's wrong?" I was terrified. Something was wrong. I whispered, "That's not a black SUV following us." They gasped and the other car began to gain speed. I turned back and screamed as I saw another SUV barreling at ours. I screamed, "LACY, WATCH OUT!" Lacy hit the brakes, but I knew they were going to hit us.

It was as if everything went into slow motion. Somehow, I got ahold of everyone's hands and popped us outside the car. We were off to the side of the road which thankfully was a forest. I fell on my butt when landing, but so did the other girls. We watched as two more SUV's crashed into ours. It rolled several times. Valerie had a hand around my mouth so I couldn't make a sound, and even if I'd wanted to I don't think I could have. I was pretty sure I was in shock.

We watched as men piled out of the SUV's and threw the door off our car, I linked the girls, "We need to run! We are closer to Red Run. Come on!" I took off running, and the girls followed me. I linked Chelsea, "Go! Get to Peter. Get out of here." She replied, "No, I won't leave you!" I hissed, "You are pregnant!" She had tears in her eyes.

I heard growls. Of course, they were wolves. I grabbed the girls and tried to pop to Lucas, but I only got us further down the road. Now was not the time to fail at popping! Lacy gasped, "They are Ducants!" I said breathlessly, "I regret asking already. What's a Ducant?" Lacy said, "They're werewolves that are guns for hire. Their Alpha's name is Ducant. They are trying to kidnap us." I snorted, "Kidnap us? They could've killed us crashing into us like that!"

Suddenly we were surrounded. I asked, “How the hell did they do that?” One shifted and spoke, “Cars. That must make you the fairy Luna since you couldn’t hear us coming.” I attempted a growl, “Luna Fairy DUCHESS.” They looked taken aback, and exchanged glances then shrugged. The same guys said, “A fee was paid for you and the future Luna of Red Run. Those fairies charmed your help away which made things easier for us. Come with us quietly.”

I stepped forward offering, “I’ll come quietly, if you let the future Luna of Red Run go.” All three of my friends screamed, “EMMALINE! NO!” The man speaking laughed, “No we were paid for you both. We will give them both.” I looked around. I was excited there was a pond here. I knelt down and repeated the chant Haley taught me, but the water had only risen a little when a knife flew at Lacy.

I stood to freeze it and yelled, “Lacy, duck!” She immediately hit the ground as I instructed. When the knife unfroze, it sailed past her into one of the wolves that had surrounded us. All hell broke loose, and they attacked. I started pelting them with hail giving the girls enough time to shift. We were doing really well until I saw a wolf sneaking up behind Chelsea.

So many things happened simultaneously. He shifted back and grabbed a knife. I turned to my left and saw a man with a gun about to shoot her. I screamed, “Chelsea!” I popped and was beside her. A shot and a scream rang out while someone screamed, “YOU IDIOT!” Then I heard a pop, “Cousin I forgot to ... NO!”

I used a move I’d learned in training and used the man’s momentum to turn the knife to stab himself. I heard the thud of someone hitting the ground behind me. Chelsea shifted back. I heard someone gasping for breath. The look of horror on Chelsea’s face filled me with dread. I slowly turned around. I screamed when I saw Haley on the ground. Her shirt was covered in blood, and she was coughing up more blood. She took a bullet popping in front of me.

I hit my knees. I put my hands on her wound. I cried, “NO, NOT YOU! You’re going to be ok!” Haley coughed, “Lesson Number two, never turn your back on someone with a gun without dealing with said gun first.” She was gasping for air.

I thought through the EMT trainings, “You probably have a collapsed lung. I studied this with my brother a lot. I’ll snap myself the tools and...” She held up her hands, “No time. I’ll partially heal it and we WILL deal with this fucking shit. These soon to be dead ass motherfuckers are going to feel my wrath.” She stopped wheezing after a moment, but her side was still bleeding.

Haley announced, “Eric’s coming. I’m sure he will have Bex pop him to Lucas with my brothers. Bexley linked me she tried to pop to us and couldn’t. Mother fucking assholes were prepared.” How did she get through then?

Haley continued, “That means Lucas is coming too. I don’t know how far away they are though. My brothers would need to know where I am to open a portal to come to me and I came without my phone for them to track. Damn! I will never hear the end of that one.”

Her breathing was still laboring. She turned around and studied our attackers who were now just watching us. Haley announced, “Well then, you seriously fucked assholes. I don’t have time to deal with you myself, since you **FUCKING SHOT ME!** Assholes! I call upon the earth, sky, and fire to bring the protections of my brother, Aiden, the King of Faerie to my side.”

Someone gasped, “You shot the princess?! Are you insane?! Alpha Eric will kill us all!” Haley’s eyes blazed, “He would but he’s not going to the chance to.” A pop sounded. A startled and scared Aiden appeared. He yelled, “**HALEY!**” He looked her up and down, concern and fury flashing in his eyes. Haley teased weakly, “Yes, I know. I’ve looked better. Your hands are on fire, brother. I see you took my advice and fucked Lucinda inside a volcano.”

Haley started to cough then said, “Fuck it. Let’s just kill them all, big brother.” His eyes started to glimmer like fire. Aiden’s voice echoed around us, “**WHO DARED SHOOT MY BABY SISTER?**” Everyone pointed to the man with a gun who gulped.

Haley spoke quietly to me, “Channel icicles, and use them as daggers. Lacy, make sure no one gets near Chelsea. Valerie, you guard us from our six like the fucking bad ass you are. Got it?” We nodded. Haley stood and curled her hands taking some of their air. She started her tornado which the wolves got stuck in. Several were making gasped choking sounds of their own as the tornado whirled them around inside it.

I focused on my icicles and stabbed a few men with them. When I noticed what Aiden was doing, my icicles clattered to the ground. Aiden was throwing actual fire bolts at the man with a gun. Eventually, he caught him. He grabbed the man by the throat after he thoroughly burned him with his bolts. Now, he was burning his throat with his fire hands. I could see his flesh melting away.

Aiden angrily spat out, “No one harms my baby sister on my watch ever again and lives.” Aiden didn’t stop until the man’s head was burned off his body. Ok then. Haley had killed almost everyone else. She was now fighting with the few left, in hand to hand combat. In as much pain as she had to be, she never stopped moving.

Aiden popped to her side to help. I focused on my icicles again. When they were done, we all just listened to the silence. Lacy's shock came through in her tone, "They really are fierce together. That was earth, fire, sky, and water fighting together holy shit balls." I scanned all of them. Lacy had a busted lip, and Valerie had a black eye. Chelsea had no visible wounds.

I linked her, "You're still glowing." She sighed in relief. Haley spoke in a raspy voice, "Chelsea, did you take any punches or get hurt? I'm not sensing anything to heal, but I'm not at my fucking best right now." Chelsea shook her head, "No, why?" Haley gasped, "I'd have healed you first. Anyone else who needs to be healed is going to have to wait until I wake up. Probably in a few hours. I apologize..." She trailed off to cough.

Aiden looked at her worriedly, as she continued "For the irate mate of mine you're going to have to deal with. Actually, all of your mates will be irate. My Hackura brothers will be furious too. I am truly sorry, big brother." She coughed again. Aiden said, "Heal yourself, sister. I will take care of the girls and you. I have fun handling your wolf, you know this. This is going to be entertaining." He paused then added, "You called on me, little sister." Haley smiled, "I knew you'd come." Tears filled his eyes, "I will always be here when you call."

Haley slowly asked, "Emmaline, remember our lesson for today?" I shrieked, "For the love of god! Heal yourself! I'm not telling Eric you died because you wanted me to repeat something back to you." Aiden laughed. Haley said, "Then you'd better blurt out the lesson really quick." My eyes widened. I talked faster than I ever had in my whole life, "Deal with the gun before you turn your back, always." Haley nodded, "I'll see you all in a few hours, hopefully not days or I am REALLY sorry about Eric."

She would've fallen to the ground if Aiden hadn't caught her. We watched in silence as her side stopped bleeding. I moved her shirt away to confirm the bullet hole and the bruising on her side was going down. Howls, growls, and roars filled the air. I heard car breaks slam. I mused, "They must be at our accident site."

Aiden's eyebrows went up, "Accident? My sister will be distraught, Chelsea did not mention that before she healed herself." I waved my hands, "I popped us out before we were hit. We fell on our butts, but no one was hurt." I raised my voice, "LUCAS! We are over here!" Aiden laughed, "You didn't need to shout. The wolf could've heard you." Ok, he might have a point, but I was in shock.

I saw Eric's wolf first. I wasn't sure how I knew it was Eric before he shifted back to human form, but I did. I tried to snap him clothes. I got him shorts which was not at all what I was going for but hey, I had been traumatized tonight.

He growled and yanked Haley out of Aiden's arms. He whispered, "Angel?" Aiden said, "She was shot and had to heal herself. After the fairy's saved the day of course. You, my cousins wolf, and I do believe I see the current Alpha Kyle and soon to be Alpha Kyle here, are welcome."

Peter ran to Chelsea. I was scooped up by Lucas who was burying his face in my neck. He whispered, "I thought I'd lost you." I held onto him, repeating "I'm fine. Haley saved us." He turned me to face the group. I saw Dylan had Lacy. A member of our pack was checking over Valerie.

Sam came running towards her crying. "VAL! OH MY GOD! I'm so sorry I missed the mall Drake was being all Beta male. You all are ok!" She slammed into Valerie who started crying. Eric's voice became lethal, "How the FUCK did my wife get shot? She just came to deliver paperwork to Emmaline. And what are YOU doing here, Aiden?"

Aiden smiled. Did he have a death wish? He explained, "My sister called upon my protection, and I came right away." He paused before adding, "If I'm being totally honest with you, I have never been more scared in my life. A family's call to protection pulls a fairy stronger than others. Haley addressed her call to me as her brother. I came as fast as I could and killed the one who shot her. I don't know how she got shot. I was summoned afterwards."

Lacy spoke, "Maybe we should get everyone checked out by Dr. Gonzalez while having this discussion." Lucas hesitated. Eric growled, "I want answers now." Another pop sounded, "Oh cousin what have you done to yourself now? You KNOW how crazy your wolf gets..." Now she could pop here? What the hell was going on?

Bexley trailed off when she saw Aiden and gasped, "She... Haley called upon you for protection?" Aiden nodded, "She did." Bexley raised an eyebrow, "Did she address the call to you?" Aiden nodded. Bexley gulped then said, "I see my favorite cousin is covered in blood, but no one seems to be alive that could have done this to her. So, good job Aiden. I'm sure no one else will say that." It didn't appear she was wrong about that because no one said anything.

I looked behind her to see several Hackura's, eyes blazing gold. They must have been in the cars I'd heard. I gulped when I realized all nine of Haley's brothers stood behind Bexley. They were mad. Oh god were they going to kill me. She got shot because of me.

Bexley sighed, "Everyone hold hands to pop on board the fairy express to Dr. Gonzalez so another doctor can tell my beloved cousin what a horrid patient she is. We are going there right, Kujo? Jackson said we were when he linked me you all

needed a fairy ride.” Aiden snorted, “Did you think I wasn’t coming?” Eric ignored him and nodded his answer to Bexley’s question.

Suddenly we were in the pack hospital. Peter held Chelsea’s hair back as she vomited. I wanted to go to her, but Lucas wouldn’t let go of me. Chelsea and Valerie, accompanied by Sam, got a separate room. Lacy, Haley, and I were in one room because I didn’t want to leave Haley. Thank God Lucas had this giant room in his hospital, there were a lot of people in here. I told them nothing happened to me, but Lucas was insistent I get checked out. Dylan was worse, making Lacy get scans of her head because she had a busted lip

Haley’s wounds were continuing to look better and better. Dr. Gonzalez said, “She must have fought after she was shot.” I confirmed, “She did.” Eric growled, “Of COURSE she did.” Aiden smirked, “It’s who she is.” Eric rounded, “Do NOT tell me who my wife is. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE FUCK HAPPENED!” I gulped again. I noticed several blazing eyes were now focused on me.

Lacy said, “Emmaline noticed the car following us wasn’t ours. We turned to look and Emmaline screamed for us to look out as another SUV was coming towards... me on the driver’s side. It was like time slowed down; you know? Emmaline somehow popped us all to the edge of the road, and we watched our car roll. It would’ve hurt Emmaline the most since she doesn’t have our healing, with me in a close second taking the brunt of the impact. When the men got out of the cars Emmaline linked us to run. They only caught up to us because they had cars.”

Lucas’ arms wrapped around me tightly. Lacy continued, “They were Ducant men, Luc.” Growls filled the air. Lucas, and Eric seemed to be having a silent conversation. Lacy kept going, “Emmaline offered... to go with them quietly when they said they were paid for her and Chelsea.”

Alpha Nick roared in anger. I hadn’t even realized he was in the room. Lucas asked me, “Emmaline, why would you do that?” He was furious. I stammered, “Umm... well, I said only if they left Chelsea alone, I would go quietly. They said no.” Alpha Nick sighed, “I forgot fairies can tell.” Aiden grinned. Eric said, “No fucking way.”

Lucas growled, “WHAT?” Alpha Nick announced, “Chelsea is pregnant. My son just linked me, she and the pup are fine. Thanks to your mates. I’m guessing Emmaline told her at the mall because after our men linked us you told her something that had her crying. Peter linked her and she told him that it was nothing bad and she’d tell him when she saw him next. He couldn’t stand it anymore; it’s how we were so close to you guys. We didn’t have a fairy to pop us closer, or a beacon of emotions telling us where you were.” He winked at me.

Lucas was still mad. Lacy said, “It happened so fast. Emmaline started to raise the water level of the pond, but someone threw a knife at me.” Dylan’s roar shook the room. Ok serious Dylan was terrifying. I was going to need big kid eating popcorn Dylan back pronto. Lacy continued on “Emmaline froze it and told me to duck. When it unfroze, it hit one of their guys. It went downhill from there.”

Eric asked, “Lovely. None of that tells me how the fuck my wife get shot.” Lacy winced, “Um... Chelsea was fighting a wolf and this guy snuck up behind her with a knife.” Alpha Nick tensed. Lacy just rambled on. She and I were going to need to work on evasion techniques. “Another guy shifted to human form and pulled a gun. I think he was going for Chelsea’s tail end, nothing vital since they wanted her alive. Haley popped with a file just as Emmaline popped to Chelsea. Haley didn’t have any time to do anything because the shot had been fired and....”

Lacy trailed off and I closed my eyes. I admitted “And I’d popped into the path of the bullet. She popped in front of me to save me. I’m so sorry, Eric. It’s all my fault.” Eric looked me in the eyes, “This is not your fault. Haley would’ve been devastated if you’d been hurt. But I’m still going to be pissed at her for getting shot when she wakes up.”

Lacy whispered, “It would’ve killed you, Emmaline.” I was stunned. Lucas gripped me so tightly breathing was difficult. I asked, “What are you talking about, Lacy? It hit Haley in the ribcage damaging a lung. I’m a lot taller than her. It would’ve hit my leg or hip easily.”

Lacy winced, “Haley popped into the air, and took the shot. It was going to hit you in the head.” I would’ve fallen over if Lucas hadn’t held me up. I felt myself growing pale. Lucas’ voice barely registered, “Emmaline? Are you alright?” I started to cry, “She really is my fairy godmother, and I almost got her killed.” Another pop sounded and we all gasped in shock once we saw who it was.