

Double

Chapter 101 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Bailey POV

The elders were up to something. I could sense it, and so could Riley. They were acting suspiciously. Jaxon should have been dealt with by now and I didn't like the way they were acting towards the sirens, their prejudice clearly showing. As I escorted my mate to the hospital, I kept a close eye on our surroundings, feeling Riley looking around and doing the same. Both of us were on our guard. We should have been relaxed, we were back at our pack, but instead, I felt more tense than ever and I was certain that's how Riley felt. We walked inside and immediately a doctor came up to us with a wide smile on her face.

"King Bailey, Queen Riley" she dipped her head respectfully "What can I assist you with today?" she asked politely.

"We're here to check on the development of our child," I said gravely "After everything that's happened recently we just want to make sure there is nothing wrong" I paused as Riley tensed "and that they still have a heartbeat" I finished in a whisper.

"Of course, I think that might be a wise decision," Dr Sandra said as I eyed her nametag "I'm sure everything is fine, but if you'll follow me, we'll get you checked over and an ultrasound immediately" she reassured us both as Riley gave a tight smile and nodded.

We followed her into an empty room. She pulled the curtains over and gestured for Riley to hop onto the bed. I sat beside the bed, taking hold of Riley's hand after she moved her dress up, exposing the swollen expanse of her stomach. I frowned. Was it my imagination or was Riley's belly slightly larger than the last time I had looked at it properly? I understood that she was further along, but to my untrained eye, it looked as though she was still bigger than she ought to be. I bit my tongue as the doctor began to wheel over the machine and put gel on the probe. Perhaps it was simply my imagination, I thought, not wanting to upset my mate who was looking frightened enough as it was. The last thing I needed was to place her under more stress.

"Okay this is going to be cold" laughed Dr Sandra with a sympathetic glance, before gently placing the probe onto Riley's stomach. I heard Riley's indrawn breath as she felt the coldness of the probe against her stomach. She gripped my hand tightly. I squeezed it, trying to give her what little comfort I could, feeling helpless, my eyes automatically darting towards the small monitor as the doctor began to expertly move the probe around, biting her lip.

"I have your ultrasound results from the last time" she murmured "and how large the fetus was" She was still murmuring before she blinked, looking down at the papers in front of her and then back at the screen confused.

"What's wrong?" I asked, seeing how flustered the doctor was getting as she moved the probe around some more "What did you see?"

"It's nothing serious," she said tightly "I just want to go and get a colleague to confirm something for me, I won't be but a moment" she added, quickly getting up off her chair and dashing out the door before we could ask her any more questions.

Riley's eyes filled with tears. "Something is wrong, I can tell. They said our baby could not live to become a tribid and I didn't listen" she choked out as I stared at her incredulously not entirely sure what she was talking about.

"Riley what on earth are you talking about..." I began, confused by her words when the curtain was pulled aside and Dr. Sandra came back in accompanied by another woman, a Dr Amy.

"Is this the ultrasound?" the woman picked up the probe and began to move it back over Riley's belly.

"Yes," Dr Sandra said quietly "As you can see, there is clearly more than one" she added anxiously "whereas the first ultrasound that was performed didn't show multiples."

Dr Amy merely nodded, while Riley and I shot each other glances. What did they mean by multiples? In Riley's first ultrasound, it had been confirmed that there was one solitary child in her womb. So what had these doctors looking so nervous?

"Nothing was missed" Dr Sandra insisted, her voice slightly shrill "but you can see for yourself..." She pointed at the screen.

"It appears that you were right," Dr Amy said to her colleague, before glancing at Riley and me "I don't quite know how to put this," she said delicately as we stared at her, willing her to speak "but according to this ultrasound, Riley, you are now pregnant with two fetuses."

"Two" whispered Riley "But how is that possible? Did you miss it on the first one?" she demanded, touching her stomach while I merely looked on dazed.

Two babies. How on earth was that possible?

"We're not sure" Dr Sandra admitted "Both of them appear to be the same age in weeks, developing at the same rate, perhaps it's possible we missed one somehow," she said not looking convinced.

"Twins," Riley said unnerved "You mean to tell me I'm having twins?" she asked as the doctors both nodded sheepishly.

"I'll leave you with your patient" Dr Amy handed the probe back to Dr Sandra who began wiping it over with a paper towel and handed one to Riley who wiped her stomach down as she waited. Dr Amy hastily left the room.

"Twins, yes," Dr Sandra said, putting the probe back "From all accounts it looks like that's what you are carrying. Still too early to recognize gender, let alone see what DNA they possess" she sighed "but it's strange not to have been picked up before."

"So two children" I confirmed, glancing at my mate and raising an eyebrow, feeling somewhat smug "We could be having two boys or two girls."

"Or one of each" Riley objected, glaring at me.

I laughed and kissed her on the temple. "This is good news, Riley. Both have heartbeats, both are doing well. Not only did we assuage any fears we had, we just found out we're expecting double" I teased, feeling lighter than I had in days.

"Can we keep this secret?" Riley asked suddenly, causing Dr Sandra to look at her sharply and for me to still "I just don't know" She bit her lip "I don't want word getting to the elders that there are two babies in my womb. They don't need to know" she said as I nodded in agreement "please" she pleaded and Dr Sandra smiled.

"It's meant to be kept confidential anyway but as Luna Queen, you can demand I destroy all records created today for security's sake."

"I demand it," Riley said quickly and the Dr smiled and nodded a soft smile on her face.

"Then it will be done. I suspect you might be slightly anemic with the paleness of your pallor, short of doing blood tests, I recommend getting some more iron into your blood" she advised Riley with twinkling eyes.

"I'll make sure she heeds your advice," I told the doctor gratefully, getting to my feet and helping Riley to stand "Thank you for seeing Riley so quickly. We appreciate it" I added as we began to head out the door and towards the exit, both of us lost in our thoughts.

"King Bailey" the doctor's voice was quiet as we hesitated and half turned back to her "if we didn't miss the second child on the ultrasound and it has suddenly appeared then it's by the moon goddess's wish. That means that your children, the children that Riley is carrying, are very important, not just to her, but to the future of our pack as well. Keep her safe" she whispered.

I ducked my head and then grabbed Riley's hand, leading her back outside. The doctor's words stayed with me. I already felt possessive of Riley and protective of my child, well children, but her words only invoked another determination within me to ensure that nobody I loved got hurt.

"Two" Riley murmured dazed "Two babies. Bailey, how are we going to manage?" she looked slightly panicked.

I chuckled "Like everybody else who has twins or triplets or multiples love" I looked deep into her eyes and saw a woman who was becoming overwhelmed "You have me," I told her, putting a hand on her shoulder as she looked up at me "not to mention a brother, A beta and Callum and Cody who adore you. If all else fails" I said with a twitch of my lip "we can hire some help. There's no shame in needing help Riley. We can get a nanny or an au pair. Whatever makes you comfortable" I told her as she nibbled on her lower lip, still looking anxious "We will work it out" I breathed as she wrapped her arms around me and put her head against my chest "Because we love each other."

"I love you" she murmured, standing on her tiptoes and kissing me on the lips, looking slightly relaxed as the sun shone brightly overhead "Thank you for calming me down Bailey" she breathed.

"I love you too sweetheart" I grinned "Now let's get back to the pack house before we're discovered missing and the elders come looking for us."

It was the last thing we needed. I didn't need to reiterate any more. We began to hurry back.

Contempt

Chapter 102 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

Jaxon made a pitiful figure. Gone was the arrogant, haughty man who had rejected me, and in his place was a defeated, broken man who stared out the bars of the cell, his lip curling as he tried to lunge at me and my mate, only to curse as the silver of the bars burnt his skin. He swore loudly, backing away, his eyes darkening ever so slightly. While I had managed to bring him back from being feral, I couldn't help but wonder if he was doomed to repeat the same mistake again. If he had gone feral once, what was to prevent him from becoming feral a second time? Especially since he seemed to be unhinged, seemed to be the kindest way to put it.

"I felt your betrayal" he hissed, glaring at me with condemnation as I stared at him silently, his hand going to his neck even though I had not marked him "I sensed when you marked that bastard again. Your mark is gone" he snarled, practically frothing at the mouth as I remained speechless "but it doesn't matter. I will simply put it back" he sneered.

So he was delusional then, thinking he would be free of the cell. I simply shook my head at him. "There is no escaping this cell Jaxon, whatever you seem to believe, your time is coming."

He sneered "Do you think the elders are going to kill me Riley?" he asked, as I and Bailey stiffened shooting glances at each other "Do you think they want my head on a platter? What a shame you're going to end up disappointed. They're not about to punish me, not when they have a far more sinister and ulterior motive in mind" he bluffed.

"You know nothing" Bailey cut in, his face impassive, his eyes narrowed "You're merely making things up" he nodded towards the guards "Get him out of the cell, the elders want to see him, now that the rest have gathered."

Neither Bailey nor I were happy to discover that at least another half a dozen elders had been summoned to our pack. It was suspicious. I had told Tiana to remain scarce, out of sight for now, and urged her to inform the others, feeling uneasy at the way the elders seemed to look me over, as though I was some sort of fascinating creature they had not laid eyes on before.

Jaxon gave a lazy smile, watching the guards carefully open the door. He offered no resistance as his hands were pulled roughly behind him and cuffed with silver restraints. He merely raised a brow, looking cool and composed. The guards each grabbed an arm and hoisted him out as Bailey and I turned, leading the way. The elders had chosen to reside in the meeting room, a room reserved for the Alpha and Luna and not used except for circumstances such as this. We entered, Jaxon behind us. The elders were already seated, hands on their laps, waiting patiently. They looked towards the prisoner with serene expressions on their faces. It was difficult to tell what any of them were thinking. This felt like a farce of some description.

"Alpha Jaxon" Elder Michael spoke, his voice even, his head dipping slightly "You stand here today, for the crimes you have committed against other packs. It is understood that you kidnapped innocent sirens, forced them to do your bidding, and murdered other Alphas in order to take over their packs" he continued in a silky tone "and kidnapped none other than the Luna Queen herself, forcibly marking her against her will and attempting to take her as your mate despite her rejection of you. These are serious charges" he added, as the other elders nodded in agreement, "but we are a fair species and we encourage you to speak on your behalf, defending the actions you took and defending yourself against the crimes you are accused of."

I sat down, with Bailey next to me, looking at Jaxon in revulsion. I didn't understand the necessity of this stupid trial. As far as I was concerned, Bailey should have killed him already. Jaxon's lips curved into a small smile.

"Esteemed elders" he began, dipping his head formally "While it is true that my actions are questionable" he paused and smirked in my direction as I stiffened "There remains the question of what I have done that is illegal. While I did take the sirens, there are no such laws in regard to their race and what is or is not permitted. Our people have always considered them to be dangerous and what I did, could be seen as keeping them under control, in order to prevent them from killing innocent shifters for their own pleasure."

"That's a bunch of bogus bullshit" I snarled.

Nobody was buying this, were they? I looked at Bailey and saw his eyes blazing. The elders all had thoughtful expressions on their faces. I was in a state of disbelief. Whatever Jaxon's intentions were, they were wrong. Couldn't they see that?

"Quiet Queen Riley, the prisoner must be permitted to speak without interference" another elder shushed me, their eyes intent on Alpha Jaxon who straightened his shoulders.

"It is the very nature of shifters to take over packs and extend their territory" Alpha Jaxon continued "and while I did kill the Alphas it would have been inevitable regardless of whether I had the use of the sirens or not, my actions would have been the same. The Alphas were not as strong as me, their packs were inferior in strength or defense. I was going to extend my territory regardless" he said, fixing his eyes on the elders "I simply found a different way to do it, that didn't require losing my men and I did it in a way that made sure that countless lives were not lost."

Now the elders were beginning to nod in agreement. Jaxon had only killed the Alphas, not pack members with the use of the sirens, except for those that had failed to pledge loyalty to him and that was standard for taking over any pack. Suddenly I was uncertain how this trial was going to go. Jaxon almost sounded like the victim, instead of the perpetrator and the elders were looking sympathetic rather than outraged by his actions.

"Alpha Jaxon raises a good point" a woman elder declared, "his actions ensured minimal lives were lost, something to be highly considered."

I gritted my teeth. I couldn't believe these bastards were falling for his words. I was about ready to explode. I saw Bailey's eyes glittering and knew his Lycan was coming to the surface, that he was displeased with the way the trial was looking.

"What of his kidnapping of my mate" Bailey's voice was filled with rage "The taking of the Luna Queen against her will, the marking of her? Is that to be pushed aside also?" he demanded icily.

"I marked the woman I wanted to be my mate, whether she was Luna Queen or not, made no difference. I was a fool not to accept her when it was first made obvious we were fated, but while she may have rejected me, I never accepted it. It was my hope that by marking Riley, she would feel the mate bond she felt with me the first time. I was desperate" Alpha Jaxon hung his head sounding suitably regrettable "and I wanted nothing more than for my mate to accept me once more. I took actions that were not appropriate and for that, I am deeply sorry."

"What of your turning into a feral wolf?" another elder asked gravely "Was that perhaps due to the loss of the mate bond?"

Jaxon raised his head "I can only surmise it was due to the devastation of losing my mate and feeling the mate bond unable to reestablish itself properly. My wolf has long desired to have Riley, and her continued rejection of me proved too much for him to bear. He descended into madness rather than continue to deal with the idea that our mate did not want us" he said, looking at me as I avoided his gaze "It was like being in love without the love being reciprocated. I have

no words for what transgressed and I am grateful that Riley was able to bring me back from the brink of madness and make me into a man again."

"Hmmm," one elder said consideringly "Considering the circumstances, one can hardly deny that there is a lot to think about. While Jaxon's actions have been rather thoughtless, we do have to take our laws into consideration. He has also brought up a few valuable points in his defense" he added.

"Are you joking" my voice was harsh as I stood and addressed them "Have you not even given a thought for what those sirens went through at his hands? What they suffered, what they were forced to endure? He traumatized him, degraded them, forced them and you don't care" my voice rose "because your laws don't prohibit it?"

My eyes were flashing now. Bailey stood and put a warning hand on my arm but I shrugged it off.

"King Bailey, calm your mate," an elder said as I glared "You know full well that our decision trumps even yours."

I couldn't take it anymore. These men, women. What did they know of the real world? Of torture,. of suffering? They sat in their ivory towers and ignored the suffering of others, justifying it with their so-called laws and ignorance. I glanced at Jaxon, glanced at them, and curled my lip.

"You all disgust me" I snapped and then walked away, my head held high, unable to stand there any longer.

The elders only cared about themselves, that much was obvious. I felt Bailey's eyes bearing into my back, but I had to get away before I did something so unforgettable, so undeniable that there were no elders left in the room and only ashes on the ground.

Dangerous

Chapter 103 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

King Bailey POV

"I don't understand, what is this leniency that you are showing in regards to Alpha Jaxon's sentence. It's unheard of" I snarled to the elders who shot each other glances, silently communicating with each other.

"King Bailey, we understand your desire to keep your mate safe and to take her side, but please, you must realize we are held to the standards of the laws we provide" Elder James argued back, as my face went stony "and it's our prerogative in how we see fit to punish somebody."

"Perhaps, but as King, I too have a role to play and right now you are superseding mine" My voice brooked no arguments "What exactly was your purpose in coming here? I find it difficult to believe that it was simply this farce you call a trial" I added, eyeing all of them.

"We are simply pursuing our options and taking note of extra precautions that we may need to implement when it comes to the sirens," one elder said seriously.

"The sirens? The sirens have done nothing wrong. It is him that you should be concerned about, not innocent lives and a race that has not sought to harm any of us intentionally" I growled in frustration unable to understand their logic or rationale.

"We simply want to do research" another elder sighed "to learn what makes their DNA so different from our own, what makes them able to use such a power and perhaps even find a way to subdue it for our safety. You act as though we are doing something truly monstrous" he added with a shake of his head "when all we are doing is trying to ensure the survival of our species and eliminate a potential future threat that could prove detrimental to our species."

"You are envisioning a future that is not going to occur" I yelled, losing my temper and startling them all "It's almost as though you are looking for an excuse to harm them. This is not the way to form a relationship with the sirens. It is not the way to forge a way forward with understanding and friendship."

"If we don't discover a way to deem them less of a threat, we would be putting the shifter's future as a race in danger."

"So you would harm somebody, simply because of what might happen?" my voice was incredulous as I stared them down "Has the shifter race turned so pitiful that it fears a race because of what it might do to them? Have we become so weak, so pathetic that you seek to destroy and harm a race to ensure that it won't hurt us first?" I demanded, "since when have we become such cowards" my voice dripped with resentment and anger "Since when did you, the elders become such cowards" I added scathingly.

"Mind your tongue" an elder hissed, drawing himself up straight "You know nothing of what we speak. We have long kept our eyes on different races and the harm they could pose to us if they were given any leeway to get out of control. We have studied, researched, and yes, intervened when it's been deemed necessary" he said haughtily "Because the survival of the shifters is more vital than any other race" his lip twisted "Even lycans, does that offend you King Bailey?" he asked with sarcasm and a hint of a challenge.

"I find you to be repulsive" the words shot out of me, my lycan coming to the fore, my eyes darkening, the elders shifting on their feet, uncomfortable now as my rage began to grow and my lycan tried to overtake my mind in anger "and I find what you are suggesting to be disgusting.

The sirens are under my protection" I snapped, towering over them all, unable to keep my tongue silent a minute longer "Mine and the Luna Queens. If you want to get near them, you'll have to go through me" I warned, my tone dark and threatening.

I could see Alpha Jaxon being escorted outside the room. I paid no attention, my chest heaving, my eyes glaring at the elders who were glancing between each other.

"You are only King so long as nobody challenges you for that position" an elder cut in unexpectedly, sounding tightly amused "or as long as you remain the victor. It's been a long time until you have been challenged King Bailey" he dipped his head as my eyes bore into his "but that doesn't mean you can't be defeated and your title can't be stolen off of you. Do you think that you are invincible?" his lips curled as I clenched my hands into fists "that nobody can beat your strength and your power? You are standing dangerously close to the edge of a ledge right now. I advise you to stop this foolish nonsense before you go too far" he warned.

"Are you threatening me" I growled, unable to believe my ears "Because I won't tolerate your blatant disregard for me or what I and my Luna Queen have decided when it comes to her race? Is this your way of trying to keep me in line?" I frowned, my lips flattening "As threats go, you could be right. It's true my position relies solely on the fact I am the strongest and most powerful, but it also comes down to loyalty and the ability to form relationships between packs and Alphas. I have never been the bloodthirsty, cold-blooded kind of king you have always wanted, and that frustrates you" I snarled "because I don't bend to your will and I don't accede to your wishes. I'm not some blind subservient that will let you do what you want and damn the consequences" I roared as they jumped "And so help me god, I won't let you lay a goddamn hand on me or my mate" I vowed, claws beginning to grow at the end of my nails as my lycan urged me to continue shifting, to show the elders exactly what I was capable of. To show them who was King and why.

"I think that this is becoming a little too fraught with emotion" Elder Michael hastily interrupted as I glared at them all, debating the wisdom of what would happen if I were to attack an elder, the struggle to do so, so tempting that it was making me shiver violently in anticipation "and perhaps we should disperse for a bit and allow King Bailey and ourselves" he added hastily "to calm down and perhaps have another discussion when we are all composed?" he suggested.

"Where is Alpha Jaxon?" I asked, turning my head to see him gone "What was his sentence to be?"

"Alpha Jaxon is to be freed under our supervision, and will be accompanying us back to our pack," Elder James said smugly "he will be kept under watch until such time as we leave."

"That was not your decision to make" My voice was ice cold "you overstep your bounds."

"It is the decision of all of us elders."

It would be so easy to swipe and take off their heads, I mused, biting my lip. One swipe and just like that, one or two of them would be dead before they so much as moved. I gave a low growl of

exasperation, wanting this group far away from me before I let my lycan loose. I suspected if I allowed my lycan to take over that I might not be able to shift back to human form for a long time, I was growing that angry and that furious. I could barely stand I was so incensed with them all. I didn't blame Riley for practically running from the room earlier. If I'd had any sense I would have done the same. Instead, my eyes blazed as I glared at them all.

"Get out" I spat, unable to stand being near any of them a minute longer "Now. Leave this room and make sure that Jaxon does not go near my mate."

"He's hardly going to be that stupid" one elder dared to say and I lost it.

I lost control of the temper I had been trying to keep under wraps for so long. It finally let loose.

"OUT" I roared, causing them to stagger backwards in alarm "NOW. If he lays a finger on my mate, I will kill him, so help me god. Then you. I don't want to lay eyes on any of you unless it's to tell me you've killed the bastard" I insisted heatedly as they began to carefully walk towards the doorway "and you better pray that my mate is able to keep herself under control because if she decides she's going to invoke her own punishment on Jaxon, I'm not going to stop her" I warned in a dangerous tone "in fact, I might even help her."

They looked mutinous but moved obligingly out of the room. I breathed shallowly, waiting until the very last of the elders had gone out, and then slammed the door so hard it came off its hinges, unable to hold back my anger anymore. I cursed, feeling like I wanted to punch or kill someone. I closed my eyes trying to calm down, but it was futile. I couldn't be near Riley right now, not in this mood. It was too dangerous, not to mention she was pregnant, something the elders thankfully didn't dare mention in front of me, hopefully, because they had no notion of the fact. I rubbed a hand across my forehead and then shifted, leaping through the window and breaking it, heading for the forest blindly. If I didn't get some fresh air and feel the dirt beneath my feet, I might be even more of a danger to my mate than I already was. I began to run, so fast I was practically a blur, ignoring the astonished looks on people's faces as I passed them. It was a very long time until I felt in control enough to return back to my pack, thankfully able to shift back to human form as my Lycan finally calmed to a point that allowed us to control our emotions once more.

Planning

Chapter 104 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

"Riley" I tensed and then relaxed as I turned to face Tiana, who had a wide smile on her face as she bounced up to me, "where have you been?" she asked eagerly as [Marigold](#) began to walk up as well, a look of concern on her face.

"Oh, I've just been busy," I said lamely, thinking it was a terrible excuse and unable to offer any other explanation.

Tiana seemed to find that perfectly acceptable though, while Marigold merely looked at me knowingly.

"Trying to avoid the elders?" she asked.

"Is it that obvious?" I growled.

She laughed "Look I can't blame you. They seemed to be particularly fascinated by the collars we were wearing. They've spoken to us several times, asking us to reiterate, over and over again, exactly how they affected us, what they did to our powers, and what it prevented us from being able to do. It's a little" she hesitated "nerve-wracking" she admitted to me in a low tone, glancing down at an oblivious Tiana "like they have some sort of ulterior motive for asking. I don't like it Riley" she exhaled "I feel like a guinea pig about to be put in a cage."

"They're letting Jaxon go basically free" I spat out in anger as her eyes widened in alarm "Because they don't have laws in regards to sirens" I added with a heavy dose of sarcasm.

"That can't be right, what about what he did to us? What he forced us to do" Marigold's voice was filled with rage as she glared at me "He cut the tongue out of one of my friends" she hissed "and you're telling me they're about to let that bastard go free with a slap on the wrist?"

"I don't agree with it either Marigold," I told her, my tone just as furious "The elders seemed to be a law upon their own. I don't think they have ever been challenged on their laws before. It's always been accepted that what they say is law, but who made them in charge?" I asked with my eyes flaring "What makes them superior that they would rule on the outcome of another race's pain?"

"Arrogance" Marigold spat "Arrogance. The belief that they are superior to everybody else. If they continue to go unchallenged Riley, our kind will continue to suffer and hide."

"Riley, what does superior mean?" Tiana asked blinking her eyes at me.

"It means someone thinks they are better and more important than you" I supplied, while Tiana frowned "Why sweetheart?"

"No reason," she said frowning "but you and Marigold are so angry."

"Honey, it's nothing to do with you, we're simply frustrated by the current situation" I explained tightly "and when adults get frustrated by something they can't do, they get angry."

"Hmm okay," Tiana said nonchalantly, accepting the explanation and then heading off to some other children who were playing in a group, even as they eyed her warily with her siren hair.

"She's so innocent" Marigold breathed "but that's not going to last for long at this rate."

"Well, that" I began and then fell silent as I saw none other than Jaxon walking freely across the grounds, surrounded by three elders, a pleasant smile on the bastard's face. He looked up and saw us, a smirk appearing on his face. Rage shot through me. I growled, even as my eyes tinged orange. He had been warned to stay away from me and still he defied the warning.

"Careful Riley, if you attack him, the elders might kill you and say it's self-defense" [Marigold](#) warned in a low tone, putting a warning hand on my arm.

"You think they'll go this far" I said turning my head even as I silently agreed with her "The bastard is smirking at me."

"I know," she said quietly "I've been thinking. Maybe I should take the sirens and go. Find somewhere new to bunker down, where we might be able to live and establish a new pack, far away from shifters and other races."

"You tried that and it didn't work" I pointed out quietly "and this is meant to be your home now. This is meant to be your sanctuary, your safe place."

"Except it doesn't feel safe. I watch those elders, they talk all the time. Their eyes go shifty. One of them leaves every night, taking the car and coming back in the early hours of the morning, without fail. Nobody knows where they go, or what they do. It has to be something important for them to continually leave the pack though."

"It's only been a few days."

"So? Now Jaxon is free, what are you willing to bet that he goes with them tonight?" Marigold's eyes were knowing "I will bet you anything he goes with them."

"It could be innocent" I murmured.

Marigold laughed "Innocent. There's nothing innocent about these shifters. They claim to be but inside they are heartless manipulative coldhearted bastards. They have an agenda, Riley. You know it, I know it," she said stubbornly, lifting her chin up and staring at me with a haughty expression.

"Then I'll have somebody follow them," I said in a hush "get the proof I need that they can't be trusted for myself and show Bailey once and for all that we shouldn't be heeding them."

I was prepared to do anything that would show the elders to be nothing more than manipulative lying bastards.

"Let me do it" Marigold's eyes were narrowed "I already know the schedule. I know what time they leave, and which car they take. I can have somebody watch over Tiana. One person is less likely to be discovered than a group of people and if I am found, I can still use my voice to sing my way out of trouble" she proposed.

"How are you going to get the proof?"

"I'll take camera footage on my phone. I'll send the link to you. Easy" she bluffed.

I still wasn't sure I could let her do that. "Marigold it's too dangerous," I said and she shook her head.

"Riley you can't go. They'll have eyes on you at all times, especially since you've made your opinions about them known. They'll know you've gone in an instant. As for Damien" she gave me a cryptic look "he's under close surveillance as well and I can only assume it's because he's your brother and therefore another way to get to you if you don't agree to do what they want."

I hadn't considered that. Damien was also in danger. Just because he couldn't sing, didn't mean the elders wouldn't take an interest in him. I heard the sounds of the elders and then the sound of Jaxon clearing his throat with a dramatic cough. I clenched my hands into fists drawing blood and forced myself to turn, even as my eyes shot daggers at them all. They were risking their lives bringing him so close to me and yet, none of them looked remotely apologetic. Arrogant bastards. [Marigold](#) leaned in "They want you to lose your temper" she murmured so they couldn't hear "Don't give them the satisfaction before they declare you dangerous or a risk to their kind" she whispered "I know it's hard Riley, trust me I don't like them either."

Marigold remained steadfastly by my side as I glared at the elders and Jaxon. "You must have a death wish. I believe I and my mate made it clear that Jaxon was not to come near me" I said very quietly and calmly.

"Jaxon merely wishes to apologize for behavior towards you and take responsibility for his actions," one of the elders said serenely "it is imperative that he be given that chance while we understand your anger and refusal to forgive him."

"He deserves nothing" I sneered while Jaxon glanced at me "let alone the protection of the elders. I want to hear nothing from his lips" I said curtly.

"I only want to give my most humblest apologies for the harm I have done you and the hurt I have caused both you and King Bailey," Jaxon said softly "I am both sorry and disgraced by my actions."

I said nothing, while Jaxon reached out to touch me, causing me to step backward, my claws coming out. Marigold moved to stand in front of me, her eyes glancing warningly at my hands while my wolf side was desperate to claw the bastard to death. I almost wished I could let her.

"It's best you go" Marigold told them, gesturing with her head and shooing them away "I think that Riley has heard enough of your apology" she added stiffly.

An elder pulled Jaxon away as he glanced over his shoulder, a glint in his eyes. The other two looked at Marigold with disapproval on their faces. "Who might you be that you speak on the Luna Queen's behalf?" one asked curiously.

"She's nobody" my voice was harsh, even as I silently apologized to Marigold who seemed to understand what I was trying to do "merely somebody who also has no desire to hear about Alpha Jaxon. Please" I told her "Thank you and I agree to the plan" I added as she frowned and then nodded, quickly heading off.

"Plan?" the elder asked.

"It's nothing, simply a plan to get the sirens together and form a little council of our own," I said lying and seeing them glance towards each other in concern "Is it not their right to do so?"

"Um of course," one said weakly, while the other ducked his head "Forgive us Queen Riley but we must see to our colleagues."

They walked off quickly, their heads bent together, speaking in hushed whispers. I shook my head in disgust and then turned around. Marigold had better find me some proof, I thought with a curl of my lip because these elders had just taken what little empathy I might have had for them and stomped all over it. Now they were blatantly disrespecting me and I was just about ready to kick them out, regardless of the consequences I might face.

Missing

Chapter 105 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

King Bailey POV

"It's difficult to keep the elders under surveillance without alerting them to that fact" Thomas's voice was grave as he spoke, all of us gathered in a small group, in a clearing in the forest, Riley listening closely, her head cocked to the side. "But I agree, Jaxon is walking around like he knows something we don't" he added with a frown.

"If I get asked one more question about my parentage, my DNA, or about Riley I might lose it" Damien warned, his voice brooking no arguments "I don't like being looked at as though I'm

something they would like to view under a microscope" he added with a glower "It's creepy as fuck."

"We're having difficulty staying out of Jaxon's way" Cody broke out with a grimace "Every time we come across him on the grounds he stares at us, like he's challenging us to say something or do something to provoke him into attacking. Either that or he's warning us that he hasn't forgiven us for running from his pack."

"Stay away for now" I advised them both stiffly "Even with the elder's protection one wrong move and Jaxon ends up back in that dungeon regardless of their objections" I added with a low growl.

"Damien, I want you to stay away from them" Riley's voice was soft as she studied her brother "I don't want them using you as a way to get to me and I don't want you put in danger" she added quietly.

"What are they going to do?" Damien scoffed while Thomas flattened his lips and I fought to control my temper "They so much as lay a finger on you or me, I will wreak hell on them" he threatened sounding cocky.

"It's exactly that type of threat that has them declaring us dangerous," Riley said with gritted teeth while I slowly exhaled "and they could be capable of anything. Right now I don't trust them and neither should any of you. Give them a wide berth," she said quietly "pretend to be compliant, be polite" she continued "they have no business staying here much longer but they aren't showing an inclination to leave either. I don't like it."

"Bailey, what do you want us to do?" Thomas asked "I can keep out of sight but it's a little suspicious if the Beta isn't made available."

"You're right," I said slowly "Maybe it would be better if you were overly helpful to the elders. You might overhear something useful" I added as Thomas's eyes began to gleam "especially if you can convince them you think I'm overreacting to their judgments."

Thomas smirked "I've always wanted to betray you in the worst possible way" he teased "Now I get the chance to throw you to the lions."

"Don't enjoy yourself too much" I advised rolling my eyes as he chuckled.

"Marigold is going to assist us" Riley added, examining her nails "She's agreed to trail them. One of them leaves every night at the same time and comes back but nobody says where he's been. She's going to find out for us."

"That sounds dangerous Riley," I told her frowning "What if she's caught? She should take another person with her" I added as the boys began to nod in agreement.

"That increases the risk of being caught" she argued shaking her head "It's far safer if only Marigold goes. Besides we have enough trouble as it is getting around unseen" she hissed "They aren't watching Marigold as closely as the rest of us because they don't consider her as much of a threat."

"Fine" I scowled "but she could be going on a fool's errand," I said, watching Riley clench her jaw.

"I have a feeling that it's important she goes."

"Riley it's imperative that you hold onto your temper" my eyes fixed on hers "Don't give them a reason to place you in the dungeon or hold you for disrespecting them."

"They are not my elders" she snarled "nor do they have any right to detain me. I do not recognize their laws" she continued as I tried not to flinch "and I certainly will not bow down to what they want."

"Riley" I hissed, "keep your voice down. I agree with you on some things, but right now the last thing we need is to divide packs who are loyal to them. If we start a war, we had better be prepared for the casualties bound to follow."

Riley opened her mouth to begin arguing again when we heard the sounds of shouting in the distance, clearly distressed.

"Something's wrong," I said with a frown, "Thomas, Damien, Cody, Callum, go back to your posts" I instructed stiffly, grabbing Riley's hand and dragging her out of the forest with me as the men swiftly disappeared.

More shouting. I hurried my step, sniffing the air. There was no smell of rotten meat, or eggs, indicating that there were no rogues nearby. This puzzled me. A scream had me run onto the grounds, just in time to see Marigold launch herself physically at an elder while he remained impassive, two other elders rushing to his aid.

"Where is she?" she screamed as Riley and I headed towards her "What have you done with her you bastards? I know it was you" she sobbed.

"Marigold, what's going on?" I heard Riley ask her as Marigold whirled around, her eyes blazing.

I looked at the elders whose faces were expressionless.

"Tiana" Marigold choked out "She's gone, Riley. I thought she was playing with the other children but nobody has seen her for at least the last hour or so," she said, before shooting daggers at the elders "They must have taken her" she accused, pointing at them, her finger trembling "I should never have left her alone" she broke down.

Shit. The elders drew themselves upright, looking affronted. "I take offense to that accusation," one said, looking down his nose "We are not monsters who kidnap children" he exclaimed.

"No just the monsters who let other monsters out of prison" she shot back, water beginning to swirl around her.

"Riley, stop her before she proves to the elders what a danger she is" I murmured beneath my breath while inching closer "Marigold where's the last place you saw her?" I asked urgently "Right now it's a priority that we find Tiana."

"Over there, with those children" she pointed "I left to go do something and before I knew it I had been gone for too long. I came back and there was no sign of her," she said angrily "and they all deny that they had anything to do with it."

"She's probably done something foolish like run away" an elder muttered "We shall help you look for her if that will appease your suspicious mind" he added darkly.

"Riley, start a search party with the other sirens. Tiana is more likely to come out if she's nearby if she hears a familiar voice" I told her as she nodded and dragged Marigold away "I'll see if I can sniff out her scent and get the men to start searching. She couldn't have gone far. Maybe she went into the forest in search of us" I added grimly.

It was the only explanation I could think of.

I mind-linked the others and had them searching the perimeters within minutes. Pack members volunteered to search the house, the grounds, and the nearby properties while I had my best trackers on the ground, seeking out her scent. I shifted, heading into the forest, but her scent was gone. It vanished from the grounds promptly, further raising my suspicions. Tiana wasn't the type to do something so foolish. Yes, she was a child but she wasn't naive to the dangers that going into the forest or being out here alone could happen. I pawed the ground in frustration, refusing to give up. I snorted, continuing to head further in, only to reach the boundary line. I bowed my head, scanning the neutral territory but there was nothing. It was as though Tiana had vanished into thin air. I gave a growl, heading back to the grounds and shifting to human form, Riley and Marigold waiting anxiously, Marigold pacing back and forth.

"Nothing," I told them regretfully as Marigold's eyes shimmered with tears "None of my trackers were able to pick up her scent. I'll have them search neutral territory for her."

"You think she made it that far?" Riley's voice was skeptical as she studied me.

I didn't blame her for sounding so disbelieving. It was hard to believe that Tiana would have made it past our patrol without somebody spotting her.

I shot her a look warning her to keep quiet on the matter "It's the only option we have."

She tightened her lips "It's the only option you're willing to consider right now" she corrected, leading Marigold away, while I stared at the back of her in exasperation.

I knew she blamed the elders. I suspected them too. But without proof, there wasn't much I could do. I couldn't come right out and just accuse them like Marigold had done. I needed cold hard proof that they had done it. I looked up and saw Jaxon observing me with a wry grin on his face. My hands itched as I fought the urge to go over and confront the bastard, knowing that I was dangerously close to turning violent in the mood I was in. All I could think about was Tiana and what she must be experiencing right now. I closed my eyes tightly and took a deep breath before exhaling and storming towards the pack house. I had a sense that Riley was up to something, but she was hugging Marigold when I approached her and there was a strange expression on both women's faces before they changed as they saw me. Whatever they had discussed, they weren't about to divulge it to me. Maybe my mate was having trouble trusting me. The notion hurt more than I liked to admit, even as I told myself that right now I couldn't blame her.

Horrified

Chapter 106 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

"Are you sure about this?" Marigold bit her lip as I nodded at her, easing my way into the trunk of the car, glancing helplessly around, her eyes narrowed in worry "It was supposed to be me that went, not you" she pointed out concerned.

"Well Tiana's missing now and you need to stay here in case she comes back," I said with a low growl "and I want to see for myself where this elder goes every night. Don't worry about me Marigold I'll be fine" I told her, shaking my head and watching as she exhaled.

She was about to close the trunk of the car when we both heard the unmistakable sound of footsteps approaching and she froze.

"Get in" I hissed.

She climbed in beside me and we closed the trunk until there was barely a slit with which to look through. A pair of elders appeared in front of the car, their voices low.

"Make sure nobody follows you," Elder Michael said gravely "We can't afford for anybody to know what we are truly up to."

"I'm not stupid" Elder James voice, "I will bring back the information as usual and advise you of any complications. Jaxon" he spoke lowly, another person approaching "Your advice is vital to us all, without your information none of this would be possible" he added darkly.

"I'm happy to be of service" Jaxon's voice was low but filled with glee.

I shot Marigold a look but she merely shook her head.

"Go, you don't have much time until you are expected back here. As it is, I grow weary of King Bailey and that infuriating Siren mate of his and their defiance. Soon they won't be able to do anything for fear of retribution."

I tensed. Marigold placed a hand on my shoulder. As they got into the car, I used the noise of them shutting the doors to carefully shut the trunk closed, leaving us in darkness. We heard the sound of the car's engine and felt the car as it began to move. Silence. Marigold and I didn't dare speak, for fear of giving ourselves away. As it was we wore no perfume, nothing that would create a scent, and had attempted to mask our smell with the dirt and pine trees of the forest beforehand. I gasped out loud as the car hit a large pothole, hurriedly putting my hand over my mouth, but neither Elder James nor Jaxon appeared to have heard it. I had no way of knowing where they were going. The trip seemed to take an inordinately long time, and eventually, the car cruised to a stop, the engine cutting off as the doors to the car opened on both the driver's and passenger's side.

"This is larger than I expected" Jaxon's voice was filled with awe as he shut the passenger door.

"What did you expect? We need the space and the facility has only the best when it comes to researching and studying the different species" it was said with disdain from Elder James "We are hardly going to be second rate are we?"

The driver's door shut. I felt Marigold reach for my hand and squeeze it. My heart was pounding as I listened intently. I heard what sounded like a door opening and shutting further away and then nothing. I waited, feeling the minutes tick past, Marigold frowning before she touched the release on the trunk, allowing it to open slowly. We cautiously peered over the edge and climbed out, looking at the building with curiosity.

We were in what looked like a garage. There were several cars parked with ours. The building it was built in front of was plain brick exterior and rather mundane looking. The door was basic and as we walked closer, scanning our surroundings, we were surprised to find that it wasn't locked, consisting of a basic door knob. Surprising. I shrugged at Marigold and opened it, both of us hesitantly stepping inside. The inside was different. It consisted of white hallways and white doors. I saw a desk with what looked like a security guard and instantly ducked down, motioning for Marigold to do the same. He hadn't seen us enter, but that had been blind luck. No wonder the door hadn't been locked. The building was guarded against any unwelcome visitors. We crept underneath the edge of the desk, both of us glancing at each other as he sat there.

"We're going to have to take him out" Marigold mouthed with a silent grimace.

She stood up and I slid around the corner as the man immediately started. "Oy what are you doing in here, you're not allowed...."

I quickly hit him over the back of the head, knocking him unconscious, and let him slide to the floor. He had a keycard attached to his lanyard and some instinct made me take it. I gripped it tightly in one hand. I gestured to Marigold and we quickly continued down the hallway behind the reception area.

"Now what?" Marigold whispered.

"What is this place?" I asked dumbfounded "It's like a hospital but bigger" I added suspiciously.

Marigold grabbed me and pushed me to the side, both of us ducking behind a large plant as Elder James and Jaxon walked around the corner in front of us. We followed silently, watching as the elder used a keycard to enter a nearby room. I frowned.

"Should we go in there?" Marigold hissed.

I shook my head "Let's try somewhere else" I gestured and we moved past them, running to another room.

There were small slits in the doors. I couldn't see anybody standing in the room and I quickly used the security guard's keycard to get us both inside. As we stepped in and shut the door, I turned and gaped, unable to believe what I was seeing and yet unsurprised.

Cages. A bunch of large cages, almost like cells lining the walls. Machinery, the likes of what I hadn't seen before pushed to the side. I saw a stretcher, restraints that would hold someone down, microscopes, and more. There were vials, some with strange labels, and containing blood still inside them, making me feel sick to my stomach.

"Vamp A, blood type A-" I read out loud frowning "Hybrid B blood type A+" Marigold read "What do you suppose this means?" she asked confused.

"It sounds like they've been doing some sort of sick experimentation or something," I said, glancing around the room and shivering "This place gives me the creeps. Let's get out of here and try another room" I proposed.

"You don't think Tiana is in one of these rooms," Marigold said horrified.

I shot her a look but couldn't bring myself to say anything. Marigold's eyes narrowed to slits as she let out a low growl.

The next room was just as bad and just as grim. Except that it contained large basins with taps, several stretchers with restraints, and dried blood on the tiled floor and on the walls. A scalpel lay beside one of the basins, dried blood on it, the point still sharp. I felt myself becoming nauseated. Something gleamed on the floor and I moved, bending down to pick it up. A ring. The

stone looked like Black onyx and the band was definitely masculine. It lay on the floor by the drain in the center, as though it had been forgotten. I placed it in my pocket. I had a feeling it had once belonged to somebody, who was not here any longer. I swallowed hard. Marigold looked pale. as though she was about to be sick and I hoped she was able to keep from doing it.

"I know we wanted to find out what they were up to but now I'm not so sure it's a good idea" Marigold whispered "I think we should go back Riley, before we get caught. Whatever they're doing" she made a strangled sound "I'm not sure I want to know."

"It's too late to back out now. Don't you want to know what all this means?" I argued softly "The blood, the machinery, all of it points to the elders hiding something. If we go back now, we'll never get the answers or the proof we need."

I had a suspicion that this wasn't everything that the building contained, that there were more secrets to discover in its walls.

She looked torn. I silently opened the door and slid out. Nobody was in the corridors. In fact, other than Jaxon and Elder James, I had yet to see anyone despite the cars in the parking lot. Strange. Except there was a lift. I got in and saw that it went down one floor. Underground. Marigold tensed as I pressed the button and shut the doors. The lift descended smoothly. I ran a hand through my hair and stepped to the side, peering out as the doors opened. What we saw left both of us in shock.

So many cages. The room was large, with all sorts of machinery, scientific equipment, you name it but the cages, they lined the far wall and were spread throughout the room. Unlike the other rooms we had entered, they weren't empty. I stepped inside the room, tears filling my eyes. Even Marigold was lost for words as we moved closer, our eyes automatically going to each cage. Creatures, of all kinds filled those cages. I saw a vampire, dying of thirst, lying prone on the floor of his cage, his eyes sunken in, a haunted expression on his face. He was not the only vampire, there were more, but there were also sirens. Lots of sirens. Mainly women, but also children. I put a hand to my mouth. None of them looked at us. They were so lost in despair they stared at the ground, at the walls, or at nothing. Some looked as though they had lost their minds. One of the sirens opened their mouth and I saw with disgust and revulsion that their tongue had been removed. I saw shifter bears, still in bear form lying down, squished in the cages, I saw fae, their wings ripped from their backs and bleeding with expressions of despair on their faces. I saw Lycans, I saw witches who had been blinded. The only race I did not see in the cages was shifters. Wolf shifters to be exact. The elders would not cage their own kind.

"Do you like what you see?" Elder James asked mockingly behind me as I turned to face him in alarm.

We had been so lost in our thoughts and so disgusted by what we had seen that we hadn't heard the lift behind us or heard his and Jaxon's footsteps.

Honesty

Chapter 107 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

King Bailey POV

"No sign of Tiana", Thomas's voice breaks my concentration and I glance up from my desk, frowning.

"What about corresponding packs? Are there any nearby who might have spotted her?" my mouth was dry, already anticipating the answer.

Thomas's slow shake of the head confirmed it. "Unless she somehow made it to a main road and hitchhiked her way out of here, we're running out of options to find her Bailey" he scowled and shut the door, leaning in close, "Maybe Marigold was right when she accused the elders in taking her. I mean, who knows what motive they would have for it, but you have to admit they are acting shady as hell, and for Tiana to just up and disappear? It doesn't make sense" he exhaled, "god knows that Damien, Cody, and Callum have been working like dogs to try and track her down, even working with the other trackers, but there's nothing. I mean you have to ask yourself how much do you trust these elders?" he narrowed his eyes.

"So far I have no trust in them," I admitted lowly, "and Riley's anger is warranted. My own is rising. They appear to have an ulterior motive, but to take a child?" I shook my head "What would be the end game? Why Tiana?" I asked, frowning. "And not one of the other sirens, an adult?"

"A child is more pliable and easier to manipulate", Thomas spoke gravely, "not to mention she might have been drugged or sedated so she couldn't use her voice or powers. She was a pretty strong siren, wasn't she?" he pointed out.

"Yes, she was, which is why I thought she might have gone off on her own. If we start questioning the elders, it's only going to cause conflict."

"Sir, you know I have the utmost respect for you", Thomas's voice was low as he folded his arms across his chest "and I am loyal to you as my Alpha and my King. But that is where my loyalty ends" his eyes rose to meet mine. "If it wasn't for you saving my life, I wouldn't even be here today. I owe the elders nothing, and I'm certain that I won't be the only one who feels that way. Their influence on the other packs, on the other Alphas, is not as strong as you, or they, want to believe. In fact, many of us" he paused and looked me directly in the eyes "would say that it's more than the time the entire band of elders was disbanded for good. Their beliefs are steeped in old-fashioned values that no longer align with modern times", he continued, "and more of us are open-minded and accepting of other races besides ourselves."

"You are encouraging me to go against them" my voice was hushed "Those that are responsible for our laws and traditions? The very men who established different packs and created the foundation on which we now reside?"

"I'm encouraging you to do what's right for both your people and other races. I'm telling you to consider what's going to help the cause that you and Riley are so adamant about. There is more to our kind and our lives than seeing things in black and white" he argued with passion, such passion I had never seen from him before, "and the longer you hesitate to do what's right, the harder it's going to be to make the choice that you already know you have to make."

"How can you be so sure that other Alphas and Lunas will support this move?" I challenged softly. "You seem positive it's the right move to make, but why? Is your communication with other Alphas that friendly?"

"Because I have been speaking to them for the last few days trying to drum up support in case you lost your temper and made a move against them", Thomas growled, his eyes darkening "because I feared that you might be made an example of, and I was prepared to do anything I had to, to make sure you weren't killed for defying them. I had to make sure you had allies, other Alphas willing to fight on your behalf if it came down to that, and not only did I find them, but I had Lunas in agreement with Riley about helping the sirens. A lot are angry that Jaxon was not suitably punished for his role in everything by the elders, which is further causing contention among the packs."

"You've been doing all this without being noticed?" I asked, stunned.

His mouth quirked "Not just me, Callum, Cody, and Damien have all helped in their own little ways. Damien because he loves his sister, and he's trying to make up for everything he did to her, Callum, and Cody because they happen to agree with you and Riley. They like this pack, they like calling this place home. They are not about to risk being disbanded into another pack without fighting for it first."

"Why didn't you tell me what you were up to?" I growled, feeling frustrated and a whirlwind of emotions shooting through me "any of you? To go behind my back like this..." my voice trailed off as I felt lost for words.

"We couldn't risk you objecting to us doing what we needed to. It was safer if you had no knowledge of us or our whereabouts the last few days."

"Does Riley know?" I demanded.

He shook his head. "Riley has no knowledge, the same as you. We weren't about to get her hopes up if nobody agreed to fight or help defend this pack and you. She's just as oblivious as you've been. She has enough problems to worry about, including Tiana's whereabouts."

I exhaled "That was probably wise, Riley's not in a good headspace at the moment, and I'm sure she might have slipped up and said something in anger if she had known what you all were

doing. Still, it would have been nice to know," I added with a low growl and a pointed look at my Beta, though my anger was fast fading.

"I barely recognize you these days," Thomas said softly, sitting in his chair. "It's as though you are more concerned about offending these elders than you are about your mate because of the disrespect they are showing you both."

I eyed him. "Sometimes it's not as easy as you think. There are other things that have to be taken into consideration," I told him as he raised a brow.

"Like what?" he asked.

I hesitated "Like Riley's pregnancy. She's pregnant, Thomas" I divulged as a wide smile spread across his face, "with twins. I couldn't risk the elders finding out, and she can't be hurt or injured while she's in this vulnerable condition. I can't risk her or the babies being hurt, so I'm being more cautious" I paused and gave him a rueful look "then I might be otherwise out of fear for my mate."

"Riley's pregnant" he breathed, "with twins. I don't blame you for being worried," he said, "but how does Riley feel about that? Because I know her Bailey, and she's not the type to give up. Remember how she broke the collars off of all the sirens? She fought for what she believed in. She fought for her people. I don't think that she's going to shirk away, and I think if she knew that the reason you haven't been taking action was because of her, I think she would be sorely disappointed and maybe even angry at you" he advised me icily.

He was right. Riley would be pissed if she found out the reason I had been trying to maintain a balance between the elders and ourselves was so that she wouldn't get hurt. But she was my priority and my children. It was an impossible choice. I knew what she would pick though. She would always go out fighting. It was in her nature. It was in her blood. She wouldn't shirk away from a fight, and she wouldn't want me to either. It was one of the things I admired and loved about her. That and her compassion for people, all kinds, no matter what race they were. She was an excellent Luna Queen. She would make a fantastic mother. But I couldn't keep holding her back like I had been. I couldn't keep teetering on the edge and walking a tightrope, trying to keep everybody happy, because in the end that wasn't going to work. It wasn't working.

"Thomas, I appreciate your brutal honesty," I told him with sincerity. "If anyone is brave enough to tell me the truth, it's you" I added, as he grinned at me, "even when it's not always appreciated."

"Does that mean you'll stop acting like a dumb fuck" he said with a smirk, "and start acting like the damn Lycan king you are? Because I got to tell you man, you are acting so damn meek and so fucking polite is kind of a turn-off", he teased.

I chuckled. "Good thing I'm not aiming to turn you on" I said with a grin as I stood up and began to stretch, "but I think the first order of business is going to be finding my mate and extending an apology that's well and truly overdue."

"That's the spirit", Thomas cheered before there was a knock at the door and then the door opened abruptly, a panting Damien on the other side, both of us looking at him in concern as he pushed his hair back and stood upright.

"Good god man, what's the rush?" Thomas asked, confused.

"It's Marigold" Damien said, looking at both of us. She's missing, and I can't find Riley either?"

I was already on my feet, moving swiftly towards the door, trying to mind-link my mate with no success. "What were they up to" I growled as the men looked at each other uncomfortably.

"What was Marigold doing tonight?"

Something Riley had said niggled at me. She'd told me what Marigold had been planning to do, but I couldn't remember with Tiana's disappearance taking priority. Shit. I began to head towards the grounds, sniffing for my mate's scent, my mind desperately searching for the clue or the memory that would divulge where the women might be or have gone to.

Guinea Pig

Chapter 108 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

"What is all of this?" I breathed, turning to face Elder James and Jaxon, who merely smirked at both Marigold and me, looking unsurprised by our presence as they looked behind us at all the cages and the miserable creatures contained in them. "What have you done to them all?" I demanded, finding my voice, while they simply blinked at me, unfazed by the anger coursing through my veins.

"I would have thought that it was pretty self-explanatory, Riley" Elder James's voice was quiet as several more people came flooding in behind him, dressed in white coats, their eyes gazing at us with fascination "This is a research facility that has been put to good use in discovering and recording the various differences between our species and others."

His tone was smug, as though it was something to be proud of.

"Why?" Marigold's voice was shaking. "Why are they locked up like this? This isn't right, this is...."

Jaxon moved so fast that Marigold barely had time to blink, plunging a syringe into her thigh as she opened her mouth wide and made a strangled sound, her eyes bulging before she crumpled silently to the floor, Jaxon's eyes gleaming with satisfaction as he looked down at her with a grin.

"Marigold" I shouted, my own eyes beginning to blaze as I faced them.

"Bring the girl." Elder James was quiet, but his tone was filled with authority.

He glanced at me as Jaxon smoothly approached. "You can try and fight us, but it will only endanger Tiana more" he warned as I hesitated.

"Where is she" I hissed "She wasn't in this room and I didn't see her in any of the others."

He smirked. The elevator opened behind the men and a woman came out, dragging a dazed-looking Tiana with her. I sucked in a breath. Tiana stared blankly at me. There was no recognition on her face, no signs she knew me at all. I could see needle marks on her arm and there was a collar, a different one around her neck. It was silver and ominous-looking.

"You bastard" I choked out, Jaxon taking hold of my arms while I stood there debating "What have you done to her?" I demanded icily.

"We haven't done anything too extravagant, at least not yet," Elder James said, looking at Tiana with satisfaction, "A few simple blood tests, some sedation, and, of course, we had to trail the new collars we created, thanks to Jaxon's help and assistance."

The collar. Jaxon helped them create new ones. I stared at Elder James in horror. "You planned this from the start. You had no intentions of punishing Jaxon did you?" I accused him as Jaxon let out a soft laugh "You wanted his information and his help."

"Of course we did. We couldn't let him be punished for trying to force some sirens into being compliant. Your species is a danger to us all, he merely did what was right" Elder James said snidely. "You've been driven to the point of extinction, and yet your kind still fights to survive. It's infuriating," he sneered.

One of the scientists passed a silver collar to Jaxon, who took it with a gleam in his eyes. I struggled and pulled away.

"Put the collar on Riley" Jaxon's voice was soft, mocking as he looked at me, while Tiana continued to stare at everything near her with a dumbfounded expression "Unless you want Marigold and Tiana here to die right in front of you?" he added smoothly.

I was already drawing water around me, prepared to battle, but at his words, Elder James pulled a large dagger out of his jacket and moved, putting the tip to Tiana's throat while she stood there, offering no resistance. He pushed in hard, a sliver of blood trickling down her throat as I watched slightly panicked. Marigold remained unconscious on the floor and wasn't any help to me at all. Whatever Jaxon had given her had knocked her out cold. I hesitated.

"Unlike you Riley, I have no compunctions about killing an innocent child" Elder James spoke as he kept the knife at Tiana's throat, "in fact, she wouldn't be the first I would have killed, just to ensure you're listening to me. I happen to know that you're quite fond of this girl. Could you live with the image of her throat being slit in front of you forever? With the knowledge that there was nothing you could do to save her? Can you live with the guilt of knowing she died because of you?" he prompted, a smile on his face that sent shivers down my spine.

He had me. I knew he wasn't bluffing. Tiana was my weakness. I couldn't see her throat being slit in front of me. "Tiana" I cried, attempting to get her attention, but she didn't so much as glance my way. I felt a lump in my throat. "Tiana" I screamed, and then I dropped the water, letting it fall to the floor and spread.

"Wise decision," Elder James said with a twist of his lips "Jaxon, the collar" he urged.

I stiffened, my body tensing as I felt Jaxon come up behind me. This time the collar was ice-cold as he snapped it into place. Small electrical pulses seemed to run through it. The silver burned, like before.

"Try and speak," Elder James said, narrowing his eyes.

"Fuck you" I spat and then felt the nauseating pain of electricity run through my body, sending me to my knees in shock.

"Ah, it works" Elder James nodded "Every time you try to speak or even utter a sound, you're going to be shocked by the collar. Try and sing, and the pain will be ten times what you just felt" he advised me as I went silent, glaring at him. "it seemed to be a better alternative than cutting out each and every single one of your tongues. I can even control the electricity if I choose, but that's up to me" he sneered, "and I can make it worse as well. How does it feel, Queen Riley, to be at my mercy?" he snarled, "siren bitch."

I opened my mouth and then shut it. Jaxon chuckled "It appears that our siren queen is lost for words" he murmured, "I think you might have had a cage ready for her sir?" he added, bowing his head respectfully while the scientists continued to watch, Marigold now being put on a stretcher behind me.

"Yes" Elder James confirmed with a sly nod of his head, "but I think it's imperative that we do a little research on her first. Discover how she differs from the other sirens and what makes her stronger than them, faster, and what caused her to become the Siren Queen. I want to know where she gets her strength from" he commented, creasing his brow "and I want to see if we can somehow harness it or use it in conjunction with other traits we have taken from other races. Perhaps we can create some sort of super hybrid" he laughed, "or at the very least we might be able to form a toxin that finally causes them to become extinct and be rid of them finally."

I felt sick. Like an animal that is about to be tortured or beaten by its master. Marigold was swiftly wheeled into the elevator and Elder James pushed Tiana towards one of the scientists.

"Take her back to the room and let her sleep. She's no good to us in this state. We have to see what her reaction is to pain stimuli when she wakes up," he added, as fury swept through me.

The bastard was still threatening to hurt her, even after I had acceded to his demands.

I lunged forward, but Jaxon reached forward and grabbed me, yanking me backward as I flailed in his arms.

"Don't even think about it princess," he breathed in my ear, "you can't shift with the silver around your neck, and you can't use your powers with the electricity coursing through you. That reminds me" he growled, and I felt the sharp prick of something embed itself in my thigh, looking down in disbelief to see a syringe being pulled back by Jaxon "I think it's best if you're slightly sedated. Just to be extra cautious" he added out loud, speaking to Elder James, who looked at him in approval.

"Wonderful" he beamed, as my body became uncooperative and Jaxon moved to sweep me up in his arms as though I was as light as a feather ", take her to the room next door. Gerald," he turned to one of the scientists who adjusted his spectacles nervously, "you can come too. We'll need your assistance for this" he added as I tried to move and couldn't, "I have to be back at the pack in a few hours", the Elder added with a sigh, "but Jaxon will remain here now that he's no longer needed there. I want blood tests," he told the man as Jaxon began to walk through the room towards the back corner, towards a door I had not taken notice of before. "as many as you can do on her" he continued, "do a full medical check-up. I want to know everything about her and her kind. If she gives you any trouble, don't hesitate to use the remote and punish her. She needs to learn her place" he smirked as I glared weakly at him.

The door was kicked open by Jaxon, and we entered a room that had all sorts of machinery, a hospital bed in the center with restraints, vials and needles, restraints, computers, laboratory equipment. Anything and everything you could possibly need to perform tests on another person. Jaxon went straight to the bed and began to place me on it, hurriedly restraining my arms and legs down so that I couldn't move my arms or feet. He stroked my cheek. "You know, it's kind of a turn on seeing you weak and helpless like this" he commented wryly, as I tried not to shudder, "after Gerald here has done all his tests I think we might, get reacquainted again, Riley. I've missed you" he murmured in my ear as I moved my head away "and nothing would please me more than fucking you while your mate feels the pain of your betrayal" he added wickedly.

"After the tests" Elder James barked, rolling his eyes and then turned to the scientist "You may start now" he added, sitting on the nearest chair and smiling to himself.

I felt a terrible sense of foreboding as I lay there helpless. Something told me that I was not going to like what tests they were about to perform on me.

Specimen

Chapter 109 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Trigger warning. This episode may prove triggering for some readers due to some mention of sexual assault. Please do not read if this may trigger you.

Riley POV

Gerald calmly took out a bunch of vials and a needle, wrapping a tourniquet around my arm, while I glared up at him hatefully. Jaxon sat down, a sly grin on his face. I wriggled as he began to put the needle into my veins, drawing blood into several of the vials as Elder James sat there looking bored. "This might sting a bit", Gerald warned.

It did. I felt the needle penetrate the skin, felt the blood leave my body as it was pulled into the vials, and saw the scientist carefully place them to the side before he pulled the needle back out and loosened the tourniquet, allowing me to relax slightly. He roughly placed a small bandage over the bleeding wound, before turning to the vials and beginning to carefully label them.

"Did you get enough?" Elder James inquired.

"Plenty" Gerald assured him, placing the vials into a machine and closing the lid, "this is more than enough to determine what is different in hers."

"Good" Elder James said with a yawn "Don't forget to give her the physical check-up," he added, and I tensed.

Physical check-up? What was a physical check-up? I could feel myself looking over at Jaxon, who merely raised a brow looking amused and slightly delightedly at me "I'm going to enjoy this", he breathed.

Gerald was putting new gloves on his hands and tightening them. He picked up a scalpel and I found my eyes widening in panic. As he approached me, I pulled on the restraints, but it was futile. I gave a loud cry as electricity pulsed through my body, coming from the collar. Elder James shook his head at me "that was a warning. Keep resisting, and I'll increase the amount," he warned.

I trembled. I thought that Gerald was going to cut me. But instead, he gripped my chin and began to look over me, taking note of my eyes and my complexion, my hair, and the smoothness of my skin. "Hair is long, approximately to her waist, eyes are a silvery blue color, the face is pale but without blemishes and the complexion is like a pale porcelain."

He looked at my shirt and raised the scalpel as I automatically flinched. He began to saw through my shirt, tearing it, ripping it impatiently, and revealing my lace bra to him, pushing aside the flaps of my shirt. He began to run his hand over my body as I felt revulsion sweep through me. It was all clinical, nothing but a nonchalant look on the man's face. This was not turning him on, something I should have been grateful for, but it didn't take away the fear, or the feeling of degradation, as he touched me without my consent.

"Body frame is slight, petite. Her rubs are human in nature, as are her belly button and navel. No bruises or blemishes on her skin and her complexion continues to be of a pale porcelain color" he intoned.

He prodded my stomach and watched as it turned slightly pink and then went back to the normal color. "Reacts to stimuli as expected" he murmured.

He cut my bra, spreading it to the side and exposing my bare breasts. I could hear Jaxon draw in a strangled breath as he hungrily feasted his eyes on me. I closed my eyes, trying to pretend that I was somewhere else, anywhere else, but what was happening right now. But Gerald's hands on my breast immediately caused me to open my eyes and bring back my focus.

"Breasts are soft and pliable, easily held in the cup of the hand like a human woman's."

His hand squeezed hard, causing me to grit my teeth. I wanted to bite him, but the restraints prevented me from being able to move upwards and do just that. His hand moved down over my stomach. I tensed. He frowned, looking slightly puzzled, but then turned his attention back to my pants.

"Subject appears to be of healthy weight and height" he intoned, raising the scalpel and slicing through my pants.

The scalpel was sharp. He sliced through the legs, causing me to wriggle uncomfortably as it got close to my skin a few times. He managed to tear them off completely, leaving me in nothing but panties. He looked me over.

"Her legs are normal, appear to be at the right length for her height and weight" he continued, before putting his hands on me and running them over me quickly.

"The skin is smooth, the complexion remains the same" he continued, "no blemishes, no bruises."

"Such a beautiful specimen" Jaxon drawled, an arrogant grin on his face "isn't she Gerald?" he chuckled as the scientist adjusted his spectacles and glanced over his shoulder with an impatient look on his face.

"The subject is also a half shifter, I am led to believe?" he turned and addressed Elder James, who had remained quiet in the background.

"Yes, a hybrid", his nose wrinkled in disgust. "Is there a problem?"

"No Sir, merely confirming for myself," he said quietly, turning back to me.

"You need to check her other parts as well, Gerald" Elder James reminded him as I looked upwards in horror. "Examine her carefully, remember. Your notes need to be precise. We can weigh her later to get that on record, but I want confirmation that everything is like a normal woman's."

Gerald sighed and raised the scalpel. I jerked on the restraints and then shrieked as the electricity coursed through me again. This time it was much more painful. I panted, Gerald, waiting patiently until it stopped.

"I told you not to resist" Elder James barked, "Gerald, proceed" he snapped.

Gerald raised the scalpel again. I saw Jaxon lean forward eagerly. He quickly cut through the sides of my panties and then roughly tore them away, leaving my vagina exposed to their gaze. I wanted to cross my legs, my cheeks turning red in humiliation. I had never felt so degraded as I was feeling right now. They feasted their eyes on me, all three of them as I tried not to cry, Gerald glancing downwards before walking back to the desk and retrieving a clipboard which he began to write on quickly. His notes, I surmised, biting the inside of my lip.

"Gerald, I know you're not about to skip ensuring the inside of her vagina is the same as a woman's" Elder James said, his tone brooking no arguments.

No, no, no, no. I pleaded with my eyes as he put the clipboard down and grabbed what looked like a speculum, holding it in his hands as he approached. "I'm going to need help with this" he said tightly.

Jaxon was up in an instant, a broad grin on his face. Gerald nodded to my legs. "Loosen the restraints and then hold her legs up so that they are spread with her knees up."

I tried to pull away, but Jaxon's grip was hard and powerful. He leered at me, while Gerald placed lubricant on the speculum. I closed my eyes, a lone tear trailing down my cheek.

"Now inserting the speculum" Gerald announced as I stared down at him, trying desperately to clamp my knees together.

I felt pressure down below. I felt the violation as he inserted it inside of me against my will. His hands expertly placed it, as though he'd done it a hundred times before, and I realized he most certainly must have done it to the other women out in the cages. I was not the first one this had been done to. I whimpered, my head flinging back in denial as Gerald knelt between my legs, his fingers probing, touching, sending waves of disgust in me. I fought the urge to be sick, while Jaxon merely looked on, observing with the biggest smirk on his face. He relished my humiliation like the bastard that he was.

"All parts are the same as a human woman's", Gerald turned to Elder James, who looked unsurprised, "the same as every other siren we've conducted the same tests on before."

"However" he paused, looking hesitant as Elder James and Jaxon looked at him intrigued.

"Yes, what is it?" Elder James asked, and I knew instinctively what he was about to say.

I could see it in his eyes. Gerald knew I was pregnant. Shit. He fidgeted with his hands, a torn expression on his face. If he told the elder or Jaxon I was a dead woman. They would no doubt want to examine the fetuses. I would be given a forced abortion or even kept here until I gave birth. Jaxon would be furious that I was pregnant with Bailey's children.

I tried to plead with my eyes again. To beg. To will him with my eyes. Gerald avoided my gaze, fiddling with his spectacles. He was going to give them my secret, I could tell. He coughed. "Sorry, it's nothing" he said lamely. "I'll make these notes and input her data. Blood samples will take some time before I can break down her DNA" he added, as elder James waved a dismissive hand at him.

"Well, that's my cue. I'm going back to the pack" he muttered, and looked directly at Jaxon. "You keep her here, like we discussed. Gerald, she is to be kept sedated at all times," he added sharply "I'm not about to risk this one getting away. Jaxon" he added as Gerald slowly reached in and withdrew the speculum, causing me to inhale sharply with relief, "when you're done with her, she goes back into a cage like everyone else. No doubt by now her mate has noticed she's missing, and I'm going to have to ensure that her scent isn't on me when I go back. Do not hurt her too badly" he added with a sickening grin, "she's precious to our research after all."

"Of course I won't, Elder James" Jaxon said obediently. "I know how important Riley is to your cause and I wouldn't dream of messing that up for you" he purred as he restrained my legs again. You can trust me," he added, as the elder paused and stared at him for a long moment.

Elder James glanced at me and then snorted. "Well it looks like you're about to be here for a long while, Riley" he smirked, "enjoy your stay the best you can," he added with a cockiness as he left the room, while Gerald began to quietly tidy up.

I stared at the scientist, wondering why he had kept the news of my pregnancy secret. No doubt if it was discovered he had failed to mention it he could get in a lot of trouble, but the man refused to look me in the eyes. He looked uncomfortable as he put things away while Jaxon began to stroke my cheek.

Prick. I felt the syringe pushed into me and glanced down. Jaxon grinned. "Sedated at all times" he said as I went drowsy again, "but not so sedated that you won't know what's happening to you," he added with a smile "After all, where would be the fun in that?"

Ally

Chapter 110 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Trigger warning. This episode contains sexual assault and may prove triggering to some.

Riley POV

I felt ashamed and humiliated as Jaxon looked down at me longingly, unable to do much but stare up at him drowsily, my body refusing to respond to even my most basic of commands. He touched my hair, fingering its silken strands while Gerald avoided looking at either of us altogether, typing away on his computer and ignoring the obvious. I tried to glance towards him for help, but he looked resolutely at the screen. It was clear he was not about to put himself in any more danger than he already had and, quite frankly, I could not blame him for that. I sucked in a breath as Jaxon began to slowly untie my hand restraints, my hands flopping down uselessly while he sat me up and began to tear away the remnants of my bra and shirt, tossing them away like garbage and then licking his lips as he looked hungrily down at my breasts.

"You know it could be my imagination" Jaxon commented, raising a brow. "But I could almost swear these are bigger than the last time I saw them" he purred.

Naturally, they were slightly bigger due to pregnancy, but I remained silent, hoping he wouldn't put two and two together while Gerald coughed, looking uncomfortable.

He put his hand against my breast and squeezed it roughly as I gasped out loud, his hand pinching the nipple painfully as tears welled in my eyes. He chuckled, pulling his hand away, shaking his head, amusement in his eyes. "Still soft though, like they should be" he murmured.

Bastard. Gerald shot him a look and then turned back to the computer, typing away, more vehemently than before. Suddenly he paused and then stood up, the tips of his ears tinged red. "I'm going to go and check on the other two specimens," he said in a hoarse voice, without turning around "remember what Elder James told you Jaxon, do not harm the specimen, and do not badly bruise her. I still have several tests to perform, and you could ruin the data" he snapped.

"Whatever Gerald, you know you're such a killjoy" Jaxon sneered, "or are you just jealous because you can't fuck her yourself?" he said crudely.

"Don't be disgusting or compare yourself to me," Gerald said with malice, "I'm no way near as despicable a person as you are, and I certainly don't intend to take pleasure from rutting an unwilling woman like you are."

"Fuck you Gerald" Jaxon growled, but Gerald had already made his way to the door and slammed it shut behind him, leaving Jaxon fuming.

Damn. My last hope for a rescue, any rescue had gone. Jaxon smirked as he looked at me. "Well, at least we're alone," he said, even as I glanced around the room, my eyes resting on a scalpel that was coincidentally sitting near where Gerald had last been sitting.

Had Gerald left me something to try and defend myself with? It seemed entirely too much of a coincidence that the scalpel sat there, half-hidden behind a computer mouse. Jaxon was so busy looking at me that he hadn't seen it.

He moved to my feet, slowly undoing one restraint, his hand resting on my thigh and squeezing as though reminding me that he was there. "I can't wait to take you" he murmured, his nails digging in slightly as I winced "I bet you're as tight as I imagine you are. Your mate is nothing compared to me. Once you've had me, you're not going to want to have him back" he leered as I bit the inside of my cheek, willing my limbs to move. He stroked my foot and then undid the other restraint, moving my legs so that I was spread-eagled. His eyes gleamed as he raked his gaze slowly and deliberately over me, his eyes darkening. I felt sick. I felt vulnerable. I couldn't hear my wolf no matter how hard I tried. My siren was silenced by the collar that kept me captive. A desperate glance towards the door showed that Gerald wasn't coming back, at least not anytime soon. I sucked in a breath as Jaxon's hand slowly slid up my inner thigh.

He suddenly picked me up, and I gave a small cry as he put me on the ground. I was closer to the computers now, but Jaxon paid that no mind as he put me on my stomach, looming over me. "I like seeing you like this" he muttered in my ear as I lay there, my fingers and toes twitching "like a helpless woman, my woman" he snarled, before kneeling over me, his legs keeping mine pinned together. I could feel his arousal through his pants and I felt the urge to vomit, to gag, my body trembling as he pinned me beneath, taking his time to study me, relishing in my suffering and my pain. He was enjoying my inability to defend myself. He had always been an arrogant bastard, but this was beyond anything I had imagined he would do or that the elders would allow him to do. The thought of being placed in a cage, along with the other creatures afterward, filled me with terror. If that happened, it was all over. I would never get out. I would be at their mercy and Bailey would never know what happened to me. I would be lost to him forever, and I wasn't about to let that happen. I could feel my limbs slowly beginning to work, although it pained me to move them and required my utmost concentration. I glanced towards the scalpel. If I could take Jaxon by surprise, while in human form, I stood a chance. But I would have to take the perfect opportunity. I only had one chance, and it would have to count. There would be no second chances. I would be dead if I failed. Still, death was preferable to what Jaxon had in store for me.

Jaxon continued to stroke his hand on my back before resting where the collar was. "It's a shame that you have to wear this, it sort of takes away from the fantasy a little bit," he drawled.

"Feel free to take it off", I shot back, and he laughed, before I felt the slap of his hand against my buttock, causing me to stiffen.

"I guess I need to teach you to be a little more submissive" he threatened.

Submissive? What kind of kinky shit was this guy into? No wonder I had rejected the bastard. I gritted my teeth, and he made the mistake of kneeling over me to glance into my eyes. I bucked, hard, sending him toppling off balance, and managed to stumble to my feet. I stumbled to the desk, placed my hand on the scalpel, and then pretended to fall hard to my knees as Jaxon got back to his feet, looking peeved.

"Bitch" he hissed, grabbing me by the hair as I hid the scalpel in the palm of my hand, shoving me to the ground again so that I was on the floor, his knees pinning me down rougher this time, his hand smacking me hard on the buttocks, the back, the ribs as I winced and cried out over and over again, the scalpel carefully pushed beneath me where he couldn't see "I'll teach you to disrespect your master."

It hurt. I can't describe the pain I felt as he continued. I was grateful he was hurting the back of me and not my stomach. He rained blows down on me and didn't hold back on his strength in his attempt to cow me. I took it, pretending to still be dazed and disoriented. I pretended to be weak again. I even cried real tears, causing him to halt and let out a chuckle.

"I guess that's punishment enough" he said, caressing my buttock and squeezing it as I whimpered, playing the victim to the full extent of my ability. "It looks like you've learned your lesson."

"I'm sorry" I whispered, trembling violently "it won't happen again, please don't hurt me", I begged and he grinned, narrowing his eyes.

"That's better" he whispered, leaning over and nibbling on my earlobe as I fought back my revulsion, letting him do what he wanted. He kissed the nape of my neck, groaning softly.

"You taste so good," he groaned, "and you feel exquisite."

I wanted this to be over. I felt like I was betraying Bailey even as I knew he would never see it that way. If my wolf could speak she would be furious with me right now. I held on though. I tensed as I felt him move and then heard the distinct sound of his zipper being pulled down. He hesitated.

"No" he whispered as I tensed "I want to see the look on your face as I fuck you hard and take you" he growled.

I gave a small sob. He gave a grin, moving so that he could roll me over. As he did, the scalpel was moved, and I gripped it in my hand. As I turned, I plunged the scalpel into his chest, hard, watching as his eyes widened in shock. Before he could react, I pulled it out, watching blood spurt everywhere as I plunged it back to right where his heart was. He tried to move, but blood poured out of his mouth and his eyes rolled to the back of his head. I pulled out the scalpel and stabbed him again, and again and again, until he lay there prone on the floor with the scalpel poking out of his chest, not moving. He hadn't even had time to shift. My limbs were weak as I

used the desk to get back on my feet. I was covered in blood as I limped over to him, reaching down to check for a pulse. There was none. The son of a bitch was dead. This time for good. "Fuck you" I spat on him, before glancing warily at the door. I could hear footsteps and knew that I was in no condition to fight, but I wasn't about to let them capture me again either. The door swung open and Gerald walked in, barely looking my way. He placed scrubs and a remote down as I watched him surprised.

"Clothes and a way out of your collar" he said emotionlessly "don't ask me why I'm doing this. I can't bear to see a pregnant woman hurt, and I hate him" he added, glancing at Jaxon, "but most of all, I hate the work I'm forced to do by the elders who threaten me with death if I don't do their bidding. If anyone can take them down, it will be you", he added, and then went back out the door before I could say anything or thank him.

I limped my way to the clothes, my hand reaching for the remote. I pressed the button, releasing my collar, feeling it clatter to the ground with a breath of relief. As I put my clothes on, I reached for it. I had a feeling the collar was about to come in handy. Now all I had to do was find Marigold and Tiana as well as save the others in their cages.