

Chapter 52 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Miranda POV

I bury my head in Charlie's neck as he carries me through the pack house. I hate that I blocked him from our bond, but I needed to focus on my anger and not his concern. I open our bond and the feelings of love and support overwhelm me. Tears begin to flow, wetting Charlie's shirt. When I hear the click of a door, I assume we are in our guest room. It's not until I feel the warm spray of water do I realize we are in the walk-in shower.

"Beautiful, let me take care of you" he says gently. He sets me on my feet and brushes my wet hair off my face. He places a kiss on my forehead. I can only imagine what I look like as I look down to see the water at my feet tinged red as it swirls toward the drain. I reach down to grab the hem of my shirt but his hands still mine. He pulls my shirt over my head and drops it on the shower floor.

Rubbing his hands down my arms, I look up into his beautiful eyes. He presses a soft kiss on my lips before he reaches around and unclasps my bra. There is nothing s*xual about what he is doing. I can feel how much he loves me with every touch of his hand against my skin. He helps me out of my pants and panties. He grabs the bottle of strawberry mint shampoo, squeezing a small amount into his hand.

Between Charlie's scent and the shampoo, my shoulders seem to relax as he works his fingers through my hair, massaging my scalp. I can't stop the moan that escapes my lips as he starts to lather the body wash into my skin. As much as I'm enjoying his tenderness, I need more. I need to feel his desire for me.

As he rubs his hands over my breasts, my n**ples pebble under his touch. I push my chest forward seeking more. "Miranda" he says, his voice breathy. I know despite his efforts to keep himself under control, he is as affected as I am. "Charlie, I need you. I need you hard and rough right now" I say staring into his eyes that are full of lust. He must realize that I'm not going to break as he roughly wraps his hand around my neck.

He threads his fingers in my hair and slams his lips down on mine. His kiss is punishing, and I feel it all the way to my toes. He roughly kneads my breast, as his tongue moves in tandem with mine. I reach for his pants wanting to feel him in my hand. I quickly have his pants unbuttoned and his zipper down. I slide my hand into the waistband of his boxer briefs and wrap my hand around his already erect c**k.

He pulls my hair a little harder when I start to pump him in my hand. When he finally breaks the kiss, I try to pull air into my lungs. "Turn around and put your hands on the wall, beautiful" he says, his voice commanding. His words make my cl*t throb. I do as he says, pushing my a** toward him.

I moan when I feel him swipe his finger through my folds. "So wet for me already? Make sure you don't move your hands, beautiful," he says. I brace myself wanting to please him. Needing to feel this man that I love driving into me roughly. He doesn't disappoint as he buries his c**k deep inside me with one powerful thrust. The burn and stretch are delicious. My thoughts are consumed by him as he pounds into me.

I can feel the familiar build in my core as he reaches around and rubs my cl*t. He fists my hair in his hand, pulling my back against his chest as he continues a punishing rhythm. I scream his name as the org*sm rips through me. He continues to f**k me through my org*sm. I expect to feel him spill his seed deep inside me, but he doesn't.

As he starts to move slower, he kisses my neck. "Tell me what else you need, beautiful." "I want you in my mouth, Charlie. I want you to use me for your pleasure." He pulls his c**k from my body and I turn dropping to my knees. He strokes his c**k a few times as he looks down at me with hooded eyes. I know he was close when he was buried inside me. "Are you sure beautiful" he asks.

Instead of words, I reach out and replace his hand with mine. He moans throwing his head back when I wrap my mouth around the tip of his c**k. I slide my mouth down his c**k taking him to the base. I taste a mix of both of us, making me moan around his c**k. He threads his hands in my hair as he rocks his hips. I swallow around him as he starts to f**k my face harder.

"I'm going to c*m" he screams. I hold myself on his c**k drinking every drop of his salty seed. Goddess, I love this man. He reaches down, lifting me off the floor and pressing me against the shower wall. This time his kiss isn't needy but a promise of his love for me. I promise to protect my heart at all costs.

A promise to be everything I need. When he breaks the kiss this time, we take our time washing each other. Caring for each other like this is just as intimate as feeling him inside me. Once we are both dried off, I dress in jeans and a t-shirt. I want to check on my pups. I want to make sure that Colton is alright.

When Charlie steps in front of me, he wraps me in his arms. "I love you, Miranda. I am the luckiest ba**ard alive to have found you. I will spend the rest of my life showing just how much you mean to me. I'm so proud of your strength and I don't just mean how you handled that ba**ard downstairs. I'm talking about that you didn't think twice about accepting those pups."

Panic bubbles inside me. I never even discussed it with him before I decided. It wouldn't have changed anything, but he is my mate. "Miranda, I want to be there for those two pups as much as you do. Blood doesn't make a family. I will love them like they are my own," he says. I can't stop

the tears that start to flow down my cheeks. He brushes them away with his thumbs and presses a soft kiss on my lips.

"Let's go meet our pup, beautiful" he says, taking my hand in his. We make our way downstairs. When we reach the game room, I can hear boisterous giggles coming from inside. I knock before pushing the door open. Lindsay stands when she sees us, offering me a smile. "Hello Lindsay, this is my mate, Charlie. Charlie, this is Lindsay, one of the best bakers in the pack."

"She is, she gave me a chocolate chip cookie, and it was really good" a little voice says. When I look down at the little boy who is smiling up at me, my breath catches in my throat. He looks like Bryce and Emmett when they were little. I fight the tears that threaten to fall. I bend down, so I'm eye level with him. "Hi Colton, my name is Miranda and this is my mate, Charlie. I like chocolate chip cookies too." "You know my name" he asks.

"I do, I met your sister Samantha. She told me about her awesome little brother, so I had to meet you." He smiles and my heart squeezes in my chest. The door opens and Samantha steps inside. As soon as Colton sees her, he rushes over wrapping his arms around her waist.

Samantha POV

I'm still in shock about everything that happened today. I never expected to be accepted by not only my sister but by Miranda. My mother was right about what an amazing woman she is. I never in my wildest dreams expected her to accept me and Colton. As soon as I leave Rosalyn, I go to check on Colton. I hear voices and smile when I realize it's Miranda talking to Colton about cookies.

As soon as he sees me, he rushes over, wrapping his arms around my waist. "I see you met Miranda and Charlie," I say to him. "She likes chocolate chip cookies just like me." I'm glad the evilness that was our sperm donor didn't touch him. "Samantha, do you think that Charlie and I could talk to you and Colton for a minute" she asks.

I lead Colton over to a plush couch. They take a seat on a matching couch across from us. "I know that this is the only place you've ever lived but we would really like for you both to come home with us. Charlie has a really beautiful house that we are all going to live in if you agree." "Does that mean you will be my new mommy and Charlie will be my daddy," Colton asks, and my heart squeezes in my chest.

Miranda comes to kneel in front of him. "Did you know that your mommy was a good friend of mine? She was an amazing person, and we will always make sure that she is part of our lives by keeping her memories alive," she says, looking from Colton to me. I can feel the tears as they roll down my cheeks.

"Your mommy asked me to take good care of you and I promise we always will. Charlie and I would be honored if you wanted to call us mommy and daddy, but you don't have to," she says, again looking between us. "What do you say, Colton, would you like to live with Miranda and Charlie," I ask as I wipe my cheeks.

"Yes, can we have chocolate chip cookies at our new house" he asks. I can't help but chuckle. "You bet, Rose makes the best chocolate chip cookies" Miranda says. For the first time in a very long time, I know in my heart that Colton and I are safe and loved.

52 What is Going on Here

Chapter 53 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Jayden POV

A heavyweight rests on my chest. My eyes fly open as I start to struggle against it. "Not a word," Waller growls. His hand covers my mouth as I scan the room. Two of his cronies are standing next to my bed. I knew beating his a** today in training wasn't going to go unpunished. Barrett insisted we fight in human form.

I know I made things worse for myself, but honestly, it felt good handing him his a** in front of the pack. "You're going to get your a** up and walk downstairs without saying a word. If you do anything stupid, Jerome is going to break your brother's neck. He is right outside the brat's door waiting for one word from me. You thought you were cute today in front of the pack, but you are going to pay for embarrassing me," Waller says.

When he finally lifts his weight off me, Atlas is trying to push forward, but I remind him about Jacob. "Fine, but one day I'm going to take great pleasure in ripping this little pr*ck apart" he growls. My forearm is roughly grabbed, breaking me out of my conversation with Atlas. "Move your a**" Waller says.

I follow Waller while the other two a**holes follow behind me. Once we step into the hallway, I realize it has to be in the middle of the night. There is no light shining through the windows. I should have known this coward would wait till the darkness could hide his sh**y behavior. I'm surprised he didn't shoot me up with wolfsbane before he let me out of bed.

The pack house is quiet as we make our way downstairs and through the foyer. Waller pushes open the door that leads to the pack yard. As I step outside, crony number one shoves me hard. I'm able to right my footing to stop myself from hitting the ground. Before I can stop myself, I whirl on the pr*ck. I growl low and, despite his posturing, I see fear in his eyes.

"Enough, keep walking omega" Waller growls at me. "Do you really think I give a sh*t if you call me an omega, Waller. I will always be an Alpha, but you will never be one." He lands the first punch to my stomach and I hold back the groan. He is nowhere as strong as I am, but he is

still of Beta blood. He reaches out, grabbing a fist full of my hair. Twisting my face, so I'm looking into his eyes.

"I was going to have a little mercy on you tonight by just having two of us pound on you but that bulls*t you just said bought you a ticket to a three-man a** beating" he says with a smirk. He is so full of sh*t. We start walking again, but this time I try to keep pace with Waller so his d*ckhead friend doesn't take another cheap shot.

The path he is leading us down will take us to a clearing near the pack border. He wants us as far away from the pack house as possible. I wonder if Corey knows he's doing this. He is going to be pissed if I don't heal by the time I have to meet Barrett for breakfast. As Waller steps into the clearing, the sound of branches breaking has us all freezing in place.

A chocolate brown wolf steps out of the trees and I recognize he's a pack wolf by his scent. Waller must realize the wolf is on patrol near the border. He shifts, and I fist my hands at my side. The wolf is a man I once considered a friend. "You can continue your patrol, Fredrick. We don't need any help to deal with this poor excuse for a wolf," Waller says. His eyes quickly meet mine.

Something that I can't decipher flashes in his eyes before he turns back to Waller and nods. He shifts back into his brown wolf before he takes off running toward the trees. Waller turns back toward me with a sinister smile on his face. He takes a few steps toward me, trying to intimidate me. "Must feel like sh*t to have no one care about what happens to you. Your own brother left you to suffer because you're worthless," he says.

It takes everything I have in me not to give control over to Atlas. Without warning, a hard kick to the back of my leg knocks me off my feet. They take the opportunity to land kick after kick to my back, stomach, and face. I try to get to my feet, but Waller leans down as I take another kick to my stomach. "Stay down, or I'll have Jerome bring that little ba**ard out here to watch his big brother get his a** beat."

"What the hell is going on here," a deep voice booms and everyone freezes. I'm sure my eye is swollen, but I can make out Barrett standing near the path. "Councilman," Waller says, fear clearly present in his voice. "I asked a question and I expect an answer" he says, taking a step closer to us. I manage to get to my feet though I'm sure I have a few broken ribs. "We were just getting in some extra training," Waller says.

"Do you often train three on one" he asks. Before Waller can speak, Barrett steps closer so they are nose to nose. "You know what I think. I think you got your a** handed to you today, and you didn't like it. I think you decided to bring Jayden out here to teach him a lesson. I think you think that you have some power because your daddy is the acting Alpha," Barrett says as he releases his aura.

Waller and his buddies immediately fall to their knees baring their necks. I'm able to stay on my feet, but I bare my neck to show my respect. "Jayden, I appreciate the respect but rise. You are an Alpha, unlike those that are kneeling before me." I do as he says. "Now, I'm going to take

Jayden to the pack hospital to be checked out and you three will report to the Alpha's office now," Barrett says.

"My father is sleeping" Waller says and Barrett growls. "Do you think I give a flying f**k that your daddy is sleeping? Maybe you should have thought about that before you decided to attack the future Alpha of this pack. It will not go unpunished. That much I promise you." Barrett motions for me to join him.

I brace my hand against my side as I step toward him. "He is too weak to be Alpha of anything," Waller growls out. Before I know what's happening, Barrett has knocked Waller to the ground. He straddles him, landing three punches to his face. The familiar crunch of his nose breaking brings a smile to my face. Blood pours from his nose. Barrett gets back to his feet and heads toward me.

"Get your a**es to the Alpha's office now" Barrett says. We make our way down the path back toward the pack hospital. "Do you want to tell me what the hell was happening back there?" I'm half tempted to tell him when Waller links me. "You better say that we were training, and it got out of hand, or I'll make sure you never see your brother again" he says breaking the link.

"Jayden, I can help you. I know something isn't right, I can feel it. I just need you to tell me exactly what the hell is going on" Barrett says. "Can I ask you a question?" "Of course, I'm here to help you Jayden," he says. "You spoke about Beckham, but you haven't mentioned Jacob at all." He stops walking and I turn to face him. Sadness flashes in his eyes. "I couldn't imagine losing one brother, but you lost two. I didn't want to bring up Jacob knowing that it would cause you more pain," he says.

What the f**k is he talking about? "I just hope you find peace knowing he's with the Goddess" he says. "I don't mean to be disrespectful, but what exactly were you told about Jacob?" "Corey, informed the council that a few days after your father was killed your brother was so distraught that he ran trying to escape his pain. He wandered too far and was killed by rogues outside the pack territory."

That pr*ck told the council Jacob is dead. If I try to tell him about Jacob, they will do something to make sure he can't be found. I have no choice but to keep my mouth shut no matter how much I want to tell this man every evil thing they have done to me. "It was just a really intense training that got out of hand," I say before I start walking again. I'm grateful when Barrett doesn't ask me anymore questions.

53 Get Ready

Chapter 54 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Corey POV

I'm sound asleep when I can feel a forced link. "Dad, I need you to get to your office now," Waller says in a panic. "What the f**k have you done," I growl, as I throw the blankets off me. "Barrett caught us teaching Jayden a f**king lesson for embarrassing me in training" he says. My steps falter as his words sink in. "F**k, you id**t. Do you know what you've done? How the f**k could you be so stupid?" He knows better than to answer me right now.

"I'm on my way. You keep your f**king mouth shut until I get there." I cut the link and slip a shirt over my head. That pr*ck is going to insist Waller be punished. How the f**k am I supposed to get him out of this? He saw it with his own eyes. I open my link to Waller again. "Where the f**k is Jayden now?"

"Barrett insisted on taking him to the pack hospital. He told me, Bruno, and Kyle to head to your office. What are we going to do dad?" Goddess, it's a good thing he isn't in front of me right now because I might kill him myself for the mess he's made. "I'll think of something. Just make sure you and your friends keep your mouths shut," I say, cutting the link again.

I open the link with my head warrior. I can hear he is still on patrol by the way he is breathing. "Go to the hospital now. I might need you to take care of something for me. For now, you simply have to stay with Jayden and keep your ears open. Report if he says anything that may cause a problem." "Yes, Alpha," he says.

Beckham POV

As soon as we reach the apartment lobby, I lift Rosalyn into my arms and take the steps two at a time. I can't wait to see our pup. When I push open the door, Lily rushes over to me and Rosalyn, who is now standing next to me. I smile when Rosalyn pulls her into a hug before I can get my hands on her. "Mommy, I missed you" she says. "I missed you too, Lily bear. After you give daddy a big hug, I want to introduce you to mine and Uncle Emmett's brother and sister" she says.

I watch as Emmett's eyes meet Rosalyn's. I can see confusion and anger flash in his eyes, but he stays quiet. I'm sure he has a million questions. Lily is almost vibrating with excitement as she tries to look around me. "Hey, mommy said I get a hug first." Lily launches herself at me and I laugh. I scoop her up in my arms and pepper kisses all over her face.

I swear she has gotten bigger in just the few days we have been gone. She giggles and warmth spreads through my chest. I've missed my pup. I hate the thought of leaving her again, but I have no choice. Heading to the pack can't be put off any longer.

Even though Mindy can't tell me everything, I trust her when she says I have to return to the pack. I expected her to be with us, but she hasn't completely recovered from dealing with Bryce. I could feel the fear rolling off Reese as he kept her close to him. She reassured us all that she

just needed to rest. Bryce is no longer a threat, so keeping him in the cells a little longer isn't going to hurt anything.

When she is completely recovered, Mindy and Reese will bring Robert's brother to the Blue Crescent. When I asked her about the head of the council and how she became involved with him and Orick, she was very tight-lipped. I smile remembering exactly what she said. "Unlike the goddess, I don't like sounding like a fortune cookie, so don't ask me questions I can't answer."

I was worried about her being mated to Reese, but he has shown he isn't the same man that hurt Rosalyn. The same man that could so easily betray his mate. I'm glad she trusted the goddess and chose to accept Reese. I couldn't imagine her never having her fated mate. Besides, if he hurts her, she will probably turn him into a toad.

"Lily, this is Colton and Sam. Guys, this is mine and Beck's daughter Lily. That big guy and pretty lady over there are your brother Emmett and your sister-in-law, Stacey". Rosalyn's voice brings me out of my thoughts. I set Lily on her feet and she walks right up to Colton. "We are going to be best friends" she says to him, like he has no choice. I fight the urge to laugh as Colton looks between Rosalyn and Samantha for guidance. I can see they are both fighting the urge to laugh at my daughter's antics.

When Colton looks back at Lily, he shrugs. "OK" he says. She takes his hand in hers and turns to Samantha. "Hi Auntie Sam. Are you going to stay with us from now on," Lily asks. Miranda bends down so she is eye to eye with Lily. "Sam and Colton are going to live with Nanna and Papa Charlie. You'll see each other all the time, but tonight you're going to have a sleep-over at our house with Colton and Sam because daddy and mommy have to take another trip," Miranda says.

I can't help the smile that spreads across my face when Lily squeals. I help Rosalyn pack the clothes that Stacey brought for Lily to the apartment. She doesn't even seem to be bothered I have to leave again, as she shows Colton every toy she has in the apartment. Rosalyn leans toward me to whisper in my ear. "Maybe they will end up being mates" she says with a teasing smile.

I growl low in warning, but there is no true anger. "She isn't allowed to have a mate till she's thirty." Rosalyn rolls her eyes and I press a quick kiss on her lips. I watch Lily talk Colton's ear off, and I'm glad that she'll have a pup to grow up with. Hopefully, dealing with my brother will only take a few days, and we can spend time with our new family. I won't bring any of them into the pack until I know it's safe.

Once we say our goodbyes to Miranda, Charlie, Samantha, and the pups, Emmett wants to know everything that happened while we were in the Black Rose. Rosalyn had given him the short version about Samantha and Colton because he didn't want them to be uncomfortable. Just like his mother and sister, he easily accepted his new siblings. Colton was thrilled that he is no longer the only boy in their family. We all chuckled when he hugged Emmett like he was going to disappear.

We all sat at the kitchen table as Rosalyn retold the story with all the disgusting details we learned from Sam about what Cain and Robert had done to Susan. Stacey sat in Emmett's lap to keep him calm as he was barely holding on to control. "Goddess, I wish I was there to see that ba**ard take his last breath. What an evil pr*ck. I'm glad she wanted to get a look at you, Rose, or they might still be living in that sh*thole with no one to care for them," Emmett says.

We are all silent for a moment, absorbing everything that's happened over the last few days. Gideon nudges me and I finally break the silence. "We will be leaving first thing in the morning for the Blue Crescent pack without Mindy." Stacey practically jumps out of Emmet's lap and begins to pace. "You can't be serious, Beck," Stacey says.

"I'm very, serious." "Rose, you need to talk some sense into him. He is going to get himself killed returning to that pack without magical back-up. He is your mate. He'll listen to you," she says. "I can't, Stacey. I agree we have to do this. I trust the goddess," Rosalyn says. Stacey looks back at me and I hate the fear I see in her eyes.

"I understand you feel this overwhelming need to return to the Blue Crescent, but you cannot just walk up to the gate and insist on speaking with the Alpha. You have no idea how your brother is going to act when you return. Mason was his father too. He could throw you in the cells or, worse, have you killed on sight for killing that despicable man. You have Lily to think about Beck," Stacey says.

"I am thinking about Lily. She should be able to grow up in the pack just like we did. She should be around other pups. I was always meant to become Alpha and care for my pack. I made a choice to protect myself and my pup, but it's time to make a different choice now."

"I know you're worried, Stacey, but Mindy insists that I have to return now. She still hasn't recovered after stripping that ba**ard's wolf, but she is confident that the goddess has others in place to help me. I have faith in myself and the goddess." "Fine, if you insist on returning, then I'm going too," she says. Emmett growls, pulling her back onto his lap.

"Why are you growling? Beck says that we will be safe. I refuse to let him face the past and that pack by himself" she says. "What the hell am I, chopped liver," Rosalyn says. I chuckle and press a kiss on Rosalyn's head. "You are never chopped liver to me, my love." "Fine, I guess the four of us will be walking up to the gate without any protection and demanding to see the Alpha," she says.

"Now I never said we wouldn't have protection." I stand from the table and grab my bag. I retrieve the four vials that Mindy gave me before we left the Blood Rose pack. I set the vials containing the shimmery green liquid in front of each of us. "A gift from Mindy. It won't make us invincible, but it will offer us protection and strength."

Chapter 55 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Jayden POV

Once I'm taken to the exam room, Barrett leaves. "You should have told him," Atlas growls. "Don't you think I wanted to? I have no way to protect Jacob, Atlas. Even pack members we once thought of as loyal are too afraid to go against that prick. If I tell Barrett, and he believes me, there is no guarantee we will make it to Jacob before they hide or kill him. Are you willing to take that chance with our brother's life?"

Atlas whimpers and recedes to the back of my mind. I don't care about myself. If Jacob wasn't here I would have already tried to end Corey and Waller. The door to the exam room opens, bringing me out of my thoughts. "Jayden, what happened," Dr. James asks. He has been the pack doctor since well before I was born. This is the first time he has seen me in three years because they never bring me to the pack hospital for my injuries.

"Training got a little out of hand. I think a few of my ribs are broken. It should be fine by the morning, but Councilman Barrett insisted I be checked out." He moves toward me, placing his hand on my side. I wince as he moves down my right side pressing gently. "Its odd that your wolf isn't healing you faster. Alpha wolves have accelerated healing" he says.

I can't tell him that we probably aren't healing because of all the wolfsbane they give me. "I'm going to do some blood work to see why you're not healing. I'll have the nurse take you for x-rays to determine if you in fact have rib fractures and if they are displaced" he says. "I don't think all that is necessary. I'll be fine" I say attempting to sit up.

"That wasn't a recommendation, Jayden. You may be an Alpha wolf who is used to giving orders, but inside these walls I give orders. You'll have the tests done," he says. Atlas bristles at his tone. I'm just about to open my mouth to protest again when the door opens and Fredrick steps inside. I growl low, but Fredrick focuses his attention on Dr. James.

"Doc, do you think I could have a few minutes alone with Jayden? By the time the nurse comes back, he'll be ready to go for the tests" he says. "Of course, Fredrick. One of the nurses will be back shortly" Dr. James says. As soon as the door clicks shut I growl at Fredrick again. "What the hell are you doing here?"

"Well, hello to you too. You need to let Dr. James, check you out" he says. "Don't pretend like you give a sh*t about me Fredrick. Did Alpha a**hat send you to make sure I keep my mouth shut?" "You know, Jayden, there was a time we were best friends. You never doubted my loyalty to you or the pack," he says.

"The operative word is was. The minute that Beckham left and that pr*ck Corey took over the pack, you were too busy kissing his a** to become the head warrior to have my back." It's Fredrick's turn to growl.

"For a smart guy, you are acting pretty dumb. Everything I've been doing has been to protect you and Jacob as much as I could. Why do you think that Barrett found you tonight before those a**holes could do more damage? Now you can keep acting like everyone is against you, or you can let me help you. I will be the one assigned to Jacob tomorrow morning. This is the only chance you'll have to tell Barrett exactly what the hell has been going on and know that Jacob is safe. Don't f**k it up, Jayden."

A knock on the door has him turning to leave without another word. How the f**k am I supposed to trust him? The nurse walks in with a wheelchair. "I can walk." "Sir, I have my orders. Please just get into the chair" she says. I roll my eyes, but get into the chair. As she pushes me down the hall, Fredrick's words feel like they are on an endless loop repeating in my head.

"I know as much as you don't want to admit it, you're scared, Jayden. You were never trained to become Alpha and you think that your not strong enough to protect Jacob or the pack, so you just keep taking their abuse," he says. Bile rises in my throat. As much as I want to tell him he's wrong, I can't.

Losing Beck and then having Jacob pretty much taken away from me has made me feel weak. "There is nothing wrong with being afraid, but sometimes you have to put on your big boy pants and face it. I don't think Beck will ever come back after what happened. We need to save ourselves. You are strong enough, and I'll be with you every step of the way. That pr*ck is going to expect you to lie for his pathetic son. It's time to stand up Jayden," Atlas says.

The Next Morning

"Thankfully, the three ribs that were broken weren't displaced. It took Atlas most of the night to heal me. I was glad that Barrett never came back last night to talk to me about his meeting with Corey and Waller. I needed to wait until Fredrick was in place as Jacob's guard this morning before telling Barrett everything.

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't afraid of everything going to sh*t and Jacob getting hurt, but Atlas is right. It's time to expose Corey and Waller for the evil pr*cks they are. The door to my room opens and Dr. James steps inside. "Jayden, your lab work won't be back for a day or so. Your pain seems to be better this morning, and I'm alright with discharging you if you can promise me no training for at least a couple of days," he says.

"Absolutely," I say already reaching for a fresh set of clothes that appeared in my room. "Alpha Corey, also asked that you come to his office as soon as I discharged you." I resist the urge to roll my eyes. Of course, he did. "I will make sure I head there now," I say and he leaves the room. Once I'm dressed, I make my way back to the pack house. Once I'm inside, I take the stairs

to the Alpha floor. I say a silent prayer to the goddess that she protects Jacob before I reach for the door handle.

As I wrap my hand around it, I feel the familiar link of that pr*ck Waller. "I can smell you're here. You better stick to the story, or you'll be sorry mutt." He breaks the link and I knock as I push the door open. Corey is seated behind his desk while Barrett is seated across from him. Twiddle dumb, dumber, and dumbest are standing off to the side. "Come in Jayden. How are you feeling," Corey asks with fake concern.

"Better than I did last night." Corey's eyes flash in warning before he speaks again. "I understand there was a bit of a misunderstanding that only you can clear up. Can you please tell Barrett exactly what was going on last night when you were hurt," Corey says. I take a deep breath before my eyes meet Barrett's. "Waller and his buddies decided to teach me a lesson after I beat Waller's a** in training."

A small smile lifts the corner of Barrett's mouth but, it's gone just as quickly as it came. "It seems there was no misunderstanding as you hoped, Alpha Corey," Barrett says. Without a word, Corey is out of his chair and heading for the door with Waller hot on his heels. "Where the hell are you going," Barrett says, his voice laced with irritation.

"We have an issue at the gate that requires my immediate attention. I will summon you both to continue this discussion once I'm finished dealing with the issue," Corey says before he is gone. I look at Barrett who has a strange smile spreading across his face. "I think we should join the Alpha and his pup. They may need our help, Jayden. I wouldn't want to miss the excitement" he says.

Beckham POV

It's about eight in the morning when we make the turn onto the road that will lead to the Blue Crescent pack. It feels like my heart is going to pound out of my chest the closer we get to the gate. Rosalyn takes my hand in hers as the gate comes into view. "I have faith in you my Alpha," Rosalyn links me and Gideon preens.

When I pull in front of the gate, a guard steps out from the trees. When he finally realizes who is driving, anger flashes in his eyes. I reach for the handle and Rosalyn lays her hand on my forearm. "Please be careful." "I will my love." I push the door open and step out. I stand to my full height and step closer to the gate. "Why are you here, deserter?"

I give a low growl at his disrespect. He takes a step back and drops his gaze to the ground. "I am here to speak with your Alpha. Link him now that I'm here." The sound of the doors opening behind me makes me smile. I wondered how long they would stay in the car. I watch the guard's eyes glaze over before they return to his normal color. "The Alpha is on his way" he says. "Thank you," I say and he looks at me confused.

I'm not sure what to say to my brother first. I want to apologize for leaving him without a word, but he may hate me for killing our father and not want my apology. A few minutes later, I watch

two people that I have no desire to speak with approach the gate. I growl at the guard who looks surprised by my anger. "I asked for the Alpha, not the Beta. I suggest you link my brother and tell him I'm here requesting to speak with him."

Corey's smirk makes a feeling of unease bubble up inside me. "The guard made no mistake, Beckham. Your brother is not the Alpha of this pack. Hell he is barely an omega. I'm the Alpha of the Blue Crescent and you are not welcome in my pack. I suggest you leave before I have you killed for killing my daughter and the former Alpha of this pack." I'm overwhelmed by guilt. What has he done to my brother?

55 Coward

Chapter 56 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Beckham POV

Gideon is pushing to the surface as we stare down this smug ba**ard. "What the f**k have you done to my brothers?" "Your brothers are no longer your concern. You abandoned them. This is my pack. You no longer have any right or claim to it or your brothers. You can either leave and never return or I'll have my guards end your pathetic life," he says.

"Do you think for one second I'm a coward like you? I'm not leaving until I see my brothers. So you have a choice to make Beta. You can let me talk to my brother, or I can snap your neck and take my title from you." As much as he tries to hide it, I see fear flash in his eyes. He takes a step back from the gate and his eyes glaze over. My eyes move to Waller. He hasn't changed much besides gaining some muscle on his lanky frame.

He is staring me down as he puffs his chest out like a hollow boned bird, which makes me smile. I take a step closer to the gate and release my aura. Waller drops to his knees and bares his neck. My eyes meet Corey's as ten warriors come to stand behind him. He is fighting against my aura, but his wolf recognizes its Alpha.

He starts to bear his neck when a loud deep voice interrupts the moment. "What the hell is going on here?" The man has to be an Alpha wolf. He looks to be about 6'5" and as broad as a tank. "Barrett, I am handling the situation. Please go back to the pack house," Corey says. My eyes shift to the man standing next to him.

My heart feels like its being squeezed in my chest. My brother was eighteen when I left. He was just starting his intensive training and hadn't yet built muscle. He has filled out his tall frame with muscle now. We share many features that I know we got from our sperm donor, but he has

our mother's eyes. I hate the anger I see in them as he stares at me. "Beck" he says my name so low that I'm not sure if he even meant to say it out loud.

Barrett's eyes shift between us before they finally land on me. "You are Beckham Forester" he says. "He is, and I want him punished for what he did to my daughter and the former Alpha without the sanction of the council," Corey says before I can respond to Barrett's statement. I growl, Gideon begging for me to give over control. A soft warm hand slides into mine, helping to calm both myself and my wolf.

"We will continue this conversation inside the pack and no harm will come to Beckham or his companions. Am I clear Alpha Corey," Barrett says. I can't help the growl that escapes me hearing him called Alpha. Barrett turns toward me, raising his eyebrows in question. "You may not like that he is Alpha, but for now he possesses the title and I will show him the respect the title deserves. Now am I clear Alpha Corey," he asks again.

"Yes, Councilman Barrett. Open the gate," he says to the guard. He turns to the warriors he summoned. "Return to your assigned posts until I call on you again." Once the gates open, I hold Rosalyn close to my side. As we make our way toward the pack house my stomach flips. I look over at Jayden several times, but he continues to stare straight ahead.

Pack members are staring as we pass through the foyer. Some look pissed to see me, while others just look confused. I knew this wasn't going to be easy, but I need to be here. "How dare you come back here" says a familiar deep male voice. I release my hold on Rosalyn to face the person when a fist connects with my jaw.

I stumble but manage to stay upright when I come face to face with a man I considered my best friend. A man that was meant to be my Beta because I refused to accept Waller. Rosalyn steps in front of me and growls at Brent. He immediately takes a step back. As angry as he is with me, he would never hurt a woman. "Brent, I'm," I say, starting to apologize, but he cuts me off.

"Don't you dare say you're sorry. You abandoned us. You don't get to be sorry," he says before he turns, walking out of the pack house. "Did you expect a warm welcome? Everyone here loathes you. You should never have returned," Corey says. "Enough, this is not the time or place for that discussion. We need to talk about the more pressing matters in the Alpha office," Barrett says.

I look around at the pack members that have gathered before I turn back toward the stairs. Rosalyn wraps her arm back around my middle as we make our way up the stairs to the Alpha floor. Memories of my childhood and teenage years flood me when we reach the floor. Despite the horrific way I lost Deborah, I had many good memories in this pack house. I allowed my pain to cloud those memories for far too long.

When we step inside, Corey takes a seat behind the desk my so-called father once used. I look around the office and not much has changed except for the pictures. Waller stands behind his father glaring at me. Jayden stands stoically by Barrett's side. Everything in me wants to walk over and pull him into a hug, but his anger is palpable.

I hate that he probably doesn't realize why I had to kill that pr*ck or why I ran. Goddess only knows what Corey has told him or the pack. "As I said before, I want this mutt punished for what he did to my daughter. He had no right to take her life without her having a fair trial. He was not the Alpha of the pack and had no right," Corey says, his eyes flashing back and forth with his wolf's.

"I understand that losing your daughter was upsetting, but I would like to hear Beckham's account of the events that day since you were not actually present at the time of your daughter and the Alpha's death," Barrett says. "I mean no disrespect, Councilman Barrett, but shouldn't the entire council be involved in deciding what happens to this murderer" Corey says.

"As the head of the council, I will keep the other members informed of my findings, but since I have the final say, I don't require the whole council to be here," Barrett says. Something flashes in Corey's eyes. "You seem confused, Alpha Corey." "I was just a little shocked when you said that you are the head of the council. I thought Orick held that position," Corey says. I keep my face impassive even though I'm smiling inside.

"Unfortunately, Orick no longer holds a position with the council at all." He offers him no other explanation as he turns back to me. "Before I tell you what happened the day I left can I ask about Jacob?" I'm shocked when Jayden growls at me. "No, you don't get to ask about him after you abandoned us to be abused by these pr*cks for the last three years," Jayden screams at me. What the f**k did he just say?

My heart shatters into a million pieces as I see not only anger but pain in my brother's eyes. Barrett lays his hand on Jayden's arm before he turns back to me. "I'm sorry to inform you, Beckham, that Jacob was killed by rogues a few days after you left." I feel like the air is knocked out of my lungs. My baby brother was killed. No, that can't be right. Jayden just said these pr*cks abused them, not him alone.

Before I can stop myself, I release the full strength of my aura. Waller immediately drops to the floor and Corey is practically breaking his neck in submission. "Tell me where the f**k my brother Jacob is now," I say using my Alpha command. I pull my aura back, allowing the pr*ck to speak. His eyes look panicked as they shift between me and Barrett. "He is under guard on the Beta floor," Jayden growls out before Corey answers.

Barrett looks at him and I swear I see pride in his eyes. "I believe we have a lot more to discuss than I originally realized. First things first, Alpha Corey, I want Jacob Forester brought to this office immediately." "Councilman Barrett, let me explain," Corey starts to say, but Barrett raises his hand to stop him. "Not another word until the young man joins us." "Waller go get Jacob" Corey says.

Waller takes a few steps toward the door before Jayden steps in front of him. "No, I don't trust him near my brother. Barrett, please have Fredrick bring him to the office?" I swear it happens in slow motion. Waller swings but Jayden is quicker and lands a punch to his nose. Blood begins to run down Waller's face as Jayden steps closer. "Your free shots are over a**hole." This time I let the smile spread across my face.

Chapter 57 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Jayden POV

When we approached the gate, I felt like I was kicked in the stomach. Seeing Beckham was surreal. I'm torn inside. I'm relieved but angry. He walked away from us and didn't look back. Part of me wants to know why he's back now. The other part wants to know why. We were all so close growing up, yet he left like we didn't matter to him at all. Three years ago he left us here to rot.

As we walk back to the pack house, I refuse to look at him even though I can feel his stares. When Brent lands a punch to Beck's jaw, I can see the pain in his eyes. We aren't the only ones that lost Beck when he left. He is one of the few people who never bowed down to Corey and Waller. He was Beck's best friend. A few days after he left, Brent tried to reassure me that Beck would come back, but after six months, he gave up that hope.

Brent has pretty much kept to himself except training. I could see the hurt in Beck's eyes when Brent walked away, but what did he expect to happen? I don't agree with Corey that everyone loathes him, but quite a few pack members are angry that they were abandoned by the future Alpha after he killed our father. They didn't see what a pr*ck he became after our mother's death. Once we're in the office, I avoid looking at Beck. Hearing Corey ask for my brother to be punished has Atlas pushing to the surface.

I may be angry with him, but I don't want to see him punished, especially by this ba**ard. Hearing that Barrett is in control of what happens to Beck puts my mind at ease. I can't help the anger that bubbles up when Beck asks about Jacob. Where was his concern all this time? He doesn't have the right to worry now. I'm the one that protected Jacob when he should have been here for us both.

When Barrett informs Beck about Jacob's death as it was reported to the council, I'm on the verge of completely losing it. Beck must realize it's not true because he takes a step closer to Corey and releases his aura. Though I can feel it, I'm not forced to my knees like that p**sy Waller. Watching Corey fight against Beck's command is comical, but this is my chance to get Jacob away from them, so I take the opportunity. "He is under guard on the Beta floor."

Barrett doesn't look shocked when I say that Jayden is alive. I don't get a chance to focus on that as he demands Jacob be brought to the office. As soon as I hear Corey order Waller to go for Jacob, my hackles rise. Goddess only knows what they would do to get out of this. I don't want

that pr*ck anywhere near my brother ever again. He makes a move toward the door but I step in front of him.

I could feel the anger rolling off of him. I can see in his eyes he wants to hit me. He is so predictable and I easily dodge the punch. Punching him and hearing the crunch of his nose again feels phenomenal. Knowing he and Corey could do nothing about it feels even better. I'm done being their punching bag. "Alpha Corey, have Fredrick bring Jacob to the office now," Barrett says, and I smile. Corey grits his teeth before his eyes glaze over.

A few minutes later, there is a knock on the door before Fredrick leads Jacob inside. The minute he sees me, he rushes over. I pull him in for a hug. Having him here right now, I feel like I can breathe again. "It's alright, your safe now" I whisper. Someone clears their throat, and he takes a step back. He turns to face a smiling Barrett who towers over him. "Jacob, my name is Barrett. I am the head of the Werewolf Council. It's very nice to finally meet you," he says, extending his hand to my brother.

"It's nice to meet you too, sir" Jacob says taking his large hand. He is an average teenager. He is awkward and nervous when he speaks to Barrett, which makes me smile. Barrett takes a step back, and I notice Jacob's body stiffen as he spots Beck. "Jacob" Beck says his name like a prayer. I can see tears in my oldest brother's eyes. "Beck, you came back" Jacob says, as he makes his way toward him.

I can't fault Jacob for being happy to see Beck because part of me is happy too. "I missed you Jacob. I missed you both" Beck says, his eyes meeting mine before I look away. "Now, that Jacob's here, can you please tell us exactly what happened on the day you left the pack," Barrett says. The woman that I assume is my brother's chosen mate comes to stand next to him and takes his hand. I know he loved Deborah, so I'm shocked he accepted another mate after she and his pup died.

Beckham POV

Hugging Jacob makes the guilt that's already taking root ten times worse. I know I ran to protect Lily, but I left the people I care about behind. At this moment, I wish Brent punched me harder. We all take a seat, so I can retell the story of the worst day of my life. The difference this time is having Rosalyn by my side makes talking about it easier. I can feel her love through our bond.

"My first mate Deborah was pregnant with my pup. My father wasn't happy that I accepted an omega as my mate and Luna. In fact, the morning that everything happened I was called to his office where he, Corey, and Corrine were waiting for me." I notice Corey shifting uncomfortably in his chair. He might not have been there during the attack, but he agreed with my father and his disgusting daughter.

"My father insisted I reject my bond with Deborah and take Corrine as a chosen mate." Barrett growls but allows me to continue. "I would never have chosen his daughter over my fated mate. I refused to even entertain my father's orders. Deborah went into labor and I quickly got her to the hospital."

"Becoming a father was the most amazing moment of my life. Seeing my mate hold our pup is the last memory I have before it was taken away by a pr*ck I once called my father and his heartless b*tch of a daughter." Corey stands slamming his hands on the desk. "Don't you talk about my daughter like that. She had no choice. She was following her Alpha's orders. You killed her," he says as his eyes turn black.

"Sit down and get yourself under control, Alpha Corey," Barrett says. His command has Corey sitting down like a scolded child. "My father showed up a few minutes after Deborah gave birth, insisting again that I reject her. Corrine was with him of her own free will. When I refused, my father attacked me, allowing Corrine to kill my mate."

"I tried, but I couldn't reach her in time. I didn't protect my mate. I killed Corrine for killing my mate." The room is silent for a long pause before Barrett finally speaks. "Beckham, why did you run that day," Barrett asks. I'm taken back by the question. I thought the answer would be pretty obvious, but I guess it's not. "I had to protect my pup. I had no idea how the pack would react to me killing their Alpha, no matter if I was justified or not."

"I had lost my mate. I couldn't lose my pup. I couldn't bear the pain of staying here and facing what had happened. I let the pain of losing my mate cloud my judgment and for that I am sorry. I should have made sure my pup was safe and came back to face the pack, to face my brothers." I can feel the warm tears rolling down my cheeks.

The sound of the chair scraping the ground has me looking in Jayden's direction. His eyes meet mine before he rushes out of the office. I stand intending to chase after him. I need to speak to him. Tell him how sorry I am. "Even if what you say is true, your mate was already dead. You were not protecting her and had no right to take my daughter's life without the council's permission. You were not the pack's Alpha," Corey says, stopping me in my tracks.

I turn as my feelings of guilt are replaced by pure rage. This ba**ard thinks he can justify his daughter killing my mate because she was ordered to by my pathetic father, which I know is a lie. She wanted to be Luna. He thinks that I didn't have the right to end her disgusting life as my mate lay there dead because of a f**king title.

I didn't need anyone's permission to make her pay for taking Deborah away from me and Lily. Gideon has had enough as he pushes to the surface. "I, Beckham Forester, challenge you, Corey Foster, for the Alpha title of the Blue Crescent Pack. The fight will not be one of submission but death."

57 New Alpha

Chapter 58 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Beckham POV

I swear all the color drains from the a**hole's face when I issue the challenge. It takes him a few seconds of sputtering to formulate a coherent thought. "You can't challenge me. You abandon the pack and any rights you had to it. Besides, Councilman Barrett has not yet decided on your punishment for killing my daughter without the council's permission. Dead men can't issue challenges" he says.

"First, I can challenge you. Second, if I hadn't abandoned the pack, it would be mine by birthright, so a challenge is necessary to take back that which never should have been under your control. Third, after everything we heard today from my brother about the abuse he endured for the last three years, I believe it's you that should be worried about the council's decisions."

"I have done nothing but mentor Jayden. If Waller was hurting him or Jacob it was without my knowledge. If I find this to be true, then he will be punished accordingly," he says. I can tell by the tone of his voice his words even sound weak to him. "You're a liar. You knew exactly what he was doing to us. Hell you ordered it most of the time. I didn't get hit even half as much as Jayden," Jacob yells.

"Enough, Jacob, you are confused. I have never given such orders. You are like a son to me. You all were before Beckham killed my daughter," Corey says. I'm just about to tell him I was never a son of his, even as a pup, when Jacob is out of his chair moving toward his desk with hatred in his eyes.

"Bullsh*t, you have dosed my poor brother with wolfsbane in order to control his wolf and used the threat of harming me to keep him in line. You and my father were just alike, both ba**ards who only care about themselves no matter who they hurt," he says. Barrett growls and stands to his full height. "Is any of this true Alpha? Keep in mind I witnessed Waller's actions just a day ago," Barrett says.

"Of course, it's not true. I also explained to you that my son was butt hurt about being embarrassed during training. He was acting out of anger without my knowledge. I also assured you he would be punished for his actions against our future Alpha," Corey says. "It's very interesting you bring that up Corey. Why isn't my brother the Alpha already? He was almost eighteen when I left the pack. The title should have by default went to him, not you."

He grits his teeth and balls his fists at this side. "He wasn't ready, having never been trained as you were. You abandoned your brothers, leaving me to teach Jayden how to be the Alpha that the pack deserved." "That's a lie. You never planned on giving him the title. Hell I even heard the guards talking about a conversation they overheard with Waller and his buddies. A conversation where he said you were going to stage a rogue attack to kill us both once the council stopped butting their noses in pack business," Jacob says.

"Enough, I cannot control the idle gossip of pack members. No such conversation was ever had with my son." I look past Waller to see if he has the guts to defend himself, but he stays quiet. Daddy dearest must have warned him to keep his mouth shut. "Waller, why don't you tell us about this plan you talked about with your buddies instead of allowing your father to speak for you." Waller growls but makes no move toward me.

"Jacob, is making things up. No one would hurt the Alpha pups. He's just mad that Jayden was demoted and is stirring up trouble to get back at my dad" he says. I can see Corey isn't happy that Waller just repeated what I had already heard them say at the gate. "What does he mean that Jayden was demoted in rank, Corey," Barrett asks. I'm sure that Corey noticed the lack of his title as much as I did.

"I was trying to teach Jayden that all pack members are important and should be treated as such. That was only after he treated some of the omegas harshly. The change in his rank was never meant to be permanent, just a lesson so he could be a better leader," Corey says.

"You seem to have all the answers, but I call bulls*t. My brother was always kind to pack members and completely accepted my mate despite her rank. I think you saw an opportunity for you and your pathetic son, who wasn't worthy of becoming a Beta, to have a title that was never meant to be yours."

"Councilman Barrett, this is ridiculous. You spent over a week with Jayden. Did he at any point tell you I was mistreating him or allowing pack members to mistreat him," Corey asks. "No, he didn't, but I haven't been completely honest with you Corey. What I'm about to say is not to leave this room. Since the two people in this room I don't trust won't be a problem much longer, I'm going to divulge something only a few people know about me," Barrett says.

Barrett's eyes turn an electric purple color and his scent surrounds me. Holy f**k, he isn't just a wolf. "What the f**k is going on? You're not even a pure wolf. What the f**k are you" Corey says, his face a shade of red that reminds me of a tomato. "I'm a hybrid, wolf warlock. Would you like to know what my main power is and why the council members chose me to lead them," Barrett asks.

"It's absurd. You aren't even a pure wolf. You shouldn't even be allowed on the council, let alone running it," Corey says, spittle flying from his mouth. "It's a good thing pr*cks like you don't make those decisions, Corey. Anyway, I have the power of truth detection. Which, in simple terms, means I know when someone is lying," he says.

"You can't" Corey says, his voice trailing off. "I can. Based on everything I've observed and been told since I arrived, I'm ready to make my decisions. You should be excited, Corey. This is what you've been pushing for since Beckham arrived. Beckham Forester, I find you justified in the killing of Mason Forester and Corrine Foster. I do find you guilty of abandoning your pack and brothers. As such, your birthright claim on the pack is void," he says.

A smug smile spreads across Corey's face. Barrett turns to face him. "Corey Foster, I find you guilty of not only claiming a title you had no right to but abusing the rightful Alpha of the pack

in Beckham Forester's absence. In normal circumstances, I would strip you of the title and throw both you and your son in the council prison, but in this instance I feel that the true Alpha of this pack should decide your punishments," Barrett says.

"What the f**k do you mean? I was given the title by the council. You can't change your mind now. Besides, if you are referring to that pathetic pup Jayden, he couldn't run a pack if his life depended on it. He's to f**king weak," Corey says, and Waller laughs. I'm on the verge of shifting when Barrett waves his hand, throwing them both across the room. He moves to stand over them. "As of this moment, Corey Foster is no longer the Alpha of the Blue Crescent pack."

Corey screams out in pain, writhing on the floor as he feels the pack bond breaking with every member at once. "Fredrick, please grab some of the other loyal warriors and take these two to the cells. Beck and I will be sitting down with Jayden since he is now the pack's Alpha to discuss exactly what he wants to do with them."

Jayden POV

Hearing my brother retell the story of what our ba**ard father and that b**ch Corrine did made me sick to my stomach. I had to get out of there. He watched his mate die. I can't imagine the pain that caused him. I make my way out of the pack house as pack members stare at me. I'm sure they are wondering why Beck is back, but thankfully none of them try to talk to me.

Once I'm outside, I make my way through the trees to a spot I've visited many times. I sit next to the stone that bears my mother's name. Mom, Beck's back. I understand why he had to leave, but I still don't understand why he didn't return after his pup was safe. How could he leave us without a second thought? How am I supposed to forgive him for forgetting about us?

I wipe the tears from my cheeks. I think about his pup and imagine my brother as a father. You have a grandpup mom. I'm not sure if it's a boy or a girl, but Beck had a pup with his first mate. He has a new mate, and she looks at him like dad used to look at you. The sounds of twigs breaking behind me and his scent lets me know that Beck has found me.

"My pup is a girl and her name is Lily. She is amazing. She reminds me of you when you were a pup." I close my eyes tightly, trying to quell my anger and sadness at hearing a voice that used to make me feel safe and loved.

58 Proud to Call You Alpha

Chapter 59 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Jayden POV

I get to my feet to face my brother. "I am sorry Jayden. I should have come back." I fight the lump in my throat and the anger that has me wanting to unleash the same pain on my brother that I've endured. "I know you might never forgive me, but I'm not going anywhere, and I'm going to keep trying to show you that I never meant to hurt you" he says.

"Well, whether you meant to or not, you hurt me and Jacob. You're absolutely right. I'm not ready to forgive you and I don't know if I ever will be." I see the hurt in his eyes, but I can't bring myself to comfort him. He wasn't there when I needed comfort or when I was afraid. "I understand, I just want you to know that I love you Jayden," he says. "You don't abandon people you love."

"So are you here to take over the pack? You came back for the title." "Do you remember Mindy?" I look at him clearly confused by his question. "Of course, I had a crush on her when we were pups." The corner of his mouth lifts, probably remembering how I insisted she was going to be my mate. "I hadn't seen her in years Jayden, but she showed up insisting that the goddess wanted me to return to the pack and take my rightful place," he says.

"So you're only here because the goddess wanted you to return. Did you even think about us?" "Of course, I did. I thought about you and Jacob every day. I thought you both would hate me for killing that pr*ck. At the end of the day, he was your father. I had this little girl to protect. Focusing on her was the only thing that got me through missing you two. I prayed to the goddess all the time that you were both happy and healthy. If I thought for one second that pr*ck was hurting you I would have come back," he says.

"Beck, after mom died he wasn't our father anymore. I understand why you ended him. No one in their right mind would fault you for that. I don't have an inkling of anger over you killing him. I'm angry because you chose to stay away. I'm glad you protected my niece."

He smiles hearing me claim my niece. I would never hold anything against an innocent pup. "What I can't forgive is you not returning? I was never meant to be Alpha. I never wanted the title. I was just happy to be the Alpha's warrior brother. I was happy to support you."

I see tears gathering in the corners of his eyes, but I can't let myself feel sorry for him. Not after all the pain I've endured while he was gone. "Well, whether you wanted to be Alpha or not, you are. Barrett has stripped the faux Alpha of his title. The title is yours since I abandoned my birthright. It's time for the true Alpha to decide the fate of those two a**hats," he says.

He walks over and presses a kiss on our mother's stone before he turns back toward the path. I start to follow but keep a bit of distance between us, so I can think. I meant what I said. I never wanted to be Alpha. I love my pack, and they deserve someone who knows what the hell he's doing. I'm sure I could learn in time, but we don't have that kind of time. "Jayden, remember whatever you decide we are in this together. I'm proud of you no matter what," Atlas says, and I smile.

Something is still bothering me about Beck returning, and only he knows the answer. "Beck," I say, and he halts his steps. He turns to face me. "You said the goddess wanted you to come back and take your rightful place. If I was Alpha would you have challenged me?" He gives me a sad smile.

"Unless you had turned into an Alpha like dad, no. The goddess may lead us, but we make our own decisions Jayden. You are my brother and, despite not being born for this title, you have shown more Alpha qualities by protecting our brother than I ever did. I should have come back when I knew my pup was safe. I would be honored to have you as my Alpha." He turns and we walk the rest of the way to the pack house in silence. His words replay over and over in my mind.

Is this what I want? Do I want to take on a title that was never truly meant to be mine? Am I so angry at Beck that I would spitefully keep him from becoming the Alpha he was always meant to be? If the goddess sent Beck back, doesn't that mean she wants him to lead the pack? I'm broken out of my thoughts by Barrett, who is waiting in the pack yard.

"I was hoping that we could have a discussion before we met with the pack, but it seems they are in an uproar after feeling the bond break with Foster. I have everyone gathering in the meeting hall. Alpha, are you ready to address your pack," Barrett asks, directing the question at me. "Would it be alright if I address the pack myself before you make the announcement?" "Of course, you're in charge Jayden," Barrett says.

I know its strange, but seeing the pride in his eyes when he addresses me feels good, and I can tell it has nothing to do with the title. It's what I expect it would feel like if we had a normal father that cared about us. We make our way to the meeting hall and there isn't a vacant seat in the place. As we make our way to the stage, I'm taken back by the animosity of the pack towards my brother. Beck's mate is standing at the base of the stairs and wraps her arms around him when he reaches her.

I'm shocked he isn't going to join us when I follow Barrett onto the stage. I turn to face the room and the chatter is overwhelming. Without waiting for Barrett, Atlas pushes forward, letting out a growl that quiets the room. "I know you all have a lot of questions and I'll do my best to answer them." "Why the hell is that traitor back," an older pack member says, pointing at Beck.

Despite my anger with my brother, I don't like him being called a traitor. "Why do you call him a traitor?" The man looks taken back by the question. "He killed our Alpha and the Beta's daughter then ran like a coward" he says. I see heads nodding in agreement. "What would you do if someone killed your mate," I ask the man who is clearly sitting with his mate. He opens and closes his mouth a few times.

"I'll tell you what anyone of you would do. You would kill for your mate, no matter the cost. Now imagine that your mate just gave birth to your first pup and instead of enjoying that beautiful moment, a terrible b**ch and tyrant decide to kill her because she is an omega. So I'll ask you again, why do you call him a traitor? I agree he made choices that I don't necessarily

agree with, but I won't let any of you question his actions against our father or Corrine Foster. They deserved what they got."

"I have another question, since you have all so easily condemned him without knowing the truth about what happened. Did any of you stand up when myself or Jacob were being abused by the faux Alpha or his pathetic son? How many of you stood by while your Alpha heirs were abused and did nothing?" A large part of the crowd drop their gaze to the floor in shame. I know some of them never witnessed what happened, but for those that did, they also made bad choices.

"I understand that you were afraid, so I hold no ill will, but you might want to remember that none of you are without sin before you condemn someone else. Now I know you all felt the bond break with Corey Foster who, along with his son, will be punished for his crimes." I look back at Barrett and he nods.

"I was given the opportunity to become the Alpha of Blue Crescent today and a part of me had considered what that looked like for me and the pack. The bigger part of me knows that we have all made mistakes and I refuse to make another. The goddess has brought back the rightful heir of the Blue Crescent Pack. Councilman Barrett, will you do the honor of righting the wrongs of the past and announce the new Alpha of the Blue Crescent Pack."

My eyes meet Beck's and though I'm not ready to forgive him, I know in my heart he was meant to lead the pack. I pray that maybe someday I'll find that forgiveness, but for now, I feel lighter in the knowledge that Corey and Waller will be dealt with, and the pack will start to heal. My brother walks on the stage with his mate's hand in his when I move off to the side.

I'm not even sure how I didn't see Fredrick standing behind us with the pack dagger in his hand. Barrett cuts both their hands and has them make their vows to the pack. "Blue Crescent pack I present to you your new Alpha Beckham Forester and Luna Rosalyn Forester," Barrett says. When I look back over the crowd, most of them are bearing their necks to their new Alpha and Luna.

59 Don't Call Me Luna

Chapter 60 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Beckham POV

To say I'm shocked when Jayden speaks on my behalf is an understatement. I'm not naive enough to think that he forgives me for not returning, but I'm glad he understands why I left. I pray that over time I can prove to him how sorry I am. That I can be the kind of brother that he

knows will be there when he needs me. When he calls me the rightful heir of the Blue Crescent pack, I fight back the lump that forms in my throat.

I don't deserve what he just did but, unlike me, he put the pack first. He put aside his anger and hurt. If I thought for one second he wanted to be Alpha, I would insist he retain the title. Right now, he deserves it more than I do. I make a vow to myself to make my brothers proud. I will strive every day to be the leader that the pack deserves. Barrett motions for us to join him. Holding Rosalyn's hand, we move to stand in front of Barrett.

My heart is pounding against my chest as Barrett reaches for my hand. I notice for the first time he is holding the pack dagger I remember seeing as a pup. I know being accepted by the pack won't be easy, but nothing worth having ever is. I look at Rosalyn, and she offers me a reassuring smile. Goddess, I'm blessed to have her. Barrett runs the blade across my hand and looks into my eyes. "Beckham Forester make your vow to the pack," Barrett says.

"I, Beckham Forester, vow to put the pack's needs before my own. I vow to protect the pack until my dying breath. I vow to stand by my Luna and the ranked members of our pack. I vow to lead the pack with honor and strength. I vow to never run away from my duties again." "Well said, Alpha Beckham," Barrett says before turning to Rosalyn. "Rosalyn Forester, make your vow to the pack," Barrett says. I can't help the smile that spreads across my face hearing him acknowledge our bond by using my surname.

He takes her hand, making a small cut on her palm. "I, Rosalyn Forester, vow to put the pack's needs before my own. I vow to protect the pack until my dying breath. I vow to stand by my Alpha and the rank members of our pack. I vow to lead the pack with honor and strength." As soon as he announces us to the pack, I feel the bond snap into place.

At first, the voices are overwhelming. I can hear so many people with doubts about my ability and loyalty to the pack. A few are just angry that I'm back. I have a feeling those are the people that are loyal to Corey. I know it will take time to prove to those that are worried I can be the Alpha I was meant to be, but I won't fail them or my brothers. I manage to close off the connections except the one I share with Rosalyn.

I look out at the pack and many are baring their necks to show their acceptance of their new Alpha and Luna. I try not to focus on those that refuse to bow until my eyes land on Brent. The guilt from earlier is back with a vengeance when I see the anger in his eyes. After a few seconds of his eyes never leaving mine, he turns leaving the meeting hall. I hate the pain I've caused him. Barrett speaking brings me out of my thoughts.

"I know that this was rather informal for an Alpha and Luna ceremony, but we will need time to arrange the formal ceremony. There will be a pack announcement when the arrangements have been made. Neighboring packs and allies will be invited to celebrate the new Alpha and Luna of the Blue Crescent," Barrett says, effectively ending the meeting.

With Rosalyn's hand firmly in mine, we make our way off the stage hoping to give the pack a chance to talk to us individually. I'm happy to see that the pack is welcoming and respectful

when talking to their Luna. All those that approach me are reserved but kind. The man that called me a traitor earlier approaches me.

I noticed he and his wife were part of the group that didn't bear their necks. I'm not sure of his intention until he extends his hand to me. Most Alphas would take his actions as a sign of disrespect, expecting him to bow or bear his neck, but I'm glad he's extending what is equivalent to an olive branch to me. I need to earn the pack's respect. I take his hand in mine and meet his eyes.

"I'm sorry for the loss of your first mate. I'm sorry that we weren't told the truth and followed that pr*ck's lies like it was gospel. Your brother's right. I would kill for my mate." "Thank you" I say. When I release his hand, he and his mate bear their necks to me before they turn to leave.

We spend a long time speaking to pack members before Jayden, Rosalyn, and I follow Barrett back to the pack house. Stepping back into the Alpha office, I'm brought back to all the time spent in this office at my father's side. Despite being a sh*t father he took his work as Alpha seriously. "Take a seat, Alpha, we have some things to discuss," Barrett says. I look at Jayden for the first time since he made the announcement.

"Jayden, I don't know what to say. I never expected you to give me the title." He raises his hand to stop me. "I didn't do it for you Beck. I did it for me and the pack. I meant what I said earlier. I'm not ready to forgive you, but I won't let my anger at you and the hurt I feel cloud my judgment. You were meant to be Alpha. You were trained from the time you were a pup. I do think that you'll have to figure out a new Beta. Brent seems far too angry to put his feelings aside to be the Beta you need," Jayden says.

Although I hate that it's my fault he won't become Beta, I know that's Jayden's right. I need to be able to trust my Beta. "I was thinking the same thing. I don't blame him for his anger. I hope one day I'll gain his forgiveness too but for now I need a strong Beta. A beta that is selfless, loyal, and strong. A Beta that can help train warriors to protect our pack. A Beta that has proven himself to be worthy of being Alpha."

Jayden POV

I can't believe what he is suggesting. Is that something I want? I would suspect he was giving me this position to gain my forgiveness if he hadn't earlier been willing to call me his Alpha. Training and becoming the head warrior was what I always wanted for myself. I gave up on that dream when Corey became Alpha and stripped me of my rank. Becoming Beta would allow me to do that and more.

Taking on this role in the pack may help me to work toward forgiving not just Beck but the pack members who were too afraid to stand up for me and Jacob. "What do you think, Jayden? I, for one, think that you would be an amazing Beta," Barrett says. "I will accept the Beta title."

"Thank you, Jayden. I understand that you're doing this for the pack and yourself. I won't read anything more into you accepting the position. I'm hopeful that, over time, we will find our way

back to more than just an Alpha and Beta relationship, but I won't push it. It's all up to you, Jayden," he says.

"Now I would like to properly meet my sister-in-law and Luna." Rosalyn stands and walks over, pulling me into a hug. I immediately feel a sense of peace like she was always meant to be here. It's a strange feeling like she will connect me to something important. "I'm so glad to meet you Jayden. I'm excited to get to know you. Lily will be excited about meeting another of her uncles too." I can't help the excitement that courses through me at the thought of meeting my niece.

I can't wait to meet my own mate and have pups of my own. For now though, Jacob and I can enjoy getting to know Lily and Rosalyn. "I'd like to talk about the Gamma position before we decide what to do with a**hat one and two. I would like to offer Emmett, Rosalyn's brother, the position, but before I do, I want you to spend time with him, Jayden. The main duty of a Gamma is to protect the Luna, so I have no doubt he will protect Rosalyn with his life, but I won't make this big of a decision without my Beta's input," Beck says.

I want to smile knowing that he isn't going to come in and steam roll everyone like our father would do. He would demand and order, but instead my brother is listening and offering like a good Alpha should. "I will make sure I spend sometime with him, but I agree that the Luna's brother would be the perfect Gamma." "Don't you dare call me Luna. I am Rosalyn to you, Jayden."

Beck chuckles and I smile at Rosalyn. "So, Beta, what should we do with the faux Alpha and his pr*ck of a son," Beck asks. "Honestly, after the way they threatened to kill Jacob, I want them both gone, but Waller is mine." "Sounds good to me. Let's take care of them so we can bring our pup home where she belongs," Beck says.

60 What's Your Rank

Chapter 61 - My Mate and Brother's Betrayal

Mindy POV

"Reese, I love you and I know you were scared when I was so tired after dealing with Bryce, but I swear to the Goddess, if you don't give me five minutes alone I'm going to lose it." He looks shocked by my outburst, but he is driving me crazy. Ever since I stripped Bryce of his wolf, he has been a helicopter mate. The only thing he lets me do is pee alone.

I just woke up from a nap and found him watching me sleep. "I know you have work to do, and you cannot keep neglecting your duties." "I'm just worried, I feel like what you did to Bryce took

too much out of you. I love you Mindy and I can't lose you." Some of my anger fades and I motion for him to join me in bed. He climbs in next to me and I lay my head on his chest. "Reese, I promise I'm fine. If I need anything, I will link you. Now I'm sure your mother and sister would like to see you before you head to your office. Logan deserves a break."

"I'm going to get up, use the bathroom by myself, and I will bring a snack for us to share in your office in an hour." "I can just," he starts to say, but I glare at him. "I'm sorry sweets. You're right, I'll give you some time on your own if you promise to keep our link open" he says. I roll my eyes. "Fine, I promise to keep our link open, but unless it's an emergency, I had better not see you for at least an hour."

He squeezes me and presses a kiss on my forehead before he finally rolls off the bed. He walks slowly around the bed and presses one more quick peck on my lips before he finally leaves. I let out an exhausted breath. I have a feeling I know why I'm feeling so tired, and it has nothing to do with what I did to Bryce. I tried to reach out to the Goddess while I napped, but she didn't answer. I need to make sure I'm right before I tell Reese.

I quickly get out of bed and make my way into the bathroom. Once I finish freshening up, I go in search of my new sister. Addie is amazing, and I'm so grateful I get to call her my sister. I know she is missing Rosalyn, but she'll get to see her soon enough. As soon as my uncle lets me know to bring that pr*ck Orick to the Blue Crescent pack. Addie has made it clear she'll be joining me and Reese on our trip.

I knock on her door, but there's no answer. I make my way downstairs intending to check on the kitchen staff that have quickly become my favorite pack members. I pass the large sitting room when I hear a group of she-wolves talking. "I still can't believe that he preferred to f**k Bryce over me. Now he's mated to that f**king pathetic witch" big b**bed blonde bimbo says. "Amber, you better watch what you're saying. That witch is our Luna" a petite brunette says.

"Goddess, Chelsey, get over yourself. Do you really want our Alpha to be mated to a witch? It should be one of us with him. Not that b**ch Rosalyn, not his Beta, and certainly not a disgusting witch," red headed bimbo says. "You know what, Morgan, you two should get over yourself. The Alpha is happy and I, for one, would never try to interfere with someone else's bond," Chelsey says, and I can't help but smile.

"Well, that's because you are pathetic. As for me, I'm going to do everything in my power to get him to f**k me. Then when that b**ch feels the pain of him cheating, she'll realize she doesn't belong here and I'll be Luna. I mean if he could f**k Bryce then surely he would want to f**k me," the blonde I now know is Amber says. I'm just about to reveal myself when a growl shakes the walls.

Reese steps into the room and three girls look like they don't know whether to run or piss themselves. I rush out from where I've been hiding and step in front of my very pissed-off mate. "Reese, what's wrong?" His eyes meet mine and I can see he is fighting Fallon for control. I pull him down, wrapping my arms around his neck. He buries his head in my neck, breathing in my scent. "I heard everything they said," he says, and I'm stunned.

"How" I whisper, but he hears me. "I don't know sweets but I did. Fallon and I won't tolerate anyone speaking about you that way. I would never betray you Mindy," he says, his voice laced with worry. I pull back, looking into his eyes. "I know that Reese. I trust you. I need you to calm down and let me handle this like the bad** Luna I am." He smiles and allows me to turn in his arms, but he doesn't let me go.

All three girls are looking at the floor. "Chelsey, I appreciate all that you said. Standing up against mean girls is hard, so I'm proud of you. I would like you to join us at the Alpha table for dinner tonight." Her eyes get big before a smile spreads across her face. "She can't sit there, she is only a rank above an omega. She is lucky we even let her hang out with us," Amber says.

"Last time I checked you aren't Luna, I am. What are your ranks," I ask, looking at both girls. "My father is an elite warrior," Morgan says. "My father is an enforcer," Amber says. "So neither of you have earned a rank, you're riding on your father's roles in the pack." Chelsey giggles, but my eyes never leave the mean girls.

"You know nothing about wolves. You shouldn't even be Luna," Amber says. This time, Reese growls and attempts to move around me, but I block his path. "Then challenge me. If you think you should be Luna, challenge me." I swear she turns as white as a sheet. "I mean your father is the enforcer, so you must be trained to fight."

"The only training Amber has is on her back" Chelsey says, and this time I giggle. She lunges toward her, but I shield Chelsey from the attack. Amber scrambles to her feet with her fists balled at her side. "Do you intend to challenge me Amber?" "No" she says. "No, what?" "No, my Luna" she says through gritted teeth.

"Good, because you will never have what is mine and make no mistake that Alpha Reese is mine," I say allowing an energy ball to appear in my hand. "Now for punishment." They both start to sputter and I extinguish the energy ball. "Both your ranks will be stripped until I feel you have learned your lesson. You will report to the kitchen every day at six for your instructions from the head omega."

"Alpha, my father" Amber starts to say, but Reese growls in warning. "I suggest you take the punishment your Luna has given without another word because I was about to banish you before she intervened," Reese says. They turn rushing toward the door. "Ladies," I say and they stop turning to face me. "If I hear one whisper that either of you try to hurt Chelsey in any way, the Alpha's punishment will be enforced. Have a good day" I say and they're gone without another word.

"We will see you at dinner, Chesley. Thank you again for having your Luna's back" Reese says. "Of course, Alpha," Chelsey says, and heads toward the kitchen. "Now sweets, I heard another interesting thought of yours while I was in my office. Do you care to share," he says with a smirk on his face. I roll my eyes and squeal when he drops to his knees, pressing his ear to my belly.

I feel his hands tighten on my hips. He presses a soft kiss on my belly before he stands lifting me into his arms. He presses his forehead against mine. "Thank you sweets. Thank you for accepting

me and loving me. Thank you for making me a father. I definitely hear our pup's heartbeat." I can't stop the tears that start to flow down my cheeks. I'm going to be a mother.

Reese starts to move toward the door that leads to the pack yard. "Seriously Reese, you are not going to carry me everywhere. I can walk to the pack hospital." "Let me do this sweets. I promise I'll try to give you more space, but right now I want to hold you and my pup." How can I refuse him? I bury my head in his chest. "Thank you, mother." "Of course, my child," the Goddess whispers.

Jayden POV

Beck and I make our way down to the cells. I can hear Waller before I even see him. "You better let me the f**k out of here. That pr*ck isn't the Alpha. My father is the Alpha. You have no right to keep us here," he yells. Fredrick offers a nod when he sees me. "Alpha, Jayden, it seems that Waller doesn't believe that you have taken over the pack."

"Neither of these pathetic mutts have what it takes to be Alpha," Waller says. "It's good to see somethings never change, Waller. You are still a whiny b**ch just like when we were pups," Beck says. "Now we are here to inform you of your punishment. Beta, will you do, the honors" Beck says. "Waller Foster, for threats of fatal harm that you made against Jacob Forester and the abuse of myself and Jacob you are sentenced to death.

"The sentence will be carried out immediately." Waller's face goes pale, and I can hear Corey demanding to speak to Barrett and ordering us to leave his pup alone. "What's the matter, Waller? I'm a fair Beta, unlike you. I won't even give you wolfsbane before I end you." I turn to Fredrick. "I want him and his father taken to the training grounds. Make sure the entire pack is there to bear witness." "Yes, Beta" Fredrick says."