

Word Searches

Lucas growled with need to claim Emmaline after seeing the message on his borders. I glanced at her mark, assuring myself she was mine. I threw her into so many positions needing the feel of her. I couldn't calm down and neither could Dominic. I just kept wondering how I would keep her safe when Haley was taken from Eric. Haley was much stronger than Emmaline, and Eric was more feared than I was. How was I going to protect her?

When she fell asleep after we finished, I got on my laptop to re-work our border patrols. Then mocked up plans to make our territory as safe as possible. I crawled into bed, falling asleep next to Emmaline.

I was woken up by Alex, "Lucas, the trainers had Emmaline popping away while someone chased her. She's very tired. Lacy had to help her walk out of the gym." I sat up replying, "I'll make sure she's ok. Thank you." Alex responded, "All in my Gamma duties, Lucas. She did really well. She got caught at the end, but she was just tired. I think this will be an excellent cardio training program for her."

I linked Lacy, "Is Emmaline ok?" Lacy snorted, "Of course someone linked you. Haley said she'd be fine, she just needed to eat. I got her food, and now she's eating like a bear about to go into hibernation." I laughed grabbing some shorts and went down to the kitchen.

When I entered the room, I had to stifle my laugh because Emmaline was practically inhaling food in a frenzy. Ryan said, "She's never done this before. How can she even eat that much?" I laughed explaining, "Apparently, it's a fairy thing. When they use their powers, they have to replenish with lots of food." Dustin snorted, "Good thing you are rich then. She'd eat you out of house and home using her powers." I shrugged. I wouldn't care.

Dylan came in talking about Travis' mate. What the hell? I linked Dylan, "Who is Travis' mate?" Dylan said, "Future Gamma Garrett of Red Run's little sister, Jacqueline. She's sixteen. I wasn't kidding either he really does already love her. Rhino is gaga over her wolf. I knew that serious wolf had a soft spot somewhere in him."

Before I could respond, Emmaline burst into tears. I looked around and everyone was astonished. Dustin looked at me, his face flushed red in anger. He said quietly, "She better not be pregnant." I growled at him.

Dylan snorted, “Clearly, you did not have coffee this morning, Dustin. Are you trying to get punched? I think you are. Calm thyself eldest Forrester. I will not throw my face in the way to save yours. I’m too pretty.” I shot him a look. He just smiled at me.

Lacy actually knew what was going on. Her explanation confused me though. I linked Lacy, “Haley? When did Emmaline and Haley talk?” Lacy replied, “Haley popped to school yesterday because Emmaline got so upset.” I gave her a look before asking, “Why didn’t I know that?” Lacy winced, “Sorry.”

When Travis walked in I linked Dylan, “Did you tell him come?” Dylan answered, “No, he must have a bat signal.” I sent him an incredulously look. He linked, “Hell yes I made him come. If I have to be a part of this meltdown; he does too. It’s basically his fault.” I

raised an eyebrow pointing out, “It would be more Garrett’s fault. I’d imagine Travis believed her.” Dylan said, “He absolutely believed her. He almost cut school to go find Jacqueline. She needs a nickname. That’s a mouthful.”

I ignored the last part, “Then I’m right. This is about Garrett not Travis.” Dylan retorted, “Well, I can’t get Garrett here with a simple link. What do you want from me Lucas? I’m not a miracle worker. I have texted my Beta chat. Beta McAlister knows Garrett is in trouble. I’ll be paying them back somehow.” I was sure he would.

Dylan asked me, “Are you going to do something? She’s going to dehydrate any minute now.” I wrapped my arms around Emmaline, and she began to calm down. Dylan yelled in our link, “You didn’t try that earlier because?” I replied “Damn, you don’t do well with sobbing women, do you?”

Dylan glared at me, “You know I don’t. Give me a dozen rogues to face before I have to deal with a crying woman. I’m a big pile of mush. I’ll give them whatever they want. I was working on securing her a pony. I’m not even joking. She’s one confirmation away from getting an actual pony.” I replied, “No ponies.” He did not reply. Shit. He was going to get her a pony.

Ryan stepped forward and started to sing a song to her. I asked Dylan, “Is that the song from The Sound of Music?” Dylan answered, “It is. Apparently, they are the Von Trapp family. I’m not a singer but I can download that song to play the next time when she’s upset. Beta Caleb is going to get a scathing memo about not informing me about my Luna’s fairy water period. Which sounds delightful. Can we throw chocolate at her? Or ice cream to make the waterworks stop? You said no pony, but where’s my line?” I smirked, “You enjoy the fairy show. You can’t throw anything at your Luna. Handing her chocolate couldn’t hurt.” Dylan shivered, “Not sobbing fairy shows. No man enjoys a sobbing woman.”

I linked Brad, “You should probably drive them this morning. Emmaline’s a little emotional.” Brad answered, “Sorry Alpha. I meant to tell you yesterday she was in an emotional state, but the day got away from me.”

I responded, “Anything you can catch me up on now?” Brad said, “She just got really upset when Garrett didn’t believe her about Travis’ mate. Alpha Eric’s princess popped in to say Emmaline would be emotional for a few days since she turned to water. The princess calmed Emmaline down with their daughter then popped away.” I said, “Alright, keep a close watch on her today.” Brad answered, “Of course, Alpha.” I watched them drive away from the window.

Dustin cleared his throat. I turned around. He asked, “Turned to water?” I nodded, “Yes, she turned to water because she got scared when Ryan found her the other night.” Dustin stated, “She’s not scared of Ryan.”

I shook my head, “No, she’s scared of your father. She’s scared he’d find her and try to hurt me.” Dustin frowned, “She’s not wrong, but you’re an Alpha.” I snorted, “I am aware. It doesn’t make her any less afraid. Especially after finding out David killed Craig’s mate.” Dustin winced, “We don’t know that he killed her. I’m looking into it discreetly. Officially, Aubree’s mom died in a car crash.”

None of us believed that. I shrugged, “Let me know if you need any assistance. I will help you if I can.” Dustin nodded, “Thanks. You’re good with her.” I laughed, “That’s why Ryan said.” Dustin sighed, “I’m protective of her, I always have been. She’s always been a sensitive little thing, but she brought a lighthearted joy to any situation she was involved in. I don’t even think my father realizes what he gave up when he turned her away. Evie was the sweetest little kid who always had a kind word to say. If you were sad, she didn’t stop until she’d cheered you up.”

Dylan shrugged, “Apparently, it was deserved. The girl was attacking Sam over Drake. Travis stopped the waterworks from happening again. Emmaline didn’t mean to hit the girl with hail but compared to what Drake would’ve done... it was probably for the best. I have Travis on Luna Tear gate. It’s handled.” I sighed, linking Brad, “If there are any more incidents with Emmaline today, just bring her home.” Brad answered, “Yes, Alpha.”

Dylan and I went upstairs, and I went over our border patrol changes. He showed me the feeds from the cameras we installed on our perimeter. We saw nothing out of the ordinary. I called Eric. He answered, “Lucas.” I greeted him, “Good morning, Eric. The heads of five Ducant men were placed on my borders with a note saying someone is going to take Emmaline from me and make her theirs.”

Eric growled, “She’s already marked, and you’ve had your Luna Ceremony. They can’t make her theirs.” I agreed, “I know, but I’m worried. There was no scent.

Fairies can mask their scent.” Eric pointed out, “So can witches, and they can give werewolves a potion to mask their scent for a specific period of time.”

I sighed, “I keep gaining more suspects and I need to narrow it down. No one I have had watching Alpha Raven reported anything. Could it be Alpha Theo? I just... I don’t want to believe it.” Eric sighed, “He wouldn’t.”

I heard a pop. Eric caught Haley up. She said, “Because it’s not Alpha Theo.” Eric growled. I asked, “How do you know that Haley?” Haley said, “Because I asked him, and made him tell the truth. He hates you my lion, and he hates that he hates you. He misses your friendship, but he’s not behind this. I have an idea though.”

Eric cut in, “Then by all means share it, and then explain why you went off to see Alpha Theo by yourself.” Haley laughed, “Darrin went with me, and so did Bjourn. I was hardly by myself. He’s our ally, he just doesn’t like my lion. There was literally no reason I couldn’t go see him alone.”

Eric sighed, “I could’ve told you Theo didn’t do it.” Haley said, “I was pretty sure he didn’t do it, but now I’ve removed the nagging doubt that’s been bothering you. Alpha Theo was actually relieved himself. He knew people would eventually wonder if it was him because of the things he said in anger after his brother died. Now we all know. You’re welcome.” I laughed.

Dylan threw popcorn in his mouth then said, “Back to your theory fun sized fairy whom I love.” Eric growled. Haley sighed, “Not to beat a dead bitch, but what if this is someone who loved Chriscovetous. Now, I know... she’s practically unlovable. I’d argue so was Claudzilla and you all were all about her.” I growled.

Dylan jumped in, “Not by me. I loudly hated them both. I was not shy about my dislike. Also, that’s the best new saying of all time. Not to beat a dead bitch. PRICELESS.” Jackson sighed, “That’s true. Dylan and I often talked about disliking them.”

I growled, “We were charmed.” Haley said, “I still think you should look into the Chriscovetous connection.” I sighed, “It’s as good an idea as any others we have. How did you know about me and Alpha Theo?” Eric growled, “Yes, that’s a good question. I was going to tell you today.” Haley said, “Aiden told me.” Eric growled, “Of course he did.” How did he know? I looked at Dylan.

I heard a pop followed by Eric growling. He said, “Excuse me, I have to go remind my wife she doesn’t pop away from me.” I heard Darrin’s say, “She did take me with her, and I think she would’ve taken you, but she knew you had a meeting this morning.”

Eric growled, "You should've linked me." Darrin sighed, "We were there less than ten minutes. It's not even the first time they've met. He likes her as a person and your mate. She likes him. It was fine. He really was relieved everyone wouldn't come to suspect him, and again she took Bjourn and me. That should sufficiently quell concerns." I heard a door slam. Jackson said, "We will talk to you later Lucas." He hung up.

Dylan said, "Not to brag, but I knew it wasn't Alpha Theo. Me and my good buddy Beta James have been chatting. I already knew Alpha Theo was worried people were going to suspect him. Alpha Baby Connors is right, Alpha Theo will be relieved everyone knows it wasn't him." I rolled my eyes, "Alpha Baby Connors?" Dylan shrugged, "What? He's the youngest one. Therefore, he is the baby."

I rolled my eyes and we began working on new suspects. We eliminated a few when I got a link from Brad, "Can I punch this Grayson kid?" I growled, "Now what?" Brad said, "He's losing it about you guys being engaged. He tried to grab her, but I pulled her behind me." I was instantly on edge, unable to stop my growls. Dylan sighed, "I'm going to have to remind people they link me first. I am the conduit. People ignore me. I am overlooked and underappreciated. It's fine."

Brad stopped updating me. I asked, "Did Brad link you after that tirade?" Dylan winced, "I didn't link my tirade, I said it aloud. I linked my baby brother. There was a situation. Travis is taking Emmaline outside so she can try to pop her and Brad home. Apparently, she's worse than she was this morning on the crying scale. I'll be in the kitchen waiting for the ice cream signal."

I heard a pop. I was stunned with how hysterical my mate was. I was worried I'd have to call Hector over to sedate her. She began to calm down. I angrily asked, "What the hell happened, Brad?" Brad grimaced, "The human tried to give her a tennis bracelet. He became agitated when Emmaline refused to accept it. He asked about the dance she already declined going with him to. He flipped out about you two being engaged. He threatened to call social services, and that triggered Emmaline's meltdown."

Emmaline had stopped crying. Her eyes were closed and she almost seemed to be sleeping as she clung to me. Brad continued, "Peter Kyle told the kid to go to class, but he wasn't listening. Travis came out to back me up. Emmaline explained that she was emancipated and could get engaged if she wanted to. The human was adamant she was being taken advantage of. Peter tried to deescalate the situation. It didn't work. This kid is going to do something. He's a loose cannon. He's not going to let this go. Peter Kyle physically restrained him from following us. He tried to put that bracelet on her several times, not that she noticed. In fact, he seemed a little desperate to get it on her."

I frowned pointing out, "He can't do anything to me." Dylan said, "I've linked our lawyer. He's on his way up to go over everything, just in case. Because you know I love to be prepared for all the possible outcomes. Can I complain about how bad this kid is for my anxiety? He's giving me a complex." I snorted then looked down at Emmaline. I told them, "Guys, give us a few minutes."

They left quickly. I sat down rocking Emmaline back and forth. I shouldn't have let her go to school today. She calmed down, and I actually almost laughed that she had no idea what was going on. She and Haley really didn't understand the allure that fairies had. I'm sure the guy thought he could have Emmaline anytime he wanted. Then I came along, and he realized she wasn't waiting around for him. Despite my protests, Emmaline was insistent she go back to school.

I linked Brad, "The Luna wants to go back to school. No one, especially Grayson, gets near her." Brad replied as he entered the room, "Yes, Alpha." They popped away. I linked the pack members in school, "Your Luna is very emotional right now due to a fairy power she has. I don't want anyone near her, especially that human boy. Leave her friends to handle her today, she needs to remain calm." Everyone answered back saying, "Yes, Alpha."

Dylan chimed in, "If something goes awry the rest of the day who do we link? Beta Dylan!" Several people snickered but answered, "Of course, Beta Dylan." He retorted, "You say of course Beta Dylan, as if you all didn't warn a Beta of what was coming today. Help me, help you." Several people laughed again.

Dylan walked in with Alex and our lawyer, Malcom, who sat down. He addressed the problem, "So, we have a human who does not understand the mate bond?" I nodded explaining, "He's not happy Emmaline and I are engaged. He wants to call social services."

Malcom frowned, "He won't get anywhere with them. She's considered an adult in the eyes of the law. He could call the police, and they could do a wellness check. Other than that, they truly can't do anything if Emmaline herself doesn't complain. Technically speaking she's not a minor, and she's of consenting age to have sex. You are in the clear here, Alpha." I nodded, "I figured as much, but it is nice to hear."

My mom burst into the room. She crossed her arms, "Lucas, there are police officers outside. They say they need to speak to you and Emmaline." Malcom stood sighing, "This kid is going to be a problem, Alpha."

My mom stomped her foot, "Your Luna is NOT a problem! Why would you say that?" I quickly explained, "He means Grayson. He's a kid at Emmaline's school. It seems he thinks I'm taking advantage of her and called the police." My mother snorted.

I stepped outside. Dustin, Ryan, and Aubree were already hovering around. My dad face was grim. I spoke, "Officers, how can I help you?" One officer asked, "Are you Lucas Lyons?" I nodded, "Yes, I am." The other officer tried to appear sympathetic, "Look, this is a shitty situation. We got a call, and we need to check on the welfare of Emmaline Richards." The other officer corrected, "We received a complaint. Can you tell us the nature of your relationship with Ms. Richards, Mr. Lyons? Where is she?"

Dylan linked, "I question the validity of their skills. She's obviously in school." I agreed with him. I spoke slowly and concisely, "She's at school, and as far as our relationship, she's my fiancée." Both officers startled. One asked, "You are actually engaged to a sixteen year old?" My dad growled.

Ryan chimed in, "An emancipated sixteen year old. If you wanna throw a stone at a glass house, the law already failed Emmaline Richards." The officers turned to him. Both crossed their arms. The one clearly playing bad cop sneered, "Excuse me?"

Ryan stepped forward, "I will not excuse you. The system already allowed her to be emancipated at thirteen years old. Which, unless you completely suck at your jobs, you already knew. Everyone here knows that no thirteen year old should be emancipated. Placed into foster care and taken care of by the system? Sure. Emancipated and left on their own, absolutely not." I couldn't agree with him more.

The second officer explained, "We were told Emmaline wasn't at school. That she was picked up and brought back here." He seemed unsure of this entire situation. I answered, "Emmaline was never picked up. She was upset, understandably so after an individual harassed and accosted her. I spoke with her and calmed her down. I would've picked her up, but she wanted to be in school today. She's a very good student. The complainant in question is an ex of my fiancée's. He's grown quite hostile about our relationship and refused to accept no as her answer to date her."

The other officer spoke, "And you don't see a problem with dating her given your age gap?" I leveled the officer with a look. Dominic was snarling in my head. I took several deep breaths. Humans. They were humans. They didn't understand supernatural's or mates. Malcom spoke, "I don't see the problem. Emmaline is emancipated, and she's of consenting age. There is nothing you can do here."

Ryan left our group, going to the SUV to pick the girls up from school. He gunned it out of the driveway. The officers frowned. One asked, "Where is he going?" I answered, "To pick up Emmaline and her friends from school." The officer who was getting on my last good nerve sneered, "It's been said you have guards on Emmaline. That she's never alone, and you're taking her away from her family."

I snorted, “She spends a lot of time with her friends and her cousin. I take Emmaline to see her cousin and half-sisters every Wednesday.” I took out my phone and texted Eric about the situation. He texted back saying Haley was coming, and he’d told her she couldn’t kill anyone.

I smirked, then added, “In fact her cousin will be here shortly after Emmaline arrives.” They were both taken aback. One asked suspiciously, “Why?” I shrugged, “I don’t tell people when they can or cannot see Emmaline. Her cousin wants to come see her, so she is.” The officer who was clearly uncomfortable with this entire thing shot his partner a look.

Malcom added, “I would like to know what will be done when this is resolved and you see a false complaint has been filed.” The officer spoke, “We are doing our jobs, and a concerned citizen should always speak out.” Dustin snorted. The officer glared at him asking, “Problem, Sir?” The intensity of the glare they received from him had both officers stepping back.

Dustin said, “As my brother already said, Emmaline was failed by the system. Now that she’s happy you’re trying to upset her.” The officer stuttered, “We just want to make sure she’s ok.” Dustin took a step forward. Aubree quickly grabbed his hand. He yelled, “Where the FUCK was that concern for the last four years? You don’t have any right to be concerned!” Brad pulled in the driveway.

The officer observed, “I assume that’s the bodyguard who doesn’t allow anyone close to Emmaline driving the car.” I started to speak, but Malcom cut me off, “My client is a wealthy man. Threats are received daily for Lucas, Lacy, Debbie, and Dale Lyons. Emmaline is marrying into a prominent family. Threats have already started coming in against her as well. My client is entitled to seek protection for her. He has been in contact with the school and has adhered to any and all restrictions for Emmaline’s protection.”

I could hear Emmaline panicking. I linked Lacy, “They just have to talk to her. Calm her down. She can’t turn to water in front of humans.” When she settled, I motioned for Emmaline to join us. The officer jeered, “So, she also comes when you call.” This officer was really pushing past impolite and right into disrespectful. I barely managed to stop Dominic from taking control.

Malcom angrily said, “Your hostility and lack of professionalism will be noted in my complaint about this on behalf of my clients. Emmaline is scared. Her fiancé is merely letting her know everything is ok.” The officers barely registered his words as they turned their attention to Emmaline. I breathed a sigh in relief when I saw Haley pull in.

The cops were not happy with Emmaline’s responses. Dylan linked me, “They obviously thought she was going to have a different story once they got her away

from you.” I growled, “Just the one. The other one doesn’t want to be here. He’s uncomfortable. Why would Grayson even bring up her family? As far as anyone knows she doesn’t have any.”

Dylan frowned, “I don’t know. He said a bunch of buzzwords to get them to take his complaint seriously. Obnoxious human kid who is messing with my day. How to get him back off in a fun way, that’s the question.” He’d figure it out.

Malcom linked me, “That was a good answer from the Luna. Evasive, saying she can talk to her dad. If they found out her biological father wasn’t involved with her emancipation, they could’ve tried to track him down.”

I laughed replying, “He’s a fairy. They could only track him down if he wanted them to. He wants to have a relationship with Emmaline. He has to know coming after me wouldn’t be the way to do that.” Malcom was visibly relieved.

Dylan linked me, “Ahhh, there is it. I was wondering when they were going to ask for my fun sized fairy’s name. King Alpha Prick is good for a few things, mainly putting the fear of god into people. That’s right humans. You done pissed off money bags King Alpha Prick. Tread lightly.” I responded, “They can’t hear you.” Dylan pointed out, “But they are thinking everything I just said. Look at that, their lives just flashed before their very eyes.” He might be right.

Dylan linked me again, “I think they are going to poop their pants. Oh no. The fun sized fairy does not understand the human laws. They need to run. She won’t agree.” He was right. It was good Eric told her she couldn’t kill anyone because her eyes nearly went gold when the officers said Grayson hadn’t done anything. I’m sure the Hackura had a zero tolerance policy on harassment.

Dylan linked me, “They only left because her anger was practically choking them. Don’t mess with the fun sized fairy ninja assassin, she’ll get you. Even if it’s just her facial expressions. They are lethal. I love her so much.” I shot the cops a glare and they actually grimaced as they drove away. Emmaline threw herself into my arms.

Dominic snarled, “Next time, let me shift.” I snorted, “You can’t do that.” He growled, “I could take over and make them actually piss their pants.” That was probably true, he could do that. I can’t imagine he had anything nice to say. Domonic snorted, “Nothing nice?! NOTHING NICE! Those humans better not try to take mate again, or they will meet me. They will NOT like me.” That was also true.

Dominic agreed wholeheartedly with Haley about Grayson needing to die. He told me “He does Lucas. How DARE he upset our mate this way! Look at her, she’s a

mess.” I grimaced, “The cops would look at us if anything happened to him now.” Dominic growled, “Whatever.” He closed our link.

Once Haley drove off, I texted Eric to let him know everything was ok. I even told him she didn’t cuss until the humans left. To say he was surprised would be an understatement. He was trying to get me to say I was kidding. We walked inside and everyone was silent because no one wanted to set Emmaline off. She had tears streaming down her face as we all ate together as it was.

My dad linked me, “I have never wanted to kill a human more than this kid. How dare he upset her this way.” I sighed, “Neither have I, but we can’t.” My dad said, “Can’t and shouldn’t are very different, son.” I sighed and took Emmaline upstairs. She cried until she passed out.

I linked Dylan, “Bring me my computer.” Dylan came in a few moments later and walked in without knocking. Out loud I said, “Thank you, Dylan.” Dylan ran back whispering, “Are you insane? She could wake up. We link our Beta. Linking, you know the super awesome thing packs can do. The waterworks have stopped. I asked Hector how much water she could lose before she dehydrated. She’s borderline and you just talk at a normal volume when she’s sleeping. What’s wrong with you?”

I shook my head laughing, “Don’t worry, she won’t wake up. I want to kill him, Dylan. Dominic won’t speak to me because I won’t kill him.” Dylan sighed, “I understand. We can’t kill him now without suspicion coming to our doorstep though. I’m worried our little friend, who wants Emmaline, will kill the kid to cause us trouble. My brain whirs with scenarios. So very many scenarios.”

I rolled my eyes, “Is it wrong I just want someone to kill him?” Dylan said, “I can totally unalive him for you. I am here for you, bestie! Consider it done.” I snorted, “I want someone not associated with us to kill him.” Dylan sighed, “You take away so many of my options with your directives.”

I laughed, “Not to switch subjects, but I know Christy switched to our pack from the Harden’s pack when she was a teenager. Her cousin took over once after the Hackura wiped out the Harden’s after the Claudia... thing.”

Dylan injected, “Your three day magical siesta because you didn’t listen to Moi? Yes, I remember that oh so well. Everyone was treated to serious Dylan. It also cemented my love for our fun sized ninja assassin fairy.” I rolled my eyes, “Anyway, do you think her cousin is capable of this?”

Dylan snorted, “No, and neither do you. He’d need a lot of help, and he didn’t like Christy.” I sighed, “I can’t find any other living member in her family. There was a girl who her family took in from foster care, but I can’t find her anywhere.”

Dylan nodded, "I'll get our PI's on it. Could she be behind this?" I shrugged, "Maybe, somehow. She could be connected, it's a thread to pull. Christy told me when she came to our pack, that she was close with the girl. I thought she said she'd introduced her to someone and they'd hit it off, but I can't remember who."

Dylan sighed, "If only we could go back in time and tell our younger selves not to let Christy switch packs because she was interested in you. If I could time travel, the THINGS I would tell past me. Poor bastard, he had no clue and he thought he did."

I sighed, "I think she switched because she believed Elias was her mate. I'd have to ask dad what her reason was." Dylan said, "This could also have nothing to do with Christy. It could be one of our other suspects. My murder board is impressive and encompassing." That was also true.

I nodded and he left me to work from my laptop, eventually I closed it in frustration. I was unable to find a lead on Christy's foster sister. I looked at Emmaline then an idea hit me. I linked Dylan, "What if the foster sister's identity is hidden by magic like Emmaline's was?"

Dylan responded, "What is going on with magically hiding people's identities. I guess I'll jump down this rabbit hole with you, if we see a queen of hearts; I'm out. Luckily, we know two warlocks who could help us with that if it's the case. Let's see what our PI's come up with first." He was right. I pulled Emmaline into me and fell asleep.

I woke up to lips on mine. I groaned when Emmaline slid down onto my hard length. She seductively asked, "Do you like that, Alpha?" I growled, "Yes." Emmaline smirked and kept riding me until we both came. She jumped off me and sauntered into the bathroom. She paused looking over her shoulder, "Aren't you coming?" I sat up and waited a few minutes to let her think I might not join her.

I snuck up behind her in the shower, spinning her and pinning her against the wall. I nipped her neck, "Teasing me is a dangerous game, baby girl." She laughed, "Who was teasing? I wanted you to come in here." I played with her nipple, squeezing it between my fingers. I asked, "Are you feeling better today?" Emmaline smiled, "I haven't cried yet today, so that seems like a good sign."

I kissed her neck and trailed kisses down her body until I was on my knees. Her cries echoed in the shower as I made her come with my tongue. I stood commanding, "Turn around." She complied immediately. I grabbed her hands, lifting them above her head. I gathered them in one hand and lined us up. I thrust into her. She begged, "Please, Lucas." I teased, "Please what?" She tried to move her hands to grip the wall, but I wouldn't let go. I repeated, "Please what, baby girl?" I slid out and thrust back into her.

Emmaline whispered, "Go faster, please Lucas." I bit her neck and started to thrust. I growled, "Like this?" She moaned, "No, faster." I let Dominic take over. She was screaming my name within minutes. I growled as my own moment came. I pulled out of her and washed her body with her loofah. Emmaline smiled. I asked, "What's that smile?" She shrugged, "You seem to like washing me." I kissed her, "I do. Grooming is a big deal to wolves."

I handed her the loofah so she could wash me. Once we were done, she stepped out. She mused, "People who don't like coffee should just start their morning off with a bang. I feel way more ready for the day than I do when I drink coffee." I laughed, "Go get some breakfast, and get to school baby girl."

She smiled and blew me a kiss. She paused at the door asking, "Are you coming with me to fairy training tonight?" I nodded. She snapped herself into clothes for school. I complimented her, "You're getting pretty good at that." She smiled brightly and dashed away.

I laughed wondering what that was about, but I let it go and got ready myself. I had just walked into my office when Emmaline linked me, "I'm getting better, but I still miss things." I was confused. I asked, "Did you try for jewelry or something?" Emmaline giggled, "Nope, I consistently don't get my underwear when I snap. I'm just getting used to going commando over here."

I warned, "Emmaline." She answered, "Lucas." I could hear her smile in her tone. I growled, "Snap underwear on." She laughed, "Mmm, nope. Just think about that all day. I bet the result is worth it when I get home." My mind blanked.

Emmaline continued, "Haley texted me she wants to do the fairy earth tradition with me after class tonight. I've been told to prepare you for lots of sex when we pop home." I didn't even know how to react. Dylan of course did not have this problem.

He said, "Dude, I know I'm hot, but your sister would be pissed about the hard on you're sporting for me." I growled at him, "Haley is doing some fairy tradition with Emmaline tonight. Apparently, that means a lot of sex is in my future."

Dylan rolled his eyes, "Of course it does. What was I thinking? Anywho, Our PI's are looking into Christy connections. Travis is all over the Grayson issue. The pack isn't going to let him near our precious little fairy who just got off her water period. Let's just agree to never go through that again. Have no fear, Dylan is on the case. Can I just say I showed great restraint not contacting the Forrester siblings that is a PI? I STRONGLY considered it. It would be hilarious."

I ignored the PI comment, "The pack already knows they are supposed to keep Grayson away from her." Dylan sighed, "Emmaline forgot her book for class. She

got a pass and walked back to her locker. Grayson was there, waiting.” I growled, “Is he following her? This is the second time he’s just happened to be there when she’s been in the hallway alone.” Dylan was about to say something when someone knocked on the door.

I yelled, “Come in.” Dustin and Ryan walked in. Ryan was mad. He ranted, “That kid was waiting by the front door for her.” I growled. Ryan continued, “Travis took her to the office, and they were talking to the principal about the situation.” Dylan said, “We were just wondering how he always seemed to know when she was alone. He’s constantly getting to her when she gets a pass to leave class.”

Dustin spoke, “Sounds like a tracer spell. Are we sure this kid is human?” Ryan frowned, “I didn’t get close enough to him. When I pick them up, I can try to see if I can sense any type of magic around him.” I frowned, “No one in Red Run said anything. I doubt they know, but let’s call Nick.”

Dylan dialed the phone on speaker. Nick answered, “Lucas. I hear we have issues with this Grayson Longmeyer.” I sighed, “Yes. Are we sure he’s human? Dustin thinks he may have a tracer spell on Emmaline.”

Nick was quiet, “If he’s supernatural, it’s gotten past us. We weren’t really looking though, most supernatural’s let me know when they get here. He’s not part of a coven here if he’s a warlock. I looked into his home situation, and he lives with an aunt. I’m not sure what happened to his parents, but I didn’t recognize their names.” I sighed, “We will have our PI’s look into him as well. Thanks, Nick.” I hung up.

Dustin said, “I have a necklace for her that will help protect her from basic spells. If there’s a tracer spell on her, it will block it.” I nodded, “Thank you. I know this is hard for you guys just coming back into her life. Especially with all she and I have going on right now.”

Ryan spoke, “I think we came back in at the right time. I wish we were never gone from her life, but she needs us now. I hate that she needed us then, and we weren’t there. I can’t change that though. I can protect her moving forward.”

Dustin agreed, “We will protect her. I may not like that you’re getting married in December, but I’ve seen you with her. You are good together. You are good for her.” I smiled, “I know that wasn’t easy for you to admit, Dustin. Thank you.”

Dustin sighed, “I just think of her as a little girl still. She was stuck in my mind at thirteen years old. Aubree keeps saying she’s grown up, but she’s still my baby sister. I just wasn’t prepared for her to be mated.” I could understand that.

Ryan's phone rang. He announced, "It's Katie." When he answered, I didn't even need it to be on speaker phone to hear her sobbing. Ryan quickly became frantic questioning, "Katie? What's wrong?" Katie explained, "Evie's presents came... She got me a Tiffany's necklace, Ryan. Her card says she's doing really well now, and not to worry. I'm fucking worried! How can she afford this? Is she selling drugs? Is someone using her? Oh god. She's only sixteen!"

Ryan looked pained but asked, "What did she get me?" Katie sighed, "I don't know. I was going to bring it with me so you could open it." Ryan shrugged, "Just open it, Katie." Katie gasped, "Oh god! Evie, what have you gotten into?" Ryan looked at me, muted the phone and asked, "What did she get me?" I shrugged. I had no clue.

Katie said, "Bose headphones." Ryan's jaw dropped. Dustin grabbed the phone and unmuted it, "I changed your flight. Get to the airport Katie. You'll be here tonight." Katie cried, "I am just so worried about her guys. These are the most expensive things she's ever gotten us. Is no one else worried about how she got the money for this?"

Dustin sighed, "Just get to the airport. I'll pick you up, and you can see the new house Aubree and I bought. We closed today." Katie yelled, "You BOUGHT a house? I thought you were renting?" Dustin sighed, "I thought our mother was a decent human being. Recent events prove otherwise. I can't be near them right now; I'll kill them both."

Katie sighed, "Alright. I'm already packed. I'll bring your headphones Ryan." Ryan said, "We will be together soon, and everything will be ok." Katie sniffled, "I get to meet your wick too. I'm so excited for you Ryan. I still can't believe she just messaged you online. That's such a cute story!" Ryan winced, "I'll see you tonight, Katie."

He hung up and put his head in his hands, "Thank god this ends tonight." I said, "Probably tomorrow. Emmaline has fairy training tonight. Haley has some fairy tradition she's doing with Emmaline after practice. I'll ask if Haley can drop by tomorrow to do the fairy blood promise thing."

Dustin asked, "Did you give her money for Katie and Ryan's presents?" I shook my head, "I didn't. She went shopping with Haley, but I'd imagine she splurged because she'd been saving for over a year to have five months' worth of rent for an apartment. She hoped they would rent to her at seventeen if she could show she had the money." Both brothers nodded and left.

I stood and Haley's clue fell out of my pocket. I picked it up and realized there were letters capitalized in strategic places. I grabbed a pen and wrote out: AL'S

DINER. I yelled, “Son of a bitch! Dylan, get the car.” Dylan nodded and we both got into an SUV. I drove.

Dylan asked, “Where are we going, driving like this?” I looked over explaining, “Al’s Diner, for my next clue. I’m beginning to appreciate Haley for this prank because now there’s something lighthearted in my day.” Dylan laughed, “I am offended. I am the lighthearted comedic relief in your life. At least we can get lunch too. You’re clearly delusional from hunger not recognizing the hilarity and joy I bring into your life.”

We walked in and Al came over smiling, “Hello, Alpha. Are you here for lunch?” I snorted, “Lunch and my clue.” Al laughed and held his hands up, “Now, don’t be upset. Alpha Eric’s Princess is a spitfire. She didn’t give me an option.” I rolled my eyes, “I’m not upset.”

Al put our order in and went to his office and came back with my Ghost of Tsushima Jin Sakai Funko pop. I groaned, “She’s really not going to give me the good stuff back for a while, is she?” Al laughed and handed me my clue:

Clue 5: Find the hidden name:

X F O K T G L Q A A

P G S M E C M S S B

Y I D D R V E D V N

U H J Y K J O F U L

R G U K L Y R A I R

F O K U I A B X N F

H Q T I P G N O W E

A U A T C E T G U H

I groaned. Thankfully, our food was ready. I complained to Dylan, “You know I hate word searches.” Dylan laughed, “As your self-designated best friend who grew up with you, I do know that. Do you know who also knows that? King Alpha Prick. I bet he got all sexed up by his fun sized fairy and divulged secrets. Or she went the ninja assassin route and learned all about you. My first theory is so much more fun. My second just feels slightly scary but on the nose.” He wasn’t wrong.

I sighed and put my clue in my pocket. “I’ll think about it later. At least when I decided to sit down with it, it’s not going to hurt my brain to solve it.” Dylan laughed and we ate our food. We were leaving when Grayson walked into Al’s.

My eyes narrowed. Dylan hustled us out of the door, muttering, “Why does the universe test me so? I’m a good person. I should have a lot of karma point stockpiled. WHERE IS MY KARMIC JUSTICE?!”

We were almost to the car when I heard, “You may fool everyone, but I know you’re just using Emmaline.” I whipped around. Dylan sighed, “Someone up there thinks they are funny, but they aren’t. Oh my god. That’s it! Someone is jealous because I am the humor king. Don’t hate me cause you can’t be me.” He was literally talking to the sky.

I warned, “You’re going to want to walk away, Grayson.” The kid scoffed. I didn’t really get a sense about him that he was more than human. He said, “I’m going to protect Emmaline. I’ll do what I have to.” I growled, “She needs protection for you at this point. You’re basically stalking her. You didn’t even want her until I came into the picture.”

Grayson’s face darkened, “I’ve always liked her.” I stated, “And now she’s mine. Soon to be my wife. I don’t appreciate you slandering my name.” Grayson gritted his teeth, “I don’t appreciate men who prey on young women.” I stepped forward, “I didn’t prey on her. Walk away kid. Emmaline made her choice, and it wasn’t you.” Grayson shrugged, “She’ll change her mind.” With that he walked away.

Dylan dragged me to our car. Dominic was furiously banging on our connection. I gritted my teeth, “I didn’t sense anything magical about him. Did you?” Dylan shrugged, “I might have been wishing for it, but I thought for a second there at the end... he could be something. I don’t know what, but he seemed very confident. Almost too confident that Emmaline would change her mind. I feel like that says he’s got magic up his sleeve. Which is odd because Fang insists he’s human.”

I linked Dominic, “What about you?” He snarled, “Now you want my opinion? He’s an annoying human who seems to know supernatural things which makes his accusations WORSE!” That was true.

We passed an SUV with tinted windows. I watched it pull into Al’s.

I shook myself, “Hopefully the necklace her brothers want to give her helps. I guess Emmaline’s mark doesn’t look like other wolves marks. He could not have noticed that she’s marked. It’s not like you can see that she’s shared her light with me. I don’t think magic could make her not like me. I don’t think a fairy’s light would even allow them to dislike the person they shared it with.”

Dylan snorted, “Since not all fairy’s even share their light with their mate, I’d say not.” I looked at him surprised. He asked, “What? My mate learned a lot about fairies while she was gone. I’ve asked. She said it’s rare for a fairy to share their light even with their mate. That light sharing ceremony that happened at King Alpha Prick’s wedding is mostly for show because it’s a tradition. The Fae don’t often even share their lights at that point. They are apparently too selfish. Lacy didn’t know King Alpha Prick was Haley’s mate. She did know they flipped out once they found out Haley and her mate were twice light bonded.”

I frowned asking, “What does that mean?” Dylan shrugged, “Lacy didn’t know. Just that it was a big deal. Ask King Alpha Prick tonight, then tell me because I like to know things.” I laughed, “He’s going to punch you one day if you keep calling him that.”

Dylan shrugged, “He’s a prick and he knows it. Yes, he waited for his mate for a long time, and he was not quiet while he waited. I listened to him prattle on and on about wanting his mate. Now, now he’s laughing at us all. He’s got powerful pups and fun sized fairy ninja assassin mate who’s damn near perfect. She brought him alliances with the Hackura and Fairy’s. Fairies are so fun, and he’s so... him. How did he get a fairy? These questions, they plague me. They keep me up at night.”

I snorted, “The Hackura were already looking at him for an alliance. They were just waiting for Haley to finish college.” Dylan snorted, “Of course they were. His ego was getting too small, so one had to throw him that bone. His title just keeps getting confirmed. He’s the king of the pricks.” I laughed, “I’ll ask Eric about being twice light bonded and let you know what I find out.”

Dylan nodded, “I’m sure Lacy will be interested. She finds fairy’s fascinating. We are so meant to be together.” I laughed, “Did my sister date any fairies? Why did they share all this information with her?” Dylan growled, “Why would you say that? You are so mean. So very mean. We were not thinking about that on purpose. Now you’ve said it out loud, and my brain must have the answer.” I asked, “We?” He growled, “Me and Fang.” I laughed the rest of the way home.

When we got back, we worked on disputes and paperwork until Lacy and Emmaline walked into the office. Emmaline came in skipping and gave me a kiss. I smiled at her. I asked, “So you are feeling better? Not as emotional today?” Emmaline nodded, “Yup, I didn’t get upset about anything today. Everyone was on edge multiple times waiting for the tears and hail.” I laughed.

She showed me her necklace, “Dusty gave me this necklace when I got home. Isn’t it pretty?” I nodded, “It’s very pretty.” She smiled, “I missed them. Dusty and Ry used to always give me stuff like this.” I narrowed my eyes asking, “Did they?” She nodded, “I didn’t get to take any of it with me since my mom had packed for me. They gave me lots of little knick knacks throughout the years.”

Dylan linked me, “I don’t think they told her what they were for.” I linked back, “I don’t either. It seems like they’ve been doing it since she was little too.” Emmaline asked, “Are you ready to pop on over to Haley’s?” I nodded, “Yup, let’s go.” Emmaline smiled and grabbed my hand and we popped.

Emmaline squealed loudly in my ear, “I did it, Lucas! We are right here!” I winced, “Good job, baby girl.” She kissed me and ran over to join the fairies on the lawn. Sharon immediately wrapped her in a hug, apologizing about Garrett.

A throat cleared behind me, I turned to see Eric and company. I smiled, “Hello All.” Everyone smiled. I said, “Thought I might have to track you down tonight since you know Farrin has a mate now.” Eric growled, “No, I will still be here when he’s here. I enjoy watching Haley teach anyway.” I nodded.

After a few moments I commented, “So I heard a rumor. Well, actually Lacy heard a rumor in Ireland that she repeated to Dylan who told me.” Eric laughed asking, “What would that be?” I shrugged, “That the Fairy Princess is twice light bound to her mate, and that’s something they flipped out about. Apparently, it’s rare for a fairy to share their light with their mate at all. I find this odd since both our mates have done that.”

Eric frowned, “Supposedly it is. I’m finding that hard to believe since both Sharon and Maribella have shared their lights with their mates as well. Haley and I are twice light bonded. It’s part of how we go to alternate realities.”

I asked, “What does that even mean, twice light bonded?” Eric sighed, “I don’t know that we know everything about it just yet. I do know it means my life span, my pack, and family is that of a fairy.” My jaw dropped. I was not expecting that.

He continued, “Apparently, we will all look like this for some time. Haley and I can’t be separated for long periods of time, it will kill her. Literally. It will slowly drive her mad. That was part of her confusion at Damon’s. Being taken from me and not wanting to be without me sped up the timeline to her losing her mind. It’s why Arion started letting her come out to see me, to slow down the process. She is mine body, mind, and soul. If I die, she will follow. It’s rare for fairies to be twice light bonded because as you know, they are selfish. When their mates die, they simply move on. Haley can’t do that. It also makes us more intriguing to them. Evidentially, it’s been hundreds of years since there was another couple that was like us. Add to the fact we are in the ribbon; we have fairies sniffing around us often.”

I could barely form a thought. My first one was a question, “Can Emmaline do that?” Eric shrugged, “I have no idea.” Marcus’ phone ringing raised the Connors tension level. I couldn’t help but stiffen as well.

Marcus tersely answered putting it on speaker, “Bjourn.” Bjourn sounded amused, “Marcious would like to answer Alpha Lucas’ question.” I growled asking, “Why is he here?” Bjourn said, “Speak fairy before I decide your arrival is a challenge for me to kill you.” Eric laughed.

Marcious greeted, “Hello, Emmaline’s wolf.” I snorted, “It’s Alpha Lucas.” Marcious laughed, “You’ll always be Emmaline’s wolf to any fairy. Just as Haley’s wolf is called her wolf. As to your question of why I’m here, I’ll give you three guesses.” I rolled my eyes, “Emmaline is why you’re here.”

Marcious joy came through the phone, “Very good Emmaline’s wolf, very good. I wanted to see her. Haley’s rules say I can’t approach her until she requests it. The loophole remains that I can see her if she doesn’t see me. I’ve grown impatient now that I knew she’d been found. She is quite beautiful, my youngest little girl.” I agreed, “She is the most beautiful woman I’ve ever seen.”

Marcious admitted, “I find myself quite glad she has a wolf as her mate. Though it would’ve been nice to see her more often in Faerie had it been a fairy. The way wolves treat their mates is far more ideal for my baby though. To answer your question about being twice light bonded. I do not believe you and Emmaline can be. Not to say she doesn’t love you enough, I believe she does. We may see more twice light bonded couples with partial fairies, but that again is doubtful. My cousin Haley is quite unique.”

Bjourn groaned, “The point, fairy. Get to the point.” Marcious was nonplussed, “Emmaline is the soul searcher, and the soul searcher is meant to seek out other people’s halves. A soul searcher has never been able to be twice light bonded because they are here to join other souls. Now, they can connect to a specific soul. I think you will find that will happen sooner than you think with my little girl. It will give you the lifespan of a fairy as well as your pack and family. Which already happened when she joined your pack. Unfortunately, it doesn’t let you enter the Ribbon as Haley’s wolf has the ability to do. You will obviously be connected through your souls.” My mind was reeling from information overload.

Marcious continued, “If you die Emmaline could keep living. She would not be given another mate if she ties your souls, but I don’t think she’d want one after seeing you two together.” My eyes narrowed, “In the thirty seconds you saw us interacting you’ve decided that.”

Marcious laughed, “Of course not. Thirty seconds is not enough time to ascertain that information. Now, it’s time to pop away before the Hackura prince tries to decapitate me. Goodbye, Emmaline’s wolf.” We all heard a pop.

Bjourn grumbled, “If he pops back tonight, it’s definitely a challenge to kill him.” Marcus snorted, “I actually agree with you this time, brother.” Bjourn said, “Well,

I'm going to keep running the perimeter. I'll see you all after their practice ends." Marcus hung up and slid his phone back into his pocket.

Eric said, "Haley may be pissed about the loophole." Caleb snorted. Eric asked, "What was that?" Caleb sighed, "She's a fairy. She probably knew that was the loophole when she set it all up. She knew it's how she would get them to agree." Eric nodded, "That's true."

I spat out, "I'm pissed he's been watching us. This was not the first time he's seen us together." Eric agreed, "It definitely wasn't." I changed the subject, "Does anyone have any ideas on how I know when our souls connect? Is that like the euphoria I felt when she shared her light with me?"

Eric shrugged, "None of us have any clue. Partials are unknowns to us right now. We have theories and conjecture. Now that Haley knows Farrin and Trixie are mates she has a theory about sharing light and concupiscence. She thinks that Emmaline will have hers on or near her seventeenth birthday because she shared her light with you. She thinks Trixie will have hers if she shares her light with Farrin. If Trixie doesn't share her light, Haley believes she might not have one at all. All she has to go on herself, Emmaline, Sharon, and Maribella. The theory feels correct though." I nodded.

The rest of the time I spent thinking over the information thrown at me. Before I knew it, their practice ended. Everyone but Haley and Emmaline left. Haley winked at Eric and popped them away. Eric said, "Lucas, if you'd like to wait for Emmaline in your room here you can."

I shrugged, "I could wait for her here, then she could pop us home." Eric shook his head, "I don't recommend it. She's going to come back in her bra and underwear." I growled remembering she wasn't wearing any.

Eric continued, "Plus, her need is going to be intense. Not as crazy as the water ritual will get her since she only has a little bit of an earth side. Haley's sky ritual is much more intense in sexual need afterwards. Earth is something too though. She'll need you immediately after. I'm going to wait for Haley in our room. I do love when she does these rituals." I stood, "I'll wait in my room here then."

As we walked inside, I asked him, "Can you ask Haley about popping over tomorrow? Katie Forrester landed tonight. She's currently with her brothers in Red Run." Eric nodded, "We are coming to you anyway for training. Haley said we should've been here last week, so it's your turn again." I laughed, "Perfect."

I mused, "Do you think the moon goddess laughed when we were begging for mates? Considering now we are on this crazy journey with partial fairies?" Eric smiled, "I guarantee she laughs. Every single moment is worth it though." I agreed.

I told him, "I have a crazy plan to deal with the threat against Emmaline." Eric stopped in his tracks. He asked, "How crazy?" I shrugged, "Along the lines of you and Jackson letting the rogue king kidnap you so we could kill him."

Eric sighed, "We can discuss that in more detail later. Don't do anything without us standing by ready to back you up though. You guys were on standby for us." I nodded, "I just need her safe. I can't have someone kidnap her. She's a sensitive soul, and I just couldn't handle what you went through."

Eric looked away "Nor would I wish it on you. We have time to plan, but I won't hide the plan from Haley." I asked, "Learned your lesson there?" Eric nodded, "It seems you'll have to learn it yourself. I'm not getting the sense you're going to tell Emmaline about said plan." I sighed, "She is very worried about me getting hurt." Eric nodded, "For what it's worth, I think you should tell her." I nodded and we parted ways.

I paced and thought over my plan. It wasn't perfect. I could leave a message for a meeting and have Eric and my allies waiting some distance off. Whoever was behind the threat would kidnap me. Which meant I would know who they were. That would play, and it wasn't a bad plan. I could pull it all off without Emmaline knowing. They'd never get her, and I'd explain it to her afterwards.

Before I could think about it more, Emmaline popped to me. She was naked. I growled. She snapped me naked, threw me down onto the bed, and took me into her mouth moaning. She let go with a pop, quickly straddling me.

I groaned, "Fuck, baby girl. I can feel your wetness dripping on me." Emmaline grunted and slid down on me. I decided to lay back and let her lead the show. I'd do whatever she wanted; she only needed to ask.