

Give and Take

Lucas wanted to flinch when Haley glared at him. I linked Eric, “She’s NEVER giving me my gaming collection back.” Eric assured me, “This won’t be the same in her mind.” I snorted, “Great, she’ll take something else.”

The girls began to explain their plan, and I was again impressed with Haley. I linked Eric, “She’s deliberately leaving out that we didn’t tell Emmaline or Katie.” Eric said, “That she is.” I saw a pack member walk in and hand Dylan popcorn and almost laughed. I teased him, “None for me?”

Dylan snorted, “Haley would hurt you. Or wake one of her kids up to do something to you. I can’t even imagine how you and Eric felt in there. I feel five years older after hearing all the details coming from you in our link. I’m not meant to be old. I have to stay beautiful. You’re the one who is going to wrinkle. I’ve maintained a night and daytime regime to keep my skin flawless. Be jealous.” I was somewhat convinced he was right about losing years off our life.

I linked Eric, “Are you ok?” Eric sighed, “I have never been more scared in my life than when Cassie first popped in. I knew my sons would follow her, and I couldn’t move to protect them. When they all popped back, I was relieved I could at least use my arms and legs to protect them.”

I gave him a measured look, “I know. They are safe though. I don’t think EJ would’ve let anyone touch either of them.” Eric agreed, “I don’t either, but we don’t know how long he can hold up his shield.”

We focused back on the explanation. I was going to say more but Haley was explaining about Harper’s boytoy lover and the shoes he gave us. Everyone was laughing but Haley paid no attention. I linked Eric, “An invisible dye? How do we get that off?” He shrugged. Great. It was probably going to be there for a while. I would be able to be easily tracked by an Hackura that wanted to find me.

I was proud of Emmaline’s contribution to the plan. Dominic sounded contrite, “Mate is good with plans... maybe we should’ve told her.” I sighed, “I know, Dominic.” He growled angrily in my head when he realized we were chipped.

I linked Eric, “She put a GPS in us?!” Everyone was laughing but us. Dylan linked me, “You guys got chipped. That’s... so amazing. I unwittingly helped chip my Alpha. This is Beta business of the highest order. Chipping our unsuspecting Alpha’s. I WILL BE RICH! RICH, I TELL YOU! My fun sized fairy just has to show her Hackura side. She wants me to call her the fun sized fairy ninja permanently. I see her and I SHALL adjust her nickname. It is well deserved. She chipped you. This is awesome.”

I linked Eric again, “She’s blaming the shoe? She freaking chipped us!” Eric was beyond words. Nick linked me, “This is gold.” I replied, “Because it didn’t happen to you.” He smirked, “I’m an old enough Alpha to find it amusing if they had done it to me too.” Uh huh. Sure, he would.

Dylan linked me, “You’d better watch it. You keep pissing off people with ninja ties. First, she pulls the most epic prank of all time, and that’s coming from me. Now, she’s chipped you. I don’t think you want to find out what step three is. Wait, yes you do. FIND OUT FOR THE PEOPLE LUCAS! Quick, do something annoying!”

I rolled my eyes at him and focused back on Haley. Dylan sighed, “Fine. You’ll probably do something later anyway, and then I’ll find out what step three is. You’re such a spoil sport. Every meeting has a pooper and that’s why we invited you.” Oh, my lord.

They astutely pointed out we didn’t factor that Emmaline would be contacted. Damn. They were right. They explained more of their plan. I linked Eric, “I didn’t know Bexley could change appearance like that.” Eric sighed, “She didn’t leave Faerie much, and since she’s not a Duchess people don’t gossip about her. Liam and I want to keep that under wraps. He isn’t going to let her out of his sight ever again.”

I snorted “My men freaked out when they found out it was her. They were terrified your lead warrior would kill them if anything happened to her.” Eric said, “Haley wouldn’t have had Bexley in the plan if she thought there was any way she could’ve gotten hurt.” Still, Liam would’ve been on a warpath.

I winced when the girls pointed out our shortcomings one after another. I’d pushed everyone into this plan and didn’t give us proper time to plan. We absolutely should’ve thought of all this. I felt Emmaline’s panic as she explained the texts she’d received.

I told Eric, “I’m killing Alpha Hammond for that. He texted her pictures?” Eric shrugged, “He had to prove he had you.” I didn’t care. I was furious Alpha Hammond had met her in my territory. I linked Dylan, “I want Al in here for a meeting. When do we have time?” Dylan replied, “Thursday before fairy fighting lessons.” Not even a slight quip from him, which meant he was pissed about this development as well.

I linked Brad, “Thank you for protecting your Luna, and insisting you be brought to guard her. I appreciate it.” Brad grumbled, “Maybe we chip her too.” I snorted

then linked Eric, “Emmaline’s guard has suggested we chip her. I think he’s joking but with all the popping our mates do... we should put a pin in that.”

Eric snorted, “If the Hackura haven’t thought to do it to Haley there’s a reason. That would go over like a turd in a punch bowl.” I shrugged, “Fair is fair. She had it done to us.” Eric seemed to be torn on that.

Dylan linked me, “He met her by chance at the diner, of all the luck. That’s why he changed his mind about having her killed. Something about her made him change his mind. He already knew she was a water fairy duchess and your Luna. What is it? I will have no sleep. I need answers! Alpha no fun knows something. What does he know?” I replied, “I don’t know.” I was too pissed off to ask him. Alpha Hammond was in MY territory, and no one had notified me.

I wanted to discuss all these facts. Emmaline shrugged them off. I yelled in my link with Dylan, “FORGOT? She FORGOT someone sent her flowers?” Dylan replied, “I did hear her say that. There was no need to shout.” I seethed, “We need the Forrester’s to see if our school’s secretary is under a spell. That’s Sam’s aunt and her uncle would die trying to kill Alpha Hammond.” Dylan winced too but nodded.

Emmaline and I had hidden things from each other; mostly me from her. I can’t say I enjoyed the outcome. I linked Eric, “You were right. I should’ve told her about the plan.”

Eric shrugged, “I had to learn about that with my own mate. It’s hard though. We’ve been single far longer than we’ve been in serious relationships. It’s an adjustment I’m still working on. The instinct to protect her at all costs is strong.” I nodded.

Nick linked me again, “I noticed she didn’t agree not to do that again.” I looked around, “Everyone noticed that.” Nick said, “She didn’t argue with him though.” I shrugged, “She wouldn’t.” Nick complimented, “She does complement him quite well, as your mate does you. They did well, you should be proud.” I agreed, “I am proud of her.”

We went over a few more things and our allies started to filter out. When it was down to our core group, which was becoming much larger than I’d anticipated a core group being, we discussed other issues.

Dylan linked me, “I feel the need to point out, even though ejected from your person the GPS was still transmitting a signal. It would’ve led them to the cells, but you weren’t chipped. It’s kind of win win. I like this idea so much for my Beta brothers.”

I replied, “Do NOT fund an Alpha chipping campaign for Betas.” Dylan smirked, “But... I have already sent a memo. It’s so colorful and delightful. The masses approve. The Beta’s have spoken. The die is cast. Get on board, it’s fun.” Jesus Christ.

I felt terrible Haley and Eric were having an argument because of me. I tried to help, but Haley didn’t seem to care about that. She cared about the safety of her pups, along with protecting her relationship with Emmaline. I linked him, “I am sorry about this. At least when the triplets are older you can explain they can’t just pop into dangerous situations.” Eric didn’t reply, but I didn’t think he would.

Dylan yelled in our link, “I WARNED YOU THUSLY! They are going to plot without us. My blood is literally already on edge, prepared to try and be in the know about these things. I’m already tired.” I’m sure he was.

Dylan rubbed his hands together. I asked, “Why are you plotting and happy?” Dylan answered, “I get to chip them all with no regrets. They set that precedent. The fairies will think that’s fair. Now, I just need to figure out how to strategically place microphones around to make sure no plans take place without me. I’ll be big brother. Big Beta brother. Look at me go.” I could reign in him but I didn’t want to.

I was surprised when Eric admitted he’d made a mistake. It was all a trusted group but still. Dylan linked me, “Do my ears deceive me or did Alpha Prick admit OUT LOUD he made a mistake? I must have a blockage or something. Did I hallucinate?”

I answered, “He did admit he made a mistake.” Dylan grinned, “I love my fun sized fairy ninja. She is a goddess. Throughout my life, I have NEVER heard him say he’s wrong. This is just... I may cry tears of joy. I hear actual angels. I do.” I snorted.

The more Haley reiterated and deflected praise for the plan insisting the other women get credit as well; the more Katie’s eyes sparkled with respect for her. I was certain she was surprised a Princess didn’t just take credit for the plan.

I asked Eric, “Does she have to make such good points? We would have Hammond if we worked together.” Eric sighed, “She does.” Eric wrapped Haley in his arms. He whispered, “I’m sorry, Angel. You make me so proud as my Luna. You are my better half. The triplets popping in scared the shit out of me. Cassie refused to leave.” Haley snorted, “She’s a daddy’s girl.”

Emmaline and I finally talked. She spoke her peace and left me to consider my feelings and actions. I didn't want her to go. I'd never meant to hurt her. I'd been doing this to protect her. I watched her shut the door then heard them pop away.

Dustin spoke first, "I thought we were doing the right thing too, Katie is Queen." Logan laughed while Dustin just sighed. Dylan couldn't even manage a laugh. I felt bad he was in this position. Haley spoke, "Oh, for god's sake, stop looking so sad. This is fixable. Include them. Show them the work you do, ask for their input. Eric normally does that with me. Show them you've learned, and you understand their position."

I apologized, "I'm sorry, Haley. Eric didn't like the plan, he wanted me to tell Emmaline. He only kept that piece from you out of respect for me and my wishes to keep Emmaline safe." Haley sighed, "I've tried telling you time and time again, but here's another attempt; Neither Emmaline or I are the kind of mates who sit at home and wait for news. If you were honest with yourself, you wouldn't even want a mate like that. Maybe there are moments but overall, it's not what you want. You hurt their feelings. Emmaline panicked when she found out that you were going to walk into danger. She would've reacted better had it come from you."

I groaned, "I've messed everything up." Haley shrugged, "From my observations, that's what happens in relationships. You mess up, you fight, you talk, and you keep fighting for another day. Do you think Eric and I don't mess up? We are still getting to know each other. We fall back into single people habits sometimes. It happens. You saw that recently. I should've told Eric about the birthdays of my fairy family. I thought I could handle it and I lashed out at almost everyone, especially Eric. I still would've screamed at Cassandra for letting Cassie play with that stupid unicorn. Eric would've understood if I'd explained the significance of the week. He would've ripped it to shreds if I'd explained what upset me so damn much seeing Cassie with it when he asked. I deflected because it's a habit, I was wrong."

She squeezed Eric's hand adding, "You have to learn how to be in a relationship, and sometimes we do that by messing up. Talk to Emmaline. Say you're sorry, but only if you mean it. If you don't mean it, get to a place where you do because you ALL should be sorry. If anyone is unclear, ALL means all the males in the room that kept it a secret. You are SURROUNDED by bad ass women. Deal with it." She put her hand out for Eric and their group grabbed on as she popped them away

I was slightly surprised Prince Logan and Katie remained with our group. I spoke first, "Dylan, I'm sorry Lacy is upset with you. This is my fault." Dylan sighed, "You are my best friend and my Alpha, Lucas. I'll always be on your side. You didn't do this out of spite or ill intent, you wanted to protect your mate and Luna.

I'll grovel. I already have chocolates ordered. I have a warehouse of such things in storage for emergencies."

Ryan chimed in, "We are all new at serious relationships. It's not like any of us have had mates before. Katie is Queen." I couldn't help but laugh. Katie's curses were interesting. Ryan grumbled, "You laugh but if Evie asks, Katie will do this to you too. Katie is Queen." Prince Logan's grin broadened every time they finished a sentence.

I took pity on them since I contributed to this for them as well. I asked Katie, "How long will they be saying Katie is Queen?" Katie smirked, "Long enough to send the message home." Dustin snorted, "In that case, message received. Katie is Queen." Katie smiled, "Maybe, but this is just so much fun!" Prince Logan laughed, "I see you have more fairy in you than I thought. You and my sister will be dangerous together."

Dylan squealed, "Can you imagine if Katie was here to help with the Tinkerbell prank?" Katie perked up, "Tinkerbell prank?" Prince Logan stood, "I'll explain it to you in the Hackura realm. I want to show you my home. Time is different there, and my mom is probably dying at this point to meet you. I'm sure someone's told her by now."

Katie faltered, "Your mom? The Queen of the Hackura... that mom?" Prince Logan winked, "She's a softie and she loves me. My dad will want to meet you too." Katie started to pace, "Throw more at a woman why don't you? Not only is my mate a Hackura prince, but I have to meet the King and Queen of the Hackura! My dad is basically your enemy now... What if they don't like me? I swear to god, my parents ruin everything for me!"

Ryan stood, "Hey, it's going to be alright. Fuck our parents. You are NOTHING like them, and let's face facts; you've hated dad since Evie left. We all have. Dustin was the only one to admit it out loud and cut him off completely. The bounty on Evie just cemented it. The Cambridge family will love you because you're amazing. Katie is Queen." Katie cried and hugged him.

She tearfully asked Logan, "Can they come with us?" Prince Logan answered, "Of course they can. I'll do anything for you." Aubree choked on her water. She stood, "Look here, you crazy people, I am NOT dressed to meet the King and Queen of the Hackura. I already had a prince in my house with no warning. Then you all pissed off all the fairies who would have fixed the outfit situation and they popped away." Dustin snorted.

Prince Logan said, "I will text my sister. She will pop back for us and snap you into appropriate outfits. Then we can go. We can spend the night, and you'll be back in this realm in a few hours." That was crazy, but Eric did say time was different there.

Katie beamed, "Really? I can spend the night with you and still get to spend time with Evie here? I don't want to miss anything else with her. My parents took her from me for so long." Prince Logan's eyes darkened, "And they WILL pay for the pain they caused you."

Dylan commented, "I'm terrified. Now ALL the princes will be pissed on behalf of their sister AND their brother's mate. On the plus side we now have our own alliance with the Hackura. Yay for us. I'll get a flying blimp to taunt Alpha no fun."

Prince Logan informed the group, "Haley's going to pop to us in a minute. She has something to do first, then she's coming. Let's go outside to wait for her." Aubree ran to Katie and yanked out her phone. She quickly stated, "Let's find a picture, and see if she can snap us those outfits."

Prince Logan laughed, "She can do whatever you want. If you ask if she can do it, you'll insult her. I'd advise you to just show her the picture of what you want, and watch it come to life." Katie agreed, "He's right. You saw the dress she snapped me in Faerie. Evie's dress was TO DIE for." They left chatting animatedly about outfits.

I looked at Dylan, "Let's link the girls." Dylan frowned, "I'm being ignored because I already tried." I frowned. Dominic chimed in, "She's not nearby." SHIT! I linked Emmaline's guard back to my office. I linked Emmaline, "Baby girl, where are you? She didn't answer. I

tried again, "Please come back." Nothing. I growled admitting, "Emmaline didn't answer my link." Dylan sighed, "We are going to be running around looking for them, aren't we? Will my astute observation that Emmaline can just keep popping them away from us if she wants to be ignored? I feel like it will. We should keep linking them and wait for them to come back. They will come here, but we won't be here. It's going to be a thing."

I looked at Emmaline's guard ordering, "Fan out and search the grounds. Link me the second you find either of them." Dylan sighed, "So that was a yes on ignoring me. I knew that was coming." We all took off. Brad linked me, "I'm going to monitor the house in case they pop back here." I agreed with his thought, "Dylan will be happy you listened to him." Brad actually laughed.

I linked Dylan, “Brad listened to you. He’s at the house. I can’t believe I already fucked up with our mates.” Dylan sighed, “YES! I got one whole person to listen to me. Now, I just need to work on your pesky self. In all seriousness, you made a judgement call. It's what you do as the Alpha. We messed up, but we can only fix it moving forward.”

I nodded, “Next time, slap me upside the head. You didn’t want me to keep this to myself.” Dylan snorted, “I’m going to remind you that you said that. I can’t believe I have permission to do this.”

Brad linked, “They just popped into the main room of the house. Dylan and I backtracked, making it to the house in record time. I linked Dylan, “At least they came back. I was going to tell the pack they needed to help, and that no one would rest until both of them were back.”

Dylan snorted, “It’s too bad that didn’t happen. The pack has been denied my serenading of Taylor Swift. I’d have to change the words around but we are the hunters they are foxes... AND WE RUN! I could’ve edited those lyrics to work for me. It would’ve been funny.”

I linked Brad, “You can go get some sleep.” He nodded and once he was out of hearing range I walked over to Emmaline. I was relieved when she wrapped her arms around me and let my scent calm her down. Dominic growled, “Her? How about me? I need to calm down!” I rolled my eyes, “We are all calming down.”

They were still upset with us. Understandably so. Dylan linked me, “I’m sleeping with one eye open. She might shave my head. My hair is oh so pretty. I have a dent in my head, I can’t be bald.” I linked Lacy, “Don’t shave Dylan’s head. This is my fault.”

Lacy responded, “It’s both your faults. I realize that I ran away, and some of your fear for Emmaline stems from that. I made a mistake. I was sixteen, isolated, and scared for my brother’s life. I should’ve talked to someone, but I thought Christy was being my friend. My advice, talk to Emmaline.”

I sighed, “I will. Make sure you take your own advice in return. Talk to Dylan.” Lacy spat, “I PLAN to talk to him.” I winced. That meant she’d yell, “Stay here tonight then.” Lacy sighed, “Am I new?” I had to smile and led Emmaline up the stairs.

I knew Emmaline and I weren’t totally ok yet. I still thought this was different in some ways. It was my fault she was in danger. She was still worried about David. There would be a whole other set of problems if David Forrester set one toe

outside the state line of California and Emmaline found out before me. Heads would literally roll.

I was having him watched. So, I'd better know any move he makes well ahead of Emmaline. Dominic said, "She's right. I didn't even realize we were so unsettled because we didn't tell her." I sighed, "We will learn and do better."

Dominic was upset, "We hurt mate's feelings." I answered, "I know. I really was going to try and fix things. I was going to take Haley's advice to bring her into the day to day. Dylan and I had both put that off even though we'd talked about it, because we'd been busy."

I learned as a pup Alpha's decisions caused ripples that were felt by so many. Now, I'd caused several mated pairs to argue because I forgot something quite basic. It's part of being an Alpha, understanding the weight that comes with leading. I had never wanted those ripples to touch those I care about most though.

At least my parents weren't involved. I almost winced at what my mom was going to do to me when she found out. We'd move on from this, that's the important part. We'd communicate better. It's a constant flowing situation as Haley pointed out to me earlier. We just have to work at this. I always thought mates were easy, but now I realized that's a silly notion. It's still a relationship, and we'd have to work at it.

We discussed pups. That perked Dominic right back up. I was now imagining the terror Eric felt when his pup popped to him when he was in danger. Dominic growled in my head. Yeah, that would be horrible. I needed to have Dylan send him some good whiskey.

I made a mental note to have Dylan notify Alpha Cameron whoever he was missing turned to water. When Emmaline fell asleep, I kissed her forehead and whispered, "I'll do better, baby girl. I swear that to you." I woke up feeling Emmaline leaving for school.

I quickly got up and went to my office. I wasn't surprised to find that Dylan was already there. I had to smile when I saw the paperwork to file against Alpha Hammond was on my desk. It was just waiting to be filled out.

I complimented him, "You are a really good Beta, Dylan." Dylan snorted, "I am the BEST Beta. How did everything go with Emmaline last night?" I sighed, "There are hurt feelings, but we both agreed to do better in the future. How's everything with Lacy?" Dylan raised an eyebrow, "I slept on the couch, but she

didn't shave my head. I apparently have you to thank for that because she was going to. No dent head comments for me."

I snorted and started filling out the paperwork. Once I had that scanned and sent off to the council I kept working. My dad stormed into the room an hour later. I asked him, "Are you ok?" My dad yelled, "WHAT THE HELL IS THIS, SON?" He waved papers around continuing, "You were ABDUCTED? No, I'm sorry you WALKED into a trap without knowing the PRINCESS OF THE HACKURA AND FAIRIES HAD A BACK UP PLAN? Keep in mind that's an assumption. I assume you didn't know she had a different plan because you got chipped. The two most FEARED Alpha's in the country got chipped BY SHOES and tiny little fairy?!"

I winced. Dylan chimed in, "To be specific, they were special Hackura shoes. I did not know I was a conduit for my besties chipping, but I was. I'm quite proud of me. I have a business pending for Beta's about it."

My dad threw the papers and they floated around me, settling on the ground. He asked, "Why didn't I know about this plan she had? I mean your plan combined with the women's was great, but I am still a sounding board for you."

I sighed, starting to list of reasons, "Because I'm not great at communication? Because I didn't know every decision you made as an Alpha either. We closed ranks. I am sorry I didn't tell you; you should've known. We kept it from Emmaline and Lacy, and since mom would've blabbed, you too. Haley and Emmaline made it seem like other than the GPS thing we knew their plan, but we didn't."

My dad snorted, "How did that go for you? Not telling Emmaline. From what I'm reading the women had a pretty solid plan. How did she help come up with this if she didn't know?" I sighed, "Haley knew. She didn't know Emmaline didn't know and in Faerie she felt safe discussing it since no one could overhear them. That's how Emmaline found out."

My dad rolled his eyes, "You and Eric are lucky they are mature for their age, or they would've handed you your asses on a platter in front of all your allies." I smiled. Dylan cleared his throat, "Dale is right. Nick, Alpha Sophia, and Alpha Chase called to say they were impressed with the full plan, and how close we kept it to our vest. I may have implied we miscommunicated on where to be for the hole in the ward. Because things can get complicated with popping, so everyone understood."

I laughed, "I'm sure Eric implied the same. It would make sense we held those details back in case it failed." Dylan laughed, "Everyone also thinks Haley just

slipped the GPS thing in after Emmaline pointed out shifting could be a problem. The rest of it, they think you and Alpha no fun were in on. Alpha Chase is terrified of Haley now with her GPS plans and slaughtering people without help.”

Dale snorted, “She’s a softie.” Dylan laughed, “You didn’t see the look she gave our two favorite, non-mated married couple.” I sighed, “She doesn’t like what they are doing, not them personally. There’s a difference.” My dad left after glaring at me.

I turned to Dylan, “Where’s my clue and collectible?” Dylan laughed, “I was wondering if you forgot. I was going to be so sad. Go ahead and tell me how much you love me.” He paused. I asked, “Why?” Dylan smiled, “Because I asked Haley for a specific piece.” He pulled out my Legends of Zelda sword from under the table. I snatched it from him.

I told him honestly, “Dylan, I could kiss you.” I kissed the blade of my sword. Dylan teased, “Pass, but you’re welcome.” I laughed, “This is the first piece I’ve gotten back that’s actually worth something.” Dylan admitted, “She really didn’t want to give it to me. She had a different clue for that, but I told her all the stuff she’d given back was pretty easy to get. I told her she had to throw in something of value and she agreed.” I said, “Like I said, I appreciate it. Where’s my clue?” Dylan smirked and handed me a piece of paper.

Clue 6: Bjourn’s father has five sons. The names of four sons are Bebe, Bibi, Baba and Bubu. What is the name of the fifth son?

I yelled, “A brain teaser? COME ON?” Dylan laughed, “At least you don’t need a code.” I sighed, “Great. Off the top of my head, Bobo is what I can come up with, and that doesn’t tell me who to go to. Am I supposed to find a clown?” Dylan laughed, “Keep thinking about it. We can keep an eye out for some clown to appear on the grounds like a giant telephone booth appeared.”

We worked until the girls came home. Ryan and Lacy came into our office looking worried. Lacy announced, “Emmaline has been off all day, Lucas. Gemma swears she ate enough after she popped away from one of the human mates, but... she barely spoke all day.”

Ryan added, “She looks exhausted. Katie is Queen.” Dylan laughed, “I love your sister. I need to get her on my side so I can have people say Dylan Frost is the best. Or something like that. Definitely something. I have to come up with the perfect saying. It will be glorious!” Ryan sighed, “I love my sister too even if this is ridiculous. Katie is Queen.”

I left them to discuss that. I went upstairs and found Emmaline asleep. She was dead to world passed out. I took out my phone and stepped back outside our room. I quickly called Eric, "Lucas." I didn't even greet him, "Emmaline is apparently really tired after popping away from a human cardio session this morning. Gemma swears she ate enough."

Haley asked, "How much is enough?" I linked Lacy, "How much did she eat?" Lacy answered, "Two platefuls of food." I answered, "Two very large plates." Haley said, "She needs at least four plates until she's more used to popping away. I wouldn't scoff at five plates though. Not to mention the stress of the situation with Alpha Hammond could be getting to her." I sighed, "Alright. I'll let Gemma know. Thanks Haley." Eric said, "We will see you tomorrow." I hung up.

I found Gemma with Dylan and Lacy. I told her, "Haley Connors said Emmaline needs at least four plates of food on popping away days until she's used to it. Lacy Loo, you'll have to make sure she eats a big lunch on those days too. I'm not going to be surprised if she sleeps until school tomorrow."

I told Dylan to spend time with Lacy and started to section things off that we could show Lacy and Emmaline. I answered several emails. I only looked up when my mother came into the room. I greeted, "Hi, mom." Debbie smiled, "Hello, son. You've had a hard time of it the last few days from what I've gathered." I nodded.

She smiled and patted my hand, "I'm not going to tell you things you already know. Here's my stance. Alpha's make hard calls, and you've had to make many without the benefit of having your mate with you. You get to mess up. It's how you learn and grow. Learn to lean on her even if it's a sounding board at night about a situation that's bothering you. Some silly dispute you're not certain about that's not sitting right with you. Start small."

I nodded. She continued, "It's not an easy step sharing power and decisions when you've had to make them all by yourself. It was hard for your dad, and he was only an Alpha for two years without me by his side. You've been doing this for a decade. Give yourself some grace. I know your dad has his opinions, but he forgets that he didn't always include me in the beginning. He had to learn, and I had to teach him; just as your mate and Eric's are doing. You should be quite proud of how they handled themselves. I yelled at your father in front of several of his allies the first time I found out he left me out."

She stood and kissed my cheek, "I'm glad both you and Emmaline are alright. You get that brain of yours thinking about how to keep my future grandpups from popping into such situations, do you hear me? I read that sentence fifteen times and spoke to Cassandra. She was beside herself."

I laughed, “Don’t worry, mom. My thoughts are already swirling about just that.” She smiled and turned before she walked out the door, “By the way, I can keep a secret. I was the Luna of this pack. Now, gossip I cannot keep to myself. But family secrets and missions I can.” She shot me a wink and left.

I went upstairs and showered quickly before getting into bed with Emmaline. Dominic linked, “We need to have her watched more closely on these days. Poor mate is exhausted.” I agreed, “We will. I’ll make sure she gets more food that whole day.” Dominic grumbled, “I miss mate. We barely got to see her today.” I couldn’t help but smile, “I know, Dominic. We will see her tomorrow. She just needs sleep.” I closed our link and fell asleep.

I woke up to Emmaline’s needy lips on my own. I was barely awake, but I heard her say less talking. I’d just said her name, but I let her do what she needed. Her need was practically pounding in my chest. I had to let Dominic out to claim her to get her need to quell. She had to rush out for school.

I walked into my office smiling. Dylan scowled, “Why are you smiling?” He took a deep inhale, “Oh, screw you.” I laughed, “I already got screwed this morning.” Dylan grumbled, “Ohh I’m Lucas. No one can stay mad at me.”

I asked, “Lacy’s still mad then, is she?” Dylan grumbled, “I have been told I MIGHT get off the couch tonight. My pillow has been so sad without me. I hear it cry at night.” I bit my lip, “I’m sorry, Dylan.” Dylan sighed, “I can’t even sleep without Lacy in my arms now. I toss and turn on that stupid couch all damn night. I used to love that couch, I thought we were friends. It’s a devastating blow, Lucas. Devastating.”

I raised an eyebrow, “How is she sleeping?” Dylan scowled, “With the shirt I wore throughout the day on my pillow tucked into her chest. I am not allowed to do the same thing. I’m jealous of my own damn shirt.” I couldn’t help but laugh.

I reiterated, “I really am sorry.” Dylan sneered, “Sure you are.” We worked until Emmaline popped in, on my lap. Her scent was in overdrive. Dylan mumbled, “Seriously? I can’t get off the damn couch, and I have to be jealous of my shirts. Your mate is popping to you to have sex in the middle of the day. I dislike you SO MUCH right now.”

I couldn’t reply. I was focused on Emmaline. We destroyed my office. We finished in time for her to make it to her last class. I linked Dylan, “You can come back.” He didn’t answer me, but he slammed into the office a few minutes later. He glared at me.

I teased, “Just know it physically pains me to say this, but you need to get laid.” Dylan mocked me, “Oh, do I? Wipe that smug smirk off your face. You’re just gloating that you guys just had sex for hours... again. No one likes a sex gloater.”

We got back to work. Dylan asked, “Is it me, or is her scent stronger?” I said, “I thought that same thing.” Dylan shuffled some papers around then asked, “Is... could she be pregnant? I better be the first to know. King Alpha Prick can’t be first.”

My mind blanked for several second. I shook my head, “She got on birth control. I’m not positive which one she picked, but Haley would’ve said something. No actually, she wouldn’t. She has a thing about women being able to tell their partner they are pregnant themselves. I don’t think she’s pregnant, she did use her fairy powers and then slept for almost twelve hours. She didn’t go through her concupiscence.”

Dylan shrugged, “Something fairy is going on. Haley was conceived outside a concupiscence with magic from what I hear. She’s not seventeen yet, maybe the rules for partials are different. It’s something to consider.” I agreed with him.

We had to hurry to catch up and finish everything. Brad linked me, “Emmaline’s popping home to you. Her scent just amplified about fifty percent.” I frowned answering, “Thanks, Brad.” I told Dylan, “I’ll have to ask Eric about this today. Brad said Emmaline’s scent just got stronger in the school hallway.” Dylan shrugged. The next thing we knew Emmaline stood between us, and she dragged me away.

Dylan growled, “I’ve never disliked you so much.” I smirked at him as Emmaline seemed to remember she could pop. Within seconds we were naked in our room. We had just fallen apart when Dylan knocked saying it was time for fairy lessons.

Dylan linked me, “My jealousy is established. Lacy is trying on dresses in our room. Sexy dresses, and I can’t touch her. Go away with your nympho fairy.” I managed not to laugh as Emmaline snapped us clothes, then popped us to practice.

When she walked away Eric commented, “Emmaline’s scent is intense.” I nodded, “It’s been off the charts today. Dylan thinks she’s pregnant.” Jackson said, “That’s not when Haley’s scent intensified.” Eric replied, “She’s only sixteen, Jackson.” I asked, “You think she’s going into her concupiscence?”

Eric shook his head, “Yes and no. The scent makes me think that, but she’s not seventeen. I don’t know. Haley will figure it out.” The group of girls had differing expressions. Emmaline and Katie were laughing, but the rest looked worried.

I said to Eric, "I really wish Haley wouldn't enchant the area. Then we'd know what was going on." Eric said, "She doesn't always do it, but I've lost that battle. Should you want to try to tell her not to knock yourself out." Jackson said, "Whatever it is they are discussing... someone needs to call Logan and get him here."

Prince Bjourn glanced sharply at Jackson, then looked at Katie. He surmised, "She's very upset. She was laughing five seconds ago. I will kill that fairy if she upset my brother's mate." Eric raised an eyebrow.

I took notice of the group and growled, "Emmaline is upset now too." Bjourn pulled out his phone, putting it on speaker. Logan answered, "Hello, brother." Bjourn said, "Logan, get to Eric and Haley's. A fairy has upset Katie and her sister." Logan shouted, "WHAT FUCKING FAIRY? I'LL KILL THEM. I'll be there in five. NO ONE upsets my girl." Bjourn hung up.

I felt a hand on my arm. Eric said, "Shit." I heard a giggle, "I've never seen you around here, handsome." Eric growled, "Get away from him." The female fairy ignored him. Eric turned to me, "Lucas, it appears through a series of events, that are not quite clear, Hexxi told Emmaline her real age. She's seventeen, and she didn't know. I'm POSITIVE she's going into her concupiscence."

My jaw dropped, "Excuse me? How did she not know she was seventeen? Wait... no, I've seen her birthdate. She's sixteen." The fairy giggled, "I can show you more than any seventeen-year-old. Let her pick another wolf." I growled.

Before I could do anything, a furious Emmaline threw a punch. Haley shouted, "Do not touch them, Lucas!" She popped next to us, "This is a shit show for sure." I asked, "What the hell is going on?"

Haley winced, "June Forrester is a piece of shit who took all her children's memories away and shipped Emmaline off to Faerie because fairy babies conjure their bottles. Evidently, she didn't want her affair discovered."

Everyone was stunned. I collected myself, "Why can't I touch Emmaline?" Haley said, "Because she's fighting, and you might misjudge and grab the fire fairy who Emmaline would then kill. She can't help it. She saw another female's hands on you. You're lucky she's not me. I would've chopped off her hand, clawed her eyes out, made her eat them, and killed her for touching Eric if I was going into my concupiscence."

I pointed out, "She's drowning said fire fairy in your lake." Haley shrugged. I asked, "Are you going to save her?" Haley laughed, "I'm not a water fairy. Nor am

I the queen of Faerie. To interfere could mean I'd get hurt because the water would think it was disrespectful. Eric would growl and be pissed off. I would call Aiden if Hexxi didn't handle it."

Logan ran through a portal, picked up a sobbing Katie off the ground, and held her in his lap. She clung to him asking, "How does she keep getting worse, Logan? She took my memories from me! She kept me from Evie twice!" Logan assured, "I'll fix it. We will get your memories back. Haley can do that or find someone who will. It will be alright."

When Emmaline was focused on me Haley whispered to the fairy, "Jeserella I will let her kill you if you say ONE more word. Shut the fuck up." The fairy looked upset but stopped talking. Emmaline's hurt was all over her face and in my chest. I will kill June Forrester.

I glanced over at Logan and linked Eric, "Don't let him kill their mother without me." Eric snorted, "I am only one man. I can try to keep her alive for you to do something to. Haley will be our best bet." I sighed, "I guess that's as good as I'll get."

I was blown away that Haley had an island. Dominic pointed out, "We need to link Dylan and Fang." He was right. I linked Dylan, "I don't have time for the long story so the short version: June Forrester is a horrible human being. Emmaline is actually seventeen and she's going into her concupiscence. We will be in the Hackura realm on Haley's island. We will be back when this is over. You're in charge. Get my dad to help if necessary."

Dylan replied, "I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS! First, Haley has an island? How many? Did she decide they were hers and just name it so? If yes, I'm moving to the land of my people. I WILL RALLY THE PEOPLE FOR OUR FUN SIZED FAIRY NINJA ISLAND QUEEN!"

I answered, "I don't have those answers. I think it's a private island with no people." Dylan snorted, "Enter Dylan. I will populate it with my pups, grandpups, and so on. Just THINK of how annoyed King Alpha Prick would be." I rolled my eyes.

Eric linked me while Haley gave Emmaline instructions after she'd popped us out, "Just link me when you're ready to come back. I'll send Haley to you. I'm sorry Emmaline's going to be hurting when this over. Remember, energy drinks are your friend." I hated that Emmaline wasn't given any time to process this.

The second Haley left, Emmaline's possessiveness and need burst into my chest. She popped us to a room. She begged me, "Please, Lucas. Please I need you so much." I growled and dove on top of her, burying myself in her.

Her screams of ecstasy echoed in the room. I was flipping her in and out of positions at a record pace, but she just kept begging for more. I let Dominic out, thinking that would tire her out. After ten hours, a new idea formed.

I opened the drawer, found a vibrator, and attached it to her. I dialed it up as much as possible. I instructed her, "Ok, my little fairy. Snap yourself into something sexy." She was gyrating her hips, but her eyes locked onto me when I growled. I commanded, "Now, baby girl." She snapped and somehow, I got hard again. She was in a light blue lace baby doll lingerie set.

I swallowed before telling her, "We are going to play catch the fairy. The longer you are able to stay away from me the bigger the reward." She popped away only to come back a second later. She rubbed up against me, "I can't. I need you. Please, my Alpha." I groaned, "Fuck, baby girl."

I remembered Eric said orgasm denial worked for him. I kissed down her body, left the vibrator going, and turned down the rhythm. Emmaline groaned in protest. I flipped her over and spanked her before flipping her back. I asked, "What's your safe word?" Emmaline panted, "I don't know. Please Lucas... PLEASE!"

I took her over my knee and spanked her five times. Her arousal was literally running down my leg. I asked again, "What's your safe word, baby girl." She was vibrating with need. She whimpered, "Apples." I smirked and removed the vibrator. She started to cry. I quickly found handcuffs in the drawer and put them on her. She looked delectable spread eagled and waiting for me.

I took her nipple into my mouth and grabbed a whip. I lightly tapped her other nipple with it, she arched up into me. I trailed kisses down her body all the way to her feet. I came back up and kissed her lazily, denying her when she tried to deepen it. I licked her mark while she strained against her restraints.

I entered my finger into her hot waiting center to build her up. When she was about to come, I yanked myself away from her. She yelled at me. I picked the whip back up and lightly tapped her thighs. Once she calmed down, I placed my tongue on her clit and slid my finger into her. I got her close again and backed off. I kept my assault going as she called me every name in the book.

Dominic laughed, "She never gets this mad. You should give into mate." I retorted, "Do you want a break? How about sleep?" Dominic sighed, "That's true." I

glanced at the clock. It had been over thirteen hours now. I know Eric said they went longer, but I didn't know if I could do it. Dominic growled, "We can do this." I kept denying her until finally neither of us could take it anymore.

I slid into her. She sobbed in relief. I only thrust three times before she was screaming my name. It's a good thing this was an island or anyone in the nearby radius would've heard her. When I came, she still wasn't done.

Her need was less, but still present. She popped out of the cuffs and slammed me into the wall. She slid down and took me in her mouth. I groaned and she started to trail her finger backward and slowly slid it into me. I gritted my teeth, "Baby girl." She giggled and kept working her finger with her mouth. I came quickly and threw her up on my shoulders.

I attacked her clit with my tongue. Her fingers were pulling at my hair. I changed tactics instead of denying her this time I kept going. I brought her over the edge time after time. Her legs were shaking when I put her on the bed. I rolled onto my back and moved her to straddle me. She slid down on me.

I said, "Ride me 'til your heart's content." She smirked and kept going. Her eyes began to droop after eighteen hours. I flipped us and slowed down our movements. After that orgasm she finally fell asleep.

I linked Dylan, "This thing is no joke." Dylan answered, "Do I get to ask my questions now?" I laughed, "Absolutely not. I'm about to fall asleep for the first time since we got here." Dylan was laughing hysterically when I closed our link. He wasn't so jealous now, was he?

I woke up to Emmaline's hot wet mouth on my dick. I groaned, "Emmaline..." She didn't stop. Her arousal was permeating the room. I flipped her so I could reach her clit at the same time. We spent the morning like that, until she rolled off me. I was stunned when she popped away.

I jumped up and yelled, "What the hell?" I ran downstairs to find Emmaline pulling food out of the refrigerator. She ate an entire tray of sandwiches then cried. She ended up snapping thirty pizzas onto the counter. I reached for one of the boxes, and she slapped my hand.

I raised an eyebrow. She did an impressive growl, "Mine." I laughed asking, "Can I have one box?" She shook her head and snapped a different one into my hands. I tilted my head, "Thank you, this is my favorite kind."

She didn't acknowledge that I'd spoken and started to attack her pizza. While she ate, I looked through my supplies. There was lots of pop, iced coffee, and energy drinks. I grabbed an iced coffee to start my day.

When I finished eating, I noticed Emmaline was eyeing me. She popped to me, me while kissing me while wrapping her legs around me. She popped again. I yelled in surprise when we made a splash. We were in the ocean. She grunted and slid down onto me.

I teased, "I see we are past words this morning." She took my hand and placed it on her breast. I smirked, "Whatever you want, my love." I took over. When she was done in the ocean, she popped us to the pool.

After several hours I commented, "Baby girl, you don't prune but I do." She pouted and popped us back inside. We spend the next three days buried inside each other or eating food. We managed to get a few hours of sleep here and there. The energy drinks and Dominic saved me.

On the fourth day, when she woke up with clear eyes, I breathed a sigh of relief. She was confused, "Lucas, where are we?" I laughed and looked at the clock. We'd finally slept for eight hours straight. I asked, "You don't remember?" She shook her head, then tears filled her eyes.

She whispered, "We were at Eric and Haley's. Hexxi... Hexxi said I was seventeen and that mom had my dad take Katie, Dusty, and Ry's memories because they saw me conjure a bottle. That horrid fairy touched you and... it's a bit hazy after that. I know we've had a lot of sex." I laughed, "That's putting it mildly, baby girl."

Emmaline pulled me into a hug then popped us into the shower declaring, "We reek." I laughed, "We smell like sex." She winked at me. I took the loofa washing her. She returned the favor for me. When we stepped out, she pulled me into her and started crying.

I comforted her, "It's ok, Emmaline." She shook her head, "I'm really a year older. I know I didn't know, but it feels like I lost a whole year of my life. I know I wouldn't remember it because I don't remember being in Faerie. It just sucks since seventeen is such a big deal for fairies I really needed to know." I sighed, "I know. She should've told you. I'm sure Haley got answers. Hell, Katie may have answers for you. Prince Logan was murderously angry."

Emmaline frowned, "He was there? I didn't see him." I snorted, "Prince Bjourn called him when it became clear Katie was upset. Prince Logan was with Katie when we left." Emmaline looked away, "I really wanted to train with Katie." I

smiled, “You have all the time in the world for that now. This just means next time we know what to look out.”

Emmaline groaned, “Great so when I start popping to you in constant need of you to be buried inside me.” I laughed, “I’m not complaining. Other than you didn’t want to share your food with me. You actually smacked my hand away several times.” Emmaline laughed, “I kind of remember that. So, where are we?” I smiled answering, “Haley’s island in the Hackura realm.”

Emmaline squealed and ran outside and looked around. She gasped, “It’s beautiful. Have you ever been here?” I shrugged, “Other than running through a portal to get to the fight that night this whole mess started, no.” Emmaline smiled, “So, the right answer was no. You haven’t been here.” I laughed, “I suppose you’re right.” I wrapped my arms around her waist.

I added, “It is beautiful.” Emmaline said, “Maybe we can come back with Haley and Eric sometime.” I pulled her to me, “I’m sure we can. Are you ready to go back?” Emmaline said, “We should probably have clothes first. How are we getting back?” I laughed, “I’ve gotten used to the no clothes life. Eric told me to link him.” Emmaline snapped clothes back on us. I teased, “Too bad.”

I linked Eric, “We are ready for Haley.” Eric said, “Haley thought it could be today. She’ll be right there.” Haley appeared before us. She hugged Emmaline asking, “How are you feeling?” Emmaline smiled, “Happy, hazy, and angry that I’m apparently seventeen.” Haley winced, “We have some things to discuss about that. Let’s pop to my parents’ house. Katie, Logan, and Eric are waiting for us.” Eric could’ve warned me I was heading to the Hackura castle.

The second we were spotted; Katie ran to Emmaline. She asked her, “Are you ok?” Emmaline nodded and fell into her sister’s embrace. I gravitated over towards Eric and Prince Logan. Prince Logan smiled “Did you have fun? We do when Haley can’t control her side of the bond. It’s a hell of a ride. I can’t wait for it now that I have Katie.”

I smiled, “It was a good time. Thanks for the energy drinks and general caffeine tips, Eric. I wouldn’t have survived.” Eric smirked, “I don’t think I would’ve survived if I hadn’t felt Haley’s need as my own.” Eric glanced at the girls then added, “Marcious is enraged.”

I raised an eyebrow, “Why didn’t he say anything to us?” Eric sighed, “One of the presents he gave to Emmaline was a photo album of the pictures he had from her year in Faerie. He found all the presents he’d given Emmaline in the Forrester’s

attic. The photo album was unopened. He doesn't know why. I'm sure it's because her mother didn't let her have it."

I growled, "Did no one ask June?" Prince Logan said, "We have Walter. He knew how old Emmaline really was. Katie isn't ready to deal with her mom." I asked, "Is Walter alive?" Prince Logan nodded, "The formally named Forrester siblings are all taking turns talking to him. I only got him for them, along with the aunt. I have stood behind Katie menacingly; they are terrified of me. I am a patient man. It may not be today or anytime soon, but all those who have hurt Katie will pay one day."

I shivered and looked at Eric asking, "Formally Forrester siblings?" Katie called from across the room, "We changed our last names. We want nothing to do with those pieces of shit whose DNA we come from." Emmaline gasped in shock.

I asked, "What's your new last name?" Katie replied, "Bishop." Emmaline laughed, "From the Salem witch trials? You guys are priceless!" Katie smiled, "Logan helped me put word out that I have disowned dad. I performed the blood kin ritual. I no longer recognize him as my father or mom as my mother. Dustin and Ryan did it too." Emmaline was stunned into silence.

Haley quietly said, "Let's move to the main room. Cindy made breakfast for us. We can discuss what happened during your concupiscence." I linked Eric, "There's more?" Eric laughed, "A lot can happen while you're fucking for four days Lucas." I was surprised, "It felt like longer than four days." Eric answered, "Here it was."

I linked Dylan, "We will be home later today." Dylan was gleeful, "I have SO MUCH news." I snorted, "Like Katie, Dustin and Ryan changing their last names?" Dylan sang, "Aubree too, but that my dear friend is the tip of the iceberg." I groaned. It was going to be like pulling teeth to get information out of him.

Haley led us to a breakfast buffet. She waited for everyone to get their food. Once she finished her own, she stood, "While you eat, I'll explain some things." Emmaline tensed but kept eating. I linked Eric, "Is it bad?" Eric shrugged, "Mostly explanations." I nodded ready for Emmaline to get some answers.