

Emotional Fairy

Emmaline woke up when her alarm went off. The whole morning was strange. Lucas' soul was in a bit of chaos. He felt determined about something. We ended up in the gym together. My eyebrows rose when Dylan walked in behind Lacy.

I linked her, "Is there a threat I don't know about?" Lacy shrugged, "Your guess is as good as mine. Dylan just said he knew Lucas would be here this morning, so he was coming with me. I told him he was crazy like a loon, but obviously something is up because my brother is here. He's not a morning person."

I sighed, "Something is wrong, but he didn't say that." Lacy frowned, "They could just want to see how everything is going." I asked, "Wouldn't they just come later then?" Lacy considered, "Yup, something is definitely up."

The instructors went on like business as usual. Eventually, we all stopped to watch Lucas and Dylan fight. I couldn't take my eyes off Lucas, he was amazing. It was as if he knew Dylan's moves before he made them.

When we got back to our room, I decided a plan of action. Showering. If he didn't follow me in here and initiate something I'd know whatever was going on was bad. He did follow, and it was a sensual experience.

Somehow this felt like the most intimate moment we'd ever had. He treated me like I was a delicate flower. The conversation that followed surprised me, but it shouldn't have. I guess Lucas was serious about not letting me try to leave.

I ended up promising not to leave him. As soon as I said the words, I felt the tension leaving his soul. He was happy. Eventually Lacy linked me, "We need to go Emmaline. We are going to be late." I sighed and walked out the door.

I ran out to the car and drove quickly to school. Brad cleared his throat, "Umm Luna, please slow down." I rolled my eyes, "Take a chill pill, Brad. Five miles over the speed limit isn't going to hurt anyone."

Lacy laughed, "So, what was up this morning with our mates? Dylan wouldn't say." I winced, "Me. I guess saying I needed to leave triggered Lucas' fears." Lacy frowned, "That's my fault." I shrugged, "I don't think so. I think it plays a part in it, but he thought I was saying I could leave him. I said the opposite too, but somehow all he heard was leave. I promised to never leave him willingly. I think he's good now."

Lacy sucked in a breath, "You know that means you literally can't leave, right?" I nodded, "Aiden and Haley have explained what happens when a fairy promises something. It was the only way I could think of to ease the hurt and worry in his

soul. It was tearing me apart to feel that from him. I needed to fix it.” Lacy grabbed my hand, “I’m sure it did. That’s a big deal. Fairies don’t promise things often.” I laughed, “Except Haley and me apparently.” Lacy nodded, “That’s true.”

I caught Brad’s eyes in the review, he was clearly relieved. I’m sure he worried I’d make a run for it while he was on duty. I couldn’t imagine that would be a fun scenario for him if I did and Lucas found out. I walked into school, and quickly took out my book from my locker and walked into class as the bell rang.

Mr. Blaze was having us do partner work today. I was paired up with Drake. When we got through our discussion questions Drake asked, “What’s wrong?” I sighed, “I upset Lucas. We are ok now... I think...” Drake questioned, “What happened?” I explained while he silently listened.

Drake finally gave me advice, “Well, a fairy promise is a big deal, but the wolf piece is what’s hard for you to understand. Our mates are everything to us. Lucas waited a decade to find you. You’re fully mated now, and you’re engaged. You should take him Lunch today, and just spend time with him. It will settle him and his wolf.” I smiled, “Really? Thanks, Drake. I’ll pop over to Al’s and get us both lunch.” Drake smirked adding, “Sex is always good too.” I threw my pencil at him, “Pervert!” Drake laughed and the bell rang.

I smiled when I saw Travis waiting outside the class. I linked him, “What’s Dylan’s favorite meal at Al’s? I’m taking Lucas lunch today, and figure Dylan will be with him.” Travis told me, “He will absolutely be with him. Dylan likes Al’s turkey BLT and fries. He gets that or Frank’s burger.” I smiled, “Thanks, Travis.” We sat down in class.

Travis linked me again, “I get it Emmaline. I know Lucas is worried, but Dylan linked me you promised not to leave. That really does mean something. Our warriors got to go home. I know you might think it’s overkill, but you’re our Luna. You can’t just leave.” I sighed, admitting, “I really was only thinking about Lucas. You don’t understand. David Forrester hates me, and it would be fun for him to hurt me by hurting Lucas. I can’t ... it hurts to think about.”

Travis looked at me with understanding. He responded, “I get that. I haven’t met my mate yet, but I do understand. The thought of anyone wanting to hurt her makes me want to go crazy.” I smiled at him then bolted straight up in my seat. I wanted to slap myself. I’d never tried to think about Travis’ mate.

I turned, studied him, then gasped out loud and clapped a hand over my mouth. Everyone turned around and stared at me. I blushed mumbling, “Sorry...” Drake raised an eyebrow while Travis frowned. I passed Drake a note asking about a girl in his pack. She went to school in Red Run, but I hadn’t seen her here this year. She was really pretty with brown hair. Last year, she sat at the table with Drake,

Peter, and Garrett. She would be a sophomore now. She was quiet but nice. Sometimes she waited at their football practices after school.

Drake read the note and turned around so fast his books fell off his desk. He picked them up quickly and whispered, “Garrett’s sister? She is at the other school. We were split between Blue Moon and Yellow River. That’s Alpha Theo’s pack. Garrett’s name came after hers on the list we sent over because Peter wanted him with us. He was the cut off for the Yellow River group.” Drake looked at Travis grinning.

Travis asked, “What?” I bit my lip, “Umm... your mate is Garrett’s sister. I’m sorry... I’ve never tried to think of your mate before. When you mentioned yours, I tried. I didn’t realize Garrett was her brother.”

Drake snorted, “She’s sixteen, Travis.”

Travis growled, “That’s fine. I can wait until she turns eighteen to feel the bond, but I believe Emmaline. I want to meet her. What’s her name?” Drake tilted his head saying, “Her name is Jacqueline.” Travis purred her name. Drake snorted again, “Who needs to wait until we are eighteen? We all should just line up and see if the soul searcher knows who our mate is.” Everyone in class snickered.

Drake’s phone rang. He said, “It’s Garrett. Someone must have linked him. He’s still at Sharon’s pack.” He handed the phone to Travis saying, “He’s going to want to talk to you, not me.”

Travis answered and without preamble stated, “I won’t mark her until we both feel the bond, but I’m GOING to spend time with her. I want meet her.” Travis was silent for several minutes. Drake winced. Travis snorted, “So you doubt your mate’s sister, who is the soul searcher, and my Luna? She knew who your mate was.” Travis growled handing the phone back to Drake.

My eyes filled with tears and I took off running from the classroom. Both men yelled simultaneously, “Emmaline, wait!” I didn’t stop running until I reached the tree that had become my spot. I took out my phone and dialed my cousin. She answered, “Hi, Emmaline.” I cried, “I made everyone mad, and I keep making them mad. I was just trying to help. I thought telling Travis who his mate is was... helping.” I heard a pop beside me.

Haley was here now. I frantically looked around asking, “What if someone saw you?” Haley laughed, “Then I’d erase their memory if they were human. There aren’t very many of those here though. The risk was minimal, and you needed me.” She looked over and nodded to Brad. I hadn’t realized he’d run after me with Drake and Travis. All three looked worried.

Haley asked, “What were you talking about? Who's upset?” I cried, “Lucas was upset I said I needed to leave, but I promised I wouldn't. His soul was in turmoil because of me, and I can't stand that. Then I realized who Travis' mate was. I just wanted to help. She's Garrett's sister. He's mad and he doesn't believe me. I'm right though, I know I am. I thought I was being nice, but I just make people mad.”

Haley sat down and rubbed my back, “Emmaline, your emotions are still running high from turning to water. Travis is better off knowing who his mate is. I'm betting it's a she wolf who isn't eighteen?” I shook my head, “She's sixteen.”

Haley said “She now has the advantage to get to know her mate before their bond kicks in. That's good for both of them. Had they met before he would still feel a pull to her, and he will now. She will probably really like Travis too and feel a pull towards him. This is a good thing. Garrett can shut the fuck up. I'm sure Sharon will be pissed at him.”

Drake said, “He's being a big brother.” Haley frowned, “My brothers wouldn't act like that.” I snorted, “Mine would... actually they kind of do.” Haley shrugged, “Anyway, Travis can't help but feel pulled to her. Once the soul searcher tells you your mate, the person knows they are right. It resonates with their soul. You're not wrong, but if you were Travis' wolf wouldn't feel anything towards her name. Did he react when you told him?” I nodded, “He purred.” Haley smiled, “Well, there's your proof, little cousin. You are right, not that I doubted that.”

I smiled a little bit. Brad exhaled in relief. Haley continued, “Now, I didn't really explain this to you the other night, and I'm very sorry about that. When you turn to water it's because your highest emotions have been triggered. That could be any emotion except happiness. I don't know why that is. You don't just turn to water when you're really happy. Your dad probably knows the actual reason. I just know you can turn to water with any other emotion. If you're angry, afraid, sad, or if your life is in danger you could turn to water. Your emotions won't be stable for approximately two days afterwards. Not to say you won't be in control, just that things that normally wouldn't upset you very well could.”

I snorted “So, basically I'm having a water fairy period.” Haley laughed, “That is one way of looking at it, yes. There's no bleeding involved though. Another thing is you're just sensitive about matters of the soul. Which makes sense because you are the soul searcher after all. Don't ever feel like you need to hide someone's mate if you know who they are. It will hurt your soul, and you'll tell them anyway because you can't keep it from them. Garrett will be fine. Travis Frost may get blue balls...”

She trailed off and laughed, “Get it? Frost? Blue balls? It's funny, right?” I busted up laughing. Haley continued, “Anyway, Eric says it's called getting blue balls

when he's sexually frustrated. Travis might get those if his mate wants to wait until she's eighteen, but he will live."

Drake laughed while Travis winced. Haley continued, "Blue fucking balls. I mean really, it's just absurd. What are women supposed to say? Blue ovaries? Eric said that doesn't make sense because you can't see ovaries. It's just like they don't consider we can get sexually frustrated too. What it comes down to is that Travis and his mate might have blue something's but knowing about each other isn't a bad thing."

I sniffled, "You are really funny, Haley." She smiled, "I keep telling people that." Haley conjured some tissues and handed them to me. I looked up, "Thank you for the tissues and for coming." Haley smiled, "I will always come if you need me." A pop sounded then there was a little girl in Haley's arms.

Haley introduced, "Cassie, this is your cousin Emmaline." I smiled as Haley handed me Cassie. Cassie smiled and cooed at me. I felt calmer immediately. I asked, "Is she an empath? Because I feel calmer?" Haley smiled, "No, but I think she can bring calm. It's an earth trait to be able to calm a situation down." I handed Cassie back to her.

I summarized our conversation, "So, I have my fairy water period for a bit longer, then my emotions will level out." Haley smiled, "Provided you don't turn to water again, yes." I snorted, "Lord help us if I turn to water again. Everyone will just need to prepare for waterworks." Haley told me, "Lucas will be able to help you. He's your balance since he's your mate. Your fairy light will be able to use him to anchor you, so to speak. Does my lion know about your winter wonderland wedding yet?"

Brad, Drake, and Travis gasped. I said, "No, and none of you will tell him until I do. Got it?" They all nodded. Haley snickered until her phone rang. I teased, "So you do pop with your phone now?" Haley nodded, "Yup." Her side of the conversation told me it was Marcus. She confirmed Cassie was with her then hung up.

Haley explained, "We have to call everyone when they pop away. Eric loses his shit when it's Cassie popping around. She normally goes to Eric or my dad. She's a little daddy's girl, and Eric loves every second of it." Haley looked behind me. She smiled, "It seems your friend Chelsea came out to comfort you, and her mate wouldn't let her come alone. I swear somehow wolves are more possessive when their mate is pregnant." I snorted asking, "Is that possible?" Haley laughed, "It is. Eric was INSANE about my security when I was pregnant."

Brad chimed in, "To be fair, you were kidnapped before he knew you were pregnant, and how he found out was not great. You can't blame Alpha Eric for

your security after that.” Haley stuck her tongue out at him then lamented, “Even in our territory, I was surrounded by my guard. Not to mention at minimum ten warriors. I couldn’t even pee alone. My guard, Sasha, had to come with me. It was complete insanity I tell you.” I laughed.

Haley turned around asking me, “Are you alright now, cousin?” I nodded, “Yes. I need to get to Al’s. I’m surprising Lucas for lunch.” Brad casually commented, “With me of course.” I said, “Um, sure. I guess.” Haley laughed. Brad chided, “There is no guessing. If you go somewhere, you take me. We aren’t having a repeat of the Red Run rogue Emmaline pops away situation.” I winced.

Haley interjected, “On that note, everyone knows what David did. The bounty is taken care of. No one will be looking for you now.” I asked incredulously, “How did you do that?” Haley smiled, “I called my dad and said, ‘Daddy please.’ My daughter takes after me in that aspect, I’m a daddy’s girl. David has essentially been declared an enemy of the Hackura.” I was not alone in my gasp.

Haley continued, “Anyone who tries to take the bounty will be declared the same. In an unsurprising turn of events the bounty was terminated. No one wants to cross my dad for David Forrester.” I agreed, “That’s true. I appreciate what you did, but David will be irate.”

Haley laughed, “Yes, he will. One can only hope he’ll do something insane, like come after me. Sadly, I don’t think he will. He’s the type who’s brave when no one knows what he’s done, or when someone is weaker than him. I know his type quite well. He knows I am MUCH stronger than him, as is Eric. For now, I think David will lay low and try to rebuild his reputation. I am going to get going now that you are ok. Don’t hesitate to call again if you need anything.” She gave me a side hug, waved to my friends, then popped away with Cassie.

I stood and wiped the grass from my pants. Chelsea asked, “Emmaline, are you ok? I’ll kick Garrett’s ass for this!” Peter rubbed her back, “Whoa there, my sugar baby momma. No fighting with the little pup cooking in there. I’ll handle Garrett.” Chelsea huffed and gave me a hug.

Drake added, “Garrett is not upset with you, Emmaline. It’s just an adjustment for us wolves. Normally we have to wait until both people are eighteen. He was just in protective big brother mode.” I shrugged noncommittally.

Chelsea said, “No one doubts you. Travis can feel that Jacqueline...” She trailed off. She turned and asked Peter, “That’s her name right, babe?” Peter nodded. Chelsea continued, “Travis feels she’s his mate. He’s not going to push her to do anything she doesn’t want to until she feels their bond. You did nothing wrong.”

I changed the subject, “Well, Brad and I have to get to Al's. I'm surprising Lucas with lunch. I'm sorry that everyone missed class.” Chelsea gave me another hug and whispered, “Don't let stupid macho boy crap make you feel bad about what you can do. You're the soul searcher. Matching souls is your thing. They can deal with it.” I smiled at her.

Travis gave me a hug, “Thank you. I'm really excited about meeting Jacqueline after school.” That put a smile on my face. I said, “I'm really happy for you.” I grabbed Brad's hand and popped us into Al's office.

Brad had to sit down. I winced, “Sorry, Brad! I forgot it's jarring your first time.” Al sputtered, “Brad?! Sorry Brad? I about had a heart attack! Where was my warning you were popping into the office?”

I laughed, “Well, be prepared for my popping little self in your office on occasion. I've gotta keep you on your toes! I'm going to put my order in with Frank, I'll be right back. Brad, just sit here and get your bearings.” Brad nodded, “Just come right back.” I nodded and left the office. I gave Frank my order then sat in a booth to wait.

The bell rang at the front door. I watched as a handsome man I'd never seen before walked in. I evaluated him. He wasn't as handsome as Lucas. Something about him screamed danger. His soul was a mess, almost like he was grieving a loss. I looked away when he noticed me. I must not have looked away fast enough because he walked over to me, his movements deliberate.

He greeted me, “Hello, little dove. What's your name?” Something told me not to answer him, I evaded, “What's yours?” The man laughed, “Aren't you feisty? I like you.” I raised an eyebrow, “You don't know me.” He laughed again, “I intend to. I'm meeting my nephew of sorts here for lunch.” I asked, “Who's your nephew?” The man smirked, “Now that would be telling.”

Frank called, “Emmaline, your orders ready.” I shrank into the booth as the man in front of me smiled and his soul turned sinister. He mused, “Emmaline. That would make you Alpha Lucas' mate.” I stood correcting him, “It's Luna Emmaline.” I delved further into this man's soul. What I found terrified me. He was smiling but his soul was dark and full of malice. It was like he felt he had nothing to lose anymore. I shivered and walked away.

I was about to grab my food when he spoke again, “I'll be seeing you around again, my little dove.” I muttered, “Don't count on it.” He laughed, “Oh, but I will.” Drat. I forgot how good werewolves could hear. I shook that off because I was going to avoid him so we would NOT be seeing one another again.

I walked back into the office, smiled at Al, grabbed Brad's hand, and popped us outside Lucas' office. Several things happened simultaneously. Brad's eyes widened with whatever he heard on the other side of the door. When I opened it, he tried to stop me, but I heard Aubree say David killed her mom. That he even threatened to kill Dusty and Ry. WHAT?

I had to run. Lucas was with me though. I needed to get to the lake. Haley said water would center me. It always had before. I don't know why it wouldn't help me now. I had caused my brother's wick to lose her mother. She went through that pain because finding out I wasn't David's daughter snapped something inside him. I could've been the reason she ran from Dusty when she found out she was his wick. My soul literally couldn't handle that thought. Haley's words about Lucas being my anchor came back to me. I focused on his soul. It was calm, my safe space. That was the only thing that helped me calm down.

A few moments ago, I had been ready to proudly tell Lucas I got Brad and I both places I tried for today. David could really kill a mood. I managed to not cry again before we left. Today was officially a disaster. I popped Brad and I into the forest right by the school.

Brad cleared his throat. I turned around to face him. He told me, "The actions of others aren't your fault. We do what we can and try to make the world a better place. Bad people only win when you let their actions dictate your life. Or live in a cycle of guilt because of their choices." I thought about what he said for several minutes. I said, "Thanks, Brad. I'll try to remember that."

I went through the rest of my classes tear free and made it to my class with the girls. Chelsea smiled asking, "How did lunch go?" I performed the charm so no one could hear us and groaned, "Awful. It went over like a turd in a punch bowl. I didn't even actually get to eat lunch." I explained what happened. All the girls felt bad.

Sam consoled me, "It's not your fault, Emmaline." Valerie said, "Aubree is really nice. She won't hold something David did against you." I shrugged. Chelsea was about to say something when I was called to the front office. I sighed and walked out of class.

When I got to the office, I saw a bouquet of roses. I had a feeling I shouldn't open the card. I asked the secretary if she would. I think she agreed because I'm the Luna. I watched in surprise when a mist seemed to be released when she opened it. I shook myself, understanding I must have been wrong because the secretary didn't say anything about it. I was really on my water fairy period because I could swear the mist that didn't exist was disappointed I hadn't opened it. I got a chill as it evaporated.

The secretary frowned commenting, "It seems you have an admirer. I can't say the Alpha will like that." I sighed and read the card.

It was nice meeting you. I'll see you again soon little dove.

I told her, "Throw them away. I met this creepy guy when I was waiting for food at Al's today. I got a bad feeling from him." She nodded seriously. She told me, "Make sure you tell you the Alpha about this." I nodded, "I plan to."

I went back to class. When I told Chelsea about it, she was concerned. We needed something fun today. I told her, "I want a winter wedding." Chelsea laughed, "That's a subject change." I smiled weakly, "I just want something to be happy about today."

Chelsea nodded, "I heard what Haley said about your emotions. You're just out of sorts." I nodded, "I feel out of sorts, but I still feel like that guy was bad news." Chelsea agreed, "One thing we learn early on as wolves is to trust our instincts. As the soul searcher, you should do the same." I nodded.

On the drive home, I told Lacy about my winter wedding plans. She squealed happily that she wanted to have her wedding on Halloween. We agreed once Lucas knew about the winter wedding plan, she'd have the green light. Her Halloween date got me thinking about my own dreams.

I asked, "Would it be silly to have a wedding on Christmas?" Lacy answered, "No, I think it would be nice. You could do Christmas Eve because people have Christmas plans, but that would be fun!" I thought about it. Christmas or Christmas Eve worked for me. I really liked that idea. Lucas was on board.

I had a few months to plan. Chelsea had told me Haley pulled off her pink paradise wedding in two weeks. I bet she could do a hell of a lot in a few months. I linked Lacy, "You are good to go for October. Lucas said this winter break is a good time for our wedding."

Lacy squealed replying, "I'm starting Pinterest boards for both of us as we speak. I'm going to text Bexley we need my venue created." I agreed, "Yes! I loved the venue you dreamed up with for here. We could use it too." Lacy laughed. Her happiness brought me such joy.

My brothers interrupted Lucas and I wanting to hang out. Since they had Aubree and Valerie with them, I included Lucas. I tried not to be awkward with Aubree, but my guilt was suffocating the room. Eventually, she asked me to get snacks with her, but I was sure she wanted to talk.

We walked into the kitchen. She quickly said, "It's not your fault my mom was killed. I don't hold it against you or Dustin. David's actions are David's alone. My mother would never have forgiven my father if he didn't help you. She always pushed him to be a good man. She would've considered this one of the best things he could do. Anytime she saw a little girl in need, she always thought of me in her mind. She never would've wanted David to find you. She would've gladly given her life so that you could live. Besides, I'm not even sure David did kill her. It's a theory."

I whispered, "I think he did." Aubree took my hands, "Please don't dwell on this. I want to get to know you, I really do. Dustin has talked about you so much, and I know he's felt a hole in heart since you left. He always blamed David, but now... now it's just worse. We are all family, and I always wanted a big family. I'm an only child. I just want you Ry, Katie, and me, along with your mates, to get along."

I laughed pointing out, "Dusty looks ready to come unglued about Lucas and me every five minutes." Aubree smirked, "I'm working on that. He still sees you as a little kid." I smiled admitting, "I idolize him and Ry." Aubree smiled, "I know you do. Dustin is just a little jealous he has to share you, but he will get over it. Now, let's get back out there since this is settled."

She pulled me in for a hug. I said, "I really hope we can be friends. I missed out on having friends for a few years, and I'm really sad I wasn't there when Dusty met you. Or at your wedding." Aubree smiled sadly, "We missed you being there too, sweetie." We grabbed some snacks and left the kitchen.

Both of us wiped our tears and joined the guys again. I couldn't help but notice the difference in Ry and Dusty's reactions to my request for them to walk me down the aisle. Dustin looked like he had sucked on a lemon while Ry looked like he was trying not to laugh. I explained my reasons trying to hide my wince because my words hurt their soul. They agreed. Now all I needed was Katie Cat back in my life so she could be my maid of honor.

We talked about other things. Eventually, I brought up Valerie's fighting skills. Valerie linked me, "THANK YOU! I am not some helpless little girl. Aubree was out there fighting." We teased each other just like we always did. It was our old comfortable rhythm; we were just with one missing link: Katie.

Dylan walked in with a hard expression. That could not be good. Aubree and I exchanged a look when Lucas asked Ry and Dusty to go with him. That meant it had something to do with me. Lacy entered as they were leaving.

Lacy sat down, "Ok, I talked to Dylan and we want people dressing up in Halloween costumes for our ceremony. Won't that be fun?" I smiled agreeing, "It will be unique, just like you and Dylan. Plus, the reception will be a pretty fun

Halloween party.” Lacy squealed, “You just get me fairy duchess.” I laughed and they asked about me.

I dreamily told them, “Haley said Aiden would make it snow for my wedding. I’m just envisioning lots of trees and snow and obviously the wedding colors would be red and green.” Lacy whipped out her computer and showed the Pinterest boards she’d started. I really liked what she’d found for both of us.

We discussed all the wedding details. I was thinking about my bridesmaids. Obviously Katie, since my brothers said she was coming. Haley, Sam, Chelsea, Valerie, Lacy, and I’d like to include Aubree if she wanted. I was about to pull her aside when Lucas came into the room and scooped me up carrying me away. I was confused but said goodnight to everyone. I didn’t miss the worried looks on my brothers and Dylan’s faces.

Once we made it to our room Lucas was kissing me aggressively. I moaned into his mouth, giving his tongue access to claim my mouth. His hand was on my breast before I could ask. I snapped myself naked. Lucas linked me, “Next time wait for me to tell you to do that.” I teased, “Maybe if you’re faster next time.” He growled and I felt his fingers enter me. I threw my head back moaning his name.

He attacked my neck. He growled between kisses, “You’re mine, baby girl.” I agreed breathlessly, “Yours.” He flipped me onto all fours slamming into me. I screamed in pleasure, “LUCAS!” He set a hard pace pulling all the way and slamming back in. He roared, “YOU’RE MINE! NO ONE ELSE CAN HAVE YOU!”

He flipped me onto my back after I came. We kept going for hours. I assured him somewhat breathlessly, “I’m yours, Lucas. Yours and Dominic’s. Only yours.” I felt him come inside me. He grunted and groaned as he thrust a few final times, then he collapsed on top of me. We were both breathing hard. My eyes were drifting shut. Lucas whispered, “Sleep, baby girl.” I remembered I needed to tell him about the flowers, but I was too tired. I mumbled, “I love you Lucas, only you.”

The next thing I knew, my alarm was going off. I really wanted to throw it across the room. Instead, I got up and made it to the gym with seconds to spare. Alex told us it would be a cardio day and motioned to me. He brought over a girl.

He told me, “This is Evelyn. She’s mated to one of our warriors. She’s going to come at you and you’re going to pop away. Ok?” I nodded. It sounded straight forward.

A whistle blew, and she ran at me. My eyes went wide, but I began popping all around the gym away from her. When the hour was up, I was exhausted. Lacy had

to help me back to the house. She took my phone and texted someone. She got a reply quickly. Lacy announced, "Haley says you need to eat a lot of food."

Gemma came up to the house and prepared what looked like entirely too much food. There were pancakes, waffles, eggs, bacon, muffins, and rolls. I ate most of it before I felt like I could function. When I stopped, I noticed my brothers had come in. Both were staring at me in shock. Lucas was smirking. I shrugged explaining, "It's a fairy thing. It was my first popping cardio day while being chased. It was exhausting."

Lucas came over and kissed my forehead. He praised, "They said you did really well." I smiled at him. Dylan skipping into the room. He sang, "A little birdie told Travis who his mate is, and he LOVVVESSS her already." I flushed, embarrassed. Then I remembered that everyone got mad yesterday. Which made me start crying, like a totally sane person. I wanted to stop but couldn't.

Lucas' eyebrows raised. Dustin muttered something that had Lucas growling in response. Lucas asked, "Baby girl, what's wrong?" I was so hysterical I couldn't even explain it. A part of my brain knew this was not rational at all, but I was really upset. Lacy said, "Um... Chelsea did tell us yesterday at lunch that Haley told Emmaline her emotions were going to be all over the place for a couple days because she turned to water."

Dustin and Ryan yelled, "TURNED TO WATER?" Lucas sighed, "I'll explain it after they go to school." Aubree said, "Emmaline, can you focus on your breathing? From what I understand Travis is very happy. I'm not sure who Travis is but being happy is good."

I cried, "Garr... ett.... Was... mmmadd... he... didn't... Bee... liev...e me." Travis walked in the kitchen. He winced explaining, "Garrett said he's sorry. We talked. He's cool now. Sharon got super pissed at him when she found out you got so upset. This is probably not going to cool her down." I cried, "I'm fine."

Dylan snorted, "Obviously you're fine. People who are fine often start crying hysterically. That is the sign of someone being completely fine." Lucas growled at him, then wrapped his arms around me. The instant calm I felt led to me hiccupping instead of sobbing.

Ry came over and started singing the song My Favorite Things. I smiled wiping my tears. He remembered. Dusty and I started singing along, then we all laughed. I was obsessed with the Sound of Music movie when I was nine. I made everyone break into song at any given moment. After that, whenever I was upset, Ry would sing that song to me. Dusty and Katie would always join in.

I squeezed my brothers' hand, "Thanks, Ry." He kissed the top of my head, "I'll always have your back." I turned to Lucas, "I'm sorry. Haley said I was basically having a water fairy period. I should be fine tomorrow or Thursday."

Lucas assured me, "It's ok, baby girl. You have nothing to apologize for. Like Dylan said Travis is happy." Travis cleared his throat adding, "Jacqueline is too. She's great." I nodded. Dylan teased, "See? He LOVVVVESSSS her." I laughed, gave Lucas a kiss goodbye, and walked outside.

I asked, "Brad, can you drive today?" Brad was trying not to laugh but agreed, "Yes, Emmaline." I got in the car and conjured myself a brownie. I was startled when I heard Ry laugh. I asked, "Ry? You're coming with us?" Ry nodded, "Yup, I want to keep an eye on you and spend time with my girl." I rolled my eyes, I was fine. Valerie snuggled into him. When we got there, Ry complained it was a quick ride.

I asked, "How are you getting back home?" Brad explained, "He's taking the SUV. He'll pick us all up after school." I shrugged, "You're a weirdo, Ry." Ry smiled, "And you love me." I laughed, "I do, but more importantly Valerie does." Valerie smirked and buried her head on Ry's shoulder. He winked at me.

The rest of us turned and walked into school. There was a big circle around everyone. I recognized one of the girls. I immediately ran to Sam, backing her away from a girl in Red Run's pack. She was growling.

I whispered, "Sam, breathe." Sam snarled at the girl, "You can't have Drake, bitch! He's fucking mine!" The girl growled back, "He was mine last year." I snorted, "For like a week, tops." Sam's eyes snapped to mine.

The girl flushed and yelled at me, "Stay out of it, Emmaline!" I rolled my eyes. I was getting involved, I felt very protective of Sam and Drake. Maybe it was because they were the first couple I brought together.

I crossed my arms, "She's his mate. Drake didn't even like you. I barely knew him then, and I knew he didn't like you. You just threw yourself at him so many times, he finally gave in." The girl growled, "Fuck you, bitch!" Hail hit her square in the chest. I blinked several times. I stammered, "I'm so sorry... I didn't mean... I'm sorry."

Drake and Peter pushed their way inside the circle. Sam was now laughing her ass off. The girl got up and Drake growled at her. She said, "Sorry, Emmaline." I said, "No, I'm sorry I didn't mean to do that. Besides, I'm not the one you owe an apology to." The girl shrugged and stormed away.

Sam snickered, "I have gotta say, I am so glad I'm your friend. You're cutthroat, Emmaline." Tears filled my eyes. Travis yelled, "NO! NO! Not again. Emmaline, it's fine you didn't mean to hit her with hail, and the girl is fine. Everything is FINE."

Drake and Peter stared at Travis like he had two heads. Chelsea caught on though. She agreed, "Right. That bitch had it coming. She was ready to fight Sam and had the nerve to say Drake would kick her to the curb soon."

Drake lost it, "SHE SAID WHAT? I'll kick her fucking ass!" He crushed Sam to him, kissing her so intensely I turned away. I heard him say, "You're mine forever, Sam." Sam giggled, "I love it when you go all possessive Beta male." The warning bell rang, and we scattered.

Mr. Blaze had us in partners doing discussion questions again. Once we finished ours Drake asked, "So, you pelted a girl with hail for being a bitch to Sam." I cringed, "I didn't mean to." Drake laughed, "I don't actually care. I heard you told her she was mine for and I quote a week tops."

I cringed, "Well... it's true. You dated that Grace girl the longest, and that was like a month." Drake grimaced, "You're right. I should've waited like Peter did." I shrugged asking, "Why? It's a personal choice. Dusty and Ry didn't wait, and they knew they had someone out there meant for them. I think it's fine either way. Sam doesn't seem upset with you." Drake considered, "She's not." I said, "Then that's all that matters." Drake smiled, "You're pretty smart, Emmaline." I smiled, "I have my moments."

I wasn't surprised Travis was waiting for me when the bell rang. He looked anxious. I put him at ease, "I haven't started crying again. I'm fine." Drake asked, "Crying? I'm guessing the water fairy period continues?" Travis nodded quite seriously.

I rolled my eyes and we walked together to our next class. When we got there, I realized I'd forgotten that book in my locker since the whole Sam scene happened. I asked the teacher for permission to go get it. They gave me a pass.

I quickly went to my locker. I had just shut it when I heard Grayson greet me, "Hello, Emmaline." I sighed, replying, "Hi, Grayson." I studied him. His soul was angry and hurt. I commented, "You look upset. Are you ok?" Grayson shrugged, "I didn't sleep much... Hey I got you something."

He pulled out a tennis bracelet. I stared at him in shock, "I can't accept that." Grayson got mad, "You have to!" I frowned, "I really don't. What's going on?" Grayson ran a hand through his hair. He ignored my question asking his own,

“Have you thought about the dance anymore? I can pick you up at eight.” I stared at him for several moments.

I tried to keep the anger out of my tone, but I was pissed. “I told you I’m not going with you.” I gripped my book tightly to my chest trying to calm down. Grayson yelled, “What the HELL is that?” He pointed at my finger. I sighed. This was not going well.

Brad came up behind me. I answered, “It’s an engagement ring.” Grayson reached for my arm, but Brad pulled me behind him. He warned, “Walk away kid.” Grayson yelled, “She’s sixteen freaking years old! What the HELL is wrong with that guy?”

Peter seemingly materialized out of thin air. He ordered, “Go to class, Grayson.” Grayson whirled around. He sneered, “Why because the great Peter Kyle says to? I just want to talk to my friend. I think she’s being brainwashed. We should get social services involved or something.”

At that point Travis came out of class. I was shaking. Social Services? What if David found me? I sank to the ground sobbing. Travis ran over, “What did you do to her, Grayson?” I said, “I’m... eman... ci... pated... I ... can... ge... t... en... gag... ed... if...I want..” Travis asked, “What the fuck is going on?” Grayson ranted, “She just met this like thirty year old man, and she’s engaged! He’s taking advantage of her.” Travis growled, “He’s not thirty!”

Peter calmly asked, “How would you know if he’s taking advantage of her or not? I’ve spent a lot of time around them both, and I can tell you he’s not. Emmaline is emancipated, social services wouldn’t get involved even if you called them.”

I linked Travis, “I want Lucas.” Travis picked me up and started to walk away. Grayson yelled, “Emmaline! We need to talk! You forgot...” His voice faded away when Travis walked outside. I linked Travis again, “I can’t calm down. I’m sorry.” Travis spoke aloud, “It’s not your fault. He upset you, and your fairy side is emotional. Can you pop to Lucas with Brad?” I agreed to try.

I grabbed Brad’s hand and popped away. Lucas yelled, “What the... Emmaline?” I felt his arms wrap around me. I buried my head into his chest breathing his scent in. I could hear Lucas growling; I felt the vibrations in my chest; it didn’t faze me. I was finally calming down.

I managed to look around the room. It was just me and Lucas now. I asked timidly, “Did I interrupt a meeting?” Lucas rubbed my arms, “It was just Dylan and me. I hear you’ve had a bit of a day, and it’s not even ten o’clock.” I cringed, “He... he can’t... get you in trouble, can he?” My eyes filled with tears again.

Lucas assured me, “No, he can’t. You’re of consenting age, and you’re emancipated. He can’t do anything to me.” I whispered, “I don’t know what’s going on with him. He tried to give me a freaking tennis bracelet.” Lucas growled, “I heard.”

I took a deep breath. “I guess I’ll find Brad and pop back to school.” Lucas disagreed, “I don’t want you in school today.” I sighed, “I know I need to get myself under control, but I can’t miss school.” Lucas frowned, “If there are any more waterworks or hail throwing, Brad is bringing you home.” I nodded, “That’s fair. I just couldn’t calm down until I was in your arms.” Lucas smirked, “There’s no need to thank me. I love having you in my arms.”

Brad came in, I grabbed his hand, and popped us back to school. I got a pass from the front office with no questions asked. Being the Luna had serious perks. Travis was waiting to walk with me to the last half of fourth period. No one but my friends talked to me at lunch. Lacy strategically kept the topic on her wedding. I was basically in a bubble in the halls surrounded by pack members.

Chelsea and Peter were talking by my locker when the day ended. I greeted them, “Hey guys, what’s up?” Chelsea asked, “Can you come to our territory on Friday to work on school stuff? Peter doesn’t want me out of his sight.”

I agreed, “Sure. Me, you, and Brad. Hopefully, there are no rogues this time.” Peter growled, “I didn’t get a chance to thank you for popping Chelsea to the safe room.” I shrugged, “No thanks needed.” Peter smiled, “There is though; thank you Emmaline.” I smiled and walked outside.

Brad drove us home. I could feel Ry’s eyes on me from the back of the car. I had never been more thankful to get a text. I quickly read it. Haley was checking on me. I explained the whole situation to her. She was instantly suspicious about Grayson. She thought it was weird he was trying to give me such an expensive gift. I really didn’t know what to say about that either. My heart rate tripled when we pulled up to the house. There were cops talking to Lucas and his parents outside.

Ry ordered, “Evie, stay in the car.” He got out with Brad. Lacy reached over and took my hand. I was scared to death. I asked no one in particular, “They can’t do anything, can they? This is Grayson, isn’t it? Lucas said they couldn’t do anything to him.” Lacy assured me, “They can’t do anything. They got a complaint; they just want to talk to you.” I willed my tears away.

Lucas motioned for me to get out of the car. I vaguely noticed a yellow Camaro pull into the driveway. One of the cops came forward, “Emmaline Richards?” I nodded. He said, “We would like to have a word with you.” For some unknown reason, that made me angry. I snarked, “Why? Did I do something wrong?” The

cops shook their head. The other one said, “No, we just need to have a word with you.”

Haley’s voice floated across the driveway, “With representation of course. Surely you wouldn’t talk to her without representation or an advocate.” The cops stiffened, “It’s just a conversation.” Haley put her arm around me, “With an advocate. Which in case anyone was curious, is me.” Both cops sighed. They took us to a corner away from the group. I wanted to laugh. Everyone in the yard was going to be able to hear this.

The first cop explained, “We got a call for a wellness check. Someone is concerned about you Miss Richards, and we are just looking into it. Mr. Lyons seems to think it’s a jilted ex of yours.” The cop startled when I snorted.

I explained, “Grayson asked me to a dance last year. We never went out again. He barely kissed me on the lips. Now, he’s accosting me in the hallways at school and trying to give me insanely expensive presents. He spews hate about Lucas every time he speaks to me. I would hardly call him an ex. He’s just a guy who can’t take no for an answer.”

The cops shared a look. The other one said, “The complaint said Mr. Lyons is walling you off from friends and family. There is a concern about abuse.” Haley interjected, “Do you investigate as part of your jobs? I’m her cousin. I spoke

to her dad on the way here. He was appalled at the accusations against Mr. Lyons. I can personally attest that my cousin has many friends here. Lucas has never raised so much as a finger to her. Emmaline’s half-sisters, dad, and I are very happy for her and Lucas. We have seen her several times, and I talk to her regularly. At minimum, I see her every Wednesday and Thursday.”

The cops exchanged glances. The first guy said, “She’s emancipated.” I answered, “That doesn’t mean I can’t talk to my parents.” Haley smirked at me. Her soul told me she was proud of my very fairy answer. I didn’t lie, I could talk to my parents; I just didn’t. The cops exchanged glances again. That was beginning to annoy me.

They gave me a card. The second cop spoke, “Look, just call if you need anything.” He looked at Haley, “Mrs...” He stalled realizing he never asked her name. Haley supplied the answer, “Mrs. Cambridge Connors.”

Both officers paled. I wondered just how far Eric’s reach was. The first guy asked, “Your husband is one of the Connors brothers?” Haley smirked answering, “My husband’s name is Eric Connors. He’s thrilled my cousin is getting married to his friend. He and Lucas were both worried they would end up with girls who didn’t like their friendship.” The cops were practically translucent at this point.

The second guy managed to speak first, “I see. You’d be willing to make a statement confirming you’re Ms. Richards cousin, and that Emmaline is not under distress?” Haley smiled, “Absolutely. Can Emmaline file a restraining order against this Grayson guy? He’s clearly unhinged about her. I’m very worried about her safety.” They sighed as if annoyed. I thought it was a valid question.

The first guy said, “He hasn’t done anything to harm her.” Haley frowned, “Harassment and borderline stalking is not harmful now? I did not realize that.” Both cops grimaced. The second one begrudgingly said, “If he continues to harass you, Ms. Richards, please come file a report.”

Haley snorted, “What good does that do exactly? He’s free to continue to harass her until you decide he’s done enough to let her file this claim. He’s wasted all our time because he’s upset Emmaline doesn’t like him. He’s attempted to impugn Lucas’ reputation and brought a fair amount of stress to my cousin today. You’re saying she has no recourse here? That he can make complaints and request a wellness check, but she can’t file anything in return. Despite the fact that HER behavior doesn’t break any laws. There’s nothing you will do to protect her, or anyone else in her situation? No man or woman deserves to be harassed.”

The cops frowned, clearly uncomfortable with her line of questions. The second guy spoke, “If it escalates, please use our card.” They turned away. Haley called after them, “Should she hold the card in front of her face as he continues to stalk and harass her at school? Will that deter him?”

They didn’t answer her. She grumbled, “Fucking unhelpful assholes. Here’s a tiny business card to protect you. The poor fucking humans who get harassed. Actually, poor everyone involved. It must feel awful to not be able to do anything to help people.”

I ran to Lucas throwing my arms around him. I cried, “I’m so sorry.” Lucas rubbed my back, “Baby girl, this isn’t your fault. Besides, it’s handled.” Dusty and Ry looked furious. Dusty yelled, “How fucking dare this little prick!” Ry gritted his teeth, “I hate that we can’t speak up for you as family.” I grabbed his hand and squeezed it. I comforted them, “I know you would if not for David. It’s ok. Haley was here.” I paused.

I turned and asked, “How are you here with a car and everything, Haley?” Haley laughed, “Lucas texted Eric about the situation. I was with him. Eric told me I couldn’t kill anyone because humans were here. I popped in with my car further down the road and out of sight because... humans. This Grayson though... he may need killing.” I laughed but I was certain she was serious.

She continued, “I even curbed my swearing in front of the human cops. Someone has to attest to that. Eric didn’t think I would be able to because I was so pissed

off. I might have said a lot of curse words when he told me. Are you alright, cousin?"

I nodded, "I just want to go inside and pretend today didn't happen." Haley assured me, "You'll feel less emotional tomorrow. You did really well with their insulting questions. You didn't lose your temper or cry. I'm proud of you." Haley gave me a hug.

Lucas carried me inside while she got back into her car. She popped away with the whole thing. That was just impressive. I wanted to get that good. The rest of us went to the dinner table. We ate in silence. Afterwards, Lucas carried me upstairs where I sobbed into his chest until I fell asleep.