

## **The Millennium Wolves Series Chapter 31**

### **The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 01**

#### **SIENNA**

*The water beat against our naked bodies as we stood facing each other in the warm summer rain,*

*Our glistening figures were bathed in an amber light that turned the whole meadow bronze.*

*His eyes wandered over my curves in shameless*

*desire.*

*I blushed, not used to the attention.*

*The run had lasted hours and brought us to the top of a hill overlooking the entire island. Far in the distance, the glowing towers of the resort barely registered on the horizon.*

*We stopped only when we knew we were completely alone.*

*“Come here,” he beckoned, holding out his hand.*

*My heart raced as I stepped toward him, steam rising from his bulging shoulders.*

*I felt his rough hand against my cheek as he pulled me in for a kiss.*

*Soon he was on top of me, our bodies sliding against each other on the soft grass like we were trying to start a fire.*

*His tip brushed against the outside of my sex in a tantalizing rhythm, spreading my lips but refusing to enter*

*It was a torture that I couldn't take.*

*I pulled him into me, gasping in pleasure and a little bit of pain. He was deeper than I had ever felt before.*

*I moaned in delight, calling his name, begging him not to stop as the rain showered down on us.*

I turned the handle to off, letting the last trails of water escape down my chest.

It was winter now, and our honeymoon had long been over, but hot showers still reminded me of that day on the island with Aiden.

The steam hugged my skin like a warm blanket as I stepped out of the shower.

It was funny to think that, one year ago. I had stood in the same bathroom, furious that I had been tricked into staying with Aiden, but now here I was mated to the alpha of the East Coast Pack

I was, mated to the alpha of the East Coast Pack and wanting to be nowhere else but here in this house with the man I loved.

“Do you need help in there?” he asked through the door in his growly baritone voice.

“No. I’m perfectly capable of drying off on my own, thank you very much.” I replied, smiling myself.

Over the past twelve months, he had become more playful, letting down his guard and showing me a side that was different from the dominant alpha he had to display to the rest of the pack.

“I’m happy to help,” he continued, with a charming persistence that made me giggle. It’s truly no problem at all.”

“Down, boy.” I said, wrapping myself in a towel and laughing.

“But I’ve been so good,” he protested,

“Good things come to those who wait.” I answered, wiping the steam off the mirror and tousling my damp locks.

I opened the door and took a step forward, pressing my wet body against his broad chest, wrapping my arms around him, and gripping his muscular back

He tilted his head as if to kiss me, and I pulled away. “I said good things come to those who wait...and you didn’t wait.”

I pushed him away and sauntered into my closet, making sure he had a good view of my ass. Once around the corner I tossed out my towel so he knew I was naked and pulled the sliding door closed.

I had barely put on my underwear when the door flew open and I found myself wrapped up in Aiden’s arms, his lips on mine in heated passion.

I felt myself dip back, and we crashed into the pillowy mattress. Aiden’s weight pressed against me with powerful longing. I could feel how hard he was, and I felt myself getting wet in anticipation

He tore off his shirt, revealing his chiseled torso and bulging arms. His chest heaved with desire, and his golden-green eyes flickered with lust.

I leaned down and kissed my alpha. His lips were soft and warm, and every time we touched it felt like I was melting into them.

“I want to start a family with you, Sienna,” he said suddenly

“I know,” I replied. “We will.”

“I mean right now. I want to start trying.”

Aiden’s words caught me off guard. I knew we would have to talk about it eventually, but I had put it out of mind over the past six months.

There was so much to get used to being mated to the alpha of the second most powerful pack in the United States. I could no longer dress the way I used to. I couldn’t go out in public with bodyguards, and I was constantly under the microscope.

No more spontaneous meetups with the girls at Winston’s.

No more peaceful afternoons in the park, where I could be alone with my sketchbook and my thoughts.

I had duties now, like the one I had to perform this afternoon. It was the first day of the F

ertility Festival, and pack tradition required me to shift with Aiden in front of the entire pack and let him mount me.

I thought Aiden had been joking when he first told me about it, but I guess when you're brought up as an alpha, you don't question the status quo and outdated ceremonies.

But I didn't come from pack royalty. Before I was his mate. I was an adopted nineteen-year-old with one human parent and a severe aversion to the

spotlight

The idea of being so vulnerable in such a public setting was absurd, not to mention humiliating.

I had tried confronting Aiden about it, but every time I brought it up, he would go off on some tangent about how it wasn't a big deal and how important it was for the pack.

We weren't actually having sex or anything, but I still considered him getting on top of me as a fairly intimate, and private, affair.

"Sienna?" Aiden asked, grabbing my thigh,

"Yes, sorry. I was someplace else."

"Do you want to keep going?"

"Aiden, I don't know if I'm ready yet."

"What do you mean? It's been a year. Alphas and their mates are supposed to start trying for pups at the beginning of the first Haze after they've been mated. It's tradition."

There was that word again. "*Tradition.*" God, how I was starting to hate the sound of it. And the Haze, that lustful craze that possessed every werewolf during the Mating Season, was about to make matters ten times worse.

"Can we talk about this later?" I asked, trying to salvage the romantic moment, which was quickly slipping away.

“Of course, we can talk after the ceremony.” Aiden replied, gazing at me with his soft, unsuspecting eyes. The longer I looked into them, however, the more confident I became that I couldn’t go through with the ritual this afternoon.

It killed me to do this to him, and I knew it was my fault for letting it go this long, but something deep inside me didn’t feel right.

“That’s something else I wanted to talk to you about,” I said, breaking his gaze.

“What do you mean? Are you nervous?” he asked, rubbing my arm.

*Damn it, why does he have to be so sweet right now?*

But I couldn’t back out again. There wasn’t any more time to put it off. I had to tell him how I felt.

“Aiden. I don’t want to do it.”

A confused look came over his face, and I hoped we could sort through this without it blowing up into a fight

“Why? It’s only a short display for the pack so they can give us their blessings as we try to conceive.”

“If it’s just for the pack’s blessing, then why do we need to shift and do all the other stuff?”

“It’s symbolic.”

I was hoping Aiden would take a moment to listen to himself and realize how weak an argument he was making, but his genuine expression meant I would have to spell out my objection.

“Maybe for you, but I think it’s degrading.”

“My mother did it, and so did my father’s mother. You’re my mate, Sienna. No one will think less of you”

“It’s not what about other people think, Aiden. It’s what I’m comfortable with.”

“Listen,” he said, getting out from under me and sitting up on the bed. “This only happens once or twice in a lifetime. We’ll be shifted for less than a minute. Tradition is what keeps a pack together. Without it, we lose our identity.”

*There was that stupid word again.* “I feel like I’m losing my identity having to follow all these stupid rules,” I shot back

I put a stern look on my face, letting him know he wasn’t going to sway me.

“Look, Sienna, forget the pack. Can you do this for me? And I swear that I’ll never ask you to do something like this again.”

Aiden was my world, and I would do anything to make him happy, but right now I hated that he wasn’t listening to me. As an alpha, he wasn’t used to compromise, but if our relationship was going to continue growing, he’d need to figure out how.

“Do you seriously not understand where I’m coming from?”

“It’s just this once, Sienna,” he replied, “After this, you get to call the shots, my love.”

I could tell he wasn’t going to budge.

“I need to finish getting ready.” I said, hopping off the bed and heading back to the closet.

“Do you need any help?” he called out with a playful tone.

“No, I can manage on my own,” I answered unenthusiastically.

“Don’t take too long now.” said Aiden picking up

“Don’t take too long now,” said Aiden, picking up his shirt and blowing me a kiss before sauntering out of the bedroom.

I put on the festival dress and looked at myself in the mirror, thinking about all the alpha mates who’d endured this before me and wondering whether or not they felt as disgusted as I did.

*It’s less than a minute, Sienna. It’s less than a*

The stage was built in a clearing in the forest. Giant trees had been hewn and their bodies bound together to create the gigantic platform that Aiden and I now stood on. Behind us was the rest of the council and a surprise VIP. Raphael Fernández, the Alpha of the Millennium.

*No wonder Aiden didn't want to call off the festival*

All around on the ground, looking up at us with excitement, was what seemed like the entire East Coast Pack

For a moment I thought I saw a pair of purple eyes, but it must've just been my imagination.

I hadn't seen Eve since she'd stopped by my gallery over six months ago. Nor had I gotten

any clarity on that vague warning about my birth parents that she'd left me with

If my parents really had been alphas. I wondered if they'd had to participate in this horrid ritual too.

As the opening declarations were made, my heart started pounding. I couldn't believe I was going to do this. I'd run through it dozens of times in my head as we drove to the festival.

I felt Aiden's hand grab mine and squeeze it in reassurance. He then shed his robe, revealing his dark, statuesque figure, and began to shift.

*This is it. There is no turning back.*

I stood in place, not moving. A gasp rippled through the crowd like a tidal wave.

Aiden's massive wolf now stood beside me, gazing expectantly at my human form.

I walked up to the microphone and scanned the dumbfounded faces in the crowd. My hand shook as I pulled down the microphone so it was pointed at my lips.

*It's not too late. You can still shift.*

*No, you're doing this, Sienna.*

I tried to force the words out, but they refused to budge. My adrenaline was spiking, constricting my throat and every muscle in my body.

*You 're an alpha too, Sienna. Start acting like it.*

I closed my eyes, blocking out the sea of people and marshalling my nerves. My throat relaxed, and the words came pouring out before I had a chance to think

“I will stand with my mate but only as his equal, not as his prize. I still ask for your blessing. but I will not shift.”

There was a moment of silence as my words sank in, but angry howls soon pierced the growing tumult. I stepped back from the podium, unsure of what to do now that I had made my protest.

The shouting intensified, and the spectators' faces teemed with malice. I started to feel frightened, threatened

Had I just made a huge mistake?

## **The Millennium Wolves Series Chapter 32**

### **The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 02**

#### **Sienna**

I felt a nudge in my back and turned to see Aiden still in wolf form.

“I'm sorry, I can't,” I said, placing my hand on his muzzle. This is one tradition I refuse to uphold.”

Even my mate's wolf eyes held disappointment and betrayal. It stabbed me in the heart like a sharp knife. It was all too much for me to take. I had to get away before I completely broke down.

I turned and walked off the stage as quickly as I could without running

When I made it to the ground, Jocelyn was there waiting to intercept me.



“Sienna, wait!

\*\*Jocelyn, I can't. I need to get out of here.”

“Okay,” she said, taking one look at me and realizing I was in no state to listen to anything she had to say. “Come with me.”

She took my hand and pulled me past the news vans. Already, reporters and camera operators had started to swarm around me, lunging with lenses and microphones.

By the time my security caught up with us, we had already made it to the Pack cars. One of the security team opened the door to a limousine and ushered Jocelyn and me inside.

The door slammed closed, and the sounds outside were instantly muted. As we sped away, I looked out of the tinted windows at the mob of angry wolves shouting at our car. I don't think I'd ever felt so hated in my life.

Thankfully, I still had Jocelyn.

As the Pack Healer, she not only mended physical wounds but emotional ones as well.

We had become like sisters over the past year, and her previous relationship with Aiden meant that she knew him as well as I did, if not better.

That said, I had kept her in the dark about my apprehensions. She'd been brought up in the same Pack-centered world as Aiden, and if she sided with him, well, I decided I'd rather go it alone than risk tainting our friendship.

“Si, why didn't you come to me?”

“I didn't think you would understand. I thought you would tell me the same thing Aiden did.”

“Which was?”

“That it wasn't a big deal. That it's important for the Pack. That I'm overreacting. But now I see how stupid it was to keep it all bottled up. And now you both hate me.”

“I don’t hate you, Sienna, and neither does Aiden.”

“You didn’t look into his eyes like I did,” I replied, fighting back tears.

“I’m sure he felt embarrassed,” replied Jocelyn. “And it certainly didn’t help that the Alpha of the Millennium was there.”

“Thanks for reminding me.” I cried, burying my face in my hands.

Jocelyn put her arm around me and stroked my hair, trying to calm me. I could only imagine what Aiden was dealing with right now. I had abandoned him there, with the crowd, with Raphael

I was such a horrible mate.

“I can tell that this is about more than just the ritual,” said Jocelyn in her soothing Healer voice.

Sometimes I hated how good she was at her job, but I had just witnessed what happened when I kept things to myself.

Besides, I had no reason to be afraid of Jocelyn’s judgment. She was my best friend. I felt embarrassed that the thought had even entered my mind.

“Aiden wants to start trying for a family, like now, and I’m not ready at all.”

“What makes you feel not ready?”

“I don’t know. It’s this feeling that’s hanging over me. I can’t explain it.”

“Does it have to do with Aiden?”

“That’s definitely part of it. It’s like he only wants pups because tradition says we start now. That’s crazy, right? You should want to have kids because you want to have kids, not because some outdated rules say you should.

Have you told him that?”

“I don’t want him to think that I’m ungrateful or that I don’t want to have his pups. What I want to say is that I think a big part of the world he was raised in is folksy bullshit.”

“Maybe don’t use those words,” Jocelyn replied, laughing, but every healthy relationship is based on open communication.”

*Yeah, but that only works when your mate is willing to listen*

I picked at the seat in frustration, thinking about my exchange with Aiden before we’d left for the festival, cursing myself for not being more assertive.

“And the other part?” asked Jocelyn.

“What?” I replied, returning from my thoughts.

“What is the other part of the feeling that’s hanging over you?”

I wasn’t sure I even knew, just that it was there, looming ominously above me whenever the conversation of having children came up.

“It’s like this fear lurking in the back of my mind.”

“Fear of what?”

“I don’t know. The unknown. I guess.”

“It’s normal to be apprehensive about the future. Si. Especially when it comes to starting a family.”

“No, it’s not about the future as much as it is the past, like where I come from.”

11:34 AM 1.7KB/S

-You mean your family?”

“Yes, but not my adoptive family, my biological one. I don’t know anything about them.”

“What about that frightens you?”

“I mean I was found in a carriage. They could be anyone. Before you pass along your genes, don’t you think you should know what they’re carrying?”

“Family is more than genetics, Sienna. Look at your adoptive parents. Do you think they cared who your parents were when they brought you home?”

“That’s different,” I protested.

“Is it, though?” answered Jocelyn,

“Of course it is. I was literally pushed into UNLIMITED their lives. Were they supposed to wait for a background check on my parents before bringing me home?””

“Si. I think you’re obsessing over this too much. Any children you have with Aiden will be fine. You’re a perfectly healthy, loving she-wolf, and he’s an alpha. They get half his genes too. you know.”

“That’s easy for you to say. You’re not even mated.”

I instantly regretted letting the words out of my mouth. Being mateless was something that weighed heavy on Jocelyn, and although I hadn’t said it to be mean, I knew I had come off as the biggest bitch

\*\*Jocelyn, I didn’t mean to say that. I was trying

“It’s fine. Sienna. I know your head is in a million places.” Her reassuring smile let me know she hadn’t taken it to heart. I breathed a sigh of relief

“You need to talk to Aiden, though...about both items.”

As usual, Jocelyn was right, but how was I supposed to approach him after what I had just done?

-Well, that’s your advice on how to patch up the relationship with my mate. What would you prescribe for repairing my image with the rest of the Pack?”:

“I’m a healer, not a miracle worker,” answered Jocelyn, raising her hands in protest.

I had silenced my phone when we got in the car, excepting a torrent of notifications, but now I glanced down and saw that I had new messages excepting a torrent of notifications, but now I glanced down and saw that I had new messages from my mom and Selene.

Besides Jocelyn, they were the only other people in my life who I felt comfortable talking to right now. I knew they wouldn't judge me for what I'd done.

"Answer them," said Jocelyn. "I think I've given you all the advice I have, anyway."

Mom

Honey, give me a call.

Mom I'm not angry. I just want to know you're okay.

Mom

Don't listen to what the horrible people in the media are saying.

Mom Si?

Sienna

Hey

Sienna Thanks for checking in, mom

Sienna

I'm fine

Mom What you did was so brave.

Mom Your father and I are here for you if you need us. We love you.

Sienna

Thanks. That means a lot

Mom This whole thing is really teaching me about my friends.

Mom Patty came over right away and started saying some not nice things.

Mom I don't think I'll be speaking to her again.

Jeez, was my mom seriously losing friends over what I had done? That was the last thing that I wanted to happen.

I hadn't meant to divide the Pack. And what was the media saying about me?

Selene Sister, all the gals at work think you're awesome

Selene I'm so proud to be related to you!

Selene Not that I wasn't before lol

Sienna Thanks, sis

Sienna

I appreciate the support

Selene Im starting a new collection

Selene

calling it "fuck the pack-riarchy"

Selene too far?

Sienna Just right, Goldilocks a

So, I was destroying friendships *and* spearheading social movements.

Great.

The car dropped us off at the Pack House. I thought about having it take me home instead, but Aiden's numerous texts and voicemails made it clear he had to deal with damage control and would be there for the rest of the day.

Aiden was on the phone when I arrived at his office. He held up a finger to let me know it would be a moment before he was free.

I took comfort in the fact that he looked at me with the face of a man buried in work, not an angered mate.

Still, his distance upset me.

I started running through what I would say to him when he got off the phone. How would I start? What if he said he was working late and I should go home without him?

“Hey, little girl.”

Was he finished already? I still had no idea how I should begin

“Hey, Mr. Wolf,” I said, stalling, “I wanted to know if you needed a lift home tonight.”

*What? A lift home? No, I want to know if we can talk about how I just turned our life upside down.*

“Depends on who’s driving,” he replied, walking toward me with a swagger that made my mouth water.

*Focus, Sienna.*

Instead of kissing me like I wanted, he stopped a few paces away and crossed his arms, expecting a reply

I couldn’t stand this tension between us. It was like we were each waiting for the other to take the first swing. The playful flirtations of that morning felt like a millennium ago.

“Aiden, I want to talk about this afternoon.”

–What about it?”

– Don’t do that.”

-What?”

“Don’t make me spell it out. You know I’m sorry about all this. It wasn’t my intention

“Look, Sienna, I understand why you didn’t shift.”

“Then why are you acting so cold?”

imen wy are

“I didn’t say I agreed with it,” he replied, shifting his expression to one of disdain.

I couldn’t figure out what hurt me more, the fact that he understood how much pain it would cause me yet still pushed me to go through with it or that, even after the fact, he was upset with my decision

Any feelings of reconciliation began to evaporate and were immediately replaced by a boiling rage.

“Why is it so hard for you to let go of your stupid traditions!” I yelled. “Can’t you see they are tearing us apart, Aiden? And for what? So the Pack can sleep happy, knowing that their alpha and his mate are at home fucking every night, trying to conceive the next alpha?”

Why don’t we talk about this tomorrow, I think we’ve both had long days.”

I couldn’t believe he wanted to sideline this like it was some trivial item on his agenda. His nonchalance only stoked the fire pouring out of my mouth.

“Either we talk this out now or you find another place to sleep tonight!”

Surely he would know I was serious now.

tearing us apart, Aiden? And for what? So the Pack can sleep happy, knowing that their alpha and his mate are at home fucking every night, trying to conceive the next alpha?”

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Surely he would know I was serious now.

“I’ll see you in the morning then,” he said, straight-faced.

I couldn’t believe this was happening

What had I done?



## **The Millennium Wolves Series Chapter 33**

### **The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 03**

#### **Sienna**

The previous night was the first I had spent alone since we were mated.

I barely slept as I lay in bed playing over the scene in Aiden's office. I wished I could go back and handle it all differently.

It felt like half of me was missing when I woke up that morning. I could barely eat. The pangs of regret suppressed any appetite I may have had.

I couldn't even bring myself to go to the Pack House. Instead, I spent the day at my parents house painting

When I needed to get my head straight. I usually retreated to the studio attached to my gallery, but those were both gifts from Aiden, and I didn't want him clouding my mind anymore.

But I knew I couldn't avoid him forever. Not only because he was my mate but because that night was my sister's baby shower,

She and her husband, Jeremy, were expecting their first child, and Aiden and I were the moonparents, so we both had to attend.

An hour before we had to be at the restaurant, he pulled up to our house. I had come home earlier,

intent on patching things up and was waiting for him in the kitchen.

The door to the garage opened, and he came in wearing the same indifferent expression I'd seen him sporting yesterday evening before I stormed out of his office

He looked me over, not at all surprised to see me there. "Did you paint anything you liked?"

"How did you..." Then I looked down and saw the small patches of dried paint on my pants.

“Look, Aiden, can we just make it through this evening?”

“I don’t think I’m the one that will be an issue for. I actually think the idea of having a baby is a beautiful thing

“I never said that I didn’t want a baby. Clearly, you haven’t listened to anything I’ve been saying.”

“Being my mate means that our family isn’t just you and me; it’s the whole Pack.”

“That’s funny coming from a man who doesn’t even talk to his own parents. How long has it been since they sailed off into the sunset? Ten years?”

“That’s complicated, Sienna.”

“And this isn’t? I think it’s awfully hypocritical of you to want a family, considering how little effort you put into staying in touch. They didn’t even come to our mating ceremony.”

“I’m not going to make the same mistakes they did.” He paused, sighing “If this is how you’re going to be. I don’t think I should go tonight. You can tell them I got busy with work.”

“I’m not going to do that because, unlike you, I care about being there for my family, and you’re going to be my future niece’s moonfather, so you’re showing up tonight whether you like it or not. The Pack might be my family now, but it goes both ways, and Selene is your family now too.

I hadn’t noticed it until now, but my hands were clenched and my nails were digging into my palms.

It hadn’t dawned on me until then that may be Aiden’s poor relationship with his parents was the reason he was so adamant about starting one for the good of the Pack.

They were the closest thing to a family he’d had until I came along.

Maybe tonight would be good for him. He could see how a healthy family functioned together.

I just hoped that Selene and my mother weren't so

baby crazy that they took Aiden's side when the topic came up, which I knew it would.

The two of us changed in silence. A stark contrast from our playful romp two mornings ago.

I couldn't help but sneak a look as he pulled his slacks up over his ripped thighs and tight, muscular ass. I may have been mad at him, but he was still my mate, and this distance was killing **me**.

I wanted him badly. Every part of me ached for his touch, fantasized about the taste of his lips.

When the Haze hit, I didn't know what I was going to do. It turned us both into shameless, sex-crazed animals, literally. Last year my sex would practically explode whenever Aiden so much as glanced at me.

"Are you going to stare at me all night, or are you going to finish getting ready?" he asked, snapping me from my daydream.

"Don't flatter yourself. I was making sure your outfit looked nice."

"So now I'm a tyrant *and* I don't dress well?"

"Stop being mean," I said, getting a little pissed off now.

11:38 AM 1.6KB/S

"Hey, Sienna," he said, fixing his tie.

"What?" I shot back, waiting for his next snarky remark

"You look gorgeous."

As much as I tried. I couldn't stop myself from blushing. God, he was such a bastard, but I loved him for it

“Hurry up, we’re going to be late,” I said, grabbing my coat. “I’ll see you in the car.”

The restaurant was a fun Thai place in the city where Selene alleged she and Jeremy went the night they conceived my soon-to-be niece. After that my sister made sure to tell me when she’d been planning tonight.

Selene was always giving me too much information, probably because she knew how uncomfortable it made me hearing about her love life. I guess that was how siblings were though.

Aiden had an older sibling as well, a brother, Aaron, who’d died eleven years ago after his mate was killed in a work accident.

That was the power of the mating bond. If one in the pair died, the other slowly followed. One heart could not beat without its partner.

That had been around the time he stopped talking to his parents

From what Aiden told me, they took Aaron’s death hard and went down a rabbit hole of travel and extravagance to distract themselves.

As far as I was concerned. I didn’t mind not having them around. If they were able to brainwash Aiden into following all these dumb pack traditions, who knew what else they could manipulate him into doing?

Outside the car, street lamps flashed by, and the lights of the city cut through the night like clusters of fireflies, frozen in geometric prisons.

I turned to Aiden, his freshly shaven face flickering in and out of the shadows as we tore down the street

No one had prepared me for this kind of love the kind where you could stare at your partner for hours without saying a single word and be totally

content

I was overcome with the urge to touch him, to connect with him.

I slid my hand over his as it rested on the gear shift

He seemed to ignore it, and I immediately felt foolish. I started to pull it away when he stopped me.

“Leave it,” he said, softly, letting my fingers fall between his.

Before I knew it, we were at the restaurant. Aiden gave the valet our keys, and we went inside.

I could hear my mother before I saw her; her laugh was instantly recognizable and carried for at least a quarter-mile.

She and Selene were certainly more extroverted than I, but I suppose that made sense, given that Selene is her biological daughter.

It’s small things like that that made me so hesitant to have my own children.

What might I be passing on to my pups? I needed to be sure.

\*\*Sienna! Oh, you look so gorgeous,” shouted my mother as we entered the banquet room. “Aiden, you cleaned up nice, per usual.”

“I do it all for you, Melissa,” he replied, kissing her on the cheek.

“Easy there,” said my father, coming over and giving Aiden a hug. “I may be human, but I can still sense when someone’s moving in on my mate.”

“How are you, Robert? Looking forward to being a grandfather?”

“Yes, but not as much as Melissa is looking forward to being a grandmother. She’s already turned Selene’s old room into a nursery, and now she’s babyproofing the whole house.”

“Oh, stop,” my mom replied, smacking my dad on the arm. “You make me sound like a crazy person, I like to plan ahead, that’s all. Speaking of which, what’s the latest on the baby front with—”

“Melissa, why don’t you come help me with the gifts?” said my dad, grabbing her by the arm. ““Let her say hello to Selene.”

“Oh all right. We’ll continue this later,” my mom said, taking another sip of wine.

My dad gave me a knowing look, and I thanked him for making sure we avoided an awkward conversation. He always had a weird way of knowing how I felt, even when I hadn’t said anything.

““Sister!” shouted Selene, approaching with her big belly. She was positively glowing. “I’m so glad you’re here. Sorry about Mom. I wasn’t keeping track of how many glasses she’s had.”

“It’s okay,” I said, laughing. “Let her enjoy the evening

“Well, she can do it all again whenever you have yours. Whenever that may be.”

Thanks for the clarification.” I rolled my eyes.

The table conversation was obviously all about babies, and the few times it started to stray toward me, Selene was adept enough to butt in.

I knew that everyone wanted to ask about the festival, and I think the only reason they didn’t was because Aiden was sitting next to me.

Wolves gossiped just as much as humans, but it was essentially a death wish to gab about the alpha’s mate right in front of him.

Despite everything going on between us, Aiden was his usual charming self. I appreciated the effort he made to always make sure these events were about my family, never overpowered by his celebrity.

“I’d like to make a toast,” said Jeremy, getting to his feet. “To my lovely wife, Selene, the soon-to-be mother of our beautiful baby girl. I love you, darling, and I can’t wait to raise this special little pup with you.”

“Hear, hear!” called an unfamiliar voice.

I turned to see a middle-aged man and woman standing in the doorway.

She had wavy black hair that came to her shoulders and wore red, pleated culottes and a loose navy top. He was strikingly large and sported a plaid blazer with an obnoxious lavender ascot

There was something about his face that looked familiar, but the reason why escaped me.

“What are they doing here?” said Aiden.

“You know them?” I asked, a bit confused.

“Yes,” he replied, balling up his napkin. “They’re my parents.

## **The Millennium Wolves Series Chapter 34**

### **The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 04**

#### **Sienna**

As I prepared the coffee, I strained to hear any tidbits they might let slip while I was out of the room. The fallout from Selene’s shower wasn’t nearly as bad as I’d thought it would be.

After the initial shock, everyone exchanged pleasantries; they were my parents-in-law after all.

Aiden, however, was quick to whisk them away.

He wanted me to stay at the shower, but I wanted to come along. They clearly had a reason for showing up when they did, and I didn’t want to be left out of the loop.

I finished putting the tray together and brought it into the living room, where everyone sat. I smiled at Aiden’s mother, and she returned my gesture with a polite smirk. I knew she was judging me.

Charlotte, if you don’t mind me asking, how did you and Daniel know about my sister’s shower?”

“Oh, darling, what a trifle of a question.” she replied with a self-indulgent chuckle. She tapped her designer sunglasses against her lips as she laughed, like she thought it made her look pensive.

“We always know where Aiden is.” she went on.

picking up the mug of coffee  
like she had never seen one before. “Aiden, is all your china in the wash?”

I wanted to like this woman, I really did, but if this was how she acted, I’m not sure how much more I could take

“Where are you staying?” asked Aiden, trying to change the subject

“What do you mean?” replied Daniel. “You still have the guest house, don’t you?”

*Nope, over my dead body.* I subtly moved my foot over Aiden’s and pressed down on his toes.

I’m not sure it’s up to Mom’s standards,” he countered

*Good boy*

\*Ha, we can make do,” answered Daniel, sipping his coffee. Besides, staying somewhere else would defeat the purpose of our visit.

“And what is that purpose?” I asked as innocently as possible.

“Well, to meet you, dear,” replied Charlotte. “I wanted to see what kind of woman was mated to my son.”

“If you were that interested, you could have come to our mating ceremony.” said Aiden sternly.

“Don’t get sour, Addy. Mating ceremonies are a bunch of pomp and rigmarole. It’s not like you have to shift or anything.”

Charlotte let the last words roll off her tongue like acid.

*What a royal bitch.*

So this was all about the fertility festival. I had caused a scandal, and now she wanted to see who had messed up her son’s perfect alpha world.

“Did you decorate this place yourself, or did you hire someone?” Charlotte asked as she surveyed the room.

“I did it myself.” I said.



“I thought so,” she replied, bringing her mug to her lips. “Hm,” she said, smelling it.

“Is something wrong? I can bring you something else to drink,” I offered.

“No, this is wonderful,” she replied, setting down her mug. “I just don’t think I’m in the mood for anymore. Addy, what possessed you to buy that painting? It’s a bit amateurish, or was that the intent?”

“Sienna painted that, actually,” replied Aiden.

She has her own gallery.”

So, that’s what you do when you’re not making headlines,” remarked Charlotte, still chewing on her stupid sunglasses.

\*\*Aiden, how about you put those muscles to use and help me bring in our bags,” said Daniel, getting to his feet.

Aiden shot me a look as if to say there was nothing he could do, and I replied with a forced smile.

I watched him and his father leave the room, and it felt like I was being marooned on an island with a hungry lioness.

You have no idea how lucky you are,” said Charlotte, leaning back in her chair. “I was twenty-four when I mated with Daniel. How old are you again?”

“Twenty.”

“So you were only nineteen? Oh, that’s rich,” she said, amused. “It’s all making so much sense. Nineteen, oh dear.

“Excuse me?”

“I was trying to figure out why you felt it was important to make a fool of my son and our entire pack. But now it’s clear that you didn’t know any better. Don’t worry, we’ll clear everything up in no time.”

“Actually, I knew exactly what I was doing.” I snapped back

“And what did you think that was, honey?”

“Protesting an archaic ritual that made me feel extremely uncomfortable.”

Did you ever question why, in the thousands of years the Pack has existed, you were the first to refuse to shift?

“Times change.”

“Yes, my dear, they do, but people don’t.”

Clearly.” I muttered under my breath. “Maybe I should go see if Aiden and Daniel need help.”

\*No need.” called Aiden, hauling an obnoxiously large leather suitcase in each hand.

“Are you sure? I can go put linens on the bed.”

“No. I can do that when I drop off these bags.” said Aiden.

“Well, in that case, if I’m no longer needed, I think I’ll go to bed for the night.

“It’s only nine thirty.” protested Daniel. “I was about to make us all Manhattans.”

“May I take a rain check for tomorrow?”

“Of course. I’ll see you in the morning, my dear,” he replied.

“How long are you and Mom staying?” asked Aiden.

“Have you tired of us already?” said Charlotte, toying with her sunglasses again.

I swear I wanted to grab those dumb things out of her hand and snap them in half. The nerve this woman had, coming into our house and telling me my protest was childish.

I didn’t care if she was my mother-in-law, this woman was going to find out what kind of a grown-ass woman I was.

Sienna and I actually have a lot going on,” said Aiden. “You know what it’s like running a pack. I

Aiden. "You know what it's like running a pack. I just want to make sure you understand that we're not going to be around all the time."

Don't worry about us, Addy. Your father and I don't need babysitting. We know you do enough of that already," she said, flashing her eyes at me.

*This bitch is asking for it.*

"Goodnight, everyone. Charlotte and Daniel, I'll see you in the morning."

I'll be up in a little," said Aiden. "I'll try not to wake you."

"Oh, don't worry about me, babe," I replied, grabbing him by the face and locking my lips to his. I made sure my tongue explored his entire mouth before letting him go. "Don't take too

long

I shot a smug look at Charlotte, who was silently steaming

When I closed the door to the bedroom I knew there was no way in hell I was staying around the house tomorrow.

I needed to find an excuse to get out.

**Sienna**

**Michelle** not much

**Michelle** why?

**Sienna** Alden's parents showed up at the shower last night

**Michelle** WHAT?????

**Michelle**

OMG do u need me now?

**Michelle** wut they like?

Sienna No, tomorrow is fine

**Sienna** I'll pick you up at 9

**Sienna** Dad seems nice

**Michelle**

and his mom?

**Sienna** I'll tell you tomorrow

**Michelle**

can't wait

Whenever Michelle and I needed to have real girl time, we had to shed the body guards who accompanied me when I went outside my home or the Pack House.

I thought having security was silly, considering I was a dominant she-wolf who could handle herself, but now that there were literally mobs outside the Pack House calling for me to be

tamed," I didn't mind having them around.

Since Michelle had mated with Aiden's Beta, Josh, we both had to deal with adapting to our new lives. Her transition was much easier than mine, though. Michelle loved all the fancy clothes and rules of etiquette.

Unlike me, she had always loved being the center of attention.

The next morning, as I slipped on my shoes, I prepared some excuse for why I couldn't stay for breakfast, but when I came downstairs, Aiden informed me that his parents had already gone out

for the day, which was fine with me.

His mom could never come back as far as I was concerned.

When I arrived at Michelle's, she was already waiting outside. Gossip was her life force, and she knew she was about to get enough to keep her full for a month

She piled into the back seat and immediately threw her arms around me.

“Si! I literally could not sleep last night after your text.”

“It’s not that exciting,”

“Are you kidding? This is better than when Mia found out she was pregnant with twins!”

“Does everything have to be about kids?”

“Sorry, sorry! I forgot.”

“Where to, ladies?” asked my bodyguard. I really wish they didn’t rotate around so often so I could remember their names.

“Uptown, please, we’re going to try on some dresses,” Michelle replied.

“Dress shopping? You couldn’t get more creative.”

–You didn’t give me much notice. Si. I can only do so much

\*\*I suppose it will have to do,” I said, sarcastically.

The dress shop Michelle picked out couldn’t have been more feminine. My bodyguard was clearly uncomfortable standing amongst the flowery displays and brightly dressed mannequins.

“We’re going to try these on,” said Michelle, grabbing some random sundresses off the rack,

After we were out of sight, one of the girls who worked there came over and Michelle handed her the dresses and a fifty-dollar bill.

“Jas, pretend you’re pulling dresses for us, and after ten minutes, you can tell them we disappeared so you won’t get in trouble.”

“Not a problem,” replied the spunky teenager.

I normally got a rush whenever we were about to make our escape, but this time I had a bad feeling

“Michelle, maybe we should stick with my bodyguard this time. I pissed off a lot of people at the festival. I don’t care if he hears us talk.

“Si, please,” replied Michelle, pulling a beanie, scarf, and large pair of sunglasses from her bag.

“Did you not think I would take your safety into consideration? We’ll only be on the lam for an hour to two. Don’t be such a scaredy cat. Madame Alpha.”

A voice inside of my head was telling me not to go, but maybe I was being too cautious.

“You’re right, let’s go,” I said, putting on the disguise.

Jas lead us down the hall and unlocked the emergency exit

“Okay, I’m impressed.” I said as we ran out the door and into the back of an idling cab.

“See. I got you, girl.”

“I can’t wait for all this to blow over.”

“That makes two of us. Josh has been super pissy about it, but I set him straight.”

“You didn’t have to do that, Michelle.”

“Are you kidding? I mean, if I were in your shoes. I would have let Josh mount the shit out of me. The mara nannlo the hotter laat off an that l–ind

“You didn’t have to do that, Michelle.”

“Are you kidding? I mean, if I were in your shoes, I would have let Josh mount the shit out of me. The more people, the better. I get off on that kind of stuff. But to each wolf her own. That’s the point, right?

“One of them, yes,” I replied, laughing. “How do I look?”

“Like hot garbage,” said Michelle with a grin.

As we pulled out of the mall, I couldn’t shake the feeling that we were being followed.

I glanced out the back window, but I didn't see anything out of the ordinary.

*You 're being paranoid. Relax.*

“So, Michelle, where are we going?”

“Where do you think we're going before eleven on a weekday? Fucking *mi-mo-saaaaas!*”

## **The Millennium Wolves Series Chapter 35**

### **The Millennium Wolves Series Book Three Chapter: 05**

#### **Aiden**

I wasn't stupid. I knew my parents hadn't come to town out of a desire to reconnect.

After Aaron died, they made it clear what their priorities were. Sure, I was just as guilty as they were for not keeping in touch, but I was eighteen when they started their globetrotting.

I had lost my brother and needed them more than ever. Instead of making sure I was okay, they handed me the Pack and, in the same breath, bid me adieu.

I may have been the alpha, but it didn't mean I had all the answers,

It was a relief when I woke up and saw that their car was gone.

After Sienna went to bed last night, I was expecting some sort of substantive conversation, hell, maybe even an apology. Instead, we just talked about their travels, and I listened to their critiques and praise of people I had never met before.

Why was I even getting worked up over this? It's not like they were going to stay forever. I gave them a week at most before they were compelled to fly off once again.

10:29 AM 2.5KB/S

Maybe I'd see them again in another ten years. Until then. I was more than content to receive the random postcard or two they would send.

I could deal with all this later tonight, though. Now I was finally alone and could get started on the mountain of paperwork sitting on my desk.

As I opened the first folder in the stack, I heard a gentle rapping at my chamber door.

Yes? Come in," I said.

"I hope we're not interrupting anything," started my mother, waltzing in with my father like they owned the place. "When did you do away with secretaries? I feel so rude dropping in without someone to announce me.

"I like what you've done with the office, son," said my father, surveying the room. "Did you hire someone or do the work yourself?"

"I did it myself. Something about wallpaper and tapestries wasn't quite for me."

"You didn't throw the tapestries out, did you, Addy? Those were priceless pieces of pack heritage.

Of course that was the first thing that came to her mind. She was the one who made sure I grew up

knowing every bit of pack tradition and history

When I'd been a little boy, she would make me recite the names of the last twenty alphas and what each of them had done to contribute to our pack before I could eat dinner.

"Where's that hothead wife of yours?" asked Daniel.

"I don't know," I replied.

"I would keep a tighter leash on her if I were you." he replied, "She's a loose cannon, and there's no guessing what other statements she might have to make."

"I'm not her keeper. Dad. She's a grown woman."



“Well, according to the news, you seem to be alone in that opinion,” interjected my mother.

That stunt she pulled at the festival was unconscionable. We were halfway around the world and we heard about it for goodness sake.”

“She and I are working through it. Mom. I don’t need you here interfering.”

“On the contrary, I think that’s exactly what you need us to do. It’s clear she has no concept of duty or tradition. Daniel, can you help explain to our son the importance of what’s going on.”

“Aiden, you have to realize that Sienna didn’t grow up like you. We know you can’t choose who you mate with, so we’re not saying any of this is your fault, but she’s very young, son.

“She simply doesn’t understand what it means to be at the head of the pack. When we left you in charge, we knew everything was in good hands. You were groomed for this. She wasn’t.”

“So, what? Are you saying it’s not in good hands?” I asked, perplexed.

“No, frankly, it’s not. Addy. This family has been head of the Pack for five generations, and this nobody of a girl could tarnish our entire legacy.”

I’d had enough of their insults. They were my parents, but there was a line I wouldn’t let them cross.

“That’s my mate you’re talking about, Mother.”

“Yes, I’m quite aware. Her humble origins are common knowledge, dear. There’s no need to get testy.”

“We’re here to help you clean up this little hiccup, Aiden. If you, your mother, and I sit down with Sienna, I know we can make her understand that the cohesion of the pack is more important than her fanciful protests.”

Dad, I told you, we’re working through it together.”

“And how is that working out for you?” my mom replied, “You’re twenty-nine, Addy. What do you think happens when a pack’s alpha reaches thirty and he still has no pups? People start to get worried. Other alphas start eyeing your territory.”

“You need to get her under control and start trying for a family, Aiden. It’s your responsibility as the alpha.”

Before I could say another word, Josh walked through the door, unaware of the spat I was having with my parents. He saw them then looked at me.

“I can come back,” he said, starting to retreat.

“No, they were just leaving,” I replied, happy to put an end to the conversation.

“Josh, is that you?” asked my mother, beaming. “Oh, what a handsome man you’ve grown into. I also heard you’ve been mated.”

“Hello, Mrs. Norwood, Mr. Norwood. Yes, it’s been a while. That’s actually why I’m here. Aiden, our lovely wives have given Sienna’s security detail the slip again. My guys are kind of losing patience.”

10:30 AM 1.8KB/S

Great, this was just what I needed right now.

I looked over at my mother, who was on the verge of uttering some smug I-told-you-so quip. We locked eyes, and I immediately knew she wasn’t going to stay silent. The moment was too good for her not to

“Yes, it seems like you have a firm grip on tha mate of yours,” she said, biting the end of her sunglasses. “Well, since everything is under control here. I think we should go find somewhere to lunch, Daniel. Don’t you think?”

“Yes, let’s get out of Aiden’s hair. We’ll see you and Sienna tonight, son. Manhattans at eight. No excuses.

I made sure to walk them to the door and closed it promptly upon their exit.

My life was going from bad to complete shit, but the first order of business was making sure Sienna was safe.

This was the fourth time she and Michelle had eluded her bodyguards. I insisted on them ever since that strange woman, Eve, showed up at the

Yule Ball last year and told Sienna she was in danger.

“I didn’t know your parents were in town,” said Josh.

“I didn’t either until last night. I already can’t wait for them to leave.”

“Do you, uh... want to talk about it?” said Josh, clearly feeling a little awkward but also obligated to ask. Interpersonal communication had never been his strong suit.

“It’s okay,” I replied, much to Josh’s relief. “Right now we need to figure out where our wives are.

“Since it’s prime brunch time on a Thursday, I have a pretty good idea of where Michelle took Sienna.”

“Great, can you go pick them up? I need to sort through some things here.”

“Yeah, no problem. I’ll have them back here pronto.”

“Send Sienna straight to my office. I’m going to have a long talk with her.”

Sienna

The bubbly sweetness of the mimosa was exactly what I needed. One more reason I was happy to not be pregnant

“So, what’s she like?” asked Michelle.

“Oh, Charlotte is a real dream.” I replied. She basically told me straight to my face that she thinks I’m too young to be with her son and that I was being immature by not going along with the ritual. Who the hell is she to put me on trial when she’s the one who basically abandoned her son for ten years.

“And you said they’re staying with you?”

“Yes, in the guest house, although I doubt they’re going to keep to themselves.”

“What about Aiden’s dad?”

“He’s not as slimy as his mom, but he’s just as narrow-minded. She is literally the worst.”

“Jeez, remind me to give Josh’s mom a big hug when I see her. The worst thing Nancy has ever done was tell me she thought my potatoes could use more salt.”

“I don’t even want to go home. It’s that bad, Michelle. There is no reaching this woman. She’s stuck in a time machine. It’s like she’s been so brainwashed by tradition she has no idea how crazy she sounds.”

“Why don’t we get the gals together and go on a trip this weekend? That would keep you out of the house.”

“No, then she’ll think I’m running away. I can’t give her that ammunition.”

“And Aiden? What does he think?”

“To be honest, we haven’t really had a moment alone since they got here.”

“Sienna, babe, you need to talk to him,” replied Michelle, downing another glass. “You haven’t even sorted out the whole kids situation. The longer you wait, the bigger this is all going to be when it blows up.”

“I know, I know,” I replied, pouring myself another mimosa. “I just need the Haze to hold off for a few more days.”

“Speak for yourself,” said Michelle as she buttered a scone. “I can’t wait for my first season with Josh. I have all sorts of sexy surprises planned out for him. Poor boy is barely going to have time to sleep.”

“Oh my God, Michelle, stop,” I said, giggling. “I don’t want that in my head.”

—Who knows, you might learn a thing or two.” replied Michelle, taking a seductive bite out of her scone.

I was having fun with Michelle, but at the same

time, I couldn’t help but feel like I was spending the whole morning proving Charlotte right.

A strong woman wouldn't have dodged her security to go get brunch and dishes. A strong woman would face her head-on, and that was precisely what I intended to do.

Michelle

I flagged down the server to order another pitcher.

I loved Sienna, I really did, but sometimes she made her life more complicated than it needed to be.

At the end of the day, she was still mated to the Pack's alpha. Like, *hello*, how bad can things really be?

Of course, I couldn't tell her that.

Right now, cheering her up was priority number one.

Which was why I made sure to get away from everything Pack-related this morning. Also, orange juice and champagne heals all wounds.

"What are you doing?" I asked, catching Sienna looking over her shoulder.

Of course, I couldn't tell her that.

Right now, cheering her up was priority number one.

Which was why I made sure to get away from everything Pack-related this morning. Also, orange juice and champagne heals all wounds

"What are you doing?" I asked, catching Sienna looking over her shoulder.

"Nothing, it's just..."

"What? Spit it out, girl."

Sienna leaned in across the table like she was about to tell me a Pack secret. The gossip inside me began twiddling her fingers in anticipation.

"Ever since we left the shop. I've had this weird feeling...like we're being watched."

