

## Hope

### Chapter 40

Lucian's pov

I was busy trying to distract myself again with work, so I didn't have to think about Aurora when I heard the knock on the door. I didn't even bother to look up, thinking the person would just tell me what they wanted while I continued to distract myself.

I thought I was imagining things when I smelled Aurora's captivating scent, I still couldn't fully believe it when I saw her sitting there.

I still spoke, praying it was real. When she insulted me and showed she was worried about me, I couldn't help but laugh. Then I started to panic that she was here for the rejection.

All the built-up guilt, stress, not eating, or sleeping properly just owed over me as she said I could get a nal chance. While Luca was doing cartwheels, I just broke down with the relief.

It felt amazing when she manoeuvred me so she could sit on my lap and comfort me until I could control myself again. I felt so exhausted when she suggested going up to my room to eat and so I could relax it sounded like heaven.

At this moment, I thought she could lead me anywhere, and I would follow as I let her take my hand, and I linked the kitchen to have two meals brought to my room.

She xed the pillow on my bed and made me sit down on it, resting my back on the pillows and headboard, and then she gently removed my shoes.

The door went, so she went and answered it, "well someone doesn't look happy" I hear her chuckling.

"Oh goddess, sorry Aurora, I didn't know what to think when I was asked for two meals. Are you back now? Please say you are everyone has missed you so much, and the Alpha is just a mess" Belle says, embarrassed.

"He certainly is, isn't he. I have to go back to my brothers pack for a few days, I am Luna training Lucian's cousin Ella. She is my brothers mate. After the Luna ceremony, I will be coming back with Lucian to stay" I hear her saying.

"Everyone will be so excited to hear that this place isn't the same without you. The kids will be so happy" Belle says excitedly.

"I am looking forward to seeing them all again. For today, Lucian needs me, so unfortunately, I can not spend time catching up with anyone. Just let them know I will be back soon and will see them all then" she tells her, making me feel content.

"I will, take care of your mate. Gosh, I am so excited" I hear her say as she walks off and Aurora chuckles at her.

She places the tray on my lap and starts to feed me my food. It feels so intimate, my mate caring for me in this way. She keeps going until I have had enough, then nishes her food, and makes sure I have a drink of juice.

Next, she rearranges the pillows a lies on her back.

"Come here, you look like you need a good rest" she says, encouraging me to lay my head on her shoulder as she wraps her arms around me.

At some point as she is stroking my hair, I must have fallen asleep because when I open my eyes, I feel better than I have in weeks.

"Sorry I didn't mean to fall asleep" I say, looking at her

"I was hoping you would. You are exhausted and needed it. It's only been 2 and a half hours" she says, smiling.

"I didn't want to lose any time with you. At least my bed will smell like you now. Erm, can I possibly have your top, I will give you one of mine to wear back. I just want your smell near me" I say, unsure.

"Yes you can have my top" she smiles before kissing me on the forehead.

I look at her and gently stroke her cheek. Her skin is as soft as I remember it. She leans down and kisses me gently on the lips, soft and slow, before she deepens it. I didn't want to push it at rst. But now she has given me the green light as I put all the love and gratitude into the kiss until we are both breathless.

"I love you so much, both of you" I say, full of emotion

"We both care about you a lot, I need you to look after yourself until I am back. You can't keep doing this to yourself Lucian" she says to me, worried.

"I won't I promise, I will eat when I need to, and your scent here will help me sleep and keep Luca calm and happy. I now have something to live for and be happy about" I say, feeling relaxed for the rst time in forever.

"Do you want to eat up here before I leave, or do you want to go downstairs and eat with everyone else" she asks

"If you don't mind, can I keep you to myself for today, I only have you for a little while, then you are gone until Friday" I say

"Yes that's ne, although you will have to deal with Lisa" she says, laughing

"Oh yeah, grumpy pregnant woman. Do you think I can avoid her until Friday" I ask

"Not a chance, she will hunt you down, and you know it" she chuckles.

"I am sure when she nds out you are moving back, she will be too excited to give me a hard time. Well, that's what I am hoping anyway. By the way, thank you for what you did for me, with your brother and cousin. After everything, you didn't have to stick up for me" I say gratefully.

"It was the right thing to do. My dad kept my mum and us away from her family, Frank and Zander know how hurtful that is. They both should have known better than that. It wasn't fair to you or any of your family. No matter what happened between us, I didn't want any families to be split up" she says.

"You really are such a kind and remarkable person, I am constantly amazed by you and feel like a fool for not seeing it the moment I laid eyes on you. When my dad died and I saw how much pain it caused my mum, I was determined I didn't want a mate. I was so broken by the loss and seeing my mums pain. I put all my efforts into being an Alpha and shut off my emotions. I know it is no excuse for my actions. I just felt you deserved to know" I tell her.

"Thank you for being honest with me, I always wondered why you were so against the bond. Even with my so-called dad betraying the bond he had with my mother, I always believed in it. I just stopped believing in him" she tells me.

"I would really like to hear your story sometime when you are ready. All I know is that you have been through a lot at their hands" I say

"I will tell you, I may as well since we are having a new start" she says, then goes on to tell me her story.

Luca is heartbroken whining in my head for what his mate has had to suffer through. It so much worse than what I thought. How could anyone let their child be put through that. I wish he was still alive so I could kill him myself.

"I am so sorry you had to go through all of that, and that I then made you suffer more instead of protecting you from more pain. You are such a strong person. Not many people could go through all of that and still be such a kind and loving person" I say honestly.

"Thank you Lucian" she says

"What for" I ask, confused

"For seeing my strength instead of feeling sorry for me" she says, smiling.

I get it now. She was worried that if people knew what happened to her, they would pity her and feel sorry for her. How can anyone hear that and not see anything other than strength and courage? Yes, I am upset and seriously pi.ssed off, but I am proud of the person she is.

"Everyone would see your strength. You are a warrior, my love. I am upset and angry you had to endure all of that as a child from the people who were supposed to nurture and protect you. I can not fathom a parent treating their child that way. I will never pity you. You are too strong for that, and I will always admire that" I say honestly.

We get our food to the room and the time passes too quickly, I take off my top so she is wearing one covered in my scent as she hands me hers and I tuck it under my pillow safe.

I hate that she has to go now as I walk her down, holding her hand. Quite a few pack members are there including an irritated Lisa, to see if she is really here.

"Sorry Lisa, we had a lot of things to sort out. I will see you at the weekend, and I will be coming back here with you all to stay" Aurora says to her.

"Goddess how can I be mad now? You are not tricking me, are you" she says excitedly, hugging her.

"No I will be coming home on Sunday" Aurora says as the pack cheers.

"Bye my love, I will be there Friday night" I tell her, giving her a quick kiss

"See you Friday" she says, hugging me goodbye

As the car drives off, Luca and I have to keep reminding each other that we will see each other soon and we will be bringing her home then.

"Oh Lisa, what colour is her dress" I ask

"Purple, I got you a tie just in case" she tells me

"Thank you, you are the best" I say, relieved