

## Chapter 81

Time ticked on; I got so lost in my artwork that I completely lost track of time. The front door slammed shut and distinct male voices brought me out of my stupor.

I put my brushes and watercolor away before leaving the studio and walking into the front foyer. I froze entirely when I saw Elliot standing at the doorway with Beta Leo and Gamma Warrior. It was the lead gamma warrior that was looking for me yesterday. I bit the inside of my cheek, hoping that he doesn't recognize me.

However, the gamma being in the palace wasn't what caused me to pause, it was the state of my husband.

He was shirtless, wearing only jeans. But his entire torso had claw marks on it. His jawbone was bruised, and he had a bloody scratch on his cheek. His upper lip was also split and puffy. I scanned his body for further damage, and I saw that his knuckles were red and swollen, with some minor scrapes.

My stomach twisted and knotted until I felt completely ill.

"I told you not to go there alone," the gamma scolded, folding his arm across his chest. "What were you thinking?"

"I told him it was a bad idea, but he wouldn't listen to reason," Beta Leo said, equally dismayed.

"Would you two knock it off? My wolf will heal me in no time and-"

His words were cut off when he saw me standing before him. The others looked at me as well and their eyes widened. I was too stunned to even speak.

Did he really try to go after the rouges by himself? Did I hear him correctly?

Elliot broke his eyes from me to look at Leo.

"Call together the local Alphas and have them meet me at my packhouse for a meeting."

"Yes, Alpha."

He turned to the Gamma.

"Luca, go to the hospital and check on the fallen gamma, and then gather the other gammas for extra training."

"Yes, Alpha."

They both left to do their tasks and his eyes found mine again.

"I'm going to be late this evening so don't wait up for me," he told me as he started to walk past me.

I turned around to face him, my eyes blazing.

"You are hurt, shouldn't you be resting?" I asked him, my voice coming out desperate and pathetic.

"There's too much to do and I fear my pack is in danger. I can't rest just yet," he told me as he reached the stairs. But he paused and looked at me, his face softening.

"You don't need to worry. You married a very strong Alpha. These are minor injuries," he assured me, but it didn't make me feel any better.

"Please, don't worry too much. This is my job."

With that, he turned and went up the stairs. My chest tightened and I felt a wave of nausea slamming into me.

After Elliot changed, he left the palace. I remained in my studio, to wound up doing any actual work. I just remained seated, attempting to deep breaths and hating how shaky it sounded. After an hour, I decided to go to the packhouse. I needed to speak to Elliot about this and see if there was a way we could protect him.

"Hey, Silver!" Cara called as soon as I walked into the packhouse. "Want to have lunch with us?"

I saw the others seated at their small table with plates of food.

"Maybe in a few. I need to speak with the Alpha. Is he around?" I asked.

"I think he's in the meeting room down the hall," Alison said, pointing me in the right direction.

I smiled my thanks to them and headed towards that room. I was about to knock on the door, but voices inside stopped me.

"I want to lead the team and find out about these attacks," Elliot said confidently. "It seems most of the rogues are targeting my pack and I won't stand for it any longer."

"You've already been brutally attacked, Alpha Elliot. Perhaps you should let another one of us lead this team," another Alpha said pointedly.

"Do not mistake my injuries as weakness. I won't stand for that. I'm the strongest Alpha and you know it. I won't stand by and do nothing while my pack is being attacked. I will fight until my dying breath."

That snapped me out of my eavesdropping position, and I pushed the door open quickly.

"What are you saying? You are injured and you need to take time to rest. You are no good to your pack when you are in this state," I all but shouted.

I stared at all the Alphas seated at the table, my father being one of them. Shirley was also at the table, and she leaned back in her seat like she was getting ready for a show.

"Silver, you shouldn't be here. This is an Alpha meeting," Elliot said firmly, his eyes narrowed in disappointment.

"When my husband's life is at stake,

I believe I have every right to be here. Don't you think?" I asked, folding my arms across my chest. "How dare you make such a rash decision like this and not even consult me about it. You should be home resting right now, not planning on leading a team into dangerous territory."

Everyone was quiet and stunned by my outburst; the seemingly quiet housewife had grown a backbone!

## Chapter 82

### Silver

"Alpha, it seems your wife is concerned for you," Shirley said, her eyes narrowed at me as a smirk appeared on her lips. "It's very sweet, but this is wolf business. It's not something you would understand, considering you are a wolfless."

"The fact that I don't have a wolf has nothing to do with this," I snapped, my teeth gritted in anger as I glared at her. "This is about Elliot. He needs time to recover; not be thrown to the wolves! If you cared about him, you'd be saying the same thing."

She laughed bitterly as she slowly stood to her feet. She wore a red short-sleeved dress that fit tightly around her perfect form and rested just above her knees, showing off her incredible legs. The red dress brought out the red in her hair and I would be lying if I said I wasn't jealous of the figure.

Shirley was quite beautiful and like Elliot, she was powerful.

"You are speaking out of emotional terms," Shirley went on to say, her composure calm and her tone sounding whimsical like she was mocking me. It made the other Alphas in the room snicker at my expense. "This is exactly why a wolfless girl has no business being a luna. It's as I was saying many times before, you are too weak. This proves it, does it not, Gentlemen?" She asked the room.

"Girl, you are making a fool out of yourself," one of the Alpha's shouted at me.

"You have no business being here," another said, his lip curling up in disgust.

"A wolfless as a Luna? I never heard of such a thing!" Another scoffed.

Shirley gave me a victory grin as she took her seat beside Elliot who had his fists clenching and his knuckles white.

"I know what you all must think of me, and I don't blame you. Honestly, I was surprised when Elliot told me he wanted to marry me. I'm nothing more than a wolfless and I was raised to think I was less than everybody else." My eyes flickered to my father who paled but said nothing, I turned my attention back to the others. "But I care about my Alpha and if you had any sense, then you wouldn't let him—"

"Silver, that is enough!" Elliot's voice boomed across the meeting room, silencing me immediately and causing an icy chill to creep down my spine. My eyes found his and I could see how furious he was from my words.

He was standing up now and his lip was curled in anger. It was a look I had never seen toward me before and without thinking, I took a step away from him. "You need to leave," he said through his teeth.

I opened my mouth to say something, anything, but Shirley spoke first, her tone icy and mocking.

"How dare you tell your Alpha what to do," she hissed. "You need to learn your place, girl."

With one more smirk in my direction, she turned her attention back to Elliot and puckered her plump pink bottom lip, putting a hand on his shoulder.

"I do believe she might be right though, Elliot. It seems the rogues used some silver because your wounds are taking much longer than usual to heal. How about we postpone the investigation until your wounds heal? We can double up on border patrol and send some gammas out to do another sweep. But until you are completely healed, it'll be better if we don't antagonize any more rogues."

My mouth hung open; was Shirley actually agreeing with me about something? What was her motive?

After a brief pause and a staring contest between Elliot and me, he finally relented and pulled his gaze away from me, breaking me from the trance I was in.

"You're right. I'll take some time to rest and heal. But when the time comes, I'd like to be the one leading the team," he said with finality.

"Agreed," the others murmured in unison.

Shirley smiled up at him as she ran her fingers up the length of his arm and across his shoulders.

"While you recover, I'll take on some extra duties around your pack. I'll become the pack's agent. I'll take on the financial responsibilities, and the

overall welfare of the pack. If they have any concerns, they can come to me, and I'll be more than happy to help them."

My stomach twisted.

I might not know a lot about being a Luna, but I knew for a fact that those were Luna responsibilities. Now, it was making sense. She wanted to prove to Elliot that I wasn't fit to be a Luna and that she was the prime choice to rule the pack by his side.

"I'm sorry but if I'm not mistaken, aren't those Luna responsibilities?" I asked, folding my arms across my chest and glaring at her. Annoyance flashed in her eyes.

"And is that a problem with you?" She so boldly asked.

"As Alpha Elliot's wife and the Luna of this pack, yes I do have an issue with this," I told her, raising my brows.

She let out a humorless laugh.

"If I'm not mistaken, Elliot hasn't marked you. Until you are marked and mated to him, you are not a Luna, you are just his wolfless wife."

## Chapter 83

### Silver

Fury boiled inside of me and as soon as I opened my mouth to speak, Elliot slammed his fists on the table, making us all flinch from the sound.

"That is enough out of both of you. We are in the middle of a meeting, and I won't have this childish argument interrupting things," he said through his teeth, his eyes flashing as his wolf made himself known to us. I involuntarily stepped backward, suddenly feeling uncomfortable. Elliot turned to look at Shirley, who kept her head held high. "Shirley, she is a right. She is the rightful Luna of this pack whether I had marked her or not. Until she proves incapable of taking on the responsibilities while I recover. I expect you not to put up a fight with her."

Shirley paled at his words, but she pressed her lips firmly together and gave him a curt nod as she took her seat once again.

I stood frozen; unable to believe that he backed me up. Part of me thought he might take Shirley's side.

"Beta Leo," Elliot called; I hadn't realized Leo was in the room until he was summoned. But he stepped out of the corner of the room.

"Yes, Alpha?" He asked, waiting for orders.

"Take Silver to the Luna office and get her set up. If she wants to take on the responsibilities, she will get started right away. Spread the word and let the pack know of this."

"Will do," Leo said, motioning for me to follow him.

I still felt uncertain and frozen in my place. It wasn't until my eyes found Elliot's and he gave me a small nod that I was snapped out of my stupor.

I turned and left with Beta Leo. He walked me down a long hallway until we reached a doorway. He opened it and stepped inside. My mouth nearly fell open at the size of the gorgeous office. The entire back wall was a gorgeous window that overlooked the gardens. The floor was made from rose gold marble and the desk was completely glass with brand-new-looking office material, including a large desktop computer.



It was beautifully decorated with framed pictures of past Lunas and purchased artwork from different galleries; some artists I recognized and some I didn't.

There was a beautiful soft pink rug in the center of the room in front of the desk; a couple of white cushioned chairs in front of the desk and a large white couch with a flat-screen TV on the far side of the room, along with a coffee table with a potted plant.

"This place is gorgeous," I whispered, more to myself than to Leo.

He nodded in response, also looking around.

"Yes; it's the Luna office," he replied. "All past Luna's have done their work here."

"What kind of work do Luna's do exactly?" I stupidly asked him.

I know I fought for this position with Shirley, but I had to be honest that I wasn't really sure what a Luna did.

Leo smiled as if he expected that question.

"The Luna has all the same power as

their Alpha male. That's why it's important for Lunas and Alphas to mark one another. Once Alpha Elliot marks you officially, you'll share his powers and be able to command other wolves of your pack.

"Oh, I see," I said, shifting my eyes downward, suddenly feeling vulnerable.

"However, Luna's role is to be a mother figure and teacher to her wolves. You are the protector of women and children, like a mother. You provide the resources needed for women and children. You are the key negotiator between the pack and the Alpha. He is a very busy man and can't always be here to deal with minor pack issues and wants, so they will come to you when they need something. With the Alpha in recovery, you will also lead the pack during his absence and make decisions on his behalf. Once

again, if you were to be marked by him, you would be able to calm his wolf with just a touch and that's important for an Alpha because they are known to lose control easily, especially when things don't go their way," Leo explained.

"I understand," I said, nodding, knowing that I could already calm Elliot down; he admitted as much to me. It was why he insisted on me sleeping with him every night.

"You are also in charge of coordinating events," Leo continued. "Do you have any questions?"

I shook my head.

"No, I think I get it. Thank you, Beta," I told him, trying to sound as proper as I could.

He nodded and then walked around the desk. He opened one of the drawers and pulled out a large folder with a huge stack of papers.

"These are pack complaints and wishes," he informed me. "Even without a proper Luna, they still filled these forms out."

He dropped the stack of papers on the desk and my mouth nearly fell to the floor.

He gave me a crooked smile before walking towards the door, but he paused before leaving and said over his shoulder, "Good Luck, Luna." With that, he left me alone to deal with all the stress.

## Chapter 84

### Silver

I had gone through half the stack of papers, and it was nearing nightfall. My mind was spinning from all the complaints this pack had and I wasn't even sure where to begin with it all. They complained about the lack of education in the pack's school system and how the children weren't being taught the right things. They complained about the meal planning and the lack of choices each day. Women want to start training as warriors, finding it unfair that only men get to be gammas, and I had to agree with them on that. Why aren't more women training to be gammas? They could fight just as much as any man. They also wanted their children to start training at young ages for when they were older and decide to join the Gamma warriors. They also want more sports options for both women and children.

The local park has been trashed by rogues and has been deemed unsafe to visit; not enough housing, forcing women and children to live in the packhouse. Women want to open boutiques and salons but not enough space or funding. A couple of packmates wish to get married and would like the Luna to prepare the ceremony.

Those were only a few things that I had read while going through each paper. At some point, I took out a notebook and a planner and jotted down some notes about how I could fix certain things and improve stuff around the pack. I started to make a daily schedule for myself, wanting to talk to each packmate one-on-one and get to know them and their complaints personally before I take real action.

I logged into the computer for the first time, and I was surprised that the passwords were already saved on the files so I could tap into the pack budget and find out exactly how much I could spend on these projects.

I called the couples that wanted marriage and found out when they expect to get married, and I made a plan to meet with them at some point next week so we can start seriously planning the weddings.

I created some flyers inquiring about some new teachers at the local school and created a park cleanup volunteer signup list. I scheduled a time to get the volunteers together and I planned to help them clean the park as well.

I created a whole new meal menu, and I sent them to Mariah's email letting her know that I will start creating new menus for her to work with each week.

At some point during the night, I fell asleep at my desk. I barely made a dent in the tasks that I needed to do, but I made a bit of progress and was able to speak with some of the packmates over the phone and get some scheduling done.

My eyes could hardly stay open, and I wasn't even sure what time it was.

I was awoken only for a moment when I felt a strong pair of arms wrap around my body and then the warmth and scent of Elliot enveloped my nostrils. I sighed contently as I rested my head on his chest, allowing his warmth to wrap around me and soothe me back to sleep.

I don't even know how we got home or how he managed to get me there without waking me. I woke up early the next morning, still feeling groggy as if I hadn't gotten enough sleep. Elliot was getting dressed and his shirt was off. He wore a pair of sweatpants only and my mouth nearly watered at the sight of him.

How was it possible for someone to look that good?

He must have felt me staring at him because he turned, and his eyes found mine. A smirk played on his lips.

"Good morning," he said in a deep and almost sultry tone.

I swallowed.

"Good morning," I repeated. "Did you sleep well?"

"I did," he answered. "Did you?"

I nodded my head once, my eyes wandering over his abs and gazing down at his happy trail that disappeared in the waistline of his sweatpants. I could almost see the outline of his cock and my heart skipped a beat in my chest.

He cleared his throat and my eyes shot back to his face, mortified that he caught me checking him out. This time, he was grinning, and his brows pinched together.

"Are you alright? You seem a bit flustered."

I knew my face was probably beet red; I could feel the heat in my cheeks.

"I guess I'm still a little tired," I admitted, which wasn't a complete lie.

He nodded thoughtfully like he understood.

"I was honestly surprised you were still at the packhouse last night. I was about to leave when Beta Leo mentioned you hadn't come out of the office since he brought you there. I thought there was no way you'd still be there, but I went to check anyway. Imagine my surprise when I see you sleeping at your desk."

## Chapter 85

### Silver

My cheeks flushed even more.

"I guess I lost track of time," I admitted.

"You think?" He asked, his sarcasm wasn't missed, but there was also a twinkle of humor in his eyes, so I didn't think much of it. "I managed to see some of the work you've started and you're scheduling. You've gotten a lot done. I'm quite impressed."

"I've barely scratched the surface," I told him, chewing my bottom lip a bit nervously.

"You've done more than I've done for them. I've been putting most of those things off because they weren't my priority at the moment. Thank you for helping me out."

It was at that moment I realized his wounds were gone.

"You've been healed," I said simply.

He glanced down at his body before nodding.

"My wolf worked all night to heal my wounds," he explained. "I'm an Alpha; we don't stay injured for long."

I nodded, thoughtfully.

"I see," I said, keeping my bottom lip between my teeth. "Where are you off to this morning?" I found myself asking.

"I am training with the warriors and Alphas this morning," he answered. "We are preparing ourselves for any future rogue battles so injuries like yesterday don't happen again." "Will Shirley be there?"

I wanted to slap myself for asking; I sounded like a jealous teenager, and I hated how pathetic it was. I immediately wanted to take back that question, but his brows pinched together and the look of confusion crossed his handsome features.

"Uh, yes," he answered. "She is an Alpha as well."

"Right," I said, staring down at my hands. "I just figured because she's female\_ "

"She's an Alpha female," he said, cutting off my words. His tone hardened and he sounded almost sharper than he had moments ago. "Does it bother you that she will be there?"

I shook my head, trying to save myself from further humiliation.

"No, of course not. It's just that you don't have any female warriors and I wasn't sure if there was a reason behind that," I blurted.

He raised his brows.

"Females are weaker and are meant to be protected by the males," he told me as if it was the most obvious thing in the world. Now it was my turn to raise my brows.

"There are some females who are quite strong and more than capable of defending themselves in a battle. There are quite a few in this pack who wish to fight. They wish for their children to start learning at young ages as well. Are you really going to deny your pack that?" I asked him, folding my arms across my chest.

He looked genuinely surprised by this.

"There are females who wish to train with the gammas?" He asked. "Why would they want that when we could protect them?"

"What happens if they are caught alone? A rogue attack could happen anywhere at any time. Nobody is safe and that's been proven in the past—

" "We are doubling our patrol," he told me, cutting off my words once again.

"And if that doesn't work?" I asked him. "What then? What if the rogues invade and there are too many of them to stop?"

"That won't happen-"

"We don't know that," I said firmly, cutting him off this time. "Wouldn't you rather we all be prepared?"

He was quiet for a moment while he processed those words.

"You are right," he finally relented." was being stupid thinking we could keep all the females protected.at would be better if they could at least defend themselves as well.

"Don't deny them a chance of fighting, Elliot. They love this pack just as much as you do and they want to help keep it safe," I told him. "We are in desperate need of more warriors to protect this pack.

Mothers are afraid to bring their children to the local park because of the attacks. We could use more guards in that area to keep the women and children at the park safe. I'm hosting a get-together of volunteers to clean the park and make it a nice place to hang out, it would be nice if I could borrow some gammas to accompany us."

He nodded.

"Of course, whatever you need," he said without hesitation.

"Thanks," I said.

He left the room without another word, leaving me staring at the closed door and feeling a tightness in my chest I couldn't quite explain.