

Whispered Confessions

Lucas watched as Emmaline showed no fear of Dominic. She would never cease to amaze me. Dominic was on cloud nine, and he wasn't coming down anytime soon. It was very intimate for a wolf to groom their mate. Dominic was ecstatic that Emmaline let him do that. I linked him, "We are an Alpha wolf, Dominic. Your incessant purring is making me doubt that." Dominic growled at me but said nothing in response.

Emmaline decided to play a game. Dominic wagged his tail. I linked him, "Seriously? Wagging our tail?" Then he jumped up and down like a newly shifted wolf before chasing her. Since he was into this plan I told him, "Let her get farther away so we can claim her." Dominic growled, "Like you're the only one with that idea. I could've caught her immediately."

I rolled my eyes, "Excuse me for thinking you weren't in some sort of weird trance like state because our mate liked you licking her." Dominic puffed up his chest and plodded after Emmaline. She was so happy. I let her pop further and further away, proud of how quick she was catching on. Not that I expected anything less. I was still blown away she'd managed to freeze something in midair in fear for my life.

I linked, "Let's catch her now." Dominic kicked up his speed and she squealed, delighting him. I pressed, "Let me take back over, Dominic." Dominic huffed. I said, "You got lots of time with her." He growled but backed up away from her and we shifted back.

I linked the wolves on patrol, "No one gets near us." We got lost in each other for a few hours. Once she was dressed, I linked them again, "You can run the border where we were now." They replied, "Yes, Alpha." I grabbed some shorts I had stashed around when we got to the lake.

Dylan linked me, "An Alpha will play and keep the border patrol away. One must warn a Beta so we can coordinate. I only got an hour of Lacy sexy time because I was in the gym. You know where we usually are at this time on the weekends. You're so selfish." I replied, "That's my sister." Dylan teased, "I know. You must have an older sibling complex not wanting your younger sibling to have fun." I groaned. He was going to do shit like this all the time now.

I decided to cook and for Emmaline when we got back. She was hungry, and I always gave our kitchen staff the day off after breakfast because I could cook myself. I'm not a chef or anything, but my mom said I was quite good. So did Christy and Eric. Not that I would mention Christy out loud. Eric loved my cooking. I usually ordered out on the weekend but did cook if the inspiration hit.

Cooking turned Emmaline on, and I began making plans to cook every weekend if this was her response. Maybe I should wear a chef hat and apron to bed tonight. God, how was I going to work again? Maybe Eric had tips. I was going to have to ask him. Jackson said they fuck like bunnies, but he's still productive.

Eventually we made it to our seats. My mom burst the mood. I linked her, "Really, mom!" She replied, "It's not a big deal! I just thought she should get her food." To a she wolf it was normal, but I wanted to make sure Emmaline understood this was a normal conversation in packs. Not all supernatural groups behaved this way about sex. Some were like the human in this realm where they didn't discuss such things.

My mom started in on the summit conversation. I warned her in our link, "Mom, don't." She didn't listen. So, we had to dive into that explanation. I linked my dad, "Get in here, and help me. Mom is on a Claudia tangent." He sighed in our link, "If this doesn't prove how much I love you son, nothing will." We needed a distraction to get off this subject. Mom could talk about Claudia for hours.

I linked my dad, "You could always link mom and distract her by having her ask me about Emmaline's Luna ceremony." My dad smiled at me, "I knew I loved you for a reason." He didn't even wait thirty seconds. It was successful though. I linked Dylan, "Warn Lacy mom is going to be on a Luna planning ceremony mission." Dylan replied, "Dylan is busy... getting busy. He will take your message and convey it at a later time." Oh, my good lord.

I was stunned my mom knew the Connors women were fighting. I linked my dad, "How the HELL does mom know about that situation?" My dad answered, "You do know Cassandra and your mother are friends, yes? Cassandra is complaining to anyone who will listen about it. Despite your mother's best efforts to get her to stop." I groaned.

Hopefully, Cassandra would listen to mom before it got back to Eric. I mentioned to my dad, "At least Haley and Molly are getting along. Molly is doing light training with Haley since she got pregnant in the heat craze." My dad laughed, "It will get better. Well, maybe. I just don't know about Cassandra. She is prejudiced and you can't trick a fairy." I sighed, "Haley will find a way." My dad agreed, "She is a special one. Just like your fairy. I can already tell; I like her. I always thought, a she wolf would be it for you, but I see it. I see you two, Emmaline matches you." He was right.

Before my mom could steal Emmaline for planning, I linked her, "It's my day with her. You can have her later if you need her." My mom replied, "I know how it is with new mates. I can start the planning. This will be fun!" I reminded my mom, "Make sure those appointments are at the house. Emmaline will be out of my sight

enough when she's at school." My mom threw me a wink replying, "Sure, you possessive Alpha son of mine." I rolled my eyes.

Once they left our conversation turned to family. Dominic was thrilled, "Mate wants pups. We should practice!" I agreed with that plan. We both knew pups were some time off, along with the mating ceremony. It was unorthodox. Alpha's and wolves in general tended to have their mating ceremonies pretty quickly after finding each other. That was with wolves though, and if she had been a she wolf I wouldn't know she was mine for another two years. I'd be drawn to her, but it would be speculation if we were mates until she turned eighteen. I was honestly happy fairies knew their entire lives. I was glad she was here with me.

I finally got to spend all night inside my mate. I let her get a few hours of sleep before school, but only begrudgingly. Dylan linked me at four in the morning, "Why do I have to be the alarm clock? This is such an unfair burden in life I have. It's too early for Dylan to be awake. Sadly, we have so much to do. I've sent a memo requesting tips for getting work done once you find your mate. I WILL unlock the secret to time. Have no fear."

I groaned, "Not cool Dylan, not cool." Dylan laughed, "What? You were the one who made the rule about getting up early when we took weekend off. I called you an Alpha sleep tyrant when you made it. You did not listen. So here I am, following your rules. I would rather be doing the dirty with my mate this morning. The things I do for you."

I growled, "Stop talking about fucking my sister." Dylan laughed, "Hey you're the one who said sister, I said mate. You took it to the weird place where your perfect, gorgeous, wonderful sister is my mate." I sighed, "Please stop talking about it, Dylan. I beg you." Dylan laughed, "Nope, I can't. It's my new favorite thing to do, and she's so perfect. I love her man, honestly I always did." I retorted, "I know she's perfect, and I always knew you liked her with simple desires... your sister being that desire." I groaned, "DYLAN!" He laughed, "Chop, chop! We must follow your rules." He had a point.

I rolled out of bed carefully and went downstairs to my office. I asked Dylan, "Is Lacy is going to school?" Dylan nodded, "Your parents called the school. They all have a meeting to see if what she learned matches up with their coursework in the hopes she can graduate with her friends. She's sad because she doesn't think it will work out. I may have to beat up some people in administration because I don't like sad Lacy. I have WARNED the pack no one likes serious Dylan. I don't understand why some people just can't listen." I nodded, "You don't know that they didn't listen. I'm sure we could convince them to let her walk at graduation with her friends, even if she has to complete more coursework over the summer."

Dylan nodded, "I wrote Lacy up a whole plan with options to present the administration. Beta blood, Lucas. Beta blood. They will pick my options or serious Dylan takes center stage." I snorted, "I'm surprised you managed to talk to her at all. Your links made it sound like you were otherwise engaged all weekend." Dylan smirked, "Don't you worry, she got plenty of Dylan loving. But I also wanted to talk to her. Then I had to make plans."

I shivered, "No... no talking about pleasing my baby sister." Dylan smiled, "I'm only letting this drop so we can get to work. I contacted Alpha Jack's Beta, he denied that they'd heard of the attack. He also said they have nothing to do with it and want nothing but peace with us." I asked, "Do we believe him?" Dylan sighed, "Not exactly. I think my Beta brother was surprised to hear we were attacked. I still think Alpha Jack himself is a suspect. I pulled some other files that are other options."

I read them and stared up at Dylan, "You think Alpha Severide is coming for me? For what?" Dylan sighed, "Your father and his were enemies. His father always blamed yours for the death of his sister." I growled, "That wasn't dad's fault." Dylan put his hands up, "I know that I'm just doing my job. I'm telling you Alpha Jack, Alpha Severide, Alpha Kade, or Alpha Raven are going to be the ones that are coming for us."

I sighed, "Alright. I noticed you left Alpha Theo off that list." It pained me, but he should be a suspect. It killed me that I'd had to kill his brother and my friend Aaron Bartlett, but he'd taken Felicia against her will. Aaron and I were friends. I didn't know what happened, but something changed in him. He'd gone crazy, and we tried as long as we could to cover up for him. He forced me to fight him, and I had. Dominic whined in my head. He had been friends with Aaron's wolf too.

Dylan said, "My buddy Beta James would never let that happen. He's in our text group chat. We talk and he doesn't want out of my group chats. Without my memo's everyone's world loses their sparkle. Alpha Theo was upset when everything went down with Aaron. He would never risk his alliance with Alpha gets everything handed him on a silver platter Connors."

I pointed out, "He threatened my future Luna all the way down to my pups after Aaron died." Dylan frowned, "He didn't mean that, Lucas, you know he didn't." I hoped he didn't because there was a time Theo and Aaron were like brothers to me. I'd killed one and lost the other. I didn't want this to be Theo because I would protect Emmaline at all costs.

I pushed those thoughts aside, "Let's review disputes." We spent the morning going over them and decided the outcomes. I couldn't help but smile when Emmaline linked me. Dylan asked, "Why are you smiling? You loathe paperwork all the way down to your pinky toe." I laughed, "I do, but Emmaline linked me."

She makes me smile.” Dylan smiled, “I’m glad you finally found her man.” He clapped me on that back, “And I found mine. You always have to be first, don’t you? Prick.” I laughed and we got back to work.

I glanced up when one of the warriors I had running the border as punishment for losing Emmaline came in. I asked, “What’s wrong?” He quickly informed me, “One of Emmaline’s guards linked me, and asked me to report the incident to you in person. There was a fight in the school. Emmaline is fine. Actually, she’s more than fine. She kicked a she wolf’s ass. One of our warriors even.”

My jaw dropped along with Dylan’s. I yelled, “SHE WHAT?” Dylan sighed, “Excuse me while I CHASTISE my little brother for not informing me of this. If there is not a video from someone the pack doesn’t love me.” I ignored him.

I linked my dad, “What is going on? I heard Emmaline was in a fight.” My dad answered “We are almost home. We just got everything sorted out. Lacy will explain when we get there.” I grumbled, “My parents are on the way back with Lacy who's going to explain the situation.”

Dylan frowned, “To you. I asked Travis for the low down. Luna’s got one hell of a jab cross going. I’m going to have to buy popcorn in bulk now that we have our very own fairy. And she just so happens to be royalty. Something tells me she’s going to keep us entertained.” I rolled my eyes at him.

Ten minutes later Lacy burst into the room smiling. She squealed, “Your mate is AWESOME, Luc!” My eyebrows rose, “Because she beat up a she wolf?” Lacy laughed, “No. Well, yes actually, but not just that.” Dylan laughed and kissed Lacy.

I commanded, “Start at the beginning, Lace.” She nodded, “Well, I went to the lunchroom because I was hungry. I was just going to grab food and come back to the office. The second I entered the lunchroom went awkwardly quiet. Emmaline noticed me and told me to come sit with them, thank god. Tessa walked over and started being a bitch, telling me I should leave again.”

Both Dylan and I let loose growls. Lacy laughed at us, clearly unbothered. Dylan linked me, “Kick Tessa out of our pack!” I retorted, “You liked her yesterday. I’ll give her shitty duties, but we can’t kick her out for being a brat.” Dylan growled, “Yes you can. You’re the Alpha, it’s the perk of being THE ALPHA. As your Beta, it’s my job to remind you of that fact.”

Lacy continued, “Emmaline told her to walk away. Tessa started in on Emmaline talking shit about her.” I growled again. Dylan linked, “NOW can we kick Tessa out?” I rolled my eyes, “No,” Lacy kept talking, “I don’t think Emmaline even meant to do it, she looked so shocked, but she conjured a bucket of water over

Tessa and dumped it on her. Then well... the bucket fell on her and hit Tessa in the head." My jaw dropped.

Lacy continued her story, "The wolves had moved to block the doors when Tessa confronted me, so no humans saw what happened. Tessa just snapped and she tackled Emmaline to the ground in a rage, but Emmaline... the girl is nimble. She rolled and was up on her feet faster than Tessa. Everyone kind of just watched as Tessa went to punch Emmaline."

I growled, "SHE PUNCHED HER FUTURE LUNA?" Lacy rolled her eyes, "She tried to, twice. Your mate has chops. Emmaline decked her with a jab and a cross, she broke Tessa's nose. It was self-defense. Peter Kyle stepped in and threw Tessa away from Emmaline. He held Chelsea back from interfering, which is why Tessa had a chance to throw a punch. Drake did the same with Sam, and poor Travis was in line to get food and people blocked his path. He mowed them down trying to get to Emmaline."

Dylan was watching me carefully. I was trying to keep my rage at bay. Dylan said, "My poor little baby brother. He thought he'd inspired serious Dylan. Don't worry I informed him that's not the case. He's safe from serious Dylan's line of fire."

I growled out, "So... what you're saying is an eighteen year old member of my pack verbally attacked her Beta female, and then her future Luna. She threw punches and got her ass handed to her by her sixteen year old, untrained future Luna. In front of another pack. Is that what you are saying happened today?"

An Omega walked in with popcorn and handed it to Dylan then walked out. I linked Dylan, "REALLY?" He just smiled and tossed some popcorn into his mouth. Lacy said, "Well... I wouldn't say untrained. Emmaline is clearly trained. I'm the future Beta female though so..."

I growled, "Ok, a sixteen year old girl who learned some self-defense moves before the age of thirteen when she was kicked out of her home; She kicked the ass of an eighteen year old whose been training since she was five years old. Did I get that right?" Lacy winced, "Um, yes."

I softened my tone, "Also, you aren't the future Beta female, Lacy. Dylan is my Beta, as his mate you're automatically the Beta female. There is no future about it." My dad said, "Emmaline is a royal fairy." I growled again, "She JUST found that out. It did not turn her into the hulk overnight. I'm glad she's not hurt. The pack could not fathom the level of hell they would see if she had been. I am deeply concerned we have become lax in our training given what happened today. A warrior got beat up by a girl who learned self-defense around the ages of ten to twelve. It's not like Emmaline kept a gym membership to learn how to box."

Dylan laughed, “Don’t worry. I have noted partial fairies are scrappy. I will circulate the word that you don’t want to throw down if you’re not in tip top fighting shape.” I rolled my eyes but did end up smiling. Dylan stood and pulled Lacy into his lap and kissed her. He whispered, “I’m glad you’re ok Lace, and you’re never leaving. Not ever again. I’ll kill the next person to suggest it, since it doesn’t sound like Lucas is going to let me kill Tessa. No one has respect for the moments I have to be serious anymore. I’ll just have to make serious Dylan more threatening. Ugh, it sounds like such work. You’ll have to make that up to me.” Lacy giggled.

Watching them together made me see how it was always supposed to be, which fired my anger again. No one would make my sister leave again. I told Dylan, “Mandatory pack meeting for everyone after school gets out.” Dylan put more popcorn in his mouth and mumbled, “Today?” I growled, “Yes, Dylan. TODAY!” He wasn’t even phased, “On it, Alpha boss man.”

He didn’t move, I raised an eyebrow, and he tapped his temple to remind me he could mind link. I called Alpha Kyle. He answered, “Lucas. Is this going to be a daily call? Should we schedule a time?” I rolled my eyes, “Maybe. I need to thank your son and apologize for my pack’s behavior at school. I owe him.” Alpha Kyle laughed, “For the situation with your Luna? He linked me about it. He said he handled it.” I pointed out, “He shouldn’t have had to. My pack embarrassed me by behaving this way, thankfully no humans saw the scuffle.” Alpha Kyle laughed again, “I’ll tell Peter you said thank you and you owe him one. If it makes you feel better Sam and Chelsea are seething over the fact that Peter and Drake kept them out of the fight.” It did help, a little.

Travis walked into the office next. He looked at Dylan then me, “I’m sorry, Lucas. I stepped away for a second to get lunch from the cafeteria line. The situation just escalated. I was too far away, and my path to Emmaline was blocked. It won’t happen again. Emmaline handled it really well, though. She blocked both punches Tessa threw at her.” I shrugged off his apology, “This wasn’t your fault. You were getting lunch. It’s not like Emmaline was supposed to be in danger from our own damn pack during school.” Travis nodded and took a seat.

One of the three people guarding Emmaline stepped into my office. He didn’t mince words, “Alpha, the other two guards are following Emmaline home. I wanted to get here early to explain. We were outside the cafeteria when the scuffle happened. We couldn’t get inside fast enough. I would like to request the school give one of us permission to shadow her when she’s inside.” I rubbed my temple, “Fine. I’ll call the school.” He left.

I asked Lacy, “What’s the word on school for you?” She smiled, “I will walk at graduation with everyone, but I have to take three classes this summer to officially get my diploma.” Dylan hugged her, “That’s great Lace! I told you my Beta plan

would come through for you.” She smiled, “I’m really happy about it. Dylan’s written report and plan went much better than I thought it would.” Dylan puffed up, “Of course it did. Did the principal read the whole thing?” Lacy nodded, “Yup.” Dylan linked me, “Serious Dylan still scares some people.” I didn’t even want to know what he’d said in the report.

I looked at my watch, “I’m happy for you, Lacy Loo. I’m glad they are letting you walk across the stage with your friends. I echo Dylan’s earlier sentiments. You are NOT allowed to leave again, and that will be made clear at the meeting. You and Dylan will be on the stage.” I turned to my parents, “As will you.”

My dad was startled, “You’re having an emergency pack meeting, with our entire family on the stage?” I nodded, “This is unacceptable behavior, and they will know how serious I am. Dylan, I need you to up training schedules and the intensity. Everyone has to work in two training sessions a day until I am convinced they aren’t slacking off.” Dylan hid his smile, “Of course they do. I am always punished for the actions of others. I will schedule away.” I left the room to meet Emmaline at her car.

Emmaline pulled into the driveway completely oblivious that I was standing there. I could see that her knuckles were swollen. My rage came thundering back. Dominic growled in my head. I linked Hector, “I’m bringing Emmaline over for a scan.” He replied, “Scan of?” I answered, “Her hand.” He laughed, “Well, punching werewolves takes more of a toll than punching a human. Our bones are tougher. I’ll be waiting.”

Emmaline quickly explained, “Well, I didn’t actually mean for the fight to happen. I just wanted to throw water at her, then it just appeared above her head. I really didn’t mean to! Haley said it was because I was emotional. I was just so mad that girl told Lacy to leave! I mean Dylan would be devastated without her, and you... I couldn’t bear the thought of the pain her running again would cause you. Plus, I really want to get to know her. Maybe that’s selfish, but I do.”

I remained silent. Emmaline continued, “She seems really cool. I can’t get to know her if someone runs her off again. Then that girl just tackled me, she tried to hit me. Really, I only defended myself. I probably didn’t need to break her nose, but at the same time... I kind of did. Didn’t I? I can’t let your pack think I’m weak. I’m having that Luna ceremony thing on Friday.”

I pulled her into me breathing her on. I corrected her, “It’s your pack too not just mine anymore. A pack NEVER harms their Luna. We have a pack meeting we should be at, but they will wait. I am taking you to Hector.” She frowned asking, “Hector?” I reminder her, “Dr. Gonzalez.”

She followed me to the hospital. We walked right in and Hector scanned her hand. He studied the scan carefully before informing us, “Well, it’s not broken. It’s just a slight sprain. Ice it tonight then come see me if it still hurts in a few days. I can get you a brace if necessary.”

I growled, “Give her the brace now.” Emmaline sighed, “It’s fine, Lucas. It doesn’t even hurt.” I pointed out, “Your knuckles are swollen. Punching a werewolf isn’t like a human, we are a bit more durable.” Emmaline looked into my eyes, “If it’s still swollen tomorrow after school I’ll come get the brace. Fair enough?” I growled. I wanted her to be cautious and take the damn brace, but I nodded. Hector said, “Well, we better get going for the pack meeting.” I nodded and he left.

Dominic grumbled, “Why did you schedule the pack meeting so early? Now we have to wait to claim mate.” I groaned, “Because I’m an idiot, and my wolf didn’t say anything when I angrily scheduled the meeting.” Dominic grumbled, “Fang didn’t warn me. He’s supposed to remind me of these things. We did both just get our mates though.” Fang and Dominic were always talking like Dylan and I were.

Emmaline asked, “What’s the pack meeting for? I didn’t know we had one today.” I pulled her into a hug. I inhaled her scent before explaining, “We weren’t until I was told you were in a fight at school. I need you to stand up there with me off my right side. If you have questions or concerns we can discuss them once we are alone, but for right now I need you by my side.” Her eyes widened. She asked, “I’m not speaking, right? I don’t have anything prepared.” I told her, “No, you’re not speaking. Just me.” She nodded seeming relieved.

We walked outside to the lawn where everyone was gathered. I had to give it to Dylan. He may be a big kid at heart, but the man was efficient. He’d even gotten the stage up. Lacy and Dylan were on my left along with my parents. I walked Emmaline to her spot on my right and walked to the front of the stage and let my rage show.

I snarled, “Apparently, when I told you all what I expected from you at school this year it didn’t sink in. Imagine my SHOCK and DISAPPOINTMENT when I heard about the SHIT that went down in your school today. Verbally attacking my sister and your Beta female IN PUBLIC! In front of ANOTHER pack! Disrespecting an order from your future Luna, and then ATTACKING HER! I have NEVER been more embarrassed in my time as Alpha.”

Several people began to shuffle nervously. I continued, “Then do I hear that our pack stepped in and defended their Luna? NO! I hear the future female leadership of Red Run attempted to assist OUR LUNA while the rest of you stood around. You even blocked members of our pack from getting in there to protect your Luna. You WATCHED two pack members fight each other! Now, I owe a debt to the future Alpha of Red Run for stepping in and defending my mate.”

I let Dominic come forward for the next part, “I will say this ONCE. Any member of this pack who attacks their Luna after her ceremony will be banished or killed. I can’t believe I just had to say that. I cannot believe that had to be said. I will NEVER feel this kind of shame again! Do you understand me? You are ALWAYS to defend your Luna! You do not watch, fascinated by a girl fight. That goes for ANY member of your pack.”

I took back over, “As for how one of our warriors got her ASS handed to her by someone who learned self-defense as a child then then lived out in the woods; that’s FUCKING pathetic. Training has clearly become too lax, and I’m correcting that now. Dylan will post a new schedule. Every pack member is required to work in two training sessions a day until I am convinced you take training seriously. Warriors will be taking two additional classes to what is currently required. We are a pack, and in said pack we have each other’s backs. You don’t leave anyone in our pack to be saved by another pack while there is still breath in your lungs.”

I moved on to the announcement, “The Luna ceremony is Friday. Tessa, you are lucky my mate hasn’t had her ceremony yet, or you would be dead. As far as my sister is concerned, Lacy is home. Permanently. She is your Beta Female. If ANYONE attempts to follow in Christy’s footsteps and lie to my sister and try to get her to leave, I’ll leave your fate up to Dylan. For those unaware, Christy teamed up with Claudia Harden to get rid of Lacy.”

Gasps echoed and whispers started. I explained further, “Alpha Eric’s mate graciously popped Lacy home and released her from a contract Claudia forced her into. The point is, Lacy is back. Move on and accept it or deal with your Beta. I understand the perception of Dylan is that he’s a laid back big kid, and he usually is. Today though when he first heard about the fight today the first words out of his mouth were and I quote ‘kick her out of the pack.’ He said that not once but twice.”

The silence of the crowd was somehow ringing in my ears. I linked Dylan, “Serious Dylan is still feared.” Dylan snorted, “With good reason. I am the fun one in these here parts.” I maintained my composure as I looked them in the eyes, “I don’t even want to look at your faces anymore. DISMISSED!”

I grabbed Emmaline’s hand and walked off the stage. I didn’t stop until we got to Emmaline’s room. She immediately pulled her hand out of mine and crossed her arms. She hissed, “Losing to me in a fight is PATHETIC? I took out five rogues by myself! I’m a good fighter.” I quickly stated, “I know that. I’m not saying you’re not a worthy opponent.”

She interrupted, “That’s exactly what you said.” I shook my head, “No, it’s not. Tessa has been training since she was five years old. I know you don’t box, and you couldn’t continue training. You may have practiced the moves your brother

taught you, but that's all you had the ability to do. Tessa has our gym and warriors at her disposal to train with every day and has for thirteen years."

Emmaline was quiet for several moments. She admitted, "Ok, I see your point, but I'm not some weak little thing." I raised my hands, "I know that. I'd imagine when you train with Haley, you'll pick up fighting easily. I have mixed emotions about, but I am proud of you, baby girl. You defended my sister and yourself." She smiled at me.

I kept talking, "You and Haley will work on controlling your powers. I want you to train here with our warriors too." She asked, "Twice a day?" I shook my head, "You don't have to go twice a day." She frowned, "If they have to, then so do I." I was proud of her. I hugged her, "You're already a good Luna."

Emmaline questioned, "Why is it bad Peter stepped in?" I explained, "Another pack shouldn't have to save our Luna when there are pack members present. It makes us look bad. Peter shouldn't have had to do anything. The fact that Chelsea and Sam were the only ones trying to get you when they will one day help run the Red Run pack isn't great either."

Emmaline immediately defended people "Valerie would've helped, but she was outside on her phone. Travis was trying to get to me too." I assured her, "I know he came to talk to me before you got home from school." Emmaline lamented, "Is there some secret tunnel into this place that everyone else knows about? How was I the last one home?" I laughed, "There's a more direct route through the woods. Most that can shift do and run back here." She tilted her head grumbling, "That makes sense I guess." I laughed as she fell back onto the bed.

I changed the subject, "I want you to move into my room." She bolted up, "What?" I smiled, "We have adjoining rooms so you can keep your things in the closet in here if you'd like." Emmaline opened her mouth and closed it several times. My heart dropped. She didn't want to. It felt like a rejection. Maybe I was moving too fast. That didn't make sense though because we basically had lived together since she moved in.

I tucked her hair behind her ear. I whispered, "Say what's on your mind, baby girl." She frowned, "Ok, but remember you asked. I'll move into your room when you get rid of your bed." My eyebrows raised and I blinked several times. That was not what I was expecting her to say. I asked, "What?"

Emmaline stood emphatically, stating, "I won't sleep in that bed knowing that right up until you found me Christy was in it. She tried to kill me." Her statement staggered me. I chastised myself for not thinking of that earlier. I agreed, "Consider it done."

She smiled triumphantly, “Then when the new furniture arrives, my happy little self will move into your domain, Alpha.” I growled and tackled her onto the bed. She rolled on her feet smirking. She teased, “See? I’m fast.” I smiled and pulled her back onto her knees. I told her, “You are fast, and I’m proud of you. Use your speed to your advantage every time you have to fight.”

Dominic grumbled, “She shouldn’t have to fight.” I retorted, “I don’t plan to have her fight, but she should know to use her speed should she find herself in the situation.” Dominic agreed. Emmaline laid down on the bed and kissed me tentatively. I pulled her close to me, pulling her top off over her head.

We started making out. I easily unsnapped her bra. I lightly bit her nipple while I used my thumb to play with the other one. She gasped as her hand snaked around my neck trying to get me closer to her. I kissed down her body. I slide her pants off then settled between her thighs.

I separated her lower lips with my nose, groaning, “Baby girl, you smell so good.” She whimpered in response. I attacked her clit with one swift lick of my tongue. I had her screaming my name in minutes. I made her come until my dick couldn’t stand not being inside her. I slowly slid into her as she was thrashing from an aftershock.

She panted, “Lucas... I can’t..” I disagreed, “You can come one more time, and you will.” I built her up slowly rocking us until her climax. My own quickly followed hers. I kissed her before I slid out of her. Her eyes fluttered closed as she murmured, “I love you, Lucas.” My heart stopped. I kissed her forehead, “I love you too, Emmaline.” I knew she didn’t hear me, but nothing could bring me down from this high.

I laid on my pillow thinking. She loved me. I had loved her for a while now, but she loved me back. Dominic linked, “She only said she wanted to get married and have pups. Obviously, she loves us.” I countered, “It’s a big deal, Dominic. It’s the first time she’s said she loves us.”

Dominic thought about it, “Alright. Point taken. MATE LOVES US!” I clutched my head, “Yelling was uncalled for.” He sighed, “Humans. You are unhappy when we aren’t excited enough, then get upset at you for being excited. Make up your mind.” I chuckled then pulled Emmaline to me and drifted off to sleep.

I woke up to an empty bed. I opened my eyes to see Emmaline pacing the floor, I questioned, “Baby girl?” She immediately paused, “Oh... umm... Hi... well... I mean... good morning.” I bit my lip so I wouldn’t laugh. I asked, “Are you alright?” She nodded, “Yes... well... How... Haley said werewolves hearing is... good.”

I instantly knew what she was worried about. I teased her. “Your cousin isn’t wrong. Werewolves have very good hearing.” Her heartrate tripled. I continued, “For example if someone whispered that they loved someone else. We’d hear it.” She flushed exclaiming, “Oh god! I’m sorry! I know it’s too soon. Like so beyond too soon. You don’t have to say it back.”

I kissed her then pulled back, “Say it to me now that you’re awake, and not in an orgasm haze.” Emmaline gulped, but looked me in the eyes whispering, “I... I love you, Lucas.” I responded, “I love you too, Emmaline. I have for a while now; I just didn’t want to scare you off by saying it.” Her relief was palpable, “Really?” I nodded, “Really.”

She dragged me into the bathroom, jumping into the shower. She coyly asked, “Are you coming in or not?” I growled and pinned her against the wall. She shivered as the cool tile touched her nipples. I slid into her from behind. She moaned, “Lucas!” I bit her neck, “Say it again.” Mischief danced in her eyes as she repeated, “Lucas.” I growled and bit her mark. She screamed, “I LOVE YOU!”

I nipped her ear, “Was that so hard? I love you so much, Emmaline.” I began to thrust in and out of her. I let Dominic out. He growled and thrust into her at an inhuman pace. Her head fell back onto my shoulder screaming my name. Dominic roared his release.

He told her. “I love you too, mate.” She turned and smiled, “I thought that was you. I love you both. Is it both? Since you’re essentially the same person? Or do you want me to say I love you too, Dominic.” I snorted as Dominic purred. He kissed Emmaline possessively.

He pulled back, admitting, “Lucas may have a point that hearing that is a big deal when your name is mentioned with the love statement. I’m giving him back control before I keep you home from school to fuck you all day.” She gasped. I could smell her arousal; she wanted him to do that. Dominic grumbled, “School is the devil.” He wasn’t wrong.

I took back control from Dominic. I told Emmaline, “He’s going to be pacing in my head all day until you get home. We are both a little antsy from your fight yesterday. Speaking of, how is your wrist? Why were you up so early?” She assured me, “My wrist feels fine. I couldn’t sleep once I woke up and realized I dropped the L bomb. I may not have been in a relationship before, but every girl and every magazine article says dropping it first or too soon is the kiss of death. Since I was up, I went to look at the training schedule. I got one out of the way, so I didn’t have to double up after school.” I laughed, “Those were probably not supernatural article writers. They don’t understand the mate bond. You can’t ruin us, baby girl. We are forever.” She smiled before running off to get ready for school.

I went down to my office. Dylan raised an eyebrow, “Well, aren’t you chipper this morning. I must say I love having Emmaline here. Normally, I have to trick you into at least three cups of coffee before you are remotely social. Do you know how hard that makes it to schedule your day?” I laughed, “I’m sorry I make your life so hard, Dylan.” Dylan retorted, “At least you admit it. Sometimes it’s just nice to be acknowledged. What has you walking on air?”

I smiled, “She told me she loves me. On a separate note, I need a new bed.” Dylan smiled, “The L word has landed. Good. I of course knew that she loved you already. It was obvious, but good. The pack is a flutter with the news that the future Luna was present for the first training of the day. She pulled my mate out of bed for it too. Apparently, they kicked ass. Maybe I thought this whole bed thing could be a problem. I have your custom ordered bed on the way. Indulge me since I’m so nice to you. Why do you need a new bed?”

I laughed, “Because Emmaline doesn’t want to sleep in the same bed Christy did.” Dylan nodded, “I love being right. I might have a bed burning ceremony. I’ll hire a demon. We don’t want Christy juju around. NO! I need a feng shui guru. I’m on it. Have no fear.” I snorted, “I never worry about such things. Who else was at the first training?”

Dylan waved his hands, “Emmaline took Lacy and the other girls. According to Lacy they are the Fantastic Five. The warriors are impressed that Emmaline is leading by example already. I have to say knowing her cousin like we do, I’m not surprised. The fairies should just let the partial fairies run everything. They are the superior group by far, and everyone actually likes them. Unlike the Hoity toity, holier than thou, full blooded fairies who think they are better than everyone else on the planet. Partial fairies are where it’s at. They give me my show, and I do so love them for it.”

I laughed, “I’d say you were wrong, but you’re not. They should have the partial fairies be their representatives with other supernatural groups. Everyone would be happier. We could deal with people who actually know how to be human, and they could judge from afar.” Dylan snorted, “I’m going to tell Haley you think she’s like a human.” I groaned, “That’s not what I meant. Don’t you even start more shit with her and me.”

We got to work. The paperwork had piled up. We were started by a knock after lunch. I called, “Enter.” To my shock Tessa walked in. My shock stopped me from laughing, but Dylan didn’t try. He started munching on popcorn. I shot him a look. He snorted, “I’m not even sorry.”

Tessa frowned, “It’s ok. I know I look funny.” Tessa’s eyebrows had been shaved off, and the word Toad was written across her forehead. I asked, “Who did that,

Tessa?” Dylan linked me, “It’s too good. You really don’t know? Oh, my dear, sweet Alpha. You are just so cute. Stay pretty.” I raised an eyebrow at him.

Tessa sighed, “I came to apologize. I shouldn’t have lashed out how I did. I turned eighteen last weekend, and I was really hoping Beta Dylan was my mate. I always liked you, Beta Dylan. I handled hearing Lacy was yours badly. I never should’ve approached her or touched Emmaline.” I growled, “You shouldn’t have.” She whispered, “Beta Dylan gave me my duties for the next six months. I just wanted to offer an apology in person to you both.”

I asked again, “Who did that to your forehead? You do know the word Toad is written in marker across your forehead? You should wash it off.” Tessa frowned, “It won’t come off for a week.” My eyebrows raised, “That’s a very specific timeframe.” Tessa sighed and pulled out her phone admitting, “I woke up with a sticky note on my phone that said, ‘play me’ so I did.” She hit play.

Dylan was already laughing when Haley came onto the screen. Oh, shit. Haley sighed, “Hello, Tessa. I researched you after my cousin, you know the partial fairy you attacked for no reason other than you are a jealous toad, told me she was attacked today. I just HAD to find out who you were. You should know I have a new philosophy for psychotic werebitches. It’s act first, ask questions later. Possibly ask for forgiveness in the aftermath, probably not though. I’m giving you a chance and I do mean A as in ONE chance to not be a psychotic werebitch like Claudzilla and Christy. From what I’ve found, you’ve been harboring some love for my friend Dylan.”

Dylan happily crunched on popcorn. On the screen, Haley crossed her arms, “I am advising you to let that go, and look for your mate. Spend some time with my cousin, without trying to hurt her. She could point you in the right direction of said mate. The marker on your forehead won’t wash off for a week. Your eyebrows will grow back in a few days. Remember when you fuck with the fairy, you get the hijinks.”

Dylan was literally on the floor slapping the ground with his hand. He squealed, “You mess with a fairy, you get the hijinks. OH MY GOD I LOVE HER SO MUCH!” I sighed, “I’ll talk to Haley, and see if she will undo this.” Tessa shrugged, “She has a point. I’m not the catty brat I behaved like yesterday. I was just so convinced Dylan was my mate. I’ll apologize to Emmaline and Lacy. I’m really sorry I embarrassed the pack like that. It’s not acceptable.” I nodded, “Apology accepted.” She left.

An hour later, I realized something. I sat straight up whispering, “Oh, god.” Dylan stood instantly alert, “What’s wrong?” Horror filled my entire being. I stated, “Haley was here.” Dylan frowned, “And?” I ran out of the room with Dylan hot on my heels.

I went to the room that held my gaming collection and keyed in the code. I muttered mostly to myself, “She couldn’t possibly bypass the code.” Dylan snorted, “I’m not going to tell her you said that. She absolutely could get past your code.” I opened the door, and I flipped the light.

My mind blanked. Dylan hit the floor laughing. He wheezed, “I LOVE HER!” I stared at the sight before me in shock. All of my collectibles were gone. In their places stood different sized figurines of Tinkerbell.

In the center of the room where my life sized, six foot Link from The Legend of Zelda with my real master sword from the game should be, stood a giant Tinkerbell doll. She was holding a sign that said:

I bet you’re closer to being sorry now.

I couldn’t move. I had spent decades collecting these items. I spent an exorbitant amount of time tracking down the perfect version of the master sword from The Legend of Zelda I’d wanted.

I was still standing there immobile when my dad, mom, and Emmaline walked into the room. Emmaline was saying, “That sounds fine. I’m training in the morning and again after school. A fitting at five will work perfectly. OH MY GOD!” Emmaline started laughing.

My dad asked, “Son, when did you develop a Tinkerbell fascination?” I growled, “Haley Connors STOLE my gaming collection and replaced them ALL with TINKERBELL Figurines.” They all laughed. I shouted again, “TINKERBELL!”

I took out my phone and called Eric. He answered immediately, “Lucas.” I growled at him. Dylan couldn’t stop laughing. Eric was shocked, “Lucas, are you alright?” Jackson asked, “Is that Dylan laughing like a hyena I hear?” Caleb sighed, “It absolutely is Beta Dylan, Jackson.”

Emmaline took my phone, “Whoever that was is right. Dylan’s laughing.” Emmaline asked me, “Do you want me to explain this situation? Or can we get more than a growl right now?” I growled in response. Eric sighed asking, “What did Haley do?” Emmaline laughed.

I heard Jackson start laughing hysterically. He exclaimed, “Oh my god! Eric, this is better than replacing Darrin’s books with paperbacks.” Darrin snorted. Eric asked again, “What did she do?” Caleb said, “The Beta chat is going off, but courtesy of Dylan here’s the picture.” Eric tried not to laugh but failed. He told me, “Lucas... She won’t have gotten rid of anything.”

I growled, “PUT HER ON THE PHONE.” Eric assured me, “I’ll link her.” After a minute he told me, “She’s putting the triplets down for a nap. She’ll join me shortly.” I informed him, “She also shaved a member of my pack’s eyebrows off and wrote the word Toad on her forehead. There’s even a video message. Due to fairy magic, it won’t wash off for a week.”

Jackson laughed. Eric said, “I’m going to go out on a limb and guess that would be the and I quote ‘potential psychotic werewolf’ who attacked Emmaline at school yesterday.” Emmaline gasped. I confirmed, “It is.” Eric laughed, “Then I do believe I was told the she wolf in question’s name is Tessa, and Tessa should count herself lucky that that’s all Haley did. You’re welcome by the way Lucas; Haley was in a murderous rage when Emmaline texted her about it. I talked Haley out of killing this Tessa person. She’s in a tense mood lately.”

Jackson snorted, “Talked... You talked her out of it? I’m pretty sure I heard fucking. No, no... we ALL heard it. It was definitely fucking. In this very room.” Emmaline choked on her water. Eric smugly retorted, “There was talking after the fucking, little brother.”

I heard a pop a second later Haley’s voice came across the speaker, “Hello husband. Did you miss me already?” I growled at her. I heard her amusement when she said, “Hello, my lion.” I gritted my teeth, “You took my gaming collection! How did you even find out about it?” Haley laughed, “My lion, I am the princess of the Hackura. When I want information, I get it. As for your collection, I did not take it.”

I stared at the phone, astonished. I looked at Dylan. He was sitting on the floor with Lacy in his lap eating popcorn. I yelled, “For crying out loud Dylan! Are you stashing popcorn around the damn house?” Dylan smiled, “No, but that’s an inspired idea. Thank you, Lucas.” Lacy laughed.

I said, “Haley, don’t lie to me. I’m looking at a note that says I bet I’m closer to being sorry now. CLOSER, Haley? I want my collectables back.” Haley sighed, “I’m really tired of reminding people I can’t fucking lie. I want to live in a world where Fabian never existed.” I stared at my phone before I asked, “What does that have to do with anything?”

Haley stated, “I thought we were talking about things we wanted. You said you wanted your collectables. I said what I wanted.” Eric started laughing which set everyone else off. I apologized, “Haley, I’m really sorry I didn’t call you about Emmaline. I understand you are rightfully upset, and I will NEVER do it again. Can I please have my collectibles back?”

Haley said, “Thank you for the apology, but I already told you I didn’t take it.” I countered, “You wrote the note.” She laughed, “I didn’t.” Eric was howling at this

point. Dylan said, "It cannot be overstated how much I love this fun sized fairy ninja. I love her down to my very tippy toes."

I turned to Lacy, "You could at least growl at him or something. He's saying he loves another woman!" Lacy laughed, "Who could blame him? I kind of love her too. This is epic." Haley said, "If I were you my lion, I'd look for a clue. If I was a betting person, I'd say there were several clues that lead to your precious collection." I sighed in relief.

Haley added, "Or maybe just a piece of your collection at time to make sure the lesson is learned." I growled, "How did someone who isn't you get in here? It's locked down." Haley informed me, "If you keep insulting me, I'll keep messing with you." I growled, "WHO TOOK MY COLLECTABLES?" Haley laughed, "Snitches get baseball bats to their kneecaps. I like my knees."

Dylan's laughter shook the room. Emmaline corrected her, "It's stitches. Snitches get stitches." Haley yelled, "Oh COME ON! How do the snitches get stitches? What did the person do to them to get stitches? Mine is better. It explains what happened."

I growled asking, "Where is my fucking clue?" Haley sounded bored, "I couldn't possibly tell you, that would be cheating. You have to find it. I have to go, but I'll see you and my cousin tomorrow." I heard a pop.

I yelled, "ERIC!" Eric snickered, "I'm sorry, Lucas. My best guess is one of the Tinkerbells holds the clue. Probably one of the bigger ones." Jackson roared with laughter, "You just have to love her. She picked a famous cartoon fairy to replace his collectables with. She is the prank master, and I bow to her awesomeness."

Dylan added, "Her video message ended with you mess with fairy, you get the hijinks. She knew you'd see it, Lucas. It was a message to you and Tessa." I asked Eric, "Do you know who helped her, Eric?" Eric said, "I really don't." Jackson said, "We could round up likely suspects of the Tinkerbell heist."

Darrin started laughing. I said, "Darrin, I thought you'd have more sympathy since she got you first." Darrin admitted, "I do. I do feel for you but... Lucas... Come on... You have a safe room FULL of Tinkerbell figurines, it's pretty damn funny." I growled and hung up on them.

Emmaline started searching the Tinkerbells for clues while laughing. I asked her, "Do you know where the clue is, baby girl?" Emmaline shook her head, "No, I'd tell you if I did. She didn't want to involve me to put me in the position between her and my mate." Damn. I could've gotten answers out of her in a sexy fun way.

We all started looked around the room. Dylan gleefully proclaimed, “Not that it should surprise anyone, but I found the clue.” I ran over and snatched the clue out of his hand:

Clue 1: — / • / • — • • / • / • — — • / • • • • / — — — / — • / •

I shouted, “WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS?” Dylan shrugged “I don’t know yet, but I will. I SHALL have answers.” I groaned. He usually knew these things. Everyone was in hysterics as I tried to figure out what Haley’s clue meant.