

Fantastic Five

Emmaline knew the Lyons family would need a family moment before I got to meet her. I felt really bad for poor Dylan because I don't think he was going to be able to stay away once Lacy got back. Lucas should understand that though, and Dylan grew up with Lacy and Lucas. It's not like he was an outsider. I made a quick exit.

I walked out and waited until I got to the front door. I grabbed onto the door frame and let out a sob. I missed my brothers and sister so much. I was gaining a sister through my mate's family to get to know, but they weren't Katie. No one could replace my Katie cat.

I was there for her on the night of her first kiss, first boyfriend, first heartbreak. She was there for me with my first crush, giving me advice. She did my make up once even though mom said I was too young for it. She got mad if I borrowed her stuff without asking, but she would always let me take something if I asked her first. My phone beeped, letting me know I got a text and I wiped my tears to read it.

Haley: Hi Emmaline! I wanted you to have my number as well. I was so weird I forgot to give you tips for your soul searching ability to practice. It's easy. Aiden suggested I describe it as a mood ring. I was not certain what the fuck that is, but Mrs. Blanch told me so now I know. You are a human mood ring, but you are more accurate. I have been laughing that human's think they can tell someone's mood from this ring that goes off of body temperature, but whatever.

Haley: Anyway, when you want to search if someone is being honest with you, or their motives you focus on their aura. I know I sound like a crazy person, but I've bet you've done it before. If there was a person you just hated from the first moment you heard their name, or someone who you instinctually trusted, you were using your powers. When you heard Lucas' name for the first time or anytime it probably excited you. Because instinctively you knew that he was yours. When you focus on a person you will begin to see colors.

Haley: If someone has a black color around them, they are angry or being deceitful. Pink is love, which is adorable. I'm going to send you a screenshot of the text from a book in Faerie. It shows the colors and what I learned about Soul searches and how to use the power. I'm bartering with Aiden to get you the book for your own use. There are rules about books leaving Faerie. This is a very long text.

Haley: P.S. I will win and get you the book. Fairies are competitive :) So glad we got to meet cousin! See you soon. Call or text if you need anything.

I looked at the attachment and she had sent me a picture of the colors and what they mean, and a little blurb about how to start using the power. I texted her back.

Me: Thanks Haley! I will start practicing. Thank you for everything! Saving me, fighting for me, and not spilling my secret about my birth name. I look forward to getting to know you better.

Haley: No need to thank me! I will always show up for you. Even if you don't want to have a relationship with me. Call on me anytime for protection, and I will come. I understand having secrets. All fairies do. I have my own story to tell you one day, and it's not a fairytale beginning. It's harder for us as fairies to keep our secrets because we can't lie, but we can evade. I understand probably more than most can because of my past. Sometimes people just need time to open up and share; I know I did.

I sighed. Lucas had mentioned Haley had her own story to tell. I began to get a feeling the stories my mother told me about the bullying Princess Haley had overcome in her stories were watered down. I felt bad for my cousin. I wondered if meeting Eric was her turning point. I laughed at myself; it was probably meeting her Hackura brothers. They would've come to take her when she was sixteen. It would be so freaking cool to be a Hackura. The supernatural assassin bad asses everyone turns to when something is impossible.

I pushed those thoughts aside and walked into the pack house. I quickly found Chelsea, Sam, Valerie, Drake, and Peter. Valerie's face was the color of Tomato, as Chelsea was teasing her. Chelsea poked Valerie's side asking, "How's California man?" I paled.

Peter looked up, greeting me, "Hey Emmaline! The girls were just trying to get the details about Valerie's new pen pal." Chelsea smiled, "I've never seen her this way about a boy. You looovvvee him, don't you? Are you going to tell us his name?" Valerie shot me a smile as she answered, "His name is Ryan, ok?" Sam squealed, "And you just messaged him on Instagram, out of the blue?" Chelsea laughed, "Come on let's see him!" Valerie turned her phone around.

I saw Drake and Peter glance sharply at me. I was sure they could hear my heart beating out of my chest. The girls crowded her phone. Sam asked, "Which one is he?" I couldn't look away from the picture of my siblings. I furiously wiped at the corner of my eyes. I hadn't seen my siblings, even in pictures, in four years. I was always worried if I checked any social media somehow David would know and track me down. It's why I didn't have any social media whatsoever. The picture was of Ry, Dusty, and Katie on top of a mountain. Ry was on the left and Katie was in the middle with Dusty on the right. They looked so happy.

Drake and Peter kept glancing at each other, then at me. Valerie answered, “He’s the one on the left. The other two are his siblings, Dustin, and Katie. They are all over his page. For some reason he only got an Instagram a few weeks ago. So, I couldn’t fully cyber stalk him. It’s not fair he has so much more to look through with my social media sites.”

Sam laughed, “What about his Facebook?” Valerie groaned, “He doesn’t have one because his dad is like from the stone ages or something and never let them get one. I asked why he got an Instagram, and all he said was magic. I’m not sure what that means yet. His twin, the girl in the photo, Katie has a Facebook. Unfortunately, you can only see a limited amount unless you’re her friend. I didn’t want to appear creepy, friending his sister.”

Valerie was scrolling through Ryan’s pictures he had posted. I saw a pretty girl with auburn hair in one next to Dusty. I asked no one in particular, “Who’s she?” I hadn’t even meant to say anything. Valerie answered, “That’s Dustin’s wife, Aubree. They got married last year.”

I knew that I was shaking slightly. Drake and Peter definitely noticed. I needed to get out of here to collect myself then come back. I said the first that popped into my head, “I’m going to run to the kitchen for a snack. Does anyone want anything?” Chelsea was absorbed in Valerie’s phone right along with Sam. Chelsea squealed, “He’s so cute, Val!” Peter growled and Chelsea quickly shushed him. Sam said, “We are good Emmaline, thanks! Hurry back and get all the details on California Ryan!”

I walked out of the room as fast as I could. I walked into the kitchen; grateful no one was there. I took deep breaths as I grabbed onto the sink. Dusty was married, he’d found his wick. Pain hit me that I didn’t know her, and that I didn’t get to see him get married. I couldn’t be at their wedding, but I desperately wished I could’ve been there.

A throat cleared behind me. I whirled around to find Peter and Drake watching me. I tried to cover my gut wrenching pain, “Oh, hey guys.” Drake asked, “What’s wrong?” I sighed, “Honestly, you don’t have time for the list of what’s wrong, Drake. I’ll be fine.” I looked closely at him and Peter. I had to focus but I sensed green in their auras.

I whispered, “You’re worried.” Peter surmised, “The fairy princess told you how to work on your soul searching powers. You are the soul searcher, right?” I nodded. Peter admitted, “We are worried. You had a visceral reaction to the picture of Valerie’s new guy. A new guy she just happened to find and start talking to. She’s acting like he’s her mate, but she’s never met him. I asked myself, how could she possibly know that he’s her mate? Then I remembered there’s a very obvious way she would know that. The question is, how do you know California Ryan?”

My heart rate was through the roof as I whispered, “Ry is a good guy.” Drake’s voice shot up, “Ry? You call him Ry?” SHIT! Why didn’t I just say Ryan? Peter smirked, “So, we were right. You did tell Valerie about him.” I sighed; Haley told me I couldn’t lie but I could evade. I said, “I did. My power can work by seeing a picture, knowing a person, or a flash of memories someone has. I don’t exactly know how the flash of memories works yet; I’ve done it by accident a few times.”

Drake spoke, “So…” I cringed, “So, what?” Peter said, “Cut the shit. How do you know Ryan?” Drake piped up, “She calls him Ry, Peter.” Peter sighed asking, “Did you date him or something?” I cringed, gagging, “Or something. Look, I don’t want to talk about it. I just couldn’t keep them from each other. They deserve to be happy like you guys and me; they need each other.”

Peter and Drake sighed. Drake spoke “You swear he’s a good guy, right? Sam loves Valerie and Chelsea like they are her sisters. Some guy coming in here and being an ass to Valerie, mate or not, won’t last long.” I assured them, “He’s the best. She couldn’t ask for a better mate.” Peter ran a hand through his hair. Finally, he said, “Fine, we will let this go. The girls were too excited to notice your reaction. If you want to talk we are here for you. I know you’re not in our territory anymore, but we are still here for you.” My shoulders dropped in relief. Honestly, they might be good sounding boards. I sincerely thanked them, “Thanks, guys. I really appreciate that you care.” They nodded and we walked back into the room.

Chelsea squealed, “Come on Emmaline! We are taking a group photo!” I smiled and Valerie grabbed me and pulled me next to her. Peter and Drake got next to Sam and Chelsea. As Chelsea snapped the picture, I ducked my head behind Valerie. I wished I could take a picture with them, but I couldn’t have my picture out there. No one noticed my actions.

Afterwards, we just hung out. Everyone wanted me to put their numbers in my phone. I texted them so we all had each other’s numbers. My phone pinged a few minutes later.

Valerie: Thank you for telling me about Ryan! He’s just the best! We aren’t planning to meet anytime soon, but I’ll keep you informed.

Me: That’s great! I’m so glad you’re happy!

Valerie smiled at me as we all started talking. I even managed to keep it together when Valerie started to blush, looking at her phone. Chelsea asked, “Is it California lover boy?” Valerie’s blush deepened, “Yes.” Chelsea squealed “What did he say?” Valerie read, “I can’t believe how much just your name sends a thrill through me. Can we exchange numbers? I know this is crazy, but I just know you’re it for me.” Chelsea squealed.

Sam screamed, “Oh my god! Did you just stumble into your mate by sliding into his DM’s?” Peter and Drake looked at me. Valerie just smiled and messaged Ryan back. Moments later her phone pinged a text sound. Chelsea asked, “So, what’s his last name?” Valerie smiled and winked at me subtly, “Forrester.” My heart was pounding. Sam mused, “Valerie Forrester. It sounds good, babe!”

My heart hurt. Ry was going to get married without me there, just like Dusty. Then it hit me, so was I. I would eventually marry Lucas, and they wouldn’t be there. Before I could dive into those emotions Lucas linked me that Lacy was home. I smiled. My cousin really was more like a fairy godmother princess. She should change her official title.

I told the girls, “I actually came down here to tell you guys Lacy called.” Everyone stopped. Chelsea grabbed onto Peter asking, “And?” Sam had hope shining in her eyes. I continued, “And my fairy princess cousin just popped her home. She’s in Lucas’ office. He said you guys could come up with me and see her.” The girls screamed and jumped up and ran out of the house with me following.

Peter yelled, “We are going over pack business, link me if you need me sweetie.” Chelsea stopped and yelled, “Get your butt over here! You two are coming with us. Lacy is like our other sister. We were the fantastic four before, and now Lacy is going to meet our fifth member. Come on!” Peter and Drake shrugged and ran after them.

We were breaking a land speed record for Lucas’ office. Well, they were. They were a lot faster than me. I sighed and pictured the stairs to Lucas’ office. I ended up in the living room but took that as a win. Sam laughed, “Practicing popping! Nice!” I ran the rest of the way with them and entered the office.

Lacy looked just like the memory flash I saw from touching Christy. Just a little bit sadder than she used to. She looked tired too, but she kept sneaking glances at Dylan. He was unabashedly staring at her with all the love he had to offer. I didn’t know how everyone was missing this between them.

I could sense pink, grey, and blue around Lacy’s aura. I wondered why she would be in love, impatient, and genuine all at the same time. I looked at Dylan and he was pink, grey, and getting close to red. Lacy’s emotions now made sense, they wanted to be alone and mate. I could help them with that. If I’d known that mates were a thing and understood when I’d heard the voice say “mine” in my head; I would’ve wanted the same thing. They flew from the room once they had permission. I was secretly hoping Lacy wanted kids really soon. That way everyone would focus on her and Dylan instead of Lucas and me.

I studied Lucas’ aura next. His was pink, green, and grey. I smiled. He must have work to do, but he wants to spend time with me. I left the office with my friends

since he called Peter and Drake back. The girls were excitedly chattering about hanging out with Lacy. Sam worriedly asked, "Is she going to be able to graduate with us?" Chelsea sighed, "We will just have to see how everything goes. Maybe she was in school... where was she?" I answered, "Ireland. Haley brought her back from Ireland. Claudia took her there and had her sign a contract with fairies. Haley and Aiden got her out of it before bringing her home."

Valerie boasted, "Well, you little miss duchess have become our pack's good luck charm." I blushed, "That's just weird. I can't be a duchess. I lived in a tent until I was found in the woods." Sam slapped my arm, "OH YEAH! You had us worried to death, Emmaline! When our guys lost you, Drake and Peter went to help find you. They found nothing! Do you know how crazy that made us? It's hard to lose us with our sense of smell and speed." I sighed.

Chelsea said, "Yeah, when Peter told my mom she was so upset. You're going to get it from her." I shrugged, "It's just how my life has been. If I'm being followed, I've learned how to lose people." Sam changed the subject, "Drake said you went to a dance with the human transfer in our school Grayson last year. Does the Alpha know?"

I rolled my eyes, "How does Drake even remember that? I told Lucas about it the other day." Chelsea started cackling. She asked, "You didn't like... do more than go on a date, did you? Because I haven't heard Grayson was dead." I stopped walking, "Lucas wouldn't kill him. Would he? Grayson just lightly pecked my lips at the end of the night!" Sam howled with laughter, "He won't kill him for that. He'll never be nice to him though."

I sighed in relief then asked, "Why? It was barely even a kiss. Grayson is a nice guy." Valerie bumped my shoulder, "Be sure not to mention that to the Alpha. Werewolf males are insanely possessive; especially the higher ranking ones." I raised an eyebrow, "So none of you did anything with any guy?" Chelsea smiled, "I kissed someone, we all have, but that's it. I don't know if Peter or Drake will ask. I doubt California Ryan has asked yet." Sam snorted, "Drake can't say shit." I laughed, "According to my cousin, werewolf men are hypocrites. She can't go for a run in a sports bra without Eric losing his shit. She said he runs around naked because they all lose their clothes when they shift."

Sam laughed, "That's actually true. Your cousin is awesome. A bit murder-y but awesome." I smiled, tilting my head. Chelsea countered, "She defended her family. She's a Hackura princess, they are lucky she killed them quickly."

Valerie looked at them both in shock, asking, "Umm the princess was not what I would've picked up on in that story. Is no one going to comment that Emmaline just called Alpha Conners, Eric? No one? I've only ever heard Alpha Lucas call him Eric." I smiled, "Eric said I could. He pointed out we are family, and

apparently Haley calls Lucas her lion or Lucas so..." I trailed off and they all stared at me.

A pop sounded beside me. Haley announced, "Hello again! Rogues are at the border. Let's go kick some ass and show our mates we are bad ass bitches!" I smiled instantly, comforted by her presence even though her words were concerning.

Chelsea, Sam, and Valerie growled. Chelsea said, "Take us with you guys. We are all warriors." Haley nodded, "Alright. Emmaline, repeat these words when we get there 'kater rise Den assist cye defeat Freetra foe.' It means water rise and help me defeat my foe." I nodded. Haley explained, "This territory has water everywhere. It will make the water level rise. You can always drown anyone if they get close to you. Just in case though." She conjured a small dagger into my hands.

She commanded, "Now repeat what I said in Fealish." Chelsea, Sam, and Valerie gaped at her. I repeated, "Kater rise Den assist cye defeat Freetra foe." I knew I said it correctly. I don't know why I was so confident, but I was. Haley smiled, "Fealish will come naturally to you, it does to all those with fae blood. Now, let's go kick some ass."

Haley popped us all to the border where Blue Moon's warriors were fighting red eyed wolves. Haley instructed, "Put your hand on the ground and repeat the chant." I nodded and bent down as Haley curled her fingers. I watched in awe as she built a tornado with the air she took. DANG! She was a freaking superhero fairy godmother princess.

I focused on the water, smiling when the water from the lake immediately start to rise. I heard Lucas, or rather Dominic, growl. I wasn't sure how I knew it was him, but I did. I knew he wasn't happy about me being out here. He had to know Haley wouldn't let anything happen to me. Besides, I felt like I belonged right here. Fighting for my pack.

My pack? Well, that escalated quickly, but these were my people now. I was going to fight for them, they were the first family I'd had in almost four years. I'd become powerful just like Haley, and anyone who tried to take my new family from me would pay.

It was oddly unsettling that I was ok with all the murder happening around me. I was sheltered from this side of things with my family when I was younger. I knew it happened, but seeing it was different. I turned to watch Dominic fight and gasped. He was beautiful. He was very large and all black. He was so powerful and majestic.

I kept chanting and watching. A rogue shifted into his human form. He grabbed something from the tree line. He stepped forward now clutching a blade. He kissed it, then sent sailing through the air. My heart stopped as I realized he'd thrown it at Lucas. He wasn't looking, and he didn't know it was coming for him. Everything went into slow motion as I threw my hands in front of me screaming.

Haley popped to me, "You can freeze! How impressive." Wait? Huh? What? I forced myself to look away from Lucas and saw the blade suspended in the air. I did that? Seriously? I needed a manual! Then I wanted to know why the heck none of these powers had ever manifested before now. Except the drowning one.

Once everything calmed down, Haley smiled at me and gestured to Lucas. I ran as fast as I could to him. The reality of the situation hit me hard. He was almost stabbed. If my weird fairy powers didn't activate, he could've died. My heart clenched in pain. Relief hit my system when I realized Haley could help me if Lucas was ever hurt.

Haley excitement over my power made me wonder if she didn't see herself clearly. She created a freaking tornado! I exchanged worried looks with Haley when Peter's prisoner was talking. Her eyes were blazing gold. She popped over to me and put a hand on my shoulder encouragingly. I studied Eric's aura, who was worried and angry.

Lucas's aura was pulsing red and green. I knew he was worried about me, but I wasn't weak. I survived out on my own for years. I could protect myself. I wanted to make sure I could protect Lucas. I'd train with Haley day and night if necessary.

The conversation surrounding Haley confused me. I was stunned her brother came for her children. It's bad enough he betrayed her. I couldn't imagine because I knew my brothers wouldn't do the same. They'd walk through fire for me. Even after all this time apart, they would defend me with all they had. Haley was annoyed and that led to me thinking about her prank. I had this innate need to help her with it. Was this my fairy side?

I decided I was going to learn how snap things away like Haley did. It would've been handy growing up because I always got in trouble for my room being messy. Snapping it clean would've been a game changer. My friends and I walked away in silence.

Eventually I said, "You guys aura's are bursting with pride." Chelsea laughed, "We kicked those rogue's ass!" I laughed, "Of course you did. You are a Luna, Sam's a Beta female, Valerie is a warrior, and I am a fairy duchess." Sam added, "Plus, you just know the sex is going to be so good tonight. Our men saw us in action, and in their minds, we were in danger. Your cousin is in for a hell of a ride, I even got hot watching her fight. Alpha Eric will be claiming the hell out of her." I

cringed, “Um first off, I didn’t need to know that. Second, I know she’s so awesome. I want to be her.”

Valerie laughed saying, “You kicked ass yourself! You rose the water level, and rogues literally slipped into Peter and Drake. Then you literally froze a knife midair.” I shivered whispering, “Someone’s coming for him.” Chelsea wrapped her arms around me, “He’s an Alpha. People are always coming, but we are a strong pack. We have strong allies, and our future Luna kicks ass!” I promised, “I’m going to get better too. I will protect us and Lucas.” Sam smiled, “It’s nice he has someone to do that for him now.”

A pop sounded and we all jumped. Haley smiled at us, “Sorry. I didn’t mean to scare you.” I recovered first, “Weren’t you going to see your kids?” Haley sighed, “They are sleeping because the universe fucking sucks. I’m actually convinced I have pissed the universe off in a past life or something. Do you girls mind if I talk to my cousin privately?” They shook their heads.

Sam said, “Not at all. I’ll fight beside you anytime, Princess Luna Connors.” Haley laughed, “Any friend of Emmaline’s can just call me Haley.” Their eyes widened. Chelsea said, “Thanks, Haley.” She nodded and they left.

I opened my mouth and she shook her head and waited until they were farther away. Haley told me, “Werewolves have ridiculously good hearing. It’s insanely obnoxious.” I laughed, “Do you want to know what Lucas loves so you can take it?” She laughed, “No, I wouldn’t put you in that position. I already know about his gaming collection. I wanted to ask how you were. That was a lot going on back there. You learned someone’s coming for your mate, you activated a new power, and learned how to make the water rise. Like a fucking bad ass.”

We sat down in the grass. I admitted, “I’m scared someone is coming for Lucas. I want you to train me to fight and use my fairy powers. I want to be able to protect him. The freezing thing is cool, and honestly, I’m processing. I really need to know how you found out about his gaming collection.” Haley smiled, “I will teach you how to use your fairy powers and how to fight. You must know something about fighting already since you killed five rogues all by your lonesome. Eric might understand the feeling of knowing someone is coming for you mate better than I do.”

She paused then admitted, “I know about his gaming collection because I’m the princess of the Hackura. When I want to know things, I call our technical people. My brother’s boy toy lover got me a lot of details on Lucas. It was enlightening. Do you want the file?” She wiggled her eyebrows.

I laughed, “You know a boy toy and a lover are different things, right?” Haley asked, “I did not know a boy toy and a lover were different. Why are they fucking

different? He's not my brother's mate, he's a boy toy in their off periods, but they care about each other so a lover too. He's a boy toy lover, no one can change my mind. Plus, I know he liked that name. So does my brother and my brother's mate." I admitted, "You have a point, maybe boy toy lovers will catch on." Haley laughed, "We can only hope. People should listen to me. I make a lot of goddamn sense."

I laughed then fired questions at her, "As far as the file, I don't want it at the moment, but I'll keep it in mind. Why would Eric understand better? Are you going to take Lucas' gaming stuff?" Haley's smile faltered, "Eric would understand better because we knew I was going to be taken, just not how. He suffered with that knowledge. Then he suffered because we share a deeper bond than the mate bond. When we got married, he was accepted into our Hackura bloodline, and he felt my torture as I experienced it. It was hard for both of us. As far as taking things, I am not going to take Lucas' gaming collection."

I read her aura, "That was evasive. You must have something planned for it." Haley smirked, "I do have a plan for his precious collection." I changed the subject whispering, "I saw a picture of my siblings today. Ry is Valerie's mate and for some reason I told her. Ry needs his wick, though. I couldn't keep her from him."

Haley rubbed my back, "You literally couldn't not tell her. The fairy part of you won't allow it. The soul searcher is sensitive about mates. Your soul wants them to be together because you know they belong as two halves of a whole. If you need help navigating things with your siblings, I will be there for you."

I asked, "Can you help me mail the twins presents next month? I go out of the state to mail them, but Lucas flipped out about it. WAIT! Do you know if they get their presents? I sent them to Dusty's old apartment. I just found out he got married." Haley told me, "The twins live in his old apartment now. So, they should." I asked cautiously, "Does Katie have her wick yet?"

Haley shook her head, "No, she doesn't. On that note, your father knows something went down, and he's going to start messing with David." I gasped, "What do you mean?" Haley smiled, "Oh burst pipes, turning their lawn brown, things like that." I smiled then asked, "Won't that tell them that he's my father?" Haley laughed, "I'm sure David knows by now who your father is. That tells them that your father knows you aren't with them anymore and he's unhappy about that." I snorted bitterly asking, "Wouldn't he have known before now?"

Haley shook her head, "No, I told you the water fairies were protecting partials from my uncle. Your father thought Maribella was dead, and he hid the rest of his children who weren't full fairy's. He had to stay away from you to keep you safe." I got scared, "David is powerful, he won't like a fairy messing with him." Haley smiled, "I wouldn't say he's messing with David. I would say Marcious is fucking

with David. David is powerful, but Marcious is the water fairy prince. He's far more powerful than David."

I thought about it then admitted, "I hope he gives them hell then; they deserve it." Haley smiled but didn't push me on why. She stayed quiet. Eventually I said, "I don't know how to tell you my story. I've had my secrets for so long. Keeping them seems easier than telling." Haley smiled, "There is a sense of relief that comes with telling your story. I speak from personal experience. I also know those secrets you hold close are hard to tell. Sometimes you think it's your cross to bear, that it's better just to keep them to not burden anyone else. I'm working on that myself. So, I won't be a hypocrite and tell you it's easy. It's not. Give yourself time to adjust. This is new to you."

I asked, "You're not going to say I'm young and don't know things?" Haley laughed, "I'm nineteen. I can't really say that. Besides, age doesn't really mean anything. You can be thirty years old with the easiest life having everything given to you. Does their age make them more mature than me who's been bullied, raped, abused, and tortured? No, it doesn't. I dealt with the circumstances life gave me and became the person I am today. Just as you have dealt with yours. Many teenagers would've given up. You didn't, you kept going. You are a survivor, and not everyone can say that."

I let her words wash over me. Haley told me, "I'm going to pop Eric, my brothers, and Jackson home. Just so you're aware, Lucas will be amped up from battle, and once you see him you'll feel a lot of lust." I didn't want to talk about that. I changed the subject, "Didn't you pop away to deal with pack disputes?" She smiled, "Yes, I read the files before I popped to get Lacy. It was just one big dispute with the pregnant she wolves. I handled it before I left. There were only two actual disputes." She winked and popped away.

I decided to wait for Lucas. I only waited a few minutes before I saw Dominic jogging back to the house. I felt compelled to touch his fur. He started purring. I said, "You like that, huh? You're very handsome, Dominic." He turned and licked my face. It should've grossed me out, but I laughed. It seemed like a loving gesture.

I winked teasing him, "Do you wanna help me practice popping?" Dominic tilted his head. I pictured myself on the other side of the lake. I ended up halfway there. Dominic growled playfully. My second pop I made it to the other side of the lake. I kept pushing myself until we were in the middle of a field. I tried to pop away but lost my focus when I realized how close Dominic was. He pounced on top of me, pinning me onto the ground. I laughed as he licked my face again. He took several steps back until he was a bit further away. He shifted back into a very naked Lucas. Lust hit me full force.

I shivered and he stalked towards me. He grabbed me by t-shirt and pulled me up to him. He growled, "Oh, little mate. Werewolves love a chase." He ripped my shirt off me and yanked my sports bra over my head. His mouth was on my nipple before I could process anything else. I whispered, "Lucas." He growled in response. I was soaking wet. Suddenly I was on all fours, my pants ripped off, and Lucas was inside me.

Lucas groaned, "Baby girl, you're so wet." He thrust quickly inside me at the pace I loved. I reached back and massaged my clit. I started panting. Lucas was growling so loud my ears were ringing. He grunted, "God that's so hot. I love seeing you touch yourself." I screamed his name. A need for him overtook me in a way I'd never experienced.

I pulled forward, surprising him. I turned around and pushed him onto his butt then straddled him. I sank down onto his length, riding him. Lucas encouraged me, "Yes, just like that." I directed him, "Touch me, Lucas. I need you to touch me." He growled as one finger started rubbing my clit and the other hand pinched my nipple. I threw my head back, riding him hard. I had two orgasms before he had his own release.

We were both breathing heavily. I couldn't stop my laugh. Lucas pulled me flush against his chest, "What's so funny, my beautiful mate?" I teased, "I have to walk back naked and so do you. You ripped my shirt and pants off. I guess I can try snapping or conjuring us clothes." Lucas said, "I personally prefer it when you're naked, baby girl." I laughed and playfully hit his chest.

I thought of a shirt. On my third try, Lucas' shirt appeared in my hand. I tried snapping, but nothing happened. I groaned. I quickly found my sports bra and put it back on. I decided I was going to keep Lucas' shirt for myself. We started to walk back to the house hand in hand.

My gaze narrowed when Lucas grabbed some shorts from behind a tree. I asked, "Do you just have shorts strategically placed throughout the area?" Lucas smiled, "Most werewolves stash clothes where they could be helpful to have. Especially in our own territory." I laughed, "You could've told me that before I tried to conjure us clothes." He just smiled before reminding me, "You wanted to practice. Besides the longer you tried, the longer you were naked." I slapped his chest, "Sneaky wolf!"

He handed me a pair of his shorts, and I put them on. He growled appreciatively. He told me, "You look mouth-watering in my clothes, baby girl." I looked down, confused. I asked, "Really? This does it for you? Women are trying too hard all across the globe. We just need men's clothes. These are so big on me. I'm so comfy right now." Lucas growled, "You'll never wear any other man's clothes."

I bit my lip, “You brought up other men’s clothes, not me. Just to clarify, if the choice is another man’s clothes, or being naked... I go naked?” Lucas glared at me then cursed, “Fuck no. You wear the clothes and prepare yourself to be claimed until my scent replaces his.” That actually sounded fun. I wondered if Haley would let me borrow some clothes from a guy in their pack. I bet she would, solely to mess with Lucas. I smiled and made a mental note to text her about it later.

My stomach growled the second we walked in the front door. Lucas quirked an eyebrow stating, “Let’s get you some food.” We walked into the kitchen. Surprisingly, no one was around. Lucas began to grab ingredients. I asked, “You can cook?” Lucas smiled, “Yes, I’ve been told I’m quite the chef.” I grabbed his arm and pulled him back to me, kissing him hard. David never cooked for my mom. According to him, it was always her job to do the cooking.

I pulled his shorts off; I could feel him smirking against my lips. He pulled of my shorts teasing, “I haven’t even started cooking yet, baby girl.” He picked me up and put me on the counter, entering me with his finger. He groaned, “Saying I can cook gets you this wet?” I nodded. He muttered “I’m so screwed. I’m never getting work done again.” He slammed into me continuing, “I never want to leave here. You’re mine, Emmaline.”

He began to pick up speed. He growled, “Say it. Say you’re mine, baby girl.” I smiled, “You’re mine baby girl.” He growled as he pounded into me. I let my head fall back. He took advantage and bit my mark. I screamed his name, “LUCAS!” He bit my ear and dropped his voice into that sexy tone, “Say you’re mine, Emmaline.” I screamed as I came, “I’M YOURS LUCAS! AHHH!” Lucas howled as he came inside me. We stood there holding onto each other breathing heavily.

Eventually, Lucas put his forehead on mine, “Can you manage to not attack me so I can fix us lunch?” I kissed his lips, then pulled back. I teased, “No promises.” He smiled, “Alrighty then.” Lucas made us burgers with a salad. I pouted, “Can we have tater tots too? He caved, “Puppy dog eyes are cheating, but I will fix you some.” I smiled, “How is it cheating?” He leaned over and kissed me, “Because I can’t say no to you.”

I smiled and took a bite of my burger. I moaned, “Oh... my... stars... This is amazing.” He sat a little taller in his seat. I leaned over and kissed him. He pulled me into his lap so I was straddling him. It was getting heated until Debbie said, “Lands sakes alive, Lucas, let the girl eat. We all already heard you going at earlier.”

It was like a bucket of ice water. I pulled away and put my head into the crook of his neck. Horror and shame filled me. His mom caught us dry humping and heard us have sex. The earth could swallow me whole any minute now.

Lucas tilted up my chin so I was looking into his eyes, “Hey, none of that. She didn’t say it to upset you. It’s normal in packs to hear people having sex. Everyone is happy when the Luna and Alpha are happy. Which is why there was a baby boom in Eric and Haley’s pack. She released magic while they were having sex on the mountain in their territory. It sent their pack into heat.”

My jaw dropped, “Oh god. I didn’t do that, did I?” Lucas smiled, “No, I would’ve been linked about it if you did.” He kissed me on the forehead. I escaped back to my seat looking at the ground. I did not want to make eye contact with anyone in the kitchen right now.

Debbie spoke, “It’s not a bad thing that you are intimate with Lucas. If there was tension between you two the pack would sense it. Just like it was a good thing Eric and Haley sorted out their issues after the summit.” I frowned. What issues?

Lucas snorted, “No one knew they were having issues at the summit, mom. Haley was confused and trying to pretend she wasn’t still mind fucked from her time at King Damon’s. Her uncle re-traumatized her.” Debbie snorted, “You are glossing over the fact that you and Eric were morons about Claudia.”

Dale entered the kitchen cautiously as if he was trying to go unseen. Debbie spotted him continuing, “And so were you.” Dale put his hands up, “What did I do, woman? I just entered the kitchen when the sex noises stopped. I’m hungry.” Debbie narrowed her eyes, “Don’t act like you didn’t hear every word I just said with your superior hearing.” Dale sighed, “Honey, we were enchanted. You know Eric is devastated that he hurt Haley over the Claudia fiasco. We know that boy like the back of our hands. We are basically his second set of parents.”

Lucas interjected, “That’s true. He was wrecked thinking he’d lost her. He kept up a good face at the summit, but behind closed doors; he was panicked.” Debbie snorted, “It would’ve served him right if he had, but she’s his mate. That girl loves that boy something fierce, and he’s lucky she does. Their wedding was so beautiful, you could just feel and see their love shine that day.” I spoke, “You still can. They are constantly looking at each other, they orbit each other almost.” Lucas agreed, “Yes, they do.”

Debbie cleared her throat, “So, when is the Luna ceremony? Emmaline and I need to start planning. Now that your sister is home she can help too.” Lucas looked at me then replied, “Friday, if possible.” I gulped, “Umm like the Friday in five days Friday? Is there a handbook I can read about how to be a Luna? I don’t know that much about packs or werewolves.”

Dale laughed, “Oh, you adorable little fairy, you’re in for it now.” Debbie hit him in the shoulder. She told me, “I can help you. We can spend some time together tomorrow going over the history of packs and being a Luna. We can spend some

time together each day, and whenever you have questions, I am a resource as are Lacy, Dale, and Lucas. Your cousin will be as well. Poor thing has had to learn in a bit of a trial by fire. I'm sure she will get past this thing with Cassandra eventually... hopefully." Lucas winced.

I asked, "What thing?" Lucas quickly said, "I'm sure Haley will tell you the full story. There was an ordeal with Claudia, as you've probably gathered. It kind of stemmed from that. The Connors don't have secrets, but they kept a big one from Haley. They convinced Eric to go along with them because she was pregnant, and we almost died. Well Eric wouldn't have died, but the rest of us might have."

I snorted in derision. I said, "I'm not understanding this situation. If they kept a secret, then they have secrets. That's pretty cut and dry. So, saying they don't have secrets is just incorrect. Also, if you were heading into a fight, I know you want her on your side. That's just knowledge from the literal brief time I've known her. She's like a freaking fairy godmother ninja princess assassin."

Debbie laughed, "Well said, Emmaline." Lucas admitted, "Yes, she is. The Connors were scared. Eric was in a bad place when she was kidnapped." I frowned, "Ok? I mean I get it, but I don't think that excuses their behavior from the facts I have."

Debbie clapped her hands and changed the subject, "I'm going to start planning your Luna ceremony so we can get it done." I hesitantly asked, "Do you need my help?" Debbie smiled, "I will but not for the initial parts. I will schedule a fitting for your ceremony dress." She left, animatedly talking to herself about her task list. Dale spoke, "You have no idea how happy you just made your mom." Lucas shrugged as if it was no big deal. We ate the rest of our food as Dale walked out after Debbie.

I took a deep breath then quickly said, "Lucas, your mom said that when I had my Luna ceremony that you'd propose and want kids shortly after. I... we haven't talked about any of this." Lucas smiled, "Baby girl, I'd marry you tomorrow if that's what you wanted. I want you to take time to adjust though, to being part of a couple, to being Luna, and having me in your life. I do want to marry you, and I want pups with you." I gulped.

Lucas asked, "What do you want?" I told him, "I can't imagine my life without you, and that's a little scary. We just met and started our relationship. The way I was raised was to take things slow, even with wicks. I know I should pause and slow us down," Lucas growled but I continued, "I don't want to though. I'm leaning into it, into us. I'm not ready to get married, but I want to marry you when I am. I always imagined myself with a lot of kids. How many kids do you want?"

Lucas kissed me. He pulled back saying, “You’re making it so hard not to fuck you. You want to marry me, huh?” I smiled, “Yeah, well you want to marry me too.” He laughed, “That I do. I want a big family too, I always wanted five pups.” I laughed, “I thought four, so I guess we will find out.” He smirked, “You are a fairy. Both your cousins that are mated to wolves had triplets.”

I groaned, “Do they ever sleep?” Lucas laughed, “Apparently, fairy children sleep longer because they conjure their bottles.” I froze. That couldn’t be right. Lucas frowned asking, “What’s wrong?” I sighed, “That’s why my family talks about what a good sleeper I was. My mom said I was her little bed whale. She had to know what I was doing. How did my stepdad never see that? Or my siblings?” Lucas shrugged, “I honestly have no idea.” We spent the rest of the day talking and being lazy together. The night was spent inside each other.

I smiled when my alarm went off. I got up and got ready for school. Since I didn’t get up for a shift at Al’s this was sleeping into me. I had enough time to grab breakfast there before school though. I was running to my car when Lacy yelled, “Hey, can I get a ride? I need to talk to the front office today.” I nodded, “Sure, get in.” She smiled, “Thanks. My parents are going, but I just wanted to ride with you.” I smiled at her.

Lacy surmised, “Lucas got you this car, didn’t he? It smells new.” I laughed, “He did. He spoils me.” Lacy smiled, “Good. Then my mom and I raised that boy right. He was always looking for you, you know? He wanted his mate so badly.” I smiled, “I’m just glad he came to talk to my class and found me.” Lacy laughed, “God, I wish I’d been there to see it. Dylan said at first, he thought you were human until they realized you felt the mate bond.” I nodded, “Yup, that’s pretty accurate. Your mark is pretty.” She smiled and turned her neck. It was a brown wolf that looked just like Dylan’s wolf with his name.

Lacy said, “You’re lucky. You and Haley only have your mate’s name. Dylan says hers changes colors when she touches it.” I touched my neck. Lacy gasped, “Yours does too! That’s so cool!” I smiled and pulled into Al’s. We walked in together.

Lacy squealed, “Hi, Al!” Al whirled around. He rushed over to us and yanked her into a hug, bellowing, “Lacy Lyons!” He twirled her around and set her down admonishing, “Don’t you ever do that to us again, you hear?” Lacy nodded. Satisfied with her response, Al pulled me into a hug next. He told me, “It felt weird not seeing you here for morning rush, Emmaline.” I smiled, “It was weird sleeping in.” He sat us down in a booth and brought us both chocolate chip pancakes.

Lacy asked, “You used to work here?” I nodded, “I worked here for a little over a year.” Lacy frowned, “But weren’t you a transfer from Red Run? Lucas would’ve found you earlier if you lived here.” I nodded, “I lived in Red Run in a tent, and biked to work.” Lacy spit out her water, “Holy shit. I’m going to start doing cardio

with you girlfriend.” I laughed, “I swim and bike, that's about it.” She nodded, “You know today will be different.” I sighed, “I know. People will finally stop whispering about me giving Lucas his coffee though.”

Lacy laughed, “They weren’t whispering because you gave him coffee. Dylan told me all about it. They were whispering because you are their future Luna. The pack’s been waiting for a decade; they were excited. They were also intrigued because they were trying to figure out what kind of supernatural you were. You were tricky because you have more fairy blood than any other partial they knew, which made them uncertain. Now though, people will bow their heads to you because you know. Some girls may be catty because they wanted Lucas.” I hissed, “He’s mine.” She smiled, “That he is. Those bitches will be gunning for me too because I took Dylan. They can suck it.” I smiled, “Yes they can.”

After we finished breakfast, I drove us to school. We got there at the same time Chelsea, Sam, and Valerie. They squealed when they saw us. Sam said, “The fantastic five walking into school just as we should’ve been since we found Emmaline. It’s so exciting!!” We all linked arms and walked in the front together. Everyone stared at us. Thankfully, Peter was coming to school today. He would distract them. We dropped Lacy at the office before I went to my locker.

I knew the moment Peter stepped into the building because everyone went silent. Chelsea walked right up to him and he kissed her. The place went crazy. It took me second to realize why. No one really knew they were mates because Chelsea didn’t go to school on Friday. Did everyone not wonder why Peter was hanging out at our pack house so much? Peter’s pack was honest to god howling in the halls.

When Drake came over to Sam I whispered, “Didn’t your pack know Peter found his mate?” Drake smiled, “They did. They felt her connection when he marked her, but they didn’t know who she was.” I noticed a lot of girls shooting daggers with their eyes at Chelsea. What surprised me was some of those eyes were aimed at me. I sighed. Lacy did warn me.

Drake and I walked to homeroom together. The whole way people were bowing their heads towards me. I tried to mind-blown Lucas, “Umm, can you hear me?” Lucas laughed in my head, “You are getting better at this, little mate. It’s impressive, you catch on quickly. What’s up?” I sighed, “Am I supposed to bow my head back to all the people bowing to me?” Lucas answered, “No, just nod in return.” I sighed, “Ok, thanks.” He laughed, “Have a good day, baby girl.”

Drake asked, “Are you linking with your Alpha?” I blushed but nodded. I noticed after first period Travis Frost, Dylan’s brother, became my shadow. Finally, I asked him, “Did your brother tell you to watch me?” Travis laughed telling me, “Yes and no. Technically it was Lucas’ orders. We have people on Lacy too.” I asked, “Isn’t she’s still in the office?” Travis nodded, “Dale and Debbie are here

too. They are trying to work everything out. She did go to school, but they are trying to match up what she learned to see if she's going to graduate with us."

The rest of my morning went by in a blur. I walked into lunch with Travis and immediately spotted Chelsea, Sam, Valerie, Drake, and Peter at our usual table. I walked over and sat down. A few moments later the lunchroom froze, I turned to see Lacy had just walked in.

I called her over, "Hey Lacy, over here!" She smiled gratefully and walked over to us. She had just sat down when a girl walked up. She sneered at Lacy, "Go back to wherever you were! We don't want you here!" Lacy looked down. Her aura told me she was ashamed and a little hurt.

I stood, demanding, "Walk away and don't you EVER talk to her like that again!" The girl snorted at me, "What are you going to do about it? You're just a fairy. You think you're something because you're the Alpha's mate?" I thought I would really like to drown her in a bucket of water. I was astonished when a bucket of water appeared over her head. The water poured out on top of her, then the bucket hit her in the head. I was astonished. I hadn't meant to do that. It was just a thought.

I looked around nervously exhaling in relief when I realized no humans were in the lunchroom. Everyone started to laugh. The girl looked up at me clearly pissed off. Before I could process her intent, she tackled me to the ground. The lunchroom went crazy.

She tried to punch me, but Dusty had taught me basic self-defense. I rolled and was up on my feet in an instant. I blocked her next punch and hit her square in the jaw. I followed it with a punch to her nose. I felt it break. It hurt my hand a little bit, but I didn't let that distract me. I blocked another punch from her.

Peter threw her away from me and growled, "Enough!" The girl stated, "You're not my future Alpha, Peter Kyle. You don't tell me what to do." Peter growled again and the girl cowered and showed him her neck. Peter snarled, "No, I am not which is lucky for you. You just attacked your future Luna and future Beta female in FUCKING SCHOOL! What the hell were you thinking?" The girl glared at me, "She started it!"

Peter glared back, "You started it. Leave. NOW!" Lacy pulled me into a hug asking, "Are you crazy? Damn, no wonder you're my brother's mate. She's going to be a warrior soon, and you kicked her ass." I shrugged. Everyone quickly calmed back down.

I took out my phone and texted Haley. I told her what had happened. She immediately replied that it wasn't my fault, and that the werebitch... her words...

should've known better. She explained that our emotions are tied to our powers. She said to try to remain calm, and we'd work on control. I felt a little better. The rest of the day was uneventful. Lacy was gone before last period, so I drove home by myself. As soon as I stepped out of my car, I heard a throat clear. Lucas was waiting. He said, "So, you got in a fight today, did you?" I gulped. He looked mad. Uh-oh.