

Chapter 32 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Jayden POV (Beckham's Brother)

I pick up my head and stare at the pr*ck that just kicked me in the face. "Come on great Alpha, defend yourself," Waller says. I laugh wiping the blood away from my lips. "Still pisses you off that all you'll ever be is a wannabe Alpha, Waller. No matter how much you hit me, it won't change that you don't have an ounce of Alpha blood in your body."

He growls before he punches me in the face. I hear the tell-tale crunch of my nose breaking. A gush of blood rushes from my nose. I laugh again, further pissing him off. Reaching my hands up, I manage to straighten my nose before my wolf heals it. "Goddess, I can't wait to kill this pr*ck" Atlas, my wolf growls in my head. "Let's just hope we get the chance." "Have faith in your brother" he says.

"I lost faith in him a long time ago. He left and didn't look back. If it wasn't for Jacob, I would have killed Corey and his evil spawn long ago. I would have claimed the pack that he should have after he killed that ba**ard that helped create us." Atlas gets quiet because he knows I'm right.

I wish Mindy had never showed up a week ago, giving us hope. It's been over three years since my brother killed our sperm donor and left. Had I known that Mindy helped him, I would have begged her to convince him to come back. We could have dealt with Corey and his ba**ard son together. I know he lost his mate that day, but I lost my brother and best friend. The pack lost its true Alpha.

I was left to protect our little brother. It's the only way they can control me. He doesn't have a wolf to defend himself yet. "Maybe we should go visit Jakey since your being so disrespectful to the future Alpha of this pack." I can't help the growl that rips through my throat. Atlas pushes forward at his disrespect, and my aura surrounds everyone in the room. Waller fights against it, but he can't win against a true Alpha. He bears his neck in submission.

His four lackeys are practically breaking their necks as they fall to their knees. I want to enjoy the moment, but I know what my show of dominance just bought me. The door to the room opens and Corey steps inside, followed by three of his loyal warriors. He sneers at his son before he stalks in my direction. The warriors move toward me cautiously. "Restrain him" he commands. The warriors grab me and, despite my strength, I'm no match for four elite warriors.

I watch as he pulls the syringe from his pocket. Every part of me wants to kill this ba**ard, but I know that Jacob is the one that will suffer should anything happen to me." The minute the needle pierces my skin I feel the burn of the wolfsbane. "Stay strong," Atlas says before our link fades. Waller's eyes are black as he regains control. He makes a move to reach me but is stopped in his tracks by his father's fist. His body hitting the floor makes everyone in the room still.

I resist the urge to laugh knowing how much trouble I'm already in for making that b**ch submit to me. "Are you f**king stupid" he growls at Waller, who has blood all over his teeth. "We are expecting one of the council members today. Jayden here is going to be telling them how he isn't ready to take over the pack. He still needs more training from me. Isn't that right, Jayden," he says. This is a man I once thought of as an uncle.

I wish my brother had killed him that day. It's too bad it was only his wh*re of a daughter. "I just don't understand why we can't kill the two of them and make it look like a rogue attack," Waller says, staring at me. "Use your f**king head Waller. This pack has been under scrutiny since that ba**ard killed your sister and his father. Besides, Jayden is easy enough to control as long as he wants to protect his little brother" he says with a sinister smile.

"Now go clean yourself up and make sure that you play nice when the council member arrives. You know what will happen if you don't." I nod and get to my feet. I walk past Waller and I can see his hands itching to hit me again, but he can't because of daddy dearest. Once I'm out of the room, I make my way to my room in the omega's quarters. I don't mind it. I actually prefer it after a lot of the warriors turned their backs on me and my brother. I know they believed the lies that Corey told about Beckham, but it doesn't make their betrayal of my family any easier to take.

I wish I could go to Jacob's room and check on him, but without Atlas I won't dare try to push the issue with his guards. The only good thing is, because he has no wolf, he is no threat. They only bother him if I won't give into Waller's demands for respect or if I fight back when he wants to beat on me. I do my best to protect my brother and I always will. Even though I know Beck will probably never step foot in this Goddess' awful pack, part of me deep down still hopes he will for Jacob's sake.

Beckham POV

"I still don't understand why Rosalyn needs to return. The bond she shared with Reese is broken. The only thing that will help him recover is time and the will to move forward. Besides, we have no idea what will happen when she returns to the pack. I won't have her put at risk." A soft hand on my forearm stops my rant. "Zora, agrees with Mindy. She isn't sure why, but we need to return to the pack. We need to talk to Reese," Rosalyn says.

Everything in me wants to say f**k no. I don't want her anywhere near that pr*ck. I know she loves me, but she once loved him. She must see something in my eyes because she takes my face in her hands. "You are my mate and the only man that I love. Reese holds no part of my heart anymore," she says, before pressing a soft kiss on my lips. When we pull back, Miranda and Mindy are both smiling at us.

"Beck, the pack has no idea what those evil pr*cks have been up to. I assure you that Rosalyn and Miranda will be safe." I look at her like she has grown ten heads. "You talk as if I won't be there. If my mate goes, I go." Mindy smiles because I just agreed to Rosalyn going, not that she needs my permission. "Beck, I love that you want to be by my side, but what about Lily? She needs to be safe. As much as Mindy assures us, the pack doesn't know what's happening, there are people there that do," she says, and I smile.

"We will have Stacey and Emmett take her to the lake house we own. They will be safe there." "Your brother isn't going to like us returning without him, but I'm sure he will understand he needs to protect his niece," Miranda says, and I smile again. My daughter has gained so many people that love her. I almost cost her that. I push those thoughts away. What matters is, she is mine and nothing will take her from me or our daughter.

"They plan on heading here in two days, so you'll need to be gone before they arrive," Mindy says. I'm just about to take my phone from my pocket to make the call to Stacey when someone pounding on the door makes everyone freeze. I'm the first one out of my seat and heading for the door. When I look through the peephole, it makes me want to do anything, other than open the door. When she bangs again, Lily starts to cry. I throw open the door and her eyes widen in shock when she sees me.

"Holly, why the hell are you pounding on my girlfriend's door like you're the police." She has the good sense to look embarrassed, but it doesn't last. "She isn't good enough for you Beck" she says slurring her words. "I love you and I would do anything for you." The low growl from behind me makes me smile. My possessive mate doesn't like her and neither do I. "Holly, I'm hoping that you wouldn't be this stupid if you were sober."

"I love Rosalyn. In fact, I plan to make her my wife very soon. I have never even dated you. I've never acted like I wanted to. I'm sorry you have some type of crush on me, but I don't feel the same." I don't know what I expect but her bursting into tears and throwing herself at me is not it.

Before she can touch me, Rosalyn steps in front of me, blocking her. Holly tries to stop herself but ends up falling on her a**. "Stay there, I'm calling Charlie to take your a** home," Rosalyn says, grabbing her phone. I look at Miranda, and she is holding Lily protectively against her chest. When I look back at Holly, she is pouting. I can't help but roll my eyes. What the hell is wrong with this woman? Goddess, bless Charlie for having to deal with her.

32 Mr. Hottie

Chapter 33 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Miranda POV

I can't believe the audacity of this girl. I know she doesn't realize anything about mates, but even if Rose was just Beckham's girlfriend, her actions are crazy. Hell, borderline stalker if I'm being honest. Lily is holding onto me for dear life. "It's alright sweetheart. No one is going to hurt you."

"She scared me, Nana" she says with a tremble in her voice. It takes everything in me not to walk over and smack some sense into this woman who banged on my door. "Charlie will be here in a minute," Rose says after she cuts the call.

Lorna, my wolf, perks up but doesn't say anything. She is as in love with our granddaughter as I am. I'm sure she wants to protect our pups, which now includes Lily. She has been distant since we left Cain even though she agreed with the decision. She is trying to heal just as I am.

As much as I hate him, a part of me still loves him. Loves the man that held my hand when we were newly mated. Kissed my forehead when I labored with each of our pups. Held me at night when we were alone and talked about our lives.

How could it have all been a lie? I push thoughts of Cain away and focus on Lily. "I don't understand why he wants a mousy thing like you. You're not even pretty. You are pathetic," Holly screams at Rose. I can see that Beck is losing patience and fighting his wolf for control. He wraps his arm around Rose. Her eyes are dark, and I'm sure that Zora is ready to tear into Holly. They are trying to calm each other down.

"You're a big meanie. Don't call my mommy a mouse. She isn't a mouse, she's a girl. She is a very pretty girl," Lily screams as she starts to wiggle out of my hold. Rose rushes over and scoops Lily into her arms. "It's alright Lily bear. We don't let the opinions of mean people bother us," Rose says. Lily wraps her arms tightly around Rose's neck.

"What the f**k? Did she just call you mommy? What a f**king joke? You've been dating for a few days, and you have her calling you mommy," Holly says with disgust. Rose turns handing Lily to Beck before she whirls on the b**ch on the floor. She bends and whispers something that makes all the color drain from Holly's face. Holly looks around the room with fear in her eyes, causing me to chuckle. I wonder exactly what my daughter just said to shut her up and cause that look on her face.

A firm knock on the door has her scrambling to her feet. "Remember what I said, Holly. Leave me and Beck alone," Rose says. She pulls the door open and a large man who looks like he could be a wolf scowls down at her. He is almost as tall as Beckham. I breathe deep expecting to catch his human scent, but instead my whole body freezes. Lorna is losing her sh*t as the scent of honeysuckle invades my nose. "Mate" she says, and my heart damn near stops beating.

I grip the counter to stop myself from crumpling to the ground. This can't be happening. He's human, and he looks like he's only in his thirties. He is never going to want a woman of my age. It's not like I can say hey Mr. Hottie, we're mates. Lorna growls, not liking my thoughts. "He is

ours. We deserve a mate that looks like that and can please us for longer than ten minutes. This is the goddess's gift to us after our f**ked up first mate," she says.

"Mom, are you alright" Rose asks. My eyes snap to hers before I look back at the man that is staring at me with concern. He must have been talking to me, and I was busy panicking.

"Miranda, I am so sorry about my cousin's behavior. I assure you that there will be consequences for her treatment of Rose." His warm deep voice washes over me. "I appreciate that, but you are not responsible for her actions. Thank you for coming so quickly."

Lorna is pushing me to step closer, but I stay rooted to the spot. He is a human, and he won't feel the pull to be with me. The closing of the door brings me out of my thoughts. Lorna whimpers and I take a deep breath. I look up and Mindy smiles at me. Rose comes to stand in front of me and places her hands on my shoulders. "Mom, is Charlie your second chance" she asks. I fight the urge to cry as I nod.

"That's amazing, mom. Why do you seem sad? I know it hurt you to break your bond with Cain" she starts to say, but I cut her off. "I promise you this has nothing to do with Cain. After all he did to our family, I have never regretted breaking our bond. Hearing about his betrayal solidified that I made the right decision." "So why aren't you more excited about finding Charlie? Do you not want a second chance at happiness? You deserve that mom," she asks.

"He is human sweet girl. He is also probably ten years younger than me. Do you really think he is going to want me? He won't feel the pull of the bond. He won't realize that the goddess has chosen him as my second chance." I watch as a tear runs down her cheek and I wipe it away with my thumb. "Besides, we need to focus on dealing with Robert and Cain." I pull her into a hug and breathe in my pup's scent. My heart is aching but right now, keeping her safe is what's important.

Jayden POV

The door to my room opens and one of Waller's cronies steps inside. "Take a f**king shower and put these clothes on mutt. The council member will be arriving any minute," he says before leaving my room. I grab the black dress pants and dark maroon button-down shirt before heading to the communal bathroom, the omega's share. I step inside, and I'm grateful when I see it's empty. Atlas still hasn't returned and the wounds on my back haven't healed yet.

The water rushes over them, making me clench my jaw at the burn. Blood-tinged water swirls around my feet as I finish washing. Once I'm washed and dried, I gingerly pull my undershirt on in case the wounds continue to bleed. Once I'm completely dressed, I make my way to Corey's office. I refuse to refer to him as Alpha. I knock twice, and he calls out for me to enter.

Waller is sitting on the couch that my brothers and I used to sit on when we were little. My father wasn't always a ba**ard, but after our mother died, he became one. "You clean up well. You almost look like an Alpha. Too bad, you'll never get the chance to actually be one," Corey says with a laugh. I stay quiet and remind myself I am doing this for Jacob.

"Come stand next to me. The guard is bringing councilman Barrett to my office now." I move closer and a few minutes later the door opens. A man I've never met before steps inside. He's large and muscular. If he isn't an Alpha he should be. "Hello gentleman, it's good to see you. I presume you are Jayden Forester" he says, extending his hand to me. "I am, it's a pleasure to meet you sir." "Alpha Corey, it's good to see you again. I know you were expecting Orick, but he had family matters to deal with" he says.

"That's fine, I welcome all members of the council to my pack" he says. "I'm sure you mean our pack, since Jayden is the rightful heir since his brother is gone," he says. "Of course, my apologies. Jayden will be the next Alpha when he is ready to take over," Corey says.

"That's part of the reason I'm here. The council is questioning why he hasn't taken the title yet. We appreciate you doing your duty as Beta when Jayden wasn't of age, but he is now twenty-one. It is time the pack was taken over by a Forester with Alpha blood." I wish I could smile and fist pump the air, but I stand silent watching the faux Alpha squirm as Barrett waits for an answer.

33 What Are You Doing

Chapter 34 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Rosalyn POV

I smile when Beck offers to go grab pajamas for him and Lily, because he knows I don't want my mom to be alone. He also doesn't want to be away from me. "I'll be right back beautiful" he says, pressing a quick one on my lips. "I need to get back to the Black Rose before councilman Orick realizes I'm gone. Remember you need to be there in two days. Things have been set in motion, not only will that affect the Black Rose but also the Blue Crescent," Mindy says, pulling me in for a hug.

"I'm sorry for all you suffered but know you are special to our mother, the Goddess. I'm glad that you have the mate you deserve" she says. She takes a step back from me, and before I can say a word she's gone. I make my way down the hallway that leads to my mother's room. She disappeared with Lily right after Charlie left. My chest aches for her. She deserves to be happy after everything that Cain has put her through. Deserves to have a chance with the man that the goddess chose for her that will be loyal.

As I approach her door, I peak inside and smile. My mother and Lily are snuggling on her bed. She has Lily tucked under her arm while she flips through a familiar book. "This was Rose when she was a little girl like you," she says, pointing at the photo album I didn't even realize she had

brought with her. "Who are those two boys," Lily asks. A sad smile crosses my mother's face. "That's my sons, Emmett and Bryce." "That's my Uncle Emmett" Lily says, her excitement palpable.

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"Yes, that's your Uncle Emmett." I see the flash of pain in my mother's eyes. I don't need her to say it to know her heart breaks that Bryce will never be part of our lives again. I miss the Bryce that I grew up with. The one that held me when I cried because I was scared. The one that taught me how to swim. The one that got me an extra cupcake at every pack party.

I can't imagine the strength it took for my mother, despite how much she loves Bryce to walk away from him and his sh*tty behavior. To hold fast to what was right at the cost of losing one of her pups. My mother is an amazing woman and I can only hope that I will be just like her for my pups. Even if Lily isn't of my body, she is my pup. I would burn down the world to keep her safe and happy.

"Rose, would you like to join us" my mother says, effectively telling me I've been caught spying. I smile and push open the door. "Mommy, I saw a picture of you when you were little like me." Hearing her call me mommy again has me fighting back tears. "Nana has lots of pictures, doesn't she? Did you see Uncle Emmett too?" "I did, he is much bigger now" she says, and mom and I chuckle. "Yes, he is. You're going to get to have a sleep-over with Uncle Emmett and Aunt Stacey."

"Can I take my new doll?" "Absolutely, you're going to have a lot of fun." A knock on the front door has me slipping off the bed and heading out to let Beck back in. When I open the door, I'm shocked to find Charlie standing there. "Hey Rose," he says. I can see a look I can't decipher in his eyes. Is he upset that I called him about Holly? "Charlie, is everything alright? I'm sorry I had to call you about Holly. I wasn't sure what else to do."

"Please don't apologize. I'm glad you called me. Would it be alright if I came in for a minute?" "Of course, I'm sorry I'm having you stand in the hallway." He smiles but it doesn't reach his eyes. This is a different side of Charlie that I haven't seen. Normally he's jovial and sure of himself, but right now he seems reserved.

"Rose, I know you're a wolf." His words are like an electrical shock to my body as my heart starts to race. "What are you talking about, Charlie?" As soon as his name leaves my lips, his scent changes. "Your wolf is very good at masking your scent" he says with a smile. I take a step back realizing he isn't a human. The man I thought I knew isn't human. For the first time since I met him, I'm not sure what to make of Charlie. His smile fades and hurt flashes in his eyes. "I would never hurt you Rose."

"The minute we met I felt a connection with you. I didn't know why then, but now I do. You are important to me. You are meant to be my family" he says. "You know what she is to you," I say. His smile practically lights up the room. "She is beautiful. You have no idea how hard it was to

leave knowing she was here, but I needed to get my cousin far away from my mate. Away from my family." I see nothing but sincerity in his eyes.

"Oh, my goddess, is Holly," I start to ask, but he cuts me off. "We are not blood related. I was adopted when I was seven and only my parents know what I am, Rose. Holly is very much human. Thank the goddess, I say and Zora chuckles. "You still didn't answer my question. What are you, Charlie?" "I'm a light warlock. I can control the elements. I was beginning to lose hope that I would find my beloved." His smile fades before his eyes meet mine again.

"I want my beloved Rose, but I'm sure she expected her second chance to be a wolf" he says. Before I can assure him that my mother wouldn't care if he was a purple dinosaur, the sound of a throat clearing catches our attention. I turn to see my mother staring at Charlie. "I think I'll go help Lily with her bath. Just send Beck to help me when he gets back" I say with a smile.

Charlie POV

When I disconnect the call, I'm ready to lose my sh*t. What the hell is wrong with that spoiled woman? "Charles, what's wrong" my mother asks. "Holly is causing trouble with Rose again." "I swear to God that woman should have been spanked more as a child. Instead, my sister spoiled her a** and now she is unbearable," my mother says. "Well, if she keeps up her sh*t I'm telling Aunt Tammy she is done at the bakery. I'll buy out her percent of the business if she wants to fight me about it."

When I reach the apartment building, I take the stairs two at a time. As soon as I reach the door, I can hear Holly yelling ridiculous sh*t. I'm hanging onto my control by a thread. I knock, and the door flies open. Holly is looking at me like she needs to be rescued. What the hell would she need to be rescued from when she is the problem? I start to make my apologies to everyone in the room when my eyes land on the most beautiful woman I've ever seen.

The minute our eyes connect, I feel like I can't breathe. She is mine, my beloved. The other half of my soul. Her beautiful blue eyes hold so much pain but so much love as she looks back at me. It takes all my control not to rush inside and pull her into my arms. I need to get Holly away from her, away from all of them. I tear myself away from her and drag Holly out of the building.

"You will not go near Rose, Beck, or their family again" I say to Holly the minute we are in my car. "She's nuts, Charlie. You have a person who is totally insane working in our bakery," she says. I want to scream it's my bakery, but instead I need to know what the hell she is going on about. "What the hell are you talking about?"

"She told me she is a werewolf and if I didn't stay away from her f**king mate she was going to rip my throat out. She thinks she is a f**king werewolf and Beck belongs to her. He isn't safe with her" she says. "Shut the f**k up Holly." I pull over before we reach her house. "What the hell are you doing" she asks. I turn and wave my hand in her direction as I chant. "You don't want to work at the bakery anymore. You don't have an unhealthy obsession with Beckham Forester. Rosalyn is not a werewolf. You want to travel."

As soon as I speak the last words she snaps out of the spell. "Charlie, how did I get in your car?" "Apparently you can't handle your alcohol. The bartender called me to pick you up because you were causing a scene." I pull into the driveway and Holly unbuckles her seat belt. "Thank you, for picking me up" she says surprisingly. "I'll see you tomorrow, Holly," I say as she gets out of my car testing the spell.

She turns to look at me. "I don't think I'm going to work at the bakery anymore, Charlie. My heart isn't really in it. I'm going to talk to mom about traveling" she says. I wish I thought of doing this years ago. "Good for you. Take care of yourself," I say. As soon as I pull out of the driveway, I drive in the direction of the woman that is my heart. I just pray to the goddess, she wants me.

34 Younger Is Better

Chapter 35 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Miranda POV

After a few minutes, I start to wonder why Rose hasn't come back. "Lily, Nana will be right back." "Nana, you can call me Lily bear like mommy does," she says and I smile. "Thank you, Lily bear." When I step out of the room and into the hallway the scent of honeysuckle surrounds me. It's too strong to be from earlier. Lorna is purring, and I resist the urge to roll my eyes.

As I move down the hallway, I hear Rose's voice first. "You still didn't answer my question. What are you Charlie," Rose asks. My heart starts to pound against my chest. A deep masculine voice that makes my body shiver speaks, and I freeze. "I'm a light warlock." I swear I lose the ability to do anything when those words pass his lips. The pounding in my ears can't drown out what I have just heard. He isn't a human. He is a warlock. "Miranda, get your a** out there and get our mate" Lorna growls. "What if he doesn't want a wolf mate?"

This time when she growls, I'm able to focus on Charlie's next words. "I want my beloved, Rose, but I'm sure she expected her second chance to be a wolf," he says. Hearing him say he wants me has my feet moving. When I reach the living room, I clear my throat and Charlie's eyes meet mine. "I think I'll go help Lily with her bath. Just send Beck to help me when he gets back," Rose says, before leaving us alone.

Just as Charlie says my name, a knock sounds on the door. I move to open it and Beck steps inside, shocked to see Charlie. He looks between us and when he opens his mouth to say something, I cut him off. "Rose, needs your help with Lily," I say pointing to the hallway. His lip

quirks up, and he turns heading down the hallway. I turn around to face Charlie again. He's so close I can feel his breath on my skin. "Should I assume you heard what I told Rose," he asks.

"I did. So, you're a warlock, and I'm your beloved." He smiles and I swear it's predatory. If I didn't know different, I would think he was a wolf. His eyes drop to my lips and I want nothing more than to feel his lips on mine. Like he can hear my thoughts, his head dips, his lips barely brushing mine. I lose complete control grabbing his face with my hands and pressing my lips firmly against his.

Without warning, I'm lifted off the ground and pressed firmly against the wall as he devours my mouth. Lorna urging me to grind down when I feel his firmness against my center. My brain must start to work because I suddenly remember we aren't alone. I pull back and we are both breathless. "Charlie, the kids," I manage to pant out. He sets me on my feet but doesn't release me.

"Can we go to my house and finish talking" he says. The hunger in his eyes tells me that talking won't be the only thing he plans on doing. I don't even have to think about whether I'm ready to accept him as my mate, because I am. "Let me tell Rose and Beck. I'll be right back." He presses a quick kiss on my forehead and I rush down the hall. I knock and the bathroom door swings open. Lily has so much soap in her hair it's standing up like a troll doll. "Nana, we're having a sleep-over at your house tonight. I get to sleep with mommy and daddy."

I look at Rose, and she gives me a knowing look. I bend pressing a kiss on Lily's wet forehead. "I'll see you tomorrow" Rose says in a sing-song voice while Beck smiles. I roll my eyes before I head back down the hallway. As soon as I step into the living room, I'm scooped up in strong arms and carried out of my apartment. "Charlie, I can walk to the car." His eyes are dark with lust as he pushes the button repeatedly for the elevator. "My legs are longer. We will get to the car quicker."

I swear I giggle like a school girl as he practically runs out of the elevator. I don't think Cain was ever this excited to be with me, even when we were first mated. No, I chastise myself for giving him a single thought. Charlie must notice a change in my expression because he presses his lips against mine when he places me in the car.

"I promise to erase every bit of pain that he caused you. I promise to love you the way you deserve to be loved until my last breath." He wipes a tear off my cheek that I didn't even know had fallen. He quickly runs around the car and slides into the driver's seat. He places his hand on my thigh possessively as he speeds through the streets.

When he pulls onto a dirt road that leads to a quaint cottage, I smile. He carries me inside and sets me on my feet. I expected him to carry me right to his bedroom, but instead he takes my face in his hands. "I, Charles Martin Kramer, accept you, Miranda Myers, as my beloved and mate." I feel the bond snapping into place. "I, Miranda Myers, accept you, Charles Martin Kramer, as my mate and beloved."

Without warning, he scoops me up bridal style and carries me to a large wooden door. When he pushes it open, I can't believe how beautiful the room is. I don't get much time to admire it when I'm tossed gently onto the biggest bed I've ever seen. My eyes meet Charlie's, and he starts to pull off his shirt. My mouth goes dry when I see his bare chest and abs. He is a big man and his body is what most women fantasize about.

For the first time since I heard him say he wanted me, my insecurities start to get the better of me. I've had three pups and I'm older. "Miranda, where did you go? One minute you were looking at me like I was your next meal, and then you were in your head." "I have had three pups and" I start to say, but squeal when he grabs my legs, pulling me toward him. He covers me and looks into my eyes.

"You are gorgeous. I can't wait to learn every inch of this body that has brought life into our world. I have waited for you and nothing about you, including this amazing body that is all mine, is a disappointment." He can't mean he has never been with anyone else. Like he can read my mind, he presses his forehead against mine. "You are my one and only." My insecurities forgotten, I kiss him like he's the air I need to breathe. I snake my hand between us and slide my hand under the waist band of his sweatpants. He groans when I wrap my hand around his c**k and tug.

He breaks the kiss and within seconds I'm naked under him. My goddess did he just use magic to undress me. His hands are everywhere, and he latches his mouth onto one taught n**ple. I arch my back as the sensation travels to my cl*t. When he bites down on my n**ple I almost c*m. I'm not sure how long he worships my breasts before he kisses a path down to my core. "Miranda, I want your eyes on me as I eat this p**sy that belongs to me" he says, his voice husky.

Holy sh*t, I'm going to burst into flames just from his dirty talk. When his tongue sweeps through my folds, my hand threads in his hair. His mouth moves against my p**sy like it does against my mouth. He acts like a starving man as his tongue circles my cl*t. I'm on the edge, and he must realize as he presses two fingers inside me, sending me soaring. The org*sm is like nothing I've felt before. My whole body is engulfed in pleasure.

Three thick fingers pump inside me, prolonging the pleasure. I feel him climb up my body and his mouth captures mine. I can taste myself on his tongue. Holy f*ck it makes me wetter. I can feel the blunt head of his c**k at my entrance. He pulls back, and I look into his eyes as he starts to push inside me inch by delicious inch. The feeling of him stretching me is both pain and pleasure. His c**k is so big and perfect.

When he finally starts to move, I know I'm heading for another earth-shattering org*sm. This man is mine. Mine I want to scream. Lorna pushes forward and my canines elongate. He must realize what's coming because he bears his neck, allowing me to sink them into his marking spot. His movements become faster and this time I do scream MINE. When I pull my teeth from his skin, I feel like I'm floating. The pleasure is blinding. I feel warmth on my neck and I realize he's marking me. I feel the bond solidify and another org*sm rips through my body as he empties himself deep inside me.

We are both panting as he rests his head in the crook of my neck. "I love you, Miranda. You are mine in this life and the next," he says, sending a wave of warmth through my body. I feel him twitch inside me. He picks up his head and presses a soft kiss on my lips. "I love you, Charlie." He starts to move like my declaration is spurring him on. I'm shocked he's ready for more so soon. "I told you so. More org*ms and longer than ten minutes. Younger is definitely better," Lorna says, and I couldn't agree more.

35 Nothing But Pity

Chapter 36 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Cain POV

"We will be leaving first thing in the morning," Robert says. "How many warriors will accompany us besides Bryce?" Something flashes in Robert's eyes and I know I'm not going to like what he has to say. "Cain, Bryce is not in the right frame of mind to be involved with retrieving Rosie. He can't be trusted around his sister. His jealousy has gotten the better of him. Once we get Rosie back to the pack and marked, Fallon will be less volatile."

"Bryce is the rightful Beta of this pack. He should be with us. He knows what Rosie's return means to Reese. He knows that Fallon will not allow a relationship with Reese if he doesn't have his mate." "This isn't up for discussion, Cain. Bryce will remain in the pack. Five of the elite warriors will accompany us. Entering the human city with more warriors will put our kind at risk and not even my brother will be able to protect us if we reveal our existence to the humans. This plan needs to go off without any screw-ups."

I'm about to argue when pain that feels like I'm being torn apart rips through my body. I can't hold back the scream as my marking spot feels like it's on fire. I can hear the faint voices of those around me, but I can't make out what they are saying. The pain is intensifying with every passing minute, and I'm not sure how much more I can take.

Time passes in slow motion as my body feels like my soul is being ripped away. She wouldn't do this to me. She was always meant to be mine. I've been good to her, and she has allowed another to claim her. She is mine. With every passing thought, I feel like I'm dying.

Not only did she break our bond, but she has given herself to another. I'm not sure how long my agony persists before I'm engulfed in darkness. I relish the receding pain until I hear two words whispered by my wolf, "she's free." I wish I could scream, but there is only silence.

Rosalyn POV

"I am not going to let you go back to that f**king pack without me" Emmett says, his voice laced with anger. "Uncle Emmett, you said a bad word," Lily says. Emmett turns to look at her and smiles. "Sorry Lily bear. I'll try not to say anymore bad words" he says. "Emmett, I need you and Stacey to protect your niece. Beckham and Charlie will be with me and mom. Beck trusts Mindy and I trust Beck's judgment."

To say Emmett was shocked when I told him about Charlie was an understatement. When mom walked in, hand in hand with Charlie and a fresh mark on her neck, Emmett immediately wanted to have a private conversation with Charlie. I was surprised that mom just smiled before pressing a kiss on Charlie's lips. When Emmett and Charlie got back, they were both smiling. I know in my heart that Charlie will treat mom like a queen. He will do everything in his power to keep her from pain.

"I understand the pack may not know what the Alpha and our sperm donor have done, but what about Bryce? You have no idea if he will be traveling with them? You know as well as I do, Rose, that he has no problem hurting you," Emmett says. Beck growls, and his eyes darken. "No one will hurt my mate," Gideon growls. I can tell he is having trouble containing his anger after everything I've told him about Bryce. I'm out of my chair and placing myself in his lap before both my mates lose it.

He buries his head in my neck, breathing in my scent. "I promise you, Emmett, I will keep her safe," Beck says. "Fine, but I expect to be kept in the loop. I want regular check in, so I know that you are all safe" he says. I slide off Beck's lap and rush around the table. I wrap my arms around my brother's neck from the side and press a sloppy kiss on his cheek. "Gross" he says, but he's smiling. The rest of the afternoon and evening we spend time as a family, knowing tomorrow will be stressful for all of us.

The Next Day

I'd be lying if I said my stomach wasn't in knots as we approach the Black Rose Pack territory. I never thought I would step foot in this place again. I was perfectly happy to live the rest of my life with Beck and Lily in our cottage among humans. "You know as well as I do, Rose, you were born to be Luna. The goddess chose you because she knew of your strength and pure heart. She knew you would protect her children as any mother does. The Luna is the pack's mother and though the pack you will watch over has changed your role, has not," Zora says.

Before I can ask her how she could possibly know that, we are pulling up to the gates. My mother is driving, and the guard smiles when he sees her. "Miranda, we were worried you would never return" he says, oblivious to all that has transpired. My heart breaks for the members of this pack when they realize how evil their Alpha and Beta truly are. He looks at Beck and Charlie before looking back at my mother. His eyes haze over and my heart starts to pound against my chest. What if Robert and my father are still here?

Before I have a full-blown panic attack, his eyes are focused back on my mother, and he is still smiling. "I'm sure you will be heading over to the hospital to see your mate, but please stop and see the Luna. I've alerted her you've returned with guests since the Alpha is on a trip with

Councilman Orick. She is with Alpha Reese, who is recovering after a rogue attack." "Of course, I've missed the Luna. Thank you" she says. The gate creaks open and my heart is still pounding.

Beck holds my hand firmly in his when we step inside the pack hospital behind my mother and Charlie. Both Beck and Charlie are hiding their scents. "Miranda" Dr. Bennett says, walking toward us. "Cain, will be so happy you've returned. He is stable for now, but his wolf is weak. We have run a battery of tests but nothing has given us any clue about what caused his pain and for him to collapse" he says.

I fight the urge to smile knowing Cain suffered a fraction of the pain he has caused my mother. "Thank you for the update, Andrew. I'll see him after I speak with the Luna," she says. "Of course, she is in the Alpha suite. Reese is doing better, but he hasn't regained all his strength. I'm sure seeing Rosalyn will help" he says. I squeeze Beck's hand, knowing he's fighting the urge to growl.

My mother nods and we make our way upstairs to the third floor. As we walk down the hallway which will lead us to Reese, I expect to feel angry or sadness that I'm about to see the man that tried to destroy me, but honestly, I feel nothing for him except pity. Beck must have heard my thoughts because he smiles before he presses a quick kiss on my lips.

When we finally reach the door, my mother knocks twice and pushes it open. As we move inside, I'm almost knocked off my feet by the force of my best friend. I know it's her by her scent before I see the mess of auburn hair. "Rosie, oh my goddess, I never thought I would see you again" she says. Her voice trembles and I can tell she is crying. I hate that I've caused her such pain. I've missed my best friend. A sob has us pulling apart.

Our mothers are holding onto each other for dear life. "It's good to see you again, Rosie," Logan says. A low growl makes me roll my eyes. He is standing next to Addie when my name is said so softly it sounds like a prayer. I turn my eyes meeting Reese's for the first time since I left. "Hello Reese," I say. "You came back," he says. I see a flash of hope in his eyes. A strong arm wraps around my middle and Beck pulls me close to his side.

The hope fades as Reese closes his eyes. A few seconds later, he looks back at me with clear resignation written on his face. "I know it means nothing now, but I'm truly sorry for all that I put you through, Rosie." I want to tell them all to call me Rose because Rosie died the day I found him and Bryce together, but I stay quiet and just let him say what he needs to.

For the first time since Mindy insisted that I needed to return, I understand why. The bond that connected our souls may be broken, but there are things that need to be said between us because of our shared past. Things that will allow Reese to become the Alpha that is worthy of leading this pack.

Chapter 37 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Jayden POV

I can feel the tension rolling off Corey in waves as Barrett waits for an answer. "Unfortunately, despite my training, Jayden has yet to feel confident in his ability to lead the pack. He's confided in me that he never expected to become Alpha as the role was meant to be Beckham's."

"I've assured him that Alpha blood flows through his veins, but he isn't convinced he is capable of being what the pack needs. Also, some of the pack are leery of me passing the title to a Forester after being abandoned by the rightful heir of the pack. Jayden is like a son to me and I want him to feel comfortable and accepted before I hand over the title that is rightfully his," Corey says.

I want to puke as I stand there and listen to him spew his f**king lies. It takes all my control not to scream that everything he just said is a lie, but I can't. I have to keep Jacob safe. He is what is most important in this whole f**ked up situation. "Am I to understand that the former Alpha and your daughter killed Beckham Forester's fated mate after she had given birth to his pup," Barrett asks.

His wolf fighting him for control as he repeats what was reported to the council because of the number of witnesses at the hospital. They couldn't spin the story as they had wanted to when several wolves came forward that had been near the room. Anger flashes in Corey's eyes.

"My daughter was as much a victim as that poor omega. Alpha Forester forced my sweet daughter to kill that poor girl. He wanted Beckham to make my daughter his Luna and he wouldn't take no for an answer. I did all I could to stop those senseless deaths from happening, but Alpha Forester was out of control. He couldn't be reasoned with" Corey says.

"So, if Beckham Forester was avenging his mate's death, why would the pack hold anything against him? What information was provided to the pack about the incident," Barrett asks. I wish I had popcorn to enjoy this show. "We felt it best to keep the details provided basic. The pack was already devastated by the loss, to reveal the circumstances would only further cause an uproar among the pack members," Corey says.

"As much as I disagree with your thought process, I can't go back in time and change it, but what I can do is inform the pack of everything that truly happened. I understand that you were never destined to be an Alpha, but part of our responsibilities to our pack is the truth, even if it's hard to hear. As of right now, I'll be staying in the pack," Barrett says. Corey looks like he is about to blow a gasket, but he stays silent.

"I will be meeting with Jayden daily to assess his knowledge of his duties. I will also watch his training in combat in both wolf and human form. The council has been patient, Alpha Corey, out of respect for the devastation this pack suffered, but that patience has reached its limit. Now, if you can have someone show me to a room near Jayden's I would appreciate it. "Of course, Waller, show Councilman Barrett to the third floor and make sure his room is right next to Jayden's."

I can see Waller wants to say "what the f**k" but he holds his tongue. Once they are both gone, the faux Alpha whirls on me. "You are enjoying this aren't you mutt," he says and I smile. "Just remember Jayden, one slip up and, it's your precious baby brother that will be tortured and fed to the rogues. I have no problem ridding the world of another Forester. So, I suggest you work on your acting skills when you're meeting with that a**hole" he says.

I can feel Atlas stir, and it takes all my control not to snap his neck. "Now, go tell the omegas to set up a proper room for you on the third floor, but don't get comfortable. As soon as we make him believe that you are not fit to be Alpha, you'll be right back where you belong," he says. I turn needing to get away from Corey before I do something that I will regret.

Reese POV

I knew she was on her way up to my room because the guard alerted my mother, but nothing prepared me for seeing her again. She is more beautiful than the day she left. Her scent was just as intoxicating, but it was different. My heart sank when I realized it was because she had been marked by another. Having realized that my eyes are drawn to the man standing close to her.

He is large. Hell, if I'm being honest, bigger than me. Is he an Alpha? "It doesn't matter, Reese? She isn't ours anymore," Fallon says. I know he's right, but the ache in my chest that hasn't left me since I felt her claim another is getting stronger by the minute as I watch her with Addie.

"Rosie" I say her name like a prayer. When she turns to look at me, I don't see hatred like I expected. "Hello Reese" she says, and I still love the sound of my name on her lips. "Not enough to choose only her," Fallon says once again, reminding me of how much I've f**ked up. "You came back" I say, and her new mate wraps his arm around her waist possessively. At that moment, I know that any hope I held onto is gone.

I know I was fooling myself, but letting go of the woman you were meant to love and cherish is like asking yourself to stop breathing. I look to the sky and ask the goddess for strength before I look back at her. "I know it means nothing now, but I'm truly sorry for all that I put you through, Rosie." I notice a slight flinch when I say her name.

I think everyone senses that there is more to be said between us without an audience. Everyone but her mate leaves the room. He keeps his hand firmly in hers, offering her support. "I don't think saying your sorry is ever too late, Reese, as long as you mean it" she says. "I really am sorry. I hate that I hurt you. I hate that I didn't realize all I stood to lose by being a selfish pr*ck. I hate that I've lost you." I can see her mate's eyes darken, but he makes no move toward me.

"I believe you're truly sorry, but your regret won't change that I'm no longer your mate. I forgive you, Reese, because I believe in my heart that you are trying to do the right thing to be a better man and Alpha. I won't hold onto the anger because it's like poison, just like you shouldn't hold on to regret," she says.

Her words wash over me and, for the first time since she found me with Bryce, I feel a sense of peace. I'm not sure if the longing will ever leave me, but the ache that was making it hard to breathe is gone. I look at the man that has made Rosie whole after what I did almost broke her. A silent understanding passes between us and I know he'll love her the way I should have.

"I'm proud of you, Reese. Loving someone is about wanting their happiness, even if it's not with you. Putting others first is what a true Alpha does," Fallon says. The weakness that I felt just hours ago disappears like a cloud of smoke. I push myself to sit up on the side of the bed. After a few seconds, I'm able to stand to my full height.

I turn and take a few steps until I'm standing in front of Rosie and her mate. I extend my hand to him and he reluctantly takes it. "Reese Orick, future Alpha of the Black Rose Pack." "Beckham Forester, future Alpha of the Blue Crescent Pack," he says. The look on Rosalyn's face is one of disbelief and pride. When she finally looks back at me, I smile. "I, Reese Orick, accept your rejection, Rosalyn Forester." The words may not have been needed, but in my heart I know she needed to hear me accept she was no longer mine.

37 Take It Back

Chapter 38 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Miranda POV

Maureen hugs me like she thinks I'm going to disappear again. I breathe in her familiar scent as tears form in my eyes. This woman is like a sister to me. She is one of the strongest women I know, and I hate the pain I've seen in her eyes. "I'm so sorry Miranda" she whispers, and I stiffen in her arms. When I pull back, I stare into her familiar eyes. I not only see pain but regret.

"What the hell could you possibly be sorry about?" "I failed to protect you and Rosie. I am the Luna, and it was my job to protect the pack. To protect my best friend and my goddaughter" she says. Tears run down her cheeks and I pull her back into my embrace. "Don't you dare take ownership of the f**ked up sh*t both are mates did. I love you, Maureen. You are my sister even if we share no blood. I'm sorry I left you here to deal with those two ba**ards alone."

"I was so focused on Rose I didn't even think about you and Addie. I should have taken you two with us." "No, you did what had to be done to protect Rose. She may not be my daughter by blood, but I love her like she is. When I found out what my mate was planning to have Reese do," she stops mid-sentence. Her sob makes my chest ache.

"Maureen, as much as I'm angry at Reese for the choices he made, I've known that boy all his life. He would never have forced himself on Rose. I saw regret in his eyes the minute we stepped into his room. I believe in my heart that Rose has forgiven him. I'm sure that will go along with the goddess forgiveness for Reese." "I hope so Miranda. As much as I'm angry about what he has done, I want him to be happy."

"Aunt Miranda, do you want to introduce us to your friend" Addie says from behind me. I chuckle. I was so focused on Maureen I forgot we weren't alone. I turn and smile at my handsome mate. "Of course, Maureen, Addie, Logan, this is my mate, Charlie. Charlie, this is my family." He smiles, taking the two steps to stand next to me. He extends his hand to Maureen, and she slaps it away. His look of shock is quickly replaced with a smile when she pulls him in for a hug.

I expect Lorna to growl, but she knows as well as I do that Maureen isn't interested in our mate. When she pulls back, she is smiling from ear to ear. "It's lovely to meet you, Charlie. I guess you're my brother-in-law now. Once that a**hat I'm mated to is dealt with, you and Miranda will come to stay for a few days so we can get to know each other better," Maureen says. Charlie looks at me and I just nod. "I would love to get to know my beloved's sister" he says.

It takes her a minute to catch up because I'm sure she assumed he was human. She can't see my mark hidden under my shirt. I reach up, pulling my shirt aside to show her the intricate blue and green mark that rests where my shoulder meets my neck. Her hand covers her mouth. "You're a warlock" she says. He nods, and a brilliant smile spreads across her face. "Well, it's the least the goddess could do after making that pr*ck Cain your mate" she says, and I couldn't agree more.

Charlie threads his fingers with mine and even the mention of Cain's name doesn't hurt anymore. Everything I once felt for him is gone. It's time to put him and his betrayal behind me. "Maureen, can you take me to Cain's room? I have some things I would like to say to him." Concern flashes in her eyes as she looks between me and Charlie. Whatever she sees in our eyes must put her mind at ease. Addie rushes over, wrapping me in a hug.

"I'll see you later, Aunt Miranda." When she pulls back, I notice Logan staring intently at me. "Are you alright Logan?" He comes over and wraps me in a hug. I don't know him well, but maybe he needs this, so I hug him back. "I would have loved to have you as a second mother," he whispers so only I can hear him. I swear my heart stops beating. He doesn't even have to tell me that he was Bryce's mate, because just those words are enough. "You will always be my son, and I'm sorry for the pain that Bryce caused you."

He squeezes me a little tighter before he finally releases me. When I pull back, he wipes the tears from his eyes. Goddess, that boy has caused so much hurt. I didn't raise him to be such a selfish

man, but I guess Cain had more influence than I realized. My mind starts to whirl with questions that only one man has the answers too.

A few seconds later, Maureen walks us down the hallway to another suite. When she pushes open the door, I scent him before we get to his room. He must be the only one here. Maureen hugs me before she heads back to Reese's room. Charlie grasps my hand as I reach for the door handle. I take a steadying breath preparing to see a man that is more like a stranger than someone I shared my life with.

When I push open the door, a steady beeping sound reaches my ear. Cain looks like he's aged ten years when I finally lay my eyes on him. His eyes are closed, and his breathing is steady. "Cain" I say his name and his eyes fly open. He looks around the room frantically until his eyes finally land on me. A soft smile spreads across his lips but fades as quickly as it came. It's replaced by anger and disgust.

"How could you" he says, trying to sit up. "How could you reject your mate and then wh*re yourself out to someone else," he says, with all the venom he can muster in his weakened state. "You will not call her a wh*re again, or I will rip your tongue out of your mouth" Charlie says. I lay my hand on his forearm trying to soothe him. "Love, there is nothing he can say to hurt me." I turn back to Cain and I expect to see the black of his wolf's eyes, but I don't.

"How dare you bring this pathetic human here? You will reject him and take back your rejection of me," he says. I throw my head back and laugh. "Even if Charlie was a human, I would never reject him and I sure as hell would never accept you, ever again. The only reason I'm even here in this room is to tell you a few things."

"How can you do this to me? I am your fated mate and the father of your pups. The goddess chose for us to be together" he says, trying a different tactic. "The goddess may have chosen you to be my mate, but you chose to f**k Robert every chance you got after you dosed me with wolfsbane." The look of shock on his face is comical. "I can see you thought your secret was safe, but you forget everything in the dark comes out into the light."

"My relationship with Robert never changed how much I loved you, Miranda. I'm sorry for hurting you, but I'm still your mate" he says. "Actually, Charlie is my mate. He is the man I love. You are nothing to me. Our bond was broken the moment I found out the kind of man you truly are. A man that would hurt his own daughter for his lover and title."

Charlie wraps his arm around my middle, pulling me close to his side. This time his eyes darken, but I can sense no anger in his gaze. "I'm so sorry my little mate. No matter what my pathetic human did, I want you to know I loved you with my whole heart. I'm glad you're free and happy," Azar says. My heart breaks for my wolf mate. "I will be returning to the goddess. Please take care of our mate" he says to Charlie, who nods.

When Cain's eyes return to the familiar brown color, they're empty. Panic flashes in his eyes and I can see he is trying to reach Azar. "What the f**k did you do? I lost my wolf because you're a selfish b**ch" he screams at me. "Azar was right, you are pathetic. Even now you're not taking

responsibility for the choices you have made that have cost you everything. Good luck Cain. I have a feeling you are going to need it." Charlie and I turn leaving the room as Cain continues to scream. "Get back here, Miranda. You will not leave me."

38 Tell Me Again

Chapter 39 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Bryce POV

I can't believe Robert forbade me from going to retrieve Rosie and dealing with her new mate. I would have taken great pleasure in ending his pathetic life right in front of her. Robert should know I want her to come back just so I can watch her suffer as I f**k Reese. He was meant to be mine, not hers. She has ruined everything.

I may have to play nice in order to appease Fallon, but having to share her mate will make her suffer far better than any harsh words. I still hate the thought of her touching him. I'll just have to make sure he doesn't have the energy to bother with her. Once she is pregnant with a pup, he won't have any use for her at all. I can give him everything he needs.

I make my way to the hospital to find out what's happening with my father. Robert insisted that my mother had been claimed, but she would never do that. I know she is angry at him, but she would never take another mate. When Robert finds my b**ch of a sister, my mother will return and forgive my father. Everything will be as it should have been before my sister was so selfish. I make my way into the hospital and the scent of lavender makes me freeze.

As much as I don't want to, my body still reacts to Logan. A few seconds later, he comes around the corner hand in hand with Addie. When she sees me, hatred flashes in her eyes. I need to find a way to get her to forgive me. I know Logan hasn't told anyone I rejected him, so she is still pissed about what Reese and I did to Rosie. I know she is well on her way to forgiving Reese so it shouldn't be hard to get back in her good graces.

I expect her to walk past me without a second glance, but instead they both come to stand directly in front of me. "You know it sickens me that I ever had a crush on you. You are a despicable wolf and I promise that you will get everything you deserve for all the pain you have caused the people I love," she says. "Addie, I wasn't trying to hurt anyone. I love your brother. We can't help who we fall in love with," I say.

I look at Logan expecting a response from him hearing me say I love Reese, but he stays silent. He looks at me with nothing but loathing, which makes my wolf whimper. He still wants his

mate, but that won't ever happen. He isn't here for me. He is here to protect Addie. "You are pathetic and selfish. I'm just glad that Reese has realized exactly who you are and wants nothing to do with you," she says before they both stalk off.

She has no idea what she is talking about. Reese is upset, but once Rosie is back, everything will be fine. He loves me and nothing will change that. I take the elevator to the third floor with Addie's words replaying in my head. When the elevator doors open a scent that is familiar tickles my nose, but it fades as I walk toward my father's room. As soon as I'm outside his room, I can hear grunts and the sound of things being smashed inside.

What the hell? I push open the door and my father immediately looks up at me. "Where the f**k have you been" he asks, his bloodshot eyes filled with rage. "She's back and my f**king wolf is gone. Deserted me because she has a new mate. That wh*re actually allowed someone else to mark her." "What the hell are you talking about dad? You are not making any sense." "Your wh*re of a mother is back in the pack with her f**king new mate," he screams.

"Is Rosie with her" I ask, panic flowing through me. Is she back to accept, Reese? "Did you not hear what I said you stupid boy? My wolf is gone, and your mother has a new mate. She betrayed me and all you're worried about is your f**king pathetic sister and Reese." "I'm only asking because Robert will want to know if Rosie is here. The whole point of the trip to the human city was to get her and dispose of her second chance mate."

"I don't know and the only thing I care about right now is making that b**ch suffer for betraying me. You will find her and bring her back to me, Bryce." "Dad, you can't hurt mom." "After all I did for you and after all I've lost, you will f**king do as I say," he roars. "Fine, first we need to find out, if Rosie is even here so we can call Robert. Then I'll bring mom to you." I can't even try to reason with him right now. I need to find out if Rosie is here and if she has talked to Reese.

I make my way toward the Alpha suite a feeling of unease washes over me. The scent from earlier is stronger, and I realize that it's Rosie's scent mixed with someone else's. F**k she is already here. I step closer to the door and I can hear my sister's voice. What makes me freeze in place is when I hear Reese speak. "I, Reese Orick, accept your rejection, Rosalyn Forester."

What the f**k is he thinking? His father is never going to allow him to let Rosalyn go. He will never allow him to take his rightful title without his destined Luna by his side. He can't risk the pack finding out about everything that's happened. I move away from the door and dial Robert. He picks up on the second ring. "What the hell do you want Bryce? We haven't found her and I" he starts to say, but I cut him off.

"That's because Rosie and my mother are here." "Excuse me" he says, not believing what I just said. "She is here and Reese is going to let her go. I heard him accept her rejection using her new mate's name." He growls and yells to someone in the background about needing to return to the pack immediately.

"Bryce, I don't care what you have to do, you do not let her leave the pack. Put them in the cells if you have to. Her f**king mate is human, and I want him dead by the time I arrive. Reese isn't

strong enough to stop you from putting her in the cells. Just remember that she is not to be harmed. Are we clear, Bryce?"

"Yes, Alpha, crystal. One more thing, my father's wolf seems to have abandoned him since my mother showed up with a new mate." I pull the phone away from my ear when he growls. "Put her and her new mate in the cells. I will deal with them when I get back. As for Cain, hopefully Mindy can help him. His wolf is probably there but refusing to acknowledge him. We will figure everything out when I return," he says and cuts the line.

I smile because I'm going to enjoy throwing my sister back in the cells. Reese can't be upset because I'll tell him Robert alpha commanded me. As I approach the door, I can hear them speaking in hushed tones. I push the door open without warning. I'm shocked to see Reese standing to his full height. I know he has been pretty weak since my sister marked her new mate. "Bryce, what the f**k do you think you're doing here?"

Rosalyn POV

I wondered how long it would take before Bryce found out we were back in the pack. "Reese, you should still be resting after everything she put you through," he says as he glares at me. "Bryce, I'm perfectly fine. You need to leave." "I'm sorry I can't do that, Reese. Your father has commanded that I deal with Rosalyn's faux-mate and place her in the cells until he returns."

I throw my head back and laugh. He is still just as delusional as when I left. Before I can tell him he can go f**k himself, Reese steps in front of me. "My father will not be Alpha for very much longer, so I'm not concerned about his orders. If you try to put your hands on Rosalyn, I will let her mate deal with you," Reese says.

"Reese, I think you should really get back into bed because you're not making any sense. Your father isn't going to turn over his title to you unless you have Rosie by your side. We can make that happen by getting rid of her pathetic human mate who is no match for a wolf." "Even if my mate was human, which he is not. Reese, has accepted that I am no longer his mate. So, you and a**hat Robert no longer have a say. Not that you ever really did."

Bryce growls and this time Beck comes to stand in front of me. I can feel his aura wash over me, but it feels like a warm blanket, not a heavy weight. I hear a whimper and step around him. Bryce is on his knees and his neck is bared in submission. I step a little closer. "Tell me again how you're going to deal with my mate and put me in a cell," I say sarcastically.

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Chapter 40 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Beckham POV

Hearing him talk about putting my mate in a cell has Gideon pushing to the surface. I allow my scent and aura to fill the room. The weight has Bryce immediately falling to his knees. His wolf whimpers under the power of my aura. I can see its affecting Reese, but he is able to stay upright.

When Rosalyn steps around me, every instinct in me wants to pull her back behind me. Before I can do it, I stop myself knowing she needs to show this little pr*ck he didn't break her. After all that she has been through, she still has the most beautiful heart. I'm so grateful that I'm the one that gets to love her and be loved by her. Right now, though she needs to be the spitfire, I know she is.

She leans closer to the pr*ck who is practically breaking his neck, submitting to me. "Tell me again how you're going to deal with my mate and put me in a cell," she says. Her taunt fills me with pride. She stands and comes to stand next to me. I wrap my arm around her waist, pulling her so she is snuggled into my side.

"Now, I'm sure you have realized I am far from human. I am Alpha Beckham Forester, and you just threatened my mate and Luna. I am well within my rights to put you down like the pathetic mutt you are here and now without Alpha Reese's permission. However, as a show of respect, I am issuing a formal challenge as I understand you are his future Beta of his pack."

"That won't be necessary, Alpha Forester. Due to Bryce's disrespect for his sister, whom I considered my future Luna at the time, his title has been stripped. In fact, I've decided to appoint his fated mate who he so callously rejected as my future Beta, Logan Price," Reese says. "No," Bryce manages to croak out. When Reese steps closer, I can feel his aura pushing against mine.

I take a step back, wrapping my arm around Rosalyn's waist. I'm not sure what is about to happen between Reese and Bryce, but her safety will always be my first priority. "There was a time I cared deeply for you, Bryce, but you have killed anything I once felt. Rosalyn was innocent in everything that happened. She was your sister, and you took pleasure in hurting her," he says. I can't help the growl that escapes me.

He hurt my mate. He hurt her without remorse. "Unfortunately, you are a threat to an allied pack's Luna, which means you will be punished. As much as I would like to be the one that deals with you for all that you did to my former mate, that honor belongs to her true mate," Reese says. A shiver of excitement rushes through me at the thought of making this ba**ard suffer for all he has done to Rosalyn.

I reach out to her through our bond, wondering how she feels about all that Reese just said. I don't want her upset with me for being the one that could possibly end Bryce's worthless existence. He is still her brother. Our bond is completely open and all I can feel is peace and acceptance from her. I tighten my hold on her waist and press a soft kiss on the top of her head. I'm so proud of her strength.

"Reese, please don't do this. Everything I did was for us. I have loved you since I was sixteen. You love me too. Now that Rosalyn isn't your mate, we can be together like it should have been from the beginning. I can forgive Rosie now that she isn't interfering in our relationship anymore. I'll treat her like I used to," he says.

He is completely delusional. This time it's not my growl that has him whimpering. "You want the hard truth, Bryce. I mistook what we had as love when it was lust. When I realized that Rosalyn was my mate, I knew what love was. Instead of cherishing her, I listened to you and my father with your f**ked up ideas. That choice is on me, and I'll live with the consequences for the rest of my life," he says. I can hear regret in his voice.

He is right that his choices are his own, but at least he has taken responsibility for what he has done, unlike Bryce. He and I won't be best buddies, but he has my respect for making amends. "That's not true. This is her fault for making you believe that your love for me was wrong," Bryce screams, pointing at Rosalyn. "You're wrong Bryce. None of this is Rosalyn's fault, it's yours. I loathe you, Bryce."

His words seem to finally hit the mark because Bryce collapses in a heap on the floor. Before anymore can be said, the door to the room opens and Maureen steps inside, followed by Logan and two warriors. "Logan, this is a sh*tty way to do this, and I promise we will have a formal ceremony soon, but as of today, you are the Beta of the Black Rose pack" Reese says. Excitement flows through our bond and I can tell that my mate agrees with his choice.

Reese POV

After the initial shock wears off, Logan straightens his spine, giving me a stiff nod. "I accept, but I don't need any fanfare, Alpha. I can't help the smile that spreads across my face. Logan made sure that I knew exactly how he felt about what Bryce and I had done. Hearing him call me Alpha for the first time makes me feel closer to being worthy of the title despite my mistakes.

"Just the same, the pack will expect a ceremony. For now, I want Bryce and Cain Myers taken to the cells. Once they are secured, I want every pack member in the meeting hall. It's time to inform the pack of what's been happening." I watch as Logan approaches Bryce. "Do you want to walk out on your own two legs or will we be dragging you out," he asks. Bryce growls but gets to his feet. "Your father will never allow this," Bryce bites out at me before being led out of the room.

"I'm proud of you, Reese. I know facing all this is hard, but there can't be any more secrets," my mother says. She's right. An hour later, I'm on stage in the large meeting room looking out on a sea of pack members. I've asked Rosalyn, Beckham, Logan, Addie, and my mother to stand with me. I know that Rosalyn and Beckham don't owe me anything, but they agreed. I couldn't be more grateful for their support.

"Thank you all for gathering so quickly. Unfortunately, time is of the essence since my father will be returning very soon. I know you're all confused, but I'm hopeful that after this meeting

you will understand why I will be challenging my father for his title today." The room breaks out into chatter. Worried words float through the air.

As I start to speak again, the room quiets. By the time I'm done retelling every f**ked up decision I made, I can see disappointment in the pack's eyes. I'm just about to apologize again when Rosalyn comes to stand next to me. Her poise and grace, even at this moment, are why she was meant to be Luna. I just hope that Beckham realizes how lucky he is unlike me. I hope he treasure the gift he has been given.

"I know your upset. I was pretty upset when it happened, but I'm not now. As crazy as it sounds, everything is as it should be. As much as Reese screwed up, he is a good man, and he will be a great Alpha with your support. He has admitted his mistakes and taken steps to right his wrongs. We are all fallible creatures. Only the goddess is perfect. If I can find it in myself to forgive him, then you should be able to do the same," she says.

"Why are you challenging your father if you are the one that made these mistakes," one of the older members speaks up. My mother steps forward, and the man bears his neck to show her the respect she deserves. "The man that I thought was a wonderful mate and Alpha has been deceiving us all.

He has been dosing me with wolfsbane for years in order to cheat on me with the former Beta of the pack. Cain Myers was also doing it to his mate. They have been betraying their goddess given bonds while poisoning their true mates to satisfy their own carnal desires for each other. Both Bryce and Cain are now in the cells for their crimes," she says.

She pauses for a moment and I can see she is struggling with what she wants to say next. In my heart I know it is my father's orders for me to force my mark on Rosalyn. I wrap my arm around her and look out at the pack that believed their Alpha was a great leader.

"Part of my father's plan was not only to force Rosalyn to share her mate but for me to force my mark on her. I refused, but he was prepared to Alpha command me to make it happen." Gasps and growls are heard throughout the room. "That's quite the tale, son. I see you have been busy poisoning the pack against me," my father says, when he steps into the room. I can see he is barely hanging on to his control as my uncle comes to stand next to him.

I'm just about to issue the challenge when the scent of wildflowers washes over me. Fallon is losing his mind as he paces back and forth in my mind. When he finally stops, a word I never thought I would hear again from him is growled out. "MATE." I search the room, but I swear the scent is so close I can taste it. All I can see are familiar faces who are focused on my father. Where the f**k is my mate?

Chapter 41 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Alpha Robert POV

When we arrive in the human city, I'm ready to find that b**ch and get far away from these pathetic creatures. "Tell me you can pinpoint exactly where we can find my son's treacherous little mate." I say to the witch. "I can envision what I saw in your office and I should be able to lead you to what I saw," she says and I smile. "That's good, the quicker we find her and deal with her pathetic human mate the better."

We make our way behind a large apartment building to not draw attention to ourselves. I've already ordered the warriors to walk the streets in case she is in one of the shops. As soon as we are out of sight of prying eyes, the witch closes her eyes and begins to chant. It doesn't take long for her to open them and smile.

"We will need to take the vehicle we drove here. Her mate's home is on the outskirts of town," she says, and I growl. "He is not her true mate. Do not refer to him as her mate again." "Of course, Alpha, my apologies" she says. "You need to calm down Robert. Mindy is the only reason that you are this close to finding the retch. You need not be so abrasive to her," my brother says. I know he's right, but I won't apologize to a witch.

He must realize I have no intention of apologizing, so he does. Sometimes I don't know how he got his position on the council because he is too soft. We are wolves and owe nothing to those that are less, like witches. Our father would be appalled to see him show such kindness to lesser creatures. I turn without a word, making my way back toward the SUV that we parked on the street. The warrior hops out when he sees me opening my door.

As we approach the pitiful looking cottage I want to laugh. Rosalyn should be thanking me for being willing to take her back to the pack instead of leaving her here to live like a beggar. Instead, she will get to rule the pack while living the life she was always meant to, even if she doesn't deserve it after all the drama she has caused.

I step out of the SUV and make my way onto a large porch. I'm just about to kick the door in when my phone rings in my pocket. When I check the screen, I want to ignore the call, but I'm worried about Cain. I still can't believe his b**ch of a mate allowed someone to claim her. My desire to make sure he isn't calling about Cain, doesn't stop the irritation in my voice when I finally answer Bryce. "What the hell do you want Bryce? We haven't found her and I" he cuts me off.

"That's because Rosie and my mother are here" he says. I can't have heard him correctly. Why would they be back in the pack now? "Excuse me" I say prompting him to repeat what he just said. "She is here and Reese is going to let her go. I heard him accept her rejection using her new mate's name," he says.

The anger that was just bubbling near the surface is about to explode. What the f**k is wrong with my son? Is he really that pathetic to offer his mate up to some weak human? I growl turning to my brother and Mindy. "We need to get back to the pack now before my son f**ks everything up." How does he think he can explain not having his fated mate to the pack after he already announced her.

After I tell Bryce to do whatever it takes to keep Rosalyn from leaving and to kill her human mate, I make sure he understands not to harm the little b**ch. Once I disconnect the call, I rush over to Mindy. "Can't you just poof us back to the pack?" I see something flash in her eyes, but it's gone as quickly as it came.

"Unfortunately, Alpha, I can only teleport myself. I'm sure if we head back now, we should be able to reach the pack before your son does any real damage" she says. "No, you teleport back and make sure he doesn't f**k all our lives up with his desire to do what's right," I say sarcastically.

"Of course, Alpha Orick," she says before she fades from my sight. Knowing that the witch will be there seems to calm the storm of rage inside me. I have given that boy every opportunity to become the Alpha he was always meant to be and this is how he repays me. We ride in silence and, despite breaking every human traffic law, it feels like forever before we reach the pack gates.

I've tried to link Maureen for the last twenty minutes, but she is deliberately blocking me out. That alone has me on edge again. "Welcome back, Alpha. If you are looking for the Luna and Alpha Reese, they are holding a meeting in the large ballroom." I growl and the guard steps back opening the gate. I don't even wait for the car to park before I'm out the door and stalking toward the meeting.

Reese POV

I have to focus on the man in front of me, or I may never have a chance to meet my mate. "No, there is no poison in truth. Everything that I have told the pack is true." "I have been a good father, mate, and Alpha and you dare turn against me" he says like he is the victim. The sound of growling from behind me forces me to turn. My mother is on the verge of shifting as she stares with pure hate in her eyes at the man she once loved.

"Mom, look at me, not him. The pack knows the truth. We all know the truth. No one believes his lies anymore." My words must reach her because her claws retract and her breathing slows. I turn my focus back to the man I once thought could do no wrong. "I, Reese Orick, rightful heir of the Black Rose pack" I start to say, but my father screams for me to stop.

"Reese, I know you're angry at me but everything I've done was for you and this pack. Are you really willing to kill me just for my title? I have every intention of passing my title to you when I feel you're ready," he asks, trying to manipulate the pack. "This has nothing to do with the title and everything to do with the fact that you are a monster who isn't fit to be Alpha of this pack any longer."

He growls, and his eyes flash black. His wolf is torn because I'm his pup, but he doesn't like my disrespect. The more I think about it, why did his wolf allow him to betray my mother? I push that thought from my mind and focus on my father. There is nothing that will stop this challenge from happening today. "I, Reese Orick, rightful heir of the Black Rose, challenge you, Robert Orick, for the Alpha title." As the last words leave my lips, my father's eyes turn black a sign his wolf is in control.

"You will regret this pup" he says, and I can't help but smile. "I don't believe I will." "You can't do this without the approval of the council Reese and I don't approve," my uncle says smugly. He stands side by side with my father, believing he has some power here. "No one gives a sh*t if you approve because you probably won't be a member of the council by morning," my mother says from behind me.

My uncle looks like she just slapped him as he starts to sputter. "The council has been informed of everything including your involvement, uncle. They have given their approval," I say. His face loses all color. "This can't be happening. Mindy, where the f**k are you" he calls out, but no one moves. Could Mindy be my mate? It can't be we have already met. She protected my mother. As if I conjure her with my thoughts, she appears next to my uncle. Why the f**k is she standing next to my uncle?

The scent of wild flowers surrounds me. I know at this instant that she is my second chance mate. She is the most beautiful woman I've ever seen, and she is mine. I'm not sure how it's possible, but she is. It takes every bit of my control not to rush to her and take her in my arms. Fallon whimpers because she has made no move toward us.

The smile that spreads across his face makes bile rise in my throat. Does she not want me? Panic that threatens to choke me fills my body. She knows what I've done. Is that why she is standing with my uncle? Have I lost my second chance before I even had a moment to cherish her? Is this part of my punishment for all I've done?