

Slow Down

Emmaline was surprised babies could pop. I couldn't do anything but stare. It had me wondering about my own childhood. Were her kids different? More powerful? I shook those thoughts from my head. If I'd done things like that Dusty, Ry, and Katie would've noticed.

I wanted to run from the room and hide. This was all my fault. I linked Lacy, "How do the wolves not realize Aiden is trying to distract Eric with that Alpha Male streak comment?" Lacy replied, "Eric will realize it later. This group isn't exactly his biggest fan base." I got that given Haley's story the other night, but Haley had moved past that. Surely that means they needed to follow her lead.

Aiden was visibly taken aback by what Alexander was doing. Even Bexley seemed surprised, paling a little as she watched. Haley and Eric were keeping this ability a secret. Given the reaction from the fairies in the room, I was pretty sure that was the right call.

When Haley woke up, my relief was palpable. Lacy linked me, "She's really ok." She had protected me. She had a split second to choose, and in that second she picked me. I couldn't put into words the impact Haley had just made. My own mother had weeks to pick me and didn't. Haley could've let me get shot then healed me, but she spared me that pain. I knew Lacy said I would've died, but with Haley right there; I think she could've and would've healed me. She took the bullet for me instead knowing she would have to then fight in pain. Knowing she would have to call Aiden for help and knowing she would be unconscious and spending time away from her children. I really did want to be her when I grew up.

I didn't understand the confusion about Alexander having a wolf. The explanation actually made sense to me. Haley was a powerful royal fairy, and as a Hackura princess, was double royalty. It made sense her kids were powerful on her side and Eric's. He was the most well-known Alpha in the country, and definitely known around the world too. Dustin had told me he was probably the most powerful Alpha in the world, but definitely the country.

This conversation made me surmise the men in Haley's life really did seem unreasonable at times. I felt bad for her and her poor daughter. That girl was never going to be able to date. Haley had done everything right too. She'd linked Eric for help and called on Aiden.

Everyone seemed to discount Aiden. He was a king; he must have spies. He also appeared to be very smart. He was led astray by family, but he really seemed to be trying. They really should give him a break. His soul was genuinely distressed over Haley's condition. He was terrified when he popped to us.

I was surprised he cared that I'd been attacked. Maybe he cared because of my father, he barely knew me. I wasn't sure if family meant a lot to fairies. Aiden clearly loved Haley, but her childhood left a lot to be desired. I searched his soul again as he stared at Haley. His love for her nearly knocked me over. I stared at him in astonishment. The amount of sorrow and pain this man was carrying around in his soul made me want to hug him. He shot me a sad smile as if he knew what I'd just done. Well, he might know more than me since I didn't know that much about my powers. Can people tell when I search out their soul? No one else had mentioned it. Maybe it was because he was the king? I had too many questions.

My thoughts were brought to an abrupt halt when I realized the group was talking about the guys going after that Ducant group. Come on! I just want to relax with my mate. Was that asking too much? Some snuggles after being attacked. That had to be standard.

I linked all the girls when Haley complimented us, "She's right. We are bad asses. I didn't realize there were that many men." Lacy answered, "Damn straight we are badass bitches!" Valerie and Chelsea smiled at me.

I studied Eric. His soul was very interesting. It was a vastly different soul from the man who joined us in that clearing and saw Haley unconscious. He was a terrifying man without Haley. His soul had been black and red when he saw her. Now that she was awake, the black and red were still there but other colors were present.

I needed to ask Lucas at some point how he and Eric became a thing. I guess Lucas is an Alpha, but still; Eric without Haley had to be something wild. His soul was scary with unconscious Haley. Before he met her something told me he'd earned that fair but ruthless reputation he had. I was certain he would've gone on a murderous rampage if she didn't wake up. Especially after his son popped in wanting his mother.

When the pizza came, I decided I would eat what Haley gave me. She had a better idea on what I needed. Even Aiden was eating quite a bit. Chelsea linked me, "I need you to somehow eat some of my pizza. I can't even eat one large pizza by myself. My max is four slices."

I had to hide my laugh. I replied, "I'll try to conjure some slices into the box I just ate." I thought about it, then checked my box. I'd done it! I linked her, "You should be good." She replied, "You are a LIFESAVER! Now I can eat my four slices and show him the box." I barely managed not to laugh out loud.

Lucas was wild after I popped us to our room. I was certain this was claiming sex again. I was a fan. I wished he would stay with me since technically, we didn't know the attack was because of Lucas. In theory, David could've found me. It wasn't likely, but it was possible. Particularly since those Ducant wolves wanted

Chelsea too. I really thought they should let all the fairies come. We could make the fight faster. I didn't voice that because the Hackura were going. I was positive they'd be back quickly because of that. I also knew Eric would watch Lucas' back and be there for him in any situation. That was good enough for me, since Eric's soul told me he was in a very dark, scary, murderous place.

I agreed with Alpha Nick that Chelsea and Sam needed to move. Their souls told me they wanted to be Drake and Peter. Both guys were relieved by his command. They were all really happy, though Chelsea and Sam were tinged a little by sadness. I could understand that I was going to miss them and I'm sure that's what they were feeling too. At least I could pop to them when I wanted. Probably. I was getting more accurate at popping when I wasn't under the threat of being kidnapped. Which was annoying.

While Lucas and I said goodbye Lacy linked me, "That was the cutest thing I have ever seen. You should send him off that way every time." I panicked, "EVERY TIME? Does this happen often?" Lacy answered, "I'm not the best barometer about the last few years. There was a war with the fairy's while I was gone. Before I left, we usually just had the occasional rogue problem. Someone has a contract to kidnap you though. So, I'd guess this isn't exactly over." I wanted to groan in frustration.

Well, I would be going to the fight next time. Even if I had to pop behind him the whole freaking way. I'd be there fighting by his side. We watched the guys' wolves and the SUVs disappear. It was silent until Haley spoke, "Let's get inside, and we can all pace together."

Bexley laughed, "I don't know why you worry so. They will be fine. Kujo was fit to be tied." Haley groaned, "I am aware." She started to walk away. I asked, "Could we sit by the dock? I just need to be near the water right now." Haley and Bexley's eyes lit with understanding. Both nodded.

Chelsea sniffled, "Sam and I have to pack." Haley snapped her fingers stating, "You are both packed. Let's go." We all stared at her in shock. Bexley clapped her hands exclaiming, "Snap out of it! Let's go to the dock for our little water fairy. That way our dear cousin can center herself and calm down." Everyone followed them to the docks where we all sat down.

I asked "Haley, why did you have to wait until you ate to use your fairy powers?" Haley smiled, "Because I was a little strained from healing myself. I had a slight incident prior to popping to you. Had I conjured myself a new shirt or Alexander's bottle, I might have passed out again. No one would've been able to stop Eric from killing hordes of people had that happened. Healing is a little bit more tricky than other fairy powers. Anywho, what exactly led you all to be fighting in the middle of a field?"

We explained the accident to her. Haley looked at Bexley in shock who stared at her confused. Finally, Bexley asked, "What?" Haley rolled her eyes, "Did any fairy's pay attention in classes when teachers discuss powers? I didn't even get to go to class, but I know they discussed that." Bexley snorted, "Not if we don't have the power, no. If it's not from our house and we can't possess it, why should we care?" Haley laughed pointing out, "Because then you'd know time didn't seem to slow down in their car. Emmaline slowed everything down."

I gasped, yelling, "WHAT? I did that?" Haley nodded, "You did. It kind of goes along with the freezing power. You cannot freeze people, but you can slow things down. We can work on that. You instinctually slowed the car crash down so you could grab everyone's hands and get out. It's really impressive. I think you can do it because you unlocked your full fairy powers."

Bexley spoke, "Yes, sorry little cousin. I forgot to tell Haley that if a fairy meets their mate, they can unlock their full powers before they reach maturity. It's rare but you are a Duchess. You still have to wait for your concupiscence. That won't come before you're seventeen."

I asked Haley, "Is a fairy promise different from a regular promise?" Haley nodded, "Yes, if a fairy promises you something it's binding. They cannot break their promise. Fairies don't often promise things because of it." I frowned, "You frequently make promises."

Haley started to speak, but Bexley jumped in, "My dear cousin is the exception to most things, little duchess." Haley rolled her eyes, "I have fairy traits, but I saw fairies at their worst. I tend to shy away from things they think are normal." That made sense.

I asked, "Why didn't you argue with Bjourn about your phone? I mean his tone was terrifying, but it wasn't your fault you didn't pop in with your phone. You were just dropping off paperwork. You didn't charge into the unknown with no backup, and you called Aiden for help." Haley shrugged, "When my father or brothers give me directives, I follow them. I don't ever question them in public. It's a respect thing. This rattled my brothers, and they have been rattled a lot by me lately. Promising to keep my phone on me, and pop with it is a small thing that will make them happy. It's really not a big deal. Our Hackura bond tells me the emotion behind Bjourn's tone. This scared him, and my brothers are rarely scared."

I frowned asking, "You don't question them publicly?" Haley shook her head, "No, nor do I question Eric publicly. It's how I was raised in Faerie and the Hackura realm. Different methods of course and different reasons. I can link Eric telling him how I feel or ask him a question about what he said in the moment. I can send my brothers my feelings in our bond too."

I interrupted her, “I call it mind blown.” Haley laughed, “That is a much better name. I still give my opinion just not publicly sometimes. It could make them look weak in front of others if I questioned them. I will never let anyone question their strength; nor will I let someone consider me a weakness to their position because I couldn’t hold my tongue. You and I are technically Lucas and Eric’s weakness. To strike at us is to strike at them, and the same goes in reverse. What certain fucking people seem to forget is that we are also their strength.” Bexley snickered.

I linked Lacy, “What people?” Lacy shrugged, “I’ll ask Dylan.” Haley shook herself and continued, “I can hold my questions or opinion in public to present a united front.” I was thrown by the truth of her statement. Supernatural’s were different from humans. If I questioned something out loud even humans would say something like she wears the pants in the relationship. I was glad I had followed her lead, and I was glad I’d asked her about it. I wouldn’t want to make Lucas look weak by questioning him like that. I could wait until we were alone to ask questions or be upset with him. I did it that day after Tessa punched me.

Haley groaned yelling, “Fuck! Fuckity Fuck! FUCK!” I laughed asking, “What?” Haley rolled her eyes, “I have a bad feeling.” Bexley stiffened. Haley assured her, “It’s not that bad yet.” Bexley nodded. I asked, “Is that another thing you can do?” Haley nodded, “Yes. While I monitor this horrible feeling, I have a question for you.” I told her, “Hit me.” Haley tilted her head before asking, “Why would I hit you?” Chelsea, Sam, Lacy, Valerie, and I laughed.

Chelsea interjected, “It’s an expression. Emmaline means ask her your question.” Haley rolled her eyes, “That’s an absurd expression. Moving on from your realms ridiculous sayings. Am I going to have to step into my fairy godmother role again for a wedding dress anytime soon for you?” I gulped, “Well... I ... Lucas hasn’t asked me to marry him.” Lacy snorted.

Haley asked casually, “Do you want him to ask you?” I blushed whispering, “Maybe. I do.” Lacy shrieked, “WHAT?” I quickly said, “We can wait until after your wedding though. It’s not a big deal!” Lacy jumped up, “HELL NO! We could plan things together! You, me, Sam, and Chelsea! That would be so fun! It could be all of us too once Valerie goes to meet California Ryan. I just bet he demands she get on a plane tonight when he hears about what happened today.” Valerie turned red. Bexley raised an eyebrow asking, “California Ryan?” I was about to reply when Haley jumped up.

She started issuing instructions, “Oh fucking shit. Bex, pop Alexander and Chelsea out of here, now.” Chelsea frowned, “I can fight.” Haley shook her head, “Nope, I know the rules. No pregnant she wolf is allowed to fight. They get taken to the safe room, and when fairies are present, they pop you far away. Bexley call and ask the closest packs to assist us when you get back to our territory. Shana, Molly, and Jessica can help make phone calls. We need warriors. I linked Eric, he knows and

is moving things along on their side. Go now, Bex.” Bexley grabbed Alexander and Chelsea then popped away.

Haley turned to me, “Emmaline, remember if guns are involved deal with that first. If necessary, you pop to my home. Understood?” I shook my head disagreeing, “I can’t do that. I’m the Luna, and Lucas isn’t here. I don’t know much about being a Luna yet, but I do know if Lucas isn’t here; I’m the leader.” Haley smiled, “I’d say the same damn thing. Link the pack.”

I hadn’t don’t that yet. I took a deep breath and gave it my best shot, “Anyone who can fight get to the yard. Everyone else to the saferoom.” Some older members came outside along with Dale. Debbie was growling at him, but he waved her off, “Get to the safe room, woman! Growling at me as if that will change anything. I used to run this pack. I am an Alpha, damn it!”

Debbie retorted, “I’m so glad you said that because I used to be the Luna of this pack! If you fight, I fight.” Dale rolled his eyes waving her over, “Then get your ass out here, woman!” Debbie snorted and walked over to him. He pulled her into him and kissed her. When he pulled back, he told her, “Don’t you dare get hurt.” She looked him in the eyes replying, “Right back at you, old man.” Dale snorted, “I’ll show you an old man.”

At that moment I saw particles in the air begin to shimmer. Haley yelled, “Oh fuck it all to hell and back.” I looked at her asking, “Does that mean something? That shimmering?” Dale’s eyes went wide. He groaned. Haley said, “It means demons are coming. This is about me. FUCK!” Haley was clearly linking someone. I was certain it was probably Eric.

A man appeared from the shimmer with a lot of other what I assumed were demons, and some rogues. For being considered crazy wolves without a pack, I’d sure seen a lot of frigging rogues working with people as a group.

I was stunned this was a demon. He looked like a regular guy. He was a little under six feet tall with sandy blonde hair. Shouldn’t he have horns or something? Demons should not be attractive that was unfair. He addressed Haley “You killed my brother.” Oh boy. Haley responded simply, “No, I didn’t.” The man paused then yelled, “You just lied to me!”

He began to form a literal fire ball in his hands. Ok, maybe he was an actual demon. Haley rolled her eyes, “For the LOVE OF GOD! I’m going to get a supernatural billboard ad that explains to all you motherfuckers that anyone with fairy blood cannot lie. I didn’t kill your brother.”

The man frowned, “My Hood source said that in the mission report it says you killed my brother.” Haley rolled her eyes, “Sure, believe your source who, by the

way, can lie. Definitely don't believe the person who can't lie. I read the report when my brother debriefed me. That's not what it says. To sum up, I didn't kill your brother. I fought him though; he packed quite the punch." I snorted. So that was how she got that black eye before she saved me when we met.

The demon shrugged, "Who killed him then?" Haley snorted but didn't answer. He pointed at me stating, "I took over a contract for her, and another she wolf. I guess I'll have to track that one down since I don't see her. I'll make everyone here watch you die first." Haley frowned, "No thank you. I don't plan on dying today."

The demon raised an eyebrow, "I asked you a question. Who killed my brother?" Haley rolled her eyes, "And I ignored your fucking question. Keep up." I bit my lip trying not laugh. Lacy linked me, "She's a legend." I agreed.

The demon looked like he was going to throw the fireball at Haley. I thought of water appearing above him as Haley popped to the right. I squealed when a waterfall formed out of nowhere and doused the demon, extinguishing his fireball. He was not happy though, he screamed in anger. Haley started laughing and she threw a wink at me commenting, "Impressive." I smiled.

The demon glared at her as if it was her fault then shimmered to a spot right beside her. He had a sword when he reappeared. He ran the blade along his hand and set it on fire. He demanded, "Move aside, and give me the girl."

Haley conjured her own sword. She retorted, "Not a damn chance, fireball." The demon said, "I have no problem killing you." Haley laughed, taunting, "Didn't you already say everyone was going to watch me die? You're so fucking repetitive, ugh. I have survived so much more than you." She struck quickly and sliced her sword underneath his armpit. He screamed, this time in pain. My gaze was drawn to the black blood pouring out of him. That was unsettling.

I stuttered, "You... Haley, that was his brachial artery. He will be dead in ninety seconds if no one stops the bleeding." The demon gaped at me. Haley smiled asking, "Is it just ninety seconds? I thought it was slower. Oh well. You are just full of knowledge. I fucking love it."

Haley looked at the demons around her. She gave them a choice, "You can either save him, or watch him die and follow him right back to hell; in death." The demon Haley had cut was losing consciousness. The others didn't even pause, advancing towards us with the rouges. Really? They were going to let their leader die? As the demons started advancing and the rouges attacked.

Alex Hanes yelled, "PROTECT THE LUNA!" He was the Gamma. Shouldn't we protect him too? They howled as they shifted. I wanted to stand with them, but there was a slight problem with that. Haley and I were surrounded by four Hackura

guards. Three men and one woman who weren't really letting anyone past them. I sighed. If I was more accurate, I'd pop away from them, but I didn't have time to make mistakes. I decided to focus on my powers. Debbie was being ganged up on.

I yelled at Haley who kept popping outside her guards to fight, "How do I slow things down?" Haley popped back to me after beheading a demon. She explained, "Focus on wanting something to slow down. Start with something small. Pick one of the fights and think about everything in slow motion." That sounded simple enough.

Haley smiled encouragingly, "You can do this. You can also use your hands and form a wave from the lake if you want. You just call to the water; your light will guide you." She popped away, and like a one woman wrecking ball began killing again. Her guard seemed annoyed, but not surprised.

I focused on Debbie's fight and willed her opponents to slow down. I focused on my light trusting in it. Debbie glanced at me. I was somewhat certain she smirked, but it was hard to tell if a wolf was smirking. She went for the throats of her two attackers then headed off to help Dale. I spotted Lacy and Valerie fighting back to back against four rogues. Sam had been cut off from them. That wasn't fair. I slowed down their fight.

My pack began to howl in delight as I slowed down their fights one by one. We all turned our heads when howls rang out from our north and east sides. Dale's wolf answered with a howl. Shortly after, wolves came running in from our tree line. Haley commented, "The Connors women and Bexley must have reached someone. The howling signals other packs are coming to our aide."

Before I could respond a shimmer appeared on my right. An angry demon materialized and glared at me. He accused, "You are causing this, aren't you?" I said, "I'm going to need you to be more specific." Aiden popped into the battle and began fighting their fireballs with his own fire yelling out in Fealish. He seemed to be having fun. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw what looked like a portal open.

The demon declared, "You are coming with me." I smelled Lucas' scent and turned to find him. I sighed in relief. He was fine. His eyes were on me and he looked angry and terrified. What was wrong? He shifted and Dominic roared in anger.

Haley yelled, "EMMALINE! POP AWAY NOW!" I didn't even pause to think, I just obeyed her. I popped to Lucas. I whirled around in time to see the demon who had been talking to me stabbing the air with a small dagger.

Dominic ripped the demons head clean off his body. Umm, wow. Dylan's wolf sprinted through the portal and ran full speed towards Lacy. Eric's wolf was

growling and following anyone left in Haley's wake as she popped all over the place. Something told me she was going to pay for that.

I noticed a wolf was sneaking up on Dale, but he didn't see it. I held out my hands and screamed, "DALE, LOOKOUT!" Lacy, Lucas, and Debbie all turned as one. Dale's wolf spun instantly facing his opponent. I tried to kill the rogue with my icicles but he was dodging them. I'd only slowed him down by stabbing him in the shoulder once. Two more rogues flanked him now, though. I realized Lucas wasn't going to get there in time. No one was close enough to help.

I took a deep breath and popped in front of Dale as the wolf lunged. I held out my hands which glowed blue. Dale took down one of the other wolves. The one left standing stared at me in horror while their companion drowned then turned to water. The remaining wolves shifted back holding their hands up in surrender.

Alpha Kyle shifted back. Haley smiled at me and nodded to my fingers. I snapped and about threw my hands up in the air in triumph. Half or Red Run, including Alpha Kyle, now had shorts on. Haley congratulated me, "Great job, Emmaline!" Haley snapped the remaining wolves clothes.

Alpha Kyle said, "Holy fucking catfish! She really can turn people to water. I didn't think you were lying Lucas but seeing it... Holy shit." Peter growled, "WHERE IS CHELSEA?" I quickly answered, "Haley had Bexley pop her and Alexander to their territory to be safe."

Lucas spoke, addressing someone behind me, "Alpha Chase. How did you know that my pack needed your help?" Alpha Chase answered, "Luna Molly Conners called Matt. She told her brother to get his ass in gear because Blue Moon was being attacked. She said you weren't here, which my Beta already knew. He got Dylan's emergency memo. I called Sophia, and I took off with some warriors to assist. I can't have my beta's sister being upset with him."

Sophia walked over to him. Their souls were a mess. She felt guilty and he felt annoyed with her. She tried to hold his hand, but he skillfully and subtly moved away. If I hadn't been watching them, I would've missed it. I noticed Eric didn't miss it though.

Lucas spoke, "Thank you Alpha Sophia and Alpha Chase. I appreciate your coming to my pack and Luna's aide." Alpha Sophia commented, "Of course. Did my eyes deceive me or did you come through a portal, Alpha Lucas?"

Lucas laughed, "I did. Eric's Hackura in-laws were with us, and they got us back here through a portal." Eric snorted, "Lucas missed his first trip to the Hackura realm. He ran right through it without noticing he was even there."

Alpha Chase looked over at Eric before he smiled at Haley. She smiled in return as if she wasn't upset. Her soul told me she didn't like the situation with Alpha's Chase and Sophia any more than I did. I could tell that she and Eric were linking each other. I wanted to talk to Lucas about them tonight too. I didn't understand Chase and Sophia's dynamic at all.

Gemma spoke, "I will be preparing food for any and all who need it. There are rooms prepared in case anyone is spending the night as always." Lucas smiled at her. Alpha Chase declined the room, "We will be heading back, but I won't turn down food." Alpha Sophia echoed the same.

Haley must have told Bexley to return because she popped back in with Chelsea. Chelsea ran to Peter. He kissed her with everything in him. Lucas strode over and claimed my lips. When he pulled back he teased, "I do believe I told you I needed you to be safe. I came back and saw you almost get stabbed." I snorted, "I was sitting by the lake minding my own business when things started shimmering. It's not my fault demons started materializing."

One of Haley's guards spoke, "Is fairy side. Attracts trouble, like honey to flies." Eric laughed but Haley pouted. She yelled, "Blade!" Blade shrugged, "Is true. Next fairy won't understand allure. Is coming. Always comes." Eric was laughing so hard he had tears coming out his eyes.

I asked, "Allure?" Lucas sighed, "Fairies have an allure." Haley said, "Oh for god's sake. We are PARTIAL fairies. Everyone ALWAYS wants to point that out, but when we talk about fairy allure you act like I'm the wolf's howl."

Marcus laughed before pointing out, "That's not the right saying, little sister." Dylan yelled, "But it totally should be! The memo is being crafted as you speak my fun sized fairy." I interjected, "It's bee's knees or cat's meow cousin." Haley groaned, "I will accept the cat's meow, but bees don't have any fucking knees! This realm is so fucking absurd! Don't even get me started on if I compared my werewolf husband TO A CAT!" Several people growled. Interesting.

All of Haley's brothers were laughing, including Aiden. Eric and his brothers were silently shaking with laughter. Dylan was howling he was laughing so hard. Lucas' lips were twitching. Haley continued, "We have an allure, but it's not the same as a full blooded fairy. We are more attractive to supernatural's, and for vampires our blood is sweeter than any other group of people. They are less likely to kill us than a full blooded fairy for our blood, but they can get carried away. They are more likely to keep us around to snack on."

Eric added, "My mate doesn't acknowledge that she has admirers." Haley stomped her foot, "Because I DON'T!" Blade spoke, "See Princess's lion? Is next problem.

Mark words.” Haley hissed at Blade and flipped him off. Lucas stiffened beside me and looked at Eric who nodded.

I said, “I don’t really have any admirers.” Lucas rolled his eyes. Dylan coughed, “Grayson.” I frowned, “Oh come on! He’s kind of a friend, not really though. We went to one dance together. That’s hardly an admirer.” Every single wolf in our pack was now laughing.

I looked to Haley for help. She offered, “It’s really not an admirer. You wolves are fucking weird. You two,” she pointed and Eric and Lucas, “Have the admirers. I’ve got problems coming out of thin air with people wanting Eric. Be prepared to put bitches in ditches, Emmaline.” That just made everyone laugh harder. I didn’t bother to correct her saying this time. Marcus teased, “That’s also not the right saying either.” Haley just stuck her tongue out at him.

Gemma announced some food was ready. Everyone started towards the pack house except the Lyons family and Eric’s. Once it was just us outside Debbie came over and hugged me, “You little Emmy, are amazing! She’s amazing, Lucas. She slowed down fights. I was about to get clawed when she slowed both my attacker’s momentum down.”

Lacy added, “She did that for us too! It was so cool! It was like they couldn’t go faster, but we were still fine.” Lucas gripped my waist. Lacy turned and did a mock bow to Haley before adding, “Eric, I agree with Emmaline, your mate is a ninja assassin. She was just casually killing demons and rogues, suffocating people with her fingers, and letting tornados fly around killing people.” I wanted to laugh. Dang. I missed a lot focusing on my own powers, that would’ve been cool to see.

Eric proudly stated, “Lucas and I have one of a kind mates.” Dale spoke, “Emmy, you saved my life.” The emotion in his voice had everyone pausing. Debbie rounded on Dale with wide eyes. He continued, “It was four on one, Deb. I was too focused on the fight in front of me. I didn’t hear the other three coming. It wasn’t until Emmy screamed that I turned to see them. If she hadn’t turned the one to water...”

He trailed off then shouted, “On that note, can I just say. What the FUCK, son?” Lucas wryly asked, “Did I not mention she could do that around you? I thought I did.” Dale snorted, “Even if you had, seeing it is something. Are we going to have pups turning people to water or some shit?” Haley laughed, but Lucas did not. He visibly paled.

Eventually Lucas asked, “Haley, could that actually happen?” Haley rolled her eyes, “Emmaline didn’t turn people to water as a baby. I don’t know of any fairy who can turn people to shit, that would be hilarious. Your kids will get some of her powers, or different water fairy powers. We will just have to see what they can do

and work with your currently non-existent children. If they did possess the power, they would only turn someone to water if they felt they were under attack.”

She wiped her hands, “Emmaline and I need to eat again.” She turned to Aiden, stood on her tip toes, and kissed both his cheeks on each side of his face. She took his hand and squeezed them, “Thank you, brother. That’s twice in one day. I didn’t even have to call you the second time.” Aiden smiled, “You’ll have to tell Lucinda I missed mandatory family time for a noble cause.” Haley laughed, “Of course. Besides, you were with me, Emmaline, and Bex too. Technically speaking it was family time.” Aiden laughed then popped away.

Haley grabbed my hand and popped us to the main house. She conjured us burgers and fries. I laughed asking, “Won’t Eric be upset you did that?” Haley smiled, “One can only hope, cousin. One can only hope. It’s fun to mess with them sometimes. You just buckle yourself in for the sex you’ll be getting tonight.” She winked at me and we started eating.

Eric and Lucas were first to barge through the door. Eric growled at Haley. She stuck her tongue out at him. Dylan came in next follow by Bjourn who looked pretty steamed. He announced, “The Hood leak has been found, and he is being handed over to Histeck and Logan as we speak.” That seemed entirely too convenient. Could it be a scapegoat? No, that’s silly.

I was pulled from my thoughts when I heard Haley sigh, “They didn’t even say goodbye to me.” Bjourn gave her an incredulous look that she didn’t acknowledge. She just ate more fries. Bjourn assured her, “I’ll have them call you, little one.” Haley shrugged and kept eating.

I studied her. I was pretty sure something else other than her brothers leaving was bothering her. I don’t know how I didn’t realize before, but her soul was a mess. She had the best poker face of all time. We had to get this woman to Vegas.

Lucas was smiling at me the more I ate. Finally, I asked, “What?” He laughingly pointing out, “You ate five pizza’s before I left. I come back to see you eat ten burgers and a horde of fries.” I dropped the fry I had left feeling self-conscious.

Lacy smacked the back of Lucas’ head. She chided, “Way to give her a complex, Luc.” Lucas frowned, “NO! No, I didn’t mean it was a bad thing, baby girl.” Haley jumped in, “You eat what you need to replenish yourself after using your powers. Don’t you even feel bad about it. Besides, this is nothing compared to what you’ll eat during your concupiscence.” I smiled timidly at her.

Eric told her, “Haley, pop us home.” Haley agreed, “Sure. Bye, cousin. Remember don’t turn your back on someone with a gun. See you Wednesday. Oh shit!” She conjured herself a file and handed it to me. “Bring this paperwork with you then.

Your laptop should be all set up and ready to go.” She gave me a quick hug then popped them all away.

Chelsea, Sam, Drake, and Peter entered the house. Tears filled my eyes. Lacy and I both went over to Sam and Chelsea. We hugged them both, and all of us starting crying. Drake pleaded, “Aww, man! Come on guys! We’re not moving them across the country. Emmaline and Chelsea are still lab partners, and we all go to the same school. We will see each other all the time.”

Lacy cried, “It’s not the same. I wasted all my time with them running away, and I just got them back.” My heart broke for her. Dylan put his hand on her back. Chelsea sniffled, “It’s ok, Lacy. We will still see each other all the time, like Drake said. We are all just in that phase where we find our mates. I was wrong not to move in with Peter in the first place. Imagine not living with Dylan.”

Lacy shivered, “No thank you.” Dylan snorted, “I would’ve kidnapped her. I can’t believe Beta blood Drake over there didn’t think of it. We live with fairies now people. They TELEPORT. Get it together. These young kids, Lucas. They have no imagination. I have failed them. I should become a teacher!” Lucas said, “You have a job.” Dylan sighed gesturing to Lucas with his thumb, “Always so serious this one.” We all laughed.

Eventually we stopped hugging our friends, and they tearfully left with Drake and Peter. Lucas asked, “Are you done eating, or do you still need more?” I actually thought about it, “I think I’m good.” Lucas smiled, “Let’s go upstairs then.” I nodded following him out of the room.

Dale stopped us before we got out of the kitchen. He gave me a big hug whispering, “You helped both my girls and me tonight. You are a credit to our family, and I’m very glad you’re my sons’ mate and Luna.” Tears welled in my eyes.

Emotion overtook me as I replied, “Thank you, Dale.” He smiled and looked me in the eyes, “It’s dad, Emmy. Even though my dumb son hasn’t made that official just yet. I’m not waiting for him to wise up before you call me dad. I’m so very proud of you.” Lucas looked dumbfounded. I smiled, “Ok... thanks... dad.” Everyone was grinning broadly as Lucas dragged me away.

When we reached the bedroom, Lucas looked torn. I asked, “What’s wrong?” Lucas growled, “I need you. I need to be inside you, but I want to take care of you too. I want to draw you a bubble bath and worship your body.” I shivered with desire. Hormones took over at that point. I said, “Ok, I also feel that same needs so... sex first, bath later.”

Lucas' eyes went black, he threw me over his shoulder, and spanked me. I squealed when he threw me onto the bed. He tore my shirt off and unsnapped my bra in one motion. I reached for him digging my nails into his sides when his mouth grazed my breast. He growled, sucking hard taking my nipple into his mouth while he pulled my pants off. He shredded my second pair of underwear for the day. It's a good thing he'd bought me an entire drawer. His finger entered me.

He moaned, "Shit... baby girl you are so wet. I can't... I need you..." I begged, "Please, Lucas." He pulled his finger out. I whimpered in protest. I snapped and for once I got the right article of clothes off his lickable body. His pants were gone. He was inside me seconds later. Lucas growled and I realized Dominic was in charge.

I urged him, "Claim me, Dominic." He growled and pulled me to the edge of the bed. I wrapped my legs around his neck. He held onto my hips and began to thrust into me. I was screaming within mere moments, "OH GOD... YES... ALPHA!" Dominic roared, "YOU ARE MINE! I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO!" I screamed, "Don't let go!" He pounded into me for what felt like hours. I felt so much pleasure, I had tears streaming down my face. Lucas pounded harder and harder and finally groaned his release.

When he regained his cognitive function he asked, "Are you ok? Did Dominic hurt you?" I barely managed a whisper since my voice was shot from screaming, "No." Then I remembered I could link him. "No, Dominic didn't hurt me. I would've said apples like you told me to if it hurt. I liked it, a lot. You just need to carry me to the tub if that's still the plan. My legs are now useless limp noodles."

Lucas laughed commenting, "You did really well at handling my wolf's and my need." I linked him, "Is claiming always like that?" Lucas smirked, "I'm not really sure. You're the only person I've ever claimed." I found that hard to believe.

He carried me into the bathroom, lowering me into the tub. I asked, "You've never had intense, rough sex before?" Lucas snorted, "Do you want me to answer that?" I shrugged, "Why not?" Lucas grimaced, "I have had intense sex, and I've had rough sex. That's different from claiming. I've never done what we just did with anyone else." I replied, "Ok."

Lucas poured some bubble bath into the tub then left. I made a noise of disbelief. Lucas assured me, "I'll be right back." He came back and gave me a bottle of water which I happily guzzled down. I loved these little moments when he would take care of me by thinking of the little things. He'd even put a little bit of honey into the water to help with my voice. This man just doesn't miss a trick.

He got in the tub behind me and pulled me to him kissing my shoulder. He admitted, "I can't lose you, Emmaline. Even if you see me in a fight, you have to

stay focused on what's in front of you. I need you to promise me that." I whispered, "I promise." I felt an invisible string snap into place.

Lucas sighed, "I think I lost ten years off my life seeing that demon about to stab you." I linked him, "I saw you out of the corner of my eye, and I wanted to make sure you were ok." Lucas nodded, "I understand. You weren't raised how we were. It's not instinctive to you yet. You saved my family tonight. You were so impressive that the pack was full of praise and pride for their Luna."

I asked in a raspy tone, "Why is Alpha Chase married to Alpha Sophia? They aren't mates, and he doesn't seem happy about it." Lucas sighed, "I imagine Eric is having the same conversation with Haley. Alpha Chase and Alpha Sophia have been friends since they were in diapers. Sophia is an only child. As I'm sure you noticed Alpha's are usually males. When she turned eighteen her dad died and she hadn't found her mate. There were some of the older men in the pack who didn't want her to take over and lead their pack. She approached Alpha Chase and asked him to marry her so that she could lead her pack. He agreed."

I frowned asking, "What about when they find their mates? I would've been devastated if you were married when we met. I was wrecked thinking you had a girlfriend or something." Lucas frowned, "I really don't know, baby girl. Eric was in negotiations to marry Haley before he knew they were mates. At thirty-two years old, his pack needed an heir. He refused to marry a she wolf in case he came across his mate. I just don't know what will happen in this situation."

I pointed out, "Waiting until you're thirty-two is a lot different than marrying at eighteen. I'm sure if Eric had been married to someone else Haley would've tried to understand. I wouldn't have been your mistress, and I seriously doubt Haley would've been Eric's."

Lucas frowned, "The Hackura have off periods with their mates, and fairies aren't really monogamous. Haley would've been ok. As far as us, I can't imagine you'd have been ok with me being married to someone else. Roles reversed; I would've killed anyone who'd been with you."

I snorted, "Wolves really are a bit sexist. I think you're wrong about Haley though. She's not like a fairy, and I think she tries very hard not to be. She's only ever willingly been with Eric, and you can't tell me she doesn't attract men. My cousin's beauty is off the charts. She's practically ethereal. I think if Eric was married to someone else it would've devastated her that the one person who was supposed to cherish her above all chose someone else. I think anyone with a mate would think that. That may be my soul searcher side talking, but I know that's true. Deep down everyone just wants to meet their other half. The person meant for them. If your other half was with someone else, that would be devastating."

Lucas seemed to be considering my words. I continued, “As far as the Hackura off periods, they have flings on the side that both partners are aware of and are ok with. They ALWAYS come back to their mates; they don’t put their flings above them even in off periods and they definitely don’t marry them.”

Lucas agreed, “You might be right, but it’s not our problem. Nor is it Eric and Haley’s.” I sighed, “I know. I just can’t help but want to fix this for them. It’s not like if he finds his mate, he can divorce his friend. That puts Alpha Sophia in the same position she was before they got married. If she finds her mate first, he’s going to be a possessive guy. He’s going to fight Alpha Chase. They didn’t think this through. Besides, I’m certain Alpha Chase is unhappy about whatever is going on.”

Lucas shrugged, “They will figure it out. Come on little fish, let’s get out. I’m pruned. I will never know how you aren’t.” I sighed, “I don’t know I’ve never gotten all wrinkly being in the water.” Lucas teased, “Ah, yes. My beautiful water fairy.” We got out and I put on a robe and went to bed.

I woke up when my alarm went off and groaned. My muscles were so sore from all the fighting this weekend. I popped off the bed. Lucas sat up, “No, baby girl. Training sessions are cancelled for today. Everyone fought yesterday, they deserve the day off.” I smiled and stretched out my arms before jumping back in bed.

I asked Lucas, “So, what happened yesterday with the Ducants?” Lucas sat up and faced me. “They are dead. The Hackura took out the guards out front, and our pack and allies took out everyone inside. We inadvertently rescued Beta McAlister’s daughter. Drake’s older sister had been given over as collateral for a job by her mates’ pack’s Alpha. I need to reach out to Nick to see what action he wants to take there. If he and his Beta go after that pack, we will assist them. Eric, Drake, and I killed Alpha Ducant after King Aiden threw the wolf holding a needle of wolfsbane to the throat of Allison McAlister away from her. I’m sure they freed her mate, but I’ll confirm that today. What happened here?”

I sighed, “The demon that came here said he took over a contract to kidnap Chelsea and me. Are more people coming for us? Could this be my stepdad?” Lucas shook his head, “This is about me and Peter. Actually, it’s more likely about Nick. I promise you I’ll get to the bottom of this, baby girl. No one will hurt you.” I nodded.

I decided we needed some fun after this serious conversation. I straddled Lucas’ legs, “I appear to have a lot of spare time on my hands before school. Can you think of anything I could spend my time doing?” Lucas smirked, “I have just the thing.” He guided my hips down onto his hard length. We spent several hours like that.

When it was time to leave, I walked out to my car with a smile on my face. I faltered at the sight that greeted me. I was slightly confused when I saw Lacy and one of the guys who'd been guarding me at school last week were waiting for me. I greeted them, "Umm... good morning." They guy nodded, "Luna." Lacy sighed, "He has to ride with us." I frowned asking, "Why?"

The man answered before Lacy, "I should introduce myself, Luna. I'm Brad Pince. Due to the situation that occurred yesterday the Alpha wants one of us to ride with you." I frowned, "He didn't say anything. I guess it must have slipped his mind." I studied him. He was too tall to ride in the back of my bug, and I wasn't kicking Lacy out from the front.

I told them, "We should take a different car then. I don't think you'd be comfortable in the backseat." Brad smiled, "I could squeeze in the back, but it's very kind of you Luna." I picked a four door sedan; I wasn't ready to be in an SUV yet. Lacy linked me, "It's a good choice. Men, right?" I linked her back, "Men." Brad got into the back. I told him, "You can call me Emmaline, Brad." He nodded and I started off towards school.