

Chapter 81 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Alpha Jaxon POV

It goes even smoother than I could have dared to hope. The women forced to sing on the outskirts of the territory, continue to slowly walk forward, their voices rising in harmony, as pack members of the Red Moon Pack begin to slowly swarm towards them in droves. Warriors, Omegas, Pack members, women, and children, all of them with the same puzzled expressions on their faces that slowly change to expressions of blankness. My men, stand directly behind the women, weapons in hand, prepared to slit the women's throats should they so much as attempt to betray us in any way, but I know it won't be needed. I have already informed them that to do so will also result in the death of the innocent child back in my pack, Tiana, causing them to know that repercussions will continue even after they are dead. They won't risk her life, no matter how much this pains them.

We make it to the center of the grounds. My eyes scan the pack. I am reasonably impressed. The security had been tight. Patrol had consisted of more than enough shifters. The warriors were in good shape. Fit and toned, they weren't unused to training, another bonus. I couldn't abide lazy men. The last person to be entranced and placed underneath the siren's spell, was of course the Alpha and Amber's father, a helpless expression on his face as he wandered into the clearing, his teeth gritted as he tried to fight the song with every fiber of his being. I smirked. The alpha was strong. There was no denying that. He was glancing at his people, and then towards the sirens, a look of sheer panic on his face. Whether he knew it yet, the Alpha was about to die today and his people, would merge with my pack, The Blood Moon Pack, and pledge their loyalty to me.

I nod towards the sirens. The song changes. The Alpha is freed from the siren's grasp. He blinks and then looks at me, recognition dawning. "You" he hisses, "Where is my daughter? What have you done to Amber? What are you doing to my pack?" he demanded.

I gave a lazy smile. "Amber is alive for now, although I must say she's not enjoying being in the dungeons as an accommodation" I cocked my head "And isn't it obvious? I'm taking your pack Alpha. Why else would I be using the sirens to entrance your people?"

He stared "Bastard" he growled and then he shifted, causing me to chuckle as I did the same. He was a fool to think he could overpower me. Even if I began to lose, the sirens would re-entrance him. Still, I had my pride and we began to fight, circling each other.

His anger began to get the better of him as he lunged heedlessly towards me. He was distracted. I easily dodged his attacks and countered with my own, swiping his side and spilling his guts as he howled in pain. I bit into his neck and shook him, sending him flying across the grass. He hit the ground with a painful thud and awkwardly got to his feet. It was almost pathetic, the fight he put up and within minutes I was severing his spinal cord with one bite to his neck, breaking it and dropping his floppy body to the ground, blood staining my fur. I shifted back to human form and nodded to the sirens who slowly petered their song out, watching as the light dawned back in the pack member's eyes as they blinked and then looked towards their fallen leader in shock.

"What happened to the Alpha?"

"The Alpha, the Alpha is dead."

"Our leader is gone, what do we do? Even if the Beta and Gamma step in..."

"Sirens, they have sirens. We have no hope. Is he going to kill us?"

Children crying as mothers swept them in their arms, babies held fiercely against their breasts. Reggie handed me some clothes and I nonchalantly put them on as my men kept a careful eye on the confused pack members, the sirens lowering their heads in apology and remorse. They had helped to kill the Alpha and even if they hadn't wanted to, they would still carry part of the blame. I raised my eyes and addressed the pack, the men grim-faced and angry.

"Your Alpha is dead," I said deliberately, gesturing to the blood-soaked wolf on the ground "killed by my own hand. Your pack is surrounded by sirens. I have control of your pack right now. Anybody wishing to challenge me one-on-one shall do so, but you don't have a chance in hell of winning if your own Alpha couldn't defeat me."

Silence. The women shot each other nervous glances. The men clenched their jaws. "Where are the Beta and Gamma?" I asked.

Two men slowly stepped out. I nodded to my men. They quickly surrounded them. Cries of shock sounded as the men's necks were broken before they could defend themselves.

"Why would you do that?"

"Beta's and Gamma's are always loyal to their Alpha," I said, watching two women scream and sink to their knees in anguish, presumably the men's mates "I won't risk them trying to overtake me."

"What do you want?" one of the pack members called out, their voice shaking as the group eyed my considerable number of men and the silent sirens.

"I want this pack" I declared, grinning smugly as the pack went quiet "to merge with mine. To become one with the Blood Moon Pack and increase its strength."

"But what about our pack?" a woman whispered, "what about our home?"

"That is no longer," I said icily.

"What if we don't want to?"

"You have a decision to make" I announced, watching the group nervously shift on their feet and mutter amongst themselves "and it's an easy one. Either," I paused and glanced deliberately at the pack members, my men nodding in agreement with me "come and pledge your loyalty to me, by making a blood oath" a gasp at those words "or die. It's your decision, but anybody who chooses to die today will be left here for the wild animals and rogues to feast on."

More sobs as the women begin to break down. I stride to a spot and stand, while Reggie hands me a dagger. I hold it, the knife glinting in the sunlight. I tap it impatiently against my leg. The group glances uneasily at each other. "Oh, anybody who hasn't pledged by sunset will automatically be killed" I added, causing another mutter amongst the group and more sobbing.

One of the mates of the dead men slowly stands and makes her way towards me, tears staining her cheeks. I see the looks of disbelief on the group's faces as she faces me, her body trembling. I cock my head. I'm surprised to see that she's willing to abandon her pack so easily, but her mate is dead now and she has nothing left for her here now. The devastating loss of the mate bond is no doubt clouding her mind. Still, she will serve as an example to the others.

I raise the dagger and slice my hand, before she tentatively holds her hand out, it shaking slightly. I show no kindness as I slice hers, hearing her gasp in pain. She places her hand in mine, our blood mingling together. I can feel the warmth of hers as it joins with me. She takes a deep shuddering breath. I wait.

"I, Felicia Jones, pledge my loyalty to my new Alpha" she hesitated.

"Alpha Jaxon of the Blood Moon Pack" I supplied.

"Alpha Jaxon of the Blood Moon Pack" she repeated and I felt a slight tingle in my forehead and then I could mind-link with her as she joined the members of my current pack.

I waved a hand at her and motioned to one of my men. "Get her in the truck."

She went willingly, avoiding the stares of her fellow pack members.

Just like that, the others began to give up. One by one, they filed forwards. Children did not need to pledge their loyalty as their parents did it for them, meaning they also did not need to be cut or share their blood. I watched as the Siren's faces filled with tears, my men beginning to drag them away towards a separate truck, no longer necessary to keep the people in line as the crowd began to dwindle. Unfortunately, a select few refused to pledge, forcing me to kill them and leave their bodies littered on the ground. By the time I was finished, I was more than satisfied with what I

had accomplished, already planning which pack I was going to hit next. My wolf was triumphant.

So easy and so delicious seeing all those pitiful faces. Their tears are music to our ears. We need more Jaxon. More blood, more tears, more pain. One pack isn't enough. We have to take over all of them.

We will, I told my wolf silently, as I began to turn around and join my men, every pack and then Riley will be ours again.

Our true mate he snarled every minute spent away from her is agony. Let us find her pack and soon so that we may be joined like we were always meant to be.

Patience I chided have patience and both of us will be rewarded.

Retribution

Chapter 82 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Alpha Jaxon POV

We returned the women to the cells, while Amber's face was stricken. I held up the bag, containing her father's head and flung it into the cell, causing her to look at the bloodstained fabric in revulsion, even as her hand slowly reached out to pull it away, her scream bloodcurdling and music to my ears as she stared down at it.

"Bastard" she screamed, leaping backward while Marigold held her back "How could you? How could you" she screamed hysterically, while the other women looked away, ashamed at their complicity in helping me overtake her father's pack and merge it successfully with my own.

I walked in and took the bag, holding it up as she blanched, her pallor pale, her lower lip quivering as her expression went blank.

"I told you I would bring you a souvenir," I told her coldly as she glared at me "Don't you want something to remember your father by?"

"I hate you" she screamed, as Marigold pulled her back "I swear to god I'll kill you when I get my hands on you. Just you wait" she sobbed, turning to Marigold and putting her head on the woman's shoulder, tears trailing down her cheeks "I won't forget what you've done."

My lip curled "You're not so haughty or proud now are you Amber" I said mockingly, stepping out of the cell while the other women remained quiet, the men glancing away in shame "Weren't you once telling me how once you were Luna you would make this pack something to be proud of?"

She said nothing, continuing to sob. The little girl was in the corner, curled up, her knees up to her face as she avoided looking at what I was holding.

"Did you spare my pack" Amber's voice wobbled slightly.

I chuckled, enjoying the sound of her tears and the pain in her voice. "For the most part. There were a select few" I paused as she raised her head to look at me with glinting eyes "that tried to remain loyal to your father and died for their disrespect. The rest were only too happy to pledge their allegiance to me" I told her with amusement.

She looked broken. Her hand twitched as she put it to her mouth. "Are you happy now?" her voice was barely above a whisper "Is this not enough revenge for you? I'm truly broken. There is nothing more you can do to break me that you haven't already done" she said, her eyes still shimmering with tears "I did nothing to you, other than offer you my body and this is what it gave me."

I smirked "Your father pushed me to mark you and while I tried to forget my first mate, my real mate," I said callously "you are nothing in comparison to her. Your arrogance is what brought you here" I advised.

"We did what you asked" Marigold's voice cut in, sharp and blunt "Now will you let us go?"

The little girl looked up hopefully. I gave her a wicked grin and she ducked her head, hiding her face again. "This was just the beginning," I told the woman as she looked at me in disbelief "You didn't think I would stop at just one pack, did you? Not when there are so many I could overtake and merge with? You did it so easily too" I purred holding up the Alpha's head as Marigold blanched and the other women paled "without losing any of my men's lives. I imagine the next pack will be just as easy" I told them with a crooked grin.

"You're never going to let us go, are you" Marigold challenged, stepping away from a grieving Amber, her eyes narrowing as she stared at me in defiance "no matter what we do."

I cocked my head "Now you're beginning to understand. You all serve a purpose for me" I said deliberately eyeing each and every single one of them "and as long as you continue to serve that purpose, I'll allow you to live."

"You call this living?" Marigold spat out, yanking on the collar that refused to break "being at your beck and call like a damn servant or slave. Forced to help you take over packs and kill innocent Alphas in the name of your greed?"

Reggie made a motion to step forward from behind me, but I shook my head as the woman continued to rage "We are not weapons for your convenience. We are living beings, with hearts and minds. What you are doing, is beyond unconscionable."

"Perhaps, but who is going to stop me?" I asked, handing Reggie the severed head and standing close to the cell, the door still open, as Marigold eyed it uneasily "You? You can't use your voice against me or any member of my pack" I reminded her as she looked at me helplessly "Would you be willing to risk the lives of your people in order to escape?" I asked, my voice soft and chilling as she glanced over her shoulder at her small pack who were looking nervous and restless "Because that's what the punishment would be if somebody were to try and escape. In fact, just so you know exactly what the punishment will be, why don't I tell you?"

Her lips parted. I shook my head and gave her a smug look. "Anybody trying to escape has secured the death of the little girl" I pointed at the one known as Tiana. "But not before she's tortured to death."

"You're a monster" Marigold hissed while the others began to chime in with agreement "How can you be so cold, so cruel as to threaten the life of a little girl who has done nothing to you."

"Because I know it will keep you all in check," I said blithely as Amber stared at me, her own face contorted into an expression of rage and disbelief "and right now I need you all to do what I want. I have another pack in mind. I'm giving you one day to eat, drink, and get your strength back, isn't that chivalrous of me" I said mockingly "before we go on a trip and do the exact same thing we just did. I want the same people as last time" I added glancing around the cell "seeing as you all did such a fantastic job the first time."

"If we refuse," one of the women said looking on the verge of tears.

"It won't just be the little girl I threaten this time. I'll also kill one of the men" I pointed into the cell as the woman's lip twitched "right in front of all of you. One Alpha death in return for the lives of your entire small group here, that's not too much to ask when you think about it, is it?" I asked smiling.

"You're going to meet your death one day," Amber said quietly, her tears having faded to mere stains on her cheeks, her voice tightly controlled "They are going to get wind of what you are doing and they are going to stop you. Nobody is going to let this continue. What you're doing is against the creed of the shifters. Against the very fabric of our being. You're a coward" she told me as I chuckled "and I hope Karma gets you good."

"Nobody can win against a pack of sirens," I said smirking "and as for Karma, I believe it's already come for you, Amber."

"Maybe," she said agreeing, "but you can't hold onto all of us forever, can you Jaxon?"

"Are you asking for me to kill you now?" I asked and she smiled.

"Death would almost be a favor right now," she told me as I laughed "No, but when Karma comes for you, I hope I'm there to see it" she spat out.

I rolled my eyes "So dramatic Amber" I shut the cell door with a slam of my foot, whistling lightly underneath my breath, ignoring the panicked looks on the women's faces as they shot each other glances "Get a good sleep tonight, because we're leaving early tomorrow morning. Reggie make sure they have adequate food and water" I told my Beta who nodded "And go bury that head" I frowned "I no longer wish to look at it. Maybe you could put it on a spike in here for Amber to look at when she feels lonely" I suggested with a tilt of my head as Amber drew in a sharp breath "and as a reminder of what happens to those who attempt to go against me."

"Certainly," Reggie said with a smirk of his own "I'll see to it right away Alpha. What about your mate?" he asked and I could sense the Sirens listening even as they pretended not to be.

"The mating ball will be very soon," I said, examining my nails and frowning at the amount of dirt underneath them "and I need to prepare myself for that. It wouldn't do to see Riley again without the proper costume and of course, I'm going to need some sirens as well. I have every intention of claiming my mate again" I told him calmly "and having her join me as the rightful Luna of this pack. She can be an example to these sirens of what can be accomplished if they begin to do as they are told" I shrugged, turning around and beginning to head out of the dungeon, feeling on a high "and if I have to kill the Lycan King to get to her I will. He won't be immune to these women's songs, even if he's immune to Riley's. I'm immune to all of them" I added with satisfaction and began to head upstairs, my mind abuzz with possibilities.

Suspicious

Chapter 83 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

He was the last person I had expected to see in the morning, but as I headed into the kitchen, I couldn't deny I was happy to see his face again. It had been far too long. I practically flung myself into his arms as he looked me up and down. "Thomas" I shrieked, "how are you, how is your family?" I began to ask.

He laughed "My family is fine, just fine" he commented with a chuckle "and I hear tale that you are expecting another addition of your own?" he raised a brow.

I flushed and then laughed "Yeah, I am. Did Bailey tell you?" I asked as my mate came walking in, looking sheepish.

"I may have told him," Bailey said evasively, bending down to kiss me on the cheek "Sorry, I was already working when you got up" he apologized, looking over at Thomas who gave a subtle nod.

Damien came walking in and stopped short seeing Thomas. "Whoa, who is this?" he demanded, crossing his arms and glowering at the newcomer.

"This is Thomas, the Beta of the pack," I said sharply as I introduced him "and watch your tongue, Damien. Be polite" I scolded as the two men looked each other over.

Thomas smiled, offering his hand "You must be the infamous brother" his tone was slightly cold "Riley's siren brother Damien?" he asked, shaking Damien's hand as Damien looked at him in the eyes.

"I didn't know I was so famous," Damien said lightly, even as Thomas grinned at him "Where have you been this entire time?"

"Visiting family" Thomas's voice was nonchalant.

There was an edge to his voice, as he glanced at Bailey. There was something he wasn't telling us, I could sense it instinctively.

"Well we're glad to have you back," I said a little uncertainly, puzzled by the undercurrents in the air "What are your plans now? Do you need help with something?" I asked.

"Where are Callum and Cody?" asked Bailey "Have you seen them this morning?"

"I came straight to the kitchen..." I began sheepishly, aware of how much of a mess I must look.

"They are outside training" Damien interrupted "I just came from there myself."

"Were you training with them?" I asked, as he tensed "Because you know you have an unfair advantage being part siren."

He flushed "Not as much as you do" he grumbled "and the boys wanted to see what I could do" he added with a grin "Who am I to deny them that opportunity?"

"What about your plans Riley?" Bailey's voice was teasing "What do you have planned?"

I thought about it "Trying my dress on for the mating ball, and checking over the work that's been done. The omegas are doing a fantastic job with the decorations, and the cook is up to speed with all the food and refreshments" I shrugged feeling at ease "To be honest I'm hardly needed in the way of organizing things other than to check a few things."

"I appreciate your help," Bailey told me sincerely "it's important that the ball goes ahead without a hitch if possible. What does your dress look like?" he asked, his eyes darkening slightly.

Uh oh. I hadn't specified to Bailey how I intended to dress. Perhaps that was a mistake but he was oblivious to the other men in the room as he stared at me and I could see Damien looking at me with interest and even Thomas. I swallowed hard.

"It's a surprise," I said quickly.

"A surprise?" Bailey repeated "Since when do we hide things from each other" he growled, looking put out.

"Since now" I teased "Besides, I don't want you to be able to picture me in it. I want you to be shocked when you see me."

His eyes narrowed and a faint smile appeared on his lips. "You look beautiful in anything you wear," he said with a sigh "so I'll trust your judgment. I'll just have to have fun picturing you in all manner of dresses" he blurted out.

I blushed bright red. I saw Damien choke and Thomas let out a burst of laughter. Bailey shot his Beta a look and Thomas quickly adopted a solemn look while my brother looked off into the distance, pretending he hadn't heard Bailey say that.

"About this mating ball," I said slowly "how many have accepted the invitations?"

Bailey looked surprised "Almost everyone has. It's common knowledge that it's hosted every year and while some don't appreciate being near a Lycan King, they go to see if they can find their mate."

I felt slightly sick "So does that mean that..."

Understanding flared in Bailey's eyes, along with anger "Your previous mate" he said tightly, his jaw clenching "has not responded either way. But if he does come to the ball, he will not get within one foot of you without his hand being chopped off" he snarled, his eyes going even darker, so dark they were pitch black as his lycan came dangerously close to the surface.

"I can take care of myself," I said quietly but Bailey stepped close and took my face in his hand, raising my chin so I was forced to look up at him.

"I know you can," he told me gruffly "but that doesn't mean I can't protect you, or your brother" he shot Damien a scathing glance "or Thomas or Callum and Cody."

"Callum and Cody. If Jaxon comes to the ball, he's going to see them" I gasped, putting a hand to my mouth "They could be in danger" I said with my voice rising.

"Shh" Bailey murmured "I've already thought of that. Jaxon can't do anything to them now that they are on my territory. Both men have pledged their allegiance to me and turned their back on their old pack. They no longer belong to Alpha Jaxon. They belong to me" he explained "If

Jaxon tries to hurt them or do anything to them, he will automatically be placed in the dungeon. You have my word" he repeated softly.

I let out a large exhale. Bailey smiled at me. "Calm yourself, love. It's not good for the baby when you stress" he repeated "We have our first ultrasound tomorrow and we can see how our child is developing then. The doctor wanted to make sure you were a good few weeks along first before she conducted one, just to see the progression properly."

"I know," I said with a groan "It's been pure hell waiting."

"I know" he soothed, "it's driving me crazy too. But tomorrow we'll be able to hear the heartbeat and see the little image on the screen. As for today, just concentrate on everything you can do. Damien will stay with you and help" he shot my brother a dangerous look as my brother opened his mouth to protest, before glancing at a furious Lycan King and reluctantly closing it "With him you're in safe hands."

I bowed my head. "Fine, but once this mating ball is over and done with, we are going back to visit with Tiana" I said firmly, fixing my eyes on him "I miss her and I know you do too."

What was that strange look in his eyes and that expression on his face? I saw it flicker and then he smiled, a warm smile, causing me to relax. "Of course" he agreed "We will go and see Tiana. I know how much you've been missing her. She probably misses you just as much," he said tightly.

His voice was strained. Thomas quickly stepped forward. "King Bailey we were going to go over security protocols and the like for the mating ball. You were going to get me up to speed with everything that you've managed to organize and fill me in on what still needed to be done" he said hastily, attempting to distract my mate and gain his attention.

Bailey blinked at him. "Yes, yes of course" he muttered, dropping his hand and then leaning forward to kiss me on the cheek, a tingle running down my spine "I'll come and see you again later" he promised me, before nodding to Damien.

"Take good care of her, anything happens I'll have your head" he barked.

"Yes, Your Highness," Damien said sourly.

Bailey shot him a look and he shut up. It appeared my mate was not in the mood for games or to be teased today. Something had set him off and put him in this strange mood. He motioned to Thomas and the two of them disappeared out of the kitchen, making way towards the study as I stared at the back of him perplexed.

"Is it just me or is your mate grumpier than usual today?" Damien snarled.

"It's not just you" I mumbled, still looking at the empty doorway in surprise "Bailey is hiding something" I turned to Damien who raised a brow "I'm just not sure what it is. Tell me" I leaned in close "do you know what it could be?"

But Damien looked just as puzzled as I was. Whatever it was, it was clearly eating at my mate. Maybe when we went for the ultrasound, he would divulge what was wrong. Until then, I would have to trust that whatever it was, Bailey was keeping it to himself for a very good reason.

Dominant

Chapter 84 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Trigger warning: This episode contains mention of physical violence and might be triggering to some readers due to its gory nature.

Alpha Jaxon POV

Three more packs were mine. Three more had fallen without resistance, their Alpha falling to the siren's songs as I forced them to do my bidding, their eyes filled with horror as I severed their heads from their bodies, a look of utmost satisfaction on my face. My pack was steadily growing, and as I stood there, observing how large it had gotten, Reggie came up behind me, dragging the woman Marigold to the ground and throwing her in front of me.

Unlike the other women, this one still had some fight left in her. I cocked my head. Despite threatening the little girl, the others in her pack, and the men, she continued to try and resist my instructions, with revulsion, and hostility as constant expressions on her face as she regarded me. I didn't like it. I didn't like it at all. She got to her feet, staring at me, her body littered with bruises and scrapes, her face haggard, her frame thin. While I hadn't been starving them, I hadn't been feeding them enough to give them strength to try and escape me either. "What do you want?" she asked me clearly.

I studied her. For a siren woman, she wasn't ugly, but I wouldn't necessarily define her as beautiful. A dress and some food would fix that. "You know Riley."

It wasn't a question. She ducked her head and flattened her lips, refusing to answer. "what is the best way to get to her?"

Silence. She refused to answer the question. I raised my head and waited. I nodded to Reggie who stepped forward and swiftly dealt her a blow to her stomach, causing her to double over in pain. She gasped, clutching at herself. "I find my patience waning" My voice was cold "What is

the best way to isolate her from her mate? What can be used as a distraction or a way to get her alone?"

She looked at me, biting her lip. I was not in the mood to play games.

"I barely know her" she cried, but I sensed there was something she wasn't saying.

The girl. Tiana. "The little girl, Riley brought her to you, didn't she? Did Riley have a soft spot for her?"

Instantly she paled. Bingo. Tiana was the key to getting Riley alone and away from her mate. If she thought that Tiana needed her or heard her voice....possibilities whirled through my mind.

"Leave Tiana alone" Marigold begged, her eyes turning to mine as she pleaded with me "Please, she's too young to be used like this."

"Yet you defy me at every turn. I'm willing to believe that Riley would not hesitate to go and save a little girl she's fond of, if she believed her to be in danger" I mused.

"Stop" Marigold's eyes were wide "I'll do it. I'll do anything you want me to if you just leave Tiana out of it. Please. The girl has been through enough. Don't force her to do this as well."

"How magnanimous of you to beg on the girl's behalf" I studied her closely "But if I were to use you, you would betray me the first chance you got."

She shook her head "No, I wouldn't" she said, begging me to believe her "I promise. Leave Tiana alone and I'll do whatever you ask of me."

"Betray a friend of yours?" I asked deliberately.

Her voice was cold "I met Riley once, she's not a close friend of mine. She gave me Tiana and Tiana is all I care about" she said stiffly "I will do anything to ensure Tiana is safe."

"Hmmm" I murmured, rubbing my chin "yet, I don't think I'm quite convinced."

I nodded to Reggie who swiftly brought one of the sirens out. A woman who screamed in fear, flailing and kicking as the men held tightly to her arms. I saw Marigold's eyes widen in panic. "What are you doing?" she demanded "Release her" she cried, trying to surge forward, only for Reggie to hold her back, along with more of my men.

The other woman began to beg and plead, sobbing wildly. I could see Marigold looking over at her, her breathing labored as she realized how helpless she was to help her. Reggie turned to me. I cocked my head and then gave a smile.

"Do it" I said coldly.

The woman's eyes widened as one of the men put his hand around her throat, causing her to gasp as she struggled for air. Another man ruthlessly reached into her mouth and forced her tongue out. Her eyes bulged as she fought, clawing and kicking, while another man approached with a small dagger. Marigold looked sickened.

"Stop" she screamed, while we continued to watch, the man drawing even closer "Don't do this, I'll do whatever you want."

The other woman was crying and desperately trying to move away. I nodded at the man with the knife. It almost seemed like it happened in slow motion as the woman's tongue was separated from her body, flopping to the ground, the woman letting out an agonized scream that abruptly stopped as her tongue was cut out. Blood trickled out of her mouth. Marigold screamed, sinking to her knees as the other woman convulsed, tears trailing down her face.

"Take the woman to the medical wing," I said dismissively, and the other siren was dragged away, her tongue still on the ground, blood splattered all over the ground.

"Why" screamed Marigold, getting to her feet and staring at me with hatred "Why would you do that? What use is she to you now? Without her tongue, she cannot sing..." her voice trailed off and became a faded whisper.

"She served her purpose," I said callously "a permanent reminder of what I'm willing to do if you don't follow my instructions."

Marigold looked sick. I watched with amusement as she bent over and vomited up what measly contents she had in her stomach, clutching her belly and wiping her mouth with the back of her hand.

"Oh god" Marigold whispered, "I thought you were a monster before but now..."

I laughed. The wolf inside my mind laughed along with me, his voice growing louder. "Oh, I'm more of a monster than you could ever have imagined Marigold," I said chuckling "What I did to Amber should have shown you what I'm capable of."

"What do you want from me?" her voice was quiet now, her body trembling violently.

There was no fight left in her, I saw with triumph. With that one violent act, I had broken what little resistance or spirit she had left inside of her. "You've seen firsthand what will happen to Tiana and the others if you don't do as I say," I said, watching the blood drain out of her face "and I will do the same to you if you don't follow my instructions precisely. I want you to come to the mating ball with me."

She looked confused "Why? Everybody is going to see that a siren is in their midst. You don't want to take me as a date, you'll stand out" she added.

"I have no intentions of taking you as a date," I said rolling my eyes "I will be in disguise. However, I do require a distraction or a way of getting Riley alone, and who better than somebody she trusts."

Realization dawned on her face. "You want to use me to lure her away from everyone" she whispered in a shaking voice "That's why you want me to go to the mating ball. I'm just a means to an end."

"Precisely" my voice was icy "you will be the one to lure my precious mate out of the pack and away from anyone who might be able to interfere in our reunion. You have both met before, she will be more trusting of you than she will of someone else, particularly when you bring up Tiana being in danger."

My voice was smooth. I had thought of everything and considered all the angles. Marigold looked almost broken as she eyed me.

"Riley will never go for it."

"She will, if you value your life and your tongue," I said mockingly "and those of your small pack in my dungeon. Would you risk them?"

Her shoulders slumped. I felt a thrill rush through me. The more power I wielded over her and the sirens, the more my pack grew, and the more I felt the thrill and adrenaline race through my body. I was beginning to crave it. Desire it. I longed for it. I raked my gaze over Marigold with contempt. "You will need to be dressed for the part," I said with a curl of my lips, glancing to the side where one of my omegas was watching, nodding quietly. "Ensure she has the appropriate clothing for the ball, and do something about the way she looks. She's too pale and too thin. Put her in a guest room, away from everyone else, and make sure there are guards on her at all times" I growled to Reggie who had returned and was listening "As for the little girl, she too will be coming with us" I told Marigold whose eyes widened in fear "as a way of ensuring everything goes to plan."

I watched the woman be dragged away, her body slumped, every part of her broken and defeated. Soon, I would have my mate back in the pack with me, where she belonged and I could feel the anticipation running through my veins. Nobody was going to be able to stop me from becoming the most powerful Alpha and pack in the world. I was invincible, I thought with a smirk and would continue to be so long as I kept these sirens under my control.

Discovered

Chapter 85 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Bailey POV

"You need to tell her Bailey" Thomas's voice was low but solemn as he eyed me carefully.

I didn't have to ask him what he was talking about. We were with Callum and Cody in the study, keeping to ourselves, discussing the mating ball and the disappearance of the other sirens. So far we have not been able to determine where they had been taken, frustrating me further. The thought that Tiana might be hurt, or have been killed, made me feel sick to my stomach. There was only so much my men could do, without infiltrating the packs and offending other Alpha's. I grimaced at the men who all looked concerned.

"You know how worried Riley is," I said eyeing them "We had the ultrasound the other day. Our baby is developing normally, but we don't know the gender, and as a tribrid, we don't know whether anything is going to happen to the child as it grows. There have been instances where the child has been fine and other instances where...." I trailed off unable to finish the sentence as the men nodded in understanding. "I can't stress her out while she's pregnant. She's got enough on her plate with the mating ball. Not to mention we have to wonder how she'll be accepted as my mate. I can't tell her about Tiana. If I do" I exhaled regretfully, hating I was keeping this from my mate "she'll want to go and see for herself, try and find the girl. It's too dangerous."

"Maybe you should let me determine that for myself" a voice cut in as the door swung open.

I tensed. Riley stood there, the blood draining out of her face. Shit. I had been so preoccupied with the men, we had all failed to notice her scent outside the door. Had she been deliberately eavesdropping? I knew I had been distant lately, trying not to let anything slip, but I hadn't thought she would go this far to find out what was wrong. Riley's eyes shimmered with unshed tears.

"What happened to Tiana? Why haven't you told me until now? How could you make me find out this way" she shot out, her arms wrapping protectively around her chest as she glared at me, the other men shooting me a sympathetic look and then sliding past her, leaving the two of us alone.

Shit. I stood up slowly as Riley continued to stare at me in disbelief. "I've been wondering why you've been acting so strangely. What you haven't been telling me, is why you're constantly in meetings with Callum and Cody, worrying about security. Tell me" her voice came out strangled "What happened to Tiana and the others?"

She was on the verge of tears. What I hadn't wanted to happen, was happening right in front of my eyes and it was all my fault. I took a deep breath. "Riley, Tiana, and the other sirens are missing," I told her quietly "Thomas checked on them before coming back to the pack. There were signs" I paused trying to frame this delicately "There were signs they were taken."

"Taken" she repeated, her voice rising "A whole pack of sirens taken just like that? That's impossible Bailey," she said narrowing her eyes "They would have been able to sing their way out of trouble, or...." she trailed off.

Damn. "I think there might have been magic involved," I told her, running a hand through my hair "It's the only way so many sirens could have been overpowered like that and their voices rendered useless."

"Magic" she whispered "But what possible use could somebody have for so many sirens?" she asked trembling "And for a small girl like Tiana?"

I hated having to speak so bluntly, but the cat was out of the bag. I spoke, my voice tight "They either killed them" I winced as Riley let out a small sob "or they have a purpose for them. Perhaps they are using them to take over other packs" I said slowly "Either way, having that many sirens at their disposal isn't a good thing."

"You've been trying to find them" Riley's voice was chilling "haven't you?"

I nodded. "There are rumors that several packs have suddenly lost their Alpha and been taken by force. I have men investigating and I was contemplating canceling the mating ball" I admitted awkwardly.

"Cancelling" Riley's voice was incredulous "It's tomorrow Bailey. It's a little late to cancel. We have people coming today for accommodation. Besides, wouldn't the mating ball be the perfect opportunity to find out information on these packs that have been taken over? Surely another Alpha would know what was going on?" she asked, lifting her chin and looking me directly in the eyes.

"Perhaps, but what if..." I didn't get to finish the sentence, because Riley's eyes suddenly flashed as realization dawned.

"You want to cancel the mating ball for my sake," she said, shaking her head "because you're worried whoever took Tiana and the others is going to come after me as well."

"Yes," I said with a low growl "Is it so wrong to want to protect my mate Riley? You're carrying our unborn child. You're weakened" I said as she looked at me in defiance "whether you want to admit that or not. I can protect you, but if something happened, I would never be able to forgive myself."

"I'm not useless" Riley shouted, slamming her hands on my desk as I blinked at her "Stop acting as though I'm some sort of damsel in distress that you have to constantly rescue or keep the truth from. I can't believe you've been lying to me all this time. I'm supposed to be your partner, your equal, and instead, you're treating me as though I'm some delicate piece of china. If you had told me about Tiana, yes I would have gone looking for her" she snarled "because that little girl was family to me. Now all I can do is hope to find information during the ball and you want to cancel" She shook her head "No, Bailey."

"Don't you think I should get a say, considering I'm also the father to our unborn child" I growled.

She scoffed "Do you think you get to control me because of that? I know you're worried about me but this, this is unforgivable Bailey."

I felt my heart sinking. She was furious. More so than I had pictured. Her whole body was violently shaking, not in fear but in pure unadulterated rage. I tried to soften my voice and tried to reason with her. "Riley, I just thought..."

"That's just it" she cut in, her voice cold as ice "You didn't think. You did what you wanted without giving a damn about how I might feel about it. That's not being a partner Bailey, that's being controlling. I'm not somebody you just pat on the head and whisper pretty things into their ear. I deserve to be treated with respect and told everything even if it's not something you think I should hear."

"We'll find Tiana Riley," I said, holding my hands out and pinning my gaze on her, "I promise. I've got everybody I can on it and I won't leave any stone unturned."

"Wrong. I will find Tiana" she said, her tone brooking no arguments "and if I have to interrogate every damn Alpha that attends the mating ball I will."

"How do you intend to do that?" I asked, concerned.

She raised a brow. "Riley," I said tightly "you can't just use your siren voice on everybody. If you do that, everybody is going to continue to fear your kind. It would be like declaring war. I know you're angry, but this isn't the way to go about finding your friends."

"My family" she corrected, her eyes glinting as I looked at how composed she suddenly seemed to be "and maybe your kind declared war on sirens first. You've been hunting us for as long as I can remember and for as long as I've been able to read about," she said with contempt "and now it's time it stopped. Maybe it's time to show your kind" she emphasized as I flinched "something to fear. Maybe then the hunting and the killing will finally stop" she finished in a dangerous voice.

This did not bode well. "Riley" I began, trying to dissuade her from whatever she was considering, not liking the look in her eyes "Whatever you're thinking, I need you to reconsider. You're angry, you're not thinking straight and you're upset" I continued, unsettled by the expression on her face "I'm sorry I kept things from you. You were right. I should have told you the moment Thomas let me know."

But it was like I was talking to a stranger. Riley just looked straight through me. I shivered. I reached out for her but she stepped deftly out of my reach. Her eyes rose to meet mine and for a moment they were so cold, that I thought I was staring at a dead woman. "The mating ball goes ahead," she said softly, and then turned on her heel and began to leave.

I stared at the back of her, wondering just how far she was willing to go to find Tiana and dreading what would happen if I didn't do as she asked. For the first time, I had seen what Riley was capable of when she was angry and it unnerved me. I couldn't blame her for the anger, but would she harm innocent people in order to find her 'family'

I gritted my teeth and called Thomas, Callum, and Cody back to the study. I had to change my plans for the ball tomorrow and perhaps attempt to calm Riley down again, though I didn't like my chances. The mating ball would go ahead, but I hoped it wouldn't prove to be my downfall.

Determined

Chapter 86 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

Gone. A tear slips down my cheek, my rage almost palpable. I knew Bailey had been keeping secrets from me, but I hadn't thought it would be anything this serious. We were meant to be partners, equals and instead, he'd kept the one thing from me that had resulted in this increasing anger that was rising by the second. I needed to get out of the pack house and away from him. I needed water, the sanctuary it provided, and the haven it brought me. Even my wolf could understand my agitation as I swiftly changed into wolf form just outside the grounds, my paws thudding across the ground, my chest heaving as I headed in the direction of the lake, unable to concentrate on anything else but the solace and the silence that would await me.

How could he have kept this from me? He knows how much I loved Tiana. I had a right to know damnit I growled, the trees shuddering beneath the impact of my feet as they thudded along the ground.

Men are such simple creatures, wanting only what is best for us. He didn't want to stress you out, not while you're pregnant Riley, is that such a bad thing?

It insults me. I am capable of much more than what he sees. We are never going to be true equals if he can't see me for who I am and what I can do I told my wolf and the siren part of me and sometimes I wonder if he's ashamed of me.

Silence. Even my wolf could offer no words of support for that. It was something I wrestled with continuously, wondering if Bailey had wanted a normal mate, a Luna Queen who could be accepted without question among her peers. It would have made life so much simpler for him, but instead, he'd gotten stuck with me. At least, that's how I was beginning to feel.

We reached the lake. I skidded to a halt. For once, I was grateful to find that Damien wasn't there. I didn't need an interfering older brother trying to stick up for me or getting into my business. I shifted, panting, and frantically dove into the water, submerging my naked body completely, feeling the coolness of the water as it enveloped me and enclosed me. Safety. Heaven. Caressing waves of gentle water, my head flinging above the surface, droplets shimmering as they dropped back into the lake. I could breathe again, even as water began to rise, slowly, bubbles floating above my head. I touched one, causing it to burst, a small smile curving on my lips. At least my magic hadn't been affected by the pregnancy, at least as far as I could tell. I could still control the element of water with relative ease. My hair drifted into the water, shining silver and blue, and I floated, closing my eyes and allowing everything to fade away.

Feel the strength of the water as it gently embraces your body my siren encourages give voice to everything that you are feeling, everything that you have repressed. Let your anger speak, let your grief be known. Allow yourself to become the siren that you are, instead of hiding behind the mask.

Hiding behind the mask? I frowned but the siren continued, our people continue to suffer, and our kind will never be accepted until things begin to change. For too long have we hidden in the shadows, fearful of what is to become of us. You were chosen to be the Lycan King's mate for a reason she told me as my wolf silently agreed and that reason is just beginning. Our people need a champion, a warrior willing to fight for them. Somebody they can depend on to save them. They need a Luna Queen who will accept what they are and go to battle to rescue them from those who would kill them simply based on their race.

I had told Bailey that I was tired of the sirens being hunted and that shifters had declared war on sirens first. Part of me hadn't been lying, in fact, I had been speaking words from the heart. I was tired of being looked down upon because of who I was. I was tired of reading about sirens being hunted down and killed. The only other thing hunted with as much enthusiasm was feral wolves and that didn't occur nearly as much as one would think. Why should sirens continue to suffer at the shifter's hands? Why had we allowed them to hunt us and kill us without fighting back for our rights? Didn't we have the right to live in peace? Didn't we have the right to exist? Who had decided we were dangerous? Who had made the rules that sirens should be killed?

You're beginning to question everything the siren was pleased I can feel the anger building in your breast. Your entire childhood was filled with abuse because your own father feared what you might be capable of. A small child, helpless and beaten, simply for something she could not help. How many siren children have been treated with the same contempt, the same disgust, the same revulsion? How many have been killed at birth because they had the blue and silver hair that indicated they were of siren lineage? How many innocent Sirens have had to die, been raped or murdered?

Too many I answered fiercely, my eyes shooting open as I stared at the sky, my mind whirling and in turmoil. Bailey had said he didn't want a war to start, but the truth was, there already was one. There would always be one so long as sirens were continued to be hunted and it was accepted as normal practice. That changed, here and now, I vowed, rage beginning to overwhelm

me. No more would another siren suffer at the hands of a shifter. No more would a siren child be beaten into submission or forced into slavery and killed. No more would we live in the shadows or caves, fearful of when our days might be numbered.

Sing. Give voice to the feeling stirring within you. Speak with the voice you have been granted and the powers you possess my siren urged, her voice rising with encouragement let the rage out and all that drives you within!

My mouth opened of its own accord and the song began. Unlike others, this wasn't fueled by sadness but by anger, rage, the desire for revenge, and resentment for what had been. It was ear-piercing, Haunting. Loud. My voice grew louder, and the trees began to shake. The water began to spread out from my body, causing me to stand up, before the trees slowly began to topple, one by one, over and over, crashing into each other, while water began to rain down upon us, hail, wind, thunder. It was like the perfect storm and my voice never let up. I could hear the sounds of panicked shouting behind me. My voice rose higher. I let out an agonized final note, my voice petering out. The rain slowly began to cease. The thunder stopped. Sunlight came back out from behind the clouds. The wind died down. I looked at the chaos and devastation in front of me.

Everywhere, there were trees uprooted and fallen over. Earth was uprooted. Bird's homes had been destroyed. It was like a tornado had come and gone as I looked at how far the chaos went, almost half the forest was destroyed within minutes with just a single song. I felt dazed. My anger was still there, stirring in my breast as I put a hand to my chest. I began to walk, away from the lake, the water dropping back down with a giant splash. I climbed over trees, my gait stiff and automatic. I saw the look of panic on my mate's face as I headed back onto the grounds.

"Riley, what happened?" he asked, trying to rush over to me.

I put a hand out to stop him. He was looking at the forest, his eyes narrowed. I saw the other men look at me and for the first time, I saw something akin to fear in their eyes. Never before had they experienced my anger like they had just now.

"Riley" Bailey's voice was low as I looked him right in the eyes. "What's happened? Did you lose control? Did something happen?" he pressed, looking frustrated as I kept him at arm's reach.

"No" my voice was sharp, my eyes never wavering from his "I didn't lose control," I told him "I'm showing exactly what a siren is capable of when they are angry"

He hesitated "Riley, we can talk about this."

"No," I told him shaking my head "Tomorrow at the mating ball you have a decision to make. Back me in calling for a cease in hunting down sirens or reject me as your mate. It's one or the other Bailey. I won't be mates with a man who is afraid of me or my kind" I told him raising my chin as he looked at me flabbergasted "And my pregnancy does not restrict me from rejecting you either" I said as he gaped at me.

I began to walk past him, feeling strangely relaxed. I had made my decision. I had made my choice. I was going to help my people and I was going to get Tiana and the others back, even if I had to go back to pack to do it.

"Riley" Bailey shouted.

I didn't turn my head to look at him. My eyes narrowed as I walked past the men, Damien's eyes on me, and a small smile curved on his lips as he gave me a subtle nod.

"I await your decision King Bailey" my voice was cold as I entered the pack house "You have until the ball to make your decision. I have already made mine" I informed him.

I walked up the stairs feeling a new sense of determination. I had thrown down the gloves, but would Bailey pick up the gauntlet? Was my mate about to betray me in the worst possible way or was he going to surprise me and show just how far he was willing to go in order to keep me by his side, regardless of what it might cost him? Time will tell. I, on the other hand, began to make my own preparations. I didn't intend to go into the ball without considering all the angles and I was certainly not about to be lax in my own security. I placed a hand on my stomach "I'm doing this for us" I whispered to my unborn child "so that you can live in a world without fear and hate."

Convinced

Chapter 87 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Alpha Jaxon POV

I looked at the woman critically, taking her clothing into account, her long hair cascading down her shoulders in gentle waves, her dress clinging to her breasts and then gently molding to her frame before flowing to her ankles. She was pretty, by anyone's standards and would no doubt be dressed appropriately for the night ahead, her body tense and her expression wooden as she glared at me. I raised a brow amused, even as I threw the last bit of her disguise at her, a wig for her to adopt and hide that siren's hair of hers. She caught it in midair and scowled, even as she began to put her hair up and put the wig on to hide her tresses and locks.

"Are you satisfied now?" she grumbled impatiently "I have dressed as you required, surely this is enough" she complained.

I smirked. "Your attitude could use some work."

I adjusted my jacket, smoothing down the small creases and picking lint off the sleeve as I felt anticipation swelling in my veins. Finally, the night I had been waiting for, had finally arrived. It had been a long time coming. I sensed Marigold's antipathy, even from where she stood, her struggle to contain her temper almost amusing. "After this night, what do you intend to do with Riley?" her voice shook slightly.

I was surprised it had taken her this long to ask. Perhaps she hadn't wanted to know the answers, content to pretend that as long as she didn't know the details she didn't have to feel guilty about the role she was about to play in luring Riley away from everybody for me.

"I told you, Riley is to become my mate and my Luna. I made a mistake before, but I'm fixing that now. My wolf desires her, like no other. I will have her back at my side, where she rightfully belongs."

"What if she refuses?" Marigold bit her lip, anxiety written right across her face "Then what? You can't force somebody to love you" she protested faintly.

"The mate bond is still present. I never accepted her rejection and I don't intend to. If I have to, I will kill her mate and she'll be forced to turn back to me as a means of survival. I will do everything in my power to bring her to me, no matter what steps I have to take."

I motioned for her to follow me, my expression nonchalant as I considered the next steps in my vital plan. Marigold was silent as she walked out of the room behind me. We made our way slowly downstairs, onto the grounds away from the pack house, only to be greeted with the sight of Tiana being held by two of my men, squirming in their grasp.

"What is this?" Marigold gasped, turning to face me "Why is Tiana here?" she demanded.

"Did you think I would risk you betraying me once we made it to Riley?" I asked coolly as she gaped at me "Tiana is coming with us, in a separate car, with my men. All it's going to take is one phone call and her fate will be decided by me. You do anything to warn Riley of what's about to happen, or try to escape, Tiana is dead" I said grinning as the blood drained from her face "but not before she's tortured slowly and painfully because of your actions."

"How could you? She's just a little girl, I gave you my word" Marigold breathed "You don't have to do this, let her go."

I studied her callously. "I don't trust you or your kind. Tiana is my leverage and I plan on using her. I have every desire to see Riley again just as I'm sure you will want to see Tiana, in one piece" I emphasized "so it would be beneficial to us both to stick to the plan tonight without making, what I would call" I paused "adjustments."

Silence. Marigold looked frustrated now. Tiana's eyes were wide and beseeching. The man's hands gripped the girl tightly, the little girl whimpering behind their hands as they clapped them over her mouth. Marigold took a deep breath, a look of frustration and resignation on her face. I tried not to grin as I saw how defeated she was. I had her in the palm of my hand, exactly how I

wanted her to be. I wasn't going to be asking too much of her tonight. She just had to do what I said and everything would work out exactly as I envisioned it. But if she tried to move away from the plan...things would not go well for her or the little girl, I concluded grimly, not to mention the other sirens still in the dungeon.

"You have my word" Marigold breathed, her eyes wide as she stared at me "I'll do whatever you want, for her sake."

She nodded at a sobbing Tiana. I gestured to the men. "Take the little girl and get the car ready" I instructed in a dangerous tone "be prepared to move out within a minute's time."

They nodded tightly and began to drag the little girl away as Marigold clenched her hands into fists, helpless to do anything but watch as the little girl was dragged flailing, kicking, and screaming away from the two of us. She closed her eyes and her breathing became shallow and nervous.

"When this is over" she began and I began to chuckle, walking over to the waiting limousine and opening the door as she studied me with nothing but pure hatred and contempt on her face.

"Don't start the threats" I interrupted smugly "You know that you can't follow through on them."

I looked pointedly at the collar around her neck. She touched it absent-mindedly, swallowing hard. It was a stark reminder that she now belonged to me. She was my possession as were all of the other sirens. They belonged to my pack and they were to obey my every whim. Tears shimmered in her eyes. I rolled my eyes and motioned for her to get inside.

"Get in" I snarled.

She walked past me, defiance etched on her face before she sighed and climbed into the car, tucking her ankles together and looking resolutely out the window. I climbed in beside her, settling back against the seat. The driver shut the door behind us.

"You know that in every story, the villain eventually gets their comeuppance" she commented as I raised a brow, observing her silently as she leaned forward to pin her gaze on me "And karma gets them in the end."

"This isn't a fairytale" I barked as she folded her arms across her chest and continued to stare at me, no doubt wishing I was dead or that I would burst into spontaneous combustion from the mere sting of her glare alone "and this villain is getting what he wants. Think of it this way you moronic mermaid" I sneered "If it wasn't for me, you would be dead already, you and your pathetic pack of sirens. Do you think another shifter would have suffered you to live? No, they would have considered you the threat you were and would have made immediate plans to neutralize you and the threat you presented. At least this way you're alive and proving to be useful instead of dead and useless."

She flattened her lips. "The only ones who consider us dangerous are you shifters" she snapped, her tone rising as the limousine began to take off "because you fear us instead of learning about our kind. You fear what you don't understand and you make no attempt to learn about us because you're too stupid to do so. All of your kind" she said with such vehemence that it made me blink in surprise at her "are too stupid to learn about us and what we truly represent. My kind is not violent, nor is it dangerous. But you would rather think that as a way of justifying killing us because otherwise, you would have to feel guilty about almost killing another race into non-existence."

Her voice was passionate, angry, and dripping with resentment. I was impressed by the way she spoke up about her desire to help her people and the sincerity of her words when she spoke about my kind, lumping all of the shifters together. She wasn't afraid to speak her mind, even if it got her punished. It was admirable, even if it was frustrating.

"Curb your tongue woman" I advised her silkily as she shot me a look "because when we get there, I expect you to be quiet and meek until you're able to get to Riley."

She snorted "The mere fact you put it that way is an insult" she snapped "But I guess I have no choice but to do what you ask. You better promise me Tiana will be safe from harm if I do my part" she added, her eyes glacial as they rested on me "because if you harm a hair on that little girl's head, hell will not be enough to stop me coming after you."

I chuckled "So long as you do what I want, the girl will be fine. But I look forward to seeing just what you mean by hell not being enough to prevent you from coming after me one day. I think it will be" I paused and looked at her with a grin "Interesting to see how far you're willing to go for revenge should you ever get the chance to enact it."

My tone was tinged with amusement. As if a siren would ever get the best of me.

We passed the rest of the trip in silence.

Mine

Chapter 88 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Bailey POV

Everywhere I looked, my pack members were busy in preparation for the ball. I instructed Callum and Cody to get themselves ready and looked towards Thomas and Damien who stood

waiting for their own orders. "I want you two inside the marquee at all times. Get dressed and place yourselves close to the exit. I want you to keep a close eye out for my mate."

"Does that mean you've agreed with Riley's ultimatum?" Thomas asked bluntly.

I raised a brow "It means that I support Riley's choices but I hope to be able to speak some sense into her" I growled, while Damien merely looked amused "no more will be talked about on this subject."

I hadn't seen Riley since the incident and I walked towards the bedroom, uncertain what I would find. She was angry, more than ever before. I knew I shouldn't have kept the news about Tiana and the others from her, but I hadn't thought she would take the news as badly as she had. I never thought she would openly declare war on the shifter kind for heaven's sake. That was overdramatic and yet, as I'd stared into her eyes, part of me had realized she meant it. She was prepared to fight for the rights of her kind. It was admirable, but the ball was not the right type of situation to use as a means of gaining support. I thought she would understand that.

You don't know our mate as well as I thought you did. Do you think any time is going to be the right time to bring up the killing of innocent sirens? There is a reason that it's never brought up in social circles. Shifters would rather pretend that it's not happening or be blind to the unfairness of the situation than help resolve what has been a problem for over a hundred years now. Changing their minds is going to be one of the most difficult things that Riley or you will ever face. The ball is the perfect time to start garnering support for your cause and prove to Riley just how much she means to you.

I ignored my Lycan's voice as he chuckled inside my mind. He approved of Riley's methods. Admired her for standing up for what she believed in. I gritted my teeth and knocked on the bedroom door, waiting until I heard her melodious voice through the door.

"Come in."

I pushed the door open, stepped hesitantly inside, and shut the door. Only then did my eyes lower to meet hers and I stopped in shock. For a moment I was speechless. She looked so beautiful, like a princess. Not just any princess, I thought as I took her in, my breathing becoming shallow, but a mermaid princess if such a thing existed. She had dressed not to hide her siren side but rather to show it off. The gown was a shimmery silver color that matched her hair with tones of blue at the bottom, the sleeves off the shoulder, and gathering on her upper arms. It gathered tightly at the breasts and there were pearls on the neckline and undersides of the bodice. Her hair was loose, sweeping over her shoulders, with little ringlets at the bottom, curling slightly just below her bottom.. She wore seashells in her ears as earrings and a tiara consisting of pearls and shells that matched her dress and jewelry. She was a mermaid queen. She wore no shoes but her toes were painted a gorgeous turquoise blue color and she wore a seashell anklet. Her eyes were filled with defiance as she looked at me, daring me to speak out about her outfit or the way she looked.

She looked every inch the siren she was. There was no mistaking it. No hiding it. She was openly declaring who she was and showing off her lineage. I swallowed hard. "You look beautiful" I murmured, unable to take my eyes off of her.

For a moment she observed me, her eyes narrowing. "You don't feel it's too much?" she asked tilting her head and looking at me closely "Or too reminiscent of what I am?"

"Riley," I said sharply, crossing the room and taking hold of her arm as she looked up at me, anger still on her face "I have never been ashamed of you or what you are. I love you" I told her firmly as she glanced up at me beneath fluttering eyelashes "all of you, siren side and all. I just don't want you to get hurt because you're my mate and it's my job to protect you" I finished.

"But I don't need your protection, King Bailey," she said quietly, although something flickered in her eyes and the expression on her face relaxed slightly "My people do. I will not hide behind false niceties and pretend to be anything other than who I am, not even for your sake," she told me, her eyes glittering "and I meant every word that I said. Either you are here to support me in my endeavors" here her voice cracked ever so slightly as I tried not to show my emotions at her ultimatum "or you're here to reject me."

"You're the mother of my unborn child Riley" I snapped, feeling frustrated as she stared at me "Do you think I would simply be able to walk away from that" I argued.

"I told you to make a choice," she said unsteadily, her eyes beseeching me "and I hoped it wouldn't be the wrong one" she whispered, her voice breaking "because I can't tell you how much it's going to hurt to lose you, but I'm prepared to do it if it comes down between you and my kind."

"I choose you damnit Riley" I shouted, losing my composure as she stared at me, the blood draining out of her face "It's always been you. Do I think that perhaps this idea of yours might be foolish and pigheaded, yes" I answered myself as she glared "but it's also admirable, courageous, and the exact thing I expect from a Luna Queen. You're meant to be there for every kind of race, not just the shifters and Lycans. The sirens are just as deserving of the Luna Queen's attention are they not?" I said heatedly "and I recall you mentioning some vampires helping you to escape. This world needs you to be at the helm because you have a conscience that a lot do not. They need you to call them out on the wrongs they are doing, and to finally end this useless fighting between packs and races, that doesn't do anyone any good. Be there for your sirens and your kind" I urged her, staring down with as much love and determination as I could muster while her lips parted in shock "but be there for everyone. Don't discriminate."

Tears welled in her eyes. "I was so afraid that you would make the wrong decision" she breathed, as I pulled her into my arms and lifted her into the air, her hands cupping my face as she looked earnestly into my eyes "and I couldn't bear the thought of losing you" she admitted.

"Sweetheart, as long as you live, I'm yours. For better or worse, we are mates and we are partners. I love you" I told her, as a tear trailed down her cheek "and that means loving every part of you."

I kissed her, feeling the softness of her lips against mine, an earthy moan emitting from her lips as I eagerly delved inside her mouth, my tongue caressing hers, my hands keeping her raised in the air with ease. She felt light as a feather. I had hated this. I hated feeling separated from her and this antagonism between us. I sought to reassure her of my love and my confidence in her, deepening the kiss while my lower region began to have another reaction, causing her eyes to widen slightly as I slowly and reluctantly lowered her to the ground, grinding against her meaningfully.

"Bailey" she giggled, her eyes beginning to sparkle "We don't have time for that," she said, her voice cracking with laughter.

"I can't help it" I growled, even as I began to stride towards the closet and fetch my suit for the evening "You look so stunning it's impossible to resist you" I teased over my shoulder.

"Bailey, what do you think the reaction will be when we go downstairs?" Riley's voice halted me as I stopped in the process of putting my pants on.

I didn't pretend to misunderstand her. She knew better than that. Instead, I looked her right in the eyes and gave the biggest smile I could muster. "Whatever the reaction is, it won't matter. They'll show the appropriate respect or they'll find themselves missing their heads" I told her gruffly "You are the Luna queen and nothing else matters."

She relaxed while I continued to get ready. Soon we would exit the pack house together and enter the marquee, King and Queen, greeting the Alpha and Luna's of the pack and overlooking the mating ball. Tonight would mark the beginning of a new era with Riley the first of her kind to be Luna Queen, but I was certain that she would not be the last.

Declaration

Chapter 89 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

As we exited the pack house, I couldn't help but gaze in awe at the beauty of the grounds, the extraordinary work that the omegas had put into getting everything ready, my bare feet sinking into the luscious earth, feeling the softness of the grass and the richness of the soil beneath it. My eyes twinkled as we moved into the marquee, my arm tucked beneath Bailey's, my breathing shallow but my gaze filled with determination. I sensed everybody's eyes on me as we entered, several mouths parting open in shock, gasps of disbelief, and surprise filling the air. I lifted my

chin proudly, defiance etched on my face, as Bailey began to lead me into the crowd, mouths of the crowd hastily closing as we stood there, refusing to shirk or show any signs of weakness.

"King Bailey, I must protest" one man was daring enough to push to the front of the crowd, his salt and pepper hair an indication of his mature age, although his fit and toned body was more of a younger, virile man, his eyes sweeping over me in contempt. "Clearly this woman, if she can be called that" he spat as others in the crowd began to stiffen at the blatant insult made to me "is not an appropriate mate for you. Sirens do not deserve to be mates with shifters," he said arrogantly "they are good for nothing."

I saw Bailey's mouth open but I held up a hand to forestall him. Here was what I had been waiting for. Somebody with the nerve to speak the truth to my face. I looked the man up and down, even as he glowered at me.

"Mr" I paused and looked to my mate who hesitated.

"Johnathon of Blue Sky Pack" he supplied with a low growl, his hands clenching into fists.

"Mr Johnathon" I repeated, while the other man looked at me with disgust "what is it about my kind that you find so repulsive?" I asked outright, as others in the crowd openly gaped "have my kind hunted you down like you are nothing but a pack of animals? Have we killed your kind despite being unprovoked" my voice was growing louder, more angry "have we murdered and raped until you are almost extinct?" I sneered as he gulped "or has that merely been what your kind has done to my people?"

Silence. Everybody looked nervously at each other. They hadn't been expecting a siren to speak out so openly about their actions. Some of them had the decency to look guilty. Others avoided my gaze. Mr Johnathon however, refused to be cowed.

"Your kind is nothing but dangerous," he said repulsed "you should never have been allowed to exist in the first place. Disgusting creatures, designed to entice men to their deaths...."

He didn't get a chance to finish. I opened my mouth and let loose a loud shriek, so ear-piercing that everybody was forced to put their hands to their ears and stare at me dumbfounded while I aimed my voice at one person and one person only. Mr. Johnathon's nose began to bleed while I kept him still, unable to shift as he remained in my spell, my song growing angry and furious, his eyes beginning to bleed as he made a choking sound. He couldn't breathe. He couldn't move. Suddenly his body flopped forward and I let him go, his body desperately convulsing as he sucked in oxygen, the other people glancing up at me fearfully.

"My kind is nothing but compassionate despite what your kind has done to it" I growled at the man who was looking up at me, wiping his nose with the back of his hand and no longer looking like the arrogant bastard he'd been only minutes before "let this be a lesson to you. I could have killed you easily, but I chose not to. I did not come here to be insulted, or to be threatened" I raised my eyes and looked pointedly at the crowd who shifted awkwardly on their feet "I am

your Luna Queen, like it or not and as of tonight, things will be changing around here. If you are not with me" I gave a small smile "then you against me and my husband."

"King Bailey, surely she doesn't mean that" one male attempted to speak.

My mate faced the crowd, his expression grim. "My Luna Queen is right. I have agreed to help her in her quest to seek the rights for sirens to live in harmony with the other races. If you don't agree with it, leave now and know that you face an uphill battle and possibly war against your lycan king" he said without remorse "Riley is right, this has gone on too long now and it's not justifiable to kill an innocent species and call it preservation when it's nothing more than murder."

More silence. Several glances at each other. Many of the women were looking thoughtful. I could see several rising on tiptoes to whisper to their partners. Bailey took my hand and squeezed it tight. This wasn't how I had wanted the beginning of the mating ball to go, but I wasn't going to pretend that I wasn't pleased about it either. Presenting a united front would go a long way to convincing the shifters and other lycans that we meant business.

"My Queen" A luna approached, along with her mate, curtsying deeply and looking me directly in the eyes "The Alpha and Luna of the Blackstone Pack is at your service," she told me as I looked at her in surprise "I have always been uncomfortable with the practice of seeking out sirens and willingly killing them simply for the threat they may pose. I agree with your sentiments and wish to provide assistance where it may be needed."

She held her hand out to me. I took it, shaking her hand and smiling, before turning to the Alpha and doing the same. It seemed to have a domino effect, with other Alpha and Lunas coming out from the crowd to express their own support and loyalty to their new Luna Queen, with only a few leaving the ball in disgust. Soon, everybody was mingling and talking with each other quite happily, leaving me to glance at Bailey who had relaxed.

"I guess you know how to make an entrance," he said with a sigh as I grinned at him.

"Way to go, sis, that was awesome" crowed Damien, slapping me on the shoulder while the crowd eyed him warily, some of the women with interest.

"Damien, are you here to find your mate?" I teased, turning around with my arm around my mate's waist.

"No way" he was quick to protest "Who needs a mate when there are so many choices beneath this marquee" he added as I narrowed my eyes at him.

"Do not even think it. These females are here to find a mate not have a one-night stand" I warned him in a low tone of voice as he tried to look at me innocently.

"Can I help it if they are attracted to me?" he said ruefully "It's the siren hair, it attracts them for some reason."

"Well, don't" I instructed with a low growl "The last thing we need is an offended woman that you don't offer for."

He groans in disappointment but quickly shuts his mouth when he sees the expression on Bailey's face. "Okay, okay" he laughed, holding his hand up in surrender "I'll be good, but only for you" he teased.

"Any sign of?" Bailey asked and I glanced at him confused while Damien shook his head.

"None sir. Callum and Cody have confirmed. Thomas is situated over there" he pointed "and there is nothing to report. Everything is going as smoothly as you anticipated."

"Who are you expecting?" I asked mystified as he gave me a grin and Damien wandered off "Somebody to ruin the evening?"

He tightened his lips and I suddenly knew the answer. "You think Jaxon is going to be stupid enough to come here tonight" I laughed, shaking my head in amusement "I don't think he would be that stupid, and even if he was" I looked my mate in the eyes, noting how stiff he was and how worried his expression was "haven't we already determined that I am able to look after myself?"

"I'm sure that the other sirens who have gone missing thought the same thing," Bailey said stiffly, wiping the smile off my face "I just want to keep you safe. Why don't we go and dance?" he suggested smoothly and I nodded, allowing him to lead me to the dance floor, his hand gripping mine as we began to sway to the music, his arm around me as I looked up at him, lost in the moment, while the other Alpha's and Luna's began to join us.

He touched my cheek, his eyes darkening momentarily. I sucked in a breath. He looked so solemn, so serious. I could feel butterflies in my stomach. "Life had no meaning for me until I met you," he told me softly as I laid my head on his chest, listening to the sound of his heartbeat and comforted by the sheer strength I could feel as he held me "I never thought I was going to find somebody as amazing as you for my Luna Queen" he whispered, bringing tears to my eyes.

"I never thought I would find somebody as handsome and kind as you for a mate after Jaxon" I whispered lovingly, looking up into his eyes "I thought that I had lost my chance and then you came along."

He smiled, tucking a loose strand of hair behind my ear, "The moon goddess doesn't make mistakes" he said, glancing around the marquee and noting how everybody was mixing with each other, some of the females dancing alongside shifter males and unmated Lycans "and she chose the perfect Luna Queen that we needed. You are a testament to your people" he added.

Suddenly I gazed over his shoulder and then stilled, unable to believe my eyes. For a moment I wavered, feeling as though I had imagined it, for when I looked again, she wasn't there. I blinked, feeling ridiculous, but certain that I had seen her.

"What's wrong?" asked Bailey as I glanced at him.

"Nothing" I lied, looking back in the direction she had last been.

Why would Marigold be here, hiding amongst the guests, and wearing a wig to disguise herself? Had she come for help? Suddenly I knew I needed to find her and demand answers, but first, I needed to find a way to get her alone.

Division

Chapter 90 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

King Bailey POV

The night started off tense, but to my great surprise, most of the Alphas and Lunas willingly accepted Riley, even agreeing with her stance on Sirens and the proposal that they were to no longer be hunted. There were very few that offered any resistance or showed any anger at my choice of a mate and those that did, were quick to disperse or excuse themselves. They were no great loss. As I held my mate in my arms, swaying to the music and watching other couples do the same, some even those who had found their mate tonight at the ball, I could see her smile lighting up her face, even as her gaze continually seemed to shoot around the room.

"Penny for your thoughts?" I teased her and she blinked, bringing her attention back to me.

"Sorry, what?" she mumbled.

I reached over and tugged a loose tendril of hair "you seem to be getting distracted" I chuckled as she raised apologetic eyes at me "is it because I'm such a poor dancer?" I joked.

"Of course not" she denied with a giggle, as I held onto her tightly, breathing in that sweet aromatic scent of hers, enjoying the feel of her flesh beneath my hands, her lithe figure moving to the beat of the music, her belly barely swollen with child "I guess I'm just trying to make sure that our guests are having fun" she admitted sheepishly.

I grinned "Sweetheart, everybody is fine. Hell, even your brother is chatting up some of the unmated females" I growled, spotting Damien out of the corner of my eye as she quickly looked and then giggled "and everybody seems to be having fun."

Damien was in so much trouble when I got hold of him. He was supposed to be keeping an eye out for Alpha Jaxon and keeping a close eye on Riley, even if she was currently by my side at the

moment, not chatting up women. I glared at him but he didn't pay me any particular attention. If Riley wasn't here....the man would have been dead meat by now. As it was I was debating whether to throw something at his head, in order to get his attention. Riley giggled, as though reading my mind and put a hand on my arm.

"He's just having fun," she said loyally.

"He's meant to be helping guard" I grumbled as she continued to smile at me "not having fun. I hope one of those women is a maneater" I added with a smirk "It would serve him right."

She giggled again. I spotted Callum and Cody out of the corner of my eye, waving towards me. Damn. I looked down at Riley regretfully but she had also spotted them and was already beginning to step back from me. My Lycan gave a low groan of disappointment as we broke contact with her.

"Duty calls," Riley said with a sigh.

"Why don't you come with me?" I proposed beginning to turn.

"Actually, I'm beginning to feel a bit nausea," she told me as I looked her over, taking note of how pale her face was and how ashen she looked "I'm going to go to the bathroom and then sit down at a table" she proposed as I nodded at her, concerned.

"Get a guard to go with you" I instructed, and she sighed.

"I'm going to the bathroom" she began and then saw my face.

"Fine, I'll grab a female," she said irritably.

I grinned and then turned, heading out of the marquee and joining Callum and Cody who looked anxious.

"What is it?" my voice was low, my eyes scanning the area for anybody lurking too close, the sounds of the ball still heard from the marquee close by.

Callum cleared his throat "Although Alpha Jaxon has not been spotted, we have every reason to believe that he might be here somewhere" he said.

I frowned. "Why? You said it yourself, Riley rejected the man. Surely if he has some sense of pride, he won't come after her, seeing as she's mates with the Lycan King. Didn't you say he had a mate back at the pack? A chosen one?" I added "Honestly, I can't see this man going to such extremes. Not unless he's become unhinged and if that was the case, then he wouldn't be hiding in the shadows" I said thoughtfully.

"You don't know Jaxon like we do. He's obsessed with Riley" Cody interjected as I turned to stare at him "And he's clever. I think" he paused "I think he might have been the one to take the sirens who are missing."

"What? Why?" I asked bewildered "What purpose could they possibly...." I trailed off.

"Well, like you said, taking over other packs. Jaxon wants to be the strongest. He always has" Callum murmured "The sirens would allow him to overtake packs with ease. But there's something else that's only just occurred to us" he added as I frowned, trying to think everything over "What if he wanted to use the sirens for something else? As a means to get to Riley?" he added.

"You think he would be that desperate?" I asked in disbelief "She dissolved the mate bond between them" I added disgustedly.

The boys shot each other a glance "Actually she didn't" Cody ventured to say as I snarled at him "he never accepted her rejection, not once."

Silence. I rubbed my chin. "But there's no sign of Jaxon in the marquee, he would have been spotted."

"He's not going to be stupid enough to place himself where he can be seen," Callum said wisely "and there's neutral territory not far from here, isn't there?"

My eyes shot to them "Even if there was, how on earth would he be able to get Riley to come to him?" I pointed out smugly "She's hardly going to just walk on out there."

"What if she thought it was someone she knows?" Callum pressed "or she got a message threatening Tiana?" he asked.

"She would do anything to save Tiana," I said "but Damien is keeping an eye on her. She's not going to be able to slip out past him."

"Bailey" came a shout and I looked over my shoulder, to see a frazzled Damien bolting over to me "Riley is missing. I tried to mind-link her and couldn't. You wouldn't answer mine either" he shouted frantically.

I had put up a block while speaking to Callum and Cody. I turned on Damien "What do you mean she's missing" I yelled "She was going to the bathroom with a guard and then going to sit at a table" I grabbed him by the throat and lifted him into the air "Tell the truth, were you distracted by those women?"

I was breathing heavily.

Damien clawed at my hands "No" he gasped "She never came back with the guard" he grunted.

I dropped him and ran. I moved past confused looks, past the marquee, to the girl's bathroom, and without warning, burst through the doors. Blood. I smelled blood. The guard that Riley had brought with her was on the ground bleeding and unconscious. There was no sign of Riley. Callum and Cody were right behind me.

"Head for the neutral territory" I shouted and they took off, shifting and running while I turned to Damien.

"Join Patrol and start searching the grounds" I snarled.

I closed my eyes and mind-linked Thomas.

Riley's missing. Her guard is bleeding and unconscious. Callum and Cody are heading to neutral territory. Damien is searching with the patrol.

I'm on my way. Go. I'll take care of the guard and then join you. If she's gone to neutral territory, she might already be...Thomas's voice was instantly back in my mind.

Gone. I know. I told her not to risk herself damnit. I told her to let us handle this.

Riley's all that matters right now. Forget about your anger, put it all aside, and go searching for your mate Thomas shouted.

I ran, shifting into my lycan form and taking off at breakneck speed. I raised my nose in the air and sniffed for her scent. It was faint, but there. I followed, my Lycan growling in fury. If she was hurt, or worse, I didn't know what my Lycan was capable of doing. As Callum and Cody had predicted her scent led towards neutral territory. I growled, running, my paws thudding heavily along the ground. What had she been thinking? What had possessed her to make such a drastic risk? I reached the territory and halted, finding Callum and Cody's wolves in a small clearing, sniffing but the scent was lost. I shifted, looking closely, and slammed my hand into the ground, hard. Tire tracks. The son of a bitch had put her in a car. Even if I followed her scent, it would be lost in no time. I saw something out of the corner of my eye and passed, kneeling down and picking up a small pink hair clip. It wasn't Rileys. I recognized it instantly and my stomach dropped. While we had all been at the ball, Tiana had been here, against her will. It was the one thing that would have lured my mate to leave without a word. She would have done anything to save that little girl. My face contorted into an expression of rage as I flung back my head and let out a bloodcurdling howl.