

Unraveling the Mystery

Lucas studied Emmaline as she raked her eyes over his body. I smirked. Dominic was yelling in my head, “MATE! MARK MATE!” I sighed, “We can’t mark her in the middle of a classroom, Dominic.” Dominic agreed, “Right, take mate home and mark her!” I wanted to groan when I realized she thought I growled because she had my coffee. I didn’t even care that I didn’t know what she was. She could even be human, but I wasn’t positive. There was something that felt familiar about what she was. I just couldn’t put my finger on it. I was just glad I’d found her.

Dominic growled, “Go get mate! You let her walk away. I want mate!” I sighed, “Stop being a child. We know who our mate is now. We can’t treat her like a werewolf. We can’t scare her away.” Dominic sighed, “Fine. I want mate though.” I answered him, “So do I.” I noticed Drake McAlister; the future Beta of Red Run was seated next to her. He had just found his mate, who was a member of my pack.

I was drowning in Emmaline’s gaze. How did anyone get anything done once they’d met their mate? Dylan linked me, “Dude, you need to start presenting again. The rest of the class may understand, but Emmaline won’t. Don’t you worry. I’m entertaining the whole pack regaling the tale through the pack link.” I was so not going to check the pack link then.

Emmaline realized people were staring at her. I linked my pack members in the class, “Stop looking at your future Luna. You’re making her uncomfortable.” They immediately turned away from her, and I continued my speech about the youth center. My eyes never left hers though. I couldn’t help but smile at her attempts to look at her paper and not into my eyes. She blushed numerous times. I was already thinking of other ways to keep making her blush. I wanted her so badly.

I was fighting my instincts to take her, mate, and mark her. I was trying to stop myself from picturing her writhing underneath me. I loved the way her nose crinkled when she smiled timidly up at me. The innocence in her eyes was drawing me to her. I couldn’t remember a single word I’d said when the bell rang. Everything stopped when Emmaline stood up. No... She couldn’t leave, not yet. Dominic linked, “That is what happens when the bell rings. Students leave. Stop her or I will.”

I asked her to stay back to talk. I could hear all the students outside in the hall trying to get a look at us. They all wanted a peak at their long-awaited future Luna. When Dylan spoke to her first I almost hit my best friend. Her eyes didn’t leave mine until he said his last name. She asked if he was Travis’ brother and I smiled.

That was perfect. Travis could watch out for her while she was here. I could trust Travis. I couldn’t stop my growl when their hands almost touched. Dylan linked

me, “I was just going to shake her hand, Lucas. You have got to find some chill. I’ll work on expediting you some pills. Don’t worry. I’m all over this.” I replied, “I know what you were doing. It wasn’t an intentional growl. It just came out.” Dylan replied, “Danger! Danger! You’ll turn into Alpha no fun Eric Connors and that’s unacceptable!” I rolled my eyes.

I was surprised Emmaline felt our connection. I linked Dylan, “I thought human mates couldn’t feel the tingles in the bond until they were marked. I thought they only felt comfort in their mate’s presence.” Dylan answered, “They can’t. She’s not human, Lucas. I knew that when she walked in the door. You’re slipping. That’s what I’m here though for. What she is... now that’s the question. She almost feels like a fairy... maybe she is a fairy.” Maybe.

She took her hand slowly from mine. It took all of my effort not to snatch it back into my grasp. I linked Dylan, “We need to speak to Alpha Kyle from Red Run. He didn’t mention anyone on our list being another type of supernatural.” Dylan looked at Emmaline then pointed out, “She might not know she’s a supernatural. Also, Alpha Kyle probably hasn’t met this girl.” I wanted to groan in frustration. If she knew what she was, then she would have no problem with me claiming her. If she didn’t, that could present problems.

Emmaline apologized for my coffee being late. Like I gave a shit. I just wanted to keep her talking. Eventually, she had to go. Dominic was growling at me not to let her leave. I closed our link; he was being very unhelpful. I needed to know everything about her. I would make everything better for her. My breath caught as she left. I heard all the werewolves in the hall clamoring that I had found my mate. I heard Emmaline take a deep breath, then she headed off to her next class hurriedly.

Mr. Blaze’s second period filed in. Ruth brought up the rear and held her hand out to Dylan. She smugly told him, “Pay up.” My eyes narrowed. I asked, “You knew she was my mate?” Ruth smiled, “I suspected. Our beta told me I was bat crap crazy.” I rolled my eyes at Dylan and surveyed the class. They were all pack members. That worked in my favor. I announced, “You all know what just happened and you all know about the youth center. Talk amongst yourselves.”

They all started excitedly chatting. I told Dylan, “I’m going to the front office to get her file.” Ruth waved a file in my face. She gloated, “But you have a lovely assistant who already asked them to pull it based on a hunch. Then she picked it up after finishing her call when the pack mind link went insane with the news of our future Luna.” I smiled, “You are one in a million, Ruth.” She smiled, “I know. I don’t know that you’re going to like what you see here though.” I frowned and opened the file.

I growled, “You mean lack thereof? What the fuck is this shit?” Emmaline had transcripts, no address on file, and a note that she was emancipated. Her parents weren’t listed. She had no emergency contacts, stellar grades, and... holy shit. I whispered, “She’s sixteen? She’s in senior level classes.”

Dylan laughed, “She’s legal. Don’t you worry.” I frowned, “I know that, but if she thinks she’s human she might have a problem with it.” Dylan laughed, “I call malarky. She was two steps from humping you in a classroom, I think you can work with her human hangups, should they exist, but Dylan is getting a picture of harmony for you. I don’t think it’s going to be a problem.”

Ruth glanced at us. Mr. Blaze spoke, “You don’t think she’s human, beta Dylan?” I shook my head, “We don’t. She feels our connection. She gasped when our hands touched.” That sent the classroom into another tizzy. Ruth said, “Well, we will figure that out. I pulled a background check to see if I could get any more details, but it’s sparse.” I sighed, “Does it tell you who her parents are? Why she’s emancipated? Or why it was granted?” She shook her head, “No someone buried it, Alpha. They buried it very well.”

I frowned, “Dylan, I want her guarded from a distance. She seems to know Drake McAlister. Call Red Run and have him look out for her. She knows Travis too, so tell him he’s guarding her. I also want five of our warriors guarding her at all times, I don’t like this. This sounds like she’s in danger or running from something.” The thought was sending Dominic almost into a tailspin. Dylan muttered, “You insult me by thinking I didn’t already start that process. I am under appreciated. That’s what Dylan is.”

We decided Ruth would give the rest of Mr. Blaze’s classes the youth center speech. Dylan and I went to an unoccupied office to conduct business. I called Alpha Kyle. He immediately answered, “Alpha Lyons, my Beta’s son linked him that you’d found your mate. He said it’s one of the human transfers from our school.”

I told him, “Alpha Kyle, Drake is half right. I found my mate, and you answered my question as to whether or not you knew she isn’t human.” Alpha Kyle asked, “She’s not human?” I admitted, “She feels our connection.” Alpha Kyle sighed, “So she can’t be human. Any ideas? You could call Alpha Eric’s mate. She would know if the girl is a partial fairy or not.” I sighed, “I have someone in my pack who can tell for certain. She’s known quite a few fairies. If she’s not certain I’ll call Haley.”

Dylan groaned in our link, “You’re not seriously suggesting Christy meet Emmaline. That’s the worst idea you’ve ever had. Ever, and I was around when you wore bellbottoms Lucas.” I replied, “It’s the fastest way to rule out if she’s a fairy.” Dylan rolled his eyes. He answered, “Because what could possibly go

wrong? Except everything. A quick call and a pop would confirm it too. A pop is so fast. Faster than Christy, just POP she's here. There a bonus of Eric losing his marbles she popped away from him. Everyone goes home a winner." I told him, "If Christy isn't certain we will call Haley, and you can win then."

Alpha Kyle asked, "Could the girl not know what she is?" I sighed, "I think that's a possibility, I know she's running or hiding from someone. I was hoping you could ask Beta McAlister to have Drake keep an eye on her. They seem to know each other." Alpha Kyle laughed, "And he just found his mate so his presence near her doesn't bother you. Did you know your mate introduced them?" I asked, "Did she? I hadn't heard that." Dylan chimed in, "I did. I knew that." I rolled my eyes at him.

Alpha Kyle answered, "Yes, Emmaline walked right up and tapped him on the shoulder as his wolf was going crazy. Then asked if he'd met Sam. The rest, as they say, is history. My son, Peter, hopes she can do the same for him when he's in school next week. I'll tell Drake to watch out for Emmaline. I believe he was doing that already though. I'll see if I can find any other details about her." We hung up.

Dylan brought me up to speed, "I linked Travis. He has a few classes with her. She's become friends with Chelsea, Valerie, and Sam. Other than a human named Grayson from her old school she sticks with Drake and the Red Run pack. You're making a face. You're going to growl. Don't do it. Don't channel Alpha no fun Eric Connors. We must save you from yourself!" I growled, "I don't want the human near her." Dylan sighed, "You growled. I already told Travis you'd say that. I get no credit around here and I'm underappreciated. It's so hard to be me."

We worked until lunch. Dominic wouldn't let me continue until I saw her again. I couldn't disagree with him. I wanted to see her. I stood, "I'll be back. I'm going to find her." Dylan laughed, "Oh I am coming with you. I've never seen you like this, it's highly entertaining."

We walked into the lunchroom just in time to see Emmaline animatedly talking to Sam. She did not realize everyone else was listening to her with amusement. Dylan snorted, "Please let me tell Alpha no fun you're a god and he's not." I stood taller with a smile on my face. She dashed out of the lunchroom. I walked out after her. The humans didn't understand the catcalls coming my way. I sent them all a settle down gesture and they quickly complied.

I watched Emmaline sit under a tree in the shade and close her eyes. I walked over to her. I knew she could smell me when her heart rate increased. My little mate was absolutely not the human I thought she was when I first heard her name. I scanned her form again and tried to will my hard on away. I didn't want to scare her. I didn't know if she knew anything about the supernatural world. We started talking. My mate was sassy and I liked it. She didn't know that I would do

anything for her yet, but she would. I was upset she'd been on her own so long. The sadness in her voice was making me want to rip people apart.

I wasn't getting any . That would annoy Dylan to no end. We couldn't find the reason for her emancipation; nor the age she'd been emancipated. My beautiful mate should never be on her own. I could tell when I asked her that she almost told me. That was interesting. Maybe if I could keep her gaze, she'd answer my questions. I filed that tidbit away for now.

I mentally promised her that she would never be alone again. She was mine. I wanted to go throttle her parents, probably kill them. For someone her age to have been alone for at minimum one year, was reprehensible. Alpha Kyle hadn't found her parents in his territory; she had no address on file at their school either. She was fifteen when she transferred into their school. Who the fuck left a fifteen-year-old on their own like that?

Emancipations weren't even easy to get a judge to grant. What the hell had happened to my mate? Anger filled me as I tried to get her to open up to me. Someone had scared her, and I found that unacceptable. I could see in her eyes she believed me. Then I saw a wall come up after a brief moment of panic in her eyes that I didn't understand. I was beginning to worry she was running from some type of abusive situation.

The bell interrupted us. I officially hated that sound. It kept taking her away from me. I couldn't stop myself from hugging her. I was fighting Dominic for control. I barely managed to maintain my control until she left to go back to her classes. It was hard knowing we both wanted each other. It was natural since we were mates. Thank god I'd been working on being in control of myself since I was younger, or I'd have just taken her straight back to my home.

I was going to uncover everything there was to know about Emmaline Richards. I was going to find out who had scared her. They would fear my name before they died. Dylan came out and joined me. He teased, "I thought you guys were going to do the deed right here on the grass. Do you really still think she has a problem with your age gap? Me thinks not." I growled at him asking, "Have you always been this annoying?" Dylan laughed, "I'm not annoying. I'm the spice in your life that makes the world go round. It's not my fault you're cock blocking yourself. I bet Dominic is going crazy right along with you. All I'm saying is a simple call and pop and we'd have some answers."

I sighed, "Christy will be able to tell. Chelsea linked me that she and Emmaline are meeting in the pack house tomorrow. I have our warriors watching her tonight. Once they report where she lives, I'll come guard her myself." Dylan snorted, "You say guard, but I'm catching those undertones. You want a make out session. I hear you loud and clear." I smiled, "Whichever happens, happens my friend."

We went back in and got to work for the rest of the day. The need to see her again was growing. Dominic was restless in my mind. I groaned, “Shit! We might have to move our office to the school temporarily. I need to see her again.” Dylan laughed, “You’ve got it bad. You and the high schooler. It’s adorable. I’ve been regaling the pack with poetry about it all day.” I rolled my eyes, “Of course you have. Eric is going to give me such shit for this. I should’ve known it would be this way. Eric hasn’t ever been any type of way about anyone he’s fucked.”

Dylan interrupted, “Except you.” I snorted, “I mean women he’s fucked. Then he met Haley and he’s all over her like white on rice. You should’ve seen him when Damon had her. He was a man possessed. God, now I feel pain thinking of Emmaline in that situation. I need to send Eric a cheese basket or something with some whiskey.”

Dylan laughed, “I have so many things to say. One, I did not want to see him when the vampires took his pocket sized fairy. I told you at his wedding, he would go full on psycho killer and he did. Two, I would deliver said basket for you with a bow on my own head for a chance to see the fairy princess. Whom I could see if you weren’t being stubborn. You’re ruining all my fun to mess with Alpha no fun.” I growled at him.

Dan Foster linked me, “The Luna is joining us for swim practice. I assume you would like to see her swim; she’s really good.” I smiled and stood, “Emmaline is swimming.” Dylan stood, “Then onward to the pool we go.” I rolled my eyes at him but shot out of the room. He caught up to me, “You’re like a little kid in a candy store man. Now, I can’t wait to meet my mate.” Dylan hadn’t really looked for his. He had to take care of Travis when their parents refused to come home, extending what seemed to be their never ending trip at this point.

We made it to the pool in record time. The principal came to join us. We sat in the back so she couldn’t see us. The principal commented “So, she is the future Luna. Why are we all the way back here?” I admitted, “Because she could smell me if I got closer.” The principal did a double take. He mused, “Humans can’t smell that well. She’s not human then, I take it.” Dylan and I shook our heads. I continued, unable to stop myself, “Apparently not. She feels our connection, but she doesn’t seem to know we are mates.” The principal smiled, “Interesting.” Not the word I’d use. Awful, horrible, annoying all seemed liked better adjectives to describe the situation.

We watched as Dan put her with three of our warriors in training. Dylan snorted, “She can’t be good enough to beat them, they’re state champions. How rude of him to have our Luna fail. I’ll make him run more laps, Lucas. Don’t you worry.” I smiled broadly when she taunted the guys she was racing.

Dylan squealed, “Ohhh she’s throwing down the gauntlet. Whether she can or can’t beat them, she’s sassy. I like it.” I growled at him. He rolled his eyes “Stop channeling Alpha no fun with the growling. You know I like women with sass. I respect the future Luna. I’m your best friend. NO ONE SAY IT’S ALPHA NO FUN EITHER. It’s me. I’m your best friend. He can’t have everything.” The principal chuckled. Dominic huffed in my head, “Fang is really excited and having fun.” Fang was Dylan’s wolf.

I focused on Emmaline. She was in a skin-tight swimsuit that her boobs were trying to come out of. I frowned. They weren’t overly large. Honestly, they were the perfect size. It was clear her swimsuit was old. It didn’t fit her properly. Why didn’t she have a new swimsuit?

I watched her in warm up. I proudly stated, “She’s watching their techniques and how they swim.” Dylan said, “It’s smart, but unless the future Luna is a fish; they are going to win.” I smiled at him, “She is my mate for a reason. I bet she can take them.”

She taunted them some more before they dove into the pool. I couldn’t look away from her. She was so graceful and fast. She was already a lap ahead of the guys. Dylan’s jaw dropped. He snorted, “Nope, she is not human. Not even kind of human. What the hell is she? Is she a partial mermaid? That would be so exciting. I’d get to be all we see you over there with your fairy/Hackura princess Alpha no fun and we raise you... Princess Ariel the Disney mermaid.”

We might actually have to look into that as a possibility. She smoked the guys. When she finished, she pulled herself up out of the pool. It went into slow motion in my mind as the water dripped off her breasts. She pulled her hair free of her cap, shaking it out from side to side.

Dylan linked me, “Lovely hard on you’re sporting there, Lucas. You should clap; she did inhumanly well.” I glared at him and started to clap for her. She turned towards us. Her eyes narrowed on me, and she blushed. The things I could do to make her blush. Our pack members got out of the pool and stared at her in astonishment. She managed to get a jab off at them, then left for work.

I frowned. She worked too hard. I need to change that. She needed to have more fun. I was confused by her exchange with Dan. How was she not on the team? She was the best swimmer out there. I gritted my teeth hearing her answer. I linked the warriors here to watch her, “Follow her discreetly.” They replied simultaneously, “Yes, Alpha.”

Dylan and I went back to find Ruth. She was still in Mr. Blaze’s classroom. She looked up and smiled when she saw us. She asked, “Are we going to the diner for dinner?” I nodded distractedly. Dylan asked, “What is going on? You’ve been

thinking so hard my head hurts. That's usually my arena. This day is just topsy turvey. Is it opposite day? How dare no one tell me! I was woefully unprepared."

I sighed, "She's hiding from someone. I thought she was on the team, but she only wants to practice with them. With her times she'd be the talk of newspapers, colleges, maybe even some local news stations. You don't just become that talented without having any training. She's hiding from someone. She's choosing not to compete because they could easily find her if she did." Dylan frowned, "You're right. That's the only reason to hide a talent like hers." I growled, "I'll kill whoever it is." Dylan nodded, "Of course you will. You've channeled Alpha no fun. I've lost you temporarily, but I'll get you back. He shall not defeat me." I snorted as we walked into the diner.

Al came outside to greet us. He immediately apologized to me, "I'm sorry about Liz this morning, Alpha Lucas. We are protective of Emmaline around here. My mate hadn't met you yet, she didn't know you were the Alpha. She meant no disrespect." I shrugged, "None taken. I appreciate her being protective of my mate." Al smiled, "I had heard that rumor over the pack link. Even a few poems. Emmaline deserves a good man like you, Alpha. She's had things too hard since I've known her."

I frowned, immediately questioning, "What do you know? We could find next to nothing about her." Al sighed, "We don't know that much. I helped her get a bank account that I had to co-sign. I've never seen any sort of adult figure in her life. I know she is emancipated. At first, I thought she was taking care of her siblings or something. Then she told Liz she was the youngest in her family. I took a chance on her, particularly with her biking that far into work I worried, but she's never late for her shifts. We've offered to pick her up, but she always says she enjoys the ride. I taught her how to drive when she turned sixteen, but I know she can't afford a car. We've tried to ask about where she lives, but she shuts down." I nodded, "I'll get it figured out."

He nodded to our warriors adding wryly, "Hopefully they are better than me. I've tried to follow her, but she always shook me." I frowned. Dylan linked, "Challenge accepted!" I laughed and walked further into the diner, heading for Emmaline's section. Her back was to me when I entered, but I saw her take a peek at me over her shoulder. I decided to do a stretch to see her reaction. Her eyes narrowed on my abs, and I smirked. She literally ran to the back. I could hear her trying to breathe normally.

Ruth swatted my arm, "That was mean. She doesn't understand why she feels this way and you're taunting her." I smiled admitting, "But her blush is the highlight of my day now." Ruth rolled her eyes. A drunk guy interrupted us when he hollered for Emmaline. I linked Dylan, "Who the fuck is this werewolf in my fucking territory yelling for my mate?" Dylan cringed, "He's one of the truckers that asked

for permission to pass through years ago. Because I'm amazing, I can tell you off the top of my head his name is Ralph. I told myself to remember his name because I knew it would come in handy. I am so good."

I was not happy to hear they came here often. I glared at Ralph whose friends seemed to take the hint. They tried in vain to get Ralph to notice what was happening, but they were ignored. I asked Dylan, "Do these werewolves in my territory treat people badly?" Dylan sighed, "We don't know what that means. Maybe they just give her a hard time." I growled at him, "No one will give her a hard time. I want to know what the FUCK they do to her. In MY territory. NO one is to be harassed by werewolves in MY LANDS!" Dylan nodded, "Shouting was uncalled for. I'm already all over it." I took a deep breath.

Ralph, who was the new bane of my existence kept getting my mate's attention. She clearly didn't like him. Ralph's life expectancy was steadily decreasing. Dominic linked me, "I will kill him if he keeps disrespecting our mate. How DARE he talk to her that way!" I answered him, "I'm not disagreeing with you."

I linked Dylan, "On the menu? STILL NO? HE WANTS HER AND SHE'S MINE!" Dylan winced and rubbed his head, "Ok, we've got to cool it on the shouting. We will handle it. He can't have her, she's yours." The longer they spoke the more I growled.

Dylan spoke to me quietly, "Lucas, don't scare her. Emmaline is what matters here, and you don't want her to be scared of you. I'll have to console you, and I don't have a handkerchief on me." I quit growling immediately. I really did not want to scare her.

I linked Dylan, "We need to keep better tabs on this area. If I had known werewolves who had requested permission to pass through were causing problems at Al's or any other business in town; I would've put a stop to this behavior long ago." Dylan nodded.

It was becoming rapidly apparent to me that Ralph had a death wish. He started talking to his friends about the things he wanted to do to Emmaline. I was seeing red. Dylan kicked me under the table and jerked his head to Emmaline. She was taking our order. Our exchange was over far too soon.

Most of the time passed with me glaring at Ralph's table as he talked about my fucking mate. I linked Dylan, "WHO IS HIS FUCKING ALPHA?" Dylan sighed, "Are you stuck in shouty mode? It's Alpha Kane. I had Travis look in our files. We have a meeting with him tomorrow evening." I retorted "Ralph might not make it until then." Dylan sighed, "I'd be surprised at this point if he did. Since he's going to ruin my hearing with all your shoutiness; I'm not really sad about it."

Suddenly Ralph stood his intent clear as he eyed my mate's ass. I was out of my seat before I processed it all. Dylan muttered "Well, now he's dead for sure. Paperwork here I come." Ralph finally took notice of me, the prick. I'm a god damn Alpha and he ignored my warnings all damn night long!

Emmaline's exchange with Ralph made me realize this was not a one off. MOTHER FUCKER! He's dead. He's so fucking dead. I grabbed him by the throat. I lowered my voice so Emmaline wouldn't hear me, "If you say one fucking word, I'll snap your neck right here." Ralph was grabbing at my hand.

Luckily for him, Emmaline was able to calm me down without even trying. My mind was going over possibilities. He'd grabbed her hard enough to bruise. Had he ever put bruises on her before? I looked Emmaline up and down. She didn't seem shaken up or in shock. That confirmed it in my mind and angered me on a deeper level. This happened so often it didn't even phase her. We left to handle the situation.

I threw Ralph into our SUV. I told the warriors staying back to guard Emmaline, "I want to know where she lives. Keep her safe." They nodded. I started driving. Dylan started talking, "I have to thank you guys. I thought my day was going to be boring with my best friend finding his mate. You lovely specimens had to go put your hands on his mate, my future Luna. Now you are going to pay. I have been serious FAR too much today. I like to be funny. Everyone knows this. I have to make examples out of those that make me serious, or everyone will try to force serious Dylan to be around all the time."

Ralph blanched, "Whoa! Hey, she's not marked. I've thought about marking her myself since my mate died a few years ago." I slammed on the brakes. I nearly ripped the car door off to get to Ralph. I slammed his head on the pavement. I snarled, "YOU WOULD MARK MY MATE? Against her will? She doesn't even fucking like you! That is NOT how anyone in my territory is treated whether they are a werewolf or not." I punched him in the face. Dylan opened his door, "More privacy would make this moment so much sweeter. Not to mention the tap dance I'd have to do explaining it to humans." I growled and threw Ralph back into the SUV. I floored it to the pack house. I needed to punch this guy in the face.

Christy was standing there waiting for us. Her mouth dropped in shock when she saw the anger on my face. She immediately went to touch me, "Lucas, I wanted to speak to you about this rumor today. Who are these guys?" I growled at her, "Alpha. It's Alpha Lucas, and these guys are irrelevant because they are about to fucking die." Christy shrank back at my tone but bared her neck in submission.

One of Ralph's friends said, "Alpha Lucas, I'm sorry he manhandled your mate, but we didn't." Christy gasped, asking, "It's true then? Your mate is this Emmaline girl?" I nodded, "Yes, she is. We can talk later if we have to Christy. I have people

to kill.” Her eyes filled with tears, but she nodded then walked away. I didn’t have it in me to give a shit.

Dylan and I took the useless waste of werewolf genes down to the dungeons on our land. I asked his friends, “Have either of you EVER touched Emmaline?” Ralph laughed, “Of course they have. A slapped ass here and there.” I growled and punched them both in the face. I asked, “Were you not given explicit instructions on the behavior you were expected to have in my territory?” One of them answered, “Yes, Alpha. We apologize. No one said anything about it though.” I growled, “Not to me they didn’t. I bet Al and Frank have told you many times not to touch their staff.” They nodded dejectedly.

Ralph ran his mouth some more, “She’s not marked man. She’s fair game.” Dylan sighed, “Why do I bother setting up meetings with Alpha’s? You’re just talking your sad little self into a grave.” I growled and lost control to Dominic. He clawed and beat Ralph to death. When I was able to take back over and stepped back, Ralph had been dead for quite some time. Dylan handed me a towel to wipe blood off of me.

The other two pathetic excuses for men and werewolves were cowered in the corner. I motioned to warriors on guard duty. I commanded, “Put them in silver chains and in separate cells. Should they trip and get a bit bloody no one would be upset. They’ve put hands on your future Luna, and accidents do happen.” Both warriors growled at them. They quickly moved to follow my orders.

I went upstairs to shower. When I got out, Christy was waiting on the edge of the bed. I didn’t pull any punches when I said, “Christy, this is over.” She nodded sadly, “I know. I just... you know I’ve always cared for you, Lucas.” I answered, “And you knew this was never more than friends with benefits to me. I do care about you, Christy. I want you to be happy.” She smiled, “I’m glad you are happy.”

I did need her help. I told her, “If it’s not too much to ask, could you stop by the pack house and meet her tomorrow? We are trying to figure out what she is.” She smiled, “Based on the rumors I was going to offer to go see her to determine if she’s a fairy like the others I’ve sent to Alpha Eric’s mate.” I gave her a hug. I whispered, “Thank you.” She nodded and left my room. That went about as good as I could’ve hoped for. Actually, that was even better. Obviously Dominic, Jackson, and Dylan were wrong.

Dominic snorted in my head, “Yes, all three of us are seeing things. That wasn’t a show at all. The only reason she could tell if our mate was any type of fairy is because she was friends with Claudia who was around fairies. What a ringing endorsement that is. I want to see my mate again. Let’s go see mate. Ask our

warriors where she is.” I smiled and put on some gym clothes. I went down to my office and frowned when I saw Dylan in a panic.

He was waving his hands around on speaker phone. He asked, “What do you mean she didn’t cross your border? Our warriors backed off. They linked me and I immediately called you. If she’s not at your border where did she go? I’ve already got a growly Alpha. If we don’t find her, we will have another Alpha super serious broody Connors esque type on our hands. Help me, help everyone not have that happen.” Alpha Kyle sighed, “I don’t know what happened, I’ve sent Peter and Drake to the border. They know her. With your permission, they will come onto your land and see if they can’t pick up her scent.”

I growled “We lost her?” Dylan sighed, “It was too much to hope you wouldn’t hear that. Our warriors were coming up on Red Run’s boundary line. They pulled back and linked me. I called Alpha Kyle, who sent pack members to watch for her. She never came, and our warriors never saw her come back their way.” I growled. How could they lose her?

I told Dylan, “Let’s get moving then. Alpha Kyle, permission is granted for your pack members to try to pick up her scent on our side of the border.” We all met up quickly. We searched with Red Run’s pack for an hour before I told them to head back home. Dominic was furious we couldn’t pick up her scent. Drake was openly worried because his mate was friends with mine. He’d even called Sam to see if her aunt, the school’s secretary, could find an address for Emmaline anywhere. Sam had called him back to say they searched through all the paperwork from Red Run and found nothing resembling an address for Emmaline.

We had to call off the search for tonight. Dylan silently got into our SUV. The five warriors I’d left to guard Emmaline barely made a sound when they closed their doors. Eventually one broke the silence, “We are sorry, Alpha Lucas.” I looked out the window. I gritted my teeth, “It’s not your fault. We know she’s not human. Al warned me that he’d tried to follow her before.”

I linked Al, “Is Emmaline on shift tomorrow morning?” Al replied, “Yes, Alpha. I’m guessing the warriors didn’t have better luck tracking her.” I answered tersely, “No.” I spoke out loud to my passengers, “Emmaline has a shift tomorrow morning. I want you five outside the diner at three in the morning. I want to know the moment she arrives, and what direction she came from.” They nodded their agreement.

When we got back, I didn’t talk to anyone. I immediately went upstairs to my room and tried to sleep. I was restless and worried about Emmaline. I needed to know where she was, I needed to know she was safe. When I felt tingles on my chest and opened my eyes as fast I could. I was shocked to see a naked Emmaline on top of me. She blushed whispering, “Hi, Lucas.”

I growled and rolled over, so she was under me. I asked, “Where have you been?” She kissed me gently. I deepened the kiss; she tasted so good. I bit her neck and she moaned and ground her hips into mine. I didn’t even care how she got in here. I entered a finger into her, she was dripping wet. She begged me breathlessly, “Lucas, please.” I teased, “What do you want Emmaline?” She bit my ear huskily replying, “You, inside me.” I growled in response. I was just about to enter her when someone hit my head.

I opened my eyes and groaned. It was a dream. I still checked for Emmaline, but only saw an amused Dylan. He teased me, “That must have been one hell of a dream. I linked you, and you didn’t answer. Then I came up here and found you humping your pillow. I, for one, did not know of your interest in pillows. Good for you. The guys spotted Emmaline. She just got to work.” I nodded dressed quickly. I had a lot of meetings today, so I had to wear a suit.

I told Dylan, “I don’t want her alone for one second today.” Dylan nodded, “Already covered. Drake is all in because Sam’s a nervous wreck. He feels responsible for Emmaline apparently. Ever since the school fire, he and Peter have felt responsible for all students that came over in their group. My little brother is also in on my eye on Emmaline scheme. Chelsea is bringing her straight here after class. Peter may even go to school Friday to help keep an eye on her. We are all on your side here, Lucas. We will protect her. Know it pains me to suggest this, but you should consider calling Alpha no fun who is good at everything he does.” I nodded, “Thank you, Dylan.” He nodded and we drove in silence to the diner.

As soon as we walked in, I smelled her jasmine scent. It was like I could finally breathe right again. Dylan linked me, “You’ve seen she’s perfectly fine. Can we sit down and eat now? Making plans all night means I need so much coffee. All the coffee for Dylan.” I nodded and we walked over to join our warriors.

I teased Emmaline when she came to take our order. Dylan linked me, “Your age gap is so not a problem for possible human sensibilities. She wants to throw you down. I’ve been scandalized without enough coffee.” I didn’t bother to reply. We stayed and watched her work until she had to leave.

Dylan asked, “Are you calmer now? We have a lot of work to do today. I’m having such Beta brother pain for Beta Caleb. I now feel like I know what he goes through. I can’t be him, Lucas. I’m fun.” I nodded, “I can’t explain it, Dylan. Not knowing where she is and not knowing if she’s safe wrecked me.” One of my warriors smiled, “It’s normal, Alpha. Even after you are mated and you mark her, you still worry about her. It lessens once you’re marked because they live with you, so you know they are safe. In your situation everyone understands what’s going on.” I nodded.

Dylan and I went back to the main house. We worked all day. I kept watching the clock as I got through our disputes and paperwork. I breathed a sigh of relief when the school day ended. Dylan muttered, "Thank the goddess. Chelsea has Emmaline. They are on their way here." I growled at him, "I've gotten all our work done." Dylan glared at me, "You've been tense all day. All our meetings ended early. Some actually ran from the room. They ran at a full sprint. You knew she was safe. The entire pack that's in high school is watching her. We train our people well." I growled, "She's running from something. We can't protect her properly if we don't know what it is she's running from." Dylan sighed, "Just give her time to open up. She likes being around you already. Get to know her and get her to open up." I nodded and we kept working.

Dominic desperately wanted to go to the pack house now that we both knew she was here. Christy stormed into the room. She slammed the door and declared, "She's not a fairy, and she's quite immature, Lucas. She's not ready to be a Luna." I asked, "What happened?"

Dylan sighed dramatically, "I'm going to go talk to the most mature sixteen-year-old I've ever met. Who has maintained a 4.0 GPA in school while having job that she used to bike twenty miles a day to get to. She was never late, and her shift starts at four in the morning. If anyone wants to do some basic math, that means from the time she was fifteen she got up at the latest two o'clock in the morning to get to work. Show some respect for your future Luna, Christy. Lord knows she's more mature than you were at sixteen." He left muttering about having to be serious so much lately.

Christy growled, "She was rude to me, Lucas." I frowned, "I've never seen her be rude to anyone." Christy said, "She was probably following that pup's, example." Now I was annoyed. I asked, "Chelsea Hanes? You called Chelsea Hanes a pup? She's my Gamma's daughter for Christ's sake, and she's eighteen years old. So, you're saying you disrespected Emmaline's friend? Who, as the Luna, would be well within her right to reprimand you."

She gritted her teeth, "She's SIXTEEN years old! I will NOT be reprimanded by a child." I growled, "She's not a child in the eyes of the law or to supernatural's. Legally, she's an adult and she's my MATE! Are we going to have a problem here?" Tears filled her eyes.

She sat down, "No, I'm sorry Lucas. This... it's just new. I'm taking us being over forever harder than I thought I would." I sighed and pulled her into a hug. I told her, "I never meant to hurt you." She pulled away, "I know. You've always told me what this is; we've just been circling each other for six years. I just need some time." I nodded. Once she left and I couldn't stop myself from racing into the pack house with a smile on my face.

I heard Dylan talking to Emmaline. I heard someone gasping for breath. I started to run. Dylan shouted, “WHAT THE ACTUAL HELL IS HAPPENING? EMMALINE, BREATHE!” I growled at everyone trying to get into the kitchen to help their Luna, because they were very much in my way. I picked her up off the ground and took off running through the pack house. Everyone glanced worriedly at us. The pack link was going crazy. “Is that the Luna? What happened?” I blocked it out and ran to pack hospital.

I ran inside yelling, “DOCTOR! WE NEED A DOCTOR!” Emmaline looked confused, but her breathing was slowly returning to normal. I linked Dylan, “WHAT HAPPENED?” Dylan answered, “She grabbed her chest like she was in pain, and she couldn’t breathe. I don’t know what happened. I’ll get to the bottom of this.”

The pack doctor, Hector Gonzalez, tried to take her from me. I yanked her away from him. Hector linked me, “Alpha, I am mated. I need to examine her. Take her to that room on your right. You can stay with her. Dylan linked me what happened, she’s quite young to have any heart problems. It needs to be ruled out though.” I rushed into the room and begrudgingly set her down.

Hector ran several tests, then came over to me. “She can leave. Nothing showed on any panel I ran, or the EKG. There is a rumor is she can feel your bond, is that true?” I nodded then linked Gemma Hanes, “Emmaline can go home. Will you drive her and let me know her address?” Gemma linked back, “Of course. Chelsea is so worried.” I assured her, “Hector says she’s fine.”

Hector hesitantly spoke, “Alpha Lucas, I mean no disrespect, but I have two theories about what could’ve caused this.” I motioned for him to proceed. He continued, “The first option is the thought of going home and leaving you caused her pain. There are certain supernatural’s who need their mate around them especially before they are marked. Angels come to mind. Obviously, she wouldn’t be a full-blooded angel. Partial angels need their mates just as much as a full blooded ones, though.”

My mind was racing. My mate might be an angel? An actual honest to god angel? Hector cringed continuing, “The second option, and again I mean no disrespect, I’m not judging just giving a medical opinion. If you were being intimate with someone else at the time, it could cause her pain.”

I growled, “Unless a hug would count, I didn’t touch another woman.” Hector sighed in relief. He admitted, “I was thinking of a kiss. Since that’s ruled out, I will look into what supernatural races need their mate near once they meet.”

My mind was racing. I asked, “Will she be ok leaving?” He shrugged, “She’s seen you and you held her. If she were a full-blooded angel, no she would not be ok,

she'd collapse trying to leave our lands. But she might not be an angel. Like I said I need to research it some more." I nodded and he walked out leaving me with Emmaline.

Our conversation was confusing. Had someone harmed her in the past at a youth center? I couldn't find any record of her staying at one before. Anger consumed me at the thought of someone cutting corners and keeping her name off their lists. Did someone try to use her situation to abuse her? I would kill them. It was clear she was hiding from someone.

Dylan came in and shot me an apologetic look and reminded me that I had a meeting. I wanted to growl because the meeting was with Alpha Kane about his fuck up wolves. It was hard to leave Emmaline. Dominic was whining in my head. I walked to my house. I turned and watched Chelsea get into the car with Emmaline. I linked her, "Come to my office after you're done talking to her." Chelsea replied, "Yes, Alpha." I walked into my office and Dylan un-muted the line.

I growled "Alpha Kane." He sighed, "Alpha Lucas, I assume you are having a problem with the pack members who pass through your borders on business." I growled, "They are manhandling the staff of a diner in my territory. Apparently they have been repeatedly grabbing their asses and groping them. When I saw Ralph's inappropriate advances I growled in warning. He ignored me. I took them into custody, and he admitted he was going to mark a sixteen-year-old non werewolf girl against her will."

Alpha Kane sighed, "I'm guessing Ralph didn't make it through the night then." I answered, "He did not. We have two others in chains. I plan to keep them for a week then send them back with their tails tucked to your territory. If I EVER see them in my territory again, or near that girl; I'll kill them."

Alpha Kane agreed, "Understood Alpha Lucas. I am sorry for their behavior. I've punished them many times. Honestly, with Ralph gone I have hope for the other two. They just followed his lead." I agreed with him, "I know. They heeded my warning growl which is why they are still alive. Send someone to collect them in a week." Alpha Kane agreed, and we hung up.

Chelsea knocked on the door as Gemma linked me, "Lucas, Emmaline wants me to drop her off at Al's. She's eating dinner with another waitress that works there." I groaned, "That's fine. I have warriors guarding her. Make sure she gets inside safely though please." Gemma replied, "Young man! I have a daughter her age. I would never just drop her off and leave." I replied, chastised, "I know, Gemma. I'm sorry, I'm just out of sorts about my mate." Gemma chuckled and replied, "That's the way of mates, Alpha. Alex can't wait to get home to help out." I didn't answer her. He was following a local lead on Lacy.

I spoke out loud, “Come in Chelsea.” She quickly came in and sat down. I asked her, “What do you know?” She sighed, “She asked me not to say anything.” I groaned, annoyed. I could make Chelsea tell me as her Alpha, but that wasn’t the kind of Alpha I was. I asked her, “Did what she tell you have anything to do with any danger she’s in?”

Chelsea’s eyes went wide, “Is that what’s going on? She’s in danger...? NO... No, I’d tell you I swear. I don’t think she understands. I mean, what I can tell you is she’s really not human. The mate bond is affecting her. Something about the youth center scares her. I don’t know what it is, but she thinks she’d have to leave our territory if she went there. That’s what hurt her. The thought of leaving you. That’s all I can say, the rest doesn’t affect her safety.” I nodded.

I excused her, “Thank you, Chelsea.” She nodded and stood and at the door turned, “Oh and Christy was a bitch to her, and she handled it better than I did.” With that Chelsea left. Dylan spoke, “I, for one, am STUNNED Christy didn’t present the situation in a positive light. Downright flabbergasted.” I groaned, “She admitted to me she’s not handling us being done well. We will watch the situation. I feel like an ass. I had feelings for her once, but not in the last several years. I always told her this would end when either of us met our mates. I knew she had feelings for me, I just deluded myself saying she knew what this was. This is my fault.” Dylan put a hand on my shoulder, “You were honest with her. Yes, you should’ve ended it years ago. Don’t let her be your Claudia though. You know how much that hurt Haley. Don’t let her do it to Emmaline. We don’t know her history, but we know something scares her. Just tread lightly in this situation. I’m at my max for being serious.”

We worked until our warriors linked us, “The Luna is heading towards Red Run. We will stay with her until she crosses the border.” I called Alpha Kyle. His amusement came through the phone “Alpha Lucas, I’m going to have to start calling you just Lucas if we are going to talk this often.” I laughed, “My mate is about to cross into your lands. Can you have someone follow her? I just want to know she’s safe.”

Alpha Kyle sighed, “she told Drake she’d moved closer to the diner and school recently. I don’t know why she would come this way. I’ve got a group running the borders, I’ll have them head her way. I linked Drake to come in here. He has some information to pass along.”

A moment later I heard movement in the room. Drake spoke, “Alpha Lucas it’s Drake.” I greeted, “Hello, Drake.” Drake immediately said, “Emmaline knows she’s not human.” Dylan and I both shouted simultaneously, “WHAT?” I asked, “Did she tell you what she is?” Drake denied that “No, she mentioned going swimming after school. I was trying to figure out where she went last night after disappearing. I told her I’d heard about the race in the pool, that she did almost

inhumanly well. She became visibly nervous. She got pale and her heart rate increased. Humans wouldn't be nervous about that comment. Supernatural's who are unaware of what they are would just laugh and say I was crazy or something." I frowned because he was right.

Alpha Kyle spoke, "She knows our area well apparently. She started crying when our warriors got close, then jumped on her bike and headed straight for the lake. She apparently jumped in and is swimming laps as we speak." I admitted, "She really does seem to know she's being followed then." Alpha Kyle offered, "That does seem to be the case. Do we know what she is?" I told him, "Our doctor thinks a partial angel is a possibility."

Peter spoke, "I think she's a fairy. I always have." I disagreed, "A pack member who has been right about several partial fairies said she's not a fairy. She doesn't quite feel like ones we've met." Dylan linked me, "For the record, I'm with the future Alpha Peter Kyle. It's his mom's Beta blood. Just saying."

Peter spoke again, "They could be wrong." I didn't answer. We sat on hold for an hour and a half. Alpha Kyle growled, "They left to run the rest of the border and when they came back, she was gone. Drake, get your father! Those lazy shits disobeyed a direct order to stay with another pack's Luna. She's a fucking teenager, and they left her there." He directed his question to me, "Alpha Lucas, did your men pick her up?"

Worry began to creep in. I knew they hadn't. They didn't link me. I linked my men, "Did you see the Luna come back your way?" We got a confused reply, "No Alpha, and we stayed where she passed through into their territory. Did they lose her?" I growled, "Yes, meet me at the diner."

I spoke to the group on the phone, "Alpha Kyle, thank you for your assistance we will search for her in our territory." Drake quickly said, "I'd like to come. Sam is worried sick about Emmaline. Peter and I both spoke before school started about how we needed to watch out for our transfers in your district. She's a good girl, and I hate that we might have missed something going on for the past year with her. We are the future leaders of the pack. Our fathers have always told us that everyone in our territory is our responsibility." I smiled and knew the pride his father and Alpha Kyle would feel at his words,

I granted his request, "Of course. You both have permission to enter our territory. We are going to meet up with our men at Al's." Alpha Kyle told me, "Ben and I will be coming with our sons. A Luna in danger in our neighboring allies pack is reason enough. You would do the same for us. You moved heaven and earth when Alpha Eric's Luna was taken. We all would do the same for you. We raided with you then, and we will search with you now." Dylan coughed, "His name is Beta McAlister not Ben."

Emotions were swirling within me. I managed to say, "Thank you Alpha Kyle." He snorted, "We do what we can for our allies. I consider you a friend Lucas. I know I would be a mess if my Marissa was in this situation. We will see you at Al's." He hung up. I looked at Dylan who guided me to the SUV.

Dylan broke the silence, "Alpha no fun would come search with you too if you called him." I nodded, "I know Eric would come, but that would take more time. He's an hour away." Dylan snorted, "He's a pop away now with his perfect mate." I smiled at Dylan, "I don't have time right now to stop him from killing you." He winked at me, "Oh Haley would stop him for you. Plus, we are friends. He doesn't want to kill me." We fell into silence. Dylan offered, "We will find Emmaline." I nodded and we arrived at the diner. Dylan convinced me to wait for the Red Run group.

Once they arrived, a warrior spoke, "She came from the east when she came to work this morning. From behind the school." We nodded and headed to the school. Dominic was getting excited. Her scent was faint at first, but the further back we went her scent was getting stronger. We came up to a pond. Her scent was so strong in this area. I announced, "She's here."

The Red Run group frowned. We fanned out. It took a second, but then I saw it. A tent hidden among the shrubbery and leaves. I growled, "She's in a fucking tent?" I turned to my warriors, "Find out if her scent goes further back." They nodded and returned within minutes. They begrudgingly told me, "Her scent ends on this side of the pond." Anger filled me.

Drake told us, "She said she moved recently." Alpha Kyle growled, "I will have those fuckers that are running the god damn borders heads if she's been living in our territory in a tent for a fucking year without anyone in our pack so much as mentioning they found a tent." Peter frowned, "Surely, she didn't. We have patrols running every day. They would've noticed her."

Beta McAlister spoke, "Our members that patrol the road where our border ends have noticed her every morning pedaling to work. She was living in our territory. Your dad and I have searched and found no lease in her name, or anyone with her last name. I feel punishments will be handed down tonight. This cannot happen. If she lived in our territory in a tent, because that tent isn't new, and they never noticed... How many rogues have they let wander into our territory?"

Fury filled me. She could've been attacked by a rogue, or by a hiker. She was vulnerable out here and alone. I stalked up to the tent and unzipped it. I didn't mean to frighten her, but she screamed. It hurt my very soul. She had a flashlight. A flashlight to fight off an attacker. FUCK! I looked around the tent. She had a duffel bag with clothes, and a battery powered alarm and a sleeping bag. That was it.

I wondered if Prince Bjourne Cambridge would give me a discount for his services because his sister liked me. I needed his skills to make her parents suffer for this, for a very long time. My breathing evened out, and other needs started to take over both of us.

Dylan linked me, “Lucas... We are all out here waiting. Don’t mate with her now. This is not the right moment.” I didn’t answer him. Dominic was trying to take over. He was growling, “Mark mate! Mate is hot!” I asked him, “Do you know any other words anymore? We aren’t alone. She deserves to be worshipped by us and we can’t do that here with an audience.” Dominic grumbled but agreed, “Fine... then take mate home.” I snorted at him, “I’m not leaving her here, Dominic.”

I barely managed to get out of her tent. I linked Dylan, “Tell Al she’s not going to make her shift.” He grimaced but nodded. Drake and Peter’s guilt was written on their faces. I knew they were going to take the non werewolves in their territory more seriously after this. This wasn’t their fault in the slightest, but it was a valuable lesson as future leaders on how to run their territory.

Alpha Kyle and Beta McAlister were fuming mad. Honestly, I couldn’t blame them. The state of her tent made it clear this is where she’d been living for some time. It was weathered down. Their patrols had never reported it.

When Emmaline came out it was hard to focus. Her shirt clung to her like a second skin. She was trying to figure out what we were doing here. Which was fair, but I couldn’t very well tell her we were tracking her. I deflected. I wanted answers. She was avoiding answering mine.

Dylan linked me, “My, my, my what an EVASIVE answer that was. Almost like a fairy... nay... EXACTLY like a fairy.” I rolled my eyes at him, “Christy already confirmed she’s not a fairy.” Dylan shook his head. I got her attention by pulling her against me. I asked again what was going on. I saw that she wanted to lie, she even opened her mouth to speak but nothing came out. Resignation entered her face, and she admitted what we all knew at this point. The tent was her home.

Even knowing that already didn’t stop the shock and anger I felt at hearing the words come out of her mouth. Dylan linked me, “She couldn’t even lie... Like A SUPER FUN SPECIAL FAIRY LUCAS! You’re going to give me gray hair. I just feel it. Just let me have my fairy to lord over Alpha no fun. Like ha-ha we have one too! Give this to me. Come on...”

I couldn’t focus on him because Emmaline’s eyes filled with tears. Drake asked, “Did you live in the woods last year too?” She was still looking into my eyes. I told her, “Answer him, baby girl.” She shivered, “I’m sorry. There’s no law against it. It wasn’t private land, and I didn’t bother anybody.” Alpha Kyle growled, “No

one is concerned about the law here. We had rainstorms, hail, snow, and ice last year. You should've been inside. Where are your parents?"

She closed her eyes and tears fell down her cheeks, "I'm emancipated. I don't live with my parents." Alpha Kyle spoke again, "I realize that. Why didn't you get an apartment?" She admitted, "I tried. I don't have any credit, and I was fifteen when I came here. Even with a co-signer no one wanted to rent to me. There's a place next to the diner that I've been talking to. They said when I'm seventeen they would reconsider. I've been saving and have enough for the first five months' rent."

I was going to find her parents and pay Prince Bjourn AND Prince Marcus, possibly even Haley, to rip them to shreds. Eric would help me. He'd seen the Hackura in action a lot recently. He had to have new techniques up his sleeve. I whispered, "Baby girl, you could've been hurt. Someone could've found you out here. We have wild animals in this area." She looked down, "I know... I've killed a few. This is my second tent. One got slashed to hell last year."

Drake and Peter shouted simultaneously, "YOU WHAT?" She cringed, "I'm sorry.... They had red eyes though they weren't..." She trailed off. Everything stopped. I broke the silence, "You know about us." She didn't say anything for several moments. She whispered, "I won't tell anyone."

Alpha Kyle was staring at her in shock. He said, "To clarify, you killed a werewolf. You've known we were werewolves this whole time?" She nodded. I asked, "Then why didn't you go to any of them when you were attacked?" She cried harder, "They would've known where I was living. They would've tried to do something; adults always do. I like it here. I didn't want to leave." I growled and pulled her flush against me. I told her, "You're not leaving me. I won't let you." She looked into my eyes. I saw hope with lust swirling in them.

Beta McAlister cleared his throat, "Follow up question, the bodies of the rogues you killed. Where are they? And how many does a few mean? How exactly did you kill them?" She cringed, "I burned one. I got lucky. He attacked and I was eating dinner. I got him in the carotid artery with... a fork."

Drake laughed, "A FORK? You killed a werewolf with a fork?" She looked down, "It was him or me, and I like me better." Peter laughed too now. Dylan asked, "At fifteen years old you knew enough about anatomy to get the carotid artery in one try? Because you would've only had one shot against a werewolf." She sighed, "He scratched me up pretty good, but I helped my brother study for the EMT exam for a year. I know a lot about anatomy." I asked, "Where is your brother?" She shrugged and looked away, "I don't know. I haven't seen him since I left." We all looked at each other. This was a lot more than we expected to find.

Beta McAlister asked, "What about the rest of the questions I asked?" She looked at me and whispered, "Please, Lucas." I pulled her back from me and rubbed her cheek. I told her, "We need to know. Maybe not tonight, but Alpha Kyle needs to know how many rogues were in his territory. At least tell him that and if there are any bodies that need to be taken care of." She sighed, "I didn't bury any of the bodies. They would've smelled them. There's a pond behind the school that I weighed some down with rocks and sunk them to the bottom. I was attacked by five of the red eyed wolves... you call them rogues, I guess."

My eyes narrowed at her explanation. I speculated, "You know a lot about us." She shrugged, "I know you have Alpha's and Beta's. I know you are an Alpha, and I think Dylan is your Beta. I know Peter's dad is the Alpha which means he's the future Alpha. I think Drake is the future Beta, and I know you have mates. Sam is Drake's and..." She trailed off. Hope swelled in me. I asked, "And?" I was hoping she knew she was mine, but I didn't call her my mate. I said mine and she thought I meant she had my coffee.

Emmaline whispered, "And... I think Peter should meet Chelsea. I don't know why... I just have a feeling she's his mate now that I know both of them." Peter stiffened. Alpha Kyle smiled broadly. Drake asked, "Is that why you introduced me to Sam? You thought she was my mate?" Emmaline nodded, "Well, that and she wanted to meet you. When I saw her though... I thought that you and she were just... I don't know. I thought you were meant to be." Peter growled, "I want to meet Chelsea. My wolf is going insane." Alpha Kyle was giving me a look. I sighed, "Let's head back to my pack lands."

Emmaline's alarm went off. She groaned, "I need to get ready for work. See you in school I guess, Drake." I growled and pulled her against me. I didn't want her out of my sight. I told her, "We have things to work out between Red Run and Blue Moon. I already had Al linked and told you weren't going to make it in today."

Tears filled her eyes. She shook her head, "I knew the schools were named for the packs. I... I really won't tell anyone about you guys. I've never bothered anyone who didn't bother me first. Please, I need the money from work."

Pain filled me. I asked her, "Do you think I'd hurt you?" She looked startled then said, "No... no, I don't." A knot released in my chest. I sighed in relief offering, "I'll compensate you for the money you'll miss at Al's. I sent him a waitress for the morning. We aren't going to hurt you; we just need to talk. Alpha Kyle needs to understand the holes in his territory." She shrugged, "I don't want anyone to get in trouble. I hid from his patrol a couple of times."

Alpha Kyle snorted, "There are daily patrols in the area you are saying you lived in. They should've reported seeing your tent, and they never did." She frowned, "I saw them once a month. I packed my tent up when I knew they'd come. So, they

probably didn't see it." Their anger was palpable when she finished her sentence. Emmaline instinctively shrank behind me.

Peter asked, "Can we go? I want to meet Chelsea." Alpha Kyle snorted, "You act like she's already your mate, son." Peter started pacing. He admitted, "My wolf is going crazy just hearing her name." He turned to Emmaline and asked, "Emmaline, what's her last name?" Emmaline said quietly, "Hanes. Chelsea Hanes." Peter growled. He shifted and ran back to their car.

Emmaline gasped, "Wow... that was... wow." I smiled then picked her up and ran back to our SUV. I linked Gemma, "Is Chelsea up?" Gemma startled awake, "No it's three thirty in the morning. Is everything ok? Did you find Emmaline?" I replied, "Wake Chelsea up. My mate seems to believe Peter Kyle is Chelsea's mate. He wants to meet her, and we are all heading back to my house." Gemma excitedly exclaimed, "Of course we will meet you in your office Alpha Lucas. Alex just got home an hour ago... The lead didn't work out." They never did, but I was still disappointed.

Emmaline spoke, "I'm sorry, Lucas. I didn't know it was your guys following me." I told her, "There's nothing for you to be sorry about. How did you know they were following you?" She shrugged, "I just felt I was being followed." Dylan linked me, "Fairy senses... Interesting." I gave him an exasperated look.

I asked Emmaline, "Do you know what you are?" She frowned and looked away. Eventually she admitted, "Yes." I looked at her in the mirror. I asked, "Will you tell me?" She looked right back and responded, "Would you have told me you were a werewolf?" I pulled into my driveway.

I turned to face her. I let her see the truth in my eyes when I said, "Yes, I had planned to tell you eventually." She nodded. She requested, "Can you give me time? I'll tell you, just not now. I've kept everything about me a secret for almost four years. I have this strange desire to tell you everything, but I'm scared."

Both Dylan and my jaw dropped at her admission. I yelled, "You were emancipated at thirteen years old?!" She winced, nodding. I growled and got out of the car and slammed the door shut. The Red Run group was staring at me in shock. I didn't need to explain though. They'd heard our conversation.

Dylan came around to my side of the car. I told him "When we find her parents... I need Prince Bjourn." Dylan nodded, "Alright. Are you going to ask Alpha no fun yourself? Or do you want me to? After the day I had, please let me ask him." I sighed, "I'll ask Eric." Dylan sighed, "Naturally."

I opened the door and pulled Emmaline out. I kissed the top of her head, "Please stop crying, baby girl." She frowned, "I keep making you mad." I pulled her back

and looked into her eyes, “I’m not mad at you. I’m mad about your situation. Your parents should be protecting you. You shouldn’t have been alone all this time.”

Peter was bouncing up and down. He asked, “Does anyone smell daisies? I smell daisies.” Emmaline smiled, “That’s what Chelsea smells like, but I can’t smell her from here.” Peter took off running into my house. We all heard his growl, “MATE!” from outside. Alpha Kyle, Beta McAlister, and Drake all looked at Emmaline. She shuffled and scuffed her shoe on the pavement.

Dylan asked, “Emmaline, how do you feel about Lucas? Setting aside the growling and general moodiness lately.” She turned bright red. She stammered, “Umm... well... I... how is that any of your business?” Dylan laughed, “Soon you will learn, everything is my business.”

We went inside. Dylan continued his questions, “Have you met anyone you think would be great with me, little Luna?” Emmaline frowned, “Not yet, no.” He sighed, “Of course not. Keep an eye out, would you?” She nodded.

We found Gemma and my Gamma Alex in my office. Both were excited. Alex told me, “Peter took Chelsea to a guest room, Lucas. There was no stopping him once he had her in his arms.” I smiled, “It’s fine. Thankfully for us, all the rooms are soundproofed. So, the future Luna of Red Run was in my pack.” Emmaline asked, “What does that mean? Luna... people have called me that.” Dylan linked, “I think she knows what it means. That’s what Dylan thinks.”

Gemma asked, “She knows?” I admitted, “She knew the whole time.” Alpha Kyle added, “She’s also killed five rogues in my territory.” Gemma gasped. Emmaline ducked behind me. Drake laughed, “It’s nothing to be ashamed of, Emmaline. We kill them too.”

Emmaline looked at Drake startled. She quickly asked him, “Like all of them? Not all of them bothered me.” Drake quickly asked, “You saw more than five of them? You only killed five... How many did you see?” Emmaline looked at the floor.

I rubbed her back encouragingly. She admitted, “There’s one... I think he’s just a kid. Please don’t hurt him. I used to give him half of my burger sometimes. He’s nice. I think he’s just lonely like me.” Alpha Kyle growled, “OH for FUCKS sake. I have a rogue LIVING in my territory?”

Emmaline looked pleadingly at me, “Please, Lucas. He seems really young.” I sighed, “Werewolves shift once they turn sixteen.” She frowned, “I’m pretty sure he’s around ten years old. I don’t see him all the time, but he should be at the pond today. Please Alpha Kyle, just... Can he be given a chance to explain? Or something?”

Alpha Kyle sighed, "I'll have someone pick him up. We will talk to him and decide what to do from there. Could you please tell me how many you've seen in that area?" She frowned, "I've seen at least thirty. I didn't really keep track of them through." Drake frowned. Beta McAlister yelled, "Thirty?! AT LEAST?! Fuck it all to hell and back! We have a major breach." He and Alpha Kyle began to link each other.

I asked Emmaline, "Did you find out about werewolves because when you killed the first rogue he shifted back to human form?" She shook her head, "No, I've known about werewolves since I was eight years old. That would be one very interesting way to find out werewolves were real though." Everyone frowned. Eight? I asked her, "Did you come from a pack?"

She shook her head and changed the subject, asking, "Can I go to school today?" I shook my head, "No, baby girl. I want to get you settled here." She looked at me in shock. She asked, "Settled? Here? I can't stay here; I need to get my stuff." I growled, "Your stuff is here. My warriors brought it with us. I can't have you out there in the woods."

She frowned and thought about it. She determinedly told me, "Well, I can you pay you then." No way in hell. I shook my head, "We don't charge people to stay here. If you insist you, could teach our pups to swim on Saturday mornings. We have people pitch in how they can. That's how packs work."

She asked, "No one pays? Because I can. I have the money." I shook my head, "No one who lives here pays to live here. They pitch in to do things around here. Like Gemma cooks, and Alex is my Gamma. No one pays to live here." She considered what I was saying, then nodded, "Alright, I'll teach your kids how to swim." I laughed, "I don't have kids, and we call them pups." She frowned and blurted out, "Do you have a girlfriend?" She gasped, surprised at her own question, and clasped her hand over her mouth.

She whispered, "I'm sorry. I don't know why I asked that." Drake, Alpha Kyle, and Beta McAlister laughed. I answered her, "I don't have a girlfriend. Do you have a boyfriend hidden in the woods somewhere?" Dominic growled in my head. Emmaline snorted, "No."

Drake offered, "But you have a brother somewhere." She nodded and her eyes filled with tears. I asked, "Do you just have the one brother?" She shook her head, "No, I have two brothers and a sister. My sister's and brother's birthday are next month." I frowned, "We can call them if you want." She shook her head, "No... I have a bus ticket out of the state so I can mail them their cards and a present." I growled, "Hell no."

She was confused. She asked, “What do mean no? I do it every year. Well twice a year.” I growled, “I will have someone mail them for you. Or I will take you. You aren’t getting on a bus that goes out of the state.” She frowned, “I’ve done it for almost four years, nothing has happened.”

Drake asked, “Why do you have to leave the state?” Dylan linked me, “Look at him. Beta blood with the good questions. We have learned so much. Her siblings are twins. That’s something. We can work with that.” He was right. Emmaline answered Drake, “I just have to be careful. I want them to know I still care, and I think about them.” We all frowned. What did that even mean?

Gemma cut into the conversation, “Lucas, I think Emmaline should be shown her room so she can get some sleep. She looks dead on her feet.” I looked at Emmaline and quickly nodded. Alpha Kyle spoke, “I need to speak with you, Alpha Lucas.” I nodded, “Gemma, please show Emmaline to the rooms upstairs.” They were meant for the Luna. Gemma smiled, “Come on dear, let’s go.” Emmaline left after a quick look at me. I finally relaxed because she was safe.

Alpha Kyle spoke as soon as the door closed, “This is a clusterfuck. My pack found the boy. He’s not a werewolf, he’s a shifter. That’s why he can already take the form of a wolf. He thought he would fit in better. He felt safe around your mate because she killed the rogue he was running from. How the FUCK did rogues start to run rampant in my goddamn territory?”

Beta McAlister reported, “Our warriors found three bodies in the lake mostly decomposed. They are burning the rest of the remains. By my count, we are missing a body. I have had the wolves who were supposed to run that area taken into custody to the dungeons.”

Drake growled, “They could’ve gotten her killed! We are supposed to protect our pack and territory from threats. What the HELL were they doing?” Alpha Kyle told him, “We will find out. We need to know how she killed the last rogue unaccounted for. Something tells me it has to do with what she is. The shifter boy said the one bothering him was the one she killed with a fork. He said she’s impressive, and she knows self-defense.” I snarked, “Maybe her brother taught her. I didn’t find a brother or any family in her background check. She has to have changed her name.”

Drake mused, “To bury that though, she’s gotta have some kind of magic. I agree with Peter. It sounds more and more like she’s a fairy.” I nodded, “Yes, it does but we’ve ruled that out. An angel could do all of this too.” Alpha Kyle laughed, “Maybe a part Angel, demon mix.” He snorted, then straightened, “I was joking, but I’d run if I was her too. Both groups would want her dead.” I growled, “I don’t know what she is, but I will find out. We will keep her safe. Fortunately, she is capable of helping us with that.”

Christy burst into my office yelling, "Lucas! How can you put her in the Luna rooms? I told you she's too immature!" I growled, "GET OUT! Don't you EVER come into my office and tell me what to do with MY MATE or MY PACK!" She bared her neck in submission. She looked around and saw Red Run's pack members. She sheepishly said, "I'm sorry, Alpha." She ran from the room. Dylan sighed and linked me, "I'm getting a headache from the problems she's going to cause."

We spent several hours working to tighten up everyone's borders. We obviously had holes if rogues and shifters were running all over the place. Peter returned marked and mated with Chelsea. She was beaming. She asked me "Where's Emmaline? I wanted to thank her. Peter told me she just felt like we needed to meet." I told her, "She's in the Luna's quarters." Chelsea nodded, kissed Peter, and ran off. He watched her go with a smile.

He was quickly brought up to speed by Drake, who trailed off and scented the air. He announced, "Sam's here." He left to go see her. When he came back, he looked a little sad. Peter gave him a questioning look. Drake shrugged, "She's going to see Emmaline. She brought all our homework home with her." I sighed, looking at the time, "I didn't realize it was that late."

Alpha Kyle stood to leave. He told me, "Make sure Emmaline knows we aren't upset with her, and we have the boy. There's a family in our pack that's taken to him. His parents died that's why he was out there alone. My pack is taking him in." I smiled, "I'm sure that will make her happy." They left to go back to their pack.

Dylan said, "This is such a fun mystery! How did a fifteen-year-old manage to kill five rogues? That's just impressive no matter who you are. Then there's the missing body. I have so much to discover." A knock sounded on the door. I called, "Come in." Dylan groaned, "Why?" We could smell who it was.

Christy entered the office. She whispered, "I'm sorry about earlier." I growled, "You either accept my mate or you can leave, Christy. Don't ever question me again, especially in front of another pack." She sighed, "I didn't look around the room, Lucas. I just... she doesn't even know about us." I told her, "It's none of your business, but she does know about us. She has known the whole time." She gasped, "A human knowing about us before you told her? Lucas, you must call the council, they need to question her! This is dangerous."

I was across the room with my hands around her throat. I told her, "She's not human, and the council wouldn't give a shit. She killed five rogues last year by herself. She's my mate Christy. Do NOT threaten her in my presence." Christy gulped. I released her.

She rubbed her neck and hissed at me, "It's like she has a magical hold on you. I'm worried. You aren't thinking clearly." I growled, "SHE IS MY MATE! That's her goddamn hold. Stay away from her." She snorted, "Someone is going to have to teach her about being a Luna. I was prepared to be yours for years."

I growled, "Something I never asked you to do. You knew you weren't going to be my Luna, and you have a problem with her. Stay. Away. From. Her. This is your last and only warning." She looked hurt but walked away. Dylan sang when she closed the door, "She's going to be a problem." I sighed, "It does seem that way. I'm going to see Emmaline."

I went upstairs and found Emmaline, Chelsea, Sam, and Valerie sitting on her bed. I smiled at Emmaline's beaming face. I watched them for a moment before she saw me. They all turned and greeted me, "Alpha Lucas." I nodded, "Congratulations future Luna Chelsea and Beta Sam." Chelsea smiled, "Thanks. We were just leaving." They left the room quickly.

I smiled at Emmaline. I asked her, "Are you ok?" She nodded, "Yes, Are you?" I sighed, "I'm angry at whoever led you to this. I'm angry you were left alone. I'm going to make everyone who had part in it pay, baby girl." She frowned then asked, "Why? Why do you care? Why do I care that you care? Why can I smell you strongly? Why do I want you so badly? Why did I have a panic attack at the thought of having to leave here if the youth center took down my name? Why does the thought of leaving you behind tear me apart? Why do I see you in my dreams? Why does hearing your name, even before I met you, give my heart a thrill? And why when I met you did, I hear something in my head say Mine?"

I growled and tackled her on the bed. I put my forehead on hers. I whispered, "You can't leave me, Emmaline. You are MINE!" She frowned, "You said that in my dream." I asked, "Why can you tell that Sam and Drake, along with Peter and Chelsea are mates, but you can't tell that you're mine?" She gasped, "What? You are? But... but you said mine when you saw me because I had your coffee. They said mate when they met them. You didn't say mate! I mean... I was hoping... but... look at you."

I couldn't take it anymore. I kissed her. Her lips were like heaven. With great effort I ended the kiss to look into her eyes. The lust in them was making me rethink stopping our kiss. I admitted, "At the time, I thought you were human. Werewolves can say either mate or mine when they find their mate. I'm sorry that confused you, but you are my mate." She smiled, asking "Really?" I nodded.

She admitted, "I thought I'd made your wolf mad when we first met. Your eyes kept turning between blue and black." Dominic growled, "I want to talk to mate!" I sighed, "Not yet, Dominic." He growled, "Fine, tell her I wasn't mad then!"

I assured her, "Dominic wanted to come out to mark and mate you." She blushed admitting, "I've never done any of this stuff before." I smiled asking, "What stuff?" She got even more flustered, "Sexual stuff. I was asked to a dance last year by the guy who transferred with my group. He kissed me, but that's all I've done." I growled and kissed her hard.

I asked, "Did he kiss you like that? What's his name?" She answered, "Nnnoo not like that. His name is Grayson. He's nice." Well, Grayson would never get near her again. I told her, "We can take this at your pace. I will never make you uncomfortable." She smiled, "You could keep kissing me." I smiled and went back in for a kiss.

We made out like horny teenagers. I slid my tongue into her mouth. Her moans were killing me. My hands were literally twitching to go under the hem of her pants. I slid my hand up instead, running my hand over her bra through her t-shirt.

I asked, "Is this ok?" She gasped, "God, yes." I smiled, "I am going to make you feel things you've never felt before, baby girl." She whimpered and bit my lip lightly. I growled and cupped her ass with my other hand. Her hands started to explore my body. I kissed down her neck paying special attention to where her mark would be soon. She gasped, "Lucas, please." I smiled against her neck. I asked, "Please what?"

A knock at her door stopped her reply. I growled, "What?" Dylan came in, "You've got a phone call, sorry to be the Beta Cockblocker." I growled and got up and looked at Emmaline. Her lips were a little swollen. I pulled her to me and kissed her deeply.

I promised, "I'll be back." She smiled, "Ok, mate of mine." I growled. Dylan spoke, "Yeah... that's not going to make him leave, and I actually need him." She laughed shrugging at Dylan, "I can't help it." Dylan sighed, "Mischievous little thing, aren't you?" She giggled, "It's more fun than being boring, Dylan." I raised an eyebrow. Dylan laughed, "Right you are. I, myself, like fun things."

I kissed Emmaline one last time whispering, "It's really hard to leave you." She whispered back, "Hey, I'm not the one making you leave. I want you to stay." Dylan sighed, "Oh COME on! He can come back later. This is such role reversal. I am the fun one! I do not like being serious. Make it stop, Lucas. It's madness I tell you."

I ignored him and told Emmaline, "We are having a barbeque down by the lake tomorrow. I want you there." She told me, "I'll talk to Al about it at my shift tomorrow morning." I nodded and backed away slowly. It took everything in me to walk away from her.