

# Routine

Lacy grabbed Emmaline and pulled her inside. She linked me, “Do your space unheard thing.” I nodded and spoke my chant. Lacy took a deep breath, “Am I glowing?” I bit my lip, “No. Did you have your heat while I was gone?” Katie laughed.

Lacy asked, “Didn’t Haley tell you?” I sighed, “We had information overload about the lie that was my life. What was she supposed to tell me?” Lacy laughed, “Dylan contributed to getting Alpha Eric’s possessive juices flowing. Which led to Alpha Eric and Haley sending our pack into heat. I thought I might be pregnant for a second. Maybe I should have Haley do her healing thing on me, like she did for the Connors women.”

I hugged her, “It could be nothing.” Lacy shrugged, “I don’t know if I’m disappointed or not to be honest. I wasn’t thinking about pups. It wasn’t long ago that I was thinking I’d be trapped, working with fairies for ten years.” I shrugged, “I’m not pregnant, but I’m not disappointed. I want to get married first.”

Lacy laughed, “I can understand that, but I wasn’t raised that way. Mating ceremonies usually happen when the female is pregnant because we move pretty fast with mates around here.”

I shrugged, “I wasn’t raised that way either. My dad didn’t marry my mom until she was pregnant with Ry and Katie. It’s just... I needed to be able to control stuff in my life when it all went haywire. I always thought that was something I could control.” Lacy nodded, “That makes sense.”

Lacy turned to Katie, “Did you tell Logan yet?” Katie shook her head, “Not yet. I saw this onesie that said, surprise you’re going to be a daddy, but it would take forever to get here.” I focused really hard and looked down in my hands. I had it.

I handed it to my sister, “Or I could give it to you now.” Katie gasped, “You conjured it for me? It’s perfect! I’ll just go put it in my bag.” Lacy snorted, “He will try to take it from you.” Katie smiled, “Yeah, he probably will.” I turned to Lacy, “I’ll text Haley about checking you out.”

Katie left our group and we peeked out from the doorframe watching her. Lacy said, “I so called it.” Logan snatched the onesie from Katie. He was surprised for a moment then his face almost split in two from the smile he was sporting. I smiled as Logan spun Katie around laughing.

Lacy teased me, “You’d better watch it when you’re off birth control. The partial fairies seem to have slutty eggs according to your one-day brother in law. Who can argue with a Prince? He seems to be right too.” I laughed. My phone beeped.

Haley: I'll check Lacy out. It's not always the woman. Nathan told me Dylan goaded people as a child and took a lot off baseballs to the nuts. FYI those are his balls in this realm. Fucking ridiculous. They aren't nuts. Trust me... I've had Eric's in my mouth. They are balls, not nuts, and no man would want you to treat them like they are nuts. Pretty sure if you bit them like a nut, they'd scream the world down. I do not understand this grow a pair sayings either. Their balls are sensitive, but the saying doesn't appear to be telling people to be sensitive. UGH!

I couldn't help it; I laughed out loud. She was right and hilarious. I linked Lacy, "Haley says she will check out you and Dylan." Lacy smiled, "Eric will flip out if she has to heal Dylan." I bit my lip, "She's probably hoping nothing is up with you so she can mess with Eric."

Debbie and ale walked in the room and my jaw dropped. Debbie was glowing. There was so much love in this room. When we sat down, I noticed Logan's eyes were on a constant scant of the room. He'd been doing that everywhere we went, but now his eyes were harder. I sensed his soul was excited and happy, but also cautious. I wondered what he was nervous about.

Ry and Valerie came in, breaking my thoughts. Ry was thrilled for Katie. Logan was looking all over the room, and his eyes narrowed on the windows. Does he think there's a sniper out there? I wished I could tell him I didn't sense anyone.

Dusty walked in and he was clearly dreading hearing that I was pregnant. That wasn't fair. I had my mate, and he was going to be happy Katie was pregnant. I've known Lucas longer than Katie has known Logan. It stung a little how Dusty's demeanor changed in an instant when he realized it was Katie who was pregnant. I looked away as Dusty hugged her, catching Logan's eye. He understood that it had hurt my feelings. I gave him a small smile, and he gave me one back.

I changed the subject to Aubree and Dusty having kids. She had something to heal too. Haley was going to be busy this weekend. I shot her another text letting her know. That led to some tense moments. I briefly thought Logan was going to punch Dusty. My brother was taken aback and a little worried by Logan's reaction.

As someone who had seen how Logan feels about disrespect, I hoped Dusty kept his mouth shut. I don't think our group could stop Logan reacting if he thought Dusty was insulting Haley. Dylan would probably shrug and get some popcorn and yell 'fight' trying to get the pack to watch and be entertained. My phone beeped again.

Haley: DAMN IT! This realm and Eric makes me all relaxed. I've been practicing sensing things to heal within people. I didn't even fucking try with Aubree. I'll heal her at our bad ass girl gang day. I've got to be on alert.

Me: It's not a big deal.

Haley: I'm trying to be at one with my light. A normal healer would've noticed. They couldn't do a damn thing about it, but I can.

She was too hard on herself. I couldn't tell the group that. Logan would probably punch someone. So, I just went with Haley agreed to heal Aubree. Katie thought it was hilarious Haley didn't understand the concept of a girl's day and kept throwing in the gang part. I bit my lip. I was positive Haley was always going to call it that because that's how she was. She seemed to stick to things once she got them in her head. If Katie had wanted her to call it a girl's day, she should've said that's what it was in the first place.

When Aubree reacted to the news, she hugged Logan. He didn't seem surprised. I wondered how many Hackura men and women threw themselves on the princes, excited and grateful to be healed, since Haley didn't like to be touched.

Lucas pulled me upstairs not too long after that whole exchange. I breathed a sigh of relief that Logan would probably not beat up Dusty tonight. I collapsed onto the bed, completely exhausted. My thoughts were on kids. Maybe my next concupiscence we could try if we were married. We talked for a little bit before I fell asleep.

I woke up to my alarm going off. None of my friends were present for training this morning. I worked with a different warrior than I had previously. I hung in there, but he was tough. He complimented me afterwards. I sighed. Maybe I was being too hard on myself.

I popped to the dock on the lake and conjured my phone to me. I took a deep breath and dialed. My dad answered on the second ring, "Emmaline, sweetheart?" I whispered, "Hi... Dad." My dad's breath caught, "Oh my baby. I am so sorry." I sighed, "I got the port you had for me. Haley showed me how it worked. It just hurts. I know you would've helped me. It showed me how much you loved me. It showed in your eyes in those pictures."

My dad sighed, "I thought you knew. I thought June had told you. Especially after I gave you the port for your tenth birthday. Your mother and I agreed that was the time you should be told the truth. She didn't want that, but I desperately wanted you to know about our time together. I would've told you if I'd known she hadn't told you. Particularly since turning seventeen is an important time for any fairy. We all reach maturity at that age, but for females it's much more important they understand. Haley believes, as do I, that partial fairy's need to meet their mate to have their concupiscence, in addition to being seventeen. Maybe even share their light, which seems to be instinctual for all of you. Even King Aiden's sister, Trixie, has now shared her light with Farrin. She's accepted that they are mates. I... I

cannot express how saddened I am by this turn of events. I should've just mentioned it when you were here. That's what I should have done."

I quickly assured him, "It's not your fault, dad. You thought I knew. You probably saved my life as a child. David would've killed me had he seen me conjuring a bottle or toys." He hissed, "He would not have harmed you; that I can assure you. You would've popped away from him as Haley's children can. Danger and fear kick start fairy powers. It was quite hard to alter his memories as he's a powerful warlock, but I am more powerful than he is. As are you. Never forget that. You may have been raised by a warlock for thirteen years, but you are MY daughter. You are the Duchess of the water fae, and powerful in your own right. The ruling house is stronger than us, it's why they rule; however, we are more powerful than most supernatural's. That's not even me being a 'holier than thou full blooded fairy.' Your siblings are powerful, but we draw power from the elements as fairies. We are magic itself; you must remember that. Fighting comes naturally to you because fairies are fierce warriors too. We have gotten to the point where we rely on our powers too much."

He sounded like he planned to change that. He continued, "Luckily for our people and you, your cousin showed us that. She can take on armies without her fairy powers. I was trained from the time I could walk with a sword. All royals are. Well, except for Haley. She has clearly made up for that. Keep up your training with her, and never give in. Just as you can call upon Haley and Aiden, as my daughter you can call on me. That won't work for anyone but my girls, and your mother. Though at this point, I don't think I'd answer her."

I laughed, "Well, I just wanted to call and let you know I'm not upset with you. I love the photos and videos you took of me. I've never seen a baby picture of me, and now I know why. Do.... do you know how often my concupiscence will be?"

My dad laughed, "I'd imagine you will have at least two a year. Once we see what Haley does, I believe we will have a better insight to yourself, and other partial fairies. I suspect she might be an exception based on the two she's had. I think she will have three, and if she does, I'd say you will as well. If I am right your next one will be in January." I sighed in relief, "I'm getting married on Christmas Eve. Would you be able to come?" He cried, "I would love to come see you marry your wolf, sweetheart."

I took a deep breath, "My brothers are walking me down the aisle, but I will find a way to have you included in the wedding. Unless you just want to sit and watch." He said, "I will do whatever you want, Emmaline. I'm just glad you want me to be there. I must go. We will talk soon." I whispered, "Goodbye," before he ended the call.

I looked out at the water for a few moments then popped to Lucas to start his morning with a bang. When we were done, I found I wanted more. So, I toyed with Haley's tip of calling him Alpha. It worked. Afterwards, I teased him some more then skipped to the kitchen.

Gemma smiled at me as she handed me a plate. "Isn't it hard to cook our breakfast and the pack's breakfast?" Gemma laughed, "Oh no, dear. I have staff to help out. The breakfast for the pack is prepared the night before, it just needs to be heated. The other kitchen staff handles that when I come up here to make breakfast for the Alpha's family."

Lucas came in. I couldn't deny I was excited he was coming to school with me. My light had been starting to get sad thinking about leaving him. Honestly, the thought of not being near him made me want to cry.

When we arrived, I was presented with a pass. Sam's aunt said, "This is for you. Beta Dylan said you would need to come see the Alpha frequently. All the teachers know, but this is for the humans to see you getting a pass." I smiled, "Thank you." She nodded and walked back into the office.

I told Lacy, "At least no one will stop me. I wonder if I would turn to water if they said no." Lacy laughed, "I would PAY to see that happen in that situation. It would be the only time it would be funny. I can just see everyone's faces."

We walked up to our lockers. I saw a note had been pushed through the slats. I almost didn't read it, but I took a deep breath and opened it so that no one could see inside my locker.

Emmaline,

Please meet me in the girl's locker room when the first period starts.

Sam Haskins

(I don't know why I signed my last name. I know you know it's me. Just a habit I guess.)

I frowned wondering why Sam didn't just text me. Travis came over, "Good to see you again, little Luna. What do you have there?" I put the note in my locker and shut the door. "Good to see you too. The note is none of your business." Travis' eyes narrowed, "If it is from the human named Grayson, it's my business." I smiled, "It's not from Grayson, or anyone of the male persuasion."

I heard Chelsea laugh. I spotted her and ran over and gave her a hug. I felt her small bump she was hiding under a hoodie and gave her a smile. I told her

honestly, "I missed you guys." Chelsea smiled, "We missed you too." I smiled at Peter and Drake. What was odd was who was missing for their group.

I asked, "Where's Sam?" Drake sighed, "She had to get to class early." She was already waiting for me? What was going on? Chelsea bit her lip. Drake and Peter were obviously linking each other. Drake walked with me to class.

Drake broke our silence, "You seem to be good with people's emotions and making them feel better. Can you talk to Sam? She won't find out if she's pregnant, and she's worried about it for some reason." I asked, "Why do you think she's worried? Why won't she find out?"

Drake said, "I think she thinks as long as she doesn't know it could be a possibility. I won't be upset if she's not pregnant. We have plenty of time. I'll be thrilled if she is, but it's not the end of the world if she's not." I nodded.

About five minutes into class, I got up and handed my pass to Mr. Blaze. He smiled, "There are no humans in my class, little Luna. You can just go to the Alpha as needed." I smiled, "Call me Emmaline, and thank you." He nodded, "Lacy has your schoolwork for the days you missed. Get it back to me next Monday if possible." I nodded, "I'll get it done."

I hurried to the other side of school where the girl's locker room was. I found a glowing Sam pacing the floor. I cleared my throat. She whirled around, "God, I could smell you for the last several minutes. I'm glowing, right? Or am I going crazy? Do I just want to be pregnant? Tell me... No wait... don't tell me."

I bit my lip, "Why do you think you're crazy?" Sam sat down putting her head into her hands, "I know Drake said he won't be disappointed if I'm not pregnant, but I will be. I always wanted Chelsea, Valerie, Lacy, and me to have pups together. Lacy told us she's not pregnant. I was so convinced I was until she said she wasn't. I just don't want to find out I'm wrong. That probably sounds crazy."

I smiled and grabbed her hands, "I've been told that you never tell a pregnant lady she's crazy." Sam's head whipped up; tears filled her eyes. She squealed, "REALLY?" I nodded, "You're pregnant, Sam." She started crying, "These are happy tears, I assure you. Gosh, it seems silly that I was so worried."

I assured her, "It's not silly. Sometimes it's hard when you want something so badly, you're not sure if you're dreaming or if it's real. You just didn't want to be disappointed. If you didn't know, the possibilities were still there."

Sam smiled, "You're smart Emmaline." I laughed, "So I've been told." Sam said, "I want to tell Drake with a sonogram, but the pack doctor would tell him." I smiled, "Good thing I can pop us places. Our pack OB has to do what I say, and I

can tell her not to tell.” Sam smiled and wiped her eyes, “You’re a great friend.” I smiled, “Let me pop to Lucas really quick, and then I’ll come back to get you. Ok?” Sam nodded. I popped to Lucas for a few minutes, and popped back to Sam.

I grabbed her hands and popped to Blue Moon’s pack hospital. I heard a squeak at our appearance. I greeted, “Hi, Heather. I need you to get Sam here a sonogram. Then I need you not to tell anyone about seeing her.” Heather recovered, “Of course, Luna.” I added, “Call me Emmaline. Feel free to spread the word on that request.”

Heather smiled, “Alright. Sam, lay down here and lift up your shirt please.” Sam hopped up on the table. Heather brought the machine over, “I’m guessing you already know you’re pregnant?” Sam nodded. Heather started hitting some keys on the monitor. She told Sam, “You are measuring right on track. You’re what humans would consider thirteen weeks. Do you want to find out the gender? I can do a blood test.”

Sam cried looking at the screen, “Holy crap, there really is a little pup in there. Gender... No, I want to find out with Drake.” Heather nodded and printed some pictures, “Everything is measuring great, here’s some pictures. Do you want to hear the heartbeat?” Sam answered, “Yes, but I want Drake to hear it for the first time too. I just want to do that together.”

Heather smiled, “Alright.” She wiped the jelly off Sam’s stomach. I grabbed her hand to pop us back to school. I asked, “Are you telling Drake today?” Sam said, “I couldn’t keep it a secret if I wanted to. He will wonder where my chill has come from.” I laughed and walked back to my class.

Drake and I did the partner work together. I could see his nostrils flaring. Once we were done, he stated, “You saw Sam.” I smiled, “You did ask me to talk to her.” He gave me a look, and I just smiled at him. He was going to say something else, but I took off.

I ran to Lucas on the break between classes, then ran to class so I wouldn’t be late. Travis said, “Slow down, little Emmaline. We won’t get in trouble.” I sighed, “The last thing I want is for Grayson to report I’m late to classes.” Travis growled and we took our seats by Drake.

Grayson was waving his hands to get my attention. I turned to glare at him then looked back and took my notes. I tried not to get up and leave in that class, but the need to be near Lucas was overwhelming. How the HELL did Haley manage this when she was kidnapped? I might lose my mind. I sat in his lap and calmed myself, before going back to class.

Afterwards, Drake and Travis walked with me in the halls. I saw Sam pull Drake into a closet. Everyone heard his howl of delight. Peter shot me a questioning look. Chelsea clapped, "Really? When did you see her?" I smiled, "During first period. I popped her to our pack because she wanted to tell him with a sonogram."

Peter grinned, "Drake is thrilled." I smiled back, "I knew he would be." Chelsea squealed, "She and I will have little ones at the same time Peter! Isn't that great?" Lacy walked up agreeing, "It will be great!" We were all so thrilled for them both and headed off to our respective classes. The Red Run kids were humming with excitement.

The rest of the day and week started to pass by quickly. I was so busy catching up on homework the week was flying by. I'd managed to get most of my work done since Lucas was catching up on what happened while we were gone. Lucas being at the school was a godsend. Haley was clutch at fairy advice. I'd told her that, and she naturally didn't understand the saying.

When it was time for fairy lessons Katie showed up, "Hey little bookworm, let's hop to." I smiled, "You're coming again?" She nodded whispering, "Haley was right. Logan doesn't really care where I go because he's already made it safe for me to be there."

Logan commented, "I have supernatural hearing, Katie." Katie snorted, "I know that." Logan teased, "Sure you did. That's why you were whispering." She stuck her tongue out at him. They were too cute. We went to get Lucas. I was a little nervous because I'd never popped this many people alone at once before. I was really excited when we ended in the exact spot, I wanted us to be.

Katie and I went to join Haley. She smiled at us, "I knew Logan would be here." Katie rolled her eyes, "He's going overboard, but I love it." Haley shrugged, "He does have his reasons. I'm sure having you in this realm is really hard for him."

Katie frowned looking at me. I shrugged. Katie asked, "Why?" Haley sighed, "Torvi, Marcus' mate, was kidnapped on a mission in this realm while she was pregnant. I was kidnapped in this realm while I was pregnant. He's probably worried about that." Katie frowned, "I didn't know about Torvi." Haley said, "They don't talk about it. It really upset them."

Katie asked, "Who saved her?" Haley pointed at herself, "I did. I had to use my healing light once I got to her, they were trying to kill the baby. My dad said my brothers couldn't have anything to do with the search for those responsible, especially Marcus. The royal family is supposed to be in lockdown if one of us is taken. I was kind of the



outlier at the time, and he didn't specifically tell ME I couldn't go and save her. They were so busy looking into leads, I just popped away without anyone noticing until I got back with Torvi." Katie laughed asking, "Did you get in trouble?" Haley shrugged, "Not exactly." Daddy's little girl right there.

Haley shook herself, "Alright let's get centered." She sat down and we followed suit. Haley instructed, "Let your light connect with earth. Feel it inside you as it centers." I did as she said it felt like a calming sensation overtook me.

Katie gasped, "That's amazing." Hexxi cleared her throat, "I know you all are getting centered, but Emmaline I wanted to have a word." I frowned, "I'm not asking Katie to change her curse." Katie smiled triumphantly, "Hexxi, I told you it will wear off. It's not permanent."

Hexxi sighed, "Her concupiscence is coming up shortly. She doesn't want to break out in hives, surely my little sister can understand." I nodded, "I do, but Katie said her hives don't itch or hurt her. I don't give a crap about her vanity, and that's what it is. I'm sure she won't ever try to touch my mate again. Katie had my back. You should try it, instead of defending the bitch who tried to take my mate."

Hexxi sighed, "I do have your back. It's just not how fairy's see things with mates." I stood and raised an eyebrow, "But you all are aware of how wolves feel, and how partial fairy's feel, correct?" Hexxi sighed but nodded, "Then be my sister and have my back, not what's her face." Haley and Katie clapped, delighted. Hexxi walked away in a huff.

Haley had us focus back on her, "Anyway, I just started working on this myself. I want to see if you guys can do it with the little earth fairy blood you have in you. The line you come from has royal blood but isn't considered part of the royal house. It's weird. I think there's a chance you can do a smaller version of what I can." Katie and I nodded our understanding.

Haley spoke in Fealish, "iluyf filu zt qail lxj uikqwxj yw zi. Kflsi yfi iluyf lxj laawo zi yw hail. Jw xwy fluz yfwki yfly zilx xwxi yw zi." Uh what? Sometimes there were words I knew mixed in with Fealish, but not this time. All I got was hail, and Haley couldn't bring hail like I could.

Haley explained, "It translates to Earth hear my plea and respond to me. Shake the earth and allow me to plea. Do not harm those that mean none to me." Katie and I began to repeat after her. Haley smiled when the ground began to shake. I could tell Katie was excited. It wasn't as cool as some of my water powers, but it was fun to share this with my sister.

Someone yelling in Latin had Haley glancing sharply to her right. The distraction had us all looking over which made the ground stop shaking. Several angry

Hackura had some men who were clearly fairies. Haley shrank back for a moment then straightened. Katie shot me a look. I didn't think Haley liked these fairies.

Haley commanded, "Wait here. I'm going to take Eric and Logan to assess this situation." Katie said, "They mean us harm though based on that chant." Haley sighed, "Not exactly. They mean you no harm. Me, they could want to harm." I frowned, "Why wouldn't they mean us harm?" Haley begrudgingly admitted, "They are related to you. I'll be right back, and we can discuss that further." She popped away.

There was rapid fire Fealish flying around us. I sighed, "I really need to read that book she gave me. Then I would know what was being said." Katie said, "Logan will tell me." I raised an eyebrow asking, "Logan knows Fealish?" Katie bobbed her head up and down, "Yes, all her brothers do. Even if he didn't, he'd just ask her what they said. Logan told me Haley is trying harder to be more open with her brothers after the whole list of fairies' who abused her got passed around." I nodded.

Katie and I gasped when Haley punched the two fairies. I grabbed Katie and popped us to Lucas. Not that I didn't think that group couldn't control the fairies, but with Katie being pregnant I wanted her to be as cautious as possible. Plus, my fairy side wanted to be near Lucas.

Haley popped back to explain that our great grandfather and Great Uncle wanted to meet us. I sighed. She said they were trying to stay hidden and spy but were caught because of the extra Hackura guards. Logan's face told me that there would be even more guards moving forward.

We were trying to figure out what we wanted. Lucas' soul was conflicted. Haley was evasively answering questions. What was clear was these men meant no harm to me or Katie. What worried me was that meant they could want to harm Haley. I searched Haley's soul. While her face showed she was calm, cool, and collected she was really afraid.

I wanted to say no to meeting them because of how Haley felt, but Katie's soul told me she wanted to meet them. Haley popped away eventually returning with our relatives. Bjourn and the Hackura guards came with them.

Introductions were made. I searched both the men's souls. I wasn't feeling comforted by their intentions. They felt greedy and entitled. Rhyster said Katie looked like his daughter. I asked, "How does that work? Was your daughter not a full fairy?" Rhyster smiled, "No she was not. Not unlike your father, my mate was a human. I already had my son Krysus from my lover. I had my daughter with my mate. I visited her often, but of course didn't let her come to Faerie."

He glanced meaningfully at Haley. I felt her fury radiating from her soul. Haley spat back, "I would've gladly never graced you with my presence had someone given me to my father, Rhyster." Eric growled at the man.

For a moment, Rhyster's face darkened, then cleared, "Of course, princess. Anyway, my daughter had your mother, who then had you kids. I've kept an eye on you but was grieving once my daughter passed. Then there was the whole Fabian ring and hiding all the part fairies from him."

Katie asked, "If you spent time with our grandmother, how did Fabian not know about us?" Krysus laughed, "They are smart, father." Rhyster sighed, "Being David's children gave you some added protections. I will not deny that. Fabian could've easily taken you from David, but David would've caused a scene. It would've been noticed, and above all Fabian did not want what he was doing to be noticed by the wrong crowd. You four being taken would've been problematic. David would not just let it go. Especially after all he did to secure children."

I raised an eyebrow, "What does that mean? All he did?" Rhyster snarked, "He's not your father, Emmaline, what does it matter?" Haley had him on the ground in an instant. She spoke in Fealish to him again. He gritted his teeth but nodded. She let him up and he took a deep breath.

He ground out, "I apologize for disrespecting the Duchess." I glanced at Haley; her turmoil had only increased. I need lessons on how to keep my emotions off my face because Haley was a rockstar at it. Her expression showed none of the things she was feeling.

I linked Lucas, "Lucas, I'm not sure we should keep talking to them." Lucas glanced at me asking, "Why?" I looked at Haley answering, "Her soul is in turmoil, and she's conflicted. She's also afraid, and I find that unnerving. She's always so fierce." Lucas frowned.

Katie spoke with some bite to her tone, "Then I'll ask, and I want an answer. What did you mean by what David did to secure children?" Krysus answered her, "Well niece, when his mate died under questionable circumstances, he sought out your mother. He knew she had fairy blood based on the spells that he used to find her. He wanted children that would be powerful. I suspect he has your mother under some sort of bewitchment. She doesn't love him anymore. How could she? When he drove her child out, and not just any child; the child of her mate. She has known him since she was a child though."

I interrupted him, "She threw me out right alongside David, and it didn't bother her at all." Rhyster smirked, "Which is quite odd. Fairies are protective of their children." I looked at Haley, thinking he was insane. Her mother clearly wasn't.

Rhyster noticed, “The queen was protective of her daughter, she just had... blind spots where her brother was concerned.” Haley’s soul was furious. I think it was because he believed what he said, but she didn’t anymore.

I quickly changed the subject, “Why are you here now?” Krysus laughed, “She is a smart one. I like her.” Rhyster said, “To get to know you, of course.” Haley interjected, “What else do you want, Rhyster? As you can see Katie is pregnant, and she is my brother's mate.”

Krysus pursed his lips in a smile, “I see the rumors of your backbone were not exaggerated. It’s marvelously entertaining, princess.” Haley sarcastically replied, “Well Krysus now you’ve made my whole day. Oh wait... I don’t give a shit what you think. Emmaline is off limits if you’re here to find a broodmare.”

Lucas tensed. Haley zeroed in on Krysus, “Is that why you’re here?” Rhyster hissed, “Don’t look at her!” It was too late because Krysus was already looking at Haley. He answered her, “We wanted both of them to continue our line and produce a child with a fairy. They can cause the ground to shake with as little earth blood as they have. If they had a child with an earth fairy, it would be powerful. Katie is with your brother, yes, but the Hackura have off periods. Emmaline is not pregnant.”

Lucas growled and yanked me behind him. Logan pulled a blade from somewhere, and I swear it seemed like he did so from thin air. He had it against Rhyster’s neck in seconds. Jackson moved in front of me and Lucas had moved to grab Krysus by the throat.

Krysus glared at Haley stating, “It’s not the only reason we want to know them.” Logan said, “The Hackura women do NOT have children with anyone besides their mate once they meet them. Katie will be having my children and mine alone. Should you ATTEMPT to take her from me I’ll slaughter you and anyone who had anything to do with it. Tread lightly, fairy. My brothers and I already hate your kind for what you did to our sister. She should’ve been treated like the princess she is, not as some inconvenience to your damn realm.”

Bjourn calmly stated, “You would condemn all the earth fairies to death should you try to take Katie from my brother or hurt her in any way. That goes for her sister as well.” I gulped. How could he just calmly and casually threaten to exterminate a whole group of people? That was the crown prince of the Hackura for you. His soul told me he was furious too.

Rhyster ground out, “You will pay for this, princess.” Logan pressed the blade into his skin causing him to bleed, “Now, you’re threatening my sister in my presence. Not smart, fairy. I believe we just got fairy number two per the agreement,

Bjourn.” Bjourn agreed apparently because he said “Isaac, take this fairy to our home.”

Rhyster screamed, “Katie! Emmaline! Please stop them!” Katie stepped forward, “Why would we help you? You wanted to manipulate or kidnap us after getting to know us so you could basically conduct an experiment.” Rhyster assured, “We would never hurt you.” I snorted, “But you would hurt Haley. I’m guessing you already did when she was a child.” Haley looked away.

Bjourn quietly asked, “Sister?” Haley sighed, “I forgot about them, Bjourn. I’m sorry.” Bjourn didn’t even hesitate, “And now we have number three.” Bjourn punched Krysus then picked him up. Eric said, “It’s so close to my turn now.”

I linked Lucas, “His turn?” Lucas answered, “Eric gets every fifth fairy that breaks the rules Haley put in place.” I asked, “Should it upset me that members of my family are about to die?” Lucas responded, “No, you didn’t know them. They hurt your cousin, and they wanted to take you to Faerie to have you pop out children.”

Out loud I asked, “Is Haley related to you guys?” Krysus said, “No, she’s not.” I snorted, “Then why wouldn’t you want her to have your powerful children?” Krysus sighed, “King Aiden has declared her off limits after Prince Arion and Masium’s half cooked up plan to bring her home. Her consort would never allow her to be taken again. Her security is insane now.”

Eric roared in anger. My eyes widened as his teeth elongated, his fingers turned into claws, and his eyes flickered black. He didn’t shift the rest of the way though. It was terrifying, but I’m guessing his wolf did not like being reminded Haley was taken. Or that others were assessing the protection he put around his mate.

Haley scoffed, “Faerie is not my home. Something you made clear to me anytime you saw me. I mean honestly, the AUDACITY you all have to say it’s my home after the way you treated me.” Krysus ignored her and greeted, “Hello Hexxi.”

Hexxi looked at him sadly, “Krysus. Did you really have to do this?” Krysus shrugged, “I forgot our little wallflower there was no longer a silent, scared little thing. Not all of us believed she is the truth seeker, but evidently, she is. With the powers your sister possesses, actually all of your partial sisters, you could bring so much to Faerie. How is it that only one partial is mated to a fairy so far? It’s even Farrin of all people. His family aligned with King Fenilton’s thoughts. Such a pity.”

Haley snapped, “Speak ill of my brother’s father, and my brother will not make it home with you.” She meant that, but Bjourn and Logan’s souls told me they’d make sure he did. They had plans. Plans I was certain no one would get in the way

of. I searched further, discovering they'd let Haley do what she needed to for revenge; they just wouldn't let her kill him.

Hexxi sighed, "They have choices, just as we do." Krysus said, "They keep getting mates that care about their fidelity." He glanced at Logan, "Which is annoying on his part." Logan's glare was enough to have me shaking.

I felt a reassuring hand on my shoulder. I turned and gave a soft smile to Nathan Connors. He smiled kindly at me. His soul was worried about Eric and Haley. I loved that for her. He truly loved her as a daughter.

Katie spoke, "You seem to forget since most partial fairies were raised in this realm, your ways are strange to us. We consider what you all do cheating. We would be unhappy." Krysus laughed, "Good luck as the Hackura Prince's mate then, niece."

Logan punched him in the gut, "Unlike you, I respect her. What happens between us will be mutually decided. Not to mention none of your fucking business. Everything in the Hackura realm is based on respect between partners, and both people's happiness."

Haley waved her hand, "Please get them out of here." Bjourn nodded and the guards took them both away. Haley turned and I saw her hands shake slightly. She spoke with authority, "Let's get back to lesson. I am terribly sorry about the interruption." All of us looked at Haley with concern. All the partial fairies seemed settled by the look on her face, but the full blooded fairies looked worried.

We walked back over to our spot in silence. I took her hand asking, "Haley?" Hexxi didn't give her a chance to respond to me, "It's water fairy power time." I glared at her, "Give me a minute." Hexxi said, "Look, I get it they weren't nice to Haley when she was in Faerie. If I recall correctly, they broke her..."

Haley cut her off, "Hexxi, your students are waiting." Hexxi looked over, "Emmaline come over in five minutes or I'm coming back." She popped away. I said, "I find I don't really like her." Katie said, "She's a bitch. Haley, are you ok?"

Haley said, "No, but I will be. They didn't rape me or anything. Hexxi is actually doing what I've always wanted people to do with my pain. Ignore it. She's not trying to upset you. She's trying to help me in her own direct way." I said, "They hurt you though." Haley nodded, "Yes and if I thought they would hurt either of you, they'd have never gotten near you."

I looked at Katie then back at Haley, "I don't want anyone who hurt you near me, ever." Katie nodded, "Agreed. If they harmed you in any way, I want nothing to do

with them. I don't need weak people who can't go against something they should know is wrong in my life."

Haley evaded, "They did bring up a good point about your mom being bewitched." Katie snorted, "She has magic within her. For Evie's sake she should've fought it." She paused then added, "Actually, she could've fought it, and I'm right. Don't say I'm not." Haley agreed, "You are right. You have less fae blood than she does and can use your powers. We do have the ability to fight charms and bewitchments."

I shrugged, "Her reasons don't really matter to me anymore. Bewitched or not she could've sent my dad a message to help me, and she didn't." Haley nodded, "You're right, Emmaline." I took her hands in mine, "Whatever they did, your brothers will take care of them. We never have to worry about them again." Haley nodded.

I stood and went over to Hexxi. She smiled, "Good you are here. Haley wanted you to work on turning the lake to ice. She gave me explicit instructions on how to explain it to you." I repeated Haley's words in my mind. That Hexxi was trying to help her... which stopped me from hurling icicles at her.

I gritted my teeth, "Alright. What are the instructions?" Hexxi said, "Use your light and think about the ice. Hold your hand to water and will it to turn from water to ice. Haley made sure no one was on the lake. She said if you can do it, we can ice skate. I love ice skating." I smiled and nodded to her.

I went over to the lake and felt around for my light. I touched the water and willed it to be ice. I started out small. Where my hand touched turned to ice. I thought about it getting bigger, but as much as I tried; I couldn't get even half of the lake covered in ice.

Haley came over with Katie, who cheered, "Look at my sister being Queen Elsa!" I grumbled, "I can't get any further." Haley frowned, "This is great for your first attempt, Emmaline. You'll be able to get the whole lake with a few more practicing sessions." I frowned, "Hexxi said you told her if I did the whole lake we could all ice skate." Haley replied, "I said in a few weeks. Not even full-blooded fairy's get it on their first try."

Hexxi commented, "At her age they can." Haley rounded on her, "You are being very obnoxious today. Full blooded fairies by Emmaline's age have been practicing for YEARS. Emmaline's first try was today. I've told you instructors so MANY fucking times, these guys are all new to this. They weren't raised around anyone with fairy powers. Many of them didn't even know they had fairy blood. Give them some leniency." Hexxi sighed, "You're right I suppose. They all just show such promise. I apologize, sister. This was good progress for your first try." She gave me a quick hug and popped away.

Haley sighed and went down in a heap onto the ground. Katie and I looked at each other. Katie shrugged. I asked, "Haley, what are you doing?" Haley answered with her eyes closed, "Connecting to the earth and sky. It makes me feel centered as connecting to the water and earth would do for you." Katie and I nodded and laid beside her. It did actually calm me quite a bit.

When we looked up, we saw our very concerned mates not too far away from us. Logan was flicking his gaze between Haley and Katie. Lucas was zeroed in on me, and Eric was practically wafting his concern into the air for Haley. I briefly spotted Aiden across the lake. He noticed my gaze and nodded, then went back to watching Haley. He looked furious. His sorrow called out to me. I had to look away because it actually felt like a physical cut to feel.

Eventually, our mates came and helped us to our feet. Marcus asked her, "What did those fairy's do to you, little one?" Haley sighed, "They bullied me when they saw me. On occasion they broke my ankle." Katie and I winced. I wished she'd said that earlier. I'd have never met them, and sicced Dominic on them instead.

Eric growled and pulled her against him. Bjourn said, "Maybe you should sit down and think through your list again. I know you didn't leave anyone off on purpose, but this is twice now." Haley sighed, "I don't really like to think about it anymore, but for you I'll try. I don't know, maybe I repressed some of it." Bjourn nodded. Honestly, maybe she should just continue repressing it. I'd heard enough awful things. Did she really need to recall it all?

Logan pulled Haley into a hug, whispering to her in Latin. When he stepped back, I gave Haley a hug, "I'll see you here tomorrow, right?" Haley nodded. Eric cut in, "Lucas and I talked. We decided that we will do your training in your territory for now." Haley frowned but said, "Ok then. I'll see you at your place tomorrow."

She turned to my sister, "Katie next time we are going to try popping." Katie's eyes widened, "I could do that?" Haley said, "I don't see why not. I don't think you'll be able to go as far as Emmaline or myself, but other partial fairies have managed to get to the other side of the lake. I think you can do that too." Katie smiled, clearly excited.

We said goodbye and I took everyone's hands and popped us back to our place. I sat down on the couch, "Fairy lessons have been intense lately." Ry spoke, "Why?" I jumped off the couch screeching. I hadn't seen him in the room Ry laughed, "You're still so jumpy. You were the easiest to scare. I could walk around the corner, you would watch, and I could still jump out and say boo. You screamed every time." I put my hand on my chest and stuck my tongue out at him.



Katie said, “We met some fairy relatives, who are now being tortured in the Hackura realm.” Ry got mad, “What did they do to you?” I explained, “Well, they wanted us to produce fairy babies for them, and apparently they hurt Haley.”

Ry stiffened asking, “Hurt Haley today or as a child?” Katie said, “As a child.” Ry relaxed a little. Logan said, “You won’t have to worry about those two, Ryan. They are taken care of. I’ll be asking Haley for your family tree on your fairy side. Anyone who is a threat will be handled.” Ryan gulped, “Sure. I mean I would do the same, but somehow the tone you use is just menacing.”

I laughed then dragged Lucas upstairs. I got ready for bed. Lucas shut the door quietly. I told him, “I really can’t imagine having Haley’s life. It’s like every so often someone who hurt her pops up, like an incredibly awful reminder she doesn’t need.” Lucas nodded, “I know.”

I pulled him to me and kissed him. I put my hands under his shirt and pulled it over his head. He picked me up and set me on the counter in the bathroom. He pulled my shirt over my head and unsnapped my bra. He threw it away from us as if it offended him, then sucked my nipple into his mouth. I arched my back with Lucas’ hand supporting me. He flicked his fingertips lightly over my mark and I shuddered.

Lucas moved his lips back to mine and grabbed onto my hair. He picked me up carrying me to our bed. He peeled my pants off and blew on my clit. I moaned as he lightly bit me. I almost came off the bed. He chuckled as he laid me back down.

When his tongue hit me, I was clutching the sheets. I tried to move away to reciprocate, but he grasped onto my thighs, not letting me go. I screamed his name over and over when he flipped me onto all fours. He slapped my butt lightly on both sides and entered me in one smooth move. I screamed his name so many times my voice was cutting out.

When he pulled out of me, we both laid their breathing heavily. He pulled me to him and kissed me lightly. “I love you, Emmaline.” I smiled and tapped his nose, “I love you too.”

The rest of the week passed quickly. On Friday at lunch, I realized I hadn’t told Chelsea and Sam about our girls’ day, “Chelsea, Sam, Saturday you guys need to come over. We are having a girl’s day. If you ask Haley, it’s a bad ass girls gang day.” Chelsea laughed.

Both Peter and Drake said simultaneously, “I don’t know.” Sam sighed. I laughed assuring them, “Eric, Lucas, Logan, and several Hackura guards will be there.” Drake asked, “Logan? As in Prince Logan Cambridge?” I nodded, “He said I can call him Logan because Katie is his mate. Oh, and the Black Arrow will be there.”

Chelsea spit out her milk. She shrieked, “WHAT?” Sam gaped at me. I answered, “Well, she and Haley are friends, I guess.” Peter said, “Of course they are. Why wouldn’t they be?” Chelsea said, “Peter I will LITERALLY not speak to you for the rest of time if you don’t let me go.”

Peter said, “Well, we can’t have that, can we, Sugar Baby Momma? Drake and I will come with you.” Sam laughed, “You just want to see the Black Arrow.” Drake said, “Heck yes we do!” We all laughed. I texted Haley letting her know everyone was in for Saturday.

Me: Everyone is excited for Saturday.

Haley: BAD ASS GIRL GANG DAY IS GOING TO BE FUCKING AWESOME!

I had to laugh. I popped home instead of driving with everyone because I needed to see Lucas. I knocked on the door, and Dylan came out. He smiled, “Oh, hi Emmaline. You’re home early. No one linked a Beta. They will be hearing from said Beta. Shame on them.” I frowned, “I need to see Lucas.” Dylan patted my head, “Of course you do. I’ll link him.”

I was suspicious, “Why can’t I go in?” Dylan said, “He’s in a boring meeting. I couldn’t have my fun fairy being bored. That would ruin my show, and that would be the end of the world.” I raised an eyebrow replying, “Dylan, I’m your Luna.” Dylan paled, “I know that. I do know that. This is a thing that I know.”

Lucas stepped out and Dylan went back in. I asked him, “What’s going on?” Lucas said, “Nothing really.” I said, “Then you can tell me.” Lucas sighed, “I will, just not right now. How was your day?” I frowned, “It was fine. I thought we learned after the Alpha Hammond fiasco we need to communicate.” Lucas rubbed his hand on his face.

I crossed my arms, “Are you hiding an ex-girlfriend in there?” Lucas chuckled, “No, definitely not. It’s just some fallout from the Ducant situation. I’ll handle it. It’s a video conference, and I don’t want them to see you. If they see you, they could target you.”

I frowned, “Didn’t you kill them all?” Lucas nodded, “Yes, but it turns out the Alpha had a sibling. This is just a precaution. Eric won’t even let Haley come into the meeting.” I frowned, “Alright. We are having our girl’s day here tomorrow.”

Lucas nodded. He spotted Lacy, and cut off her entry to the door, “No one comes in except dad, Dylan, or me.” Lacy frowned, “Can Dylan come out say hi?” Lucas shook his head, “Not right now, and I need to get back in there.” He went back inside, barely opening the door to slide through and slammed it shut.

Valerie sighed. I looked around, “Where’s Ry?” Valerie pointed, “In there with your other brother.” Aubree came out of the kitchen. “THANK GOD you guys are here. I’ve been SO BORED. The men and their lockdown about this meeting we can’t be a part of. Jesus! Let’s go do something fun.”

We all sat and watched a movie. When it ended, it became clear the guys weren’t going to be done anytime soon. I set Aubree up in a guest room, then went to bed. I woke up when my alarm went off. I’d forgotten to snooze it but decided to get up and train. It was a cardio day, but thankfully the warriors weren’t prepared for me this early, so I got to swim. I felt better afterwards and popped back to an empty bed.

I woke up to a kiss from Lucas. I frowned when I opened my eyes asking, “Why are you dressed?” Lucas sighed, “Haley’s already here with Eric. We are still dealing with this threat.” I frowned, “You know, if I can help you I will.” Lucas smiled, “I know.” he kissed me and left the room.

I snapped myself ready and popped downstairs to see Haley. She smiled when she saw me. I gave her a hug and asked, “Do you know what this is all about?” Haley said, “Alpha Ducant had a brother who is upset with Lucas, Eric, and Alpha Kyle. He wants to know who killed his brother.”

I asked, “Who did?” Haley said, “That depends on who you ask. Eric said technically Drake did. Lucas and Eric assisted, and he would’ve died from the wounds they inflicted if Drake didn’t rip his heart out. It’s silly. They don’t want them to see us, but it’s easy to figure out who we are. I think Eric should just put the guy in his place. Eric thinks money will solve this.”

I surmised, “But you don’t.” Haley said, “In the short term maybe, but I wouldn’t be satisfied with money. Would you?” I shivered at the thought of Dusty or Ry being killed. I agreed, “No, I wouldn’t.”

Haley tilted her head as Katie came in with a guard. They searched the rooms one by one.

I asked, “Where is Logan?” Katie said, “Observing the top secret meeting your mates are in. Logan said if this man presents a threat, he’s going to kill him.” Haley clapped her hands, “Thank you! That would save us all time and money.”

Katie smiled, “I like you, Haley.” Haley smiled, “Thanks.” I asked, “Do fairies have money?” Haley nodded, “Of course. Apparently, I am quite rich in this realm.” I couldn’t help but laugh. Katie whispered, “I kind of want to ask what quite rich means.” I told her, “Ask Logan. He’d know better than she would.”

We turned when we heard a knock. Katie and I gaped as the Black Arrow walked in dressed in full gear. Haley hugged her. “Hey BA! I’m glad you could make it.” BA smiled at her, “I wouldn’t miss anything you asked me to attend for the world.” I

studied her. She had blonde hair, but I doubted that was her real hair color. The people could figure out who she was. She had perfect, pouty lips and brown eyes with a narrow black mask covering her face. Her black trench coat reached the floor, and she had on a black body suit that showed off her toned legs, and thigh high black boots.

I whispered in Katie’s ear, “She takes the black part of black arrow seriously with her outfit.” Katie nodded, “I wonder if Haley knows her real identity.” I replied, “I think she does.” Lacy came in and squealed in our link, “SHE CAME!” I nodded.

Valerie filtered in with Aubree. Torvi and Astrid made their way in and exchanged greetings with the Black Arrow. Bexley popped and waved slightly at Haley. I gulped when Miley came in next, remembering our first conversation. Several more Hackura women filtered in.

Katie whispered, “Those are Haley’s other brother’s mates. They are so cool.” I teased, “You mean your other sisters in law.” She smiled at me. I was astonished at the power the women in this room held. Chelsea and Sam came in next. I raised an eyebrow at their chaperones. It wasn’t Drake and Peter.

Sam explained, “They are in the same meeting your mates are. They are NOT happy.” I smirked, “I bet they aren’t.” Haley said, “I’ll be right back. I’m popping to get Molly.” I needed to ask why her other two sisters in law didn’t want to join. It turned out I didn’t need to, because they were all with her when she popped back. Haley smiled, “Let’s get to introductions before our first bad ass girl gang day commences.” Everyone smiled at her, and we all waited for her to start.