

The Fairy Princess

Dylan and Lucas walked out of the Luna rooms. I looked at Dylan lamenting, “This had better be super important.” Dylan smiled, “It’s our favorite gets everything he wants Alpha no fun.” I stopped walking. I asked, “Does he have news about Lacy?” Dylan shook his head sadly, “No, just come on.” We walked down to the office. Dylan un-muted the phone.

I greeted, “Hello, Eric.” Eric’s got down to it, “Lucas, I have a few things to discuss. The most important being Haley is on a mission. She linked me that in doing recon she overheard a plan for rogues to attack in your area. I don’t know who her target is at the moment, but you and Red Run need to be prepared. Jackson and I will be coming to see you tomorrow night to support you. Haley should be able to pop to us once she’s done.”

I was floored and interrupted, “You negotiated with the Hackura that you would know about all her missions?” Eric growled, “It’s not their mission. It’s the Hood’s mission. They considered it a favor and the Hood himself played Haley.” I was stunned, “Played her how?” Eric growled, “Apparently, Haley and the Black Arrow have done a lot of missions together. The Black Arrow considers my mate to be a little sister. Which Haley, of course, didn’t know. She cried when he told her that. The Black Arrow went dark after months on the mission. They are sending Haley in to find her and assist her in killing the target instead of the Black Arrow’s original goal. They want the ringleader dead, and apparently that ringleader is after you. I have warriors stationed on our borders on alert. What else can I do?”

I was already linking warriors. Dylan was sending a message to Alpha Kyle that we needed to talk. I asked the question that came to mind first, “Haley knows the Black Arrow?” Before he could answer I remembered Red Run’s rogue problem. I yelled, “FUCK! Red Run may need warriors. Alpha Kyle just learned from my mate that he has a massive problem on his boarders.” I smiled at Dylan who snorted at my casual way of slipping my mate into the conversation.

Eric replied, “Haley does know the Black Arrow. Pretty well apparently. Of course, I will...” He trailed off then yelled, “YOUR MATE? WHAT THE FUCK LUCAS?” I laughed, “Her name is Emmaline Richards. We aren’t sure what type of supernatural she is yet; she’s holding that card close to her chest for the moment. She’s perfect. On that note, when you and Jackson come should your brothers in law still be with you; I want to talk terms with them for their services.” Eric was silent.

Dylan snorted, “You’ve done the impossible, Lucas. You surprised him. Good for you. That’s normally my job, but I am oh so proud of you.” Eric spoke, “You want

to pay Bjourn and Marcus for what?" I growled, "I want them for when I find my mates parents. They need to suffer; I don't know all the details yet, but my mate is emancipated and has been since she was thirteen years old. She was living in a goddamn tent in Red Run for a year. When the school in Red Run burned down, she was on the transfer list of students who came here. That's how I met her. She lived in a fucking tent, Eric. We lost her the first night we tracked her. She's scared of something, and she's running."

Eric was quiet for a few moments then said, "I'll bring them. I'm sure Haley can tell you if she's a fairy once she kills whoever she needs to kill." I assured him, "We are leaning towards a partial angel. Christy saw her and said she isn't a fairy." I heard Jackson's laugh, "Oh my god. Haley is going to kill you, Lucas." I frowned asking, "Why?"

Eric sighed, "Did you by chance find this mate of yours today?" Dylan laughed. I admitted, "No, I found her earlier this week." Eric groaned, "Haley is going to be hurt you didn't ask her instead of Christy to find out if your mate was a fairy." Dylan shot me an 'I told you so' look. He offered, "I warned you thusly."

I said, "I didn't want to bother Haley when Christy can tell." Jackson said, "If Christy is wrong, Eric will not be able to stop Haley from kicking her ass. She already is uncertain about Christy given... well you know." Dylan coughed, "Claudia." Eric growled, "Yes Dylan. Claudia." At that moment, a knock sounded on my door. Dylan groaned.

Christy walked in. Dylan linked me, "Joy. Maybe she'll say something dumb and make Alpha no fun mad." Christy spoke, "Lucas, I think I need to take some time away. I'd like to leave tomorrow. Just to get away and clear my head. If you could ask Alpha Eric if I could stay at his home for a bit, I would appreciate it." Jackson's laughter was ringing through the phone line. Christy stared perplexed at the phone.

I said, "Eric is on the phone." Christy smiled, "Hello, Alpha Eric. What do you say? We could dust off some memories and make new ones?" Eric was silent. Dylan laughed, "She did not just say that. Ohhh but she did." He started eating popcorn. Eric answered, "I'm sorry, but no." Eric wouldn't explain his reasoning. It should've been obvious why he answered that way.

Dylan tried unsuccessfully to make his laugh a cough. Christy's face fell. She asked, "What? Why not?" Eric spoke, "Only because we have been acquaintances in the past will I give you an answer, Christy. I am an Alpha. I don't owe you an explanation. I'm sure you heard what happened with Claudia." Christy frowned, "Of course I did, Alpha Eric. I couldn't believe it. I was as stunned as everyone else to hear she gave her mate to a fairy. I always thought she used a witch to send her into heat or something."

Eric sighed, "That's what she told us. I won't put my mate in that situation ever again. That's why you can't come here." Christy frowned then chided, "Alpha Eric, I'm not enchanting you." Eric sounded annoyed when he admitted, "I'm aware of that. Maybe after some time you can come and meet Haley. Right now, the Claudia situation is too raw. Haley is dealing with a lot and I'm going to protect her with everything I have." Christy growled, "So, Claudia was right. The little fairy has you wrapped around her little finger." I growled and so did Eric. Dylan shrieked and threw his popcorn.

Eric yelled, "You spoke with Claudia? ABOUT MY MATE?" Christy shrank back. I linked her, "Answer him." Christy stammered, "Just after the summit, Alpha Eric. She was hurt over your reaction. Then she was humiliated the fairy ran her off after using her tricks on Claudia. She called after you filed a complaint with the council. Claudia needed someone to talk to Eric. You know Claudia loved you." Eric growled, "You are NEVER welcome in my territory EVER again, Christy." She deflated.

Eric continued, "Lucas, I would advise you to watch Christy around your mate. If she can side with Claudia and stick up for her after everything she did to the two of us... Well, then who knows what else she's done." I winced. This was my fault. Christy was lashing out because of our relationship being over.

Jackson added, "Should you need a better warning, Christy; my brother still has the reminder of when Haley says, and I quote 'when I say the bitch it crazy it means she is crazy' on his desk." Dylan asked, "What's the reminder? Be a dear, Jackson and tell Dylan all. Then I will shame Beta Caleb in my memo about not telling the rest of us Beta's about this reminder." Jackson laughed, "It's Claudia's head encased in a glass dome. It's charmed to shout at anyone who tries to move it and should anyone try it sends an electric current through the person who touched it. It's of course charmed to not decay as well."

Christy's visibility paled. Dylan roared with laughter, "HALEY IS PRICELESS! I worship at her feet. That's amazing, the memo writes itself. I just don't know what's wrong with Beta Caleb." Christy stared at Dylan. She admonished, "That fairy killed a werewolf! She has her head displayed, yet you laugh. That should be war!"

I stopped her from continuing, "Christy, walk away. I know Claudia was your friend for years and I know you are struggling with our relationship ending since I found my mate. Claudia attacked Eric and I, along with two Hackura princes, and Eric's family. She conspired to separate mates. She gave Tucker to fairy's to experiment on for god's sake! Her actions aren't defensible. Haley was within her right to torture and kill her. Just go. We will find another pack for you to spend some at."

Tears filled her eyes and she walked away. She turned and tried to take a jab, “Good to know years of friendship means nothing to you, Alpha Eric.” Eric replied, “We aren’t friends. You never meant anything to me Christy, and you know that. Haley means everything.” Dylan said, “OHHH would you like some aloe for that burn?” Christy glared at him and left.

I told Eric, “She’s not doing great with the news of my mate.” Jackson chimed in, “Shocking. From the details you gave, I’ve surmised your mate is in high school.” Dylan laughed, “I bet Beta Caleb linked their group that.” I replied, “Yes, she’s going to graduate this year. She’s very smart. She’s sixteen, turning seventeen soon.” Eric added, “Well, at least you don’t have to deal with a dad who wants to shoot you. I think a human father would try to shoot you if you came around his daughter who’s sixteen years old. They have a different view of ages than we do.”

I growled, “I would prefer that, because then she wouldn’t have lived in a tent for the last several years. Or be afraid to say who she’s so scared of.” Eric’s voice softened, “I’m sorry for her circumstances. I know it’s hard to hear when your mate didn’t have everything they should’ve had in their childhood. It hurts you deep down that they suffered and weren’t cared for. Particularly by those who were supposed to protect and love them.” Dylan linked, “Alas, I cannot tease him about that. Quick, change topics. We can’t end on that sour note.”

It was true. If anyone understood my feelings right now, it would be Eric. His mate went through hell before he found her. Eric broke the silence, “Anyway, we will be there Saturday night. I look forward to meeting your mate, Lucas. You should be prepared for some tears from mine both happy and sad. Maybe get something shiny to distract her from you not asking for her help.”

I laughed, “I’ll find her something pink and shiny.” Eric admitted, “That could do it. She’s not a normal fairy though, so one could know for sure. Call if you need anything.” I told him, “I will Eric. Tell Haley thanks for the heads up and to be safe.” Dylan said, “Yes, say it just like that. She won’t get it. Make sure Beta Caleb is around to send a memo about her response.”

Eric growled, “Haley will be safe because I told her nothing can happen to her. The hood is on my shit list.” Bjourn spoke, “Your and ours. I know BA’s brother is worried, but he sent my sister into a situation blind. She hasn’t been on a mission in six months. The prick.” I was concerned, “Eric, how worried do we need to be for Haley?” Eric admitted, “I’m a fucking mess, about it. She links me every fifteen minutes as per our agreement. Should she miss a touch base, I’m calling all my allies to go after her.”

I laughed, “Last week I would’ve given you such shit for that.” Eric laughed, “Now you understand. I am truly happy for you Lucas. Protect your Emmaline and watch Christy. I should’ve watched Claudia better. I was in agony thinking I was

losing Haley during the summit. I know you think you know Christy. I know you're not enchanted by her. Just be cautious my friend. That's all I'll say."

I told him, "I appreciate it. I'll find somewhere for Christy to get some space. I've already told her to stay away from Emmaline. She knows if she can't handle our relationship she has to go." Eric commented, "Good. One last thing, Aiden is looking into the charm Haley wanted to use to find Lacy. They can't use the one she was thinking of for some reason, but Haley thought of another. Aiden had never heard of it, so he didn't want her to do it until he looked into it more. They had a... colorful exchange about it."

Dylan sighed, "Of course I missed that wonderful colorful exchange. I MUST KNOW why the fairy king said no. There's more to it than he hadn't heard of it. Alpha no fun wasn't paying close enough attention. My brain... it hurts from the lack of information he spit at us. I'm sure our fun sized fairy's idea is perfect because she's perfect." I sighed, "Well, I'm sure Haley will work it out."

Eric laughed, "If she pops to you and says she needs something and pops away; just know she's going against her brother. Which I believe she would do for you. I will be seeing you soon, Lucas." I agreed, "See you Saturday." Eric hung up the phone. I stood and went to the back of my office in the corner.

I looked at the picture I kept of Lacy. It was just a small little frame on the wall. I stared at her picture and asked, "Where are you, little sister? Why are you running from me? Why can't fairies pop to you? Are you in danger?" Dylan was just sitting there looking lost. I smelled Emmaline coming. I knew she didn't see me yet when she entered the room and she was visibly nervous.

She talked about how Lacy and Dylan were perfect for each other. As soon as she said it, it clicked for me. They were mates. They always had been close. Dylan was always protective of her, like I was. Hope swelled in me that Emmaline knew Lacy. Was Lacy back? That wasn't the case, but at least we knew Lacy would be staying with us when she came home. This was good news. My baby sister wasn't going to meet her mate out running from me. I might never see her again had that been the case. Now when I got Lacy back, she'd stay because of Dylan. I could work on fixing whatever had caused her run. This gave me time to fix everything. I knew Dylan would treat her like a queen.

Dylan was aggressive about finding Lacy now. He had been invested before. I knew he didn't know I knew he had his own investigation going into finding Lacy. He was being cryptic because we didn't know if Emmaline knew there were fairies. I could see Dylan no longer found the fairy king's reasoning amusing. He'd turned very serious about it. Serious Dylan was intense. I could see his hurt and the urgency in his eyes, knowing Lacy was his now. It seemed I'd missed that my best friend liked my little sister. Dylan's wolf, Fang, was restless with this knowledge. I

knew what he meant because Dominic had been amped up about Emmaline before and after we got her here.

That lead into a conversation about who Eric was. I linked Dylan, “How am I going to explain that?” Dylan laughed out loud and left. He linked me, “Best of luck to you.” Shit! How do I explain to a sixteen-year-old who had no past sexual experiences that I’d been with a man? She might not understand I was attracted to women. It was just Eric. Mates needed to come with a manual. Emmaline got me off task. I hadn’t fully explained when she told me she needed an appointment with the pack OB. I was all for that.

I got so hard and couldn’t control myself. I linked our pack OB, “Heather, my mate needs an appointment tomorrow after school.” Heather replied, “Of course, Alpha. I can get her in at four o’clock.” Good. I relayed that to Emmaline who was entranced with the pack link explanation. The longer we talked the more the scent of her arousal was filling my office.

We were interrupted by Dylan bursting in. He barely started talking when I smelled my parents. What the hell? They’d been traveling, looking for Lacy since she’d run away. I linked Dylan, “Link me.” He retorted, “Well if someone, not to name names but it’s you, didn’t block out their link. You would’ve heard my hilarity about the dire situation happening with your mother right now. She did not laugh at ANY of my jokes, Lucas. She’s that angry.”

My mother burst into the room. She was mad. How was I supposed to know someone else would call her? I had been pretty busy since I’d found Emmaline. Not to mention we were supposed to have a call as a family tomorrow. It’s literally a scheduled phone call every damn week. My mom got distracted by Emmaline. I rolled my eyes and linked my dad, “No, mom I found my mate but have this girl wrapped around me. Of COURSE, this is my mate.” My dad answered, “At least you have the self-preservation skills to say that to me and not her.”

My parents were a bit pup crazy, but to be fair my mom had wanted grandpups for ten years now. My mom was already gushing over Emmaline. My heart stopped when my parents told her my dating past. My dad actually looked over at me with panic in his eyes realizing what he’d just said. Emmaline surprised us all when she started laughing.

Dylan linked me, “At least she’s not running from the room screaming. Maybe she’s got Hackura blood in her. Then we can really compete with Alpha gets everything he wants. Is she in shock?” I growled replying, “I hadn’t told her about Eric yet. Just FUCK.”

Dylan linked me as they left, “It will be ok. She’s your mate. She doesn’t even look upset. She’s amused.” I didn’t bother to answer him because I was focused on

Emmaline. She shrugged off thinking that I was bisexual as if I told her the carpet was grey. She said she wasn't into having sex with me, Eric, and Haley. The image of her with Eric was pushing Dominic into an aggressive state She was taking this really well. We quickly moved on from the topic I thought could end us before we really started. She was amazing. We went to bed. Then I sent her off to school the next day.

I walked into my office to find my parents worriedly pacing. I asked, "Mom, Dad... Are you guys, ok?" My mom whirled around. She quickly asked, "Is everything alright? We didn't mess it up for you already, did we? I'm so sorry baby, I just..."

I put my hands up and put them at ease, "She didn't care about Eric at all. She was concerned I would compare her with Christy. I assured her that would not be the case." My dad looked startled, "She didn't care about you and Eric?" I shrugged. Dylan sighed in relief. He muttered, "A quick link could have put us all at ease. My poor pillow thinks I'm mad at it. I did not sleep."

I told them "She said they have different equipment so I couldn't compare her to him." Everyone laughed. Dylan said, "Now I ask myself, who does that sound like? Oh, who could it be?" He snapped his finger continuing, "Oh yeah... THE PERFECT FUN SIZED FAIRY HACKURA PRINCESS! Emmaline is a fairy, Lucas. I don't give a shit what Christy says." I sighed, "Well, Haley is going to meet Emmaline soon enough. We will know for sure Saturday night." Dylan nodded muttering, "It's like I know things. Trusting Christy of all people over Moi. I am offended."

I caught up with my parents. They had no new leads on Lacy. I asked Dylan, "Do you want to tell them?" He nodded. My parents were curiously watching us. Dylan told them, "So, Emmaline has this talent. She just knows who people's mates are. She told me Lacy is mine. I just know it's true." Both my parent's eyes filled with tears.

My mother spoke first, "Oh, Dylan. Our baby couldn't do better than you. I'm going to tan her hide when I find her, but now she will stay with us. We are going to find her Dale; I just know it. Her mate is here." My dad nodded, "We will bring her home to you, Dylan." We all hugged. When we pulled apart my dad asked, "Any leads on why she left?" I sighed, "No, no one knows anything."

Al linked me that he was giving Emmaline some time off. He wanted her to have a chance to adjust to her new life. He also just wanted her to realize she was a kid who should have fun not just constantly be working. I thanked him. I hoped she would be able to enjoy life a little bit not having to live paycheck to paycheck.

The day passed quickly. Before I knew it, it was time for the barbeque. I smiled as I joined the pack outside. I saw some pups playing. I told them, "Guess what your

future Luna likes to do?” They all looked at me with wide eyes waiting for me to continue. I winked, “She likes to swim, and she’s going to teach you guys. Starting tomorrow morning.” They all cheered, and their parents smiled at me. One asked, “When do we get to meet your mate, Alpha?” I smiled telling them, “She’s at an appointment, but she will be here as soon as it ends.” Everyone was so excited to meet their future Luna.

It wasn’t long before I smelled Emmaline. I couldn’t stop smiling. I saw her in her blue dress that hugged her curves. My smile faded and turned to horror. My lead warrior's daughter hit her head on the dock as she fell in. We were too far away, even with our speed. I took off. I saw Emmaline was already running. She ripped off her dress and dove with precision into the water. I knew she could swim, but I knew she wouldn’t come back up for air without the pup. I was too far away.

She’d been under water for five minutes when she surfaced with the little girl in her arms. Somehow just appeared on top of the dock. What the fuck? One second, they were in the water, and the next they were on the dock. Emmaline felt for a pulse and clearly didn’t get one. I heard my lead warrior’s wife wail. My lead warrior was just ahead of me running to his little girl. Emmaline was performing CPR. Thankfully, the pup started breathing again.

I was feeling so much pride for my mate, and relief that a pup hadn’t died. I looked to see every member of my pack looking at Emmaline with pride. I saw a few unmated males looking at her with lust. I sent a warning growl through the pack link and they turned away quickly.

I looked back at Emmaline. She was in the same bra and underwear I’d seen her in her tent. I needed to show her the clothes I’d purchased and had delivered today. I ripped off my shirt and handed it to her. Dominic was banging on our connection snarling, “We need to mark her! Those unmated wolves want what is OURS!” I agreed with him. I caught her gazing at my abs and smiled as she unconsciously bit her lip. I was going to claim her.

Dylan linked me, “Why do you always have this look like you’re going to fuck her around other people? We need to check on Elouise. Then you can get it on in your own house, you wild animal.” I laughed replying, “The need to claim her with all these unmated males staring at her is high. Dominic is going crazy. Unmated males were looking at her in her underwear.” Dylan sighed, “Yes, yes, yes, let’s go so you can go make sweet love to the high school student.” I growled at him.

Emmaline was planning on coming back out after a shower. That was not going to be the case if I had anything to say about it. She wouldn’t be back until she was wearing my mark on her neck. If Emmaline wasn’t ready to have sex that was fine; I’d have to take a really cold shower. Regardless, I wanted my mark on her neck. I managed to pull away from her.

I walked into the hospital with Dylan. The first sight that greeted me was Hector with Elouise. She was sitting up smiling with a lollipop in her hand. I asked, "Didn't I just see you chowing down on a burger, Hector?" Hector

snorted, "I came running here once I saw little Elouise coughing. Your mate acted very quickly. Is she trained?" I nodded. He grinned, "Excellent. That is very good."

My lead warrior, Trevor, spoke, "Alpha, please thank the Luna again for me. She saved our little girl." Elouise teased, "I met the Luna before you did, daddy." He tapped her nose, "You did princess. You didn't need to go to that extreme to meet her though." Her mom wrapped her up in a hug. She was still crying. Elouise assured her, "I'm fine, mommy. The Luna saved me."

I asked Hector, "How's her head?" He told me, "She has a slight concussion, but her werewolf genes are fixing that. I'll be having her stay here as an overnight guest as a precaution." I nodded and told him, "On another note. I need Emmaline to get a physical. I doubt she's had care since she was thirteen." Hector blanched, "The rumors are true then. She was emancipated at age thirteen? Goddess in heaven... the judge who granted that should be punched. Terminate parental rights fine, but at least put her in the system for god's sake." I agreed with him.

Dylan walked with me up to the house. He wiggled his eyebrows, "Bow chicka wow wow." I growled at him, "You are an overgrown child." He laughed, "Uh huh that's not new. Did you notice how one second your mate was in the water, and the next she was on top of the dock?" I nodded.

Dylan continued, "Did it not look like a fairy pop to you? Because I tell you... Fairy pop. That's what I said to myself when it happened." I sighed, "You've made your point. Christy may be wrong. Haley is on a mission right now so we can't ask her. She's coming Saturday, we will know for sure then. If you're right, I won't even growl when you say I told you so." Dylan smiled, "Yay for me. I do love being right. It's my thing."

I left him and walked up the Luna rooms. My desire to claim Emmaline skyrocketed. Thinking of those males looking at her with lust got my blood pumping all over again. I waited for her to finish drying her hair. She was stunning. I grabbed her and had her pinned against the wall.

Dominic was pleading with me to let him out. I linked, "Dominic she's never had sex before. We can't be too rough her first time. She's going to be sore after. I'll let you have time with her I promise, just not the first time." He grumbled, "I get to mark her then. I want to be in control when we mark her." I agreed, "Fine, that's fair." He grumbled some more, and I buried my head on the spot on her neck where I would mark her.

Emmaline told me she was ready. Things were getting close when I heard Christy shouting downstairs, “LUCAS! Think about what you’re doing! You can’t undo this!” I broke my kiss with Emmaline and growled at Christy. I linked both her and Dylan, “Get her the fuck out my house Dylan! Find a pack to send her to fucking yesterday. If she sets foot up here, I’ll throw her in the dungeons!” Dylan answered, “I mean... that kind of makes me want to let her come up.” I growled. He sighed, “So testy. I’m the best Beta of all time. She’s already out. Go back to what you were doing.” I focused back on Emmaline. She was perfect, and she was all mine.

Tonight, I was going to be gentle. I had plans for when she wasn’t sore anymore already. Our first time was perfect. When I marked her, I felt everything in me settle. I’d needed this. I felt our bond flow to life. Her relief and joy hit me. She’d needed this too. No one would take her from me, and I’d never let her go. The pack was howling excitedly as they felt the link to their Luna form.

A euphoria hit me like I’d never experienced. It was the best orgasm I’d ever had. My body was so content. Emmaline was worriedly asking if I was ok. Poor thing, she had no idea what a man coming was like. She thought she’d hurt me. My sweet, innocent little mate. She quickly turned naughty. She did not want to return to the barbeque.

I linked Dylan, “Hold down the barbeque. We aren’t coming back.” Dylan replied, “Ok Alpha all fun and no barbeque. I’ll make it fun. Don’t you worry.” I never had to worry about anything being fun. Dylan always made sure everyone had fun.

Dominic wanted a turn. He was grumbled that he could be gentle with her. I wanted to laugh. He’d never been gentle with anyone we’d been with. I was surprised by what Emmaline’s mark looked like. The only person I’d seen with a mark like that was Haley Connors. Normally, there’s a name and a wolf with the puncture bites. I winced. Dylan was going to be right. She was going to end up being a fairy. Maybe. Probably. Dominic snickered, “Fang is going to gloat.” Dylan and Fang both would.

When Emmaline fell asleep, I cleaned us up, and got in bed beside her. I pulled her to me and whispered, “I love you, baby girl. I don’t think you’re ready to hear that just yet, but I do. You are my world, and I’m going to spoil you rotten because you deserve it.” With that I joined her in sleep.

Our first morning didn’t go how I planned. We were talking about her past. I was happy she trusted me with part of her story. I didn’t understand some of her hesitation. I was a strong Alpha, yet she seemed to think I was in danger. Based on what she told knew I knew one thing. Her stepfather was likely a warlock. They started training their kids in witchcraft at age thirteen.

A judge wouldn't grant an emancipation for a thirteen-year-old because her mom had an affair. Her siblings were safe from me since they didn't know. I actually felt sorry for them. I seriously doubted the parents told them the truth. They were probably really worried about Emmaline. Her parents though, they were going to fucking PAY. Some piece of shit ran off a thirteen-year-old girl because her wife had an affair? Her mom let her go? Just like that! Her own damn daughter? SHE WAS A CHILD! Dominic was growling furiously in my head. I couldn't blame him.

Dylan interrupted. I opened the door and Dylan wiggled his eyebrows at me. I rolled my eyes. I turned to Emmaline and growled; she was wearing another man's hoodie. Dylan linked me, "She could just buy bigger sizes, calm down. We don't have the facts yet. I'm here for you Mr. Alpha man. Lean on me in these times of questions." I calmed down quickly with the explanation.

Dylan linked me, "She was kicked out the thirteen-year-old? For what? Being too adorable? I thought she filed for emancipation. Isn't that how it usually works?" I replied, "She didn't apply. Her stepdad did when he found out she wasn't his daughter." Dylan yelled, "WHAT? What is happening? Are they just blatantly ignoring the human and supernatural laws wherever she came from? That's just wrong. I am offended on her behalf." I didn't answer him because I didn't know what to say.

What rocked me to my core was finding out there was a bounty on my mate. I linked Dylan snarling, "Are you kidding me?! She was innocent! She didn't make her mom conceive her! What the fuck?! A bounty? There's a bounty on my mate?!"

Dylan answered me, "Shouting the whole time was uncalled for. My ears are ringing, but her stepfather is in fact very dead. How DARE he! That breaks so many laws. I was thinking I was going to have to jump through hoops for us to get away with killing him, but no. All my late night research does not need to happen. He's just going to help me off himself."

I looked at Dylan when Emmaline announced her name was legally changed. I asked, "Then why can't we find any documentation of her name change?" Dylan replied, "I have no clue. Maybe someone sprinkled their magical pixie

dust. Maybe someone took pity on her after she explained why she was running." I sighed.

Eventually, I showed her the closet. Dylan linked me, "Oh look, your normal sized fairy is intrigued by the shiny things." I rolled my eyes at him. I went to her, wrapping my arms around her. She was my mate. She was my other half. That little duffle bag that held all her possessions infuriated me. She should have

everything. I had a lot of money, and the clothes were a small thing. She was going to freak out about the car I had gotten her. I smiled, thinking of giving it to her before her last shift at Al's tonight.

After leaving her, Dylan skipped into our office. I followed behind him. I growled at a tear-stained Christy with her bags packed. Dylan gleefully told me, "Silver Moon is taking Christy in for a few months." Christy cried, "I don't need months. I was thinking of going for a couple of weeks!" I growled, "You need to be out of my sight for much longer than a few weeks. You tried to interrupt the mating and marking of your Luna!"

Christy sobbed, "I'm sorry! It was wrong, I know. I'm so sorry Lucas, I don't know what came over me." I sighed admitting, "I'm sorry this is so hard for you, Christy. I really am." She nodded, "I would like to come back sooner, if possible." I was noncommittal, "Let's see how this all goes. Alright?" She nodded and came over and kissed my cheek. She whispered, "If you need anything, you can call me. I'll be here for you." I shrugged. She walked away.

Dylan said, "I don't like it, Lucas. She's planning something. I feel it in my very marrow." I sighed, "She's out of our hair for now." Dylan's mouth went into a firm line, "Me thinks not, but ok." We worked for an hour. I smiled as I smelled Emmaline coming. It wasn't quite time to give her the car I'd gotten her, but I might just show her earlier than planned. When she entered the room, I smiled and then frowned. She looked deathly pale.

She knew about Ralph. I linked Dylan, "Who the fuck told her?" Dylan sighed, "I'll give you three guesses but if you need more than one, I'm getting you a shirt that says 'I'm an idiot. If lost, please call my ever faithful Beta Dylan Frost.' My poor soul is being serious right now. That's bad for us all." I shot him a look. He continued, "Obviously, Christy told her as a parting jab."

I walked carefully to Emmaline and spoke softly, "Baby girl... I... they hurt you. I know Ralph bruised you when he put his hands on you. He kept talking in the SUV he was going to take you and mark you. I... you are MINE!" Her eyes were wide. She sounded terrified when she asked, "He wanted... to take me? To mark me... like you did? But... but I don't like him!" I went to her. I promised, "I would never let anyone do that in my territory and live. No one will be treated that way whether they are human or supernatural."

She whispered, "So, it's not my fault they are dead? You would've done that for anyone else?" I growled, "Only Ralph is dead. The other two are in chains and will be sent back to their Alpha next week. I won't say I didn't kill him because he put hands on you, or because he wanted to mark what is mine. I would've punished him before had Al or Frank told me of his behavior. He would have died had he marked or taken someone against their will in my territory. Who told you it was

your fault? It's not. Ralph made his choices. He was told how he was expected to behave in my territory. He ignored multiple warning growls from me in the diner. His death is not your fault."

Dylan was creeping towards the door. Emmaline said, "Christy told me. She said I was ruining you and that I should leave." I growled. Dylan linked me, "So... months it is then. Darn. I'm so very sad about that." I responded, "Banished. She is. Banished!" Dylan was surprised and froze on the spot. I glared, "Get out, Dylan." He nodded.

Emmaline cried, "What if I hadn't met you? He would've just taken me? It would've been three against one... he would've... raped me?" I growled, "No one will ever hurt you. You did meet me. He's dead, and he can't hurt you." She cried, "I don't want to leave, but If I'm ruining your life..." She broke off sobbing then managed to continue, "I would only go if it's best for you." I growled and laid her down on the desk. I told her, "You will NEVER say that again. You will not leave me. EVER."

I ripped my jeans off and attacked her mouth. I grabbed her hands and held them tightly with my hand above her head. I bit her mark and she screamed. I spoke against her neck, "This right here says you are MINE! You won't leave me. I won't let you." I just kept licking and kissing her mark lightly biting it as she screamed out her orgasm.

I ran my hand down her swimsuit. When I got to the crotch area, I moved the material to the side and entered her. She moaned, "Lucas... ohh... Lucas." I slammed into her. She tried desperately to move her hands, but I wouldn't let them go. I growled, "MINE! MY MATE!" Dominic was agreeing with me, but not pushing to take over. He knew I needed this.

I commanded, "Say it! Say you won't leave me, Emmaline." She was moaning my name over and over. I pounded into her harder, "SAY IT, EMMALINE!" She cried out, "I won't leave... I didn't even want to!" I growled and bit her mark hard, without drawing blood. Her walls tightened around my dick. I shot my seed into her, growling, "MINE!"

She was panting but lifted her head to kiss my neck. She quietly said, "Yours, Lucas." Hearing her say that calmed both me and Dominic. Dominic decided to talk in our link, "I'm worried you won't be gentle with claiming mate. Hypocrite. She enjoyed it too; mate likes it hard." I sighed. He was right; I had wanted to wait for this type of sexual encounter. Dominic snorted, "You needed to claim her. She was talking about leaving." I growled at the reminder and kissed her hard.

I released her hands. She gasped looking down, "Are you...? You feel hard again." I smiled, "I am and I'm going to take you again." I slid out of her. I told her, "Get

down then put your elbows down onto the desk while you stand there.” She gulped and slowly did as I said.

I praised, “Good job, baby girl.” I slapped her ass hard. She gasped. I smiled and slapped her ass again. I spoke authoritatively, “You will never say anything about leaving me ever again. Will you?” She stuttered, “Nnnoo?” I slapped her ass again. I admonished, “That doesn’t sound very confident. You said it like it was a question.” She said nothing so I slapped her ass one last time. She replied, “I didn’t want to, I said if it was best for you I would. It would kill me but for you I would.”

I got up behind her and pressed my erection onto her ass. I passionately told her, “You are what’s best for me. No matter what is going on, you being here for me is best. Without you I would be weakened. My wolf would be weak.” She tried to turn around. I held her still. She asked, “What?” I slid a finger into her. I continued, “I would be weakened if you were gone.” She whimpered, “I didn’t... know that.” I slowly started to move my finger and told her, “Now you do.” She was so wet; I pulled my finger out and she protested.

I immediately put my dick into her with one move. I let Dominic out. He pounded into her. She arched her ass higher into the air. He playfully slapped her butt cheek. She responded by coming. Dominic was gleeful. He came shortly after.

He greeted her, “Hello, mate.” She turned around and smiled at him. He lifted her onto the desk. She smiled, “Hi, Dominic.” He cupped her face. “You’re perfect. You can’t talk about leaving us. Lucas is sensitive about that given that you are kind of a runaway. He has triggers because of Lacy.” I growled at him, but he didn’t pay me any attention.

Emmaline protested, “I’m not really a runaway. They forced me to leave. I didn’t think about Lacy though. I am sorry. The thought of hurting you and Lucas kills me.” He kissed her forehead, “You don’t hurt us. You make us strong.” She smiled and asked him, “Do I get to see your shift now?” Dominic laughed, “Not today. You want to see me in wolf form?” She nodded, “Yes.” Dominic said seriously, “I don’t want to scare you, little mate.” She teased him, “Hey I’ve taken on rogues. I think I can handle seeing you, Dominic. I bet you’re a handsome wolf.” He preened at her words. He told her, “I’ll shift for you one day soon then.”

I took back over. I told her, “He is a good looking wolf.” She kissed me, “I’m sorry Lucas. I wasn’t thinking when I said I would leave for you.” I nodded. She continued said, “Can... can you tell me about her? About Lacy?” I sighed, “Lacy is really sweet and loving. She was best friends with Valerie, Sam, and Chelsea. She started being secretive and pulled away from all of us about six months before she left. Before then she was the most outgoing, charismatic girl in our pack.”

Emmaline smiled inferring, "Like Dylan." I nodded, "Those two do make a lot of sense. Lacy is very mature though, which would balance out Dylan quite nicely. It kills me. I don't know why she's running from me." Emmaline looked like she was about to say something when Dylan came back.

I could hear Christy's ranting on the phone he was holding out from his ear. Thank god Emmaline couldn't hear it. I quickly said, "Baby girl, why don't you go shower? You can get ready for your last shift. I have a surprise for you before you leave."

She smiled and hit my chest, "You sure are full of surprises, Lucas Lyons." I kissed her then linked her, "Are you ok? I didn't mean to be so intense with you this quickly." She startled. She focused really hard and managed to reply, "Yes... liked... working?" I laughed. I answered out loud, "It's a work in progress. You'll get used to mind linking." She smiled exclaiming, "Coolest thing EVER!" than ran out of the office.

Dylan put the phone on speaker. Christy screamed, "She's a lying little bitch! I WILL NOT be banished because of some harpy who's pulled the wool over Lucas' eyes. I DEMAND to talk to him." I growled, "You are." She immediately changed her tune, "Lucas, please let me explain." I growled, "Please do explain why you told my mate she should leave me. I would LOVE to hear your explanation for your attempt to separate me from my Luna. Did Claudia's situation not spell out how that ends?"

Christy started to cry. She asked me, "You mean to file a complaint with the council?" I growled answering, "Yes, I do. You are BANISHED. I don't want to see you ever again! It hurts even more that you were there for me countless nights while I was torn apart over Lacy leaving. You just callously told my MATED AND MARKED mate to leave me." Christy cried, "That wasn't what I said! She misunderstood!" I rolled my eyes, "Then what, pray tell, did you say?" Christy sniffled, "I said that she should've handled the customers at the diner better. That flirting for tips or allowing them to treat her that way was no way for a Luna to act. That you needed better from her."

I growled, "So your excuse is that you blamed the victim of assault? Really?" She cried, "I didn't tell her to leave though. She exaggerated!" I snarled, "You told her I killed them. You tried to scare her away from me." She sighed, "Honestly Lucas! How can you think that? I was just letting her know her actions have consequences. I wasn't trying to scare her! Is she scared of you now? That wasn't my intention. I'll talk to her." I harshly told her, "You will NEVER talk to her again. Do you hear me?" Christy cried, "Just don't banish me, please. I'll stay away longer. Just not a banishment." I sighed, "I won't make it official by putting out the word. We can reconsider in a year whether it will be official or not." Christy said, "Thank you." I hung up and sat in the chair dejectedly.

Dylan spoke, "You can't feel guilty for everything she does. She's acting on her own. You made no promises to her. You never strung her along." I shrugged, "Maybe I should've sent her away when the Claudia situation went down with Eric and Haley." Dylan shrugged, "Maybe, but she'd just cause problems when she came back. I feel the need to point out, Emmaline wasn't scared of you."

I admitted, "For a minute there, I thought she was going to see me as a monster." Dylan said, "You're not a monster. You protected her, and everyone in your territory. Ralph was a menace and if he agreed to leave Emmaline alone; he would've gone after some other teenage girl unaware of our world." I nodded, "I know. I just... I couldn't bear it if she were afraid of me. That is what Christy intended, isn't it? I'm not projecting my fears onto her, am I?"

Dylan shook his head, "I don't think so. I think she wanted Emmaline to be afraid and run away. You would've gone after Emmaline and when you caught her, her fear would've hurt you. I think Christy wanted to pick up the pieces. Maybe she wanted history to repeat itself. She was really there for you when Lacy left." I sighed, "Yes, she was. That's why this is so hard. She was my rock when I needed one." Dylan sighed, "That only goes so far. Plus, I was totally your rock. How dare you say I wasn't. I'm offended. I'll require a delish dessert to make up for that statement" I smiled.

My dad walked in, "Your mother is on cloud nine about Emmaline. She watched her swimming lesson. She said it was great." My eyes narrowed, "Did mom see anything else?" My dad was distracted looking around. He answered, "Huh? Oh. Well, your mother did say Christy spoke to her. Something about Emmaline grabbing Christy's hand for a moment before Christy yanked it away. Your mom called Christy colorful things."

I asked, "Did she hear what was said between them?" My dad frowned, "No, she was in the house in our room watching through the window. Why? What did Christy do?" I sighed, "She told Emmaline I killed three men for touching her. Then added that she should leave me because she's bad for me."

My dad gaped, "Who touched my future daughter in law? Are they dead, son? Because they better be dead!" I sighed, "The one who touched her is dead, yes. The other two are in the dungeon." My dad growled, "Then I have prisoners to see." He stalked off and Dylan smiled, "I do love that man." I smiled "So do I." Dylan sighed, "If only he was my old man. Alas, my dad is a phantom at this point." I winced. His parents went on a trip, and they just kept extending it.

My mom and Emmaline entered our office about thirty minutes later, laughing. My mom smiled exclaiming, "Lucas, she is a sweetheart! Where is my husband? He was supposed to be in here with you." I quietly answered, "Talking to some prisoners." My mom frowned, "Why?"

I looked at Emmaline and answered, "Because he was unhappy when he heard about their treatment of Emmaline." Emmaline's jaw dropped and my mom laughed, "Well, no need to worry about them Emmy dear. My Lucas and Dale are on the case." Emmaline spoke, "Oh... I mean... It's really ok..." My mom cut her off, "Nonsense, you are family. No one messes with the family and gets away with it, Emmy."

I linked my mom, "Emmy?" My mom smiled, "She said it was fine, and she seemed happy I came up with a nickname." Emmaline's eyes filled with tears. She hugged my mom, "Thank you, Debbie." My mom laughed, "I told you it's mom. There will be none of this Debbie business." I smiled watching them. Dylan linked, "So... are you going to give her the car?"

I asked out loud, "Are you ready for your surprise, baby girl?" She wiped her eyes, "I really don't know, Lucas." I led her outside with my mom and Dylan right behind us. My dad showed up right before I led her around the corner to the garage. Her blue Volkswagen beetle sat with a green bow on the top. Emmaline's jaw dropped.

She sputtered, "How... How did you know?" I asked, "Know what?" She smiled at me, "I always wanted a bug!" I laughed admitting, "I didn't. I just thought it suited you." She kissed me and ran over to the car squealing. My mom smiled at her excitement. My dad spoke quietly, "Why did she work at four in the morning in a diner on school days?" I sighed, "I'll explain when she goes to work."

Emmaline was oohing and ahing over everything in the car. She jumped out and ran and jumped into my arms. She exclaimed, "I can't believe you! This... I love it!" She kissed me hard and pulled away to hug me. I squeezed her tightly, whispering, "I told you baby girl; I'm going to spoil you silly. You deserve it. I take care of what's mine. Al said you know how to drive. Your background check showed you had a driver's license." She nodded excitedly, "I do!"

We talked for a while. Eventually, I sighed, "You do need to get going." She excitedly asked, "Can I take my new car?" I nodded, "Yes, my warriors are going to be in an SUV behind you." She teased, "Oh you! I don't even care that I don't need them to waste their time following me. Umm, I have the mixer after my shift."

I nodded, "That's fine. I just want you back to meet Eric and his mate." She smiled, "I can't wait to meet her!" I tilted my head asking, "Why's that?" She answered, "You said she's a fairy. I want to meet a fairy." I admitted, "She's a partial fairy Princess technically speaking." Emmaline's jaw dropped.

She asked quietly, "What's her name?" I told her, "Haley Cambridge Connors formally Haley Holloran." Emmaline squealed, "ARE YOU KIDDING ME?"

You're kidding? Oh my gosh... Maybe I'll skip the mixer. Can you like... mind blown me the second she gets here? I'll break all the speed limits to get back home!"

I laughed at her enthusiasm. I told her, "I'm not kidding. She's actually a double princess. She's also a Hackura." Emmaline stopped bouncing. She yelled, "SHUT UP! She's partial Hackura and fairy? She's a princess of both?"

Dylan asked, "You know who the Hackura are?" She snorted, "Of course I do! So, she's like the ultimate heroine. I cannot wait to meet her! Promise me Lucas... The SECOND she gets here. you do that mind blown thing." I teased her, "It's still called mind link, baby girl." She retorted, "It's still called mind blown, Alpha man."

I smiled, "Well, I could link you or text you." She shook her head, "Nope. I don't have a phone." I smiled asking, "Don't you? You can't have a car without a phone. That would be dangerous. What if you needed help?" She narrowed her eyes at me. She asked, "You got me a phone too?" I winked, "It's in the console. My number, Dylan's, and my parents are already programmed in. Before you get to upset, Haley is the nicest fairy I've met. She could want to give you her number." Emmaline squealed and hugged me again.

She squealed, "I can't believe I'm going to meet THE fairy princess and her prince." I laughed, "Eric will be here pretty soon. Haley will be popping in later." Emmaline asked, "Popping?" I told her, "It's a fairy thing." Emmaline clapped exclaiming, "This is the BEST day! I'm so excited." Emmaline kissed me and bounced to her car to go to work. I smiled and we walked back inside.

My mom touched my shoulder, "Lucas, honey I don't know her background... but is she a fairy? She seemed to know Haley Connors by her maiden name." Dylan snorted, "Lucas is convinced Emmaline is not a fairy because Christy said so. I'm all ready to tell him I told you so." We reached the office and filed inside.

My mom snorted, "Lucas Lyons, does a duck swim in a pond?" I rolled my eyes answering, "Yes." My mom chided, "Christy is a liar. I think Emmaline's a fairy." Dylan gave her a high five. He taunted, "That's two to one Lucas. I'm going to win. I am IN THE LEAD." My dad interjected, "It's three to one, Dylan. My wife is right. Emmaline recognized Haley's name. It was like she was going to meet her personal hero." I sighed they had a point. I held out, "We will see when Haley gets here."

A knock interrupted our conversation. I yelled, "Come in!" To my shock Eric, Jackson, Marcus, and Bjourn walked into the room. I looked at my watch, "You guys are early." Jackson laughed, "They are twitchy about Haley. Mom threw us out of the house. We annoyed her." Dylan laughed, "That would be annoying. I

have the utmost confidence in your perfect little mate Alpha no fun. I'm sur it was the topic of my fun sized fairy that annoyed your mom though." Eric growled at him. I rolled my eyes at Dylan.

Eric greeted me, "It's good to see you, Lucas. Can we meet your mate?" Dylan said, "Don't be so forward Alpha no fun. Don't give away our secret love." Eric ignored him. I told them, "You just missed her. She went to her last shift at Al's." They nodded.

Bjourn appraised me, "Eric mentioned our services may be of use to you." My parents gasped. I said, "Yes. My mate's parents..." My mom interrupted yelling, "LUCAS DAVID LYONS!" I sighed, "Just hear the story mom." She glared at me but nodded. I continued, "Emmaline was emancipated without her knowledge at thirteen because her stepdad found out she wasn't his biological daughter." Bjourn nodded adding, "He's likely a warlock or demon then." I agreed, "Yes." I had forgotten about demons.

I kept going, "He threw her out, and put a bounty on her head. She's been forced away from her siblings, who she misses terribly. She's been living out in the woods in a sleeping bag. She was biking twenty miles to work at Al's before school and after. She's an amazing swimmer, but she can't compete because she's afraid her stepdad would find her. She killed rouges that attacked her and got hurt defending herself. Her mother let her be cut off from her family because she had an affair. Apparently, Emmaline's stepdad gave her mother the choice of him or Emmaline. She didn't pick Emmaline." Bjourn was silent.

My mom was seething, "That bitch! Emmy was just a baby!" I nodded. Marcus said, "We will help you make them pay, but we won't find them for you. If your mate tells you their names, we will bring them to you." I agreed, "What's your price?"

Bjourn looked at his brother and said, "It's free of charge. Her story may not be our sister's, but we know what the feeling of wanting people to pay. Besides, our sister would kick our asses if we charged her lion for a noble cause. I think we all know Haley will be distraught over Emmaline's story." Eric clapped Bjourn on the back. I held out my hand and thanked him, "Thank you, Bjourn." Bjourn shook my hand and we all sat down.

Eric and I caught up. I noticed he was linking someone. I asked, "Is that Haley?" He nodded, "She's being evasive. I don't like it. FUCK!" I looked at the clock. Emmaline would've been at the mixer for a while now. I asked, "What's wrong, Eric?" Eric growled, "Haley finished her mission, the Black Arrow is safe. She was about to join us when a partial fairy called upon Haley's protection. Of course, my unselfish mate popped to whoever it is. With no backup."

Dylan teased him, “Oh, come on. Haley will be fine. She can stake vampires with no powers. She’s got this.” Eric glared at him. He gritted his teeth telling Dylan, “I cannot wait until you find your mate. You have no idea how hard it is for me....” Before he could finish that thought, my office door burst open.

I recognized the werewolf Council guards by their uniforms coming through the doorway. Sam, Valerie, Chelsea, Drake, and Peter ran into my office. Chelsea cried, “Tell them Beta Dylan! Tell them they are wrong!” Dylan jumped up, “I’m so ready to tell people they are wrong. What am I saying they are wrong about? I’m confident they are wrong, but some context would be nice.”

We all stared in shock as the entire werewolf council stepped into the room with twenty additional guards. I asked, “What is going on?” An Alpha council member spoke, “Lucas Lyons, you are being placed under our protection until such time as we can get whatever magic has been placed on you under control.” Dylan and Eric growled at them.

Eric stood asking, “What the FUCK are you talking about?” Another Alpha council member explained, “He’s been under the spell of a hunter. A huntress tricked him into thinking she is his mate. She has killed five of our kind, and we believe she means to use Lucas’ position to further that number.” Dread filled me. I shakily told them, “If you harmed my mate, who is NOT a hunter, I’ll destroy you.”

The first council member that had spoken sighed. He told me, “We do not take offense at your comments. We know it’s the spell talking. Your pack and Beta are worried.” Dylan growled, “His Beta is concerned you can’t do your job. You didn’t even call me! Why do I have a phone? To take phone calls for such instances where people call and ask ‘Hey Beta Dylan so good to talk to you. You’re the funniest Beta around, and we do so love calling. By the by has your alpha gone off the rails?’ To which I would’ve said, ‘not even a little. He’s all twitterpated and in love with his mate.’ I swear to god if you say Christy Jenkins called this in I’ll find some paperwork to dramatically throw around.” They paled.

I roared, “Where is my mate? What did you do to her?” They came to grab me with silver chains. Eric growled, “Don’t you dare!” They kept walking towards me. A fight broke out quickly. Eric blocked several guards with Jackson right by his side. Dylan was by mine.

We were working through guards as I tried to reach Emmaline in our link, “Baby girl?” Nothing, “Emmaline, please answer me.” She had to be alright. The punishment for a hunter that had killed werewolves was death. Dominic linked me, “We would’ve felt it if she died. She’s not dead, Lucas.” I retorted, “Help me get through the guards to get to her.” Dominic growled, “I AM!”

A pop sounded. Relief filled me. Haley would throw all these people out of my way with the wind. Haley's angrily commanded, "ENOUGH! Nobody fucking move or I will go Fairy Hackura Princess on your asses! Lucas, Emmaline needs you." I turned to face her as she continued, "And you werewolf council fucktards will be dealt with in a minute. ANYONE who TOUCHED my mate is fucking dead. Actually, you all may be dead anyway! Fucking assholes!" I heard Eric growl at Haley's disheveled appearance.

Once my eyes found my mate, she was all I could see. I barely registered that Christy was wrapped in a silver chain screaming for me on the ground. Emmaline was in Haley's arms. Her uniform was ripped open in the back. Anger consumed me.

I snarled, "They whipped her? Where the HELL were my warriors?" Haley quietly spoke to me, "She wanted you to be with her before I healed her. By the way, we are going have a long ass chat when I'm done healing her. She's what's important right now, though."

I took Emmaline from Haley. She whimpered, "Lucas? Don't be mad at your warriors. Christy tricked them." Tears filled my eyes. I comforted her, "Haley is going to make it all better. I'm so sorry, baby girl. I'm so fucking sorry." Haley started to heal Emmaline. A peaceful euphoria overtook my body. Had I not been so upset; I probably could've taken a nap. It seemed like minutes when the feeling faded.

I looked over at the clock. Almost an hour had passed. Emmaline's eyes were closed when I looked down at her. I spoke softly, "Emmaline? Baby girl? Can you open your eyes for me?" She slowly did. She smiled at me.

Her voice was a little gravely, "Lucas, hi." I buried my face into her neck. She started to cry, pleading with me, "I swear, I'm not a hunter, Lucas! I don't know what that is... I'm... I'm a partial fairy, not a hunter; I swear. Haley can prove it! Christy knew too she..." I cut her off with a kiss. When I pulled back, I assured her, "I know you're not a hunter, baby girl."

Haley's anger shook the room as she yelled, "You MORONIC Fuckups have done it again!" I turned and saw Dylan had a plate of grapes next to him along with a bowl of popcorn. I linked him, "How did you already get popcorn?" Dylan snorted, "It took Haley almost an hour to heal Emmaline. I could've had popcorn within minutes. I have my ways, Lucas. I had ample time to prepare for what is setting up to be an epic showdown. You are unprepared. I am READY for this."

Haley popped beside Eric and hissed, "Who hit you?" Eric looked her up and down before responded, "Who the FUCK did this to you?" Haley looked like a mess. Her hands were burned, and she had a black eye. A werewolf council member spoke,

“Princess, you cannot speak to us like that.” She rounded on him. Dylan clapped, “And ... here... we go!” I rolled my eyes at him. I pulled Emmaline into me, inhaling her scent.

Haley retorted, “When I am talking to you dipshits, BELIEVE me; you will fucking know I am talking to you! Until then I suggest you adopt the phrase silent as a mime!” I laughed along with Emmaline and Dylan. Jackson and Eric were biting their lips in an attempt not to laugh.

Marcus said, “That’s not the saying, little sister.” Haley groaned asking, “Really? What could possibly be more silent than a mime? They don’t talk!” Bjourn answered, “It’s silent as the grave.” Haley snorted, “That makes no sense! Mine is better.”

Dylan snickered. Haley’s eyes caught mine. She crossed her arms, “You, my lion, are in BIG trouble. BIG! You kept my cousin from me, on the word of Claudzilla’s best fucking friend! You and I might have to get in the ring!” I froze. Did she say cousin?

Dylan sounded entirely too happy when he asked, “Cousin?” She turned and smiled at him. She greeted warmly, “Hello, my friend Dylan.” Eric growled in response. Haley answered, “Yes, she is my cousin.” She rounded on the council and yelled, “You dumb fucks have attacked the royal water fairy house! On the word of ONE PERSON! What kind of moronic, asinine idiots do that? You are not fit to be anyone’s FUCKING council, let alone draw breath!”

Emmaline whispered to me, “It’s like when you meet your idol, and they are so much better than you ever anticipated.” Eric turned and smiled at Emmaline. Haley took out her phone and spoke in rapid fealish. A pop sounded beside her. I stared in shock at the King of the Fairies. Aiden Holloran was in my office. He studied Haley, then he turned to Emmaline.

He greeted her, “Cousin. Did my sister heal you?” Emmaline was in shock but nodded. He turned to the werewolf council. He addressed them, “From my sister's colorful explanation I gather you all are the and I quote ‘fucktards who attacked the water fairy duchess.’ Which also makes her the cousin to the ruling fairy house’s, king, and princess?” They all paled.

Emmaline whispered, “Duchess? Did he say... Duchess? I... me? Shut up!” I looked at her and linked, “My little fairy Duchess.” I kissed her temple. I kind of wished Dylan had gotten me some popcorn as I watched the Princess and King of the fairies square off with the council with my mate in my arms.