

Ducants

Lucas stalked towards Emmaline with a purpose in their room. We enjoyed each other and played around more than we had. Once I confirmed she enjoyed everything, we went to sleep. I woke up to find Emmaline's side of the bed was cold. Dominic grumbled, "Mate should stay in bed until we get up." I sighed, rolled to my side, and went back to sleep.

I got the best wake up call. My Luna was feeling frisky. Dominic grumbled again, "We need to change the training requirements so it's only one training session on the weekend. That way we can wake up with mate." He might have a point.

After we finished, Lacy stole my mate. I was left to contemplate the look I'd seen on her face when I mentioned being engaged. I was certain she was going to give me a time frame, but she had to leave before she could.

Dominic agreed, "Mate is ready, I can tell. Go get the ring and propose." I snorted replying, "Even if she was ready, we need a plan first. We need confirmation she's ready, so we don't scare her off." Dominic growled, "FINE! Make your plan today and ask Lacy to talk to her. Or Chelsea, Sam, or Valerie. I'm not picky. Any of them will do." Of course, he wasn't.

I linked Dylan, "What are you doing?" Dylan grumbled, "I'm in your office looking for something to do. We are so efficient. I blame myself. What did I do with my time pre-Lacy? I cannot recall." I laughed, "I'm coming to you with a project." Dylan replied, "Thank the goddess. This is why you're my best friend. Is it messing with Alpha no fun? Because I was trending in that direction." I snorted, "No."

I found him re-organizing the file drawer. I raised an eyebrow, commenting, "We really have nothing else you can do?" Dylan growled, "No we don't. Could we have this problem during the week? Nooooo siree. No, no, we are busy worker bees during the week, and when we have a free weekend, our mates have training and plans. I blame Christy for this mall trip. If she wasn't dead... I might kick her in teeth. She's the worst. She's the thorn in my side. She's dead and still she VEXES me so."

I wasn't going to comment on that because Dylan had never liked Christy; and it turns out he was right not to. I changed the subject, "The pack is desperately seeking confirmation on your engagement." Dylan raised an eyebrow, "I heard Emmaline was at a training session already this morning. Did she not tell anyone? Poor thing, she's so tired she can't form words. Look what you have done to all of us, you Alpha Sleep Tyrant you."

I laughed, “She said she wasn’t going to spill the beans. Or to quote my sister steal your guys’ thunder.” Dylan smiled, “That’s so human and cute. Our Luna is adorable. I will serenade the pack link about her adorableness. I’m sure Lacy will enjoy the moment though.” I agreed.

Dylan asked, “Anywho, what’s your project? Tell me it will take us hours while they go off on their shopping mall bed sheet adventure. Heaven forbid they order online. I mentioned that to Lacy; you would’ve thought I’d suggested she eat beets, as if I forgot she cannot stand those.”

I admitted, “I want to work on a proposal plan for Emmaline.” Dylan’s jaw dropped, “I’m sorry, I need to go find my friend Lucas because aliens have inhabited his body. DUDE! WHAT? Yesterday you were all about her not being ready. Do no worry Lucas! I will find you and save you from the alien inhabitation! Your bestie beta is here for you!”

I rolled my eyes before telling him, “I think she was about to tell me upstairs that she’s ready. If I’m wrong, I’ll have the ring and a plan ready to go.” Dylan asked, “Ok, what ideas are floating around that Alpha brain?”

I sat down then sighed, “If I knew who her siblings were, I’d bring them to her a few days prior so they could reconnect.” Dylan raised an eyebrow, “That’s not a romantic proposal. That’s an emotional overload moment. You are lucky you have me to help you.” I admitted, “You know I’m really not great at this. The flowers and shit is your arena. Eric didn’t even have to propose to Haley so I can’t ask him.”

Dylan snorted, “He’s such a prick. I want you to admit it JUST ONCE! He didn’t even have to propose. He sucks.” I laughed pointing out, “He got her a ring.” Dylan glared lamenting, “AFTER their wedding, before she gave birth to his pups. He got to skip all these nerve wracking stages. I repeat... he’s a PRICK!” I laughed again.

Dylan eyes gleamed as he clapped his hands. He shouted, “Call Haley and ask for her help.” I groaned, “Fine. You are too excited about that idea though.” Dylan just grinned. I didn’t have her number, so I called Eric.

He answered immediately, “Lucas, you have good timing.” I asked, “How was it good timing?” Eric laughed, “I just stopped fucking my mate, and our pups just woke up.” I nodded, “Sure, well as the moron who demanded my pack attend two trainings a day which my mate has taken to heart and is currently not in my bed; I wanted to pick your mate’s brain.” Eric laughed, “Hold on.” He paused for a minute then said, “You’re in the luck the triplets have all conjured bottles.”

I heard him talking to Haley, “Angel, your lion wants to speak with you.” Haley spoke, “How may I help you, my lion?” I took in a deep breath, “I wanted to see if you had any ideas on a proposal for Emmaline.” Haley squealed, “You’re proposing?” I explained, “Eventually, when she’s ready.” Haley snorted, “She’s ready. She was envious when Lacy put that engagement ring on her finger. I swear men wouldn’t notice emotions if they smacked you in the face.”

My jaw dropped along with Dylan's. I asked, “What are you talking about?” Haley sighed, “Eric, you noticed, right?” Eric replied, “I did not, no. I wasn’t looking at her though.” Haley scoffed, “See? Men! She was looking at Lacy’s ring with a little bit of jealousy and longing in her eyes. She’s ready, but I can talk to her if you want. You all left so fast last night I forgot that I have the paperwork ready for her to fill out for her job. I’m popping on over later in the evening.” Good to know. I could have everything locked down so she couldn’t take more of my things.

Haley continued, “As for proposal ideas, Burgess Falls in Sparta would be something her water side would love. Some of my partials have mentioned it. It’s not too far from you, but I could pop you there or something. Take her to a nice dinner where she can get her favorite foods. At least that’s what they do in the movies.”

I cringed asking, “Is there any chance you know her favorite food?” Haley laughed, “Men. I’ll ask her Wednesday at practice and either Eric or I will tell you.” I commented, “I heard you went on a hot air balloon ride. Did you like it? Should I do that over the waterfall?”

you.” I laughed out loud at her explanation.

I told Dylan, “I guess the girls are leaving.” Dylan groaned, “And until you know Emmaline’s favorite food, we are dead in the water with your proposal idea. At least you know Haley thinks she’s ready, and as big of an advocate as she is for Emmaline; she’d probably steal the ring from your safe if she thought you were jumping the gun.”

I countered that point, “She doesn’t know I have the ring.” Now Dylan laughed, “My cute, adorable sleep tyrant you must get more sleep. It’s affecting your cognitive function. She’s smart enough to figure out you have a ring if you’re planning a proposal.”

A second later a pop sounded. Haley stood in front of me holding on to her sons. I smiled as I pointed at the pup, “Which pup is this?” Haley said, “This is EJ. Show me the ring, my lion.” Dylan laughed as he stated, “I love her, Lucas. I just really do.” I asked, “How do you know there’s a ring?” Haley stomped her foot, “My lion, Eric only gave me five minutes. Show me the damn ring we both know you have so I can get back in the timeframe provided.”

I laughed teasing her, “Are you whipped?” Haley tilted her head, “I mean sometimes Eric uses a whip on me, but I can't see how that related to this conversation. He didn't use one this morning, and it's all in good fun. Not like the times I was whipped for torture.” Dylan was howling with laughter. Haley frowned. I called Eric back while Haley tapped her foot. Eric answered, “Lucas? Haley's with you right? Her and EJ should be there...” He trailed off then asked, “Why are you laughing?”

Before I could answer Haley interjected, “I answered his question, and they started laughing. This isn't fair. They are wasting my five minutes. You know what, my lion? I'm just going to conjure the fucking ring. For the record, I tried asking nicely first though.” Haley held out her hand and the ring appeared. She opened it and squealed, “It's perfect! She will love it!”

Eric asked me, “Why did you call me back?” Dylan tried to talk but failed. I managed to say, “I asked your wife, after she gave me her five minute deadline, if she was whipped.” Eric started to laugh. Haley yelled, “WHAT is so damn funny?!”

Dylan managed, “It's an expression. He wasn't asking you about yours and Eric's kinky sex fun.” Haley frowned, “That's a horrible expression. What does that even mean? And kinky? Aww my friend Dylan. You need to sit down and have a chat with my husband if you think spanking with a whip is kinky. I don't even have a sexual history outside of Eric, and I know that's like barely kinky.”

Eric laughed teasing, “I'd be more than happy to provide you with kinky ideas for Lacy, Dylan.” Dylan grumbled, “That's not what I meant. I have kink. For god's sake, that man never cracked jokes until his fun sized fairy entered his life.”

Haley's watch beeped. She told us, “I have thirty seconds left. Here's the ring back. She'll love it. Wolves are very good at picking out jewelry, it's actually impressive. You guys are the concupiscence and jewelry winners. Who knew?” With that she popped away.

Eric said, “Goodbye Lucas. I'm sure you'll see my mate later when she pops in with paperwork. She's very excited about working with Emmaline.” Dylan snorted, “You should have her do your paperwork for you again then. My Beta buddy Caleb would be so happy.” Eric said, “She does help with paperwork when she has time so we can spend time as a family.”

Haley retorted, “Exfuckingcuse me! It's because I'm the Luna, and because you're my mate. I love you, and it's my job to help you. MEN!” Eric laughed, “Well, now I have to go get out of trouble. Talk to you later.” He hung up, but not before I heard several people snort.

Dylan said, "I do know that using whips isn't super kinky." I held up my hands, "Your mate is my sister. All I will say is I'm aware you know about kinky things because we used to talk about our sex lives. That you will NEVER mention it to me again because you're doing them with my sister. Haley is just a very literal fairy. Whom you love." Dylan smiled, "I really do. We need to clone her." I laughed, "She's got a daughter Dylan. Eric very well may have cloned her." Dylan snorted, "His DNA is in there mucking it up." I laughed but didn't elaborate.

My dad walked into the office and paused. He admitted, "I thought you'd be with the girls." I grumbled, "We would be, but they are at the mall." My dad's eyes narrowed, "You don't have them guarded?" I snorted, "Of course I do. They have seven shadows. Five they know about, and two that blend in that they don't." My dad frowned pointing at the door, "I just saw the five guys you normally have on Emmaline get out of their car." I growled.

Before I could get answers, I got a link, "Alpha, it's warrior Renard. A fairy just grabbed Luna Emmaline. He scared her, but she's fine. He threatened her, saying he'd see her again. I'm working with the mall security to get his name so we can file a restraining order." I answered, "Where are the men guarding her?"

Renard was quiet for a minute then replied, "I saw seven guys leave about thirty minutes ago. I stuck around and make sure the Luna was ok." I growled, "Thank you." I barked out orders, "Dylan, get the guards we have on Emmaline in here now! Dad, link mom and see if Lacy has contacted her." Dylan told me, "They are on the way."

My pack members came in looking confused. One finally asked, "What's wrong, Alpha?" I yelled, "WHAT'S WRONG? A fairy just grabbed and scared my mate! He threatened her!" They all growled looking around.

Brad, one of the guards, asked, "In the house? Where is she?" I stared at them astonished while Dylan answered, "Where you left her at the mall with my fiancée. I told you no one gets near them. I think we have different definitions of near. I meant stay with them, but I can see how you could've confused my directive of... don't let people near them. You obviously made the interpretation I meant leave them alive. Oh, wait. That makes no sense."

They all stared at each other in confusion, Brad spoke again, "We followed them home. They walked in the house ten minutes ago." I growled, "Is that magic? It sounds like magic because I REFUSE to believe they are that incompetent."

My dad commented, "It does sound like magic, and you already know fairies were present." I threw a file and yelled, "So they can just charm her guards away leaving her unprotected? Someone get me the fairy king on the GODDAMN phone right now!"

Dylan was on the phone. Someone answered him, “Hello, this is King Aiden’s secretary. How may I help you?” I growled, “I need to speak to the king, now.” The woman laughed, “No, you want to speak to the king now. He is busy. Sunday is mandatory family time. That was the first act Queen Lucinda made after her coronation. It’s an edict and everything. I can have him return your call tomorrow around ten in the morning?”

I yelled, “Ten o’clock tomorrow morning?” The woman responded, “Perfect. Your caller id showed up as Alpha Lucas Lyons, the water duchess’ mate. The king will be call promptly at ten o’clock tomorrow morning in your realm’s time. Thank you for confirming and have a lovely day.” She hung up.

I lamented, “FUCKING FAIRIES! I wasn’t confirming the damn phone call!” Dylan assured me, “I know that Lucas, but I have news....” He trailed off then went to the ground holding his head, I panicked, “DYLAN!?” I ran to him.

He started yelling, “They need help! We have to go! Call 9-1-1!” My heart stopped. I whispered, “Dylan, what’s going on?” Dylan lurched to his feet. He told us, “The girls were in an accident. Or they were going to be. Emmaline popped them out of the car. Lacy linked me in a panic that they were about to get hit.”

I growled, “SERIOUSLY! We would’ve had men right behind them. I’m going to murder a fairy. Where exactly are they?” Dylan answered, “Lacy said they just left the mall.” I hissed and dialed Nick Kyle. He answered, “Lucas, your mate has my son pacing the halls. Chelsea has something to tell him, and we are headed to your house, all because he can’t wait another minute to speak to her.”

I rushed him, “Later you’ll have to tell me what that has to do with my mate. The girls were almost in an accident leaving the mall.” I heard Peter growl, but I continued, “We will be heading in that direction shortly, but I don’t know what cleanup needs to happen. It sounds like on instinct, Emmaline popped them all out of the car.”

Nick, “Well, hopefully it’s not an accident with humans. That could be sticky explanation wise Where did they pop to?” I looked at Dylan. He tried to calmly reply, “I can’t get ahold of Lacy anymore.” I frowned and tried Emmaline. I didn’t get a reply. I told Nick, “I am not sure. I know they had just left.”

A pop sounded. I was greeted by an enraged group of men standing in front of me. Eric and nine Hackura men. I recognized most from Eric and Haley’s wedding. Several were Haley’s brothers, but one was definitely her guard, Blade. All their eyes were blazing. I belatedly noticed Jackson, Darrin, and Harold had come too.

Bexley spoke, "I know Kujo here is pissed because we got thrown back trying to pop to my cousin. I don't know why exactly yet, but Haley's lion; your men over there have been charmed by a fairy." She popped out.

Eric growled, "If Haley got shot because of a FUCKING FAIRY I'll kill every last one of them!" Silence followed his statement. Shot? I linked Dylan, "WHAT?" He seemed frozen. Bjourn spoke, "Where are the girls, Lucas? Haley popped to Emmaline with paperwork. We all felt her pain. She linked Eric she was shot, and we know they are fighting. Someone attacked them. Haley doesn't have her phone for us to track and open a portal to her."

Red Run's roars shook the phone along with my own. I'd forgotten we were on the phone. I spoke, "Nick, we will see you there. They can't be too far from the mall." He didn't say anything before he hung up.

I ran out of my office yelling, "Bjourn, take any SUV or car you want. They all have keys in the ignition." I shifted the second I was outside. I linked my pack, "Every warrior get to me now! Your Luna and Beta female are being attacked." Growls and clothes being shred filled the previously silent grounds.

Thor was right beside Dominic matching us stride for stride. I linked Eric, "How the FUCK did anyone managed to shoot Haley?" Eric growled, "I don't know, she said she couldn't get into details because she needed to fight. It can't be good because she also said she needed help. If this is any sort of fairy fuckery I'm done with peace. I don't care if the king is her brother. He should keep his fucking people in line."

I did not envy that conversation he'd have to have. Eric continued, "It doesn't make sense. Bexley couldn't pop in, but Haley was able to. What could've changed in a few minutes?" I actually agreed, "I will be right beside you in ending peace. We can declare war against full blooded fairies and not partials. Whoever did this will pay. We will find all the answers we can."

After twenty minutes, we heard tires squealing as someone hit their brakes hard. Eric linked, "That will be Bjourn." He shifted mid run and took off towards the main road. I followed suit along with Dylan, who linked me, "There are times I love that obnoxious gets everything friend of ours. When those we love are in danger is one."

Out loud Dylan yelled, "Run like the wind you crazy, murderous, no fun killing machine! Us normal wolves are a mile behind you. You kill whoever you need to before we get there who dared hurt our mates. Rock on with your bad wolf self!"

Eric ignored him yelling, “Bjourn! What did you find?” I strained but didn’t hear an answer. When I caught up, I ran up behind Eric. My heart stopped when I saw one of my SUVs. It had rolled, and the front doors had been ripped off.

Peter Kyle ran up from the opposite direction to us with Nick right behind him. Nick exclaimed, “Oh goddess.” Peter snarled and lunged. Nick grabbed him from behind trying to reason with him, “She wasn’t inside, Peter.” Peter snarled, “Then where the fuck is she?!”

Eric spoke in a hard tone, “Lucas.” I went around to the other side of the car. My heart was pounding so hard I could feel it in my ears. My rage filled me as I read the words painted on my car. I called, “Nick.” Nick and Peter came around to the other side of the car with Dylan. Everyone growled reading the message:

You’ll never see them again.

My eyes couldn’t stop reading the phrase over and over again. Dominic was snarling in my head. The words appeared to be painted in blood. It felt like I couldn’t breathe. Marcus cursed “I swear to god I’m going to superglue her phone to her.”

Eric pointed out, “This wasn’t fairies. I am scenting wolves and witches.” I agreed, “So do I.” I looked at Dylan, “Who would try to take them? Is this simply taking advantage of their guards being charmed away?” Dylan frowned, “Maybe. The message indicates it’s some kind of plan, and they just took advantage of not having to fight guards.” I punched the car’s hood, “Where are they?! BLUE MOON WARRIORS, SEARCH THE AREA NOW!”

I lowered my voice so only the group closest to me could hear, “I can’t lose her after I just found her.” Eric put a hand on my shoulder. He assured me, “Haley would never let that happen. I can feel Haley. I think she’s in that direction.” A few Hackura men nodded their agreement. That was all Eric needed to shift again.

Dylan linked me, “Any other day, I’d say he’s so unfair with his Hackura bond. Not today. No siree. Today, Dylan loves Alpha no fun and his Hackura bond.” He managed to make me chuckle a little. I shifted and took off after Eric. Everything in my world righted when I heard Emmaline shouting. She was safe. They didn’t take her from me. That wasn’t her blood on the car. Thank the goddess.

I linked Eric and Dylan, “Why can’t we smell them?” Eric didn’t answer and his roar shook the trees. Haley was in bad shape. She was covered in blood. I about fell over when I saw the king of the fairies holding a blood stained, unconscious Haley. I linked Dylan, “Family time MY ASS!” Dylan didn’t respond.

I reached Emmaline faster than anyone could've processed my movements. I checked every inch of her for wounds. She was the only one besides Chelsea who was totally unscathed. Lacy had a split lip, and Valerie had been hit hard enough she already had a black eye. They would heal soon though. My anger at my mate, sister, and pack members being in danger was growing.

Dylan linked me, "I want these troglodytes dead, Lucas." I looked around before responding, "They appear to have been killed already. If we find out there's more of them, we will kill them. Anyone who had a part in it will die." Dylan snorted, "We are going to have to fight Alpha Prick over there for someone to kill if there are anymore. If we don't have anyone for him to kill, Alpha Nick may get help with his rogue problem. Alpha Prick looks ready to slaughter all our enemies." He paused then continued, "Haley's shirt is covered in blood. Lacy or Emmaline wouldn't have survived that. If she hadn't popped in..." He trailed off and shivered.

Eric was enraged. Dylan smirked, "Oh good. I know that tone from Alpha Prick. Someone's gonna die. I'd feel bad for them, but alas all my sympathy is out the door. I can't even see it nearby. Death to all the people! Alpha Prick is past the point of being dangerous, he's in murderous territory. He's also getting answers. He's so terrifying. I can't believe you went near the man when his precious fun sized fairy was missing. You must have a screw loose somewhere. I'm getting flashbacks of the pre-Haley days. She needs to wake up, but maybe not until after we get to kill some people. You will ask Alpha Prick to let us have a few bad people, right? I need to kill someone. Lacy's beautiful lip has been split open. Fang is furious. I, myself have no calming words for him. That car wreck would've broken bones. The impact hit the driver's side."

I replied, "I don't have to ask Eric to let me kill someone. We will be killing someone tonight." Eric wasn't taking this well. I linked him, "Breathe. Haley is in your arms." Eric tersely replied, "I'm going to let Marcus superglue her phone to her. She had to rely on Aiden for Christ's sake. He's lucky he came." I doubt anyone really thought he wouldn't.

Dylan linked me, "Um... Is anyone going to comment on the dead guy with burns all over his body who looks like his head was burned off? Because I think the king fairy fire hands was none too happy his little sister was shot." I looked over and saw the body he was referring to. Dylan was right, that was pure rage and aggression.

I linked Eric, "I think Aiden has fire hands." Eric replied, "Haley told him she thought he could unlock his full fire powers if he fucked his queen in a volcano." I responded, "He definitely did, because the body with a gun beside it has burns covering ninety percent of his body." Eric looked over and shrugged. He told me,

“He could’ve made him suffer more.” I shivered; I was certain having your head burned off was quite painful.

Dylan linked me, “As fun as this retailing of PART of the story is, we can get the rest later. The girls need to get checked out by a doctor.” Lacy voiced that exact thought. I teased Dylan, “Are you sharing a brain already?” Dylan stuck his tongue out at me. I looked down at Emmaline in my arms. I noticed for the first time she had blood on her shoes. It clearly wasn’t her blood. By the smell it was Haley’s.

Bexley popped in. Interesting that now she could come. I linked Eric, “You know Aiden will always come if Haley needs him.” Eric replied, “I think he let her be abused as a child by being willfully ignorant and blindly trusting someone who is untrustworthy.” I pointed out, “Fabian was a father figure to him.” Eric clenched his jaw.

Before I could blink, we were in our pack hospital. I linked Eric, “Bexley calls you Kujo?” Eric replied, “She calls her mate Pookie bear, Kujo is better.” I stared at him stunned, “She calls your lead warrior, Pookie bear...” Eric nodded. Dylan was going to shriek when someone told him if he didn’t already know.

I linked Hector, “Put Valerie and Chelsea in the same room. We’ll have Haley, Lacy, and Emmaline in another. Emmaline won’t want to leave her cousin in this state. I want Emmaline and the other girls to get a full checkup.” Hector nodded. He called another doctor who took Chelsea and Valerie off to be examined.

Nick linked me, “I’m coming with you for answers. Someone is dying at my hands tonight. My son was a wreck, and Chelsea is family now. I don’t care what their ridiculous plan is. Chelsea will be moving to our pack house with Peter tonight.”

I nodded replying, “Understood. I think it’s the smartest move. I was going to suggest it, guarding a Luna with another pack’s future Luna is doable. It’s safer for both of them this way. They are too big of a target.” Nick nodded in agreement.

We all hovered over our mates. Hector checked out Haley then linked me, “It’s a good thing Alpha Eric’s mate can heal herself. The bullet ripped apart on impact and did a lot of damage. She would not have made it if she couldn’t heal.” I sighed. Great. I couldn’t ask Hector to deliver that news. I told him, “Don’t worry I’ll tell him.” He visibly relaxed, which drew the gaze of the Hackura and Eric.

I linked Eric, “Hector says if Haley couldn’t heal herself she wouldn’t have made it.” Eric stiffened then replied, “I want answers, Lucas. I have waited as long as I’m willing to.” I was certain Eric and Aiden were two steps away from getting into a physical fight.

Hector linked me again, “I’m going to go out on a limb and say that explaining the amount of pain she had to be in; even with healing some of the damage as much as she could without passing out had to be staggering. Noting that I would’ve stayed on the ground would be a bad idea, right?” I nodded to him. He wisely said nothing.

I linked Jackson, “I can’t have him kill Aiden in my hospital.” Jackson said, “Then someone needs to start talking. You know not even I can stop him when he gets like this. The only person who can in unconscious.” I linked Lacy, “Talk. Before Eric goes on a murderous rampage starting with Haley’s fairy brother.”

Lacy began explaining. Hector linked me, “She is in a shock. It might have been better to let the Luna tell the story.” He might have a point. From her story though, one thing was becoming clear to me. I started to feel anticipation creep into my bloodstream.

I linked Eric, “Not all of them are dead then. My men found three cars. With the number of dead bodies at the scene, there had to be more cars.” Eric replied, “Which poses more questions than answers. Why didn’t we hear the cars leaving?” Before I could answer Lacy told us the Ducant Alpha’s men attacked them.

Dylan linked me, “I told you all THUSLY with my memos that someone vain enough to call his entire pack by his last name was a tool! You don’t call us the Lyon’s pack. We are Blue Moon. Not even Alpha Prick over there does. They are Black Mountain. This separation shows you aren’t as vain as Alpha Melvin Ducant. HIS NAME IS MELVIN!” Dylan had said that about their pack. I agreed, but we’d had no reason to attack them at the time. Being vain wasn’t a reason to attack someone.

Eric looked at me linking, “They all die tonight. They shot my mate and tried to harm yours. I have been waiting for them to fuck up. Valerie probably would’ve been killed. We couldn’t smell because the Ducants’ work with fucking witches. GOD! I’m about to join my mate on team witches fucking suck. I’ll have to ask Aiden why he could pop in along with Haley, but not Bexley. I’m going to guess it’s because she’s not officially a royal. Which will piss my mate off.”

Dominic growled, “Why would mate offer to go with them?” I tried to appease him, “She was protecting her friends I’d imagine. She’s also their Luna. We will talk to her.” Aiden, the wretched bastard smirked at me. I had no clue what

that was about.

Eric linked me, “Lucky us, we have the least selfish fairies in all the fucking realms. Yours offered herself up for her pregnant friend. Mine would’ve done the same. Cheers, Lucas.” His sarcasm matched my attitude.

I was getting the feeling Haley was shot protecting Emmaline, because there is no way she just happened to pop into the path of the bullet. She'd had enough bad luck in her life, the universe just couldn't do that to her.

The story of what happened was confusing. I linked Nick, "Why would they try to stab Chelsea if they were supposed to kidnap her?" Nick replied, "Heat of the moment? Stupidity? Someone not seeing her shift and realizing she was the one they wanted? Maybe they didn't know which ones were Emmaline and Chelsea."

Haley did pop in front of Emmaline. I was not prepared to hear the shot would've killed my mate. Dominic roared in our connection. I shouted in my link with Dylan and Eric, "What THE FUCK did she JUST say?!" Eric didn't flinch but Dylan did. Dylan replied, "I am right here boss man. No need to make anyone go deaf."

A pop sounded. I stared in astonishment, as did everyone else. Nick found words first, "HOLY SHIT! Did a pup just pop?" Eric sighed. His pup looked just like him. I was certain this was EJ, but EJ and Alexander were identical. So really it was anyone's guess. The pup had popped onto Haley's chest. He had tears in his eyes as he wailed, "Momma!" It was enough to break your heart. Eric's face was a mess of emotions as he stepped towards his pup.

He spoke softly, "Alexander, buddy, momma is sleeping. She will wake up later and play with you." He picked up his son who screamed, "MOMMA!" He popped out of Eric's arms back onto Haley's chest. He got a stubborn look on his face and said, "MOMMA, UP!"

Aiden laughed, "I just don't know where your children get this stubborn Alpha male streak, wolf of my sister's." Eric growled at him. Nick tried not to laugh. Dylan was eating popcorn. He linked me, "Just so you know of my GREAT restraint; I'm holding back the knowledge that Alpha Prick gets that exact look on his face when someone tells him he can't have something he wants. I'll just bet little pup of Alpha Prick gets exactly what he wants. His momma will get up, somehow. He's going to will it into being. It's that Conners DNA."

Emmaline pointed at Haley then asked, "Umm guys, is that normal?" We turned back around to see a small glowing bubble around both of them. Aiden and Bexley gasped. Eric grimaced. Aiden asked, "Did you know he could do that?" Eric clearly didn't want to answer.

I offered him a distraction by asking, "What is he doing?" Aiden answered, "He's aiding Haley's healing power. I can tell you if his power rivals his mother's based on how long it takes her to wake up." Aiden looked at Eric repeating, "Did you know?" Eric shortly replied, "No." Aiden smiled, "How evasive, wolf. What do you know?" Eric growled, "I do not owe you answers, Aiden."

Haley's voice broke the tension, "I don't know how long I was unconscious, but of course you two are arguing." She turned her attention to her son cooing, "Hi, baby boy. Did daddy bring you here to play?" Eric lost all interest in Aiden. Emmaline breathed a sigh of relief, silent tears streamed down her cheeks.

I assured her, "She's fine, baby girl." Emmaline nodded and buried her head in my chest. Eric gently took Alexander out of Haley's arms and handed him to Jackson. Then he yanked Haley into a hug. Aiden snapped her a new shirt. She smiled at him over Eric's shoulder and mouthed "thank you." Bexley was staring at Aiden as if she was convinced she was in an episode of body snatchers. Aiden simply nodded at his sister.

Dylan linked me, "Aww, such a cute family moment. For the record, I said mini Alpha pup prick would get what he wanted. Boy howdy was I right. Beta Caleb will receive a SCATHING memo about my lack of notice on the fact that Alpha Prick's pups have powers." I rolled my eyes.

Eric said to Haley "Your son popped to you and demanded that you wake up." Aiden interjected, "It seems he's not quite as powerful a healer as you are, but better than any we have in our realm." Haley rolled her eyes. She addressed Eric first, "So, he's my son now? I'm pretty sure the word you are looking for is OUR son." She turned to her brother, "Aiden, that's because your healers suck ass and I'm awesome." Haley took a step towards Emmaline, but Eric simply grabbed her by the waist breathing her in.

She held out her hands to Jackson. Before he could hand her the pup, Alexander popped back to Haley and snuggled in then promptly fell asleep. She cooed, "You just sleep, Alexander. That probably tuckered you right out." She asked Bexley, "Can you conjure him a bottle, please?"

Eric linked me, "Haley needs food." I linked Gemma, "We need a lot of pizza." Gemma replied, "It's almost like I work around here or something and have for over a decade. The pizza delivery man just left. I didn't feel like making enough pizza for the armies of Eric's pack and ours. I do believe I saw Red Run return with you as well." I told her, "Thank you, Gemma. Can you have some brought to the hospital?" She answered, "Of course."

I announced, "Pizza is on the way to us. Nick, if you'd like to get your son and Chelsea along with Valerie." Nick cleared his throat, "Ok, sure. Are we all ignoring that Alpha Eric's son just popped... multiple times? And... I might have gone insane, but... that pup has a wolf." I glanced at Eric in shock. All of the Connors except Haley stiffened. Bexley had handed Haley a bottle that Alexander was drinking in his sleep.

Haley spoke, "All our children have wolves." My jaw dropped. Haley continued, "As our allies, I would trust that you would keep that quiet and among this group. It's also likely any children Emmaline and Lucas have will have wolves at birth." The room was spinning. Dominic felt pride at the mention of pups.

Emmaline asked, "Don't you all have wolves? Why is everyone surprised that their kids have wolves?" Haley smiled. Peter, who had stepped in the room, answered, "We don't have wolves until we turn sixteen. That's when we can first shift."

I choked out, "Oh god...can they shift?" Eric said, "They haven't yet. We suspect they will be able to shift soon though. As you heard, Alexander can say some words already. They are developing quickly, and their wolves communicate with mine. I don't think it will be long before they one of us shift and decide they want to do that too."

Dylan snorted, "Prick." Everyone turned to him. He yelled, "OH COME ON! You were thinking it, each and every one of you. He's a prick. No, no, he's the KING Alpha Prick." Haley laughed, along with the Hackura. Eric growled at Dylan quietly because Alexander was sleeping in Haley's arms.

Eric glared daggers at Dylan while Haley asked, "So, what did I miss?" Marcus started speaking Latin. She replied a few times. Dylan linked me, "How annoying. I MUST learn Latin. She's annoyed whatever they are saying... No, she's exasperated. These are details my memo must have."

Before I could reply to him Eric spoke, "Haley will be staying the night in my room here if we can't handle this in a reasonable amount of time." Haley snorted, "I can pop us home, Eric." He growled while she belated added, "After I at all the pizza. I've decided none of you get any with your super gluing phones to people ideas. All the pizza is for me, Emmaline, Chelsea, Valerie, and Aiden."

Emmaline laughed. Bjourn commanded, "You are taking your phone with you everywhere you go. FROM NOW ON!" Emmaline shrank into me. Haley sighed, "Ok, Bjourn." Bjourn nodded and seemed to calm down.

I tried to help Eric, "Haley, I'd appreciate it you stayed here to protect Emmaline." Haley raised an eyebrow at me. Dylan said, "Ohhh, she's been around King Alpha Prick so much she's getting the eyebrow down." I shot him a look. Eric linked, "Thank you, Lucas."

Emmaline asked, "Why couldn't you protect me?" I said, "We are going after the Ducants." Dylan coughed, "Alpha Egotistical ass is his new name." I continued, "They took a contract to kidnap a Luna and a future Luna. MY Luna and the future Luna of our ally, who is a current member of my pack." Emmaline's eyes went wide. She whispered, "But Haley and Aiden killed them all."

Aiden smiled explaining, “Not all of them. Just the ones who got out of the cars.” We all turned to Aiden in surprise except Haley. He rolled his eyes, “It’s insulting how dumb you think I am. I am a king, you know. I am coming with you to handle this.”

Now Darrin spoke, “Ok, what’s happening. Where is Aiden? What HAVE you done with him?” Haley frowned. Aiden glared at him saying, “I made a fairy promise to my sister, wolf. I failed her when she was young, I admit that. These Ducants attacked the Princess of Faerie and attempted to kidnap the Duchess of the water Fae. Even if I had no love for my sister, I could not let that stand.”

Haley said, “As the ruler in charge of the partial fairies, neither can I.” Eric tensed. Aiden smiled, “As the ruler of the fairies I’m going to take your revenge for you, little sister. We do still have a partial fairy for you to guard here. They could anticipate our move, and we can’t very well leave her unguarded, can we?”

Haley’s jaw dropped. Bjourn actually gazed at Aiden with a little less hatred. Emmaline spat out, “I can take care of myself.” Haley smiled, “Of course you can. You girls were doing a great job on your own. We just hadn’t covered the lesson about guns yet. In case no one said it to any of you. You are bad ass bitches who held off thirty men. The only injuries sustained by you all were one split lip and a black eye that appears to be healed. BAD ASSES!” All the girls smiled.

Eric admitted, “That is impressive.” Haley smiled, “Run with it ladies. That’s high praise from Thor.” I snorted; she wasn’t wrong though. All the girls sat up a little straighter. I whispered to Emmaline, “I am proud of you, baby girl.”

The pizza came in. I hoped Gemma had ordered enough to fact in the three fairies we had here replenishing themselves after using their powers. Haley initially took ten boxes of pizza, then grabbed five more. She gave those to Emmaline though. Aiden took seven boxes.

Nick linked me, “I have GOT to get a fairy in my pack.” I replied, “I’m sure at the rate we are going you’ll get one. So will Yellow Hills.” The fairies ate in silence. Peter snagged a box for Chelsea who laughed, “I’m not a fairy, babe.” Peter shrugged, “You’re eating for two.” We all congratulated him.

The second Haley finished her food, Eric handed Alexander to Jackson. He grabbed Haley’s arm and clearly linked her. She smirked and popped them away. Jackson snorted, “Hopefully they don’t send your pack into heat. We have things to do.”

I simply echoed Eric’s actions. I grabbed Emmaline when she was done eating. I linked her, “Pop us to your room.” Emmaline closed her eyes then squealed in

delight when she realized we were in her room. I ripped her yoga pants apart at the seams, then shredded her underwear into pieces.

I growled, “YOU ARE MINE, EMMALINE!” I slammed into her and she screamed my name. I slammed her back into the wall. I continued, “You will NEVER willingly agree to leave me again. DO YOU HEAR ME?” Emmaline said, “I’m sorry.. .God! LUCAS!” I came right after her breathing heavily.

I panted, “Logically, Emmaline I know why you said you would go with them, but don’t do that again.” Emmaline chewed her lip, “I’m sorry.” I kissed her hard. When I pulled back I said, “I know. Why is there blood on your shoes?”

Emmaline winced admitting, “I used one of the moves I learned in the training sessions to get the wolf sneaking up on Chelsea to stab himself with his knife.” I was stunned. I didn’t think she realized Haley’s blood had got on her too.

She whispered, “I killed him, Lucas.” I kissed her then assured, “You did what you had to do to save your friends, who are also your pack members. You defended yourself, there’s nothing wrong with that. You need to pop us back, but I want you to know I’m very proud of you, baby girl.”

She snapped herself some pants and shorts for me. That was pointless. I was going to be shifting and fighting. Emmaline quietly said, “Please, don’t get hurt. I don’t want you to get hurt because of me.” I responded, “I’m an Alpha, and I’m going with lots of backup. You were targeted because of me, not the other way around. Normally, I wouldn’t leave you, but I need to handle this. I also need you to be safe, baby girl.” She nodded.

She grabbed my arm and told me, “A fairy told me he wanted me at the mall. I’m scared...” I pulled her into my arms. I told her, “I was linked about the fairy. They can’t have you though, you’re mine. I will protect you with everything I have.” She sighed, “Don’t be too upset with my guards. They were charmed away; as were Chelsea’s.” I grumbled, “I know. Pop us back to the group, please.”

She did as I said. I wasn’t surprised Haley and Eric popped back a second after we did. Haley asked Eric, “You’re really not letting me come with you?” Eric growled, “You’ve already been shot this evening. You’ve reached your quota of shit I can deal with happening to you.” Haley sighed, “Fine.” She grabbed Eric and spoke in Fealish. Aiden’s eyes widened. All of Eric’s men glowed yellow and green for a moment.

Haley turned to Emmaline. She directed, “Say what I just said to Eric to Lucas.” Emmaline turned to me and repeated Haley’s words, “Protect Yim from souti lurks deft Bre goes. Enemjustyi run deep protect Freetra mate Den his men come souti may” My men and all glowed yellow and green.

Nick sighed, “Ben, I’ve got to get myself a fairy.” Beta Ben McAlister laughed, “Yeah, I think you do.” Dylan coughed, “Beta McAlister.” I rolled my eyes. Haley told Nick, “You’d glow yellow, just not green. I placed a protection on Eric when I met him when he went gallivanting off to avenge Jim and Nick’s shooting. That protection extends to his allies when he meets up with them to fight. So, you guys are fairy covered.”

Aiden looked like he’d gotten hit upside the head. Nick mused, “Life with fairies is exciting. You guys add some pizzazz to the everyday, don’t you?” Haley frowned, “Of course we do. We don’t like to be bored.” Dylan said, “I am offended. I have been added pizzazz to everyone’s life here this whole time. The only reason the fairies aren’t a total shock to your system is because of me.” Nick laughed

He turned towards his son. He said, “Chelsea and Sam pack up your stuff. When we get back you’re moving to Red Run, and I won’t listen to any shit about it. Chelsea, you’re carrying my grandpup, and went into heat without Peter. Sam, Drake’s been going crazy thinking the same could happen to you. I don’t know what this newfangled crap you kids are on about, but when we met our mates back in my day; we moved in with them. Get packed and be ready to leave when we return.”

I said, “Let’s get moving.” Eric nodded to me. Haley kissed him then whispered, “Be safe. Not that I gave you a fucking choice.” She turned to Aiden, “Thank you for coming to help me, brother. I really did need you. Be safe.” Aiden hugged her.

Emmaline linked me, “Do you have to go?” I replied, “Yes, I have to meet this with aggression.” Her eyes filled with tears. Out loud she said, “Come back to me.” I kissed her gently then assured her, “Always.”

The Hackura loaded up in SUVs. I linked Eric, “You’re leaving Haley and Alexander here alone?” Eric snorted, “Fuck no, her guard is here.” I sighed in relief, looking back I found Emmaline watching me with wide eyes. I linked her, “I love you, baby girl.” I shifted and everyone else followed suit.

Bjourn yelled, “The race is on wolves!” I linked Eric, “What race? He thinks this is a race?” Eric answered, “He thinks everything is a race. He’s very competitive. He means the race to the Ducants pack house.” I nodded, “Well, then let’s beat him. You know, you could’ve told me about your kids’ wolves.”

Eric sighed, “Honestly, I’ve just been busy. Outside of family, you’re the only one I would’ve trusted with that information. We’ve been dealing with alternate reality shit, and with all the pup’s powers. It’s insane.” I almost stopped running.

I asked, “Alternate realities?” Eric snorted, “Yeah, remind me to talk to you about the mind boggling situation that is the Ribbon. That’s what fairy’s call it anyway.

Emmaline's father explained it all to us. We go into threads of the Ribbon where different choices were made that changed things. I met myself in one when I was twenty-nine. Haley never escaped Faerie, she was caught and given to King Damon. I still didn't get to kill that asshole." I gaped at him. Eventually I responded, "That's... some kind of shit, Eric." He snorted in reply.

We ran as fast as we could. We made it to the edge of the building at the same time as the Hackura did. We shifted back as Bjourn hung up his phone. He announced, "They run their guards every ten minutes. They have twenty men on the perimeter. I see forty right now though. They must have known we were coming."

Marcus spoke, "I'm offended we only rated forty men. They only added an extra twenty guys? Evin and Ubbe could take them out alone." Haley's brothers nodded their agreement. Drake McAlister shifted. He asked, "Dad... Do you..." Beta McAlister shifted answering, "I do, but it's... not possible. Your mother talks to her on the phone every day. She can't be here."

I shifted back to ask, "Who?" Beta McAlister answered, "I smell my daughter's scent. She met her mate before the summer started." His daughter was twenty-two years old. She was really nice too. Beta McAlister continued, "Her mate was thrilled he found her. He's twenty five and was beginning to think she wasn't coming. Allison is expecting their first pup. Her mother keeps trying to nail down a date to come see her, but... we haven't had any luck. Why would she be here?" Alpha Kyle shifted and inhaled, "It's definitely her scent." Drake growled, "I'll tear these assholes apart if they have her."

I joined the conversation, "They are dead either way." then shifted back into wolf form. Bjourn casually commented, "We will handle the perimeter guards." Aiden popped in and smiled, "Good, I didn't miss anything. Haley was right you know, Marcus."

Marcus rolled his eyes but asked, "About what?" Aiden smiled sadly, "When we sat at that table when I first met you, Prince Marcus. She said there was once a time she thought that if she, Arion, and I fought together would be unstoppable. She was right. I've never fought beside her before, she was... beautifully terrifying." He seemed to really be regretting his life choices. The Hackura didn't bother responding.

They left us. We watched in awe as they killed the guards out front in minutes. I linked Eric, "Your in-laws are moderately terrifying." Eric snorted, "At least they like me." I retorted, "They just killed fifteen people in under two minutes." Thor shrugged in wolf form. Eric replied, "They are assassins." I nodded.

Bjourn gave us the signal. I was running beside Eric in a flash. Nick's group was on our tail, Beta McAlister was getting twitchy. We must be getting closer to his

daughter's scent. Our warriors snarled taking their first kills to avenge their Luna. Eric jumped into battle ripping wolves apart. I thought about Emmaline's face, and that these worthless excuses of werewolves almost took her from me. I let Dominic have full control. He was ripping wolves to pieces left and right.

We were inside the building quickly. We made quick work of those that opposed us. The last one remaining was guarding a door to an office. I jumped and ripped his head off, throwing it behind me as my pack howled. I shifted back and kicked the door down.

Beta McAlister roared and charged into the room right behind Eric. Drake and I ended up going through at the same time. It was a tight squeeze. Alpha Ducant tilted his head greeting us, "I did not think I would see more than Alpha Eric tonight. Well, that's not true. I kind of figured Alpha Lucas would come with him, but I did not anticipate more. A mistake I won't make again." I growled, "You won't live long enough to correct it." Dylan said, "Yeah, Alpha MELVIN!" Several people snorted.

Alpha Ducant smiled, "I think you'll be too busy to worry about me." I linked Eric, "What the hell?" Eric gritted his teeth, "Haley has a bad feeling. Let's just kill him and go." Eric strode forward, his intent clear. Jackson killed two men before they could reach him, and Eric killed another.

Alpha Ducant taunted, "Ah, Ah, Ah, I brought her to my office because you've always been a fair man, Alpha Eric. You'd never let an innocent pregnant she wolf die." Beta McAlister roared, "Touch my daughter, and I'll kill you." He turned to his daughter asking, "Allison, what's going on? What are you doing here?" Allison's eyes were wide. She begged, "Daddy... daddy, help me, please." Eric closed his eyes. Beta McAlister, "It's going to be ok, sweetie."

Alpha Ducant smiled, "How sweet. To answer your question, Beta McAlister about twenty years ago the Alpha of the Green Valley pack needed a contract done. He promised us the mate of his Beta's son." Drake growled interrupting, "Archer would NEVER give you my sister!" Alpha Ducant just smiled, "No, he wouldn't. He wasn't supposed to know we had her, but he came home early after we'd subdued her. She was very well trained; it took fifteen of my men to finally take her down."

Beta McAlister growled but the Alpha continued, "Her mate's in a cell downstairs. We inject him with a little bit of silver and wolfsbane when he gets out of hand. Before you say it, his father doesn't know about this either. The Alpha told him they'd decided to take a trip before he's the official Beta of the pack."

I linked Eric asking, "What do we do?" Eric smiled, "Nothing. We let the fairy king do something." I spoke out loud, "You're hiding behind a pregnant she wolf?"

I suppose the Ducants pack are known for being sad excuse for werewolves. Of course, they model their Alpha. Why did you come after my mate?"

Alpha Ducant shrugged, "It was good money." I growled, "Offered by whom?" Alpha Ducant laughed, "Our contracts are anonymous, but someone really wants both of them. I don't know who offered the contract for your mate or Peter Kyle's. We thought it would be a simple contract to complete. Two jobs done for the price of one since your mates are friends."

Peter growled, "Do you even know our mate's names?" The Alpha shrugged, "No, we were given their pictures. If it's any consolation, they paid quite well. The contract on Peter Kyle's mate is fifty thousand dollars. Alpha Lucas though, your little fairy's is one hundred thousand. I couldn't turn it down." I growled and Peter's hands balled into fists.

Aiden popped inside. He grinned, "I do believe you've given us all you can then, wolf." Alpha Ducant startled, "You brought a fairy with you?" Aiden smiled, "Not just any fairy. I am the Fairy King, and they did not bring me, I invited myself. Tsk Tsk, is that wolf holding a needle to a pregnant she wolf? Is that why we are still here, Haley's wolf?" Eric nodded.

Aiden frowned, "Sorry, but that's dreadfully boring. It was much more exciting when the gates were being stormed and wolves were being ripped apart." Eric started to growl. Alpha Ducant turned, smug. He taunted, "Is your little fairy princess Luna telling you what's happening? Now you see why you'll be too busy for me." Eric growled, "Aiden now would be a FABULOUS time for some fairy fucking hijinks. A demon, who happens to be the brother of the one from the Hood mission, is attacking Lucas' pack that's left behind." I cursed, "FUCK!"

Alpha Ducant, "Yes do be on your way. He came at an opportune moment when some of my men returned from their failed mission. He paid to take over the contracts, and all I had to do was keep you busy. Someone in the Hood leaked it that your little Luna Princess killed his brother." Eric growled, "She didn't kill him." Alpha Ducant shrugged, "That's not what the Hood leak is saying."

Aiden flicked out his hand. The wolf holding a needle to Allison was thrown through the wall. I stared at him, astonished. Aiden smiled, "I know my sister can do cool things, but I am a king. My ability to call the wind is stronger than hers. Which is impressive because hers is quite strong, but again I'm a King. This situation just got interesting again. I'm popping to the action to fight beside my sister, again. We will show the demons what happens when you cross fairies who control all of the elements." He popped out.

Eric and I reached Alpha Ducant at the same time and ripped his arms off on opposite sides. Drake clawed open his chest and ripped out his heart. I was

stunned. Eric commented, “Damn. I like this kid.” He turned around yelled, “Bjourn, we need a portal to Lucas’ territory! Haley is under attack! AGAIN!”

I watched as Beta McAlister took his daughter in his arm. The poor woman was sobbing into his chest. I left the scene behind and raced out of the room, following Eric. Aiden's words sank in. Emmaline was the water fairy; he wanted the three of them to fight together again. Hopefully, someone got her to the safe room. She'd probably pop back out. Hell, Haley would have her out there fighting. I stepped through a portal behind Eric, which was a weird experience, into my own backyard to pure pandemonium.