

# Family Reunion

Emmaline woke up to Lucas nibbling her ear. We spent a lot of time wrapped up in each other. We were having fun. When we took a break, I looked at my phone. I was surprised the only one of my friends I hadn't heard from was Valerie. That thought left my mind as soon as I saw the time. I was going to be late for shopping with Haley.

I quickly showered. I just knew this was going to be such a good day. I needed to tell Lucas all about me. I just needed to make sure he didn't go after David. I just wanted to stay out of his way and enjoy our life together. I was happy, and I didn't need David to ruin that.

Haley and Eric popped in, and once Blade joined us we left. I looked around realizing we had ended up in an alley. I asked, "Where are we?" Haley smiled, "Trixie said Minnesota had the biggest mall in the country. It seemed appropriate since Faerie was out since everyone would pop in to meet you." I gaped, "You popped us to Minnesota?" Haley nodded.

Blade spoke, "Princess be careful. Blade watch." Haley nodded, speaking to him in Latin. Blade literally faded into the background. That was awesome. We stepped out of the alley and took off. Haley asked, "Have you eaten?" I shook my head and realized I was starving. Haley smirked and led us into Chipotle first. We both got burritos and sat down to eat.

I laughed watching Haley practically inhaled her food. I asked, "When did you last eat? You devoured that in like five minutes." Haley laughed, "I ate breakfast, and now you are my witness. I ate lunch." She took out her phone and started recording a video.

She stated, "Mrs. Blanch this is proof I ate lunch, I even have a witness." She turned the camera to me saying, "Emmaline please tell Mrs. Blanch what you just saw." I raised an eyebrow, "I just saw you inhale a burrito in under five minutes. It was impressive." Haley smiled and ended the video. She quickly sent it.

I asked, "Who is Mrs. Blanch?" Haley laughed, "She's the head chef and cooks the meals at our home. She's militant about me not missing meals. Lately she's been a confidant and friend with the whole Cassandra situation. She's been there for me."

I asked, "Do you miss meals often or something? I'm glad she's been there for you." Haley laughed, "Not anymore. I didn't always get food in Faerie, and sometimes it just slips my mind. I'm getting a lot better though. Even my brothers say so, and while they can lie; they don't. Not to me anyway. What are we looking for, present wise today?"

I decided she was evading several topics, so I answered her last question, “I want to get Katie a nice necklace. Since I don’t need money for rent anymore, I have a pretty good chunk of change. I want to get her and Ry something nice this year.” Haley nodded, “Next year I bet you’ll be able to conjure their presents.” My mouth dropped, “I can do that?” Haley laughed, “You can snap outfits! Of course, you can conjure presents.” The second I finished my food I grabbed her hand, “Let’s go.”

We took a taxi to the mall of America. Haley thought it was hilarious, but she got aggravated when he hit traffic. She complained, “This is horrible. UGH! It’s so much slower than my usual way of getting places. How do normal people do this? It’s such a time suck!” I laughed, “Yeah, it is.”

When we got there, she paid the meter. We walked into the mall hand in hand. I couldn’t help but stop and stare. This place was amazing. It was so big and had so many stores. I spoke aloud, “I don’t even know where to start.”

Haley giggled, “I do!” She dragged me towards the trampolines with harnesses. Normally, I wouldn’t do this, but her excitement was infectious. Haley paid for us both. They strapped us both in and once the lines were tightened, we both started to jump. We giggled like little kids and started doing back flips.

Once we stopped, she dragged me to the Nickelodeon Universe. Haley asked, “Have you ever seen anything like this? Come on, we have to ride everything!” I felt myself letting my inner kid free. I told her “I haven’t been to a park in a really long time.”

She paid again. I offered, “Haley, I can pay too.” She shook her head, “No, Eric gave me his card and made me promise to use it. I can’t break a promise. I don’t know why me using it makes him so damn happy, but it does. He even gave me a minimum amount I had to spend. We are nowhere close to it.” Wow. Thank you, Eric.

I observed our options. I pointed, “Let’s do the Ferris wheel first.” She squealed and we ran over and got in line. After that, we rode the roller coasters, merry go round, and basically every single ride in the park. I’d never felt more like a kid. Haley stopped in the toy store and selected stuffed animals for her kids. The boys got wolves, and Haley found the cutest little pink bear for her daughter.

I saw the sea life advertisement and said, “Do you think we could?” Haley nodded, “Let’s go, little water fairy.” I laughed and followed her. I was laughing at her mental math to see how close she was to Eric’s minimum spend. I took a peak at the number on her phone. She was right. We were nowhere close.

We spent a lot of time just wandering around the aquarium. I was practically mesmerized by the Ocean tunnel; the rainbow reef tunnel was by far my favorite. Even Haley got into that one. The Jellyfish discovery room was her favorite though, because they had some lights on the jellyfish and they looked pink. My cousin was crazy about the color pink. I took out my phone and texted Lucas letting him know we might be awhile. We still hadn't even shopped yet.

Haley grabbed my arm, "Let's do Dutchman's Deck Adventure course, then shop for presents." I agreed, "Sounds like a plan." Haley squealed, "Blade." He appeared from out of nowhere. I jumped. He smirked at me. Haley told him, "You should do the Dutchman's thing with us. It looks fun." Blade snorted, "Princess wants, Blade does." Haley laughed, "Then let's go!"

We got a discount since we already had passes from Nickelodeon Universe. I laughed when Haley groaned because they were not helping her reach her spending point. She bought the most expensive package she could though. We were doing a ropes course, slides, and finally a zipline. She was talking to the woman who was getting us everything we needed. She really was something.

Blade said, "Princess happy. Having fun with fairy. Fairy having fun too." I smiled, "I am having fun. I feel like a little kid again." Blade nodded, "Is good. Princess needs kid like fun." I smiled, "She deserves it."

I studied him and his soul. I smiled. I had heard him talk enough to wonder, but his soul told me everything. Blade could speak English perfectly. He let people assume he couldn't because he thought people would talk around him more, and that would help with his job. Guarding Haley. Quite the cunning man.

Haley joined us with our wristbands, and we set off. I actually saw Blade crack a smile as we ended with the zipline. He insisted he go first. I was certain it was a tactical thing. Haley squealed the whole way down the zipline. Blade smiled at her as she flew towards him then caught her. I took a deep breath as it was my turn. As soon as I was off, I held my arms out and let myself feel like I was flying.

Once we were done, I smiled at Haley, "Thank you for this. I'm having so much fun." Haley smiled, "Me too! We will have to make this a tradition. We can even bring Lucas and Eric. When you have little ones, we can have a cousin day here or something." I laughed, "We could take them to an actual amusement park." Haley snorted, "Who needs one of those? I saw a house or mirrors here too. This place has everything!" I inclined my head, "You do have a point."

I walked over to a map of store and looked for stores. I clapped. "Let's try Tiffany's for Katie's present." Haley nodded and we wound our way around the mall. Once we finally arrived at Tiffany's, I walked around the cases and found exactly what I wanted. Katie had always loved Tiffany's jewelry. Her favorite was

the open heart pendants. She'd never had one when I'd lived at home, but she'd show them to me all the time.

I declared, "I want this one." An attendant eyed me like I couldn't afford it but wrapped it up. Haley smiled, "It's very pretty, Emmaline." I handed the sales attendant my card. I nearly collapsed at the price, but I wanted to get Katie something nice. There were a few years I'd only gotten her a piece of paper to write her a note. I could afford this now anyway, and I just wanted her to know I really did care about her.

We browsed other stores, but I really wasn't sure what to get Ry. When I saw a pair of Bose headphones that were red and black, I knew it was perfect. Ry's favorite color was red. I bought him those and a t-shirt. I bought them both cards and wrote notes saying I that I missed them and hoped they had a great birthday. I told them I was doing a lot better than in the past few years. I sealed the cards and Haley found a UPS store for us to send the presents.

Haley looked down, at her phone and snorted "According to Mrs. Blanch, we need to eat dinner." I laughed and led her to Bubba Gump Shrimp. I explained, "I just love the run Forrest run and Stop Forrest stop signs for the table."

Haley was studying everything in the restaurant with open interest. I was guessing she'd never been her before. The waitress about fell over at the amount of food we ordered. Haley waved Blade over to join us when the food arrived.

Haley asked between bites, "So you're engaged. Any ideas on wedding timelines or themes? I am not an expert on these things as I didn't get proposed to, but I did plan the wedding. I love to plan parties in general."

I thought about it, "I don't think I want to wait very long. I always wanted a winter wedding, and in Tennessee I might actually get snow. I never thought I would get my winter wonderland in California. Katie said I would have to elope."

Haley waved her hands, "If you want snow, we will make it snow. Aiden can do that. I am practicing. I can make it rain, but snow is harder." I gaped asking, "Aiden can make it snow?" Haley nodded. I asked quietly, "Can my dad?"

Haley squeezed my hand, "No, he can't. Weather is a sky fairy trait. Marcious can do a lot of things though. He could teach you how to turn things to ice if you wanted. Like I said before, that's up to you if you want to meet him."

I sat back in my chair, "I think I want to meet him soon." Haley nodded, "He would like that, but it's not about him." I smiled at her, "You really are a jack of all trades. Is there a hat you don't wear? You're my cousin, princess, fairy godmother, ninja assassin, employer, and advocate."

Haley laughed, “I don’t really like hats, so I don’t wear any. I will always help you though, Emmaline. We are family, and that means something to me. My Hackura family showed me what families really are. I want to be like them. They gave me everything I wanted. My whole life all I wanted was a caring family. Miley is my best friend and she’s my cousin, she always showed up for me. Even when I was hard to show up for, and even when I didn’t talk to her. She showed up. They showed me how to be that person, and I think that’s how all families should be. So, I’ll always show up Emmaline.”

I smiled assuring her, “You are like them. You’re very kind and compassionate. You can go a bit murder-y, but for a good cause.” Blade snorted. Haley laughed agreeing, “Yes, I suppose I can. So, a winter wonderland for the water duchess.”

I smiled, “I would love that. Do you think Lucas would like it?” Haley nodded, “My lion will give you whatever you want, of that I am certain. As far as snow, we will make sure you have that. I’ll even get a wand to wave around.” I laughed, “I feel like you really would wave a wand around.” Haley smiled.

Blade agreed with me, “Princess would.” Haley smiled, “I would. It looks like fun. I wonder if I can even make it look like it’s performing the magic.” I laughed, “If anyone could do it, it would be you.” Haley sent Mrs. Blanch another video of her empty plate.

After we left, I admitted, “I really want to try the mirror place.” Haley smiled, “Let’s go then!” We had so much fun running around the mirror maze. Blade not so much. It seemed to stress him out. Once we were finally done running around Blade seemed pretty relieved. He practically made a speech, “Mirrors horrible. Hard to protect. Princess hard enough. No mirrors.”

Haley ignored him, “We will have to bring the triplets when they can run around.” Blade groaned. I agreed with her, “That would be fun!” Haley took us to a dark corner and popped us all back to Lucas and Eric. They pounced on us as if we’d been gone for a week.

Lucas teased me about knowing a secret. I hated when people did that. Saying they have a secret, then say they can’t tell you. It’s like the most obnoxious thing ever. If you’re not going to tell me the secret, then just don’t tell me there’s a secret. It was not hard.

I didn’t get much sleep before my alarm went off for training. I snapped myself ready and popped to the middle of the gym. One of the warriors immediately looked at my hand and grinned, “So, the rumors are true. The Alpha proposed. Congratulations, Luna. This is not going to be a productive training session.” I frowned asking, “Why not?” The warriors all laughed. Alex explained, “We’ve

been waiting for our Luna for quite some time. You are now officially our Luna, and the mating ceremony will be happening. It's a big deal."

People started to trickle into training, but I didn't see Lacy or Valerie. The warriors were right. I told the story of how Lucas proposed, and everyone lost it. They were so excited. Finally, one of the warriors said, "Ok, cardio day it is." Everyone grumbled but took off. I went and swam laps.

Alex came over when it was time to get out. He informed me, "Your next cardio session we are going to have a human mate of one of our pack members come at you. You are going to practice popping away." I nodded, "Ok."

For some reason, missing my siblings hit me harder today than it had in a long time. I guess shopping for Ry and Katie yesterday had me feeling a need to be close to them, so I grabbed Dusty's hoodie. I knew it would be hot, but it just made me feel close to him. Lucas didn't bother with clothes. I couldn't resist him. He was so sexy when he was cooking.

Later, when his parents came in I was mortified when I realized they might have heard me giving him a blow job. It was definitely time to get moving. I practically ran outside. I took Dusty's hoodie off and threw it on one of the SUVs in the driveway, I'd grab it when I got back.

Brad came around the corner. He asked, "Are we going to Red Run now?" I nodded, "Do you mind driving the sedan? I'm kind of tired." Brad shook his head, "No, I'll drive. Let's go." I got in the car, and the next thing I was being shaken gently.

Brad gently said, "Luna, Luna wake up we are here." I opened my eyes, yawning. I stretched, "Call me Emmaline." Brad nodded, "Ok, Emmaline." I jumped out of the car and groaned, realizing I forgot my bag. I closed my eyes and thought about my bag. I squealed in delight when it ended up in my hands.

I heard a laugh, "It's exciting when our powers work isn't it?" I opened my eyes and smiled seeing my sister. I greeted her, "Hi, Sharon! It is exciting. How are you? Did you shift?" Sharon smiled, "I did." Garrett came up behind her wrapping his arms around her waist. He told me, "Her wolf is beautiful. She auburn and quite playful."

Sharon smiled, "I'm taking Garrett to meet my family. We'll be back Tuesday." I offered, "I can get your homework for you Garrett." Garrett smirked, "It's handled, little sister." I laughed musing, "Yeah, I suppose you're going to be my brother in law soon." Sharon smiled, "I can't wait to show my mom my wolf!" They left and I went inside.

I found Chelsea laying on the couch with her head in Peter's lap. She didn't look good. I immediately asked, "Chelsea, are you ok?" Chelsea sighed, "Little baby Kyle is making me nauseous. I'll be fine." I quickly dug a peppermint out of my bag. She took it, raising an eyebrow. I winked, "I have it on good authority that peppermint helps with nausea." Witches swore by it, and I'd grown up around them.

Chelsea plopped it into her mouth. A few minutes later she perked up, "She's right. This is the best I've felt all day." Peter shot me a grateful look. I asked, "Are you guys gonna show me around here?" Sam jumped up, "Let's go!" They showed me the pack house while animatedly pointing everything out.

Chelsea kept putting her hand out for peppermints. Finally, a pack member walked in with a bag of them. Bless that man, and whoever linked him. Chelsea took it then announced, "I have to pee."

As soon as she left Sam asked, "How did you have so many peppermints? I told Drake he needed to get someone here with them as soon as possible. Are they your favorite candy or something?"

I blushed a little, "I had two in my purse. I've been conjuring them." Sam laughed, "Fairies are fun! Your sister is pretty funny." I shrugged, "I don't know her that well, so I'll take your word for it." Chelsea came back, "Well we should probably start working on our homework." Her stomach growled. I said, "After lunch."

Peter and Drake came in. They seemed stressed. I asked, "Are you guys ok?" Drake shrugged, "The architect for the new school is coming for dinner tonight. Peter just wants everything to go smoothly." I frowned, "Why wouldn't it?" Peter shrugged, "We don't do much business with Witches, but we are leery of them. I respect the power they have, and they seem nervous to be around us." I frowned. I didn't want to be here if witches were going to be around.

Chelsea said, "Let's get going. Someone's bringing our lunch upstairs." She took me upstairs to her and Peter's room. I asked, "Are you guys going to live in the pack house with the baby?" Chelsea shook her head, "No, Peter's parents want us in the main house, but Peter really wants to go through everything as a normal pack member. So, he's working on getting us a cottage. When he takes the Alpha title we will be in the main house. Lots of moves, but I understand why he wants to go through the process."

I asked, "What do you want?" Chelsea smiled, "I want Peter to be happy, and I don't want to have a pup in the pack house. How that happens, I don't care. Now, tell me the story behind that engagement ring on your finger. How no one else noticed down there, I'll never know." I laughed pointing out, "I texted you and Sam about it." She smiled, "Yes, but now I want the story."

I walked her through it, skipping the sexy details. She was so excited for me. We got to work; it took a lot longer than I'd planned. I wanted to be out of here before the witches got here. The next thing I knew, Valerie was barging into Chelsea's room crying. I jolted up and so did Chelsea. We'd fallen asleep.

Chelsea asked, "Val, what's wrong?" Valerie cried, "Emmaline, no! What are you doing here? Lucas said you wouldn't be here! You were supposed to be home by now. We have to get to the saferoom. Rogues are attacking." I sat up quickly, "I fell asleep. Why can't I be here?" Valerie cried, "Ryan's here. His brother's wife is rebuilding the high school." The blood drained from my face.

Valerie pointed towards the door, "He's out there fighting, and that jerk warded me inside so I can't fight!" Chelsea stood yelling, "Peter! I have to help him." I gathered myself and yelled, "NO! I'm popping you both to the safe room, and I'll help Peter. Ok?"

Chelsea wanted to argue but I stopped her, "Peter won't be able to focus if you go out there. You're pregnant and nauseous." She sighed, "Screw your valid logic. All right, pop us away." I focused and popped them to the safe room then popped to the front room that I'd been in before. Thank goodness the safe room had been on the tour.

I walked over to the window and saw a group of ten rogues surrounding Peter and Drake. They were cutting them off from help. Well, that just didn't seem fair. I used my icicles and pelted wolf after wolf with them.

Peter and Drake howled in delight. I started throwing hail with my icicles and focusing on slowing down the rogues for them. When both guys won, they turned and took off to join their pack to help them with their fights.

I froze for a second when I caught sight of Dusty. I blinked several times as tears filled my eyes. He was fighting side by side with his wife. They were fierce together. I felt such pride watching him. He'd grown in his powers since I last saw him. I frantically looked around for my other brother. Why wasn't he with Dusty?

I spotted him off on his own. He'd just killed a wolf. I gasped watching his blood pour down his face. He didn't notice there was a wolf sneaking up on him. I screamed as the wolf bounded in Ry's direction. I popped in front of him. I felt the stinging in my hand and noticed I'd conjured an icicle. Handy. I sliced through the wolf's carotid.

I turned to see the stunned face my brother for the first time in years. Ry gasped, "Evie!" His knees buckled. I caught him whispering, "I've got you, Ry. You're ok." Ry was crying as his eyes fluttered. He was losing too much blood. He was going to pass out. He begged me, "Don't leave Evie, please! I miss you! Stay with



me please... Don't go..." He passed out. I kissed his forehead then I popped to the tree line.

I threw a snowball at Dustin's wife to get her attention. It worked. She turned and saw Ry on the ground. She screamed, "Oh god, DUSTIN!" Dustin eyes found our brother. He started running, yelling, "RYAN! RYAN, GET UP!" I looked around realizing the fight was over. Everyone in Red Run was ok.

I snapped my head back when I heard Dustin yell, "We need a doctor over here! Now!" He was checking over Ry using his EMT training. Dusty pleaded, "Stay with me Ryan. Don't you dare die on me, brother!" I had Haley on speed dial. I wasn't going to let Ry die.

A doctor ran over to them. I had tears streaming down my face waiting for him to say something. He announced, "He's fine. He just took a shot to the head. The head bleeds a lot." Dusty glared at him, "I'm an EMT, I'm aware the head bleeds a lot. He needs a head CT to confirm there's he doesn't have bleeding on his brain." The doctor nodded, "We can do that here." I'd just have Haley check on him later then.

At that moment Alpha Kyle came over to them with Peter. Ry gasped and sat up. Dusty held him, "Whoa, little brother. Take it easy." Ry's eyes looked around wildly, "Where is she, Dustin?" Dusty frowned, "You warded your mate inside. I'm sure she's still inside and very pissed off." Ry shook his head and tried to stand, "NO... not Valerie. Evie... Dustin, she's here! We have to find her!" Dusty stopped talking.

Aubree gasped, "What?" Ryan said, "She... she saved me. She killed this rogue. I... she sliced his neck open with some kind of weapon." He pointed at the werewolf on the ground. Dusty spoke cautiously, "You hit your head pretty hard." Ry shook his head, "NO! It... it was her! She called me Ry. She's so beautiful, and... I swear it was her Dustin. It was."

Drake's gaze cut to me in the tree line. He elbowed Peter who caught his stare. Alpha Kyle said, "Let's get his head scanned." Peter and Drake started walking towards me. Panic began to settle in. Lucas entered my mind.

Reality hit me like a freight train. Ry saw me. He would eventually convince Dusty he had, and they would look for me. I was having trouble breathing. I needed to leave Tennessee. Lucas... My heart constricted. I needed to see Lucas. He would know what to do.

I popped without conscious thought. I knew I'd made it to Lucas because I heard him yelling. I couldn't focus on his words though. A sense of calm came over me, and I just knew that was a fairy thing. Haley must be here. I was rambling when I

heard a terrifying roar. I looked over and realized it was Eric. My cousin was a brave woman to get him riled up. I saw Haley and she was the only one looking at me with understanding.

Conversations happened around me. Lucas' eyes were the only thing keeping me from losing it. My ears were ringing. Haley was the only person in the room that seemed to be calm. I couldn't focus on her soul right now to know if that was her poker face or not.

Lucas announced Ry was coming. Everything started to move in slow motion. Every fear I had about David finding me was coming to the surface. The thought that sent me over the edge was knowing David could hurt Lucas. If anything happened to Lucas, it would be all my fault.

The next thing I knew I was in the lake. I screamed, confused by what happened. I couldn't focus. I quickly realized I was naked. Warriors surrounded the lake in seconds. Alex called, "Emmaline! Are you alright? Swim over to us." I shook my head, "I... I... I need Lucas. Someone get Lucas, please." I started crying.

Dylan's called, "Emmaline, my lovely little fish. Do be a dear and swim over here. You are ever so pale, and I did not take swimming lessons as a child. I've linked Travis. He's gallivanting on his way because I made sure he learned to swim. He'll have to save us both, and that's just embarrassing to be saved by your little brother. Do be a dear and swim on over. Come on... you can do it. There's no passing out in the pond. It's a rule."

Lacy snorted, "You still can't swim? That's it! I'll teach you. If anyone needs to dive in before Travis gets her, I will. I can swim. Come on over, Emmaline. Sam just called; you've had a rough afternoon. Rogues attacking and all. You just popped and missed Lucas, right? It's ok. You're still getting better. You're really close to him." I couldn't stop crying.

A pop sounded. I heard Haley say, "Hello, my friend Dylan." Dylan said, "Hello, my wonderful fun sized fairy goddess. Can you by chance swim?" Haley snapped her fingers. I couldn't help but be grateful when I realized she was snapping me a swimsuit.

Haley gently asked, "Can you swim over here, cousin? Or do I need to pop to you?" Lacy asked, "Why couldn't she swim?" Haley didn't answer her, she just looked at me. I explained again, "I just need Lucas." Haley popped beside me in the water and popped us out. She snapped and we both were dry and in yoga pants and fitted shirts.

Dylan said, "Ok, twist my arm, I'll ask wat the hell is going on?" I started rambling, "Ry knows. Oh god, Haley. He knows. Everything is over. I have to run,

but I can't... I can't ...Lucas... I... How do I run when I can't leave Lucas?" Dylan growled and so did Lacy.

Dylan clapped his hands, "Ok, now everyone gets to see serious Dylan. Someone start talking and explain what is going on. What is she talking about? BRAD! You are officially on making sure the Luna runs absolutely nowhere! I want you to be her literal shadow."

I hadn't even seen Brad. He must have broken all the speed limits getting back here. Dylan started to pace. He ranted, "Who is Ry? I'll just kill him. This solves all the problems. There is NO MORE running away in this pack. I have decreed it and thus it is so. No runaways."

I looked at Haley "I can't." Haley consoled me, "It's going to be ok, Emmaline. Guys, she's really emotional right now for several reasons. One being turning to water puts water fairies into a very emotional state. Hers was triggered by fear which makes it worse. I need you two to let me handle this for a minute, ok?" They must have agreed.

Haley sat down with me. She rocked me back and forth instructing, "Just listen to the water, Emmaline. We will figure everything out, just listen." I did as she said and felt myself calming down. Haley started signing in fealish and stroking my hair. I had no idea what she was singing, but it was beautiful.

When my breathing evened out, she said, "There, that's better right?" I nodded, Haley continued to soothe me, "We can do what you want here. As royals you and I have the ability to take memories away. I will take Ryan's memory away if that's what you want. You can even talk to him and see how everything goes, and then I can do it. It's up to you." I cried, "I want to see him, he needs to be healed. He was hurt, I just... David will kill me. What if he hurts Lucas? I can't... I can't... Not Lucas, Haley."

Haley snorted, "David Forrester will most certainly not kill you, because if he tried your father and I would kill him first. Any of my brothers would kill David for me in a heartbeat if I asked them to. I will make Ryan swear to me as a fairy and in blood that he won't talk about your life." I sniffled, "You can do that?"

Haley nodded, "I will do that. If you don't want to see him, then Lucas won't let it happen. We are all here for you. There are warriors, a Gamma, and a Beta standing around us ready to defend their Luna. Lacy and Dylan are ready to defend their sister. Eric will fight for you and Lucas, and my husband is fierce. Lucas will fight for you, and he will destroy whatever he can get his hands on to protect you. You have family here Emmaline, and not just by blood."

I cried, "If... if he will promise you, I want to see him. If it goes badly, you can take his memories?" She nodded. I asked, "What about Valerie?" Haley shrugged, "I can take her memories too." I sighed, "You won't get in trouble for taking his memories because he has fairy blood, right?"

Haley laughed, "No, I won't get in trouble. He's not my relative and fairies have done far worse to me... and each other. Aiden won't care at all. Actually, no one would care." I asked, "Can I talk to Lucas?" Haley nodded, "Of course. I'll pop us to your room, and then I'll send him to you."

Lacy yanked me into a hug. She advised, "As someone who ran, don't do it. Lucas would be hurt, and so would you. I didn't know Dylan was my mate, but I missed him so much while I was gone. We will have your back here."

I whispered, "What if Lucas gets hurt?" Dylan cut in, "Lucas can take care of himself. He's not the strongest Alpha in the country, because King Alpha Prick takes that title. Naturally, the man has murderous issues. For the fact they are friends, Lucas would be just fine. He's feared Emmaline; and he is feared for a reason. That reason is not only because he is a sleep tyrant."

Several warriors chuckled. I noticed Travis was here now. Dylan continued, "We aren't exactly the pack of peace, love, and harmony. We defend our own. I myself am quite fierce when made to be serious. Fang is VERY upset right now. I'll have to let him hunt bunnies and claim Lacy to calm down. I live such a hard life." I laughed a little bit.

Haley popped us to my room. "I'll send Lucas up." I got scared, "What if Ry doesn't agree?" Haley smiled, "He already told me he'd do anything to see you." The thought warmed my heart. She popped away. I couldn't believe I actually turned to water. I needed to talk more with Haley about what that meant.

When Lucas walked in everything in my world tilted back towards being right. He centered me. I was nervous the whole way to the office. The second we entered; all I could see was Ry pacing. He looked much better. Haley must have healed him. The cut on his head was completely gone.

I couldn't hold back my sob once I was in his arms. I'd missed him so much. Ry whispered, "I've got you, Evie. It's ok, you just cry. I'm here now." He stroked my back in small circles. I could feel his tears on my neck. Everyone waited for me to calm down.

Dylan cleared his throat, "So... this is awkward." He sang the word awkward, and I had to laugh a little. Ry ignored him. He pulled back and looked into my eyes, "Evie, can you tell me what the hell is going on?"

I looked away from him, “Ry... Do you really want to know? Once you know it’s not something you can be ignorant about. I don’t know what you know about me leaving, but I doubt it’s what really happened.”

Ry got mad, “Fuck being ignorant. I have been in morgues across three states! Katie, Dustin, and I have been helping Uncle Walter and his friends look for you. Mom and Dad didn’t want everyone hunting you down, so we’ve kept the investigation in house. Your... fiancé over there painted a different picture though.”

I peeked over at Lucas then asked, “What did you guys think happened?” Ry sat down in a chair and dragged me to another. Everyone sat down, but the tension was still high. Lucas grabbed my hand and gave it a squeeze.

Ry explained, “Mom called us to come over, she was hysterical. When we got there, Dad told us you ran away. Mom had called him over after discovering you’d gone, and they had searched for you for hours. They just couldn’t find you. Mom couldn’t stop crying. She didn’t even say one word the entire time dad talked to us. She’s drinking all the time now. She can’t talk about you. Dad has shut down and become... a little volatile. Dustin doesn’t talk to dad anymore, and Aubree is terrified of him. Katie and I talk to him sometimes, but everyone has been a wreck. Dad flew into a rage after Dustin came over holding the first birthday present you sent him. He scoured through Oregon looking for you. Katie, Dustin, and I have really taken over the whole thing with Uncle Walter. He’s been the most helpful.”

I bit my lip. Ry stopped, “What? Tell me what happened that night, Evie?” I started to cry again. Lucas squeezed my hand, “It’s alright, baby girl. Take your time.” I wiped my tears, “I saw dad’s truck in our driveway. I was so excited, I thought... I thought he wasn’t mad at me anymore.” Ry frowned, “You still think he was mad you turned the stones to water? Evie, no one cares.” I cried, “David cared.”

Ry sat back in his seat, astonished. He questioned, “David? You call dad, David? Since when?” I stated, “He’s not my dad.” Ry was silent for several moments. Finally, he asked, “What are you talking about?”

I had tears streaming down my cheeks. I wiped them, completely frustrated with myself. A box of tissues appeared in front of me. I sent Haley an appreciative look. I grabbed a tissue and explained, “I walked in the house. David and mom were sitting at the table. I tried to hug him, but he pushed me away. He slid the emancipation papers over to me. I cried telling him I’d practice and get better with my powers. He yelled at me that he wasn’t my dad. That turning the stones to water meant I was fairy. He told me he’d given mom a choice to flee with me; or emancipate me and stay with him. He wasn’t going to watch the proof of her infidelity grow up under his roof. He screamed at me to get out and I ran outside and....” I trailed off.

Ry was pissed, “And what?” I looked at him with tears in my eyes, “And Uncle Walter drove me to Oregon.” Ry stood up, “THAT ASSHOLE! He’s been lying to our faces this whole time?!” Haley cut in, “Just for reference, he can lie because he’s not a fairy. Your mom was adopted, but apparently neither she nor Walter know that so... Just saying. Fairies still can’t lie.” Ry didn’t even acknowledge that statement, “He wasn’t even looking for you, was he?”

I cringed, “Since he told me that David would kill me if he found me again, I doubt he was looking. He left me with his friend Craig who helped me change my name and gave me an emancipation card without my parents listed. He buried my name change with magic.” Ry slammed his hands on the table. Lucas squeezed my hand reassuringly.

Ry gritted his teeth, “Dad... you think he’s going to kill you.” I cringed, “He didn’t find me in Oregon because I heard a coven saying that he’d put a bounty on my head.” Ryan shouted, “WHAT?!”

Simultaneously, Haley shouted, “EXFUCKINGCUSE ME?!” I said quietly, “I don’t know if it’s still active, but I shuffled from place to place after that. Uncle Walter gave me some money, and I saved as much as I could. I only stayed here because I felt rooted here. It felt like home.”

Ry spat out, “Lucas said you lived in a tent.” I cringed, “Emancipated or not no one would rent a room of any kind to a thirteen year old. I’d been saving and hoped to get an apartment when I turned seventeen.” Ry’s hands curled, “You’ve been living outside for almost four years.” I shrugged, “Youth centers want your name, and the record would be easy for anyone to compare if they were looking.”

Ry wiped furiously at his tears. He hung his head, “So all the swim competitions we went to were pointless, because you stopped swimming.” I disagreed, “I still swim.” Ry countered, “You don’t compete.” I shook my head.

Ry ran a hand through his hair, “Evie... it’s... there are wild animals and hikers, people could have hurt you.” I argued, “I didn’t have a choice. I defended myself when I needed to.” Ry asked angrily, “Against who? If they are alive, I’ll hunt them down.”

Lucas joined the conversation, “She killed five rogues in Red Run.” Ry’s eyes went wide, “You did?” I said, “It was them or me.” Ry actually laughed completing the statement, “And you like you better. Good to know some of the things I said to you stuck.”

I whispered, “I remember everything you said to me. I really missed you, Ry.” Ry grabbed my hand, “I missed you so much, Evie. Me, Katie, and Dustin, we all miss you. He’s here too.”

I nodded, "I know. I saw him and his wick, Aubree, in Red Run, fighting. I threw a snowball at her, so they'd see you on the ground. I waited until the doctor said you were ok before I popped away." Ry laughed asking, "Where did you get a snowball?" I cringed, "I've been training with Haley on my fairy powers." Ry raised an eyebrow, "Yes, her partial fairy initiative. How did you find her?" I cringed again, "I called on her for protection."

Realization lit in Ry's eyes, and he stood yelling, "FUCK! You're Alpha Lucas' mate. The werewolf council whipped you because that bitch wolf lied about you being a hunter.... But... but Alpha Lucas' mate is the cousin of the princess of the fairies." I nodded, "Yup...." Ry sighed, "And that's why the water fairies are attacking dad's coven. They know he did something, and that you weren't with him anymore."

Ry looked at Haley, realizing, "And because Dustin, Katie, and I are partial fairy, they are leaving us alone because of the fairy princess." Haley nodded, "Yes. I actually met your parents. I was looking for Emmaline. Your mother refused to talk to me, and she didn't want me to talk to you all. I naively promised Emmaline's father to abide her wishes before I went to talk to her. I didn't think she would be such a bitch. It's why I didn't get to meet any of you and tell her to go fuck herself."

Ry snorted, "Don't worry. I'll tell her for you. Why would he want you to promise that?" Haley looked at me not answering. I supplied, "My dad is our mom's mate." Ry said, "Well fuck us all." He grabbed his phone off the table.

Valerie asked, "What are you doing?" Ry said, "Canceling my flight home. I barely talk to my dad, but I'll be damned if I speak to my uncle or mom. She abandoned my thirteen year old sister because she fucked someone else and cheated on my dad! That's her issue and it had NOTHING to do with Evie."

He shook his head. His anger clear in his tone, "My uncle has watched me and my siblings fall apart over this. We have a birthday party of sorts for you every year, Evie. Katie and I took over Dustin's lease when he met Aubree because we didn't want to miss your presents. We don't even tell dad we get them anymore. I can't... I can't believe they did this to you. I would've gone with you. I would've taken you in, but uncle fucking Walter took you out of town! He wouldn't have done that if he thought you could stay with them. He definitely wouldn't have done it if mom didn't ask him to." I looked away, "I don't want you to be mad at them."

Ry stood, "I don't fucking care. I am so mad at them I'd hit them all with a curse if I saw them right now." He took my hand and got on his knees pleading with me, "I never would've let this happen to you. I should've been paying more attention. I should've looked into the stones turning to water. I just thought you were either meant you were really powerful, or it meant you didn't have powers at all. Never

in my wildest dreams did I think they'd done anything to you. I came up with so many scenarios, and not one involved them forcing you away. I'm so sorry." Both of us were crying.

I hugged him, "It's not your fault." Ry pulled me into a hug. He addressed Lucas, "Thank you. For finding her and protecting her." Lucas simply said, "I love her. I will always protect her and take care of her."

I laughed admitting "I didn't make it easy for him. He worked pretty hard to find me." Ry was confused, "What do you mean?" Lucas said, "Emmaline can sense when she's being followed. She gave us and Red Run the slip twice before we tracked her tent down. We only found her because I had men staking out the diner she worked at when we lost her the first night. They noticed the direction she came from when she biked to work." Haley interjected, "She was instinctually minimizing her scent. Her light knew she was afraid of being discovered." That was so cool.

Ry frowned, "We have a lot of catching up to do. Just... just think about letting Dustin know." Lucas growled, "Dustin and Aubree are here to check on Ryan." I looked at Haley. Hope filled me, "If they both promise like Ry did..."

Haley said, "Aubree isn't a fairy, but a blood promise will bind her. GOD! I offended someone in a previous life. I hate witches, and I'm surrounded by them. The other offer stands for them as well." She meant about their memories.

I looked at Lucas asking, "What do you think?" Lucas kissed my forehead, "I think this is your show, baby girl. If they promise Haley and are no threat to you, I don't mind. I just want you to be happy. I told you before I'd help you get in contact with them when you were ready to tell me your birth name." I thought about it. Dusty and I were really close growing up. I missed him.

I asked, "Haley... can you do your thing?" Haley nodded, "At least I get to mess with the witches even if I'm surrounded by them. They have fairy blood though, so at least there's that." She popped away taking Blade with her.

Eric and Lucas snorted. Ry muttered, "I could go talk to him..." He looked at me then whispered, "Val... maybe you can talk to him. I can't... I feel like if I leave the room Evie won't be real." Valerie stood and kissed him. She shot me a worried look when she pulled away. I sent her a smile I hoped was comforting. She left to go talk to Dusty.

Ry said, "Thank you for her, Evie. I don't know if I would've found her all the way out here. You risked what you felt was your safety to give me my wick." I shrugged, "I never considered not telling her. I knew it was a bad idea, but I wanted you to have your wick. I've always wanted you to be happy."



Lucas announced, “Your other brother is coming in thundering like an elephant.” As soon as he said that Dusty burst through the door. It hit the wall with a bang. He stared at me as silent tears fell from his eyes. He whispered, “Evie...” I gave him a small smile, “Hi, Dusty.”

He ran to me and picked me up. He buried his head into my neck, “Oh God. You’re alive! Oh, little baby Evie.” He pulled back, “What the HELL were you thinking? Mom and Dad are a wreck without you. We’ve all been in hell.”

Ry stopped him, “Mom and Dad can burn for all eternity in one of the seven circles of hell. They fucking lied to our damn faces.” I heard a gasp. I peeked around Dusty to see Aubree standing in the doorway. Dustin asked, “What the hell are you talking about Ryan? And Evie.. why on god’s green earth do you have an engagement ring on your finger?!”

I mumbled, “Because I’m engaged.” Dusty’s face was a mess of anger, “To whom?” Lucas spoke, “That would be me. Alpha Lucas Lyons. Your sister is my mate.” Dusty still looked pissed but said, “Emmaline. Your mate’s name is Emmaline.” I explained, “My name is Emmaline now, Dusty. Uncle Walter’s friend helped me change it and buried it so no one could find it.”

Dusty’s eyebrows rose and he looked at Ry. Ry sneered, “Oh yeah, and FUCK uncle Walter. He can fucking burn in hell too. He can apparently lie because he has no fairy blood. Unlike us. Mom’s adopted. It’s a wealth of information being thrown at us right now.” Dusty was blinking repeatedly.

I looked past them both to Dusty’s wife. I held out my hand, “You must be Aubree.” She had tears in her eyes and pulled me into a hug, “You must be little Evie.” She whispered in my ear, “Dusty has been a wreck missing you. I’m so glad you’re safe.”

I apologized, “I’m sorry about throwing a snowball at you, but I needed to get your attention so you would see Ry on the ground.” Aubree laughed and looked at Dusty, “I told you I wasn’t crazy. It WAS a snowball.”

Dusty looked at me, “So mom cheated on dad. Alpha Lucas’ mate is a fairy duchess. It’s a damn good thing that werewolf council that tried to kill you is dead. Ry and I would’ve made them beg for mercy before ending their fucking lives.” I knew that. Haley snorted, “They did not go peacefully into the night. I just receive a litany of insults in this damn territory.”

I quickly explained the story about what happened to me again before she could go on a tangent. To say Dusty was pissed was an understatement. Aubree was trying

to calm him down. She said, “Dustin, just take a breath. What can I do?” Dusty turned to her and said “Cancel our flights home. I’ll fucking kill him if we are in the same place right now.”

I asked him, “What happened? Katie and I were the closest with David, but you and Ry were close with him too. Ry said you aren’t speaking to him anymore.” Dusty frowned, “I blamed him for you leaving. It was his fault in my mind, and I was evidently more on track than I knew. We all thought you ran away because they were fighting; but no... Our parents kicked a thirteen year old out of their house and didn’t let any of us take you in. When all of us would have.”

He turned to Lucas, “It’s really weird my little sister is engaged, but thank you for putting a roof back over her head. If you treat her any less than she deserves, you deal with me.” Lucas nodded. Aubree rolled her eyes, “He’s her mate. You proposed to me within hours of meeting me. He gave her time.” Dusty frowned, “It doesn’t make it any less weird. I just got her back, and he’s... her mate.”

Lucas said, “I have no intention of keeping you from her. I won’t let any of you take her from me though. David... well, he will stay the fuck away from her.” I spoke, “On that note. I don’t want David to know where I am. If any of you go after him, he will.” Lucas growled.

Haley pointed out, “For now, the fairies are giving him a hard enough time, my lion. Should he step out of California, you could make things difficult for him.” Lucas growled, “I plan to make things difficult now. I can do that without tipping him off. Besides Haley, your brothers agreed to help me when it comes down to that.” I gulped.

Ry and Dusty exchanged glances. Lucas warned, “I do intend to kill your father for what he did to my mate. Maybe not today, tomorrow, or even in the next five years, but I will kill him.” Dustin offered, “I’ll help you.” I gaped at them both.

I yelled, “Guys!” Ry said, “Evie, in the supernatural world what he did needs to be met with aggression. He isn’t fit to lead a coven, and he was losing it even before he found out you weren’t his. This is so far over the line, even humans would be appalled. He would be sent to jail. He coerced someone to emancipate you, and he’s had a bounty on your head!” I was exhausted.

Lucas must have sensed that. He stood, “It’s late. Dustin you and Aubree are welcome to stay here. Ryan obviously has a room with Valerie. I think we all need to go to bed, and we can talk more tomorrow.”

I groaned, “After school.” Ry asked, “Wait, how are you in the same grade as Valerie?” I yawned, “I tested out of a grade. I’m a year ahead.” Dusty smiled, “You always were a brainiac.” Valerie asked timidly, “Emmaline, can I talk to you?”

I nodded and everyone filed out. Valerie couldn’t meet my eye, “I’m so sorry.” I took her hands, “Don’t be. I got to talk to them again. I never thought I would. Ry will need you tonight. I know he’s hurting about his dad, our mom, and our uncle.” She gave me a hug and left.

Everyone was waiting out in the hallway. Haley spoke first, “I’m a call and pop away if you need anything, Emmaline.” She pulled me in for a hug and whispered, “I’ll handle the bounty if it’s still active. No one will take you from Lucas. I promise.”

She spoke her chant so no one could hear us. She added, “No one will hurt Lucas either.” She squeezed my hand. I said, “Thank you for understanding.” She smiled, “Aubree will understand too. Men think because they have dicks they have the corner market on worrying and protecting their mates.” I laughed. She had a point. She grabbed Eric and popped.

Ry and Dusty gave me a hug. Dusty whispered, “I can’t believe you’re really here. You’re not going to pop away, are you? You’ll be here so we can talk.” I nodded reassuring him, “I’m not leaving.” They reluctantly left.

Lucas dragged me upstairs to our room. His lips were on me the second we entered the room, urgently needing mine to be connected to his. I needed him too. We made love slowly and held each other after. I pleaded, “Please don’t go after David. I don’t want you to get hurt.”

Lucas frowned, “I will tell you I’m not going for him now, but I meant what I said earlier. He will die for what he did to you.” I shivered, “I don’t want you to get hurt.” Lucas kissed me, “I’m an Alpha for a reason. People don’t tend to cross me. I’m finding that I have an inherent need to strike back at anything that ever hurt you.”

I sighed changing the subject, “Do you think it was a mistake seeing Ry and Dusty again?” Lucas shook his head, “No, Haley made them tell the truth the entire time they were talking. They love you, and they promised in blood not to talk about you. Even if they wanted to, they can’t. If I had the chance with Lacy before, I’d have made the same promise they did. They love you.” I nodded.

I admitted, "I just hope it's not a mistake. I feel like I'm getting so much. I have my brothers back, and if they are staying Katie will come out here. I've got a ninja assassin fairy godmother cousin, and mostly I have you. It feels like I'm getting everything I've ever wanted, and it was too easy."

Lucas disagreed, "I don't think almost four years of living alone and shuffling around all the way from California was easy, baby girl. I will keep you safe, and that just gotten easier. Something tells me your brothers will be in my corner to help protect you at all costs." I smiled remembering, "They were always pretty protective." I snuggled up to him going to bed with a smile on my face.