

Everything

Lucas came through the portal and froze. My home was in chaos. My family was fighting rogues. Haley was popping around taking people's air and beheading demons. In the middle of it all stood Emmaline. I was running towards the demon about to stab her before I could process it.

I could sense the magic coming off the dagger. This was more than a kidnapping, they wanted me to believe Emmaline was dead. That's ridiculous; they couldn't sever the mate bond. I would know she lived even if my eyes saw her die. I latched my jaw around the demon's head and ripped it off his body and threw it.

I linked Dylan, "Get to Lacy." Dylan snorted, "What a great idea, Lucas. I was thinking of not doing that. In fact, I was going for coffee. What the hell do you think I'm doing?" I wasn't upset with his response. Dylan may act like a big kid, but you wanted him by your side at moments like this. Dylan took out three wolves forcing his way to my sister.

I linked my warriors coming through, "Guard your Luna!" I began to tear through rogues. Alex linked me, "I'm beginning to think you send me on random errands so I miss the big moments." I snorted, "You do appear to be in a big battle. How was I supposed to know you'd be gone when my mate was attacked?" Alex snorted, "I don't know, but cut it out." I couldn't help my smile.

I couldn't deny I was amused seeing Eric following Haley as she popped around the battlefield. I linked Eric, "You really are whipped, my friend." Eric growled at me, "You just WAIT until Emmaline pops away from the guards you have on her." That did not sound like something I wanted.

My dad was surrounded. I noticed Haley with her hands outstretched ready to take their air when icicles began to fly at the rogues. Haley turned and smiled at Emmaline still ready to assist. Thor looked grateful to Emmaline because he finally caught up to his mate.

We won the fight, but Emmaline was trying to give me heart attack. Nick linked me, "Holy Mary mother of god she turned someone into water. I need you to tell me her favorite kind of chocolate because I need her to be reminded that she likes me." I snorted, "You're fine."

I linked Alex, "Tell me your daughter is in the safe room." Alex replied, "She is in Black Mountain. She's safe." Thank god. I winced when I noticed Emmaline's gaze on Alpha Chase and Alpha Sophia. Eric linked me, "The soul searcher can't like their situation." No, she really couldn't.

I linked him, "I was in the Hackura realm?" Eric replied, "The Hackura can't just open portals in this realm without going to theirs or coming from there. You didn't even look around." I rolled my eyes, "Did you?" Eric snorted, "I've been there multiple times now, I know what it looks like. I don't need to look around. We go there all the time."

Dominic linked me, "Thor told me Haley is linking him. It seems Haley didn't notice Alpha Chase and Alpha Sophia at her party. Now she's asking questions." Well, her poker face was still clearly intact. She didn't look like she was questioning anything.

Gemma had food ready. I linked her, "Gemma you are amazing. Thank you for organizing food." She smiled at me replying, "Tell me something I don't know." Everyone dispersed. Blade had us talking about fairy allure.

Eric linked me, "Emmaline probably won't understand it either. Haley understands the concept of fairy allure, but she's adamant hers doesn't affect people." I groaned, "Emmaline already doesn't understand. There's this human boy."

Eric interrupted me amusement clear in his tone, "Oh is there? Welcome to my world. On the bright side, Haley said Emmaline wants you to propose so at least a ring will deter the human boy and in general." I stiffened asking, "Are you serious?" Eric nodded.

Eric surmised, "I'm guessing from Dylan's cough your human admirer is named Grayson?" I growled, "Yes, that little prick called me a cradle robber! TO HER FACE!" Eric replied, "That's just insulting. Devil's advocate though, to a human that would be accurate. They don't think like we do. It's ironic since they love books, movies, and T.V. shows with century old vampires dating teenagers. Which they root for and love, but I digress." I barely held in my laugh.

Nick linked, "Seriously Lucas. I need a fairy; this shit is gold. They don't agree with you about people flirting with them." I growled back, "Because your mate is a wolf who understands. They TRULY do not understand how attractive they are." Nick just smirked.

That got them started on me and Eric having admirers. I linked my Beta, "You are supposed to be on my side Dylan." Dylan laughed, "Umm, hello... I HATED that woman and I told you THUSLY Christy was the worst. I'm one hundred and fifty percent on the fairy's side in that one. You and Eric have psycho exes." He had told me often he hated her, and that she was bad news. He was right.

I noticed Bjourn had stepped to the side on the phone. I linked Eric asking, "What's that about?" I inclined my head to Bjourn. Eric answered, "Talking to the

Hood himself looking or the lying piece of shit leak saying Haley killed a demon she didn't kill."

I strained to hear but got nothing. I asked, "Why can't I hear him?" Eric shrugged, "Haley did something to his phone. She did it on my cell as well. It's handy." It sounded like it. Privacy was hard to come by amongst wolves.

The girls were talking about the fight before we got here. I linked Eric, "I'm sorry. Did they just say my mate slowed down... time?" Eric smirked, "She did. Haley figured it out before everything went to shit." I replied, "FUCK!" Eric nodded, "We have powerful mates." Multiple pack members linked me saying Emmaline had done it for them as well. That she fought for them, and they were all proud of her.

Eric was tense hearing what Haley did. I linked him, "You already knew she was this powerful." Eric replied, "It doesn't get easier to hear. I love that she's powerful, and that she can defend herself. When I hear about her fighting without me it feels like my entire chest clenches. Even when she's in my arms safe and sound." I could understand that now.

Somehow this conversation turned to pups. Were our pups going to be able to do all this powerful stuff? I linked Eric, "Have I said fuck yet?" Eric snorted, "You don't have to tell me. My pups used their powers from the womb, remember?"

I nearly threw up. He was right. I whispered, "Shit..." Eric nodded, "Haley was a wreck those three days we were taking an unwanted nap thinking about kidnappers." I sighed, "And here I was going to back off training sessions from two down to one. Maybe I should have more instead." Eric replied, "I had warriors only upping their training." I considered, "That's not a bad idea. Maybe I could wake up with Emmaline in the mornings if I did that."

Haley spoke to Aiden. I muttered in my link to Eric, "She thanks him? Seriously? Emmaline was attacked tonight because fairies charmed away her fucking guards." Eric glared at Aiden who enjoyed both of us glaring at him.

Eric replied, "I'm glad he helped her, and I also want to punch him. I just want twenty-four fairy king free hours in my life." I raised an eyebrow asking, "You talk to or see him that much?" Eric nodded, "Unfortunately, I do."

Haley popped her and Emmaline away. Eric growled, "I have told her time and time again not to do that!" Dylan shoved popcorn into his mouth. Lacy asked, "What's the big deal? She said they needed food. I'm sure they went into the pack house." Eric shook his head, "She's in the main house." He took off.

Jackson snorted, “You just make it more fun for her, brother. She’s a fairy. She loves teasing you.” His perfectly valid point didn’t matter to either of us. I even knew Haley enjoyed Eric punishing her. It still drove me crazy they could pop away from us like that.

I linked Eric, “I get it.” Eric growled, “You would. Your mate can do it too. Those fuckers on the lawn have mates who can’t just pop realms, states, or rooms away from them like ours can.” I growled, “REALMS? GOD! I didn’t even think of that. Emmaline mails her siblings presents from different states. She’s just going to pop out.”

Eric advised, “I would get on top of that if I were you. I’ll talk to Haley about it, maybe she can take Emmaline. Have her practice popping with Haley present, and I’ll make sure Blade goes too.” I nodded, “That would make me happy. What did we do to deserve this shit? Can’t fairies do something convenient like they can’t pop away from their light bound mate?” Eric laughed, “No, fairies don’t do anything that is convenient. At least Emmaline doesn’t have traumatic shit she relives in flashbacks and panic attacks. Haley can get re-injured.” I replied yelling, “What the fuck?”

Before he could reply we made it inside. I almost laughed when Haley stuck her tongue out at his growl. I had seen full grown men who are Alpha’s bend down to Eric’s growl. It didn’t even phase this very tiny fairy Hackura woman.

Dylan was having too much fun. Eric linked me, “I REALLY want to kill him some days, Lucas.” I laughed, “You don’t though.” Eric glared at Dylan, answering, “I might.” I smirked, “Pre-Haley if he’d annoyed you this much maybe, but with Haley we both know you won’t kill him. He just likes giving you shit. It’s how your friendship has always been.”

Eric growled, “He called me the king of the pricks.” I tried not to laugh when I replied, “Yes, he did. You know he’s always thought you were a prick though. You made it worse after we first hooked up. He was pissed I’d left him by himself that night. He had to handle all the paperwork alone, and you called him jealous.” Eric smirked, “It made him shut up.” I agreed, “Yes, but he’s been thinking of ways to get you back ever since.” Eric just nodded. I couldn’t help but think back about that moment.

*** Flashback ***

Lucas sighed as he watched his friend Eric argue with the other Alpha’s at the summit. The debate about how to handle Alpha Max had been going on for hours. Eric wanted to save Alpha’s Max’s Luna. She was from Alpha Prater’s pack, but Alpha Prater was arguing that Alpha Max was her mate so there was nothing he could do.

I glanced at Dylan. He was uncharacteristically quiet. He was looking at Alpha Prater's Beta. Beta Angler looked like a broken man. I couldn't blame him. We were discussing his daughter after all. It had to gut him that it was his own best friend and Alpha was refusing to step in. Eric called Alpha Prater a coward. I agreed.

Alpha Prater sighed "Look, you may not understand since you don't have a mate, Alpha Eric." I tensed. At twenty-eight years old my friend was the oldest one here without a mate, followed by me. I knew the wound that Alpha Prater was picking at. Eric, Christy, Claudia, and I had all commiserated together over not having found our mates yet. Claudia found a witch to send her into heat; she so desperately wanted a pup. I knew she and Eric were disappointed when they didn't conceive this last time they'd tried.

Eric lunged for Alpha Prater and squeezed his throat. Jackson and I were by his side. I tried to calm him down, "Eric, you don't want to hurt him." Eric growled at Alpha Prater, "I may not have my mate by my side yet, but I do have pride and honor. Where the FUCK is yours?! He tortures and rapes her, yet you do NOTHING! He doesn't even let her see her pup! She grew up in your FUCKING pack, she's your BEST FRIEND'S daughter! Your own Beta's child for god sakes! I don't give a fucking shit if she's his goddamn mate. She deserves better! Alpha Max went insane after the death of his parents. That's not his Luna's fault."

Eric released Alpha Prater who went down in a heap, coughing. Eric kept going "I may not have a mate so I don't understand the mate bond, but I do understand being a decent fucking person. You are no ally of mine or my family any longer. I will not be associated with a coward like you. I'd have rescued her the SECOND word reached me what he'd done to her. You sit on your ass and do nothing! My Beta doesn't have a daughter, but he has a sister. I would destroy a pack for allowing ONE of the things done to his sister you have allowed your Beta's daughter to endure. I can tell you even if the pack member of mine had no standing I'd be there to rescue them. Because I am their Alpha and that's my GODDAMN JOB! You and I are through Alpha Prater."

Alpha Prater coughed then appealed to others, "Alpha Jackson, Alpha Harold, Alpha Darrin, please explain it to him, you have mates. You know what it would be to take Alpha Max's Luna from him. He would lose the grip he has left on his sanity." Eric punched Alpha Prater in the face.

Jackson said, "Our brother is the head of the packs, Alpha Prater. If he is done being your ally, then we are as well." I sighed sending Dylan a look. He grimaced knowing the paperwork that would be coming for us tonight. I was going to follow Eric on this one. Dissolving an agreement for an alliance was a SHIT ton of paperwork.

I spoke, “I agree with Eric and before you say it’s because I also don’t have a mate it’s not. It’s because I have a little sister, and I would never allow anyone to harm one hair on her head. If you refuse to help a she wolf in need, then maybe it’s time you hand your pack over to your son. The mate bond isn’t an excuse to treat someone however you wish.”

Dylan linked me singing, “Nobody knows the troubles I see... Nobody knows my sorrow of having such a good Alpha who makes excellent points even knowing all the paperwork it brings.” Eric agreed with me, “Lucas is right. The mate bond is sacred and given to us by the moon goddess. He treats that gift like trash. I can tell you when I find my mate, I will treat her like a queen.”

Alpha Prater smirked. Dylan linked me, “Full stop. Someone punch him so he can’t say whatever dumb thing he’s about to say. This is bad. Abort! Abort! EVERYONE RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! I’m not kidding here. Someone stop him. His Beta finally smiled. He knows he’s about to get his ass kicked. He’s getting justice for his daughter...I guess we let this play out, but if Alpha Prater dies...I warned you.”

Alpha Prater sneered, “Your mate’s probably dead or you’d have found her by now.” Shit. Dylan linked, “DUCK FOR COVER!” Jackson, Harold, and Darrin growled. Eric grabbed Alpha Prater by the collar and punched him so hard he went flying back into the drywall, knocking him unconscious.

Dylan linked me again, “He should consider himself lucky when he wakes up. We’ve seen Eric kill people for less. I for one am disappointed in his reaction. I thought we’d be sending in the body cleanup crew.” I rolled my eyes.

Eric took several deep breaths then rounded on Alpha Prater’s Beta, “Tell your piece of fucking shit Alpha when he wakes up that mate or no, when I get married I’ll treat my wife like a goddamn queen.” Beta Angler nodded. Eric’s sighed softening slightly, “I am sorry for what’s happening to your daughter. If she was in my or my brother’s packs this would not stand.”

Eric looked around the room, “And ANYONE who wishes to remain in an alliance with the Conners packs should feel the same goddamn way. The moon goddess would be ashamed of a room full of Alpha’s afraid of one insane wolf who needs to be put down. Mark my words gentlemen, Alpha Max will keep losing his mind. He will do something to one of you one day, and if you want my pack's assistance... if you want MY assistance, Alpha Prater’s pack can no longer be your ally.”

Dylan snorted, “Ohhhhh there he is. I thought he was off the reservation. No, no, the man had plans. Plans to make Alpha Prater a pariah. That was totally a pre-planned move by Beta Caleb. He preempted the man not dying by having Alpha

want to kill everyone over there have a plan. I should've known. What was I thinking? Of course, a Beta was behind the plan." He was probably right.

Eric stormed out of the room. Caleb sighed and pulled his computer out of his bag. He spoke quietly "I will have the paperwork to dissolve our alliance with you in your hands before tomorrow, Beta Angler." Beta Angler sighed and sat down beside Caleb.

He sounded broken when he said, "Thank Alpha Eric for me." His eyes teared up as he continued, "She's my little girl. Prater commanded me not to go after her. My mate deteriorates before my very eyes with every rumor of her treatment. Alpha Max won't let her visit... I can't breathe some days. Every call I get I worry it's going to be the news that I have to bury my pup." Caleb frowned and put his hand on Beta Angler's back.

Dylan pulled out his computer. Every other Alpha in the room turned to their Beta's. Computers were out all over the place. Everyone was dissolving their alliances. That's how powerful Eric was though, and he knew it. All of his brothers were smirking.

I told Dylan. "I'm going to check on Eric." Dylan nodded and linked me, "Just be back to help me with this paperwork. I know he's right, but this is a colossal headache of paperwork that he just gave me. And darn him for being a person whose scary as all get out." I smiled then headed off after my friend.

I followed his scent, not surprised that it led to his room. He'd untucked his button up shirt from his jeans and unbuttoned it. He was staring out the window. I'd seen Eric naked numerous occasions. We'd shared Christy and Claudia together. I was positive that's what we'd be doing tonight if they were still here, but they'd left early though for some girl time.

Eric broke the silence, "What if he's right, Lucas? What if my mate is dead?" He turned to face me with a whiskey in his hand. I couldn't help but admire him. I gulped. Eric slept with both men and women, but I didn't. There was that comfort with Eric though, not only had we seen each other in intimate situations; he understood not having your mate by your side.

I assured him, "You have to believe she's out there. You'll find her. Alpha Prater is an idiot who just lost every single alliance in that room on your word alone. You're a good man." Eric snorted, "I am not. I'm a ruthless man, but I have honor by god... I have honor." Eric poured whiskey into another glass and handed it to me.

He admitted, "I should just go kill Alpha Max, and bring the girl home. Without the backing of her old pack the werewolf council would come against me because

she's his fucking mate and marked Luna. If Alpha Prater would just agree, we could go get her. How can Alpha Max do this? If I..." he trailed off and he let me see his tears.

He continued wistfully, "If I found my mate, I would never treat her like that. How can the moon goddess grant that prick a mate while you and I..." I stopped him and turned his face towards mine. I assured him, "You and I are going to find them. Until we do, we have lots of choices of those to enjoy."

Eric looked me in the eyes admitting, "I'm tired of meaningless sex. I want that connection my brothers have." I shrugged, "Claudia loves you." Eric snorted, "I care for her, but I don't love her. When she's not around I honestly question why I entertain her. Then someone says something mean about her, and I see red."

My eyes were glued to Eric's chest. The words I'd been thinking for a year tumbled out, "Would it be meaningless if it were us?" Eric whipped his eyes to mine. He cautiously asked, "What are you saying, Lucas?" I walked towards him boldly, "If we had sex would that be meaningless to you?"

I took off my jacket and threw it on the chair. Eric closed his eyes begging, "Lucas, you don't..." I interrupted him, "Swing both ways. Not usually, no. It's different with you. I'm not saying I'm in love with you; though I do love you like a friend. I have nothing but respect for you, and I have been telling myself for a year that wanting to be with you was simply due to seeing you in action and the pleasure you've brought both Christy and Claudia."

Eric looked away as I stepped towards him and undid his belt buckle. He didn't stop me so I continued, "Then you had to go and be the man that you are standing up to every Alpha who told you that you can't save that woman. You put Alpha Prater in his place, and it was so goddamn hot." Eric quivered, "Lucas... if we do this it could change everything. I can't lose your friendship. You mean too much to me."

I groaned, "Really? The friendship excuse." Eric threw his glass against the wall. He yelled, "It's not a fucking excuse! You have been my friend since you could walk. You've never been with a man, and you can't blame me for not being sure here." I put my hands on his chest, "Tell me it would be meaningless to you then. I'll walk out of this room, and forget the conversation happened." Eric growled.

I leaned in and kissed his peck. He shivered under my touch, then pushed me off him, and began to walk away. I growled and tackled him to the ground. I commanded, "SAY IT, ERIC!" Eric growled, pinning me beneath him. He snarled back, "I CAN'T FUCKING SAY THAT LUCAS!"

Our lips were almost touching. Eric continued, "I also can't say that I'm in love with you in a romantic way. I'm not." I smiled, "Good, then we agree. Until we find our mates when we need meaningful sex, we have each other. Because we are friends who respect each other." Eric growled debating.

Before I could realize his intent, his lips were on mine. He pulled me up, so I was sitting. He ran his hand down my chest through my shirt. I moaned, "Fuck, Eric." Eric chuckled, "You haven't felt anything yet." He kissed my neck

and I pulled him closer to me. He bit down hard. I growled pinning him to the floor, smashing my lips into his. He started grinding into me and reversed our positions, so my back was on the floor.

He ripped open my shirt and bit down on my peck. His hands tracing over my abs. He whispered, "Lucas." I looked up into his eyes. He studied me saying, "If you don't want to do this, you need to tell me now." I ran my hand across his abs confirming, "I want this. I need to feel a connection that has meaning too. I hate when someone throws in my face I don't have a mate yet." Eric didn't say anything, he just unbuttoned my jeans.

I linked Dylan, "I'm sorry not going to make it back." Dylan sighed, "Excuse me? I know I heard you wrong. I know you didn't say you were leaving me with hundreds of pages of paperwork to do alone. Alpha knew this was coming already started his paper for his Beta."

I moaned as Eric touched my dick with his strong hand. Dylan shrieked, "NOW?! Are you kidding me? You're going for a ride on the Alpha you've been longing for a year train? It's seriously about time you Alpha'd up and told him, but your timing is awful. Couldn't you all do this with on one of your many Christy/Claudia sex dates that I've told you not to have? She's the devil. Actually, both those women are the devil. I'm just saying." I closed our link not answering.

Eric lowered his head and put me in his mouth. I sat up. Eric simply chuckled. His mouth came off me, he put his finger in his mouth, and pushed me back down with his other hand. He put his mouth back on my dick, pulling his finger out of my mouth.

I felt his finger swirling around my back entrance that he coated with my spit before he inserted his finger. I growled, loving the sensation. Eric kept at it until I came. It was one of the most intense orgasms I'd ever had. He kissed me hard while I was still panting. He got up and went to his bedside table and grabbed two butt plugs.

He commanded, "Open your mouth, Lucas." I'd seen this side of Eric before; he was in total control. For some reason, my Alpha blood was completely fine with it. I did as he said, and he closed my mouth after placing both plugs inside.

He ordered, "Suck on them." I did until he indicated to me to stop. I opened my mouth Eric took them both out. He flipped me onto all fours with a strength that I knew he possessed, but it was still impressive. He slowly placed the plug in my butt. When he was done, he spanked me.

I grabbed his arm and yanked him down onto the floor. We fought for dominance. Eric eventually made a final pin with me on the ground, winning the battle. He smirked and held out the other plug, He told me, "You get to put in mine now." I nodded and he let me up.

I watched as he slowly slid his zipper down. I watched hungrily as his dick sprang free. I couldn't stop myself. I got onto my knees and licked it. He groaned. I played with his balls while I inserted the butt plug. Eric moaned. "Fuck, Lucas." He grabbed me, pulling me up to my feet. He yanked me against him. Our kisses were frenzied with lust.

He led us backwards to the bed and we laughed as we both fell on it with his weight on top of me. Eric looked into my eyes searching and I nodded. Eric flipped me again onto all fours. He grabbed the lubricant off the nightstand and started to rub it on himself. I started touching myself watching him. Eric smirked as he observed my actions. He started to rub the lube around my ass removing the plug.

His voice was thick with lust when he spoke, "Last chance to walk away, Lucas." I growled, "Shut up and fuck me." No sooner had I said that than Eric entered me slowly. I knew he was doing that for my benefit. Eric wasn't one to fuck slowly. I clutched the sheets as I felt myself expanding as he slid further into me. He paused letting me adjust.

After I nodded, he began to rock us back and forth. I felt pleasure unlike I had before. Eric moved faster and faster and I came onto the sheets. My orgasm ripped through me like wildfire. Eric roared his own release not long after. He slowly pulled out of me.

I turned on my back to face him. His eyes were searching mine with fear in them. I assured him, "Stop ruining it with your loud thoughts. I'm fine. We are still friends, and we are absolutely doing that again when we need the connection." Eric laughed, "We aren't done yet, Lucas. Now, it's your turn to fuck me." I smirked and pulled him down to me, and we started all over.

Flashback end

Eric shot me a knowing look. He asked over link, "Thinking about the summit we had our first time at?" I nodded. I told him, "It meant a lot to me. I wasn't ever sure something could mean more but..." I trailed off. Eric responded, "I know what you mean. Our moments were meaningful, but with Haley... it's everything." I nodded, "You're right. It's everything with Emmaline."

My comment on Emmaline eating were not taken as intended. I linked Eric, "How the HELL did they interpret what I was saying as a bad thing?" Eric shrugged, "Women are touchy about food comments." When Eric said they were leaving, I teased him, "I thought you guys were staying the night?" Eric retorted, "We are going to be loud tonight. We might even cause another pack heat. She got shot." I couldn't blame him. Haley's ass was probably going to be red from spankings.

When they left the Red Run group entered. I knew they should've moved to Red Run the second they found their mates, and especially once they were marked. They all said goodbye while all of us men eyed each other not sure how to deal with the crying. Dylan was the most helpful of course.

Once they left, my goal was to get Emmaline upstairs. My dad stopped to thank her and give me shit about not proposing. I linked "Seriously, Dad? I am giving her time!" My dad gave me a look, "Son, when you're given your reason to breathe, you let her know every second of every day how lucky you are and how much you want her. I thought I taught you that. Your mother is my heart and soul, and if you waste one more moment with yours after waiting for her so long... I'll have Haley Conners do something else horrid to you." I had nothing to say back to that.

I finally got Emmaline upstairs and claimed her. When we finished Dominic was practically prancing in my head. He purred, "We need to do that again. Mate liked it! That... I want to do that again, Lucas." I snorted, "Of course you do big guy. I do too. Just not now, she needs a minute." Dominic huffed, "Fine, but soon." We were in complete agreement about that.

I didn't know if there were words to explain to her what being with a mate was. It was coming home, it was every piece falling into place, and it was everything I'd ever wanted. Nothing meant as much to me as she did. We talked a little more before I remember something.

I linked Dylan, "Cancel training sessions for tomorrow. Everyone fought tonight, and they fought well. I want the trainers to meet with us at eight thirty tomorrow morning." Dylan answered, "On it, Boss Man. Not that I wasn't

because I knew you would say that so... I already told everyone. You're welcome. Lacy DEMANDS that I tell you that Emmaline said she wanted you to propose." I replied, "I already know. Haley told Eric who told me." Dylan laughed, "Lacy said

you'd better feel the figurative flames under your ass, or she'll make them real. I believe her. She's a scary and adorable." She was.

Alpha Chase and Alpha Sophia came up. Some of Emmaline's observations pulled me up short. I linked Dylan, "Is Alpha Chase upset with his arrangement with Alpha Sophia?" Dylan snorted, "I think it's supposed to be a secret, but he is. Why? I know Beta Matt ignores my memo's about it. I'll blow up his phone should you want."

I replied, "Emmaline said his soul was upset." Dylan cackled, "YES! I will blow up his phone letting him know his Alpha's soul has upset my Luna and I MUST HAVE ANSWERS! Maybe Beta Caleb will be so annoyed in our group chat he'll explain. Don't you just know King Alpha Prick knows why Alpha Chase is upset? He's annoying like that." Eric probably did know.

I tried to explain and ease Emmaline's mind. I explained Eric's thoughts on marriage. He wanted Haley. He had for a long time, but he didn't know she was his mate at the time. We had a long discussion about it. He'd finally believing the rumors everyone whispered about him. He thought his mate was dead, and it had wrecked him. He still wanted a relationship and pups. He didn't want to marry a she wolf who just wanted the title of his Luna.

The rumors of the fairy princess had intrigued Eric for years. We all knew she'd be beautiful. Eric had beat up more than a few people who'd suggested lewd things about Haley over the years. It actually made sense why Eric wanted her so badly. Eric had been even more aggressive about it about once he got Thor. Well Duke, but even THAT made sense. I should've seen the signs. I think Dylan made a joke about it once, but never to Eric. I now understood that Selene was guiding Eric to Haley all along.

I linked Dylan, "Do you think Chase's wolf could be giving him shit? It would be a fucking headache to have your wolf berating you and whining for their mate if they couldn't have them." Dylan replied, "I've already asked Beta Matt in our group chat if that's the problem. He's being quiet. Don't fear. I SHALL crack him open and reveal his secrets." I believed if anyone could, it would be Dylan.

I wanted off this topic. Dominic happily exclaimed, "Let's claim mate again!" I rolled my eyes, "Not tonight." Dominic huffed and shut our connection. Emmaline had more to say first. I linked Dylan, "Umm, you need to exclude Beta Matt from your chat and remind your Beta buddies we need to be on alert for Alpha Sophia to meet her mate. It's been pointed out that said mate might go after Alpha Chase, hard." Dylan replied, "We all already know that. We have plans to activate our Alpha's. Don't you worry. I'm on it. I'm offended you think I'm not. Our Luna and me, we are on a wavelength." It seemed they were. I finally got Emmaline back in sexy mode. We spent the next several hours with me buried inside her.

The next day when Emmaline left for school, I made several decisions. Training for non-warriors was being reduced to once a day. I wanted to wake up to mate sex every damn morning I could. I went downstairs.

I wasn't surprised to find Dylan with coffee. I told him, "We need to call Nick. If he's going to retaliate against his Allison McAlister's pack, he will have our support. I want to make sure she is alright as well. Then I want to go over who is likely behind these contracts."

Dylan raised an eyebrow, "First of all, Allison McAlister got married. So, her name is Allison Hale." I gave him a look. He said, "The details matter, Lucas. As far as the suspects. I've already got my murder board going. It has string connecting everything. Lacy said it was overkill, but I think it's fabulous. It's one of these guys."

He rolled out and flipped over a white board. He'd listed the people we'd mentioned before. I was startled to see Alpha Theo's picture up there. Then I read the note below his name. It said Gotcha! Dylan laughed and took Alpha Theo's photo down.

I admitted, "He could've... he hates me. He threatened my future Luna after..." Aaron. Alpha Theo and I used to be friends. His brother went crazy. Aaron and I were really good friends, but he'd been erratic for months. We all covered for him, but he was getting worse. Then he took my pack member and raped her. I tried to reason with him, but he challenged and attack me when I tried to get her back. I had no choice, but that didn't matter to Theo. Aaron was his little brother. I couldn't blame him.

Dylan said, "He didn't mean it. Beta James is still my buddy. Alpha Theo was hurting and lashed out. You know your former bed buddy King Alpha Prick made sure of that. On that note, Haley being the goddess she is sent me an email. She has an idea about how to get Aaron's pack back to Theo."

I snorted, "He won't take it from me. I offered." It still stung that he refused. Dylan nodded, "Yes, but the goddess that is our little fun sized fairy Hackura princess has struck gold. You are giving the pack over to King Alpha Prick. He's going to give it Alpha Theo." I nodded, "Do it." He nodded. Maybe a slight weight about Aaron's death would ease on my back. I doubted it though.

I shook thoughts of the past off. Dylan called Nick, who answered immediate, "Lucas, I thought you'd call today." I replied, "Good morning, Nick. First off, I wanted to ask how Allison and her mate are." Nick snorted, "She wasn't doing great. Haley Connors fixed that though. You missed her by seconds. Popping is so handy. She healed Allison and the pup. We weren't sure the pup would make it. He was suffering because of the wolfsbane they injected Allison with. She had been

injected multiple times since her abduction. According to Haley, Allison will probably deliver today or tomorrow. Her healing accelerates pregnancies. She insisted I call her Haley by the way. She healed Allison's mate as well. He was not in good shape from the silver poisoning."

I sighed in relief, admitting, "I'm glad Haley was able to help. Are we attacking the pack that handed Allison over?" Nick snorted. Beta McAlister asked, "We? Alpha Lucas?" I replied, "You fight with me, and I fight with you. We are allies." Nick spoke, "We aren't attacking them, yet." Beta McAlister growled. He had to want that Alpha's head.

Nick continued, "The newly formed council is handling the situation. It will be a good test to see what they do. I don't know if you'd want to attack them with us if we don't agree with the outcome." Dylan and I looked at each other. He shrugged.

I asked, "Why is that?" Nick sounded confused, "Because as of late last night, your dad was recruited to join said new council. Haley Connors has quite the mind for who should be in charge. In fact, she asked when I thought I would hand my pack to my son because she thinks I should be on the council as well."

I laughed, "Haley suggested my father for the council?" Beta McAlister said, "She told her father in law to put him on it. So, suggested is a nice way to put it." I told them, "I stand by what I said, Nick. If you fight, we fight with you."

Nick replied, "Thank you, Lucas. Hopefully, we can all have more faith in the new council than their predecessors. Who are your suspects for the contract on Emmaline? Do we think it's two different people going for Chelsea and Emmaline? Or do you think the same people are gunning for our pack's Luna's?"

Beta McAlister said, "I have an email with pictures of Beta Dylan's detailed murder, Nick." Dylan exclaimed, "GOOD LORD YOU PEOPLE! Someone say his name right before my brain combusts." I rolled my eyes. Dylan said, "Alpha Kyle, they are so rude not saying your title." Nick laughed, "I did tell Lucas he could call me Nick." Dylan sighed and drank his coffee.

I went over the suspects. I told him, "I think Alpha Kade is out. I punished three of his wolves and killed one. He didn't even seem remotely upset about it. If anything, he seemed grateful he didn't have to do it." Nick sighed, "We have Alpha Raven on our list as well."

Dylan interjected, "Alpha Raven's Beta said they wouldn't help us if the girls are taken per his Alpha. Which he seemed oh so terrified to tell me, and he clearly disagrees. The poor guy is having heart palpitations worried about King Alpha Prick's reaction since Lucas is involved. His Alpha has cleared forgotten their last run in with Alpha King Prick, but his Beta hasn't."

An idea hit me. I asked, "Is Alpha Prater on anyone's list?" Nick groaned, "Shit." Dylan spoke, "He would go after Haley first, but we can put him on the list. His son took over the pack and worked really hard to gain Eric's alliance back. I think former Alpha Prater's son would kill the man himself if he did this since he only got the alliance back two short years ago. He'd have to get in line because I have been WAITING for the chance to kill that guy. He's going out death by paperwork. His eyes will bleed, and I will have my revenge. MUHAHAHAHA."

I ignored his revenge plot adding, "He could be striking at Eric's allies before going after Eric himself." Nick replied, "We will put him on our list too." Dylan retorted, "Fine, ignore my plans. It won't be that simple. Former Alpha Prater has been hiding and not giving me a single reason to run to the King Alpha of the pricks to lock him in his dungeons. It couldn't possibly be this simple for me." I did agree it was unlikely. I hung up with Nick when my dad walked in.

I smiled at my dad, "I hear congratulations are in order." My dad snorted, "Eric's little fairy practically demanded Nathan add me to the new council. There are five of us retired Alpha's on it. Haley wanted Alpha Kyle to hand his pack over to Peter so that he can join." I laughed, "That's what he just said."

My dad smiled, "I can't tell you what we are going to do about the situation, but I don't think anyone will be upset. I'm taking one of the SUV's to meet Nathan Connors out there with the rest of the council to talk to their Alpha. We've done a preliminary investigation. That was made easier by the files that the Hackura Prince's took from the Ducants files. The Alpha has a lot to answer for."

My dad paused then mused, "Of course he would've for the word of his Beta's son and Allison's. Their Alpha was there when they were taken. We questioned them both already." I tilted my head, "Dad, you could've just taken the SUV. You didn't need to let me know." He nodded, "I know. I wanted to come and make sure you got my message about getting your head out of your ass and proposing to Emmy."

I snorted, "Dad..." My dad growled, "Don't you dad me, boy. She's already your Luna, she's marked, and mated. She's not a human, and she's known she's not human her whole life. You bought a ring. Rings are not designed to sit in a safe. Propose." I growled, "I'm not a little kid anymore, dad."

A crunching sound had both our heads turning. Dylan waved as he threw popcorn into his mouth. My dad responded, "You will always be my kid, Lucas. I will always tell you what I think, and I think not proposing to Emmaline is a mistake. Unless of course you want some fairy or human to come sweep her off her feet."

I growled, "No one will sweep her off her feet besides me!" I took a deep breath and admitted, "I'm proposing Friday night." My dad smiled, "Good. Have a good day boys," and with that, he left.

Dylan commented, "So.... Friday?" I nodded, "Yes, I don't want to do it during the week. I'll pick her up after school." Dylan nodded, "Speaking of school. Lacy was torqued that you have a bodyguard driving with them in the car now." I winced, "I didn't get a chance to tell Emmaline that this morning." Dylan laughed, "You're screwed." I smirked, "I got screwed all morning long, Dylan." Dylan smiled, "So did I Lucas, so did I." I groaned, "No... just no." Dylan laughed, and we got to work.

At ten o'clock sharp, the phone rang. Dylan answered. Before we could say anything we were greeted, "Hello to my cousin's wolf." I growled at Aiden, "It's Alpha Lucas." Aiden laughed, "Emmaline's wolf is the best you're going to get from me. What can I do for you?" I gritted out, "Keep fairy's away from Emmaline. They charmed her protection away, which led to last night's clusterfuck. There's a contract out for Emmaline."

Aiden laughed, "I can't stop them from being intrigued by her, but I will speak to Emmaline's father. He could do more as her father than I can, really. But I can't say until he talks to her and hears what she wants he will be inclined to do much of anything."

I growled, "She's mated and marked, King Aiden. She's my Luna. What else could her father possibly want to hear?" Aiden responded, "Her words. Hearing that she is happy." I rolled my eyes, "You know she's happy." Aiden agreed, "I do. So does my sister, but that does not mean that Marcious still wants to hear it from his daughter. As for the contract, I do believe Alpha Raven is your culprit. He's definitely Red Run's. There could be another involved with Emmaline. I'm looking into it."

I gaped at the phone. I asked, "How could you know that?" Aiden laughed again, "You wolves underestimate me. I've gathered my own intel on the incident. A simple visit from my sister to Alpha Raven would give you answers. I'm just saying." I pointed out, "I doubt Eric would agree since she got shot last night." Aiden laughed again. The sound was beginning to annoy me.

Aiden admitted, "You are quite right, Emmaline's wolf. Haley's wolf will want her to be safe. I'd say you have some time before they try again, but I'm not sure you do. My intel tells me there are other candidates, but the highest probability is Alpha Raven. I'll keep looking. Call should anything happen to my cousin, she is a Duchess and we will assist you where we can. I must go." With that he hung up.

I growled, "Oh because Emmaline's a duchess he would help us. I'm with Eric. I hate that guy." Dylan snorted, "He's a very intelligent, well informed guy. I like him. He's fun and he makes King Alpha Prick's eye twitch. He's a solid dude in my eyes. He's right too. You all underestimate him, but not me. I see King Fire Hands for the genius he is." I glared at him and called Eric.

Eric greeted, "Lucas." I took a deep breath then said, "Eric, I heard our dad's work together again" Eric laughed, "Yes, my wife was insistent." I smiled saying, "I heard Haley healed Allison, the pup, and her mate this morning. Nick and Beta McAlister were grateful. They said the pup was going to have problems if he made it since Allison was injected with wolfsbane multiple time. Naturally, Haley being Haley fixed it all." Eric growled, "She healed all THREE of them?"

Dylan and I looked at each other. Dylan linked me, "Ohhhh she didn't tell him. I think they are fighting. Keep talking. Get me the details while I text Beta Caleb. Where was my emergency memo?" I said to Eric, "That's what Nick said.

Didn't Haley tell you?" Eric growled ordering someone, "Link Mrs. Blanch... you know what, I'll do that. Haley needs food. Someone, explain this situation to Lucas."

Jackson filled me in, "Haley is a little upset with Eric. She had me call Alpha Kyle and see if Allison needed to be healed. He was thrilled since they'd just discovered the pups' condition. We hadn't heard Haley ended up healing them and her mate." Dylan was trying not to laugh.

I linked him, "Don't laugh. Eric will be pissed." Dylan sobered replying, "Fine. I would just like to say. I was right. They are fighting. An emergency memo will be sent... by yours truly." I replied, "Don't even." Dylan smiled, "I didn't say who I was sending it to, Alpha sleep tyrant. It's going to you and Beta Caleb. No further. Don't be something that doesn't spark joy for me, Lucas. I'd hate to get rid of you." I rolled my eyes.

I told Jackson, "Apparently the silver was affecting him pretty badly. Why is Haley mad at Eric? She was fine last night." Eric growled again. Jackson said, "Well after they stopped fucking this morning. Haley asked about Alpha Chase and Alpha Sophia. Eric told her it was like what he was doing with their marriage alliance. I'm... no one actually knows why she got so upset. We think she could be pregnant, and she's being hormonal. She's not acting like herself. She's been off for a few weeks."

Dylan couldn't hold back his laugh. Eric growled, "Dylan, don't fucking even." Dylan went to speak but I held up a hand. I told Eric, "I might actually know why she's upset. I don't think it's because she's pregnant. She would know she was pregnant, right? So would Bexley. Ask her." Eric sighed, "I can't. Bexley is on her concupiscence, and even if she wasn't, I couldn't. Haley was so upset about not being able to tell me last time about the triplets. If it's not that, why do you think Haley's upset?"

I admitted, "Emmaline actually asked me about the same thing last night. I compared it to you and Haley as well. Emmaline said I was wrong thinking Haley

wouldn't care if you'd been married when you guys met." Eric growled, "Why? Why would she have cared? She doesn't care about anything in my past. Why the FUCK would it matter if I was married?"

Bjourn interjected, "Neither Marcus nor I understand either." I sighed, "Emmaline pointed out that Haley would've been devastated if the one person meant for her; the one person who was supposed to love her unconditionally, was married to someone else. Emmaline said Haley tries not to be like a fairy. That being Eric's mistress wasn't something Haley would've been able to handle. I actually agree, given her past. I think everything Fabian shoved down her throat about her worth would've been shoved forward. She would've run from you, Eric."

They were silent for several moments, until Eric yelled, "FUCK!" Dylan added, "Eric, you know I think you're the King of the Pricks." I shot him a warning glare. Eric growled but Dylan kept talking, "but I imagine part of your problem may be sitting on your desk in a dome. Haley might be thinking of you marrying Claudia. She might be wondering what would've happened if you had married Claudia. Just like, the she devil incarnate all my memo's called Claudia, wanted before you met Haley."

I actually gasped. Dylan added, "I actually can't take credit for that realization. Lacy mentioned it last night when WE were discussing Alpha Chase and Alpha Sophia. They were a popular topic, apparently. Someone punch them in the face for me since we all got in trouble for their decisions. I'm looking at you King Alpha Prick."

Eric growled, "Fucking hell." Bjourn told him, "I'll go talk to her, Eric. You have work to do." I added, "I actually do have something to run by you Eric. We are looking at Alpha Raven as likely suspects for the contracts. Alpha Prater came up though. What do you think?"

Eric snorted, "I assume you're speaking of the former Alpha Prater." I answered, "Yes." Eric said, "It's not him. He's being watched and has been ever since Haley came into my life. I think if he strikes at someone it will be me. He'd try it by striking at Haley since he threw not having a mate in my face. He didn't meet with or contact the Ducants in any way. His phone and laptops are being tracked."

Dylan said, "You are a very scary man, King Alpha Prick. Illegally tapping phones and whatnot." Eric retorted, "And yet you continue to provoke me, Dylan." Dylan smiled, "All in good fun, King Alpha Prick. All in good fun."

Eric actually laughed, then said, "I'll have our file pulled on Alpha Raven. My gut says Alpha Raven feels right for the contract on Chelsea but not Emmaline. I have to go get through disputes so I can talk to Haley. Thank both your mates for their

thoughts on this one. And fuck both Alpha Chase and Alpha Sophia.” Dylan yelled, “Someone film it if he punches them.” I hung up the phone.

Dylan and I worked the rest of the day. When we paused Dylan smiled, “Your new bed is in your room. I had men get the bedsheets Emmaline purchased out of the totaled SUV and had them all washed.” I sighed in relief, “That’s perfect. I’ll ask her to move into my room again on Wednesday or Thursday.”

He looked at me like I was crazy. He asked, “Why not just ask her today?” I admitted, “I know it sounds crazy, but I just don’t want to push her too fast.” Dylan snorted, “You are crazy. She told you she’d move into your room once you got a new bed. You have a new bed. Ipso Facto, you should move into your room.” I shrugged, “I’m already nervous about asking her to marry me. Now I’m asking her to move into my room this week.”

Dylan laughed and clapped me on the back, “At least someone feels my pain. What an odd feeling this is.” I rolled my eyes, “Lacy is a wolf. She put the damn picture of the ring she wanted on your fucking pillow.” Dylan countered, “Lacy and Haley confirmed Emmaline wants you to propose. It came directly out of Emmaline’s mouth.” I retorted, “I’m still nervous. She’s my everything, Dylan. I would die a little inside if she said no and ran from me.”

Dylan said, “I understand boss man, but she’s not going to do that. She looks for you in every room. Her entire body relaxes when your arms are around her. Her eyes brighten whenever you say her name or call her baby girl. She’s been captivated by you since you guy’s locked eyes over coffee. Which is still a hilarious story.” I smiled, acknowledging that he had a point before we got back to work.

The trainers came into my office and sat down. I turned to them, “Thank you for coming. Yesterday showed the impressive progress you all are making. We had no casualties in either attack, that is a direct result of your classes. I was impressed by how those left behind here defended us until our allies arrived along with us.” I shook each other their hands.

I continued, “For Emmaline’s training, I need you guys to work on her instincts to pop away. She can’t outrun a wolf; it needs to be a reflex for her to pop away. She also needs to work on distractions.” Alex agreed, “I thought the same thing, she got distracted when she saw you.”

Another instructor added, “She did well before you got there, Alpha. The Hackura were not her only guards. I spoke with many in the pack that go to school with her. She and Gamma Alex talked about cardio days; she knows she can’t outrun a wolf.”

I nodded, "I know she knows. I know that she did well before I got there, my family told me. I'm worried the first thing she did after popping her friends out of the SUV during the Ducant men attack was telling everyone to run. Even if they hadn't been running away from the Ducants, we need her to not run."

The trainer grimaced, "We might need a fairy trainer then." I sighed, "No. No fairy's, they already want to take her. We have some human mates in our pack. Have them come at her while she pops away." They nodded and started to leave.

Alex told me, "We are proud of her progress. I, for one, was surprised she showed up twice a day with other pack members, let alone the first training of the day. I was concerned when I found out your mate was so young and not a she wolf. She has assuaged all my fears. She is a true Luna, and we are proud of her." Pride filled me as they left. Dylan smiled at me.

I spent the rest of the next few days pouring over reports and threats. Between the pack disputes and paperwork, Dylan and I had barely had time for Emmaline and Lacy. I followed through backing off training for non-warriors. They only had one session per day, which meant I woke up most mornings with Emmaline in bed now.

On Wednesday evening Emmaline knocked and walked into the office. I looked up smiling. She looked around before timidly asking, "I just... ummm... are you coming with me to fairy training?" I nodded, "Of course." She smiled grabbed my hand, "Haley wants me to try popping us there." She popped.

We ended up a quarter mile away from Eric and Haley's backyard. Emmaline shouted, "DRAT!" I laughed, "This is good progress, baby girl. I'll shift and you can jump on my back. I'll run us the rest of the way."

She nodded and backed away so I could shift. She climbed up on my back, and I ran us over. I set Emmaline down and she put my clothes in Dominic's mouth. I was touched she'd grabbed them for me. I ran behind a tree, shifted back, and put on my clothes.

I laughed when I noticed Farrin was helping again. I walked over to Eric's group. I raised an eyebrow asking, "Do you watch every practice with Farrin?" Eric growled, "Yes." I smirked, "Even though his mate is right there?" Eric nodded, "Fairy's don't see mates the same way, and he tried to fuck my wife. We don't know how often Haley's concupiscence happens." I groaned, "Great, now I'm coming to every practice." Jackson snorted, "As if you weren't already." I conceded that he had a point.

I changed the subject, “How many strategies have you come up with should we fight fairies again watching these practices?” Eric smiled, “Too many to count.” Emmaline started practicing first with Haley.

That reminded me. I asked, “How’s everything with Haley?” Eric growled, “I want to bring Fabian and Claudia back to life and kill them again. It just put her insecurities about me needing a she wolf by my side to the forefront of her mind.”

My jaw dropped, “She can’t think that.” Eric angrily spat, “She does. She’s trying to work through it. It was apparently her whole session with her therapist this Monday. She’s been to see Lindsey every day this week. I’m concerned, normally she goes once every two weeks.” I was surprised, “Haley sees a therapist?” Eric nodded, “She does. The pack therapist.”

That actually made sense. I asked, “So... did anyone ask her if she was pregnant?” Marcus laughed. The Conners men grimaced. Eric ground out, “Yes.” My eyes widened, “Yes, she’s pregnant? Congratulations, man!” Eric groaned, “She’s not pregnant, but yes someone asked.” I looked around but no one supplied the answer. I should’ve brought Dylan.

Bjourn said, “Before we could get to Haley after you called, we walked into... well... Cassandra might have asked Haley if she was pregnant.” I bit my lip teasing, “It went over that well, did it?” Eric sighed, “She thought my mom was saying she was fat.” I laughed. I couldn’t help it.

Jackson added, “Then she thought they were saying her feelings weren’t valid because she was just being hormonal.” Marcus said, “To be fair, that was almost a direct quote of what your mother said to her. We heard her. Your mom said she was being a little hormonal about the whole situation, and that was normal in her condition.”

Eric groaned, “We all didn’t understand what her hang up with Alpha Chase and Alpha Sophia was before.” Marcus said, “True, but none of us called her hormonal to her face. My sister has her insecurities, and nothing but time can heal them.”

I started to think Emmaline might benefit from therapy as well. She was abandoned and neglected. Why didn’t I think of this sooner? Practice ended while I thought about it. Hexxi, along with two other girls approached Emmaline. One shyly started talking, but they were laughing soon. They walked towards us.

I heard one ask, “So little sister, Maribella said you're the soul searcher. She said that’s about mates or something. Any ideas on mine?” Haley smirked. Emmaline looked at her and gasped. She squealed, “Haley! You said Alpha Kyle’s pack is coming today! Where are they?” Haley laughed, “I’m popping to get them now.

It's why no one has left yet." Emmaline was bouncing around, "We have to go get them now!"

I laughed telling our group, "Nick appears to be getting his fairy." Eric smirked then told me, "Your mate is about to pop away with mine." I turned back to see Emmaline and Haley were holding hands. They popped away. I yelled, "FUCK! They can't do that! Blade didn't go with them."

Eric laughed, "Javi is in Red Run territory because I knew she would just pop out after practice." I stared at him letting my heartbeat return to normal. I said, "Bless you for always being at least two steps ahead of people."

The girl Emmaline had been talking to was stunned. She said, "Oh my gosh, she actually knew who mine was!" I directed my statement on Eric, "Since she's not a full fairy that must be Emmaline's other half-sister, Sharon." Eric nodded. I asked, "What else is she?" Eric smirked, "She's a fairy/werewolf mix." I frowned, "I don't sense her wolf."

Eric distractedly answered, "Haley thinks Sharon needs to be marked by her mate for her wolf to come out." A pop sounded. I spotted Nick among the group of unmated men. Emmaline was dragging one behind her. As soon as he caught Sharon's scent he let go of Emmaline and ran to Sharon. Another one ran towards the pack house.

Nick came over smirking as the boy dragged Sharon inside. Haley told him where a room was that they could use. Emmaline was so excited she was bouncing around. Nick gleefully exclaimed, "I got myself a fairy." I snorted asking, "Who is that kid?" Nick smiled, "Garrett, my Gamma's son. So, our future Gamma. Up until about five minutes ago he was disappointed your mate wasn't his." I growled, "Great."

Nick laughed, "Or so my son told me when Emmaline popped in bouncing up and down screaming for Garrett because her sister was his mate." Eric spoke, "That explains why he would be drawn to Emmaline. His mate is her sister." I growled, "Be logical because it's not Haley we are talking about." Eric smiled, "He's got his mate now, Lucas. It's fine. Just like Dylan is now fine." Nick laughed.

Emmaline ran into my arms. She squealed, "I'm so excited! I found my half-sister's mate! Haley thinks her wolf will come out now!" Nick yelled, "Her WOLF? Did you just say her wolf?" Haley laughed, "She did. Her mom's a werewolf. She's currently wolf less, but I think once she's mated and marked her wolf will come out. At least from what I've read." We all stared at her, confused.

Eric linked me, "Ask what she's read. She didn't say that before." I spoke, "What did you read that made you think that?" Haley grimaced, "There are actually quite

a few fairy/werewolf partials around. Have you ever noticed someone who didn't shift at sixteen, but after they found their mate and got marked... their wolf showed up?"

We all faltered. That was rare, but it happened. Haley continued, "I read a book in Faerie..." She sighed, "I... it... whatever I read that there was a theory that wolves that don't have Alpha or Beta blood need their mate to get their wolf. Partial fairies that have Alpha or Beta blood wolves come with or without a mate."

Nick exclaimed, "Holy shit. We need to look for partial fairies for Haley to train within the packs." Haley commented, "I do that, but your help would be appreciated." Eric was studying Haley. Nick looked around then said, "Well, I'll just get some food."

As soon as he made it inside, Marcus spoke, "What book had this theory, little sister?" Emmaline jumped in changing the subject, "Can you believe it, Lucas? Sharon is going to shift! Do we get to watch?"

I stared at her astonished. I answered, "It depends on what your sister wants. Did she grow up in a pack?" Haley answered, "She did." I shrugged, "Then she could want an audience. One's family is usually present during the first shift."

Marcus asked again, "What book? Before one of you tries to evade that question again just know, I'll keep asking." Emmaline glanced back at Haley. Haley said, "Is there any damn chance you'll let it go with a book in Faerie?" Bjourn snorted. Marcus replied, "No." Haley sighed, "My uncle has a few books published in Faerie. It's in one of his." Everyone went quiet.

Jackson said, "Fabian experimented on werewolves? More than just Tucker?" Haley shook her head, "I don't think he did. This book was about observations. He didn't really consider them worthy because they weren't full blooded fairies. He wasn't going to attack werewolf packs or start a war by taking their kids. From what he observed, I believe Sharon's wolf will come to her now."

Eric said, "He could be wrong." Haley sighed, "I doubt it. He watched quite a few of them." Jackson snorted realizing, "That's how you've found a lot of them, isn't it? He wrote their names down." Haley gave Jackson a look then answered, "Yes, it is."

Bjourn asked, "Any other tidbits from your dear departed Uncle?" Haley glared at Bjourn before saying, "He's not my dear fucking anything, brother. You know what... I can't with men the rest of this week. I am fucking done. I'm helping people! Does that fucking matter to anyone? NO! You better link the pack to watch out because the fat, hormonal fairy/Hackura is on the goddamn loose!"

Emmaline reached for her whispering, “Haley...” Haley popped away. Eric groaned, “Jesus FUCKING CHRIST! What is going on with her?! She can’t be this upset over me maybe being with someone else if we hadn’t met. I’m not with someone else!”

Bjourn and Marcus looked stunned after Haley’s outburst. Their gazes narrowed on Emmaline. I followed their look. I noticed Emmaline wasn’t looking at anyone. I spoke, “Baby girl.” She turned to look at me. I asked, “What’s wrong with Haley?” Emmaline looked away, “I mean... well...”

Eric glanced at me, then back at Emmaline. He pleaded, “Emmaline, please tell me. If it’s not just the what if game if I happened to marry someone else... what is it?” Emmaline looked at the dirt and kicked it with her foot.

Bjourn added, “She’s not normally like this. If she’s not pregnant, what is bothering her?” Emmaline finally looked up, “She’s not pregnant.” I frowned prodding, “Did she think she was?” Emmaline answered immediately, “No, she has an IUD in. Plus, she can see her own glow.” Eric asked, “What is wrong then?”

Emmaline sighed, “You... well... you should call Aiden.” Eric growled, “I’m NOT calling the fucking fairy king to find out what’s wrong with my wife. I will lock her in our room and force it out of her before I call Aiden. Particularly on a day I didn’t have to talk to him.” Emmaline sighed, “I’m trying to think of how to tell you without telling you.”

Marcus asked, “Why did she tell you? No offense, but she doesn’t know you that well yet.” Emmaline happily answered that, “Oh, she didn’t tell me. I texted her about it though, and we talked a little.” Now we were all confused. I asked, “Then how do you know?” Emmaline admitted, “Aiden called me. He told me she might need a friend this week. He thought I was the best choice since I’m also her family and Bexley’s on her concupiscence.”

Eric hissed, “So this is about fairy shit? Of FUCKING course, it is.” Emmaline frowned, “Not exactly fairy shit... it’s more about the significance of some dates this week.” Jackson spoke, “There are no fairy holiday’s this week. Not that I could see why she would be this upset about a fairy holiday.” Emmaline looked at me, “It’s not a holiday.”

It was quiet for minute. Then Eric yelled, “FUCK IT ALL TO HELL AND BACK! Is it her mother’s birthday this week?” Emmaline whispered, “I did say dates with an s.” Marcus groaned, “It’s Arion and Alaina’s birthday’s this week.” Emmaline shrugged, “I can’t actually confirm that. I fairy promised, and I’m finding I cannot actually force the words out of my mouth. Fairies don’t mess around with promises.”

Eric growled. Caleb came running over from the training facility. He asked, “Eric, what’s wrong? You shouted in our link, but none of those were words.” Eric commanded, “Call the damn fairy king and ask why out of the countless times I’ve spoken to him this week, he didn’t mention his mother and brother’s birthdays were this week. My wife has been in a fucking snit for weeks, and I’ve been driving myself insane trying to figure out why. I even mentioned it to him and he said NOTHING.”

He ran a hand through his hair lamenting, “Haley yelled at my mother over some toy Cassie was playing with. My mom thought Haley gave her because it came from Faerie. Something tells me it did come from Faerie, from her FUCKING mother. Because doesn’t that sound like just the thing a fairy would do? Fuck with my wife from the goddamn grave!”

Caleb winced, “So, that’s what’s been bothering Haley?” Eric nodded. Emmaline said, “I can try to find her.” Eric shrugged, “She’s in her treehouse.” Emmaline quietly whispered, “Maybe let me talk to her.”

Eric started to say no, but Emmaline held her hands up. She explained, “Honestly, you don’t understand. Your mom loves you from what Haley told me. I can understand more than any of you here can. The bad mom club isn’t exclusive, but you’re not in it. Plus, our mom’s kind of take the dang cake. I can’t help with the whole killing her own brother for the safety of your family. I don’t know anyone who can, but maybe someone around here does. The mom problem, I might be able to help. I think that’s part of why Aiden told me.”

Eric stared at the sky. He finally said, “Fine. I’ll take you to her treehouse.” We all walked through the woods. When Eric stopped walking Emmaline and I stared at him confused. I said “Why did we stop? There’s nothing here.” Eric laughed, “You can’t see it because you haven’t been inside. I linked Haley and told her Emmaline wanted to talk to her. I’m sure she’ll be here in a second.”

A pop sounded and a tear stained, red eyed Haley grabbed Emmaline and popped away. Eric told me, “Emmaline’s inside the treehouse. It’s above us.” I pointed out, “Haley’s answering you in your link? That’s something.” Eric shrugged, “She promised to always answer me in our links no matter what was going on.” We fell into silence.

Eric broke it, “Why didn’t she just say something?” Marcus sounded annoyed when he said, “I never knew their birthdays. I fucking hate that anytime some fairy shit comes up it’s like we take steps backwards with her.”

Bjourn disagreed, “She is making progress. I think she would’ve told one of us if Aiden hadn’t contacted Emmaline. He gave her someone to talk to.” Eric rolled his eyes, “I want to both thank and punch him.”

We waited for a few hours before the girls popped back to us. Emmaline and Haley hugged. Haley whispered, “You are a treasure, little cousin.” Then she looked at me and winked, “I can’t imagine anyone better for you or better for my lion. I’ll see you tomorrow.” Emmaline smiled at her. Before we popped away, we saw Haley hugging Eric crying saying she was sorry. Her brothers each put a hand on her back.

We ended up back in my office. I rubbed her cheek with my thumb, “Aiden shouldn’t have put that on you. Or made you promise not to tell.” Emmaline shrugged, “It wasn’t bad. It wasn’t my secret to tell anyway. It actually makes me love her more. She shows her vulnerabilities even though she’s a bad ass. Her therapist knew what was going on too.” She stopped talking then asked quickly, “Do you have a pack therapist like they do?” I nodded, “Yes.” She sighed, “Maybe I should talk to one. Tonight, made me realize I still have a LOT of anger towards my mother.” I pulled her into a hug, “I think that’s a good idea.

I pulled out my phone to give her the number. I looked at the keypad and yelled, “Son of a bitch!” Emmaline asked, “What?” I pulled out my clue. Emmaline laughed. I told her, “Grab a pen and some paper.” She immediately did. I looked at my phone and read, “7-2-7-6-8-7 ok the 7’s are PQRS 2 is ABC 6 is MNO and 8 is TUV. How are we supposed to figure that out?”

Emmaline laughed, “I typed it into my phone. I’m pretty sure it spells parents.” I growled, “OH SON OF A BITCH!” Dylan ran in the room with Lacy, He asked me, “What now? You’re supposed to be happy after fairy practice and tell me the joys it brings. Not yell. There is no yelling after fairy practice.”

I yelled, “MOM! DAD! GET IN HERE! NOW!” Dylan’s eyes went wide. Lacy stared at me asking, “Are you insane Lucas? We aren’t allowed to speak to them like that! Dad will tan your hide.”

My mom and dad walked into the room. My dad said, “You’d better have a good reason for yelling like that, son.” I growled, “I do. See I believe you have a clue for me.”

Dylan and Lacy’s jaws hit the floor. Dylan squealed, “WHAT A TWIST!” My mom laughed, “Who could say no to fairy fun?” My dad bit his lip before admonishing me, “You still cannot yell at us like that, Lucas.” I growled, “Give me

the damn clue, you treacherous people.” My dad reached into his pocket and pulled out the clue.

Clue 4: A puzzle for you to Solve my Dear Lucas. I do hope you solve this one faster than the Rest. It’s easy. Molly said you had to have some easy ones.

I yelled, “Oh for god's sake! How is this easy?!” Everyone laughed while I studied the supposedly easy riddle again.