

Brother

Chapter 61 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

King Bailey POV

She leaves. Just like that, my mate leaves me facing the stranger who looks bewildered and confused. I give a low growl of frustration. Riley owes me a reason for just abandoning me like this. She looked like she had seen a ghost when she saw the human form of this man and it made me suspicious of him as he stared at me blankly. I fight to control my frustration.

"Where am I?"

"My pack" I growl "and I happen to be the King of the Lycans" I snarl, causing the young man to stiffen in response.

Good, he has the sense to be afraid of me. I glare at him some more as I mind-link patrol to come and get him. I don't feel like dragging him into the pack house myself and part of me wants to go and find Riley, while another part of me wants to know what it is about this guy that has her so scared she took off running.

"Then you are..."

"King Bailey" I snarl "and who are you?"

He hesitates "Damien" he finally admits, his eyes watching me carefully.

He looks like he's older than Riley I think to myself, examining him. He also looks a little worse for wear. His body is splattered in dry blood droplets, his frame is thin and slightly malnourished and his eyes are normal colored but bleak rather than vibrant and healthy looking. Then again, being trapped in your wolf form and feral is bound to take it out of you, I muse.

"Was that who I think it was?" he whispers, glancing at me as I frown at him, wishing I had clothes.

"Who do you think it was?" I growl, warning him that he's still a prisoner even if he hasn't become aware of it yet.

Thankfully he hasn't made any efforts to leave or move away from the clearing. Must be some sort of innate sense of survival or he was just smarter than I gave him credit for.

"I think, well I think that might have been Riley" he stammers glancing down at the ground and then back at me "it looked like her."

"Who is Riley to you?" my voice is calm, even though I'm tense.

Was this her first mate? The one who had wanted to keep her and still take on a chosen mate as well? Is that why she chose to run? I feel angry, my eyes blazing as I stare the young man down while he looks frightened, the blood draining from his face.

"She's my sister" he mumbles.

Whoosh. I exhale but the young man isn't off the hook just yet.

"You're the son of a bitch who put the dog collar on her and tortured her," I say very slowly and deliberately as he stiffens, "the one who encouraged her pack to beat her and abuse her."

He pales "Look, I know that what she told you must seem..."

"You bastard" I growl, walking across and gripping him around the throat, lifting him up effortlessly as he dangled helplessly above me.

He made no move to try and claw my hands off of me, perhaps sensing how close I was to killing him right then and there.

"I should kill you" I snarl "She told me everything you did to her, what you're father did to her. You think you should be allowed to live" I give a cold smile that sends shivers down his spine "I'm going to make it so that you wish you had stayed in your wolf form forever."

"Wait" he bursts out.

Several of my warriors come to the clearing. My hand tightens in warning and then I let him drop, coughing to the floor and desperately trying to draw in oxygen.

"You're a pitiful excuse of a family member and it's a damn shame you share any blood with my mate" I snarled as he blinked at me, his body trembling "that girl deserves better than you as a brother."

He remains silent. One of my warriors hands me a bunch of clothes and I begin to climb into them, angrily, while Damien hangs his head.

Why isn't he defending himself? Why isn't he trying to speak back? It infuriates me even further. "Do you have any idea what you did to her? What she went through because of your actions? Do you have no shame" I roared.

He stiffens "Your Highness, if you would just hear me out..."

"What could you possibly say that would make me want to hear you?" I thunder "What kind of pitiful excuse could you possibly offer me as to why you hurt Riley so badly and continued to do so even as a teenager?"

He coughs. There's shame in his expression, as well as something else. A strange glint in his eyes.

"Nothing. There is no excuse" he murmurs and takes me by surprise.

I had expected him to protest, to deny it. To shout and rage and yell he was innocent. But he was standing still and looking remarkably composed. Had Riley done more than just coax him back to human form? Had she somehow brought back his humanity to the point that he was regretful of his past actions? I glanced at him suspiciously as my warriors surrounded him. He offered no resistance, his eyes resting on me.

"I am not a threat" he tells me.

I snort "You were only just minutes ago, a feral wolf who had killed more than five innocent shifters" I told him as he looked sickened by the news "so forgive me if I don't take your word for it. Right now be grateful you aren't being executed for your actions" I said bluntly.

He looks horrified "I never, I didn't, I mean"

"If you were feral you were unaware of what you are doing but I would hardly consider you now as not being a threat" I cut in "and as it is, your own sister saved your skin. How does it feel knowing she had such compassion for a stranger, only to realize in the end she had saved her brother unknowingly?"

My voice was cold.

He shivers "I'm sorry" he mumbles, hanging his head "I never thought she would do something like this. I just, I understand, do with me what you must. I won't fight" he promises.

As if he'd be able to beat my men in a fight anyway. He looks weak and tiny in comparison to them now. I doubt he could shift to wolf form anyway, even if he wanted to. I nod subtly at my warriors, two of them taking him fiercely by the arms.

"Until such time as I or my mate" I told him meaningfully as his eyes found mine "decide your fate, you will be placed in the dungeons. I cannot have you roaming freely on my land and my mate has no desire, from all appearances, to lay eyes on you. You claim to pose no threat, but I have lost good men because of you, and not all of my pack members will be so forgiving either. This is for everyone's safety."

Damien says nothing. He merely nods in understanding. My warriors begin to drag him towards the pack house but he obediently goes with them, while I stare at the back of him. It's hard to fathom such a young man being as cruel and ruthless as Riley depicted in her stories but I have

no doubts it's him. Just because he looks different now, doesn't mean he's changed, I thought tiredly, glancing around the clearing. I can hear the sound of a wolf howling in the distance. It's full of pain and such emotion it brings tears to my eyes. I know whose wolf it is. The voice is unmistakable.

Mate is hurting. She wants to be by herself right now. We need to let her have space to herself. She had a shock tonight.

I'm worried about her. Maybe we should go after her I commented, gazing up at the sky but my Lycan shook his head in my mind, looking adamant.

She needs time to herself. Let her be on her own. The patrol are keeping an eye out and there is no longer a feral wolf to contend with. There are no rogues in the proximity and if there were, her wolf is strong enough to deal with them.

I sigh and begin to turn back towards the pack house, my steps slow and deliberate. Somewhere out in the forest is my mate, pouring out all her anger and her rage, and I listen to the sounds of her howls, the sound causing the hair on the back of my neck to stand on end. Would she agree with my detaining of her brother, or had I made a mistake? I would find out when she finally saw fit to come back, and I waited, feeling a sense of trepidation as I tried to imagine how she must be feeling and fighting the urge to go and bring her back myself.

Emotional

Chapter 62 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

I had to force myself to go back to the packhouse. I feel like a coward who ran out on her mate with no explanation. I spent hours running and then sitting in the woods, reflecting on everything that Damien had done to me. I remembered the collar and the pain he would put me through for every little thing. I remembered the humiliation, the degradation, and the abuse like I was experiencing it at his hands all over again. Why had I saved him? Why had my siren side shown such compassion to somebody who I felt didn't deserve to be saved? If I had known it was Damien, I would have left him in his feral wolf form and killed him. It was cold-blooded, and it was wrong, but I felt such rage towards him, it was all I could do to control my emotions, only to give way to loud and grief-filled howls as my emotions spilled over and became too much.

Endless tears had been shed. I refused to shed anymore. By the time I reached the grounds, I was composed, shifting back into my human form, feeling despondent. I could run, I could hide, but

eventually, I would have to face the bastard who shared the same bloodline as me. It was inevitable. I couldn't keep running. There was Tiana to consider as well. I couldn't just leave her alone to lick my wounds. I dressed in some clothes I had the presence to hide on a different trip, my hands shaking. Was Bailey upset with me? Was he angry that I just turned and ran? I didn't know, and I didn't have the courage to mind-link him. In the end, it didn't matter. As I went towards the front door, it opened, and Bailey stepped out, an indecipherable expression on his face.

My mouth parted, but I could not find the words. Instead, silence escaped me and what little courage I possessed abandoned me. I could feel my body beginning to shake in spite of myself. My mate raked his gaze over me. I flinched, expecting to see derision, hatred, or even anger, but instead, all I saw was concern. My eyes swam with unshed tears.

"I..." I struggled to speak as he moved closer "I... I'm sorry", I stammered, and then felt his arms wrap around me, holding me close to him.

"Thank goodness you're okay" he breathed as I stiffened in shock "I was worried, but I knew you needed some time to yourself."

A tear trails down my cheek. "Is he?" I can't bring myself to utter his name.

Bailey steps back and cups my cheek, his eyes gazing over my body for injuries, his body relaxing when he finds nothing but minor scrapes and bruises on me. "Your brother" he chooses his words carefully as I fight not to flinch "has been placed in the dungeon for everybody's safety."

Safety. What a strange word. I felt a flood of relief wash over me. At least I wouldn't have to lay eyes on him, but part of me feels angry at myself. I wasn't the same person that I had been back when Damien lorded it over me. I wasn't the same Riley he was used to. I was meant to be stronger, and more courageous, and yet one look at my past and I had gone bolting. I feel shame wash over me. So much for being Luna material, I think blankly. A luna would not have run away from something as pathetic as I had just done.

"I know that it must have been upsetting seeing him again" Bailey's voice was filled with concern, his hand holding tightly to mine as he gazed down at me, "and I can't even begin to think how you're feeling right now."

"Did he fight?" part of me hopes Damien did so that I have a right to be angry with him, or at least an excuse to take my rage out on him.

Bailey reluctantly shakes his head. "He went to the dungeon willingly. There was no need to use an Alpha tone on him."

He pauses. I glanced at him sharply "What is it?"

Bailey's voice is low and apologetic "he asked about you."

Son of a bitch. I exhaled loudly. "Maybe I should go and see him then" my voice was tight.

Bailey lets out a low growl "just seeing him had you bolting into the forest" he says frustratedly, "and now you think going down to a dark smelly dungeon is a good idea?" he demands, holding tightly to both my arms as I stare at him. "You don't have anything to prove Riley. Not to me. Not to anyone else in this damn pack. You don't ever have to see him again if you don't want to" he continued passionately.

"I know," I told him faintly. "I know that I don't have to but" I hesitated and then decided to tell him exactly what I was thinking, "There must be a reason why my siren was so adamant about saving him. There was such grief in his song Bailey. Part of me had to have known who he was, and I saved him anyway", I said honestly, "that has to mean something."

"Does it?" he demanded slightly aggressively, "or are you wanting it to mean something because otherwise you saved somebody who didn't deserve it?"

I blanch. His face softens. "Riley, we don't know how your powers work. Maybe it just doesn't discriminate" he says, shrugging. "You're trying to make something out of nothing. Don't start thinking that your brother is suddenly this remorseful and changed man. I don't think it works that way."

He's blunt and to the point. He's trying to make me understand, not because he doesn't love me, but because he does and because he's concerned about me. He didn't want me to get hurt, thinking that Damien might have changed or become someone else. I had always wanted a brother, but that hope had faded long ago. I was no longer as naive as I was back then.

"I know that you're just trying to look out for me" I whispered, putting my hand on his chest as his eyes darkened slightly, "but I want to see him."

Silence. I see his lip twitching as he fights not to clench his jaw. He's struggling to hold his emotions in. I continue to wait. I could just go down to the dungeon myself, but I wanted Bailey to come with me. For comfort more than anything. I wanted him by my side, not to take over. He gave me a rueful smile. "You're determined to go down there, aren't you?"

I gave him an apologetic glance. "I'm afraid so" I agreed.

He kisses me lovingly on the lips and takes my hand. "Here," he says tightly, and we begin to walk inside, making our way toward the basement, where the dungeon is kept. As we head to the stairs leading down, I wrinkle my nose as I'm overwhelmed with the smell of old blood, piss, and dampness. The light is dim and provided by the smallest rectangular windows at the top of the cells. The dungeon is typical of any other dungeon that I've seen, and we reach the floor of the stairs, before heading towards the one cell that contains an occupant. For a moment, he didn't see us. His head is bowed, his hair longish and shaggy, his clothes swimming on him. It seemed that he'd been provided with secondhand clothes, I noted, no doubt another of Bailey's kindnesses. I could see bruises on his skin and wondered if the guards had been rough handling him or if it was another result of his transformation. He looked tired, I thought surprised and weary.

It must have been exhausting being in wolf form all the time, I thought, studying him carefully. I took a step and the sound of our footsteps finally broke through his concentration, because his head jerked upright instantly, and he glanced toward us. I saw fear in his eyes, along with something else I couldn't put my finger on. He stood upright, coming over to the bars. Even in the bad shape he was in, he was still recognizable as Damien, and yet, there was none of the hatred or disgust that he usually exhibited when he looked at me before. I glanced at Bailey, who had clenched his jaw. Silence as we stared at one another. I felt a pang as I took in how starved and malnourished Damien looked. I didn't want to feel sorry for him. I didn't want to feel anything for him at all. But the longer I looked at him, the more I began to feel some spark of compassion, something that made me angry. Why did he deserve compassion after everything he had done to me? Where was the compassion when it had come to torturing me? Where was the compassion when he had encouraged the pack members to abuse me? I wanted to scream out my anger, my body shaking as I looked deep into his eyes, only to see something I never would have thought he would be capable of showing. Shame.

"Riley," he said quietly, breaking the spell that everybody seemed to be under, "I was hoping you would come and see me."

Changing

Chapter 63 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

King Bailey POV

I stand beside my mate as she regards the young man in the cell with wide eyes. I can hear the shallowness of her breathing and hear the racing of her heart as she stares at Damien. I wish I could just take her away from this, but she insisted on this meeting and I keep myself from reacting as he speaks to her.

"Riley, I was hoping you would come to see me."

She blanches and then steps closer, her eyes raking over him. "Why Damien?" her voice is soft and puzzled "I would have thought that you would be angry with me considering that you were tortured and almost killed because of what I did."

He bowed his head "I was" he admitted in a low voice as I tried to keep myself from snarling at the bastard "when I managed to escape, all I could think about was getting my revenge on you. It filled my thoughts day and night. It's all I could dream about. I spent more and more time in my wolf form, bloodthirsty, my anger growing out of control. I blamed you for everything. I blamed

you for our father's death. I blamed you for existing. I blamed you for everything that had gone wrong in my life."

I saw Riley's crooked smile "there's the Damien I know," she said sarcastically as he blinked at her "I was always the scapegoat. It didn't matter what I did, I could never get you to like me, let alone love me. You've always hated me," she said, narrowing her eyes "even though as siblings we should have done our best to protect each other. But whatever father told you to do, you did it. What is it about me that you find so repulsive?" she questioned softly, her hands clenching into fists "because I'm having trouble finding that it was just because I was half siren. You hated me beyond just that" she reiterated.

Damon's eyes are dark as he regards her. "I don't hate you now," he says softly, glancing down at the ground "all my anger is gone. As soon as I heard that song, it was like I was brought back to myself. I could think clearly again for the first time in forever. You brought me back to myself," he said solemnly.

"That doesn't answer my question" Riley breathes "and I'm not sure I believe you. The Damien I grew up with would lie to get what he wanted. I never forgot that."

He looks ashamed. "Riley, I know that I did a lot of terrible things" he began.

I couldn't help myself "you son of a bitch you put a dog collar on her" I growled, even as Riley shot me a warning glance, urging me to be quiet as I fought back my temper "not to mention abused her."

Damien's eyes slide to mine "Yes" he agrees without compunction "I did and if I could take it back I would but I was afraid" he admitted, making me exhale in disbelief while Riley let out a scornful laugh.

"Afraid" she sneers "afraid of what? Father never laid a single finger on you as far as I could tell. You were his favorite. The golden child. He would grant you anything you asked."

Damien shifted on his feet. "Do you think that I didn't have a reason to fear the very man who killed our mother?" he said and I heard Riley's sharp intake of breath.

"Our mother died giving birth to me" she denied, shaking her head.

Damien's smile was filled with sadness as he gazed upon his sister "I was old enough to see it. She didn't die giving birth Riley. He kept her alive because she gave birth to a son first and men can't inherit the siren side."

She glanced at me and I nodded confirming that. Damien took a deep breath "but when you were born, he went crazy. He didn't want a daughter. As soon as he saw your hair, he knew that you had inherited the siren part of your lineage from your mother. Mother's siren side wasn't strong, her hair was almost black in color, it was so watered down that father hoped no children would be born with it. But your hair" he paused and shook his head "it meant you would be strong and

possess more power than our mother had. He killed her Riley" he said, and I sensed he wasn't lying by the grief-stricken expression on his face "right in front of my eyes. He strangled her to death so she couldn't use her voice to prevent him. I watched her struggle and claw at his face, trying to get free and I watched the light go out of her eyes. Our father murdered our mother. It was that day that I realized he was capable of anything."

"If that's true, then why didn't he kill me?" Riley demanded "if he was so afraid of my powers, then why didn't he kill me? He could have done it while I was a baby instead of constantly abusing me."

Damien's eyes were troubled "You were an experiment," he said in a low whisper as my lycan began to feel furious in my mind "he wanted to see if he could strike enough fear into you to control you. It almost worked" he pointed out as Riley's eyes shimmered with tears "I was under strict orders to cause as much pain as I could to you. I didn't dare disobey him" he said apologetically as Riley glared at him.

"Do you think knowing this is going to make any difference?" she says heatedly, as Damien reluctantly shakes his head "do you think that I'm going to magically forgive you for everything that you put me through because you claim you were forced to do it?"

"I wanted to tell you the truth" Damien burst out "god knows I don't deserve to be forgiven. Heck I killed innocent people in my feral wolf form because I couldn't control my rage once I got free. I don't deserve anything," he told Riley who was pacing back and forth now "but I wanted to go to my grave with a clear conscience."

That brought Riley to a halt "you think I would kill you?"

"I would if I were in your shoes," Damien told her honestly "I wouldn't take the risk that I would turn feral again. I would use my hatred and demand an execution. I never wanted your forgiveness, I just wanted to see you one last time before I went back to the moon goddess."

I saw a lone tear trail down Riley's cheek and used my finger to wipe it away, my chest tightening in pain for her. She whirled away from both of us, turning her back on the cell, her hands covering her eyes as soft sobs filled the room.

"Why" she screamed, turning back to Damien, her eyes wild and tormented looking "why did you have to tell me? Why couldn't you have just left me in peace? How am I supposed to kill someone whose innocent?" her voice broke "how am I supposed to kill my own flesh and blood as though it's nothing?"

I could feel myself clenching my hands as I stared at my mate who was losing all of her composure.

"All I wanted was a family" she yelled, as Damien listened, a pained expression on his face "someone to love me, a sibling who I could confide in and instead I got you" she sobbed again. "There were times when I begged for death so that the pain would stop, did you know that" she

cried, as I stood there mutely, wishing I could go to her and knowing she didn't want to be touched as she faced her brother down.

"I don't blame you. I'm sorry" Damien choked out "I wish I could take it all back but I can't. I wish I could turn back time but even if I did, I would still take the same path to save my own ass."

I glared at him but Riley was nodding and wiping her tears with the backs of her hands. She understood where he was coming from.

"If I had been in your shoes, I might have done the same thing, and I hate myself for that," she said hiccuping "because part of me wants to be different from you. Wants to deny the blood relation between us."

"Do it" Damien said without remorse "if that's what it takes to earn even a smidgeon of your forgiveness then do it."

But Riley was openly crying now as I reached out and took her into my arms. "All this time and you didn't say a word" she wept "how am I supposed to believe you now. Part of me can hear the truth, the siren part of me hears and sees you" she cried "but the shifter side is angry and filled with rage. It's tearing me in two" she wailed, as I held on tight, unable to do anything to help her.

Suddenly she lets out a scream. I watched in shock as white light poured from her mouth. Damien was crying and his tears were floating from his eyes to the light which turned into a small cyclone that swept over his body. I blinked in shock as Riley collapsed in my arms, her eyes anxiously going to Damien.

We look over and the cyclone disappears. Damien stands there, but his hair is changed. Now it's a turquoise blue. What the fuck just happened?

Freedom

Chapter 64 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

Even as he speaks to me, I hear the truth in his words, the pain beneath the surface. I can't even begin to imagine how terrible it must have been to see our mother killed right in front of his eyes. It must have been terrifying. I can almost picture it in my mind and I feel sick to my stomach. What fear must he have felt over the years as it became even more apparent what kind of a

monster my father really was? If I had been in Damien's shoes, could I have said I wouldn't have done the same? He had done what he did to survive, it didn't necessarily make him an awful person. It didn't make him the nicest, but it put him in a different light than I had originally envisioned him as. He wasn't the monster I had always thought him to be. At one time, he had been just as innocent as I was. But his innocence had been snatched away from him and he'd never been able to get it back.

You weren't the only one who suffered over the years. You weren't the only victim of your father's abuse as much as you try to deny it. Damien suffered too, just in a different way. Is it any wonder he lost his humanity when he escaped? He was lost without your father instructing him on what to do. For the first time, he had his own mind to listen to and it was unbearable. What good is going to come of holding onto your past hurts and bearing a grudge? Will it allow you to move on? Will it allow you to forge a relationship with your brother or will you both continue to shy away from each other? You have a choice here Riley. You have a chance to break the cycle of abuse that you and Damien suffered through. You have the chance to break free. To heal the both of you and forge a new path. Let go the siren in me whispered as I listened intently, on the verge of breaking into fresh tears let go and embrace what can be instead of what was. Look into his eyes, and see that he speaks the truth. Forgiveness is never easy, but the blood bonds that tie you together are stronger than anything you've had to endure. Save him.

Save him? Hadn't I already saved him? He was back to being a regular shifter now. What more could I do? But even as the siren continued to urge me, something came over me. I screamed, magic seemingly pouring out of me, as I finally felt the last piece of the puzzle clicking into place. The last bit of anger, the last bit of rage faded away as I came to the stark realization that I no longer hated the man I considered my brother, but considered him a victim as well. He hadn't had a childhood either. As a cyclone swept over him, I watched wide-eyed and then collapsed into Bailey's arms, stunned to see that my brother now sported bright blue hair, his eyes also sparkling blue. I had done something I had unlocked something.

He too possesses Siren DNA but fear kept it hidden from your father. It's harder for a male to bring it to the surface and generally, they will turn when they are eighteen but your brother's was too fiercely hidden by then to venture out. The consequences for transforming would have meant being killed. Girls change upon birth, but boys do not. He does not have a siren voice, that is a girl's special skill but he will be able to control the element of water to a certain extent. He is not as strong as you, males are weaker, but now he too is half siren, half shifter. You resemble each other more now. Your last act of forgiveness was to help him become the siren part he locked away.

"What happened?" my brother is confused, staring at me.

"I changed you" my voice is weak as Bailey continues to hold me "you've always been half siren, half shifter. You were meant to change on your eighteenth birthday, but by then you were so afraid of father, I guess you refused to."

His eyes widen. Bailey looks surprised. "I thought that males couldn't be sirens?"

I straighten up, even as my body protests. "Damien doesn't have the siren voice or songs, that's female only, but he'll be able to control the element of water to some extent, according to my siren."

Damien looked down at his hands in awe. "Really?"

"Does this mean?" Bailey's voice is cautious now as he glances between myself and Damien.

"If Damien was meant to change when he turned eighteen," I said slowly, mulling it over while Bailey also had a thoughtful look on his face "then that means there has to be other male sirens out there. They would look normal right until they turned" I explained, as Damien gaped "but where could they be hiding?"

"That beach we're meant to go to," Bailey said suddenly, "the one Tiana told us about. I'm willing to bet that it's going to answer a lot of our questions."

I took a deep breath "I think you're right. I don't think that sirens are as extinct as they've been made out to be. I think they've just found a better way of keeping hidden in order to survive" I said with a hint of excitement "and if that's the case then maybe..."

"Maybe we can persuade them to join our pack, or at the very least offer them sanctuary. They might be able to help you with your powers" Bailey finished triumphantly.

"What about me?" Damien's voice was low and tentative.

I looked at Bailey. He narrowed his eyes. "Whatever decision you make, I will agree with but think carefully about what you want. I understand that your instincts are better than mine when it comes to things like this and he is your family."

I hesitate and then take the key off of Bailey. I stick it in the lock and turn it, before swinging the door wide open. "I forgive you" I whisper past a lump in my throat as Damien hesitantly steps outside of his cell "but if you make one wrong move, one step wrong I'll"

"Kill me and I'll deserve it" he said bowing his head "I understand and I don't blame you Riley."

I nod, feeling Bailey's eyes on the both of us.

Suddenly Damien wraps his arms around me and my first instinct is to flinch as he touches me. Even though I've forgiven him, you don't get rid of years of abuse that easily. Tears prick my eyes as I slowly put my arms around my brother for what feels like the first time in my life. We hug. I can feel the warmth of his body pressing against me. Damien steps back reluctantly and then shakes Bailey's hand.

"Let's get you some clothes and find you a room to sleep in" Bailey says eyeing him carefully, his expression neutral "and then some food."

I give a small smile as Damien's eyes light up "maybe after we can see how you go using your powers."

"Hell yes" he says enthusiastically, tugging on his hair "am I right to assume that this hair color is permanent?" he pouts as I laugh at the ridiculous expression on his face.

"Sorry but yes" I answer nonchalantly "but it suits you" I add meaning it.

He groans dramatically and rolls his eyes but it's all in fun. I turn around and begin to head up the stairs when Tiana comes flouncing down. "About time" she cries "I'm so bored. You've been gone ages. Who's this?" she asks peering down at Damien who appears to be tongue tied as he stares at the little girl.

"Tiana, you're not meant to come down here" I said, taking her hand and leading her upstairs, before stopping in the hallway, with Damien and Bailey bringing up the rear.

"I wanted to see you" she pouts and then glances at Damien, her eyes sparkling "you look like Riley" she says pointing at me.

Damien's face is wreathed in a smile "I'm Damien, her" he pauses.

"My brother" I interrupt smoothly "and Damien this is Tiana."

He shakes the little girl's hand. He looks fascinated by her. I roll my eyes "Tiana do not step foot down in the dungeon ever again" I admonish her.

She sighs "Okay. Can we go swimming?"

I laugh "Maybe later. Damien hasn't had a chance to use his powers yet, it could be interesting to see what he could do."

A wide grin spread over Damien's mouth "awesome. Can Tiana do stuff too."

"Oh yeah" I said teasingly as Bailey chuckled "in fact I'm pretty sure she'll whoop your ass when we try you."

His mouth dropped open in shock.

Visitors

Chapter 65 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Bailey POV

We're standing at the lake. I'm not sure this is a good idea. Tiana is behind me and Riley is in front of me, while her brother Damien is on the other side, both of them standing in the shallow end of the water, eyeing each other carefully. I want to groan out loud at the fierce expressions on their faces. I'm positive that this is not going to end well. Riley is the first to move, sending a large water ball directly toward a startled Damien. He throws up a hand and just manages to prevent it hitting him, pausing it in mid-air and sending it flying back towards Riley who sends it straight back into the lake with a whoosh.

"Amazing" whispers Tiana gleefully.

I don't answer. Riley is busy creating a large tornado from the water, it spiraling bigger and bigger while Damien's smile slips from his face. He doesn't look so cocky now. I wonder if this is partly Riley's way of taking revenge or if this is merely to judge his abilities as they claimed they wanted to do.

"Ah Riley, you want to make it that big?" Damien calls out and I see my mate's wicked grin before she sends it right at him, causing him to get sucked into it. He goes flying through the air and hits the lake with a large splash as Tiana laughs and Riley giggles, wiping back her hair with her hands.

"Ouch," Damien complains good humoredly.

"You could have prevented it" Riley pointed out.

Damien poked his tongue out at her.

They were like siblings already, I marveled. Damien splashed her and Riley giggled, sending a wave at him which sent him sprawling backward. Tiana howled with laughter.

"I think it's blatantly obvious that Riley has the superior powers," Tiana said solemnly as Damien scowled at her "bit yours are effective too Damien."

She was trying to appease him. He growled at her. Riley snorted. "Be thankful I'm not singing you to the edge of a cliff" she boasted and Damien shivered dramatically.

"Fine, you win" he grumbled, heading out of the lake, dusting himself off, and reluctantly shaking his sister's hand "you're the stronger of the two of us, but I'm not going to lie" his eyes twinkle "it's pretty cool to have these powers."

"So long as you use them for good" I snarl and he turns to me his eyes wide as he nods quickly.

"Of course, I wouldn't think of anything else to do with them. I only want to help" Damien said quietly.

I stiffened as a smell drifted over me. I sniffed and tensed. It wasn't a rogue, for there was not the smell of rotten meat or eggs, but there were unfamiliar shifters on my territory. They didn't appear to be hostile, but that didn't necessarily mean they weren't dangerous. I let out a long ferocious growl as Riley turned in their direction, her own nose raised in the air as she sniffed.

"Somebody is there. At least two of them" she informed me.

I nodded in agreement. Damien had his hand up, ready to fling water at them but I shook my head subtly at him.

"Wait. They aren't attacking."

"Whoever is out there, come out before I'm forced to attack" I growl, my voice thundering across the clearing "You are trespassing on my territory and I have no desire to fight you unless I'm forced to. Come out and show your faces."

Reluctantly, two shifters peeled out from behind the trees. They looked as though they had seen better days. Their hair was straggly, their bodies were covered in bruises and they looked as though they had been running for the majority of the time. I frowned. These men looked familiar. I glanced at Riley who had sucked in a deep breath and looked as though she was about to faint. I could see her hand coming up prepared to defend herself.

"It's Alpha Jaxon's Beta and Gamma, Callum and Cody" she whispered, her voice shaking "what are they doing here? Have they come to try and bring me back?"

I could see water forming in her hand. The men paused. "We mean no harm" one of the men called out, peering at us closely "we just, need somewhere to find sanctuary."

"Lies" Riley shouted "you work for him, don't deny it. Whatever order's he's given you, you can forget about it. I'm not going back to him" she screamed, a high pressured stream of water flying directly at the men and sending them flying backwards.

"Riley" I snarled and she stopped, her eyes wide in panic "stop. They weren't fighting or attacking. Let them speak" I demanded. fuming at her.

I understood her fear, but still. She needed to reign it in. If only for Tiana's sake. The little girl was watching everything with wide eyes.

The men struggled back to their feet. "We didn't come on his orders" shouted one, his voice carrying across the wind "we came because we had to. Alpha Jaxon has gone mad" he insisted, his voice rising "he and his Luna. They want to find you Riley and they want to bring you back to the pack. He wants to keep all sirens, so that he can take over all the packs" he yelled "and he

was willing to kill anyone not willing to go along with what he wanted. If Callum and I hadn't left when we did, we both would be dead right now."

His voice was sincere, pleading. I glanced at Riley who had a mutinous expression on her face. This all sounded unbelievable but in a way it made sense. Riley had said it herself, her previous mate had been a right tool who had cared nothing for her but cared greatly about the abilities she was bound to possess. If he was determined to get Riley back there was no telling just how far he was willing to go.

"Riley, please. Calm yourself" I said, reaching out and grabbing her hand.

I could feel how cold she was. Damien was frowning as he watched the men draw nearer "we don't want to hurt you" the other man repeated, as they stopped in front of us "we want to keep you safe. Jaxon is not right in the head" he said grimly "and his Luna is even worse. God knows what he was thinking. I bet it's not long until they kill one another. Riley, he wants you" he told her as Riley stared at them both with wide eyes "I'm sorry we didn't help you before but we're helping you now. You have to keep an eye out for him. He's not going to stop. Nor is his Luna. They are both as crazy as each other" he insisted.

"You said you needed sanctuary?" I said quietly.

"We are no longer welcome back at that pack. We were meant to be killed and we ran" the man's voice was rueful "if we try to go back we'll be executed. It was worth the risk."

Riley was frowning "why is he so obsessed with having me? Even when he didn't want me, he still wanted to keep me."

"It's the siren thing. You could lure pack members to their deaths. He could take over several packs and become the strongest in the country. Stronger than even lycan packs" the man blurted out, glancing at me apologetically.

I almost snorted at that. Ha. As if that could happen. But Riley was nodding slowly. Damien scowled "well it doesn't matter. Nobody's getting hands on my sister" he declared heatedly.

The men frowned at him, taking in Damien's appearance. Damien frowned at them. Riley just smiled at Damien and then took Tiana's hand.

"We need to get to that beach and find the um, well you know" she coughs as I silently agree "what are we going to do about Callum and Cody?"

I glance at the men who are slowly following behind us. "There's no guarantee they aren't spies for Alpha Jaxon. Until we know for certain, they stay in the pack house, heavily supervised and under guard" I told her quietly as she nodded in approval "as much as I'd like to trust they are telling the truth, I just am skeptical that they were able to outrun their Alpha that easily. There's something fishy about it."

"I agree" she breathed nodding as Tiana clutched her hand and skipped slightly ahead "but the full moon is going to be here soon and we need to head to that shore."

"I'm on it" I said lightly "I haven't forgotten. We just might be taking the trip in secret. After all, the only other person who knows about it is Tiana here" I nodded at the little girl "and I haven't mentioned it to anyone else. It's safest if only us three go."

She looks at me for a moment and then nods, a glint in her eyes.

Abandoned

Chapter 66 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

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

Alpha Jaxon POV

Anger. It's the only emotion that I feel lately. It rises in me, it gives voice to my thoughts, it's the reason I get up in the morning and the reason I am able to sleep. Callum and Cody have betrayed me. They have vanished and are nowhere to be found. My pack is filled with those who are beginning to doubt me. I have killed several men who dared to speak against me already, and those who would have now been silenced, fearful of my actions and fearful of the repercussions if they were discovered speaking against the Alpha of their pack.

Amber is walking around as though she owns the place. In a sense she does. The omegas fear her, the other pack members are wary of her, and anyone who has a problem with her bites their tongue and refuses to speak, knowing the consequences if they did. I stare out the window, looking at the night sky, my shoulder's hunched, a brooding expression on my face. She haunts my sleep. Every night I've had the same dream, the same image in my mind. Riley. Her face, that blue hair of hers, those bright crystalline eyes of hers. It causes me to toss and turn, my hand blindly reaching out for what is not there. She is gone. Lost to me. But not forever. She is merely misplaced, I thought, grinning crookedly, and when I brought her back to the pack, I would do what I had not done before. I would mark her and take the power I had denied myself the first time. Amber was nothing in comparison. She lived only because I allowed her to. She served a purpose right now, but once Riley was here, she would no longer be needed.

She walks into the room, wearing a dress that does little to cover her curvaceous body. She smiles at me as I turn and I blink at her. For a moment there is silence. My body is craving Riley. Desiring her. It feels almost like madness. I cross the room and shut the door, locking it firmly

behind Amber who looks confused. Without a word, I tear her dress from her shoulders, letting the minuscule pieces of fabric drop to the ground. I push her onto the bed, locking my lips onto hers. She kisses me back with a fierceness, but every time she puts her hands up, I pin them back down. I'm in control, not her. I tear her panties off with one hand, spreading her legs and circling her clit roughly with one hand as she whimpers, her eyes widening.

She's wet. Slut. It never takes her long to get ready for me. I climb off of her and turn her over, onto her hands and knees, her legs draped over the bed. She tries to look over and I push her head forward.

"Not a goddamn word" I snarl.

She lies there trembling. I glance at her smooth skin, her pert little behind upturned, grasping her hips and squeezing them gently. An image of Riley appears in my mind. It's Riley's skin I see, her blue hair cascading down her shoulders as I lightly touch it with one hand, feeling it's silken strands in my hand. My cock hardens as I begin to position myself between her legs. I rub my cock between her buttocks, before swiftly pushing it inside of her, groaning out loud as I feel the tightness of her walls squeezing me as I push, forcing my way inside of her, all the way to the hilt and stopping.

Damn, it feels so good. I groan as I begin to slide all the way out, before sliding back in, using her shoulder to prop myself up. She's so tight. So fucking tight. I nip her shoulder, grabbing at her hips, and begin to rock back and forth, thrusting in and out slowly, prolonging the pleasure as she whimpers and moans. I squeezed her hips, bite her ass cheek, and stroke her back, grunting all the way. She turns her head to the side, and I grab her hair, pulling her head backward, causing a small yelp to cry out from her lips. I begin to fuck her harder, enjoying the way her walls tighten around me with every thrust I make, my cock disappearing in and out of her tiny hole, my hand reaching around and squeezing her breast roughly. She's just as I imagined. Soft, plush, and unblemished. She's so smooth. I can feel myself getting close. So close. I growl, pumping furiously in and out of her. She remains silent, while I tilt my head back and let out a ferocious growl, grasping her buttocks and squeezing them as I cum, spilling my seed inside of her while growling out her name at the same time. "Riley" I growl, flinging her down onto the bed as she pants and whimpers "Riley" I groan, my body convulsing, before I slowly slide out of her.

I'm satiated. Almost. There's one more thing I want. I grab her and turn her around, causing her eyes to look up at me. I yank her head hard enough to part her lips. I ground her head next to my cock. "Clean me" I rasp.

She obediently licks my cock, licking up the remains of my semen and what her pussy's left behind as I groan, closing my eyes and imagining Riley giving me the blowjob, her body writhing seductively as she brings me to the brink of another orgasm. I pant and then push her away and then open my eyes, narrowing them at an indignant Amber.

"Christ, do you have to be such a dick" she snaps, getting to her feet.

I glare at her "You know that I don't want you, yet you insist on coming here" I snap, running a hand through my hair "my body only desires one person now and that's..."

"Riley, I know" she quips sarcastically, a hurt expression drifting over her face for a moment "but you rejected her remember."

"I didn't" I roared "and I happen to know where she is. So don't fucking start Amber. I'm getting the rightful Luna for my pack back, whether you like it or not."

"Do you think you can just waltz in and take the Lycan King's mate? She's no longer yours Alpha Jaxon. You should give up this obsession with Riley and learn to face the truth. Stop obsessing over her, and just admit we're mates now. There's so much we can do together" she whispers coaxingly but I refuse to listen.

"You are nothing," I tell her callously and gesture at her naked body that I've just used for my own sadistic pleasure "a fucktoy, when I want to pretend I'm with her, nothing more."

She winces. "I'm not going to stand for this Jaxon" she storms, stamping her foot while I begin to do the zipper up on my pants nonchalantly "I am your Luna. I am the Luna of this pack" she reiterates, glaring at me "and the pack is starting to go downhill since you let Callum and Cody escape."

I stood up, towering over her "Do you think so?" I asked chillingly, leaning in close to peer into her eyes "watch what you say because I could make things much, much worse for you."

She snorts "I'm not afraid of you," she tells me.

Big mistake. I grin and then grab her by the arm, dragging her naked body out of the room and into the hallway. Immediately I can sense eyes on us, several guards openly licking their lips. Amber had a tendency to get on everybody's bad side, not just women. I dropped her onto the ground and kicked her in the ribs twice.

"I've no need for this useless Luna" I said very loudly and clearly as pack members and warriors began to walk up "place her in the dungeon" I nodded at two guards who grabbed her by the hands as she resisted.

"You will not shift" I used my alpha tone on her, causing her to still in shock.

The guards were grinning. Amber looked sick. I raised a brow and then gestured towards her with one hand, a malicious grin on my face. "Anybody who wants to have a turn with her in the cell is welcome to do so" I said rudely "she is under no protection."

Smirks in the crowds. Amber gasps and tries to run, only to be pushed down by the guards and dragged away kicking and screaming.

"I'll kill you for this Jaxon" she screams as I watch her go, amusement in my eyes "I swear to god, I will. You sick son of a bitch" she yells.

I watch her disappear and then shrug. The crowd begins to disperse. I glance at my new Beta Reggie "Organize a small party to get my proper Luna back. Don't bother coming back until you've made plans" I instructed softly "I need to mark her before anything else happens."

He nods, and begins to amble off. I smile to myself and head back inside. Now I was free of Amber and with luck my arms were going to be filled with my one true mate, Riley, again soon.

Decisions

Chapter 67 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

It's strange. For the last few days, it's almost as though I've sensed eyes on me and yet, there is no explanation for it. As I walk in the woods, I glance around, looking for any hint that I am not the only one that's present, but except for the spine-tingling chills, I feel there is none. Callum and Cody remain in the dungeon, although by now, I am almost entirely certain that they have not been sent here as a trap or diversion. They are telling the truth, my siren tells me and now I make my way towards the pack house, determination in my steps. We can't keep them locked up like this. I remember Callum's kindness back at his pack, even as Alpha Jaxon treated me like I was garbage.

"Are you sure about this?" Damien asks as we stand outside the cells.

I rake my gaze over him pointedly, causing him to flush. "Did I not give you a second chance, although many in my position wouldn't have?" I asked meaningfully.

He flushes and looks down at the ground. "I just don't want you to be lured into some kind of trap."

"Listen to their words Damien, the siren part of you should be able to tell they are telling the truth," I said sharply.

He grits his teeth "I know, but..." he trails off in exasperation.

"But what?" I almost shout in frustration "You abused me for years and yet you walk free. Have the same courtesy to do the same for these men. Bailey agrees with my decision."

"Then where is he?" Damien argued, "Why isn't he down here with you?"

I bite my lip "he's overseeing the pack business. He had to travel to the next pack to meet an Alpha about a treaty. He left me in charge and I intend on letting them go."

"You better be right about this" Damien warns.

I roll my eyes "Stop being such a drama queen" I grunt, grabbing a key from my pocket while Callum and Cody listen without speaking "I can always shove you back in a cell" I threatened.

"You wouldn't" he gasped.

"Would" I shot back "especially if you're going to be this annoying" I snapped "You've turned into this annoying older brother protective father figure and it's infuriating."

He looked wounded "I'm just trying to protect you."

I sighed and put the key in the lock, shoving the door wide open as Callum and Cody silently began to walk out of the cell "Yeah well, a while ago, I needed protecting from you" I grumbled "So how about you shut it?"

"Thank you for this Luna Riley," Callum said, bowing his head.

"There's no need to call me Luna" I objected but both men shook their heads.

"Of course, we must call you Luna. You are the Lycan King's Mate are you not?" Cody insisted.

Great. Now they were going to insist on going by protocols. I ran a hand through my hair and turned around, leading them back upstairs. "I need coffee" I snarled, "follow me."

"She's grumpy when she hasn't had caffeine" I heard Damien mumble to one of the men.

I shot a sharp glance over my shoulder and he fell silent. We made our way to the kitchen. I sat while the omegas made coffee, pushing mugs in front of us. I happily added sugar and cream, sipping away.

"What's the plan now?" Damien asked.

I raised a brow "Damien you've only been here a few weeks yourself but I already have a task for you, Callum and Cody" I said glancing between all three of them "hopefully it will keep all of you out of trouble. I know you said that Alpha Jaxon was still obsessed with me" I added, "but he has no chance of getting onto this territory so I have no fears of that happening. What I want is for you to work collaboratively and form a schedule, training the pack members, including the women who want to learn to become better fighters."

"I thought Bailey already had a warrior training them" Damien interjected.

"His wife just had a baby and I approved him having time off" I explained tersely "Since you want to contribute in some manner, I think this would be best. You could also do patrol, keep an eye out for rouges."

"I would be happy to do that" Callum agreed and Cody nodded as well.

Damien nodded but still looked displeased. Tiana came sailing into the room. "Riley" she sang "There's only a week left to go" she added, glancing at me as I nodded in agreement.

"A week until what?"

I sighed and debated whether to tell them, considering that Bailey and I had agreed it was safest to keep it between us three, but he wasn't here and part of me suspected that we needed these guys with us, my siren persuading me in my mind. "A week until we make a trip out to Coral Beach."

Now Damien looked confused "Coral Beach? Why? What's so important about a damn beach?" he bit out irritably "Don't tell me you're going just because that brat wants to go," he said shooting a glance at a petulant Tiana.

"Damien" I growled as Tiana flipped him the finger and then scampered out "That was not nice. She's a siren like we are. What do you have against her?" I demanded.

"Nothing" he groans "she's just annoying."

I rolled my eyes "Well we have to make the trip and get there for the full moon. Callum, Cody, I think you should come too" I advised.

"We would be honored to help, but what is the purpose of the trip? Pack business?"

I debated and then sighed. The truth would be easier. "To be honest I'm not sure what will happen. Tiana was told by her mother that she should go to Coral Beach if she was desperate for help on the night of a full moon and wait. I'm hoping" I said slowly "that it means there are more sirens in hiding that will be able to help us or at least be willing to make our pack their home. It's time sirens were able to live peacefully amongst shifters instead of hiding terrified that they are going to be killed."

"I don't know Riley, what if it's a trap?" Damien asked gritting his teeth.

"A trap? She's a little girl Damien" I scoffed.

He had the sense to look a little sheepish at that. "Okay but what if it's dangerous?"

"That's why I'm asking you, Callum, and Cody, to come along. If memory serves me quite well, all of you are considerably good warriors. Not to mention Bailey and I aren't exactly useless. I'm

hoping it will merely be a trip of peace and that we won't have to fight at all, but we'll be prepared if we have to."

The men nodded grimly. I brought my cup to my lips and then recoiled slightly. Had coffee always smelt this strong to me? I shook my head and took a sip, before placing it carefully back down. "Damien I know you haven't fully grasped your powers yet, but I'm still learning as well. So is Tiana. I wish you would be more kind towards her."

He flushed "Okay, okay, I'll think about it."

I sighed. It was the best I could hope for. I glanced at Cody and Callum. "Do you have any concerns to bring up as well? anything you want to ask?" I said tiredly.

Callum shook his head "I do think you need to be more cautious in regards to Alpha Jaxon though Riley. It's not just his obsession, it's his cruelty as well. If he gets his hands on you..." he trailed off.

"He's not going to," I said with a low growl "This pack is impenetrable, and its security is impeccable. Besides last time I was weak and now I'm strong. If Jaxon thinks that he would be able to just take me without a fight, then he's in for a shock, because I'm not the same girl I was before."

Cody finished his drink. "If you're willing, I would like to clean up and then begin on that schedule to train the warriors," he said glancing at Damien and Callum pointedly "I need a good distraction. Spending time in the dungeon" he gives me a crooked smile "was not pleasant and I find my body itching to do something useful."

Callum sighs and stands up "I will do the same. Damien?" he asks.

I wave my hand at my brother "Show them to the showers and organize clothes. Do not breathe any words of this trip to anyone else" I narrow my eyes at them "Oh and Damien, go and apologize to Tiana. She might be a brat, but I can certainly think of a few choice words of what I think you are and they are no way near as flattering as the words you use."

He gets up and shoots me an indignant look but obediently walks out of the kitchen with the two boys. I go to take another sip of the coffee and frown at the strength of it. Even with the sugar and cream, it's too strong. I frown and get up, tossing it into the sink. I guess next time I'll have to ask for a weaker blend, I thought musing over it. I shrugged and walked out, intent on checking in with patrol and then going for a run later on. The boys would be fine on their own, so long as they didn't kill each other.

Gathering

Chapter 68 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Bailey POV

Tonight's the night. The full moon hangs brightly in the sky, her light shining down on the water as we sit on the sand, feeling apprehensive. Callum and Cody are in the shadows, while the rest of us sit out in the open, puzzled, glancing at each other.

"Are you sure this is the right beach?" Riley checks with Tiana again who gives her a mutinous look "you're sure?"

"Yes," Tiana snaps, frustrated with the constant questions "I'm sure it's this one."

"Okay then but maybe you're supposed to do something then" Riley runs a hand through that gorgeous hair of hers and turns to me "what do you think Bailey?" she asks.

What did I think? How was I supposed to know? I wasn't part siren, so I didn't exactly know how that part of them thought. I exhale slowly and look down the empty beach. It's not a large beach but it's well hidden from any prying eyes, which means it's perfect for anybody trying to hide from shifters and humans alike. I run a hand over my beard and consider it carefully.

"Maybe they're waiting for you," I said thoughtfully.

Riley looks confused. I try to explain "When you found Tiana, you used your siren song to speak to her. Maybe this is a case of having to do the same to lure whoever's meant to help out?" I suggested nonchalantly "I mean, they aren't just going to come out unless it's for their own kind or they risk going into a trap. Why don't you try going into the water and" I paused, "calling to them?"

It was all I could think of.

Riley looked down at Tiana who was nodding now with a smile on her face. "I bet that's it. I can't feel anyone but that doesn't mean they won't hear us if we sing."

Riley bit her lip and then shrugged, getting gracefully to her feet. "I guess it can't hurt to try" she said with a shrug "what's the worst that can happen?" she asked.

"You get wet for nothing" Damien said sourly, put out by the fact that he didn't have a siren voice.

Riley just laughed at him and took Tiana's hand. They went to the edge of the shallow water and Riley began to peel off her pants and shirt, throwing them to me to catch while Tiana pulled her dress off and flung it at Damien who caught it with fuming eyes. He put the dress down next to Riley's clothes with a glower.

Riley's silver and blue hair shimmered brightly beneath the moonlight. She was mesmerizing. Damien looked entranced as he stared at his sister. "She's so different," he said quietly as the two girls began to wade slowly into the water.

"Her hair has changed but I don't think she's changed from the person she was," I said, looking at him "to you she might appear to be different, but to me, she's the same loving person I fell in love with."

"So you admit you love her?" he asked.

I glanced at him "I loved her from the moment I saw her. She saved my life, changing me back into my human form and I'll never forget it. But I don't love her because of that. I love her because of the bond we share, because of the person she is underneath everything. The moon goddess doesn't make mistakes. Riley is a unique individual and I count my blessings that she's mine everyday"

"I didn't" Damien murmured, hugging his knees and watching the girls stop as the water reached their chests, their eyes beginning to shine as they looked up towards the moon "I guess I spent so long blaming her or being afraid, I never really got to see the person she was until now. She looks a lot" he pauses "happier in herself."

"Why wouldn't she be?" my words are blunt "she doesn't have to hide who she is so that she doesn't get hurt or killed. She's allowed to be who she is without repercussions. Being allowed to express yourself can have a huge difference on your self esteem."

"You think I was a coward?" he said, staring off into the distance "don't you."

His voice was filled with self-disgust. I saw the girls open their mouths, begin to sing their siren song. Too late, I realized it would also affect Callum and Cody who began to walk towards the shore, their expressions full of wonder as they waited, lost looks on their faces. I sighed and turned to Damien who eyed me closely.

"I think that you had a hard decision to make. I think when you were old enough to think for yourself you should have protected your sister" I said quietly "instead of worrying about yourself. But you can't change the past and you have the ability to change the future now. I'm warning you though, you mess up and hurt her in anyway" I growled as he glanced at me, shame on his face "I won't hesitate to kill you, regardless of if you are my mate's brother or family. Riley comes first to me. Always" I warned him, my tone dangerous and quiet, the siren song weaving in the background.

"That's fair" Damien whispered.

I ignored him and turned back to watching my mate whose mouth was wide opened as she sang, clutching Tiana's hand with hers. Such beauty and such sadness intertwined into one song, that sounded haunting as one listened to it. It spoke of pain, it spoke of hope and it spoke of more than I could ever hope to decipher. A song for sirens, sung by sirens. The water seemed to be lighting up around them as they sang, by their feet, a bright white light that glowed brighter and brighter. The song ends on an eerie note, Tiana and Riley glancing off into the distance, expectant looks on their faces. Silence. Nothing but the sounds of birds chirping into the distance and I see Callum and Cody blink, realization dawning on their faces as they glance around and realize what happened.

Disappointment floods Riley and Tiana's face as they wade back towards us. I feel for them. We had all been hoping for something, anything to happen. Riley is stony faced as she begins to put her dry clothes on, while Tiana looks on the verge of tears. I pat Tiana on the shoulder, trying to soothe the hurt she's facing.

"Never mind Tiana, maybe we can try next full moon and see if...." I began when I heard Callum give a warning growl.

I turn, my body tensing. Riley however has her face wreathed in smiles and if anything has relaxed and Tiana looks about to run off into the shadows, my hand automatically gripping the back of her shirt so she doesn't.

A small crowd coming out from what must have been a cave, their clothes dripping with water. Their features are hard to discern in the dark, all of their figures a mixture of petite and sturdy. Men and women. Various ages. Despite myself my mouth drops open. It's not a large number, by any means but it was more than I had dared to imagine. Riley looks towards them, and I step forward, Tiana quietly remaining behind us, suddenly looking nervous. All of the people who came from the cave are different but they have one certain aspect in common, something that is exactly like Riley's and Tiana's. Their hair is silver and blue and their eyes are just as bright as my mates. Sirens. More than one of them. They gather in a group and stop just short of us, grim expressions on their faces, while one in particular peers behind us, looking intently at Tiana, with their eyes shimmering with what I suspect are tears.

Tiana flings herself forward before Riley and I can stop her, a look of excitement on her face, her feet pounding along the sand as she throws herself into the woman who's eyeing her arms.

"Marigold" she sobs, clutching tight as Riley and I glance at each other, hesitant to pull the little girl back "Marigold, where have you been all this time?"

The woman pats her back, her frown turning to a sad smile as she looks down at the little girl "I've been busy little one. Where is your mother?" she whispered, glancing at our group and faltering.

Tiana begins to sob as Marigold cups her face with a gentle hand. Riley stares at me with a lost expression.

"Mother is dead Marigold, the shifter killed her" Tiana weeps and the crowd begins to mutter amongst themselves, while Marigold's eyes flood with tears.

"So" she whispers, looking at our group and narrowing her eyes "that is why she bade you to come here and seek me out. Who are the rest of you and why have you brought Tiana?" she asks, as the rest of the group begin to form a small circle around us.

Loss

Chapter 69 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

There was tension in the air. Tiana was the only one who didn't look nervous or apprehensive. Marigold looked fierce, protective of both the little girl and her people as they surrounded us. It appeared from the way they circled us that she was the leader. I didn't blame her for being cautious or fearful of what our motives might be. They had survived in this group, it appeared to me, for a long time now, and strangers could prove dangerous, no matter how well-meaning their intentions might be. It was better to be cautious than it was to be lax and die. I coughed, sensing eyes on me, and tried to remain calm, the group looking meaningfully at mine and Damien's hair.

"We didn't come here to hurt you," I said putting my hands up in a surrender position "we came here because Tiana's mother left her a message to come here on the full moon if she needed help. We didn't know what Tiana might have been walking into. We came here to keep her safe from harm, exactly what I'm assuming you would have done for one of your own" I pointed out as Marigold's eyes softened, gazing at the little girl.

"Yes, her mother and I were friends long ago. She left our pack, what little there is of it" Marigold admitted lowly, stroking Tiana's hair "determined to forge a new path for herself. She felt claustrophobic, hiding in our caves all of the time. She wanted to find a sanctuary, a pack where she could be free to be herself. I always told her she was free to come back, but only to call out for us on the full moon, because that is the only time we would respond to a call for help."

The other members of Marigold's pack, or sirens, shifted awkwardly on their feet. "We hoped to find sirens here, but we couldn't be certain," I told her "we have a proposition for you, but only if you are willing to hear it."

Marigold's lips curved up as she sat down, gesturing for us to do the same. She motioned to two of her people "Secure the perimeters."

The walked off in opposite directions. We sat. "What is this so-called proposition?"

"Come back with us" I offered, looking her right in the eyes, Bailey remaining silent, Damien glancing at the other sirens with fascination, but thankfully keeping his big mouth shut "come back to our pack. You would be treated better there, be able to live out in the open instead of in caves."

"Are you Alpha of the pack?" she asked bluntly, her eyes dancing with amusement "to make such a statement to me?"

I breathed in deeply "No but my mate Baily is King of the Lycans and the Alpha or rather King of the pack. Would that not suffice as enough reassurance for you?"

"I would be honored to have you all back at my pack," Bailey said dipping his head respectfully "I would offer you a safe harbor and you would be free to live as you please. I have nothing against your kind" he assured Marigold who eyed him scornfully.

"Nothing against my kind?" she whispered "all of you shifters are liars. You kill, you condemn my people and you murder and rape them. You might be different" she allowed, even as I stared at her indignantly "but I am not willing to take the chance that those few of us who have managed to survive this far, will be killed by a poor decision I make in their stead. If they want to go back to your pack, then that is their decision alone, and I will not bear part of it. As for me, I remain here, safe, guarded by caves that cannot be accessed by shifters or humans without great difficulty."

Silence. Tiana was resting against Marigold. I glanced at the little girl who was practically sitting on Marigold's lap. She was hugging her fiercely. "Can you really claim this is surviving" I leaned forward and fixed my eyes on the woman who remained unblinking "when there are so few of us? The sirens will die out unless we find mates and repopulate. To hide, will merely encourage that to progress quicker."

"Maybe so," Marigold said heavily and with a regretful look around the group, who were all silently watching their leader "but it's still preferable to a quick or violent death at the hands of somebody who fears our people."

I knew she wasn't going to change her mindset. For somebody who was still so young, or at least not an elder, she was set in her ways and in her mind. There were nods of agreement in the group. Damien cleared his throat "Are you all going to be such cowards that you would let one woman persuade you to do what you don't want to?" he asked.

I shot him a glower. Trust Damien to open his freaking mouth. Callum and Cody were silent, in the background, tense and prepared to fight but I knew they wouldn't need to. These sirens were a proud group, they wouldn't just attack for no reason, not without just cause. We had yet to give them one. Insulting them to their face was not going to cause them to lose control, no matter what Damien might think.

"Believe you me, you will not be calling us cowards when you find yourself at the pointed end of a blade or the claws of a shifter" Marigold hissed "perhaps the reason you are so brave is because, unlike us, you are merely a half sire, with the half blood of a shifter. You are neither one nor the other. A half-breed. You will never truly fit in either world, do you not know that?" she said coldly as Damien gave her a cold look "shifters will not accept the siren part of you and sirens will not accept the shifter part."

I blanched for I too was half shifter. Marigold's eyes darted towards me and a small smile curved on her lips "You too are siblings, it's blatantly obvious not in just how you look, but the way you react towards one another."

"He is my brother," I said evenly "but he does not speak for me."

Her eyes glittered with mirth "Is that so?" she glanced around the small group of sirens, a look of expectation on her face. As yet, nobody has come forward with a word of their own. They seemed to be more than happy for Marigold to do all the talking for them. Strange. Or maybe they were just used to it, I thought studying them. They had their own pack dynamics that they had adopted over the years and I could not fault them for it.

"If anyone would like to go with these people, to establish a place in their pack and turn their backs to us and all that we have fought for here, then let them speak here and now with no repercussions or consequences," Marigold said softly, looking intently around the circle.

Silence. They looked at each other uncertainly. One by one, they fixed their eyes back on us. "I have no desire to leave my home."

"I respectfully decline."

"This is my home."

"Thank you but no thank you"

Each and every one of them slowly refused our offer, one by one, until it was back to Marigold who gave us a sad but triumphant smile. "You see, my pack is loyal to me, despite what little we might have. We share a bond of friendship and of family. It might not seem like we have much, in comparison to your pack, we might be poor or lacking in some ways, but the most important things we have plenty of. Loyalty, friendship, love. Can you say the same?" she challenged.

"If you should ever change your mind" I began.

She shook her head and got to her feet. "We will not. My pack has spoken. Thank you for bringing Tiana to me" she stroked the little girl's head as Tiana looked at me regretfully "she will take her place with us, where she will be loved and cared for by those of us who understand her the most."

"Tiana is that what you want?" I whispered, feeling a lump in my throat.

I couldn't leave her, but I also had to respect what she wanted. She was not my child. She was not of my blood. She did not know me like she knew these people. It was obvious in the way she clung to Marigold how much she had missed this woman. I blinked back tears from my eyes. One part of me was happy for Tiana but another part of me was devastated to lose her and have to leave her behind.

Tiana hesitated. She looked up at Marigold who smiled down at her reassuringly. She bit her lip. "I want to stay," she said quietly, hanging her head and looking shamefaced at the ground "I want to be with Marigold."

A tear trailed down my cheek. "We'll miss you" I whispered.

Tiana threw herself at me and hugged me tight, before Marigold quietly reached over and took her, holding her in her arms.

"Leave" she said kindly "we thank you for bringing her home to us, but this is not your home, and this is not your territory. I wish you all the luck in the world" she added, beginning to turn her back "but do not come here again. For Tiana's sake as well as your own. Our safety is paramount" she added and I understood.

"We won't" I promised, as Bailey took hold of my hand, squeezing it tightly, a forlorn expression on my face as Tiana and the others began to disappear back into the shadows.

"Goodbye Tiana" I whispered as tears trailed down my cheeks.

Control

Chapter 70 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Alpha Jaxon POV

I was becoming impatient. It was taking far too long for my new Beta and his team of warriors to corner Riley and take her away from her pack. I stared at Amber, amused by the way she looked, her gown torn to shreds, her hair hanging loose, the cocky expression wiped off her face. She had been used and abused, thoroughly by the men, a punishment she had continually threatened the omegas with but never followed through with. I had followed through. She glared at me, even with the dried tears on her cheeks, trying to erect an expression of bravery, rather than of cowardice as she stared through the bars, defiance still etched in her eyes. Her spirit was not broken yet, I mused, but it would be, given time.

I gave her a sickening grin "How does it feel to be the pack's whore Amber? The position seems to suit you" I added maliciously.

"Fuck you Jaxon" she spat "when I get out of here..."

I laughed amused at her stubbornness "You're never going to get out of there. In fact, I'm thinking of implementing a breeding program in the pack. If that happens" I said softly as her eyes widened in fear "you will be the very first breeder I pick. Just think of the money I could make" I said eyeing her closely as she blanched "with Alpha's whose mates are barren and in need of an heir."

"I hate you" she breathed.

I narrowed my eyes "Not enough" I advised her chillingly "You still bear my mark, which needs to change" I added as she bit her lip and began to slowly back away.

"No, no, no Jaxon don't" she began to plead.

I nodded towards the guards who slowly opened the door. She was restrained with silver cuffs, making her weak and unable to shift into wolf form. She was also still bound by my Alpha tone preventing it. I quietly grabbed her hair, yanking it hard, forcing her to look upwards at me. She was sniffing now, putting up a fight that was weak and pathetic to witness. I could hear the guards chuckling in the background.

I slowly let my canines grow. She was beginning to shake her head in denial, the blood draining from her face. "Jaxon, please" she breathed "I'll do anything you want, please don't do this. It will hurt" she begged, her voice rising to an almost shriek as I grinned at her arrogantly "you can't do this to me."

"Oh, but I can" I breathed as she whimpered, my hand gripping her throat and exposing the creamy expanse of her neck to me, my mark clearly defined as I stared at it.

I lick it and feel her shudder in revulsion, as well as feel her slight arousal. I chuckle and sniff. "Even now you can't help yourself can you, you whore?" I ask coldly.

A tear trails down her cheek. I shake my head and bow my head down, feeling her fear as her breathing turns shallow.

"Don't" she whispers, but I ignore her please, tearing into her neck, lightly peeling away the skin that contains my mark and spitting it out on the ground as she screams, her voice filling the dungeon. Even as light as it had been, it must have been excruciating, blood welling from the wound, covering my mouth and teeth as I pulled away and stepped back, grinning at her as she whimpered and clutched at her neck. On my side, the mark disappeared without a trace. Only one of us had to have the mark removed so violently and I had chosen it to be her. She sobbed, even as the blood began to slowly trickle and then fade, her shoulder a mess of blood and raw skin. I grimaced looking at it.

"Now you are no longer marked or claimed as mine," I said icily as she stared at me, her body trembling "which means you are not any better than any other person in this pack. In fact, you are now downgraded to an omega. just like the people you tormented so badly" I sneered, as she dropped to the floor, sinking to her knees and staring at me in disbelief "how does it feel Amber?"

"My father will come for me," she said unsteadily.

"Your father will die if he tries," I said menacingly "I let him bend me to his will before, but that will not happen again. If he comes looking for you, I will kill him right in front of your eyes."

Silence. She looked as though she was about to puke. I relished it. I was growing bored, waiting for my Beta to come back, for there to be news that they had gotten their hands on Riley. I needed something to distract me, and Amber was it.

A mind-link from Reggie interrupted me from saying anything else. I immediately turned and made my way back upstairs, ignoring the sound of Amber's crying behind me. I tore the door to the study open and slammed it shut, turning to study my Beta who had his hands folded behind him.

"Well," I demanded, seeing the room was empty "where is she? I told you..." I began in a growl, my hands already twitching in anticipation of strangling him "not to come back until you had her" I snarled.

"I was going to" Reggie said casually, his hands coming to the front, a small smile on his face "but there's something else that might prove valuable to you. Something else you should know."

I eyed him. Reggie had been chosen because he was a lot more intelligent than the other guards and because he obeyed me without question. His loyalty had been proven time and time again. I narrowed my eyes and gestured impatiently to him. "This had better be good" I snarled, stomping over to my desk and plinking myself down onto a chair, staring at him stonily.

He grinned "I'm certain that you'll find this information valuable. We did keep Riley under surveillance" he acknowledged "but the security around the pack was almost impossible to infiltrate. However" he continued, seeing the look of anger on my face "they did leave the pack and go to a beach and we followed them, hoping to have the chance to attack and break Riley away from her guards."

"So why didn't you?" I snapped, rifling through my drawers and grabbing a vodka bottle, ripping the lid off and taking a giant swig of the burning liquid, my gaze resting on Reggie's "What stopped you from doing the job I told you to do" I hissed.

He grinned "well that's just it. You want Riley because your mates, but also because she's a siren right?" he asked.

I stared at him wondering if he'd turned dumb in my absence "Yes" I said very slowly "but what does that have to do with anything? It's not as though there are very many sirens out there" I added gloomily "they are practically extinct. That's why Riley is so valuable to me. Why I want her so badly" I emphasized annoyed "because she can bring more power to my pack and to me. What part of this did you not understand?" I asked heatedly.

His eyes twinkled. It occurred to me that he must have a very good reason for coming back here without Riley in tow. I slowly and carefully put the vodka bottle down. I would probably need it later. I cocked my head at Reggie who looked fit to burst with excitement. "That's just it. They aren't extinct" he blurted out.

I frowned. What did he mean they weren't extinct or almost extinct? I gestured at him with a please explain expression, trying to maintain my composure.

"The beach we followed them to, they sang something in the water and there was a whole group of sirens, men and women," Reggie said grinning "they disappeared back into the caves when Riley and her people left but there were at least a dozen or more. Can you imagine getting your hands on that many? What we could do with them? Why, we could breed them" he exhaled as I listened "or lend them out to packs for a price. Force them to sing our enemies to sleep. The sky is the limit" he said gleefully.

Excitement pooled in my gut. I was disappointed at not having my hands on Riley, but what Reggie had just brought me was the next best thing. A group of Sirens for my own personal use. I could already imagine the power I could get from them. It was startling to know that they were so close by and so many had survived. Reggie had done well to come back and inform me of the situation. A pleased smile curved on my lips.

"Tell me your next orders Alpha" Reggie said bowing his head "tell me what you would like me to do and I shall do it."

I smiled. "Bring the witch from the next pack over. She owes me a favor" I said deliberately "we can't attack them without risking being entranced ourselves, but I'm certain a witch might be able to fashion collars in which to control them with and a way to protect ourselves from their voices. Only then, will we go after these sirens for ourselves" I told Reggie as he nodded "then we get Riley. I'm sure when she hears about the sirens being captured, she'll make her own way here" I said "but it doesn't hurt to have a back up plan. Now hurry, take some men with you and get me that witch" I ordered, watching as Reggie bowed and then rushed out the door. I grinned, envisioning the future that was almost in my hands. Nobody was going to have the power to stop me and soon my pack would be the most powerful in the world and I would be the most powerful Alpha the world had ever seen.