

Dr Luna Book 6

The Lycan Princess Chapter 21-25

Colleen squinted her eyes as she began to stir. She furrowed her brows as she felt the soft bed underneath her fingers and the foreign scent in the room. Images flashed through her mind and her eyes snapped open. She glanced around the room as her eyes settled on the beautiful blonde next to her bed. The woman she recognized as the Lycan Princess but there was no sign of her baby. She felt her heart begin to race as she braced herself for the worst.

“Sully!” A weak cry left her lips as the woman next to her turned and placed a comforting arm on hers.

“Easy. Sullivan is just fine. Your body has been through a lot. Our healers had to step in to aid you because your wolf was exhausted.” Diana watched as the woman’s

body seemed to relax though her eyes were darting around the room.

“Princess—”

“Diana, please, call me Diana.”

“Diana...” Colleen whispered. “Can I see my son?”

“Of course,” Diana smiled at her and patted her hand. “We aren’t keeping him from you.” She pursed her lips together and stared at the woman’s unique mint green eyes. “There is something I need to prepare you for. You have a second chance mate here.” She watched as the woman’s eyes bulged open in fear.

“He’ll kill my baby!”

“What are you talking about?” Diana chuckled, shaking her head. Kurt was quite smitten with Sully. He was even proudly calling him his son. Already he loved the

child as his own even without Colleen accepting the bond.

“Because... because he isn’t his and...”

“Colleen, it sounds like life with the Children of the Moon has been rough. We don’t kill babies... even enemy babies. Here in the Diamond Pack mates accept their mates’ children as their own. I understand things may differ from pack to pack but not here. Sully is with your mate, and I promise he is safer in his arms than maybe even your own.” Diana chuckled and could see the confused look on her face. “I think it may be best for you to see for yourself. Kurt is our beta; he is your mate. He is also a lycan and part fairy, including selkie. As you can see, we are not purists here.”

“I—” Colleen closed her eyes as she tried to process what she was hearing. It had only been a little over a year since she tragically lost her mate.

“I understand the look on your face. I have been there myself. My advice... don't let the pain smother you. Kurt is a great guy. He is amazing and you would really be missing out if you didn't embrace the gift you have been given in him.”

“They'll want to kill him... they said you—”

“Your pack can try but if they lay one paw on him, I'll end everyone responsible. This purist idea is outrageous. Even me... I am no longer a pure lycan I have vampire in me. I have been marked by the prince who has pure vampire blood in him. He also has fairy and witch genes. Our children will be a mixture of power. So, if your pack was hoping I was going to come and take their side they are sorely mistaken. Because now I am going to put their nonsense to an end.”

Colleen stared in awe at Diana. She had never met anyone like her before. Diana had so much power and confidence that it made Colleen feel small in comparison. She

couldn't believe that she had stumbled upon such a remarkable group of people. She had always been taught to fear anything or anyone that wasn't entirely wolf, but here she was, surrounded by a pack that embraced diversity and even had a lycan princess who was part vampire. It was all so overwhelming, but at the same time, it felt like a breath of fresh air.

“I personally know that it's not easy to trust after you've been hurt. Especially by your own family and pack. But I promise you, this pack is one of the good ones.”

“I...I don't know what to say,” Colleen whispered, as she gnawed on her inner cheek. Her head was flooded with the unknown and questions. She might be in the Alpha King's pack, but she knew her pack very well. A deserter, who they considered defiled with an abomination, is not something they will let go. “My pack...”

Diana gave her a reassuring smile. “Your pack cannot touch you here. The Diamond pack will protect you and your son, but until they are dealt with, you need to stay within our borders. You’ve done well. You can relax now and make yourself a new home.”

On one hand, she was relieved to know her son was safe, but then her thoughts trailed to those she left behind. Her friends and family. She was brought up to be a purist but fell into the lure of the mate pull. Maybe she was wrong... maybe she was contaminated. Those thoughts constantly plagued her mind until she looked at her son. To think that way would be to think her son deserved death. He was her sanity and what stopped her from falling back into the poisonous brainwashing of her old pack. No matter how many ways she looked at it, her son was innocent. And her fairy mate... he fought bravely on her behalf.

She closed her eyes and took a deep breath, resolving to start a new life for herself and her son. She knew that she had to let go of her past and move on if she wanted to give her son a better future. No more living in fear and shame. Well... it was easier to think that than it was to accept it. She had rationalized with herself and battled mentally time and time again. Of course, now she wasn't on the brink of exhaustion and didn't have her old pack at her heels.

Looking at Diana, she felt a sense of hope that she hadn't felt in a very long time. Of all the places she could have ended up this had to have been the safest place. And the idea that she already has a mate here felt like the goddess had her hands in all of this.

Her thoughts were interrupted as the door to her room creaked open. She opened her eyes to see a muscular man with dark brown hair and deep brown eyes. His scent slammed against her as her wolf screamed happily,

'Mate'. The man was holding her son in his arms, and he was cooing happily.

"Oh, good you are awake."

Diana watched as Aiden pushed his way into the room and walked over toward the bed.

"We have some things we would like to ask you about your pack."

"Later..." Diana said softly as she stood up next to Aiden. "Colleen, this is the Lycan Prince, Aiden. We do have to talk to you more, but we will give you some time with your son. Breakfast will be brought up soon..." Diana interlaced her fingers with Aiden who gave her a knowing nod. Then together they walked out of the room leaving Kurt in there alone with her.

"I think someone here wants to see you. He isn't a fan of the bottle, but I got him to eat some." Kurt walked over to Colleen and eased the baby into her arms. Their skin touching sent rippling tingles over his body

and for a moment their eyes were locked. “I’m Kurt...” He said in a soft voice as he took the seat next to her.

Her heart was racing as her wolf howled in her head. Her wolf was ready to accept their mate instantly, but her heart wasn’t ready. She wanted to know who this person was, and it was important that he knew she was never giving up her child. The princess might have said they accept children, but it wasn’t what she was used to. Not that she had a choice. After all she was a woman and if the man wanted her as his mate, she didn’t have a say in the matter. She looked at her mate with uncertainty and then back to her son.

Sully began to squirm in her arms and cry as his head moved back and forth. “He’s hungry...” She whispered as she glanced up at Kurt.

“I’ll get you something to drink while you nurse him. My mother told me she was

always so thirsty when she nursed me.” He said as he walked over to the mini refrigerator on the other side of the room. “How about some apple juice?”

“... Umm... yes...thank you.” She mumbled quietly as she positioned Sully to latch on. She felt slightly embarrassed about nursing her baby in front of a stranger, but Kurt seemed unaffected by it. He walked back to her sitting the cup on the stand. He was acting completely natural about it. “Does this bother you?”

Kurt chuckled and tilted his head to the side. “Why would it?”

“In my pack—”

“Ex-pack.” Kurt said tersely.

She blinked at him, noticing a slight darkness reaching his eyes. “Well, where I grew up women were not allowed to nurse their young around others. They had to be in special rooms or at their homes.”

“Why?”

“Because we were deemed a s****l distraction to the men—”

Kurt’s jaw tightened to the point of aching, rage boiling under his skin. “For feeding your children? There is nothing s****l about it!” he roared, as if unleashing a war cry. Spittle flew from his lips, and his nostrils flared with indignation. He was defending something so basic and instinctive—this is how mammals feed their babies, after all.

“What does your pack do...” Colleen bit her inner lip as she tried to think of the words to say. “When a woman is on her... monthly...”

“What do you mean by that?” Kurt settled his insides down, seeing how timid the woman was. He wasn’t angry with her and didn’t want her to think that. She seemed a bit delicate mentally.

“The Children of the Moon sent women away to a special building during their time of the

month. They were considered unclean and were not allowed to return until they were completely done.”

“All women were sent away? Even those who have mates?” He watched as she nodded her head. “We don’t do that... anywhere. Not just the Diamond pack but in the world. Who would send their women away? Plus... just because a woman is on their period doesn’t mean mates aren’t interested in having their mate around.” He watched as she looked at him in confusion. “Every good knight gets a little blood on his sword.” He shrugged with a smirk watching her face turn a dark shade of red.

“But it’s unclean.”

“No, it isn’t.” His eyes softened as he thought about the life she must have had before. “That is rubbish your pack told you. It’s one thing if the woman doesn’t want to because she isn’t in the mood. Or just doesn’t want to during that time. But if both

partners are willing...” Kurt shrugged and raised his brows at her. “In either case, women are not sent away. With a pack of our size there is always at least one woman having her period. That doesn’t stop them from anything. They swim, they party, they train—”

“Train?”

“Yeah, some of our fiercest warriors are women.”

“A woman can never be as strong as a male warrior, so there is no point training them.”

Kurt chuckled and shook his head. “Our Queen, Freya, is probably the fiercest woman in our pack. She used to hunt demons all on her own. I don’t know any pack member that would want to face her in battle... including her mate.” He said with a wink. “Things will be a lot different for you from here on out. I’ll be here to help you

adjust.” He gave her a soft smile, seeing that she looked very confused.

“I’m not giving up my baby.”

“Why would you?”

She stared into his eyes as if she was searching for the truth. “Do you still want me even though I have him? Even though I was with another man?”

“Colleen, if you let me, I will be a father to your son. I will love him and you. I will show you a new life and we will raise our son together.”

“When will you force your mark on me?”

“Now wait a minute.” Kurt knitted his brows together and shook his head. “I think you are misunderstanding things. You are my mate and I want you, but I would never force you to accept the bond.” He watched as she parted her lips.

“You mean... I have a choice?”

“You didn’t have a choice before?” Kurt was mortified as she shook her head.

“If your mate was in the pack and wanted you, then you had no say in the matter.”

Kurt sighed as he looked at his mate’s light green eyes. She wasn’t ready to be his mate. Mentally, she needed to understand what life was really like. She had been brainwashed by a cult pack. He reached out and placed his hand over her free one.

“Colleen, we will take this slow. You have a say over everything. You have dominion over your body and choices. We don’t need to mark each other now. I want you to decide when you are ready. There is no rush. I’ll help you. I’ll be here for you and Sullivan.”

“I’m...” She looked down at her baby, unable to look at Kurt. “I’m not good with resisting the mate bond. Which is why I have Sully here... my first mate never marked me, but I

couldn't fight how drawn I was to him. And—
”

“We will try our best and—” He reached up and rubbed the back of his neck. “And if things go too far, we don't have to mark one another. We can wait until the time is right. Of course, with little Sull here, I think we won't have a lot of alone time.” He chuckled and a smile finally reached her eyes.

“Do I call you, my mate?” She whispered quietly.

“I would like that very much. I can't imagine a world where you choose someone else. I would be crushed. But I accept that it is your decision. My promise to you is that I will make myself so irresistible that there will never be any need for you to look elsewhere.” His eyes blazed with passion as he caressed her hand, sending a shiver of anticipation down her spine.

This was new to her... all of it. The way he looked at her like she was someone special and not just there to have his children. This was how her fairy mate treated her. This was why she practically fell into his arms. He made her feel wanted and desirable... and that was how Kurt was making her feel now. Was this really how it was supposed to be?

Just then, Sullivan broke off of the n****e and turned his head, exposing soft pink skin. She watched as Kurt turned his head with a light pink stain reaching his cheeks. She pursed her lips together and smiled. If he was really like this... she wouldn't be able to resist him. He glanced back at her, and a sweet smile spread over his face.

Green met with brown and for a moment that was all that existed. Then Sully's face turned a dark shade of crimson as he shifted uncomfortably and released a low, grinding rumble that seemed to reverberate throughout the room. A less than pleasant

smell wafted across the room, ruining the moment between the two adults.

Kurt laughed and stood to his feet. “I guess time to prove I am serious about this dad stuff.”

The Lycan Princess Chapter 22

Diana sat on the couch curled up in Aiden’s arms. She felt his soft lips on her head as she relaxed in his warmth. The days had all blurred together as they waited for Colleen to recover. Now that she was awake and out of danger, they could finally take a breath. Between caring for a new baby, an injured woman, and Aiden catching up on his duties, they were all in need of a good night’s rest. They both glanced up as Kurt walked down the steps with a small frown resting on his lips.

“That bad?” Jamie asked as he walked over from the kitchen.

“They’ve done a number on her. Honestly, that pack needs new leadership. It’s bad Aiden.” Kurt watched as Aiden and Diana rose to their feet.

“I want to speak with her,” Aiden said firmly, and Kurt shook his head.

“She is resting again, and Sull is napping as well.”

“This is more pressing than nap time—”

“Aiden,” Kurt said in a tone that made their eyes clash against one another. “She has been through a lot. Her emotions are on a teeter... she needs to rest more.”

“Aiden, Kurt is right.” Diana placed her fingers delicately around Aiden’s arms. “You know I don’t lead with my heart but with the best judgment. We can’t risk her breaking and going silent on us. Honestly, we don’t need any more information. We have heard enough already. However, I do want to know the names of the leaders. I want to know

exactly who to look for when we arrive.” She listened as Aiden groaned and she looked up at him. “We promised we wouldn’t be parted again. Not to mention, you need me.”

“I don’t like taking you through the shriek woods—”

“We have a solution to that.” A commanding voice boomed from the side. They all turned their heads to see a group of familiar people.

“Mom, Dad! You’re back. Lucy had her babies?” Aiden asked as he listened to Jin giggle.

“Your dad and Uncle Jason are both Grandpa’s now. And Jason is struggling with the term.” Jin smiled as Jason snorted but had a happy smile resting on his face.

“Surprise, three healthy babies were all born at the same time.” Freya’s eyes moved to Diana’s and then the mark on her neck. “But it looks like things have been interesting here as well.”

Diana reached up to her neck with a light pink blush staining her cheeks. “You said you had a solution to the shrieks?”

“First, welcome to the family, officially.” Wyatt’s voice was warm and kind. “Yes, the new death god, Sion, can handle the shrieks. Rhea will be seeking an audience with him and his mate, Clover, the sheya. Both Clover and Sion will be asked to join the both of you to the Children of the Moon.”

“Really? You are giving this assignment to me?” Aiden said as his eyes lit in excitement. The whole time he thought his father would end up handling the situation.

“Yes, your mother and I talked about it. We were your age when the pack was ours and it is time you eased into the role you were born to fill. Your mother and I will lead the pack while you are away. Sam and Adam should be returning soon. The war there is finishing up now. In a few weeks, you will be traveling to the Children of the Moon. This

will give things time to settle down. Time for Diana to adjust to the changes taking place inside of her... and the changes Kurt and Jamie are going through.” He looked over at them and smiled. “The fairy messengers are thorough, and Elysium knows everything that is going on. No wonder my parents always knew what was going on.” He chuckled as he pulled Freya tenderly to his side.

“I don’t want you two to be overconfident. They might be a pack of werewolves, but we don’t know what they are involved in. However, you will be traveling with your officers and other very strong allies. We know about the agreement that was made. Just like your father and I had to make a similar tough decision. The union of your children will be in the best interest of... the world.” Freya noticed the spark in her son’s eyes and smiled. He always voiced his dislike of Lucy’s arrangement. “You’ll see. One way or another, these things tend to work out the

way they were meant to. However, this will be a great time to get to know each other. You can begin building the bridge for what the future will be like.” She paused and decided to move back to the topic at hand. “You will be tasked with making the decisions regarding the Children of the Moon. Their fate is in your hands. Whatever decision the two of you make... we will back it up.” She watched as her son and Diana nodded at her, she then turned to look at Kurt. “We were informed that the woman, Colleen, is your mate. How does she feel about it?”

“Honestly, it is too early to say. She has a lot of mental issues that she needs to work through. The feelings of not having value... plus she isn’t used to having a say in her life. She doesn’t know what she wants because she was never allowed to decide. From what I gather, the women there don’t have a say in things. The men get to decide if they are mates, and the women have no say in it. The

women are sent away during their periods and made to feel like they are unclean. It doesn't sound like a pack at all... it sounds like a cult." Kurt watched as Freya curled her fingers together in a tight ball.

"On second thought, maybe I do want to visit..." Freya voice dropped to an icy tone and her eyes promised pain.

"I don't think a diplomatic visit is what you have in mind." Wyatt chuckled, though he agreed with his mate. Most likely there would have to be bloodshed in order to change things in that pack. It would be interesting to see how Aiden and Diana handled it.

Wyatt looked into the silver eyes of Diana. He didn't know her well, but could tell she was wise for being so young. Despite her youthful appearance, he sensed a dangerous wisdom lurking just beneath the surface, honed by experiences far beyond her years.

A lifetime of past history and conflicts she had stored within.

She carried herself with a quiet charisma that commanded respect. A natural leader who would be an asset to the Diamond pack. She could make the harsh decisions necessary. While with Aiden, he wasn't so sure. Aiden had a very understanding nature, and his temper was fairly under control.

But Aiden was a wildcard. Beneath his calm exterior lay a tempestuous rage that could be unleashed at any moment. Wyatt had seen glimpses of it before – when Lucy was threatened and he had to calm him down. Now with Diana, it could awaken in a primal fury for her sake. The only one who could stop him then would be her.

He stared at his son, knowing that some battles wouldn't be fought on the battlefield. They would be fought in the hearts and in the minds. While they weren't seen on the surface, they could be the most brutal ones

they will ever face. Part of becoming a leader is facing those battles and conquering them.

“So... your mate... she has a son?” Wyatt finally asked, directing his attention to Kurt.

“Yes, he is part fairy and such a sweet little baby.” Kurt said proudly, as if he was the father.

“The child’s mother... your mate, she is a former pack member of the Children of the Moon?” Wyatt asked and watched as Kurt noticeably stiffened.

“She was, but she is no longer with them. She is with us now.”

Wyatt smiled and nodded his head gently.

“Kurt, I’m just making sure I understand the situation. She will not be judged for her pack. Just like everyone in the pack, they won’t be judged based on their leaders. The Children of the Moon were mentally abusive towards the women... how about physically abusive? How cruel were they? Was it just

with the females? What about the lower ranked males?”

Kurt relaxed and shrugged his shoulders. “She has just recently woken up. She was exhausted and even the healers had a tough time restoring her. I know she ran away with her son since they were going to kill him. And she ended up running here where she has me, a mate. That can’t just be a coincidence. I’m going to protect her and her child.”

Wyatt looked at the fire in Kurt’s eyes. The undeniable determination to protect his mate and her child. “Good for you Kurt. Your father will be proud to hear this when he returns. As soon as she is ready, we do need to fill in the gaps. We need a full picture of what life is like at this pack in case they decide to put on a show. Know they won’t like Aiden and Diana showing up and will despise them for not being pure.”

“How is the vampire change coming for you?” Freya asked as she focused on the aura coming from Diana.

“It’s strange. It comes in waves. At first, when... when I was first marked, that side took control. It’s been more quiet now, but I feel a new power inside of me stirring. I’m not sure what it is or how to use it.” Diana watched as Freya nodded her head.

“It will come to you when you need it. Same with Aiden and his powers. He has untapped powers that come from me. My witch side is very strong. Aiden and Lucy have yet to use those powers. They are there though. When they need them, they will surface.”

“Alright... who is hungry?” Jason finally said as he slapped his hands together. “I am starving and need some good food.”

“Oh and chocolate for me!” Jin grinned happily as everyone chuckled.

“Are you sure this is the place?” Lycaon squinted as he tried to look at his surroundings.

“Yes, I am sure.” Reapus listened as Lycaon snorted at him.

“Well, that’s reassuring.”

“Ike, you are so damn moody.” Reapus growled as they moved through a thick red mist.

“Well... I can see how this is going to go.” A deep voice chuckled from above the two of them.

“As if you could do better,” Lycaon growled as he glared at the man.

“I wondered if you were ever going to wake up from your nap.” Reapus grinned as he tilted his hat up.

“Oh look Ike, it’s the pretty boy who has to dress in all dark clothes in order to scare the souls he is trying to collect.”

Lycaon began to snicker as Reapus growled.

“What’s wrong? Jealous of my good looks and my way with the souls? I had to do what I did,” Reapus growled, yanking his hat low over his eyes to hide any trace of vulnerability. “But it seems like you’re enjoying it now...”

“Yeah... but now you’ve embraced it and think of yourself as a death cowboy.” Rogio hollered in laughter.

“I may have looked harmless, Rogio, but that doesn’t stop me from claiming the souls I am after. I’d be careful or I might decide to come after yours.” Reapus spat as Lycaon snorted, turning to look at him.

“You think he has a soul?” Lycaon listened as Reapus snickered and Rogio came down to rest his feet on the misty ground.

As the three of them continued to bicker and joke around, a faint rustling sound could be heard in the distance. Lycaon's ears perked up as he turned to face the source of the noise. "Do you hear that?" he asked, his tone serious.

Reapus and Rogio fell silent, their eyes scanning the red mist for any signs of movement. Rogio glanced down as something brushed his leg. He saw a skeletal hand reach out of the mist grabbing onto him.

"Hey Grim, is this what a typical day at the office looks like?" He chuckled as he disintegrated the animated bones.

"There is a necromancer at work here." Reapus scowled as he looked around.

"I thought we were looking for Eris, not a necromancer?" Rogio yawned in disinterest.

“Hmm... Eris was the goddess of chaos, right? So—” Reapus began to say, but Lycaon spoke up over him.

“So, if she has switched to an original demon, she would take the power to animate the dead. What better chaos is that? That is why the essence lead us here.” Lycaon listened as Rogio groaned.

“Well damn... we are going to have to hunt down every undead creature she has raised and eliminate her essence one by one. It is like having a bunch of false positives.” Rogio clicked his tongue and looked up. “Are you just going to watch all day?”

“I’m here aren’t I?” A woman’s voice said as her golden brown hair descended from the sky. “Levi and Aken will be joining in on the hunt as well. I’ll let them know when we are close.”

“What are you, Gaia? Their messenger? Are they too good to join the hunt with us?” Rogio quipped as Gaia rolled her eyes.

“They just got done cleaning up the trash. Sorry you are sore they killed Erebus before you could. It must hurt to know they got to him before you.” Gaia said in a fake sympathetic voice. “They both have mates they have been away from. So this time, you can actually get those hands of yours dirty. Do you even know what dirt looks like under those nails?”

“We can stop for gloves,” Reapus said with a smirk. “Honestly, the four of us are already over kill. Do we need the other two?”

“Out of the gods, I want Aken here on this one,” Lycaon said, and Rogio sighed but slowly nodded his head.

“The punk might still be on my s**t list but he is a god killer. And Levi has taken out original demons. We could use their

knowledge on this one.” Rogio listened as Gaia clicked her tongue.

“Seriously, don’t even say that. When you call him a god killer it makes him sound disgusting, and it isn’t anything like that. He killed traitors. He did what none of you would do. He did the dirty work that needed to be done.” Gaia hissed angrily.

“You know what I mean. I mean he has faced power itself and came out on top. While I—”

“While you squealed and begged the council like a spoiled child who wanted his mommy to make it all better,” Reapus sneered.

“Waaahhhh my vampire king killed himself because his mate was unfaithful and it’s all Aken’s fault waaahhh punish him.” Rogio growled in fury as he bared his fangs, the snarl leaving his throat echoed through the mist.

“Enough!” Lycaon growled, turning to face the two men. “This is a dead end, let’s move

to the next location. The sooner this b***h is dead the better.” He grabbed the scepter and began to trace the essence again. He needed to keep hunting and keep moving. He needed to stay busy, so he didn’t think about her. Though he always was... he wondered what she was doing at that very moment and if she was happy.

The Lycan Princess Chapter 23

Kurt entered the packhouse after heading back from the training grounds. The cry of his mate echoed from upstairs. In a sprint, he raced up the stairs only to collide into the chest of Aiden.

“Easy, Kurt.” Aiden held his shoulders as Kurt looked past him at the open door.

“Let me pass.” Kurt growled as Aiden gripped him tighter.

“She is fine. She was refusing the nullifying scale but she doesn’t have a choice. My

father has ordered it for the pack's safety and hers. Same with the baby. We tried to explain it won't hurt either of them, but she doesn't trust us."

"Aiden, let me go to her." Kurt looked into his Alpha's eyes, pleading with him.

"Yes, you can go. You can help calm her down, but Kurt..."

"I know." He smiled and nodded his head. He knew the baby and Colleen both had to have the scales.

"We haven't done anything yet. We just informed her, and she started panicking. I was on my way to get you... Come on." Aiden patted Kurt's back and they both walked down the hall.

The moment Kurt stepped into the room his eyes found the distressed eyes of his mate. She was crying and clutching Sullivan to her chest tightly.

“Kurt.” Her voice quivered as he rushed to her side. He sat next to her on the bed and wrapped a comforting arm around her.

“Easy, Colleen. I know this is scary for you, but I promise it is only to protect you both. It doesn’t hurt.” He looked into her wild and scared eyes and frowned. “Don’t you believe me?”

“What if it is something that kills Sully and makes me unconscious? What if it is to drug me into just accepting his death or forgetting him?”

“At this point I am beginning to think there isn’t anything redeemable about that pack.” Freya mumbled, thinking maybe she should travel to the pack too. It’s been a while since she had unsheathed her daggers.

“Sully is my son too...” Kurt’s breath caught in his throat as he said what he was thinking out loud. He watched as Colleen searched his eyes and he gave her a gentle smile. “I’ve

told you that I'm just waiting for you to accept me and that it is your choice. However, in my heart I have already accepted both you and Sullivan. He is my pup too. I would never allow anyone to hurt either of you. I know that is hard for you to understand, but it is true."

"Also, Colleen, please think about this. The royal bloodlines are standing in this room. We are strong enough to force this on you if we wanted. If we wanted to hurt you we already would have done it. This pack is not like your pack. I know that you don't know of life outside of your pack, but you must start by trusting someone." Wyatt watched as Colleen's mint-green eyes looked at him timidly.

Diana watched as Wyatt straightened up and looked down the hall. "Aiden and Diana, please see this through, Sam is back and I'm going to get his full report." She watched as

Wyatt and Freya both walked out of the room, shutting the door behind them.

“Colleen?” Diana whispered, noticing her fearful eyes. “You look scared.”

“It’s just... I know this seems hypocritical of me but... all the royals have vampire in them. Vampires aren’t to be trusted. They even changed you. We don’t know—”

“Colleen,” Kurt said firmly, not liking what he was hearing.

“Kurt, she doesn’t mean any harm,” Aiden said as he moved closer to the bed. “Colleen, Diana is my mate and I love her. Should I not have marked her because I also have vampire in me? Being a vampire doesn’t make you evil. Being part fairy doesn’t make you evil, right?” He watched as she chewed on her inner cheek and slowly nodded her head.

“The truth is... I don’t mind it. What does that mean?” She whispered.

“It means you have enough common sense to see when something doesn’t make sense. Like I am sure you have enough common sense to know that these scales are not going to hurt you or Sully... right?” Diana smiled as Colleen inhaled, slowly nodding her head. “Good.” She looked at Kurt and handed him the two scales. “You won’t feel a thing, I promise.”

“See, that was it,” Kurt said as he let Sullivan hold his finger. “You didn’t even feel a thing, did you Champ?” His other arm rested around Colleen. His fingers traced softly over her side, offering her comfort. He enjoyed the warmth of holding her close. Her body leaned into him slightly and he felt her relax. He moved his head to the side so that his nose was buried in her dark, silky hair. Her sweet scent sent tingles through him as he gently inhaled it. “Are you okay?” He murmured, feeling her nod her head slightly.

Kurt took a deep breath and looked down at his mate, his heart swelling with love and affection for her and THEIR child. His beast claimed the child as his own. Sully was his pup, and he would protect them both with his life. He would be there to help Colleen and give her a better life. He didn't know much about being a mate or a father, but he vowed to be the best one he could be. His lips brushed against her head, showing his affection for her.

“I'm sorry I'm a mental mess...” She whispered, her voice laced with regret. She looked up at him with tear-filled eyes, suddenly feeling sorry for him. He seemed like such a great guy, and she was who he got as a mate. A discarded piece of trash with emotional trauma. Plus, she already had a pup that was not his own. In her pack, they would consider her ruined goods. And Sully would have been disposed of immediately as abominable trash. It was wrong... she knew it was wrong. Yet, she

still felt tainted. She didn't deserve anyone else. Kurt pulled his hand from Sullivan and tilted her face towards him. He leaned his forehead against hers, staring at her eyes.

“Please don't say things like that. Don't say bad things about my mate. She is perfect and exactly who I need.” His hot breath pelted against her lips, sizzling them with his emotions.

Colleen's breath hitched as she looked at Kurt's intense gaze. The love he had for her was evident in his eyes and she felt her heart swell with love for him as well. His lips lowered to hers and she felt a rush of electricity course through her body as they kissed. Softly, delicately, as if there was a chance she could break.

As they pulled away, Kurt rested his forehead against hers, a small smile playing on his lips. “You're perfect,” he whispered, his eyes locking with hers. “Don't ever think otherwise.”

Aiden and Diana stood at the foot of the bed, watching the intimate moment between the mates. Aiden placed a hand on Diana's waist, pulling her close. This was what having a mate was all about. To have that someone who will stick by you no matter what. Who will tell you that you're amazing even on your worst days. Someone who will love you unconditionally and help you become a better person. He squeezed Diana gently and the two of them quietly left the room to give the couple some privacy.

As the door closed behind them, Colleen and Kurt were left alone once again. They sat in silence for a few moments, just enjoying each other's company. Colleen leaned her head against Kurt's chest, listening to his heartbeat as he held her close. She felt safe in his arms, like nothing could ever harm her.

Kurt held Colleen in his arms, feeling her body melt into his as they embraced. He

knew that she was still scared and uncertain about their future, but he would do everything in his power to make her feel safe and loved. He wanted to make her forget all of her fears and insecurities, he wanted to show her true happiness.

“I love you,” Kurt said suddenly, breaking the silence. “I know we haven’t known each other for very long, but I feel like I’ve known you my whole life. You’re the missing piece to my puzzle, Colleen. I don’t know what I would do without you.”

Colleen felt her eyes and nose begin to burn as tears welled in her eyes. She didn’t know what to say but she knew she felt safe in his arms. She wanted to give herself to him and trust him fully. She wanted what seemed too good to be true. But there was a deep fear inside of her. Even though Kurt was a lycan he was still part fairy. And her pack would come for her, and they would kill him.

Noticing her silence, Kurt quickly added, “You don’t have to say anything. I’m not trying to rush you. I just think it is important that you know my feelings for you and Sully. I love you both.”

Colleen felt a lump form in her throat, making it difficult to swallow. She didn’t know what to say, but she knew she couldn’t keep her fears bottled up forever.

“Kurt, I need to tell you something,” she said, her voice barely above a whisper.

Kurt looked down at her with concern etched on his face, waiting for her to speak.

“I’m scared,” Colleen began, feeling her heart race in her chest. “I’m scared that something will happen to you because of me. My pack won’t accept you; they’ll see you as a threat and they’ll come after you. Even though you are with a deserter, it won’t matter.”

Kurt's expression softened as he listened to her words. "Colleen, I don't think you quite understand the strength of the pack you are in. The Children of the Moon could send a pack ten times their size and the Diamond pack would still win the fight. Plus... I am a lycan, Colleen. They are werewolves and can't compete with me in strength. I won't let anything happen to you or Sully. I'll protect you both with my life—"

"It's about you, Kurt. They will come after you... you could be killed just for being with me. I can't endanger you like that."

Kurt smiled and a gentle chuckle left his lips. "I am not in any danger. The Diamond pack is going to the Children of the Moon. Everything is getting taken care of. They will never come after you again. There will be new leaders and—"

"Don't you understand?" Colleen's voice was now hysterical as she shook her head. Tears streamed down her face as she looked into

Kurt's eyes. "There is no one there to be a new leader. Whoever you choose... it won't matter. Maybe some of the women want things differently, but the men are set in their ways. The Children of the Moon won't change unless they are taken over. Even if that happens, they would bide their time to take out the new leaders."

"Are you telling me none of the men think differently? What about your family there?"

Colleen shook her head with tears quietly trickling. "My brother had my neck in his grasp when he found out I had been with a fairy. He would have killed me if the Alpha didn't stop him. They needed me alive as a breeder. Our gene pool gets smaller and smaller..." She scoffed and pursed her lips together. "That was the only reason I wasn't killed... because I have a womb."

Kurt's face twisted in anger as he listened to Colleen's words. He couldn't believe that her own pack would treat her that way, labeling

her as nothing more than a breeder. It made his blood boil to think of the pain and suffering that Colleen had endured at the hands of her own kind.

“Aiden will do what is necessary... one way or another. The Children of the Moon will either be changed or...” He paused as he stared into her light green eyes. “In either case,” he cupped her cheek, wiping the tears from her skin, “nothing is going to happen to me... to you... or to Sully. You don’t need to worry about me. Don’t be scared. No more fear, Colleen. I’m here... and you can trust in me.” Warm tingles pricked his fingertips as they rested on her face.

She leaned her cheek into his hand as she stared at him. The warmth from his hand was welcomed and she found herself relaxing from his touch. When he kissed her earlier everything seemed so clear. She could envision a life with him and their future. It felt bright and loving. Her eyes drifted to his

lips, and she wondered if it was okay to taste them again. Or was it wrong? She felt confused but he felt right.

As if sensing her thoughts, Kurt leaned down and pressed his lips against hers. His lips were soft and tender, moving with a subtle thirst for her. New sensations began to rise, and he pulled apart before it began to take over. He looked at her once more, his gaze intense and unwavering.

“I love you, Colleen,” he said, his voice low and husky with emotion. “And you...” he kissed the tip of her nose, “are going to fall in love with me. I’m going to love you like you’ve never been loved and be the best father to Sully. And you will never want another because I will fill every emotional void that you have. I’ll never stop telling you how amazing and perfect you are. And how wonderful Sully is. I’ll be your home from now on.”

Colleen looked up at Kurt, her breath hitching once more as she gazed into his eyes. Her bottom lip trembled as she exhaled a shuddering word, “Promise?”

“Promise.”

Kurt sealed their promise with another kiss, deepening it this time. Colleen melted into his embrace, feeling the passion and love that he had promised her. Everything around them faded, the world only consisting of the two of them. It felt like time stopped, and all that mattered was the love that THEY shared. Inwardly, Colleen smiled, a sense of peace spreading inside of her. She finally knew it... that this warmth that Kurt brought her... it came from the love that was blossoming for him.

The soft cooing noise from Sullivan brought the couple away from each other’s lips. They looked down to see the bright-eyed infant looking up at them.

“Come here, Champ.” Kurt said, scooping Sullivan out of his mother’s arms. “I’m sure your momma wants to get a shower and then maybe go for a walk around the pack?” he asked as he looked at her. “I’m sure you are tired of being cooped up.” He watched as she nodded her head slipping off the side of the bed. She walked to the bathroom door and turned to look at him.

“Kurt...”

He raised his brows with a soft smile on his lips.

“I... think... I might love you too.” She said quickly, then darted into the bathroom.

Kurt grinned widely and lifted Sullivan up. “Did you hear that? I told you I’d get your momma to love me. Now... can you say Da Da?”

The Lycan Princess Chapter 24

Aiden and Diana stood outside on their balcony under the light of the moon. They found out from Sam about everything that had happened with the Chance pack and the Sulfur pack. They learned how the Alpha of the Sulfur pack had accepted demonic power and they were just waiting to see if the sheya, Clover, had powers. There were losses on all sides during battle and now a new Alpha was in charge of the Sulfur pack. The Chance pack was also changing their pack name since they were merging with the Nova pack. From here on out, the Chance pack would now be known as the Ankh (aangk) pack.

Gia had chosen to stay in the Ankh pack with her mate, the Beta of the Ankh pack. There were different types of mates, and they were believed to be the type that developed over time, called a kismet mate. Of course, Diana knew all about these different types of mates, but it seemed that over time, this information was lost. She would need to

educate the Diamond pack and make this information known again.

Aiden was intrigued when he heard the Ankh pack had two sets of officers. They had officers for the Alpha and officers for the Luna. Both the Alpha and the Luna had an equal say in the pack, and neither was above the other. It was another layer of personalized protection, and they could each focus on serving one person instead of two.

Rhea had also sent a message saying that Alpha Sion Faust and Luna Clover Faust agreed to travel to the Children of the Moon pack. They wanted a few weeks to get situated but then they would be ready to travel. With Sion they wouldn't have to worry about the shrieks. Sion had become the death god, Anubis, and he had dominion over the dead. The shrieks were vengeful spirits and would not be a problem for him to handle. Clover, as a sheya, had the power to manipulate moods. She would be vital to

have while trying to work with the Children of the Moon. They weren't sure if there was hope for the pack or not, but change was coming no matter what.

It was clear from Colleen that the pack was an unhealthy mess. However, they hoped there were others like her who were just too afraid to speak up. Kurt had a personal vendetta in all of this. He wanted to punish everyone who injured his mate.

“He should stay with his mate.” Diana whispered as she stared out into the night.

“For his sake or Colleen's?” Aiden asked and watched as Diana turned her head to look at him.

“He is too emotionally involved. He just got his lycan and he is still learning how to control himself.” She watched as Aiden nodded at her thoughtfully.

“I agree. But we cannot deny that he has a personal connection to this mission. We have

to balance his emotional investment with his training and skills. Right now, he's one of our best fighters," Aiden said, rubbing his chin in thought. "Not to mention, I can't blame him. If someone had hurt you, I would want to be a part of that mission."

"Sometimes what we want to do isn't what we need to do."

"I think Kurt needs this." Aiden watched as Diana frowned, her brows pinching together. Her eyes drifted away, and she gazed into the darkness. "Dee, Kurt wouldn't disobey our orders. He might have an emotional connection, but he is a disciplined officer.... But you already know this. Do you want to talk about the real problem?"

"He is still learning his lycan. I guess...maybe I am being overprotective because..."

"Because of Decker's soul?"

Diana smiled and shook her head slowly. “No... because he is the future Beta he will be targeted. They won’t go straight for us but the officers. Honestly, I want to leave Kurt and Jamie back for their own safety.”

“I don’t think they would appreciate not being there to keep us safe. One of the reasons Lycaon made them lycans was because of things like this. He wanted them to be stronger than normal werewolves since their job was to protect us.” Aiden sighed and looked up at the stars. “What do you think, Diana?” he asked softly, leaning his arms on the balcony. “Do you think the Ankh pack has the right idea, having two sets of officers?”

Diana shrugged her shoulders, placing her hands on the railing next to him. “I’m not sure, Aiden. It’s an intriguing concept, but I worry about the power dynamic. What if one officer disagrees with the other? Who has the final say? Between Beta to Beta?”

“Then wouldn’t the Alpha and Luna have the final say?” Aiden turned to look at her.

Diana nodded slowly. “Yes, I understand that. But what if there’s a disagreement between the Alpha and Luna?”

Aiden laughed softly. “Then we talk it out like adults. I think it’s worth trying. It could lead to a more equal and efficient power structure within the pack. Having officers that are solely focused on one person can lead to better protection and stronger relationships between the Alpha and Luna and their officers. But, of course, it all depends on the individuals involved.”

“Are you thinking about implementing it in the Diamond pack?” She watched as Aiden shrugged as his eyes met with hers.

“I think it is worth discussing. I like the idea of having an officer that is just in charge of your protection. Maybe we could make Jamie your Beta? Then we can take on another

officer and share the Gamma? I don't know, just brainstorming.”

“Or we leave things just the way they are. I like the idea, but I don't think we need to implement it. We have good symmetry with the four of us right now. We don't even have a Delta. It is more important to surround yourself with the right people. I think it is an open discussion to have if we ever want to add another officer. Someone who fits in with us. Honestly, right now, I am not close with others in the pack. I trust Jamie and Kurt. They've been with me and accepted me immediately. Even when I wasn't the most approachable.”

Aiden nodded in agreement. “You're right, Dee. We already have a well-oiled machine with the current officers we have. We don't need to fix what isn't broken. But I do agree that it's important to surround ourselves with the right people. That's why I'm glad we have Jamie and Kurt on our team.

However, it doesn't hurt to keep an open mind and consider new ideas."

"Look at you sounding so mature all of a sudden." Diana teased as she listened to his soft rumbling chuckle. His arm snaked around her side as he gently turned her into him. His emerald eyes captured hers as a warm smile rested on his lips. The air around them seemed to still and her heart raced. He traced the outline of her face with his fingertips and a shiver ran through her body. His eyes gleamed with desire as he uttered a low growl of amusement that sent a wave of heat over her skin. She could feel the energy between them, crackling like electricity in the air.

"Sounding mature? Does this mean you think I am childish?" His voice grew husky as he tugged her close, barely restraining himself as he inhaled the sweet heady aroma of her. A fire ignited inside him with each breath, a

heat that threatened to consume him completely.

Diana's eyes flickered with amusement as she shook her head. "No, not at all. I just think you sound like you're considering all the angles before making a decision." She walked her fingers over his hard chest as she looked up at him coquettishly.

Aiden's lips twitched with a smile as he leaned in closer to her. "Well, maybe I've learned a thing or two from my mate." He pressed a gentle kiss to her forehead before resting his forehead against hers. "But enough about that. I think we deserve a little break from all the pack politics, don't you?"

Diana's breath caught in her throat as a smirk tugged at the corners of her lips. "And what did you have in mind?"

Aiden's hand trailed down her spine, sending shivers through her body. "I was thinking we go back inside and enjoy a little alone time."

Diana laughed softly as she tapped her fingers over his chest. “But Mr. Locke we have a lot of planning to do for the upcoming journey.”

“Yes, my Luna but it is nighttime. Remember what I told you about our nights?” He growled softly as he nipped her ear with his teeth. “Our nights are for us to forget about everything else and focus on each other.”

His warm breath sent shivers down her spine as his lips trailed down her neck. Diana’s eyes closed as she gave in to the sensation, her fingers tangling in his shirt. Aiden’s lips continued to explore her skin, soft kisses turning into passionate bites. Diana’s breaths became shallow as she felt his hands slip under her shirt, his fingers tracing delicate patterns over her skin.

As she felt his lips brush against the sensitive spot on her collarbone, Diana let out a soft moan. Aiden’s touch sent waves of pleasure coursing through her body, making

her feel alive in a way she had never experienced before. She felt her body respond to his touch, her hands running through his hair as she pulled him closer. Then he stopped, with a testing smile on his face.

“But if you really want to work on the planning...”

Diana inwardly laughed as she cleared her throat, regaining her composure. Who did he think he was teasing? She nodded her head, turning to the door. “Yeah, it is best to be prepared. Business should come first.” She walked slowly through the doors and felt his hands land on her hips possessively. He spun her back into him and chuckled.

“Alright Luna... you win. I want you... and I’m going to have you.” He growled, attacking her lips. His tongue attacked hers in a dominating battle, not giving her a moment for air. His hands roamed over her

body, exploring every curve and contour while kissing her deeply.

His tongue traced over her lips, sending sparks of electricity through her body. Diana felt her heart racing, her breathing became erratic. She surrendered herself completely to him, lost in the intensity of the pleasure he was creating.

As they broke apart, panting and gasping for breath, Aiden lifted her into his arms and carried her to their bed. The world around them faded away as they clung to each other, lost in the heat of the moment. The night was theirs, and they intended to make the most of it. And they did.

Diana settled into the soft sheets, pulling Aiden down on top of her. They broke apart only for a moment, then their lips collided again in a more passionate kiss. Slowly tasting each other as their hands roamed over each other's bodies.

Aiden's hands roamed over her body as he kissed her, whispering words of desire and love. Every touch sent her on a cloud of pleasure as he explored her body. His hands gently traced along her sides, sending shivers through her body. His touch was like fire and ice, burning her soul with passion and cooling her with the promise of the unknown. But she wanted to know his secrets, to have all of him. His hands seemed to know her body better than she did, as if he could read her mind. Every touch, every kiss, and every whisper sent her further into the abyss, and she welcomed it.

He growled her name, chest heaving as he tore off every piece of clothing with shaking hands. His burning gaze locked onto hers as his body pressed onto hers, pinning her beneath him and parting her legs with a knee. Her silver eyes sparkled like stars in the darkness as they connected.

Diana's breath hitched in her throat as she felt Aiden slide into her, filling her. Her hands gripped his shoulders, nails digging into his skin as she cried out in pleasure.

Diana's hips rocked against his, pulling him deeper into her. Each thrust made her heart race, sending her higher and higher. She wrapped her legs around him, pressing her heels into his back. His growls were deep and primal as he thrust inside her, filling her entirely. He began to pound into her, sending waves of intense building pleasure through her.

The pressure built inside her, until her body began trembling in pleasure. With a final thrust they were both sent over the edge. Her eyes locked onto his as they called out each other's names, feeling their souls intertwined. He kissed her damp forehead tenderly before he scooped her into his arms, holding her tight against him.

He buried his face into the nape of her neck, breathing in her scent before he brushed away a strand of hair from her face, kissing her tenderly. Diana sighed, snuggled in his arms, laying her head over his beating heart as she listened to the sound of his breathing. His hand gently traced over the curves of her body, as if he was trying to commit each inch to memory.

“Look at you gaining more control of yourself?” Aiden brushed his lips over the top of her head with a smile. “No claws this time.”

“Yes, I’m finally getting used to it again.”

“Good.... but you know... sometimes you can always let loose... I like your feral side in bed.” He gave her a wry smile as she tilted her head up to look at him.

“Hmmm not sure if I will. I might be too much for you to handle.” She listened to his

low rumbling chuckle as he rolled back on top of her.

“Challenge accepted.”

The Lycan Princess Chapter 25

Kurt walked down the stairs carrying Colleen in his arms and Sully balanced on his hip. He had a proud look on his face as if he had won first prize at the county fair. His expression was one of regal pride, as if he held the most precious jewel known to mankind. Colleen had embraced their connection and their relationship was beginning to unfold like a flower under the sun. Even though she had given her consent for him to mark her, Kurt felt she wasn't ready yet. He wanted her to understand this was entirely her decision without feeling pressured to do so; after all, she had been part of a pack that controlled every aspect of her life. Because of the deep-rooted manipulation and control she endured

during her time in her pack he wanted to give her more time. The trauma she suffered was still raw, even though the oppressive darkness seemed to be fading away, its damaging traces still lingered in her subconscious. She frequently visited one of the pack's doctors in order to help her process all those feelings in a healthy manner.

“Give him here! Give Sully to Pappy Sam.” Sam hopped up from the living room, trotting over to his son. With a single swift movement, he snatched the infant away and began cooing in jubilation to Sullivan. He had fully embraced Sullivan as his grandson, as did his mate Renee. They showered him with love and embraced Colleen as family.

Colleen watched as Sam and Renee played with Sully, their laughter filling the room. It was a comforting sound, one that made her feel more at home than she ever did in her pack. She couldn't help but feel a sense of

longing for the kind of family she never had. Her parents were busy with the pack life, and she rarely got to interact with them.

She glanced up at Kurt who was watching his parents with a soft smile on his lips. She was grateful to have his presence in her life. He had given her a home filled with joy and warmth. For once... she felt safe and loved.

“Are you okay?” he asked, as he rubbed small circles on the small of her back.

Colleen nodded, her eyes meeting his. “I’m more than okay,” she said. “I never thought I could feel this...safe. This loved.”

Kurt’s heart swelled with affection for her. “You deserve all the love and safety in the world,” he said, leaning in to kiss her forehead. “I’ll make sure of it.” His nose lingered on her skin as he gently breathed in her scent. He had mixed feelings about leaving her for the upcoming mission, but he had to see this pack for himself. And maybe

offer her brother a little payback for when he choked Colleen. He knew he had to control his emotions though and let his Alpha and Luna make the decisions.

However, this was the pack where his mate lived, and he needed to see it for himself. And if the time came... deliver the justice necessary.

“Now you are making me jealous, Sam.” Jason huffed as a small scowl formed on his lips. They had just returned from visiting Lucy, using the teleporting black pearl. He had gotten to see everyone with their grandchildren and now he was wanting his.

“Someone is ready to embrace being a grandpa?” Sam teased as he snorted.

“I haven’t decided on the technical name, but I want to see my little Blake.” Jason listened as Jin giggled softly beside him.

“Destiny said they would visit soon since there is a lot going on here. We can’t

instantly teleport to them since she doesn't have a black pearl shard. She is going to video chat with us this evening. And I have thought of names for us!" Jin said proudly while Jason arched a brow looking down at her. "Min for me and Pip for you." She listened as he chuckled and shook his head.

"Is that right?" He pulled her to his chest as she smiled up at him.

"Yeppah, that is right." She reached up and prodded his nose. The doors opened behind them with a bubbling commotion.

"Is Gia coming too?" Jamie asked as he followed in behind the group.

"I don't know. Did she mention anything to you, Adam?" Wyatt asked, looking over at his officer.

"Yes, she is coming with her mate. Susan insisted on it." Adam and Susan had been keeping in close contact with their daughter. They also planned a visit to the Ankh pack

but were giving their daughter some privacy with her new mate.

“Where is Deeders?” Kurt asked, looking up at Aiden’s crestfallen face.

“She is training with mom. They wouldn’t let me stay and watch.” Aiden grimaced as he glanced back at the door behind him. He felt his father’s strong hand patting him on the shoulder.

“You know how your mom is. She doesn’t like anything to pull from focus... especially an overly concerned mate—”

“That’s the problem, Dad. If there is cause for me to be concerned, then she is going too hard on her.”

“Your mother won’t push her any harder than necessary. Diana is the one who asked for this. She wants to discover her new powers and sometimes those need to be provoked out of you—”

“Dad, don’t say that. I know what mom’s provoking is like. I am ready to bust back into that training room and—”

“And end up getting a whoopin’ from your mother!” Jamie chuckled, seeing the unamused look on Aiden’s face he offered him a reassuring smile. “Aiden, Diana is a beast. Your Luna can handle herself...” He closed one eye and grinned. “Have more faith in her abilities.”

Kurt nodded in agreement. “Jamie’s right. Diana is one of the strongest people I know. She’ll be okay.”

Aiden sighed, still looking uncertain. “I know, it’s just hard to see her push herself so hard.” He didn’t like the idea of her provoking her powers. He figured they would come when she needed them. Diana disagreed, she wanted to know what she could do and be prepared. She had made up her mind and nothing could shake her determination. She had asked Freya to help

her train and prod the depths of her abilities. He just hoped they didn't go too far. He quivered at the prospect of what would happen if things got out of control.

As if on cue, Freya and Diana opened the pack doors, sweat glistening on their skin. Diana had a look of fierce determination on her face, while Freya had an unreadable expression. As always, she held her cards close so she couldn't be read.

“Diana.” Aiden breathed out in relief, taking her in his arms. “How was the training session today?” Her silver eyes flickered for a moment as a small smile crept upon her face, covering it up.

“It went well.” She said as Aiden glared at her and then to his mother.

“Mom?” He asked, as his brows knitted together.

“You heard your mate.” Freya said as she moved next to Wyatt. Her face hiding whatever knowledge she had.

A gushing breeze flew into the room as a tiny messenger fairy blurred in with a message for Wyatt.

“Thank you,” Wyatt said as he glanced over the contents quickly. “The Alpha and Luna of the Ankh pack will be here soon. Sam, please make sure we are ready to greet our guests.”

“Yes, Alpha,” Sam said as he handed Sully over to Renee.

“I need to get a quick shower then. I don’t want to meet them looking like this.” Diana chuckled as she quickly trotted up the stairs. She could hear Aiden’s footsteps right behind her. The moment they got into the room, Aiden shut the door and pulled her back to him, concern etched on his face.

“Diana, what aren’t you telling me?”

Diana smiled softly, reaching up to cup his cheek. “That I love you more than words can possibly express.” She felt his lips move to her hand and then his own hand encompassed hers.

“Dee.” He said in a steely tone.

Diana’s smile faltered for a moment, and she looked down at their entwined hands. She knew she couldn’t keep the truth from him forever, but she also didn’t want to worry him unnecessarily.

“I promise you, Aiden, everything is fine,” she said, looking back up at him with as much conviction as she could muster.

But Aiden wasn’t convinced. He could feel the tension in her body, the way her eyes darted away from his gaze.

“I don’t believe you,” he said, his voice low and dangerous. “Something’s going on, and I need to know what it is.”

Diana looked into his green orbs with confidence. Yes, there were a few things going on, but he didn't need to know about all of it. Not yet. She needed to at least tell him some things or he wouldn't let it go.

“Freya and I discovered something during training today,” she began, looking up at him with a mix of fear and excitement in her eyes. “I have a new power.”

Aiden's eyes widened in shock and awe.

“What kind of power? Is it fairy magic?” he asked, his voice barely above a whisper.

“No...” She whispered and pursed her lips together. “I have an elite vampire skill...”

“You mean like what Jasper and Derek have? Noble skills?” He watched as she slowly nodded her head.

“Your mother suspects that you probably have these skills as well. She said it can take vampires hundreds of years to develop their skills... though normally these skills are just

for noble vampires. Somehow, I have them and was able to get them now. We both feel there is a meaning behind it... a reason I have gotten my abilities.”

Aiden gazed into her silver eyes, slowly nodding his head. Then his brows knitted in confusion. “Why didn’t you just tell me?”

“Because...” She looked down at her toes as the light in the room began to dance around. Slowly turning into sharp razor blades. The lights spun around the room and then fell back down. She watched as Aiden looked at her in horror, his lips parted as his eyes widened. “When I use this skill...” She reached her hand up as the blood dripped to the ground. Her skin quickly healed but the crimson stains remained. “There is a price I have to pay in order to use this skill. The price is that my own blood must be spilled. The debt rises with every second that I use it. Luckily, I have fast healing and—”

“Don’t you dare use it!” Aiden’s voice thundered in the room, his eyes boring into hers like a hawk. His demand echoed like a death sentence in the silence of the room.

Diana’s eyes flickered back at him with defiance. She knew Aiden wouldn’t like it and so did Freya. She had to be prepared for anything that came their way. She knew it was a risky power, but it was also powerful. She couldn’t ignore it, not when she and Freya had tested its strengths. It could easily tip the scale in a battle. She just had to limit her use with it, otherwise the debt demanded of the skill would be too high.

“”Aiden, I can’t promise you that I won’t use it. It isn’t a promise I would keep. I won’t use it unless I feel it is necessary. I know you don’t like it—”

“I hate it. I—” He shook his head as his green eyes began to water. “What a horrible power to give to you. A power that injures you. Do you know how much that hurts me? I would

give everything to protect every single hair on your head and you have a power that injures you when you use it. The cost is too high in my eyes. It is too risky. I can't lose you." His voice broke at the end when he thought how the power could ultimately be a death sentence.

Diana stepped closer to him, placing a soft hand on his chest. "I know that, Aiden. I understand how you feel," she said, her voice gentle and soothing. "But I need you to trust me. I won't use it unless I absolutely have to. I'll be careful, I promise."

She leaned in closer, her lips touching his in a soft, tender kiss. She could feel his hesitation melt away as he kissed her back, his arms wrapping around her tightly. They broke the kiss, their foreheads touching as they gazed into each other's eyes.

"I love you more than anything," she said, her voice filled with emotion.

“I love you too,” he said, his voice just as emotional. He sighed, pursing his lips together in a thin line. “I don’t like it. I don’t want you to ever use it...but promise me, Diana. Promise me that if you ever do use it, you’ll be careful.” If he could, he would remove the power from her so she could never use it. He didn’t care if she liked it or not, all he wanted was to keep her safe. To him, this power was too vicious to even consider using.

“I promise,” she said, her voice filled with conviction. “Aiden, you aren’t going to lose me. I’m always going to be by your side... I promise.”

Aiden pulled Diana close, her body pressed up against his chest. He didn’t want to let her go, not after hearing about her new power. He kept her locked in his embrace, as if he could shield her from the world.

“Want to get a shower with me before our guests arrive?” Diana felt him give her a

gentle squeeze, his lips landing on the top of her head.

“Yes, a good long shower because I need some extra attention.” His voice grew husky as he leaned down to nibble on her ear.

“Aiden.” She giggled.

“Hey, we are going to be leaving. I need to have one more taste to hold me over until we return.”

She lifted up on her toes to peck at his lips.

“Well, I wouldn’t want to leave you hungry. Lead the way.”