

My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Betrayal 101

6 She Won't Know

Lily POV

I don't stop running despite the number of people calling my name. I don't stop running until

I'm out of the pack house and through the surrounding trees. I give control over to Ariel. She

shifts shredding our clothes, running like our life depends on it. As I'm thrown to the back of

her mind, I try to push the images of Colton as he pulled himself from Camille's body. The image seems to be burned in my mind.

Seeing a part of him that was meant only for me being so callously given to another is not something I can ever forgive. I may not be of age to be claimed, but he knew. No one will convince me otherwise. He should have come to find me, and instead he was f**king a girl that was not his mate. The ache in my chest feels like it won't ever go away. I curl into a ball holding myself tightly. I finally succumb to exhaustion.

I'm not sure how long Ariel ran, but I can tell she is asleep when I finally wake up. I expect to feel a hundred people trying to link me, but I feel nothing. I don't know whether to be relieved or upset that no one seems to care. "Well, you know that's not true. Liam's wolf is wrapped around us. I'm sure he has alerted your parents that you are safe," Ariel says. I smile hearing her say that Liam is with us. Besides my parents, I feel the safest with him.

"Where are we, Ariel?" "We are in the neutral territory between our pack and the Golden Leaf," Ariel says. "I'm not ready to go back there yet. I can't face him, Ariel. I can't face our family. I can't forgive him. I did that once and look what he's done. I don't want to hurt our family, but I can't accept him after this." She whimpers but she knows I'm right.

In time, I may be able to forgive his betrayal for the sake of our family, but I won't ever forget. I

won't ever trust him again. "Then we won't go back, but you're going to have to talk to your

parents. I'm sure despite Liam assuring them we're safe, they are worried. We have no idea

what Colton has told them about why you ran. Maybe we should go to the Golden Leaf tonight. I'm sure that Carter and Bridgette will be there," Ariel says.

"Alright, let's make our way to the pack gate. Will Liam's wolf just follow us?" "I've already

spoken to him. He will let Liam know the plan" she says. "I'm confused. Liam isn't our mate,

and we aren't Alpha of the pack yet. What do you mean you spoke with his wolf?" "Oh, sweet

girl, you have no idea just how special we are. Your mom and dad gave you the basics but its time you knew everything," Ariel says.

"To answer your question, one of our powers is being able to speak with other wolves no

matter if they are pack or rogue. We can also sense their intentions, whether they be good or

1/4

+8 Point

6 She Won't Know

bad," she says. Goddess today has been a lot. We start to run, and it doesn't take long for us to reach the gate of the Golden Leaf. "Shift and state your business," a guard demands. I can see the confusion on his face as he takes in Ariel's size and color. I'm thankful when Liam shifts, since I have no clothes.

"We are here to speak with Beta Carter and his mate. Please tell them that Lily Forester and Liam are here. Please ask them to bring her clothes," he says. The wolf's eyes glaze over before he looks back at Liam. "They are on their way" he says. He turns to a small building off

to the side of the gate. He comes back handing Liam a pair of shorts and clothes for me. I

shift and he hands them to me. I quickly dress. It doesn't take long for Carter and Bridgette to appear.

Once the gate opens, the tears that I've been holding back begin to flow despite my best efforts to keep my emotions in check. Bridgette wastes no time pulling me in for a hug. "Let's get you inside and settled. I'm not sure what has happened, but whatever it is, I'm here for you Lily" she says. I squeeze her tighter as we make our way toward the pack house.

I'm not sure what Liam knows, but I expect him to ask questions now that we have both shifted. "Lily, when you're ready to talk I want you to tell me everything" he says. I nod, knowing he hates waiting, but he is willing to give me the time I need. I'm not ready to lay myself bare yet. "Liam, why don't you come with me? We will give Beck a call so he knows

she is safe," Carter says. He looks at me and I nod.

Bridgette leads me upstairs to the Beta floor. "I want you to go inside and take a bath. I can

tell you're not ready to talk to anyone but your wolf. I will have one of the girls bring you a set of proper clothes and something to eat." Before I can open my mouth to tell her I'm not

hungry she gives me a look my mother has given me many times. "I understand you may not feel like eating, but whatever or whoever has upset you doesn't get to make you sick too. Don't let anyone hold power over you. No matter who they are," she says.

She hugs me one more time before she turns to walk back down the hallway. I step into the room, and I'm tempted just to curl up on the bed, but I push myself to the large bathroom. I fill

the huge tub almost to the top before I pour lavender-scented oil into the water. I peel off the t-shirt and basketball shorts that are too big for my frame, throwing them on the floor. I step in and sink down into the hot water.

2

No matter how hard I try, I can't push thoughts of Colton from my mind. How am I going to face him every day? What if he decides to take Camille as his chosen mate after the rejection? I know I'm strong, but I don't know if I'm strong enough to see them be happy together after the way he betrayed me. Goddess, why is this happening to me?

Colton POV

2/4

+8 Points

6 She Won't Know

What the hell just happened? What have I done? I was so excited this morning at the thought of meeting my mate. My shift was painful, but having my wolf was worth it. He is large with dark brown fur. As soon as we reached the pack, I headed up to see Rosalyn and Beck. When I stepped inside their wing Cash, my wolf, started to lose his mind. "What's up Cash?" "I can smell our mate. Can't you smell the lavender and vanilla scent?"

Lily always smells like lavender, so I didn't think much about it. The scent is definitely more intense than normal. "It's our mate. Where is she? We need to find her" he says. After Rosalyn tells me that Lily is helping with the party, I decide to head to my room. I need to wrap my head around the fact that Lily is my mate. I'm not upset that she is my mate. In fact, Lily is perfect. She is strong, beautiful, and loyal. I just never expected the goddess to pair us up. I know we aren't blood, but we have been raised like family.

I push open the door to my room and stop dead in my tracks. Camille is naked, lying on my

bed with her fingers inside her p**sy. When her eyes meet mine, I see the flash of disappointment when she realizes we aren't mates, but she quickly gets on all fours. "I was

hoping you would find me. I don't care if we are mates, Colton. I'm yours and I always will be. I choose you," she says.

I swear my brain hasn't caught up because, despite knowing how wrong this is my d**k goes

rock hard. Camille slides off the bed and starts to move toward me. I finally find my voice. "Camille, we can't do this. I have a mate" I say, but the words die on my lips as she palms my c**k with her hand through my pants. "What the f**k do you think you're doing? Get this sl*t out of here" Cash says.

"She was our girlfriend. I owe her this before I break things off with her. I'll claim Lily at the party but for now she has no idea we are mates. She is only sixteen" say, before I put the block up. I throw Camille on the bed and strip off my clothes. I thrust forward without warning and pound into her the way I know she likes it. As the fog of lust starts to clear, the guilt begins to consume me. I'm just about to pull myself free of her body when the door to my room slams open.

Goddess no, is the only thought I have as Lily stares at me with disgust. She can't know, she doesn't have her wolf. "Lily" I say, but she turns, leaving me. I fumble trying to get my pants on. "What the f**k is wrong with her coming in here like that," Camille says. Her voice is like nails on a chalkboard. "We are done, Camille. Lily is my mate and this should never have happened."

She slides off the bed and saunters up to me. "Obviously you didn't want the little pack princess, or you wouldn't have just been buried deep inside me when she caught us. Now you don't have to settle for that little b**ch. You can reject her," she says. Before I can stop myself, 3/4

6 She Won't Know

I grab her by the throat and slam her against my bedroom wall. "Lily, is ten times better than you will ever think of being. I should have dropped your a** a long time ago, but you were an easy lay. I will never reject her. Now get out and stay the f**k away from me and Lily," I say.

I release her, and she grabs her clothes, rushing from my room. I throw on a t-shirt and rush downstairs. Once I'm outside, my sister Rosalyn is heading in my direction. Goddess, what have I done? I not only hurt my mate, but my whole family is going to hate me. Hell I hate myself right now.

Betrayal 102

7 The Real Betrayal

Rosalyn POV

As soon as I see Colton's face, a rock forms in my stomach. No, this can't be happening. Part

of me had thought when they were pups they might be mates, but as they got older the bond

we all saw developing seemed to disappear. "Colton, what's wrong? Do you know why Lily ran out of here? Why was she so upset?"

"Honestly, I need to talk to her, Rose, before I talk to anyone. Where did she go," he says. "I don't know," I say before walking away from him. I don't trust myself to continue to talk to him. I love my brother but right now I don't like him very much, knowing he could hurt his mate.

The disappointment I feel that he would hurt my daughter isn't something I am ready to face right now, so I rush to Beck's office. I push open the door, and he is pacing a hole in the floor. His running his hands through his hair, which is what he does when he is upset. He must have heard from Liam. "Where is she?" "She shifted and ran toward the western border. Liam is

already following her. She is safe but Liam said he can tell that Ariel is in control."

"Beck, I thought we would have more time before this happened. She is only sixteen. He walks over, pulling me into his arms. Not even his presence can quell the raging guilt that flows through me. I'm not sure how much time has passed. When I feel Beck's fear through our bond. I pull back, and I swear he is fighting tears. "She left the pack? You need to call Mindy?"

How long before they know she is alive," he says.

We pull apart, and I quickly pull my phone from my pocket. She picks up on the second ring. "Rosalyn, where is she," she asks, before I can even speak. "She ran after Colton betrayed her." There is a long silence before she finally speaks again. "The minute she crossed the pack border I could sense her. You need to get her back in the pack as soon as possible. We will be

there as soon as we can to protect her," Mindy says.

"Mindy, why was she able to sense her mate? She is only sixteen. I thought this wouldn't happen until she was eighteen. I know we couldn't tell her what was going to happen because of the prophecy, but at least we could have been there for her." Again there is a long pause and I look at my phone thinking the call dropped.

"I'm sorry, Rosalyn." "What do you mean? Why are you apologizing? Did you know this would happen earlier?" "I know you assumed the betrayal would be by her mate and that is part of it, but it's not his betrayal that will start her on the path to finding her true mate," she trails off.

My heart squeezes in my chest. "It's us. We betrayed her by keeping this from her. Is that what you're saying?" I don't even wait for an answer before I disconnect the call. My legs feel like 1/4

*2 Points

7 The Real Betrayal

they are jelly. I expect to hit the floor, but strong arms lift me. "This can't be happening. The goddess has used us like pawns," Beck says. It's hard to defend her when I agree. I know she has done this for a reason, but having my pup feel we've betrayed her is more painful than anything else I've endured in my life.

I can't stop the sob that escapes me as Beck tightens his hold on me. "We need to get to the Golden Leaf. We need to get her to come back to the pack. Mindy said they will be here as soon as they can to protect her. What are we doing to do if the pr*ck that attacked us all those years ago knows she is alive? No matter how angry she is, we have to protect her, Beck."

As we make our way through the pack house I pray we don't see Colton or my family.

Unfortunately, luck is not on our side. As soon as we step out of the pack house, Sam and my mother rush toward us. "Rose, what's going on? Colton is so upset, but he won't tell us what's going on." Beck growls because, despite knowing this was meant to happen, Colton still made this choice. He chose to betray his mate. The goddess may present the opportunity, but we all have free will.

"Keep him the f**k away from me right now, or I won't be responsible for what I do to him"

Beck says before turning toward the parking area where the SUV is waiting. "Rose, what the hell is that about? Why is he threatening Colton," my mom asks. "I don't have time to explain

everything that has happened. I need to get to Lily. When we return, we can all sit down and discuss what has happened." I don't wait for a response as I rush to the SUV. I need to get to

my pup.

Lily POV

Knocking on the bathroom door wakes me. I don't know how long I've been asleep, but the water isn't even luke warm at this point. I stand drying myself off before wrapping the towel tightly around myself. When I push open the door I expect to see Bridgette. What I don't expect is to see my mother with her. I glance at the clock on the wall seeing its five. "Mom, why are you here? You should be at Colton's party."

"Do you really think that Colton's party is more important than checking on you? Your father and I were beside ourselves when we realized you left the pack land. I know you don't understand because there are things that we planned to tell you when you turned eighteen, but you need to come back to the pack. You being here is putting you in danger," she says.

"You're right, I don't know what's happening because you and dad didn't tell me. You kept me in the dark. I understand why when I was a young pup, but I've been training for a while now, I deserved to know just how special my wolf is. I deserved to know everything that had to do with me."

+8 Point:

7 The Real Betrayal

I see regret flash in her eyes, but I'm finding it hard not to be upset that things about me were kept so secretive. I know I'm young, but I'm not a typical teenager. I have proved myself time. and time again.

"Lily bear" she starts to say, but I stop her. "Mom, do you know why I ran? Do you even know why I'm here and not at Colton's celebration?" "Colton wouldn't say, but I have a feeling I know why. He insisted he needed to see you before he would explain," she says. "Well, too bad. I won't be seeing him until I'm good and ready." "I understand that you're hurt. I've felt the pain. of betrayal. I wish I could have shielded you from the pain you are feeling." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

A feeling of realization rolls through my body and the hurt of Colton's actions has nothing on the pain that is consuming me now. "Why do I get the feeling that you're not shocked by what Colton did to me?" The look on her face lets me know that I'm right. "Lily" she starts to say,

but I cut her off. "I want you to leave. You and dad can go back to the pack. I'm not coming. I'm not ready to talk to either of you right now."

"Lily, please, you staying here isn't an option. The protection spell is only on the Blue Crescent" she says. "Protection spell, you mean the one I knew nothing about. If you were so worried about me leaving the pack maybe telling me before it happened would have been a good idea. I'm not leaving."

Tears run down my mother's cheeks. Seeing her so upset has me nearly cracking. Seeing her cry isn't something I'm used to. "Lily, we had no choice but to keep it from you. It was the goddess's will. It was to," she say, but I cut her off. "Well, congratulations mom. You did the goddess's will at the cost of destroying my trust in both of you. I'm the one that had to see my mate f**k a girl that has terrorized me most of my childhood. I'm the one who had to have my dreams of being loved by the man made for me torn to shreds because you and dad chose to keep the goddess's secrets."

The door of the room flies open and my father steps inside. He looks between myself and my mother. "What the hell is going on?" "What's going on is I just learned that my parents knew my mate would betray me and did nothing to protect me from this pain. Honestly, that hurts more than finding out my mate cared more about f**king some b**ch than about me."

I can see the shock on my parents' faces. I don't think I've ever cursed in their presence, but right now I don't ever think I've been this angry or hurt. "Lily, please just let us explain. Once you hear why we couldn't tell you, I'm sure you will understand," my father says.

"Oh, mom, explained it was what the goddess asked of you. I'm sure at some point when hear isn't shattered I will be able to understand, but right now all I know is the two

people who have told me they loved me and protected me all my life allowed this to happen to me. I have to wonder if you were both more worried about how this would affect Colton." 3/4

+8 Point

7 The Real Betrayal

My father's face looks like I just slapped him and my mother sobs. Despite just waking up, I

feel exhausted again. I move toward the chair where the clothes have been placed for me. Without another word, I head back into the bathroom to get dressed. "Lily bear, I know your

angry, and you have every right to feel that way, but I promise you we never meant to hurt you. Please come out and let us explain properly," my father pleads through the door. "Dad, I can't talk any more tonight. I just want to be left alone. You had years to get used to the

idea that I would be betrayed, but for me, it just happened. I had to walk in and see my mate with another woman. Then I had to find out that not only did he betray me, but my parents knew he would and did nothing to prepare me or stop it from happening.""

"I just want to be alone. You should both go celebrate Colton's birthday since you aren't angry about what he has done." I slide down the door hoping my words are enough to make them go away until I'm ready to face them. How did my life get this messed up in a day?

Betrayal 103

8 The Talk (Part 1)

Lily POV

I manage to dress in the oversize sweatshirt and leggings that Bridgette left for me. I take a seat on the vanity and lean my head back against the mirror. "Lily, I know your hurt and angry, but I really think you need to let your parents explain everything that has happened. I have been with you for a long time, and they have always been your biggest champions. Some of

the things you just said were said in anger. Do you really believe that your mother and father intended to hurt you?"

"Do you really believe that they are happy with what Colton has done?" I know she's right, but

my heart aches. I never expected that the day I found my mate would be anything but wonderful. My parents are so in love. I wanted that and, if I'm being honest, I wanted it with Colton. I can't stop the tears from flowing down my cheeks. "The goddess often does things not to punish but to bring understanding. You are very special to her and, despite all that's happened, she loves you Lily," Ariel says.

"Well, it doesn't feel much like she loves me. Why cause me all this pain if I'm so special to

her? Why make me go through all this? Why make my parents keep things from me that could have prepared me for what happened?" "Lily, I can't answer those questions, only the goddess can. I think for now we should go back to the pack. I don't want you to be in danger because of that little pr*ck" Ariel says. I try not to smile, but I can't stop myself.

"I know he hurt us and the goddess hasn't told me everything, but I guarantee he will regret everything he has done. You are strong, and together we will get through this. You need to hear your parents out, and we need to head back to the pack," she says. I hate that she's right. I'm really not ready to face Colton or talk to my parents, but I need to put on my big girl pants. I'm still angry at them and the goddess, but I know they love me. They have shown me every day that they do, so I owe them the chance to tell me everything.

I get to my feet and take a deep breath before I push the door open. My heart breaks a little more seeing my father cradling my mother in his arms. They both look at me and regret flashes in their eyes. "I will go back to the pack and I will listen, but I want to know everything. I don't want even a minor thing left out. I deserve to know everything. My father nods, still holding my mother in place. They make no move toward me and part of me is glad because need to get through this without falling apart again.

We make our way through the pack house in silence. When we reach the foyer Liam and Carter are waiting. "Thank you, Carter and Bridgette. I appreciate you taking care of me." "You never have to thank us for that, Lily. You are family," Carter says. Before I can stop her,

+13 Point

8 The Talk (Part 1)

Bridgette pulls me in for a hug and the floodgates burst open. A sob rips through me. I'm

pulled from Bridgette's arms and wrapped in my father's protective embrace.

"It's going to be alright Lily bear. I promise that no matter what happens you are going to be alright" he says. I bury my head in his chest as he carries me out of the pack house. He

doesn't let me go even when we are in the SUV. My mind wanders back to when I was a small

pup and I would get hurt. He would hold me until I had no more tears.

The sound of the car door opening startles me awake. I'm still in my dad's arms as he

manages to get out of the SUV. "Dad, you can put me down now." He presses a kiss on my forehead before he sets me on my feet. My mom gets out next and when my eyes meet hers I can see the absolute defeat in them. I walk toward her, taking her hand in mine. She wraps her

arm around me keeping me tucked close to her side.

When we step into the pack house I wish I had stayed at the Golden Leaf pack. The pack is still celebrating Colton's birthday. Many pack members are looking at me with confusion on their faces. I notice my grandmother and Sam moving toward us. What I didn't see until it was too late was Colton heading toward us from the opposite direction. "Lily, please I need to talk to you," Colton says.

When my eyes meet his I can tell he's been crying. I wish I could say that seeing his suffering softens my heart toward him, but it doesn't. My father's growl has the room go deathly quiet. The pack members minus my grandmother, Sam, and Colton all leave as my father's aura

pours into the room. He quickly pulls it back before he stares at Colton.

My mother starts to lead me toward the stairs without another word. My hand is grabbed briefly before its released. I look back in time to see Colton flying toward the wall. Liam is breathing heavily, and I can tell he is on the verge of shifting. I free myself from my mother and rush over to stand in front of him. "Liam, no, don't do this. I know you are trying to protect me, but I will handle him myself when I'm ready. Until then, just let him be."

His eyes return to their normal color before he looks at Colton behind me. "Keep your f**king hands to yourself" he growls before he heads out of the pack house. I go back toward the stairs, but Colton's words stop me in my tracks. "Lily, you can't just leave. I'm your mate. We need to talk this out. We need to get past this. I won't lose you over something that meant nothing." I search the crowd until my eyes find the person I'm

looking for. The smug smirk on her face lets me know she thinks she has won and maybe in some ways she has, but if Colton's the prize, she can have him.

I don't want a mate that can't keep himself from f**king someone that isn't his mate even if

2/4

+13 Point

8 The Talk (Part 1)

we haven't claimed each other. I turn back to face the man that was meant to be mine. "I'm

not your mate. I'm just some girl you used to know. You made your choice, and it wasn't me." Without another word, I make my way upstairs.

Rosalyn POV

Colton moves to follow Lily up the stairs and I step in front of him. "You need to respect that

she isn't ready to speak with you yet." "Rose, I need to speak to her and tell her how sorry I am.

It meant nothing," he says. "No, you're wrong. It meant everything. "I'm sorry" are the two mos useless words that were ever spoken. They change nothing. Now you will leave her alone unti she is ready to talk to you."

I turn to go after my daughter when Colton speaks again. "Rose, I'm sorry, I never meant for any of this to happen. I had no idea that she was my mate." I turn looking at my brother. The boy I've watched grow since he was six years old. My mind flashes to Reese's betrayal. To all his apologies and actions. I make my way back toward my brother until I'm standing in front of him. Before I can stop myself, I slap him across the face.

"I love you, Colton, but you are a liar. If you are man enough to betray your goddess-given mate, then own it. You knew she was your mate, and you chose to f**k that wh*re. Now I won' repeat myself. Lily will let you know when she is ready to speak with you, and it won't happen

a minute before. Actions have consequences, Colton."

I turn making my way upstairs with Beck following closely behind me. Before we reach the door to our wing, he turns me pulling me into his arms. "I know how hard that was

for you, Rosalyn. I love Colton too, but I'm just as angry with him," Beck says. He presses a kiss on my head before we step into our living room. Lily is curled up on the couch with a blanket

covering her lap.

I take a seat next to her. "Lily, before we discuss what happened with Colton, I want to tell you about what I went through with my first mate." Lily knows about her birth mother, but she has no idea about Reese being my first mate. "I thought dad was your first mate." "No, dad was my second chance just like I was his. Uncle Reese was my first mate." "No way, I don't

understand" she says.

"I want you to know that I probably know better than anyone how you're feeling right now. Reese and I grew up together. He was older, so he realized we were mates first. He announce me, and we spent time being together because he couldn't claim me until I turned eighteen. I was so happy because I had hoped that Reese would be my mate. I know you don't know this, but I had another brother besides Emmett and Colton." "Two days before our Alpha and Luna ceremony I found Reese cheating on me with my

3/4

6

+13 Point:

8 The Talk (Part 1)

brother, Bryce." Lily gasps and tears start to stream down her cheeks. I pull her hand into mine. "I'm not trying to upset you more, but I need you to understand that sometimes things happen to lead us to the path we are truly meant to be on. If that hadn't happened, I would never have found the man I was truly meant to be with."

"The goddess meddles, but her children have free will. She knew that Reese would be tempted by Bryce, but he didn't have to give in. Just like Colton made his choice." "So why doesn't the goddess just make sure we end up with who we were supposed to instead of causing us all this pain" Lily asks. "I wish I had the answers Lily bear, but I don't. Believe me, I wish neither of us had to endure the pain of being betrayed, but as a person who lived through it, I wouldn't change my past."

"The pain and betrayal made me leave the Black Rose and find you and your father. I would endure that pain a hundred times over to have the life I've had with you, your dad, and your siblings. Now I know we said it before, but the truth is we couldn't tell you because, despite not agreeing with the goddess's methods, she has her reasons for what she does. What happened is to set you on your path."

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Betrayal 104

9 The Talk (Part 2) David POV

A knock on my office door brings me out of my thoughts. Jasmine has been even more withdrawn from me since her punishment a few nights ago. I'm going to have to do something to show her just how much I love her. She is a good Queen and all our people love her. I knew the moment that I saw her with that Elven slave she was meant for more. She was meant to be mine. I smile when I recall how she begged me to spare his life.

She believed I would if she agreed to be my Queen, but I couldn't let him live. He had touched what should have only been mine. The goddess's mistake cost the poor ba**ard his life. Between ending him and her parents' debt, she had no choice but to agree to become my beloved. They practically threw Jiselle at me but I knew she was only good enough to be a mistress. She believes herself better than others unlike my beautiful Queen who is kind to a fault.

"Come in" I say. The door opens and my head of security, Jared, steps inside. "I'm sorry to bother you my king, but the hag is asking to see you. She is insistent what she has to tell you is important," he says.

"She hasn't asked for me in years. I don't have time to entertain her ramblings. The only reason I allowed her to live is because she helped me stop the prophecy from being fulfilled, allowing me to take my rightful place as king. What does she want?" "The old b**ch will not

speak to anyone, expect you, your majesty," Jared says.

"Fine, but I believe after today she has outlived her usefulness." "Of course, your majesty" he says. I make my way through the castle and into the courtyard. I'm shocked to see her standing near the gate. She is a recluse who required me to visit her in order to tell me of her visions. I've never even seen her step out of the disgusting cottage. What could possibly bring her to the castle's gate? A feeling of unease rolls through me.

I straighten my back and stride toward her. My men bow as I pass them. "Why are you here seer?" "I have news of the prophecy." "What the f**k did you just say?" "It seems the girl lives, your majesty. Your rogues were not successful as you had thought. Someone has helped to

hide her from my magical sight. I sensed her. Her aura was strong. I fear that the first part of the prophecy has been fulfilled based on the anger laced throughout her aura,"

she says. "It cannot be. You must be mistaken." "No disrespect, your majesty, but I am not mistaken. The

Red Wolf is alive and a threat to your throne."

I quickly look around, not wanting anyone to hear the ramblings of this old b**ch. I'm grateful

1/4

+15 Point

9 The Talk (Part 2)

to see that Jared has cleared the area. He has been with me since I killed my brother and

Carmen. I trust him with my life. "You said you sensed her. Was it in the same pack as before?

"No, it wasn't, but the pack is close by. The power didn't last, so I fear that light involved. It's the only explanation for what is masking her power," she says.

magic is

I sense we are being watched, but when I look around, Jared is the only one I see. "Bring her inside so we can finish this conversation. I will not allow my crown to be taken from me. I don't care who I have to kill. I'll wipe out every wolf pack if I need to." "Yes, my king" Jared says as he opens the gate. "Take her through the back entrance and do not let anyone see her." He nods and I make my way inside.

I don't head back to my office right away. I make my way through the servants' quarters. It's been a while since I paid my dear nephew a visit. I push open the door without knocking and his eyes snap up to mine. He stands and quickly drops his gaze to the floor. "Drake," I say, looking around the room with disdain. He had a bed and a chair. Knowing how he suffers makes not being able to end his life a little easier. "I've heard my queen paid you a visit for your birthday. Do you know what happens when the queen disobeys me, Drake?"

I don't expect an answer since I've taken his voice, but the anger at my words is clearly written on his face. His fists are balled at his side. "I will say she takes the punishment without complaint, but the wounds do take some time to heal. If you care for her at all, you will tell her not to visit when she comes again. Next time I will double the punishment."

After a few seconds, he nods. I move closer and grip his chin with my fingers. "I wish I could

have killed you that day along with your parents. Nothing of your pathetic father deserves to live on, but it's fitting because you are nothing. You will never have a beloved. You will die

alone in this little room, nothing but a slave. It's so satisfying to see the boy who was meant

to be king turn into nothing but a pathetic servant," I say before turning to leave.

Lily POV

"I believe you, mom. I just don't understand why the path has to be so painful." I would like to know that myself. I hate that history seems to be repeating itself with you. I have to believe that you will come out of all of this even stronger with a mate that will love you and only you. It may not feel like it now, but I have to believe the goddess has done all this for a good reason," she says. Before she can say anymore, the door to the wing opens and my Aunt Mindy and Uncle Reese step inside.

Her look gives nothing away as she moves to take the seat next to me. "I'm glad you agreed to come back to the pack. I'm sorry that your heart is hurting, but I promise you that your parents only did what the goddess asked. If they had interfered, it could have changed your future. Now I know you want answers and I will tell you everything I can, but I'm going to tell you there

2/4

+15 Points

9 The Talk (Part 2)

will always be things I can't tell you," she says.

I open my mouth to protest, but she raises her hand to silence me. "Unfortunately, as the goddess's embodiment, you are going to learn this first hand. It is a heavy burden to bare, but the goddess chose you because she knew you would be able to handle it," she says. I try to focus but my anger from earlier is still whirling inside me. She made my parents keep things from me.

"A red wolf born of an omega and Alpha will be stronger than any red wolf that came before her. She will have powers that rival the goddess herself. She is her chosen child" she says. before she looks at my parents. She looks back at me before she continues. "She will be betrayed by one that is meant to protect and love her. Many will try to covet her, but her one true mate will only take his rightful place with her by his side," she says.

"I know your mom has figured out that the betrayal of one was just part of the pain the prophecy spoke of" Mindy says. "So you're telling me that the goddess had them keep this from me to cause me even more pain. So I felt betrayed not only by that pr*ck that was supposed to love me but by the people I trust the most. Why, what sense does that make?"

I can feel anger bubbling up inside me. The anger and hurt that I felt earlier towards my parents now solely lies with the goddess. She did this to me. She chose a mate she knew would be unfaithful. She made my parents keep secrets from me. How am I supposed to trust she did all of this for some noble cause? Maybe my dad is right, and we are just pawns in her big game.

"I know your angry Lily and you have every right to be. The goddess will shoulder your anger because she needs you to fulfill the prophecy. Your true mate is suffering, and you are the only one that will change his destiny," she says. "Good I want him to suffer" I blurt out. She takes my hand in hers. "I mean your true mate Lily, not Colton. The mate from the prophecy. Now we need to discuss what happens next." "What do you mean? Who is my mate and why is he suffering?" "Lily, these are the things I can't tell you. What I can tell you is that the Elven king knows you are alive. His seer has sensed your power," Mindy says.

"What the hell? The Elven king, why does he care if I'm alive?" "You are a threat to his continued reign over the Elven people. You finding your true mate will reveal all his wrong doings and remove him from power." I stand not being able to take another moment of this

conversation. Elves, betrayal, lies, and two mates. It's all too much. "I need a break. Am I and

the pack safe right now? I want to know everything that you can tell me, but I feel like my brain is about to explode." ""

3/4

+15 Poin

9 The Talk (Part 2)

"Yes, but we will need to add something for a different type of protection tomorrow" Mindy says. I head towards the hallway before I turn back to everyone. "Yesterday I was a regular she-wolf with stupid problems, and today I'm some wolf of prophecy who is being f**ked over by the goddess. I really wish I could go back to yesterday. "I head to my room and make my way to my bed. It doesn't take long for the darkness to take me under.

Betrayal 105

10 What Could Be Lily POV

"Lily, wake up brave girl." Ariel's voice pulls me from sleep. My eyes flutter open, but I must still be dreaming. I've never seen this place before. Why would I dream about a place I've never been? If I had to guess, I would say it's a castle like you see in horror movies. Great, now I'm going to have a nightmare on top of everything else.

A giggle has me turning toward the sound. I close my eyes and open them again before I pinch myself. "This isn't a dream, Lily," Ariel says. Her voice is still in my head, but my wolf is sitting on her haunches in front of me. So close I can reach out and touch her. "It has to be a dream, or you wouldn't be sitting in front of me."

"She's right, my child. This isn't a dream. This is your opportunity to speak with me," a feminine voice says from behind me. I turn and my eyes land on the most beautiful woman I've ever seen. She doesn't look much older than me, but I know that can't be true. Her long red hair lands just at her waist. Her emerald green eyes remind me of my mother's. "Moon Goddess" I whisper.

"Yes, my child. You have grown into a beautiful young woman. So strong and kind, just as I knew you would be. Now I can't keep you here for too long because you have things you need to handle tomorrow. I know you're angry at me, but I won't apologize for the way things needed to be handled. I hate that you or your mother had to suffer a moment's pain, but I promise you

a moment is far better than a lifetime."

"Why do we have to suffer at all? Why can't good people just be given happiness and bad people suffer?" "I know you are still young, my child, but real life is not a Disney movie. Pain and suffering is something that all of my children must endure because they have free will. Now to help you understand how different things would have been, I brought you here to show you the future that you, your mother, and your true mate would have had if not for my meddling," she says. Search the FindNovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

She leads me down a long hallway to the first door on the right. Ariel nudges me and I reach for the door nob. When I push the door open, I step into a room I've been in many times. It's the Alpha wing of the Black Rose. I hear noises I really don't want to hear before my mother, who looks like she has been crying, steps into the room. Her belly is very round with a pup.

She sits down on the couch and curls herself into a ball. Her sobs make my chest ache. I'm not sure how much time passes when Uncle Reese and a man I've never seen

before step into the room. The a**hat with Reese rolls his eyes when he sees my mother. "For goddess's sake,

1/4

+8 Point:

10 What Could Be

Rosie stop acting like a f**king baby. He is mine as much as he is yours" the pr*ck says. Reese moves to sit next to my mom.

He reaches out to touch her, but she shakes his hand off. "I don't understand why you keep doing this to yourself, Rosie. I love you and Bryce. Why do you have to keep acting so selfish? I told you once you got pregnant that I would start sharing my body with Bryce again, but that

doesn't mean I love you any less. I still want to touch you Rosie. You are my mate. You are having my pup and the next heir to the pack. You are just as important to me," Reese says. Bile rises in my throat as I listen to his words. He reaches out, laying his hand on her stomach, and this time she doesn't stop him. His eyes light up, and I realize the pup must have kicked. "Bryce come feel our pup," Reese says. Bryce makes a move toward my mother, and she quickly gets to her feet. "My pup is not his. If you want to have a pup with him, f**k one of the pack sl*ts" she says with all the venom she can muster.

I smile at her strength, but it quickly fades when her brother grabs her roughly by the arm. His eyes darken and fear flashes in her eyes. "Bryce let her go. She is just hormonal. She didn't mean what she just said. Rosie knows that the pup will belong to the three of us, right Rosie?" I turn to the goddess with tears streaming down my cheeks. "Please," I say, needing to get out of this place. She leads me back out of the room.

She leads me to the second door. I take a deep breath before I wipe the tears from my eyes

and open the door. This time we are in the Blue Crescent pack house. "This is four months

after Colton claimed you. You never caught him with that classless girl the night of his birthday," she says. Colton presses a kiss on my lips before I head out of the pack house. I

follow him up the stairs to his room. When I step inside, he heads into the bathroom.

A few minutes later the door to the room opens and that b**ch Camille steps inside. Despite knowing this isn't really happening, anger flows through me and I fight the urge to grab a hold of the b**ch. She opens the door and Colton whirls toward the sound. "What the f**k are you doing in here," he growls. A moment of hope rises in me before it completely dies. "I told you I would meet you at the cottage. If Lily catches you here, I will snap your neck. I won't lose my mate over a piece of a*** he says.

"Come on, Colty. You know you could never wait two years to f**k. Besides you love my p**sy. Even after you mate with that basic little b**ch, I will still let you f**k me as rough as you want to." "You know that can't happen after we mate, she will feel the pain of my betrayal" he says. "Fine, then just f**k me till you mark the pack princess" she says. He starts to stroke himself, and she moves toward the shower. I run from the room, not needing to see a repeat of them together.

Once I'm back in the hallway, I place my hands on my knees and try to bring air into my lungs.

2/4

+8 Point:

10 What Could Be

I feel like I can't breathe. A soft hand on my back immediately soothes away the raging sadness and pain that's stealing my breath. "I can't take it all away, but I can give you peace in the knowledge that this is no longer your future. You are destined for great things with your true mate," she says. She leads me to the last door.

I'm not sure what I expected, but seeing a small child who looks to be around five years old isn't it. A beautiful woman and handsome man join the scene in what looks like a large garden. I watch as the woman peppers the small boy's face with kisses. The scene quickly shifts to a car accident. Dead rogues litter the ground and the same small boy cries for his parents. The woman opens her eyes desperately trying to wake up who I assume is her mate.

Relief floods me when two men step out of what I'm sure is some type of portal. I watch as one of the men that shares the same features with the injured man approaches the car. I scream as he kills the woman and then the man while the boy looks on. When he moves towards the boy, I scream. Pain ripples through me as he grabs the boy around the neck.

The scene quickly changes to the boy, but he is a little older. I watch as the same man whips him relentlessly. He screams, but no sound will come out. Tears stream down his cheeks before he finally drops to the floor. The man leaves the room, but not long after, a beautiful woman with raven-colored hair steps inside. She tends to his wounds before she holds him close singing softly to him.

The vision shifts again and this time he is no longer a boy, but a man. His face is obscured, but his bare chest is exposed as blood runs down his front. His hands are restrained above his head.

"Now that there is no chance of the prophecy being fulfilled, I can finally be rid of you" the man says. He walks closer to my mate with a dagger in his hand. He pulls back, and again I scream, feeling my mate's pain as the knife pierces his skin. I fall to my knees with the overwhelming feeling of loss. This feeling is a hundred times worse than the pain of Colton's betrayal.

Everything fades and we stand in a meadow. The goddess comes to stand in front of me with Ariel at her side. She places her hand on my head and the same feeling of peace from earlier washes over me. Tears stream down my cheeks with relief that the things the goddess showed me never came to pass.

"The things I've shown you are not because I'm trying to lessen your pain about what has already happened, Lily. It was purely to show you why your mother had to leave and refuse her bond with Reese. Why you had to find Colton with that disgusting she-wolf. Why you have to help your true mate to fulfill his destiny so you can fulfill yours."

3/4

10 What Could Be

"I'm sorry I was so angry with you." She raises her hand to stop me. "You will not apologize for

the feelings that you had every right to have. Believe me, when I say I wish I could protect

every one of my children from suffering, but I expect anger when it does happen. I shoulder that burden gladly."

"One day when you have a pup of your own you will understand. Sometimes you have to let them get hurt to learn the lesson you have already learned, and sometimes you will be able to protect them. The wisdom is knowing which is the right answer at the right time," she says.

"Now, it's time for you to head back. Mindy has a gift that will help to keep you and Liam safe when you leave the pack." Before I can ask her what gift and where we are going, she leans forward, pressing a kiss on my forehead. Warmth spreads through my body and my eyes flutter closed. "I love you Lily. You are strong, and I have faith in you," she whispers.

Betrayal 106

11 It's Over

Colton POV

I head to my room before anyone can try to talk to me. I can't deal with the questions I know are coming. This can't be happening. She wouldn't even let me explain. I know what I did was wrong, but how could she just leave? "There is no but. How would you have felt if we walked in on Lily with one of the pack warriors," Cash says with a growl.

I step into my room and slam the door behind me at the thought of anyone other than me touching her. She is mine. "It's not the same. I've been in a relationship with Camille for four years. It's not like it was just a random girl I hooked up with. Besides, you know I felt guilty and was just about to stop when Lily came into the room."

"So you love Camille, so it was OK for one last hook up. Is that what you're trying to say? Is that the lies you're telling yourself to justify what you did to our beautiful mate" he asks. He knows damn well that I don't love Camille. I cared for her but that feeling left me the moment I realized that Lily was my mate. "It was just s*x Cash. I feel nothing for Camille."

"How the hell did I get paired with such a selfish, egotistical human? I have already spoken to her wolf. Thinking with your d**k has lost us our mate," Cash says. I put the block up because

I refuse to believe that Lily won't give me a chance to make things right. We've known each other all our lives. She is meant to be mine. This is just a bump in the road. Once we accept each other, I won't ever even look at another she-wolf.

A knock on my bedroom door has rage bubbling up inside me. I made it perfectly clear we are done, but apparently Camille didn't get the message. I stalk toward the door ready to tell

Camille to stay the f**k away from me. When I push the door open, I expect Camille, but

instead it's Beck. His eyes are dark and he looks pissed. Before I can react, his fist connects with my jaw.

I land on my a** at his feet. When I look up, he turns leaving my room without a word. I deserved that, but I wish he would have talked to me. I know he's angry, but he knows me. I may have f**ked up, but I love Lily. "I've got to say you must have really f**ked up with Lily for Beck to hit you like that. He loves you like his own brothers," Sam says.

My eyes snap to her as she steps into my room. "Why are you here Sam? I came up here to be alone." "Well, isn't that too bad. You are lucky it's me and not mom. So, are you going to tell me

what you did, or should I guess based on skankzilla downstairs" she says. I get to my feet and move to sit down on the edge of my bed. "I screwed up badly, Sam. I never meant to hurt Lily" She crosses her arms over her chest, waiting for me to continue.

1/4

+8 Points

11 It's Over

"When we got back from the Golden Leaf I went to talk to Rose. My wolf and I realized that Lil was our mate. At first, I was shocked, so I decided to go to my room to wrap my head around it. When I got here, Camille was in my bed naked." "So you thought what the hell let me f**k her one more time for old times sake," she says.

I drop my gaze to the floor. "I wasn't thinking. If I knew Lily realized I was her mate I would never have touched her." "It doesn't matter if Lily knew, you knew. How could you do that to your mate? How could you do that to Lily" she asks. I shoot up and start to pace. "Don't you think I know how badly I f**ked up? I let feelings of lust get the better of me. I knew the minut

we started how wrong it was. I was just about to stop when Lily walked in."

"Well, that makes everything better. You felt guilty before you finished f**king a girl that wasn't your mate. It's too bad you let your d**k make your decisions for you. I love you, Colton, but what you did was horrible. I need to go because right now I can't even look at you. I'm glad I

came instead of mom. You know what our sperm donor did to her. You know how he betrayed her. How could you do that to Lily?" "I'm nothing like him. Don't you ever compare me to that ba**ard."

She turns toward the door. She takes three steps before she turns back to look at me. "Betrayal isn't measured by the severity or number of times. You made a choice to f**k that b**ch because you thought you could get away with it. It doesn't matter if Lily knew you were her mate. It doesn't matter if it was only once. It doesn't matter that you felt guilty. You should have walked away from her, but you didn't," she says.

"You destroyed what was meant to be a gift. If Lily decides to reject you, I hope you understand it's what you deserve" she says before she steps out of my room, closing the door behind her. I slam my fist into the wall over and over until my knuckles are

bloody. I can't lose Lily. I will beg for her forgiveness if I have to. I'll never accept her rejection. She is meant to be mine.

I head into the bathroom peeling off my clothes. When I look into the mirror I notice the side of my face where Beck hit me is turning black and blue. "Take a good look. You deserve far worse. I won't be healing your face or your hand. You can look in the mirror every day until you heal and remember what you did to our mate," Cash says before he blocks me.

Lily POV

I stretch feeling far better than when my head hit the pillow last night. Seeing what could have been definitely helped me understand that there is a bigger picture. I'm ready to deal with Colton and talk to Mindy about my true mate. I take a quick shower. I pull on jeans and a gray

t-shirt. Pulling my hair into a ponytail and throwing on some chapstick, I head out of my bedroom. My parents are sitting at the table, both with coffee mugs in their hands.

2/4

+8 Point

11 It's Over

My mother jumps up as soon as she sees me. She pulls me into a hug and I breathe in her familiar scent. She steps back, and I can tell she is worried about all I said before I went to bed last night. "I'm alright mom. We have a lot to discuss, but I want to deal with Colton first." "Are you sure your ready to talk to him Lily? There is no rush. You can take as long as you

need," she says.

"I'm sure I need to do this now. I'll explain everything once we sit down with Mindy, but right now Ariel and I need to talk to our soon-to-be ex-mate. She nods, and I'm grateful when my parents don't follow me. I make my way downstairs intending to head to Colton's room.

A voice I wish I didn't have to hear again calls out to me. It's funny but all the anger I had

about her f**king Colton has faded. Don't get me wrong, I wouldn't mind kicking her a** but she isn't the one that was supposed to love me and only me. Colton made the choice to cheat. She is just pathetic and, honestly, I have no desire to entertain her.

I keep walking, not even acknowledging that she had just said my name. I take three more steps before I'm yanked back by my arm. "I am talking to you, you little b**ch" she says as she digs her nails into my skin. Ariel tries to push to the surface, but I hold her back. Before

Camille can breathe another word, I ball up my fist and punch her in the throat. She immediately releases me and I take a step back, enjoying the panicked look on her face. Her face turns red as she tries to breathe, but it sounds like she is trying to suck air through a straw. I step closer to her and she scrambles back. "That was a warning to stay the f**k away from me. I really don't care what you do with Colton because I'm not his anymore, but I won't think twice about ending your pathetic life if you come near me again."

"Lily, you don't mean that," Colton says from behind me and I resist the urge to roll my eyes. "Leave now," I say to Camille. Her hand is still on her throat but her breathing has returned to normal. She runs off like her a** is on fire down the stairs. I turn to face the man that I thought would be my forever, but now all I see is a boy that I feel nothing for.

"What happened to your face?" "Your dad stopped by last night. I'm surprised he only punched me once," he says. I fight the urge to smile knowing my father popped him and his wolf isn't healing him. "Colton, we need to talk about our mate bond." "I agree. You will never know how

sorry I am about what happened yesterday. I never meant to hurt you Lily," he says.

"Did you know I was your mate when you scr*wed her?" I ask him, even though I already know

the answer. I want to see if he'll be honest with me. "I don't want to lie to you Lily" he says.

"Then don't. Tell me the truth." "Yes, I knew. I'm so sorry. I wish I could take it back. I promise I love you and only you. It was just a mistake," he says as tears run down his cheeks.

"A mistake is putting sugar instead of salt on your food. You made a choice, and it wasn't me."

3/4

+8 Paint

11 It's Over

He quickly moves toward me and drops to his knees. I thought his tears and pleading would make what I'm about to do more difficult, but it doesn't. Between seeing him with

her and what the goddess showed me, all the romantic love I had for Colton disappeared like a puff of smoke.

"Please, Lily, I will spend the rest of my life showing you how much I love you. I will never even look at another she-wolf for as long as I live," he says. "Even if that were true I can't accept what you've done. I can't be your mate. I, Lily Louise Forester, reject you, Colton Kramer, as m mate."

His hands fly to his chest, and he falls to his side. "Lily, please don't do this. I won't accept it," he manages to croak out. I bend down needing him to hear me. "Then you will feel everything when I mate and mark my true mate. It's your choice if you want to suffer that pain." "I, Colton Kramer, do not accept your rejection" he says.

Betrayal 107

12 Be Prepared

Drake POV

I shoot up in bed as sweat pours down my body. Thankful that the nightmare of the day I lost my parents that has plagued my dreams since my birthday is over for now. Something about the nightmare is different from when I was a child. I'm not sure why, but when Samuel takes me into his arms, I keep seeing a woman wearing a long white dress watching from the trees.

She isn't alone. A large red wolf is sitting on its haunches at her side. Before I wake up, I

watch my parents walk toward her even though I know neither of those things happened that day.

Every time I wake up, it's the same. I'm sweating and my chest aches. The pain of losing them never lessens. Watching my uncle kill my parents and not being able to stop it or tell anyone

is worse than death. I remember wanting to scream that day. Tell Elder Samuel that David

killed his king and queen. That my parents would still be alive if not for the evil man

pretending he cared about me. Pretending that he was there to fight the rogues when in actuality he sent them.

He took everything from me that day. When I realized that, not only couldn't I speak, but I couldn't write about anything that happened. It was like he locked that memory in my head to

replay over and over. I cried even though no sound would come out. I remember Jasmine

holding me as I sobbed for my parents and all I had lost. She offered me comfort when my world was crumbling.

Watching how my uncle treated his beloved was like another stone added to the heavy weight

that weighed down on me. Not being able to speak or use my powers to protect Jasmine still

kills me.

Having that ba**ard threaten to hurt her again made me sick to my stomach. He is so evil I don't even think he really has a soul. I couldn't help but focus on his words about punishing her. What has he been doing to her all this time when she visits me? I knew he was a pr*ck and hurt me, but I had hoped he wasn't physical with his wife.

I will never forget my birth mother, but Jasmine is my mother now. She is the woman that, despite my circumstances, has cared for me. She has loved me even when I felt like giving up. Now to find out that he has been hurting her when she visits me, I need to make sure she doesn't come here again. I will not have her suffering because of me.

I roll out of bed and grab my things to shower. It's already five, and I need to be in the kitchen. before Jared makes his rounds. I head into the communal shower that the slaves share. I peel 1/4

+8 Points

12 Be Prepared

off my sweaty shirt and shorts. I step under the spray using what little we're given to get

clean. If my father was still alive he would never have allowed the weaker elves to be used like

this.

They are provided the bare minimum. Those who are now slaves were once considered elven laborers. Once Elder Samuel disappeared, my uncle used intimidation to sway the remaining council about the need to make changes in class. He compared slaves to

omegas. They are provided for, but they have no power or status in the elven community. He also was able to convince the council that since I couldn't speak and never received my royal powers because

of the trauma I endured, that I was not fit to rule our people.

He, along with his queen, would rule the kingdom until a proper heir was born and came of age. I just hope that Daniel continues to be like his mother. He and Dianna are like my brother and sister. I love them. Oh, goddess, does he hurt them too? I push those thoughts from my mind. After today, I will tell Jasmine not to visit or bring the kids to see me.

I just pray that when Daniel becomes king things return to what they should have been. Then at least my people will have a fair and loving leader again. I just pray that my uncle doesn't corrupt him. I towel off and quickly dress in my worn pants and shirt.

I return my things to my room and slide the watch that Jasmine gave me into my pocket. As I make my way to the kitchen, warriors either sneer at me or give me looks of pity. Some are too young to know what happened to my parents, so they just think I'm some defective elf that is getting what I deserve by being treated as a slave.

As soon as I reach the kitchen, I start to prep breakfast. "It's such a pity that such a handsome

man is so useless," Jiselle says from behind me. Goddess, she is such a slimy b**ch. It is

hard to believe that she is any way related to Jasmine. Hell, from what I hear, my uncle f**ks

her far more often than he does his own wife. Although I'm sure Jasmine is grateful for that since she loathes him. I smile before I can stop myself.

"Do you find something amusing mute" she asks. I shake my head and continue to tend to the

eggs. A hand on my a** has me practically jumping out of my skin. I turn glaring at her. She has never touched me before, but I guess that's because I wasn't eighteen before. I can't stop the feeling of disgust at the thought of this woman lusting over me.

I shake my head again and she laughs. "Come on now mute. It's not like you have a lot of offers. You probably will never find your beloved and, even if you do, who the hell would want to be mated to a mute slave? You don't want to die a virgin. Besides, I can show you exactly why the king prefers me over my sister."

"I don't prefer you, Jiselle. You are simply a warm body that can be used anyway I see fit. I f**k

214

A Points

12 Be Prepared

you like a wh*re because that's what you are. I love my wife and I show her that often. She is my queen, while you pale in comparison. Now leave the slave alone and return to your room. I'll be there soon to remind you what happens when you act like a wanton sl*t" he says. I can see the fear and hurt in her eyes. If she wasn't such an evil b**ch I might actually feel bad for

her.

He stalks toward me while two guards remain by the door. I prepare myself for what's coming. His fist connects with my stomach before his knee connects with my face. I manage to stay

on my feet, which only pisses him off more. He grabs me by the hair, forcing me to look at him.

"Get back to work before I take you to the cells, you pathetic waste. She was right about one thing, you know. You will never know what it feels like to have the love of a woman because no woman will ever want you," he says. He drops his voice so only I can hear him. "You are just as pathetic as your father. It's too bad I had to let you live." I ball my fists at my sides. I say a silent prayer to the goddess that some day he gets everything he deserves.

Lily POV Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

I make my way to my father's office after leaving Colton to deal with the rejection. I know I

should feel more, but all I feel right now is numb, which is better than falling apart. Colton made his choice and I made mine. My concern right now is learning all I can about my true mate. He is suffering and I need to find him.

I knock before I push the door open. My parents, Mindy and Reese, are already waiting. Seeing Reese after everything the goddess showed me reminds me just how strong my mother is. She not only refused to accept him, but she forgave him. I hope in time I'll be able to do the

same. I don't want to make our family choose between me and Colton.

"Are you alright Lily" my mother asks as she pats the seat next to her. "I will be. Now that I've dealt with Colton I need to tell you about my visit from the Moon Goddess" I tell them about everything she showed me. When my eyes fall on Reese, he looks like he's about to be sick. His eyes meet mine and fear flashes in them. This is a man I've considered my uncle all of my life. "I'm so sorry Lily. Sorry that you had to see that. Sorry that I was ever a man who thought he could be so f**king selfish. I love you like you are one of my own pups. Please forgive me?" Tears stream down his cheeks as Mindy rubs his back. "Reese, that is not who you are anymore. Everything worked out the way it was supposed too," my mom says. I stand coming

around the small coffee table and hug Reese. He holds me tight for a few seconds before he finally releases me. "I love you too, Uncle Reese. I'm glad you aren't that man anymore. I'm happy that you realized how horrible your decisions were. I hope someday Colton will do the

same."

3/4

+8 Point

12 Be Prepared

I retake my seat next to my mom. "The goddess said that you would give me something I would need when I leave the pack," I say to Mindy. "What do you mean leave the pack? You can't leave the pack. You are protected here" my father says, his voice laced with panic. Before I can answer, Mindy pulls a ring from her pocket. It's beautiful with a modest-sized ruby set on a platinum band. She offers me the ring and I slip it on my finger.

"What the hell just happened" my mother asks. I look at her confused. She stands moving toward my father's desk. She riffles through the drawers until she brings out a small mirror. When she brings it to me, I almost drop it. I look totally different. My hair is red and freckles dot my cheeks, but that's not the biggest change. The tips of my ears are both pointed.

I look at Mindy and she smirks. "You will need to be hidden in plain sight. I have a leather bracelet for Liam as well. They are both enchanted and will still allow you to reach your wolves, but no one else will be able to sense them. You will also receive your powers as you need them. Trust your instincts and Liam," Mindy says.

"What the hell are you saying? You were the one that said she needed to be in the pack. Now you're giving her enchanted rings to look like an elf. Did you forget the Elven

King is the one that wanted her dead" my father asks, his voice rising with each word. I know he's scared, but he has to trust me.

Betrayal 108

13 The Witch is Dead

Lily POV

"Dad, I'm not a pup anymore. After everything I've learned about myself and Ariel, I need you I

trust me. Even if you're scared, you are going to have to trust me. What would

What would you do if you knew mom was being abused or in danger?" "I would burn the world down to get to her and kill

anyone who hurt her" he says. My mother smiles, knowing he means every word.

"Someone is hurting my mate, dad. I can't stay here knowing that I'm destined to save him. I'm

the hero in my own love story. I've accepted that Colton wasn't ever going to be my forever, bu

this man is supposed to be. All the bad stuff that's happened was for a reason. The reason was showing me how strong I am."

"I won't lie and say I'm not scared of being away from the pack and my family, but do you know what I'm more afraid of dad? I'm afraid that I won't get to him. I won't get the chance to burn the world to the ground and kill the people that are hurting him."

I can feel the tears flow down my cheeks as I remember the visions the goddess showed me. My father pulls me into his arms and I bury my head in his chest. "I'm so proud of you Lily. You will always be my pup, but I do trust you. I trust you to come back to me and your mom safely.

I trust you to bring your mate here so I can put the fear of the goddess in him that if he ever hurts my daughter he will deal with me," he says, and I can feel his smile against the top of my

head.

Jasmine POV

The words that woman spoke at the gate keep replaying over in my mind. I'm tempted to make a trip to see Elder James since he is the oldest of our kind, but I fear he will mention my questions to David. Why would a prophecy involving a Red Wolf matter to the Elven King? He must fear something because he never came to bed last night until almost midnight. He was hold up in his office with Jared and that old woman late into the night.

I was glad when he was gone before I woke up this morning. The less time I have to spend with that ba**ard the better. The only good that has come from my punishment was he hasn't touched me. I would take the bite of the belt ten times over his touch. I have learned over the years to not act repulsed by his touch.

I'm sure he is using Jiselle to meet his needs and I couldn't care less. His touch has always made my skin crawl. I shake those thoughts away as I gather Diane and Daniel for school. They are the only good that has ever come from that man. They chatter all the way to their classroom, which makes me smile. Once I have the kids situated with their teacher, I head to VA

13 The Witch is Dead

my office. I retrieved several books from the archives, but I don't have high hopes I'll find something about wolf prophecy in them.

An hour later I've gotten through two books when there is a knock on my office door. I quickly hide the books under my desk before I call out to whoever is knocking. I know my guards are outside, so whoever has approached has been approved by them. When the door swings open

I'm shocked to see Jiselle.

She doesn't usually bother me when my guards are around. She knows that they will report her behavior to David. She must be desperate to show up here. The guard steps in behind her. "Really, I have to be supervised to visit my own sister" she says, rolling her eyes. When she steps closer to my desk, I notice that her lip is split and there is a faint bruise above her eye. I don't respond to her whining as I sit back in my chair. "Jasmine, can we please talk alone. It's something I don't feel comfortable discussing in front of this man," she pleads. "I have strict orders that you are not to be alone with the Queen," Vince says. Out of all my guards, he is the one that I trust the most. "You heard my guard. Whatever you need to say will have to be said in front of him."

"Fine, I just wanted to remind you how pathetic you are." Vincent goes to step toward her and I raise my hand to stop him. "Let her say what she wants. She must have pissed the king off.

She is worried he will replace her with another mistress. She is trying to goad me into engaging her so he will think I'm jealous of her, so he won't get rid of her. Who is the

pathetic one, Jiselle? I haven't been a mistress for the last fifteen years. I'm not the one who rejected

my fate to be someone's second choice."

I can see Vincent fighting the urge to smile. He gives me a nod and Jiselle screeches. Stomping her foot she glares at me. "You're wrong. David loves me. He would never replace me. What kind of woman stays with a man she knows cheats on her? You were never woman

enough to keep him satisfied."

"So what did you do to piss off your lover, Jiselle? He usually leaves your face untouched, so must have been something that really pissed him off." "You b**ch. You think you're special because David chose you, but you're not. If he had seen me first, I would have been his wife and the Queen." I can't help but laugh. "Jiselle, nothing you have to say is going to bother me. I am not the same girl I was when David married me."

"I have never cared when he was with you, Jiselle, and nothing has changed that would make me care now. In fact, your welcome to f**k him anytime you want with my blessing. You won't get the response you're looking for, so get the f**k out of my office."

"Maybe I should go back to the kitchen and get the pathetic mute in trouble again. It seems

2/4

+3 Paints

13 The Witch is Dead

you care about him. I hear you visit him often. I bet if I did that it would make you care. I bet that would piss you off." I'm on my feet with my hands pressed to the desk. "You leave Drake alone Jiselle. I will not tell you twice."

"Maybe I'll tell David just how much you care about the hot slave that works in the kitchen. Maybe I'll tell him you've been f**king him. What would David do if he thought you were unfaithful? He'd probably kill you both. Surely I'd be more than a mistress then. I would be

Queen as it should have always been."

She has no idea who Drake is to David or to me. The fact she is talking about him has anger like I've never known burning in my chest. I feel a surge of power. Vincent starts to move toward her, but I won't let him interfere. She has been nothing but a viper all my

life, but she will not threaten my child. Before I can stop myself, vines shoot from my hands. One wraps

around Vincent and the other around Jiselle.

"What the f**k is this? How are you doing this? You have no powers. You were born a f**king slave," she manages to croak out before the vines wrap around her neck. Vincent looks on in search the (f)indNØvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

disbelief but stays quiet. As the vine that is around Jiselle's throat gets tighter and tighter, her

eyes finally meet mine. "You will never threaten my child again. I hope the goddess gives you everything you deserve, you disgusting b**ch."

Her body goes limp and the vines recede. "My queen the king is on his way," Vincent says, panic in his voice. "I will handle it." Seconds later the door bangs open and David steps inside, followed by Jared. He looks at Jiselle's lifeless body before he looks at me. I wait for him to

demand an answer from me, but instead he just stares his face impassive.

He finally turns to Vincent. "Clean this mess up now. The queen won't need you for the rest of the day" he says. Vincent nods but shoots me a concerned look as he bends to pick up Jiselle's body. I know he won't kill me, but I'm not sure what he will do to me for killing his mistress. He reaches his hand out, and I place mine in his without hesitation. I don't need to give him anymore fuel for whatever punishment he has planned.

He leads me back to our wing. Once we step inside, he sits on the couch pulling me onto his lap. "I'm so sorry my love." He must see my confusion because he continues. "I know my relationship with Jiselle has always been hard on you, but I've tried to make sure, despite my indiscretions to let you knew how much I loved you. I haven't done a very good job these last few days," he says.

Goddess, he really thinks that I give a sh*t about him. He is the most delusional elf on the planet. He forced me into this marriage and, despite accepting my fate, I have never let the words I love you pass my lips. He cups my cheek with his hand. "I'm sorry that you were so worried about losing me that you felt you had no other choice but to kill your sister. I promise 3/4

+8 Point

13 The Witch is Dead

you my love there will never be anyone that can take away your husband or title," he says. He pulls my face down and presses his lips against mine. I've learned over the years to allow my mind to wander, so I don't pull away from his touch. I feel him lift me and I know my reprieve from his disgusting touch is over. I'm just glad that Drake is safe. I have no doubt that my sister would have done exactly what she threatened to do. I won't let anyone hurt him. My children are the only happiness I have, and I will protect them until my dying breath. 12

Betrayal 109

14 Move Forward

Colton POV

It's been three days since Lily rejected me. Besides training, I haven't left my room. I had hoped this feeling of emptiness would lessen, but I think it has gotten worse. Cash is barely talking to me, but honestly he couldn't hate me more than I already hate myself. If I'm honest, I knew long before my birthday that Lily was meant to be mine.

I buried those feelings deep, hoping that I was wrong. Hoping the goddess would give her a

mate that could stand by her side as her equal. A mate that she deserved. The knowledge that

I could be Alpha scared the sh*t out of me. I was both scared of losing her and of being with her.

Lily has always been this strong, outgoing girl. My best friend until I decided that being popular was more important than protecting her. What kind of friend does that? What kind of man is worried that he isn't good enough for his Alpha mate so he f**ks everything up? He

decides that it's easier to pull away from the one person he is meant to stay close to. A stupid man and now there is nothing I can do to undo what I've done.

I make no move when I hear the first knock on my door. I really don't want to see anyone. Sam

can't even look at me. She is so angry at what I've done. Every time that I've spoken with my parents, the look of disappointment in their eyes' guts me even more. Whoever

it is can't take the hint because they continue to bang. Finally, fed up with the relentless knocking, I get to my

feet and throw the door open. I'm shocked to see Reese. "You look like sh*t" he says.

"Hello to you to, Alpha." "Cut that bulls*t right now. We may not be blood, but I consider you family. Now, you are going to take a shower. Then you and I are going to sit down and discuss

what you need to do next. I've been where you are. I'm giving you thirty minutes. Don't make

me come back here to get you" he says. I fight the urge to roll my eyes as he turns to leave my

room.

I'm in no mood to have a heart-to-heart, but I guess I have no choice. I grab sweats and a

t-shirt before heading to the bathroom. I'm showered and dressed in fifteen minutes. I step out of my room, locking my door behind me. "Worried you won't be able to control yourself if you find me naked in your bed again?" The sound of her voice has Cash pushing to the surface.

As angry as I am at Camille, it's me that betrayed Lily. "Camille, I can say this with one hundred percent certainty. I will never touch you again. I lost the best thing that ever happened to me for a quick f**k that surely wasn't worth destroying my life. I take full responsibility for my actions because I should have thrown you out on your a** the minute I

1/4

14 Move Forward

I

+8 Point

stepped into the room, but you were familiar and safe. I never loved you. Hell, most of the time

I didn't even like you."

"You know why you always had to talk sh*t about Lily because you're jealous. She is everything you are not. She is kind, strong, and loyal. She isn't afraid to defend people

she cares about. She is going to be an amazing alpha and mate. You, on the other hand, need to put her down to feel better about all the things you're not. I'll say this one last time. Don't talk to me or come near me again, or I will file a formal complaint with Alpha Beck for s*xual misconduct."

She throws her head back and laughs. "You f**ked me many times Colton. You can't really cry s*xual misconduct when I've had you inside me. So believe me when I say that I will never let you be happy with that little b**ch. Even if you won't f**k me again, I'll make sure she thinks you have. She will never take back her rejection. So you can either get on board with taking me as a chosen mate, or you can be mateless for the rest of your life. You can watch the little pack princess make someone else her mate while you die alone."

I growl taking a step closer. "I would rather die mateless than ever be mated to a nasty b**ch like you. It makes me sick to my stomach that I ever touched you." "What the hell is going on here?" I turn to see Reese and Beck. It isn't until I see Beck's eyes flash black that I realize how close I'm standing to Camille and what he must think. "Alpha, this isn't," I start to say, but he cuts me off with a growl. A hand on my chest has my head snapping toward Camille. I

immediately take a step back.

"Do not touch me. Alpha, please let me explain." "No, I want to hear what Camille has to say," S~earch the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Beck says. "I was just having a conversation with my boyfriend, Alpha. We had a little spat,

and we were about to make up," she says, trying to act innocent. I open my mouth to call her a f**king liar, but Beck's look silences me. "You know what I think, Camille. I think that Colton

may have made a mistake by going there with you on his birthday, but I think he's sorry. I think he regrets what he did. You, on the other hand, aren't. Alpha Reese and I just heard everything that you both said," Beck says.

I can't help the smile that spreads across my face when the color drains from her face. "So this is what's going to happen, Camille. You are going to spend a week in the cells. If I even hear that you come within one hundred feet of Colton, I will banish your a** so fast your head will spin" he says. "You can't do that" she whines. He takes a step toward her and fear flashes in her eyes. I'm enjoying every minute of it.

"I can and I will. s****I misconduct is a serious offense, and it doesn't matter if its being done against a man or woman in my pack. I can't banish you for interfering with Colton

and Lily's bond because I can't prove you knew, but make no mistake, you have been warned about

+8 Points

14 Move Forward

harassing Colton. It ends today, or you will find yourself becoming a rogue." Two guards make their way toward her and she screeches. As they drag her away, I pray that she comes near me again, so Beck can banish her a**.

"Well, now I know why you were late" Reese says. As Beck turns to leave without a word, my

heart aches not only for what I've lost with Lily but the damage I've done to my family. I consider Beck my brother and losing him is another consequence of my stupidity.

"I'm sorry, Beck" I say and his step falters. He turns back and for a second I wonder if he'll tell

me he doesn't care. "I know you are Colton. I'm just going to need time. You hurt my daughter. I'm glad that you took responsibility and are trying to make amends. Hopefully, someday that will be enough."

"Alright, let's go have that talk" Reese says. I follow him to a sitting room on the Beta floor. "That was pretty intense. I'm glad that Beck and I were there to hear that conversation." "Me too. After everything that happened, I wasn't sure that Beck would believe me if I tried to defend myself against all the sh*t she was spouting." "Beck has every right to be angry at you, Colton, but despite what you did, he still loves you. I think that's why it hurts him even more. Lily didn't just lose her mate, he lost his future son-in-law," Reese says.

"I just wish I had a do-over. I wish I could step back in time and kick my own a** for being so stupid." "Well you can't. Believe me, I know better than anyone what it feels like to destroy what was meant to be. I know you know some of my story, but the truth is I thought I could have my mate and her brother. I was selfish and entitled, but I don't think that's why you blew up your life. You want to tell me what possessed you to give in to the she-devil I just saw downstairs."

"Honestly, Reese, I don't feel like I'm good enough. I mean I know I have Beta blood, but I'm no even the strongest warrior. I just felt at some point Lily would realize that she could have someone so much better. Did you know I basically stopped being her friend because Camille

and some of my other friends pretty much said she was a pup. Hell, we are only two years older than her but instead of shutting that sh*t down, I stopped hanging out with

Lily." "The thing is, life is a series of choices, both good and bad. Sometimes people can forgive us easily, but sometimes they can't. Taking ownership of your f**k up is the first step, but it's not the most difficult. When Rose left, I thought I could convince her to forgive me. That the mate bond was enough to make her at least give me a chance to make things right, but the pain I caused her wasn't something she could ever forget," Reese says.

"So you're saying I need to accept her rejection. Not even try to fight for her forgiveness?" Colton, what you did was sh*tty, but it was nothing compared to what I did. You are the only one who can make the decision whether to accept the rejection or not, but what I want you to 3/4

+8 Point

14 Move Forward

understand is ultimately how you move forward with Lily is up to her now," he says.

"You can accept her rejection and hope one day to move forward as friends, or you can hold on to something that may never become reality. I just want you to remember that no matter what, you aren't alone. Even though your family is disappointed, it hasn't changed the love they have for you. So my question to you is what do you want for Lily, Colton" he asks. "It seems like a simple answer, but all I want is for her to be happy. She deserves to be happy."

A throat clearing has me turning toward the sound. I'm confused when I see Mindy walk around and join Reese on the couch. "That was an excellent answer Colton. Now let's talk about how we can make that happen," Mindy says.

Betrayal 110

15 What Happens Next

Lily POV

I swear I feel like my brain is going to explode. I expected to leave for the Elven Kingdom right after I spoke to my father, but that idea was quickly vetoed. After talking to Mindy, I understood why, but it didn't make Ariel or I feel any better about waiting a week to leave. Goddess only knows what is happening to our mate while we are here learning elven history. Flashback

"What do you mean? I told you what the goddess showed me. The longer we wait the more pain and suffering my mate is enduring. What if we don't make it to him in time" I say my voice rising with each word. Ariel is pacing in my head. How can she expect me to sit here and listen to her talk about the elf tribes?

"I understand how you are feeling, Lily, but rushing off unprepared will not save your mate. Entering the Elven Kingdom requires magic which you now possess, but it also requires knowledge. If a random wolf showed up in your pack claiming to belong, you wouldn't just welcome them with open arms. You need to be able to answer questions to not raise suspicion" Mindy says.

"We also need to discuss who will be accompanying you" she says. I look at her like she has ten heads. "We both know Liam will be accompanying me. He is my protector." "I understand

that, but to put your parents' minds at ease, another warrior will be joining you," she says. I open my mouth to protest that the goddess only said Liam, but she cuts me off. "The goddess came to me yesterday. She insists a warrior also accompany you on this journey," she says.

"Is it my decision which one or is this also being decided for me?" Mindy shakes her head but offers me a reassuring smile. "It is your decision. Pick someone that you feel that you can trust and that will take orders well. You don't need some meathead who thinks he is in charge"

she says. I can't help the laugh that bubbles up my throat.

"I choose Grant. He has always respected me as a fighter. I believe he could follow my orders

unlike some of the other male warriors." "Good, now we have a lot of information to cover so you are ready. I'll have Reese get Grant and Liam. They need to be here for this too. You all need to be able to blend in with the elves you encounter," she says.

Flashback Ends

We leave tomorrow, and the journey will take another three days. Needless to say, I wish we were already there. I'm supposed to have breakfast with my family before we say our

1/4

*B Paint

15 What Happens Next

goodbyes. A knock on my bedroom door interrupts my thoughts. When I open it I'm shocked.

to see Colton. We haven't spoken since the rejection. I won't lie and say that seeing the dark circles under his eyes and his look of defeat doesn't affect me because it does.

A part of me will always love Colton, but I don't think I could ever get past what he did. "Hey, I was hoping I could talk to you for a minute. I know I'm the last person you want to see, but I was hoping you would give me a chance to say a couple of things," he says. I push open my door and he takes a seat at the chair sitting near my vanity. "I'm not even going to say I'm sorry because you're right, they are just useless words" he says.

"I want you to know if I could take back what I did, I would, but I can't. I let my own insecurities lead me to stupid choices, and I'm not even talking just about what you walked in on. I mean not protecting you from vile people. Not choosing you when it mattered most. Not being the friend that you deserved. I will forever live with the regret of my actions. I want you to be happy Lily. You are going to be an amazing Alpha and any man will be lucky to call you his" he says.

His words have my chest tightening. "I'm going to be leaving the pack for a while, but I needed to see you first. Make sure you understand how amazing and perfect you are. Despite what I did, I will always love you, Lily. I, Colton Kramer, accept your rejection." Tears are streaming down both our cheeks as the last tether of our bond snaps. I thought I would feel relief when he accepted the rejection, but all I feel is empty.

He stands and starts toward the door. "Colton, you don't need to leave the pack. What about your parents and my parents? What about Samantha? You can't just leave. This is your home. We are your family." He offers me a sad smile. "Yes you are and nothing will ever change that. This won't be forever, but this is the best way for me to make things right," he says. Without thinking, I rush toward him, wrapping my arms around his middle. Goddess, I hate that f**king prophecy. He presses a kiss on the top of my head before he turns leaving my room. As soon as he's gone, I collapse on the bed and sob. I cry for my own pain and for Colton's. I could see the regret and pain in his eyes with every word he spoke. I pray he finds happiness.

When I finally manage to get myself under control, I go to find my mom. I'm sure she is going to be upset about Colton leaving. My grandmother will be heartbroken. Maybe she can talk him into staying. I know she doesn't talk about it much, but losing her son, no matter the reason, was devastating.

I don't want her to lose Colton because of me. Even if he just went to stay with Sam until we

have both had time to heal. Besides I have no idea how long I'll be gone. It doesn't make sense

for him to leave now.

2/4

+ Point

15 What Happens Next

I find my mom in the kitchen baking with Gia. She offers me a warm smile when she sees me, but it doesn't reach her eyes. I realize at that moment he has already talked to her. "Mom" I say, my voice cracking. She drops her spoon and comes around the counter pulling me into her arms. I don't understand why I'm so upset after what he did, but I am. That's a lie. I understand that despite what he did, I still care about him. I don't want to see him hurt or alone.

"It's going to be alright Lily bear. As much as I begged him not to go, his mind is made up. We need to trust him. Trust that he knows leaving is what he needs to do. He promised to check in and come back when he feels the time is right" she says. "What about nana? She is going to be upset."

She pulls back and looks into my eyes. "Nana and Charlie support his decision. They had a long talk and believe me, as much as they want him to stay, they support his need to make his

own path," she says.

"The goddess will watch over him on his journey, Lily. We need to focus on ours now. Let's go for a run and clear our heads," Ariel says. "I'm going to go for a run mom." "I think that's a good idea. Make sure you're back in time for dinner and a movie. We want to spend time as a family tonight before you leave tomorrow," she says. She brushes the hair back off my shoulder. "I'm going to miss you while you're gone. I'm so proud of the woman you have become," she says. "That's because I have an amazing mother and father." She smiles and presses one last kiss

to my forehead before I head out of the pack house. Once I'm in the pack yard I link Liam. "You think you are so special, but you're not. Even your mate didn't want you. I guess we both know

you aren't special at all, don't we, pack princess," Camille says from behind me.

I turn around and almost burst out laughing when I see how disheveled she looks. She must

have left the cells and sought me out. "You really are a pathetic b**ch and a slow learner. I

guess you learned nothing after that throat punch the other day." Her hand immediately goes to her throat. "I think it's time to show this b**ch just how special we are" Ariel says. "Are you sure?" "Yep, I'm sick of her constant vitriol. Soon enough, everyone will know we are the Red

Wolf."

I can't help the smile that spreads across my face. "What the hell are you smiling about" she shrieks. I take a step closer and Ariel pushes forward. My eyes flip from my natural color to Ariel's emerald green. She staggers back, almost falling on her a**. "What the f**k was that" she asks, and I wonder if she meant to ask the question out loud.

"That would be my very special wolf." "You're a liar. You aren't old enough to have a wolf" she says. This time when Ariel pushes forward, I don't stop her. When we shift, our body towering 3/4

+8 Points

15 What Happens Next

over a screaming Camille. Liam comes to stand next to us and runs his hand down Ariel's side. Liam is as close to me as any of my blood. He is my protector and I trust him completely. We take a step back and shift.

Liam hands me a long t-shirt that covers all my private areas. My eyes meet Camille's and I stop the laugh that wants to escape me. She looks like she just saw a ghost. She is babbling, and I can't make out one coherent word. "Let that be the last time you ever speak to me or

next time I'll let my wolf show you just how special we are." I turn making my way toward the trees. "I'll bet that felt good" Liam says. "Good isn't even the word. Seeing her almost piss herself was the highlight of my day."

When we reach the clearing we both strip and shift. We take off and the feeling of the wind whipping past us seems to settle the turmoil I feel over Colton leaving. As we weave in and out of the trees, I say a silent prayer to the goddess to protect Colton and bring him back to the pack safely. My mind returns to the man that is meant to be my forever. I'm coming for you mate.