

Trapped

Chapter 91 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

I reluctantly took the female guard with me, cautiously keeping an eye out for Marigold, stepping into the bathroom with a sigh that changed quickly as the female guard was promptly hit on the head and fell in front of my eyes, a resolved Marigold stepping from the shadows, her lips twisted. "We don't have much time," she said, her voice filled with urgency "Riley you need to come with me, that is if you want to save Tiana."

"Marigold, what are you doing here?" I breathed, eyeing the fallen guard warily, my eyes rising, "what is this? I thought you had all been taken..." my voice trailed off.

Something was off. Marigold looked frightened. "Tiana?" I said, leaning forward and fixing my eyes on her "what do you mean save Tiana?" I demanded.

"Come," she said, heading out of the bathroom and beginning to run as I followed blindly behind her, my own feet pounding against the ground, feeling anxious as she headed off in the opposite direction to Bailey's territory.

It occurred to me that this might be a trap of some type, but Tiana needed me. That was all I could think about. She and Marigold were in trouble and I wouldn't hesitate to save the little girl. We practically flew and as we stepped out of Bailey's territory, I felt my connection to him, my mind-link fade, even as Marigold paused and several people came out of the shadows, Tiana held in his hands, wriggling frantically, her eyes wide open as she took me in, my own body stiffening. I should have seen this coming. My eyes fixed upon him, while Marigold stood still, nervously wringing her hands together.

"You did well" the man spoke quietly, Marigold ducking her head and avoiding my eyes as I turned to look at her in disbelief.

"Let Tiana go" I breathed, clenching my hands into fists, while several men began to surround me.

I noticed trucks nearby and cars. I gritted my teeth. Bailey was going to be pissed that I took such a dangerous risk. I opened my mouth and he shook his head, clamping his hand around Tiana and causing her to claw at his hands, her lips turning an alarming blue. She couldn't breathe.

"One move and I'll break her neck" he warned chillingly "don't even think of using that voice of yours against me."

"Coward" I spat "needing a hostage in order to get to me. Why don't you face me like a real man" I taunted while Marigold was dragged away, her eyes apologetic as she glanced over her shoulder.

"Put it on her" he spoke to the man closest to me "Reggie and make sure it's tight."

I felt the man move behind me. I looked desperately at Tiana whose eyes were bulging. She was close to losing consciousness. I gritted my teeth. I couldn't let her die. Not even to save myself. My hands were tied. I seethed as I felt the man behind me slip something over my head. A collar of some description. Only mine appeared to be lined with silver, burning the throat as well. I glared, wondering what kind of cheap trick this was. The man looked satisfied.

"Try and use your voice now or shift" he instructed chillingly.

I was glad to see him loosen his grip on Tiana and narrowed my eyes as I watched her desperately breath in much-needed oxygen. What was this man playing at? I opened my mouth, forming a song, and....nothing.

My mouth dropped open. No song burst forth, no haunting music to persuade him to do as I wanted. The silver burned whenever it pressed against my bare flesh. I could not hear my wolf. I could not hear my siren. It was like I was disconnected from both of them. What had he done? I stared at him horrified. He had taken away the only weapons I had to defend myself. As I felt myself beginning to panic, the man gave me a cold smile.

"Fantastic" he purred, handing Tiana over to one of the men who promptly dragged her away "it looks as though it works on you as well. Just as I imagined" he breathed, walking closer to me as I cringed "it's been a long time Riley" he smiled and I shuddered, even as I felt anger course through my veins.

I had never wanted to see this miserable excuse of a person ever again. I had thought he would have the sense to stay away. He reached over and touched my face and I recoiled, swatting angrily at him, causing him to chuckle in amusement.

"Still a bit of fight left in you," he said as I stood there unmoving, debating my best options "that's good, because you're going to need it."

"As if I would do anything for you" I sneered, as he raised a brow unimpressed by my defiance "I don't know what you think you are playing at Jaxon, but my mate will kill you if you lay a hand on me. The Lycan King is bound to be angry at you for what you've done tonight. You're about to learn a valuable lesson in overstepping" I warned as he grinned at me "walk away and leave the sirens behind and you might still live" I told him honestly.

He flung his head back and laughed. "But Riley, haven't you worked it out yet?" he asked as I glared "you're the very reason we are here. You are my mate," he said as I gasped "I never accepted your rejection and I refuse to accept it even now. Having you as my Luna will be handy. You have your uses," he said, his eyes glinting as I felt the hair on the back of my neck begin to stand out "but in order to get you to do anything, we need to leave," he said blithely, nodding to the man behind me.

I turned my head but it was too late. Something sharp pricked me in the arm and I felt myself becoming lightheaded and dizzy. As I swayed on my feet, I felt him scoop me up in his arms, causing me to look up at him dumbly. My body wouldn't cooperate and his eyes rested on my face, a smile curving on his lips.

"Just as beautiful as I remember you" he whispered as he carried me over to a truck and placed me in the back, alongside Marigold who was sobbing and Tiana who was curled up frightened in the corner, closing the door behind him.

I blinked, disoriented, the truck springing to life and roaring as it began to take off in a hurry. Marigold came over, kneeling beside me.

"Bailey" I managed to utter between quivering lips, Marigold reaching to take my hand and squeeze it "Need to tell Bailey" I whispered.

"We can't" Marigold said, angrily taking off the wig she wore and throwing it carelessly to the far corner of the truck as it turned, causing us to roll slightly, "we can't even sing Riley" she told me softly as I struggled to remain conscious "I'm so sorry but he was going to kill Tiana" she sobbed "I didn't have a choice."

I glanced at the little girl, curled up in the corner, her eyes staring off into the far distance. What had she and Marigold already been forced to endure at Alpha Jaxon's hand? I didn't blame Marigold for wanting to save the little girl's life. I couldn't. If I had been in her shoes, I would have done the exact same thing.

"The others" I mumbled.

"In the dungeon. But he's planning on taking us somewhere hidden" Marigold's voice rose in pitch "I don't know what the next part of his plan is but, we're a vital part of it. Riley, what do we do?" she whispered, her voice shaking "if we refuse, he'll kill us, if we do as he says innocent people die in our place" she let the tears trail down her cheeks as my body began to feel cold all over "either way we lose" she said sniffing.

I couldn't speak. Possibilities of what Jaxon might demand of me flitted through my mind. I looked closely at Marigold with my blurred vision and noted she had a collar on, though hers was slightly different. Another glance at Tiana showed she was wearing one too. Was it to prevent them from singing or to stop them being able to hurt Jaxon?

We were going to have to fight our way out of this, but Marigold and the others likely did not have much skills in the way of combat. Sirens relied on their voices during battle, not their bodies. I thought about Bailey. Would he find us? Would he have discovered me missing by now? My eyelids fluttered. The only hope that any of us had now, was escaping as a team, I thought grimly, or Bailey tracking us down and helping to rescue us. But to rely on my mate, could result in our deaths. We had to put a plan together and we had to work as one. I opened my mouth but nothing but a wheeze escaped as my eyes began to close.

"Bailey" I whispered, as darkness began to surround me.

I heard the distant sound of Marigold weeping and then silence as I allowed the blackness to consume me.

Interference

Chapter 92 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Bailey POV

"The elders are here" Thomas's voice was soft as he addressed me, my body tense as I stared out at the window, motionless, my thoughts on Riley.

We had immediately gone to Jaxon's pack, but Riley wasn't there. There was no sign of her and unless we started a war, we couldn't just start grabbing pack members and interrogating them. This situation was serious enough that the elders had been contacted, not by me but by another Alpha who feared what actions might be taken if I didn't find my mate soon. I had already lost control of shifting back from my Lycan form once, there were concerns that it could happen again as my anger and rage increased and my separation from Riley continued.

"Let them in" my voice was wooden.

I heard footsteps behind me. Soft, gentle, and polite as they walked into the room. I turned a ferocious scowl on my face. The last thing I needed was to deal with these people while Riley needed me. Every minute she was gone, I dreaded to think what she might be enduring, what that bastard might be doing to her and the other sirens. This was an interruption I did not need, no matter that they were the elders and as such even more important than I, the Lycan King was.

"King Bailey" one greeted me cautiously, his wizened eyes upon my face, a grim expression on his face "first of let me offer my condolences on the kidnapping of your mate. We, the elders take the forcible removal and taking of another's mate seriously and when the perpetrator is

found they will be punished to the full extent of the law and by yourself as you are the victim in this instance."

I continued to eye them, resenting their presence. Another cleared their throat. "We have been informed that your mate is part siren. Can you confirm if this is true?" he asked.

I gritted my teeth "She is, she is also part shifter and pregnant with my unborn child" I snarled "do you have a problem with any of that?"

The elders shook their heads "on the contrary" the first one said quietly "I admire your courage in attempting to establish relations between the siren race and the shifter race. Long has it been strained and fear the primary result of so many sirens being killed by our hands" his tone was filled with grief.

"You could have ended that," I said accusingly "you could have made a decree to stop it from happening. Made it illegal, why didn't you" my voice was heated.

"It is not in our preview to protect another race," the third elder said stiffly "our concern lies with shifters only."

I wanted to hit him. I clenched my hands into fists, while Thomas's eyes widened in the background as he tried subtly to shake his head at me, recognizing how close I was to losing my composure and doing something that would be unforgivable.

"Calm yourself," the first one said soothingly.

"Calm down" I repeated incredulously "my mate is missing. The Luna Queen has been taken. She could be getting tortured or worse and you want me to calm down" I sneered, moving closer "be thankful that I haven't shifted into my Lycan form" I snapped.

"That is another concern. We know about your inability to shift back to human form before and we are concerned it might happen again. We are here to observe that it doesn't."

"It won't" I snapped in frustration.

A knock on the door had me turning my head so fast I almost gave myself whip lash. Thankful for the interruption, I motioned for Damien to enter. He stepped in hesitantly, eyeing the elders who were staring at him in fascination. He cleared his throat "I was wondering how the search for my sister was going. I've been successful in contacting the packs near Alpha Jaxon's" he said nervously "nobody saw anything approaching his pack that would have been carrying her. They've willingly let me search their packs but there was no sign of Riley there" he added with an upset expression on his face "none of them had reason to lie to me. They all appeared to be loyal to you."

I opened my mouth to answer but one of the elders interrupted first. "Are you the brother of the Luna Queen?" he asked, peering intently at Damien who looked at me nervously.

"I am," Damien said warily.

"Fascinating. Your hair" one elder breathed, reaching out to touch it while Damien stiffened "I believe you have the ability to control the element of water" he added with a thoughtful expression on his face.

"Yes, but I'm not a damn puppet that does things on command" Damien surprised me by responding to them angrily.

I fought back my smile. It appeared Damien was not enamored with the elders either. Contrary to being insulted by Damien's comments one of the elders grinned, chuckling to himself.

"I like your spirit," he said approvingly.

Damien rolled his eyes.

"The search is not going well" I bit out. "Thomas and Cody have failed to find anything. Callum is still out searching but her scent disappeared with the cars. We searched Jaxon's pack and came up with nothing. I have men with eyes on his pack in case he comes back but until we find him, our hands are tied" I growled, running a hand across my forehead "I don't understand where he could have gone. He didn't have time to disappear so quickly" I added, frowning "we were quick to spread out in search of them. He didn't have a huge lead" I added scowling.

"The pack has to know something," Damien said, "we have to question them."

"You are forbidden to question innocent pack members that are not your own" an elder interjected "you know that is not the correct protocol. One of us must go and question them. That is the law," he said.

"So why aren't you there" I demanded, "instead of here bothering me?"

"Mind your tongue" an elder snapped, drawing himself up straight "and show us the proper respect. We have come as a courtesy to you and to prevent all-out war. The taking of the Luna Queen is a serious offense and must be showed that the elders are taking it seriously. We came here first to inform you that we were here and about to start our own investigation."

I bit my lip. Damien looked unimpressed. Thomas was silent. We glanced at one another silently communicating.

"I am elder James, this is elder Michael and this is elder Jacob" James introduced them "now we can continue to argue, or you can allow us to go about our business."

"Do what you have to" my tone was dismissive "I won't stop you. But I warn you now" my eyes flashed a warning "I will not be bringing Alpha Jaxon back alive, not after this. I intend for him to die by my hand and you will not interfere unless you want to die as well. Elder or not, there will be no stopping me."

The elders glanced at each other, but Elder Michael merely nodded tightly, recognizing the truth of my words. He exhaled. "We will go now and see about this pack."

"I wish you luck" my tone was sardonic "because if I discover they are lying about his whereabouts..." my voice dripped with maliciousness.

"I have a feeling they will be more willing to come forward when faced with the seriousness of the situation and the gravity of elders descending upon their pack" Elder James was confident.

I almost snorted. These men were delusional. Still, if they left to go to the pack, it would mean that they would be out of my hair. I glanced at Thomas. "Organize some cars and some escorts for the elders" I instructed softly as he nodded at me "anything they need, or require, ensure they have it."

"Of course Sir," he said turning to the elders "follow me" he added and the elders began to file out, while I watched, letting out a large exhale of relief as they left.

"Are they always that irritating" Damien's voice interrupted.

"I'm afraid so. Damien, can you link with your sister? Is there something more that connects you, with you two being sirens" I almost pleaded with him, grasping at straws.

He shook his head "I've tried. I can't reach her. It's like I'm hitting a brick wall and there's no connection just because we're sirens." \

His tone was defeated. My lycan growled in my mind, its anger barely contained. The longer I spent away from Riley, the more his anger grew. Despite what I had told the elders, I was growing fearful that my Lycan side would take over, his desperation to get to Riley overtaking all logic and rationale. I was about to answer Damien again when the most excruciating pain I had ever felt in my life, shot through my neck, causing me to give a shout as I sank to my knees, clutching at it and screaming out loud.

Against Her Will

Chapter 93 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

"Where are we?" I whispered to Marigold, my eyes on the other sirens who were all separated into cages, my heart lurching as I saw Tiana staring at us from across the room, a defeated expression on her face.

"I don't know, he didn't bring us back to his pack, at least I don't think he did, but we weren't travelling for long," Marigold says uncertainly staring around "and does this look like it's underground to you?"

I nod "that's exactly what it looks like. The whole room or building" I glance at the walls and the floor "is made of concrete. Like some sort of bunker."

"Well, aren't you clever" I flinch as I hear his voice, filled with mocking admiration, my heart seizing as I turn to see him walking in, a look of satisfaction on his face "I wondered how long it was going to take you to wake up" he added coldly as Marigold made a strangled sound and inched backward in fear.

"Where are we?" I demanded.

He laughs "Haven't you worked it out yet Riley?" he purred, coming closer "you're an intelligent woman, I would have thought you would have taken a guess at least. Where do you think you might be? Marigold gave you the biggest clue."

I felt sick. I looked him directly in the eyes and I knew. I knew exactly where we were as I swallowed past a lump in my throat. He was clever. Extremely clever. Nobody would think to look underground or below the surface. He must have had this built years ago, some sort of escape to bunker down and survive an attack.

"We're still in your pack" I whispered and his eyes shone with mirth.

"Exactly" he chuckled as some of his men came in and observed quietly "only this is underground and soundproof. You can scream" he advised me with his lip curled back "but nobody is going to hear you. Unless somebody knows what they are looking for, you won't be found. Only a handful of my men know about this place and they are all underground with me, so even an Alpha tone on my pack members won't divulge this location."

"What do you intend to do? Just hide like a coward" I shot out, unable to hide my frustration "my mate is already out looking for me. Do you think he's going to grant you any mercy when he finds you?" I snorted incredulously "you're a dead man walking and you know it, that's why you're hiding."

He laughed "We're hiding until things die down and then I have every intention of bringing you up to the surface as my Luna," he told me solemnly.

"I am not your Luna. I am already claimed and marked" I growled, unable to believe his idiocy and delusions "by my mate. I rejected you" I snapped "it is not my fault you are so stupid you didn't accept it."

"Oh Riley" he sighed "I don't appreciate your tone of voice with me. That will have to be something we work on" he added ominously.

What? He nodded to his men. Our cage, which resembled a dungeon cell truthfully, was forcibly opened by one of the men as I stepped back. Instead of grabbing me though they pulled Marigold out, kicking and screaming as my eyes widened.

"Let her go" I shouted "she hasn't done anything."

They shoved her into an empty cell and shut the door. Marigold stopped screaming, looking relieved. Jaxon rolled his eyes "So dramatic. I still need her" he said huffing and then moved to the open doorway, a strange glint in his eyes that made me feel a sense of foreboding. Once again I tried to reach my wolf but there was no answer and the siren side of me was lacking as well. As though my voice had been silenced and I guess in affect it had been. I glared at Jaxon, refusing to show I was intimidated as his large frame filled the doorway. I couldn't afford to show any fear in front of him. He would use it to his advantage if I did.

"You're so beautiful" he sighed, raking his gaze over me as I stiffened, licking his lips and eyeing me up and down with a small smile curved upon his lips "your hair has changed" he commented as I remained silent.

He stepped inside and I automatically took a step back. I could feel my heart racing. I glanced towards the open door of the cage and Jaxon chuckled. "I wouldn't advise making a run for it" he said shaking his head "I wouldn't want to hurt you but if you try to escape me, you'll leave me with no other choice" he added.

"Jaxon, what do you want?" I asked softly, my body trembling despite my fake show of bravado.

I wasn't used to this situation. I couldn't shift, I couldn't use my voice. A glance at Marigold and the others showed they felt just as helpless. I clenched my hands into fists, wondering if I could take him on in human form and instinctively knowing I had no chance against an Alpha shifter.

"I want you Riley" Jaxon murmured coming closer "My siren Luna. The other half of me I should never have denied in the first place" he continued in a low tone as I stared at him incredulously.

"You had your chance Jaxon, you chose the other girl, Amber" I reminded him tersely.

"Ah, Amber" he laughed "She's in the dungeon of the pack, paying for her disrespect. Does that please you?" he asked me suddenly.

Did it please me? I felt nothing but sorry for the poor girl. "No, it doesn't" my voice was even "she doesn't deserve that. Nobody does. If you're displeased with her then you should have just let her go and rejected her" my voice wobbled "but you didn't even do that did you?" I asked certain of the answer.

He didn't answer, still studying me intently. I could feel my breathing becoming shallow. He was looking at me too intently for my comfort. He wanted something, something else from me. He moved closer, his hand reaching out to touch my cheek as I shivered.

His fingers trailed down my neck and paused where the mark from Bailey sat, suddenly gripping my neck tightly as I winced in pain.

"You bear that bastard's mark" he spits out as I meet his eyes "but not for long" he added with a low growl.

I try to move, knowing instinctively what's about to happen. I can't allow it. I won't. I bring my arm up but he swiftly dodges it and wraps his hand around my neck squeezing as I cough and begin to gasp for breathe. I can hear Marigold and the others yelling in the background for him to stop, Tiana's voice amongst them. My eyes bulge as my hands desperately claw at him. He smirks at me.

"Don't worry my sweet Riley" he says in a coaxing tone, even as his eyes begin to darken and I see his canines begin to pop out from between his lips "this will only hurt for a moment. I can't stand to see another man's mark on you, not when you should be bearing mine" he breathed.

No. No,no,no, this couldn't be happening. I kick, I flail, I open my mouth to scream but no sounds come out. I watch it happen, almost as though in slow motion. There's a cruel smile on his lips as he pulls my head to the side and exposes my neck to him. I feel tears come to my eyes. His grip is painful. He bends his head, even as I continue to struggle weakly in his grasp. I feel his teeth graze my skin and I stiffen, letting out the smallest cry of protest. Then it happens. His teeth swiftly plunge into my neck, right in the centre of Bailey's mark. Pain shoots through me. The most horrendous pain I have ever felt in my life jolts through me, my neck feeling like it's on fire, his teeth continuing to bear down on me, until I think that he's trying to kill me. It feels as though my life force is slowly ebbing away as heat continues to consume me and the pain increases. I sob, unable to bear it anymore and then just as suddenly he pulls away, his tongue licking away the blood that is trickling down my neck and sealing his mark, Bailey's having disappeared in exchange for his.

"Bastard" I sobbed, touching my neck as he lets go of me, sinking to my knees in despair.

Without Bailey's mark, I'm unable to mind-link with him. Had Jaxon completely severed the bond I had with my mate? What else could be the reason for Bailey's mark disappearing?

Jaxon's eyes are gleaming as he looks down upon me. There is no remorse on his face. On the contrary he is pleased with himself.

"That's better" he growls as I look up at him, clutching my neck "but why does your scent smell different still?" he's perplexed.

He doesn't know I'm pregnant. I tighten my lips. He shakes his head. "Never mind. Soon you and I will be wed and you will become my wife and bear my children" he declared as I fought the

urge to vomit "we will be the strongest pack and you will produce the heirs I need to ensure my lineage carries on."

"You're sick" I whispered as he strode out of the cage and shut the door "I will never do that."

He smirked "You don't have a choice. Without the bond, does your mate even have the desire to rescue you anymore?" he pointed out as I recoiled.

He strode out of the room as I began to cry, Marigold and the others rushing forward, while I stared blankly at the ground. Whatever fight I had still possessed had swiftly gone.

Ties

Chapter 94 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Bailey POV

No. No, no, no. My mind is screaming, my lycan filled with pure rage as I wrestle to keep him under control, the pain coming over me in nauseating waves. I can't speak, I can't move. I am motionless, on the floor, my mouth open as I scream, the sound filling the air. I hear the sounds of footsteps running from behind me, as Damien tries to stand me up with no success. The pain begins to ebb and I inhale sharply, feeling exhausted, unable to stand without Damien's assistance, Thomas and the elder's standing in the doorway, looking grim. For a moment nothing is said. I clutch my neck, the pain still throbbing. I can't believe it. My fury is growing, my lycan is about to tear somebody from limb to limb.

"This is not good"

My eyes flash at the elders "he marked her" My voice rasps "The son of a bitch marked my mate against her will" My rage grows.

I grab the nearby desk and flip it, sending it crashing into the nearby wall as everybody ducks and the elders wince. Thomas looks at me, his own face mirroring the rage mine must be exhibiting.

"You must remain calm" one elder ventured to say as I turned on him "until we can get to the bottom of this..."

He ducked just in time as I sent a chair flying at him. "Get out" I snarled, unable to contain myself, regardless of whether they outranked me or not "Before I kill you all" I spat.

The elders hesitantly looked at each other and then took off, leaving Thomas and Damien behind. Damien approached me gingerly.

"Bailey, you have to know that my sister would never willingly" he began.

"I know she wouldn't" I snarled "She would never betray me like this. That bastard" I clenched my hands into fists, my claws digging into my flesh and drawing blood that trickled down my hands and onto the floor "I can't bear to think what he's doing to her. The elders are useless" I shook my head in disgust "We have to come up with a new plan."

"Let me take them to Jaxon's pack" Thomas spoke evenly as I stiffened, putting his hands up quickly to stall my impending wrath "If only to get them out of your hair. It will give you some time alone to think" he added hastily as I paused, Damien quickly nodding in agreement.

"Get them out of here" I grunted, "keep them out of my sight, god help me, I'm close to killing them, Thomas."

He nodded "I'll leave immediately, I'm sorry King Bailey" he paused looking at my neck, my mark now having a line through it "I promise you that we will find Riley" he added.

He left, shutting the door back behind him. I let out a roar, the windows shaking violently. I wanted Riley. I wanted my mate. Every second that passed was unbearable. My lycan was bloodthirsty. So intent on my anger, my desire for violence, and images of killing Alpha Jaxon entering my mind, that I forgot for a moment that Damien was still present in the room, until he spoke, startling me out of my thoughts.

"I have an idea," he said as I turned to him, still breathing shallowly, blood still trickling down my hands, ignoring the pain, welcoming the distraction of it "It might seem stupid" he hesitated.

I didn't care. I would welcome any idea, as dumb as it might seem if it would bring Riley back to me. I glared at him, daring him to continue speaking. Willing him to.

"I've been thinking," Damien said slowly, as I listened intently "and there is no way that Jaxon had a big enough headstart to get somewhere quick enough that we didn't see him or locate him. I have this feeling, I don't know, quite how to describe it" he sighed and shook his head "it, never mind. It doesn't matter" he muttered looking away.

"If you think you know something speak up" I growled.

He hesitated "It's stupid" he admitted in a low voice "But I think she's at Jaxon's pack."

I exhaled in disappointment "We've already been to the pack, there's no sign of her" I snapped, "unless she's hiding in plain sight there's no way she's there" I was dismissive.

"But that's the thing" Damien wasn't about to give up "What if she is hiding in plain sight?" he pressed as I half turned "What if she is there and we just can't see it? Is there a way of getting the blueprints to Alpha Jaxon's pack, the outline of his buildings and placements of his house, etc?"

"Are you thinking of a secret room?" I asked slowly, beginning to get excited that he may be right after all "Like a panic room that's hidden away?"

"Maybe" he mumbled "I don't know, it seems stupid but I have this instinct, this strong desire that she's exactly where we think she is. It's almost like my mind is screaming at me that she's there. He has to be there as well" he added as I narrowed my eyes.

"We didn't smell his scent," I said quietly "but it would have faded by the time we reached his pack. If he has a room or some sort of building hidden away, the entrance might not even be at the pack but somewhere in the forest" I added, considering the possibility. "It would explain why the pack seems to have no notion of where he is. He would have had it built for his own safety and he would only share it with a select few. So even using an Alpha tone on his people, or having elders question them would prove useless."

"He doesn't strike me as the trusting type," Damien said a little sarcastically "but he is clever, and don't most Alpha's have some sort of exit strategy in case they are attacked? Some sort of way to ensure their survival?"

"Not all. Most of us believe in fighting to the death but the more cowardly ones would put something like that into place" I murmured, glancing at Damien with approval on my face "to ensure that their bloodline would continue. Or that their heirs would be safe."

Damien was beginning to surprise me with how smart and intuitive he was. The idea of Jaxon hiding in his own pack away from prying eyes hadn't occurred to me and now that I thought about it, it made a lot of sense.

"You would have to request the blueprints from his architecture firm. Get an elder to make the request" I told him urgently, motioning towards the door "They won't refuse an elder. Hurry" I pushed him towards the door and he took off running. My hand reached up to trace the mark on my neck, feeling the line that crossed through the middle, nausea sweeping through me. My mark had been tainted. Riley's mark had been tainted. I felt revulsion sweep over me, along with anger and rage. I needed Riley to hold on a little longer. Long enough for me to find her. Whatever that monster was doing to her, I was going to revisit him ten fold. He was going to get everything that was coming for him. I didn't care what the elders decreed or what they thought might be a suitable punishment. For once I was going to go with what I thought should be done. It was too dangerous to allow this man to live. He was behind everything, the sirens, the kidnapping of Riley. Why should he be allowed to live, when he had killed so many?

No, Alpha Jaxon would have to die, for the good of everyone. I slowly withdrew my claws back until they formed fingernails again, forcing my breathing to get back under control. I could feel myself beginning to calm, even as I glanced around at the devastation I had wrought inside the study. What did I care about the damage to walls and furniture right now? That could be replaced

while my mate could not be. Riley meant everything to me. She and our unborn child. I was afraid that Alpha Jaxon might have learned of her pregnancy by now and I hoped that he hadn't. If he was as obsessed with Riley as we all thought he might be, there was no telling what he might do if he found out she was pregnant with my unborn child. I had no doubts he would want to dispose of my child, get rid of any reminder that Riley had another mate and my lycan was terrified of what he would force Riley to endure in his blatant attempt to have her for himself. Now that he had messed with the mate bond, would Riley still feel anything for us? Would she still know that there was nothing that was going to prevent me from searching for her? No matter what, I loved her, and I was willing to die for her. So long as she and our child could be rescued safely, I could be content with that.

Death

Chapter 95 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

My mark from Bailey has a line through it now and his mark, his disgusting stain is on me now. The pain is gone, but the reminder of what he's done to me, to what he's done to my mate bond with Bailey remains. I touch my neck absently, trying to give Tiana a reassuring smile as she sobs in her cage opposite. There's no sign of Jaxon, something I am grateful for, although part of me wonders where he is and what he's doing. Something tells me he's not about to stop with just marking me and my stomach churns at what other indecency he might attempt, my hand subtly caressing my stomach as I attempt over and over again to reach my wolf without success and the siren part of me and hear nothing but silence in return.

"These cursed collars," Marigold said, screwing her face up "With them on we can't do anything to defend ourselves" Her eyes met mine "he cut off one of my people's tongues" she whispered, tears shimmering in her eyes "it was awful Riley. He's a monster. I had no choice, I had to..." she trailed off looking guilt-stricken.

"You did what you had to," I said hoarsely, as Tiana stopped crying and merely sat there watching us "Tiana was in danger. She had to be saved. I don't blame you, Marigold. I don't blame any of you. I just wish I could get this blasted collar off" I scowled, the silver still burning me slightly.

"Good luck," Marigold said bitterly "I've been trying ever since he put one on me and no luck. I think they are spelled to stay on the wearer. We're all at his mercy, nothing more than slaves. I suppose we should be grateful that he hasn't wanted us in well you know" she blushed.

"No, just me," I said dully "if I don't get out of here. He's already marked me, he won't hesitate to do the other thing."

Marigold looked at me sympathetically. Suddenly there were footsteps rushing into the bunker and Jaxon was shoving his way inside, his jaw clenched. He was furious. "You" he hissed, pointing at me "Come here."

I wanted to refuse, but a quick glance showed his men were standing ready at the cages, awaiting instructions. To refuse could be potentially putting Tiana in danger. I moved closer to the door as Jaxon impatiently opened it, reaching in and grabbing me painfully by the hair as he dragged me out. I yelped in pain as he dragged me in front of him. Glancing around I saw that the other sirens had been freed and were being held in the same position, their eyes wide with fear.

"I don't know how he found out about the bunker but it doesn't matter" Jaxon snarled as my eyes widened and I dared to feel a flickering of hope spark within my breast.

Could he be referring to Bailey? Had Bailey found me?

Jaxon motioned for the others to go first. I opened my mouth and then closed it as Marigold subtly shook her head.

"Get ready to use your voices" Jaxon boomed as they filed past, the men brutally holding their hair tight in their fists and pushing them in front "It looks as though we have some enemies to take care of."

It had to be Bailey. No wonder Jaxon looked so unhinged. He had thought he was invincible down here in the bunker. He thought he had planned for everything and suddenly Bailey had ruined it. I felt the tiniest smile curve on my lips. I hoped that Jaxon's downfall would be his own arrogance. I itched to take him down myself but there was no way I could with this collar around my neck. But should I happen to somehow get it off...

"Your bastard mate is here but don't get all misty-eyed on me love" he growled into my ear as I stiffened "The mate bond has been disrupted by my marking and King Bailey will not be leaving this pack with you."

"If the mate bond was as disrupted as you claim it is, then my mate would not have come for me at all" I said evenly, causing Jaxon's eyes to flash with anger "I might not be able to mind-link with my mate but he still wants me. Coming here today proves it" I sneered.

Rage shimmered in Jaxon's eyes. His eyes darkened slightly as his wolf began to lurk near the surface. It seemed his wolf continually took over or came close to these days. Almost like Jaxon wasn't in charge of his wolf form as much as he'd like to believe he was.

"It won't matter" Jaxon growled, repeating himself as he began to push me towards the exit, "because all of the sirens are about to take care of Bailey and his men. He's not immune to Marigold and the others, remember" he reminded me and my heart sank.

Of course, Bailey wasn't immune to their song. Only mine because we were mates. I felt myself beginning to panic as we walked down a long tunnel, Jaxon tightening his grip on my hair, causing tears to come to my eyes.

"I can't wait to see the look on your face when I kill him in front of you" he whispered, dragging me along "The defeat, the brokenness. Your tears will taste like sweet nectar" he promised as I glared at him, kicking out and trying to strike him as he laughed at my pathetic efforts.

"Without your powers you are nothing" he chortled "Just an average girl who is weaker than the average shifter. It must be so degrading not being able to save yourself" he mocked as I tightened my lips "and so frustrating to be under my thumb my sweet little Luna" he whispered into my ear.

"I am not yours" I growled, my voice dripping with contempt. "I will never fully be yours Jaxon. You can tell yourself because you've marked me against my will, because you have me chained up with this collar, that I am going to submit to you, but the truth is" I hissed as I continued to be shoved, daylight appearing in front of my eyes as we walked steadily upwards "the truth is I will never submit to you. I will never admit to being your Luna. I will never accept you as my Alpha or as my mate. Not as long as I have breath in my body" I told him scathingly as we walked out into the sunlight, my eyes blinking to adjust to the brightness.

We had come out in the forest. Jaxon looked amused by my vehemence. Instead of growing angry, he merely chuckled and shook his head at me. "Brave words Riley," he said hauntingly "but in the end they are merely words. You will not only submit to me, but you will become mine, body and soul. Bailey will never cross your mind after today" he gave me a wicked grin "because he'll be dead."

I wanted to scream at him as he continued pushing and shoving me. His hands were not gentle but hurried. I stumbled along, his hand never letting go. As we drew closer to the grounds I stiffened, hearing the sound of the other sirens, their voices rising in harmony, the sound haunting and eerie. Even Tiana was being forced to sing. My knees buckled. I felt dread rise inside of me. The seductive sounds of the sirens, particularly that many would be impossible to ignore or to fight against. Jaxon noticed my expression and gave a grin of triumph. "It looks like they have everything under control" he grunted.

No. I couldn't let it end like this. I couldn't let Jaxon win. But what was I going to do against so many sirens? I could not drown out their voices. I could not make them stop. As we stepped onto the ground, I saw them all, standing in a line, regret in their eyes as their mouths opened, their song continuing across the grounds with its haunting melody.

I saw him. I let out a small sob as I was pushed next to the other sirens, Jaxon standing next to me, a pleased look on his face. Bailey and his men were in a trance. Their eyes were distant, their expressions slack. I saw older men, wearing robes, trailing behind slowly. Bailey had brought lots of men, but they too were affected, staggering and stumbling slowly towards us, their eyes locked on the sirens who sang to them, convincing them to walk and to leave all of their fighting spirit behind. If we had been near a lake, Jaxon would have had them all drowned, I thought

shivering as I stood up, Jaxon nodding to some of his men, two of them moving to hold my arms behind my back.

"Bailey" I screamed, my voice cutting across the grounds "Bailey wake up. Please wake up" I screamed, trying to fight myself free as he drew closer.

Jaxon looked at me with a chilling smile. "I think it's time for Bailey to die don't you?" he asked smugly.

He pulled out a dagger and approached my mate as I tried once more to get Bailey's attention. In horror, I watched as he stabbed my mate, the King, in the stomach, Bailey's eyes were confused as he dropped to the ground, blood pooling around his stomach. Silver, Jaxon had used silver on him. He left the knife inside Bailey and looked over at me. My mouth opened and I let out a bloodcurdling scream and then everything went black.

Sacrifice

Chapter 96 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

"Bailey" I screamed and then it felt like I was plummeting down, inside my own body, everything going black, unable to see or hear what was going on around me.

What was happening? Had I died? The sound of soft laughter echoed inside my mind.

You aren't dead yet. You are simply, taking a moment it said quietly.

I don't have a moment, Bailey is dying right in front of me. Take me back, now I yelled in frustration, whirling around and around, feeling puzzled as to how I could move about in my own mind as it were.

Patience. If you were to be sent back now, to regain consciousness of yourself you would be of no use to anyone the voice said bluntly least of all to yourself. You would die it stated matter of factly and the future of the sirens, of your kind, would die along with it.

What are you suggesting I do? I was growing desperate. Every minute spent here was a minute that Bailey bled to death in front of me. I suggest you do what you need to in order to save everyone the voice was blunt.

There is nothing I can do I yelled enraged the collar prevents me from being able to use my voice except for that bastard Jaxon. I cannot shift into my wolf, the silver prevents it.

You're making excuses Riley. The collar is an obstacle, to be sure, but it's one that can be overcome. You just have to believe in yourself a bit more.

It's impossible. If the collar could be overcome, Marigold and the others would have managed to do it themselves by now I retorted angrily.

Marigold and the others are not you. They do not possess the same amount of spirit, the same amount of skill that you do. You are part shifter part Siren. You are used to abuse, to feeling like things will never get better. You have faced your fair share of demons and come out the other side.

This is different. This is...

Far more serious than you would like to admit? It's okay to be afraid Riley the voice was gentle, and kind, but when fear gets in the way of you improving, then it's a problem.

I can't do this by myself. Marigold, Tiana, the others....

Free them the voice whispered as I stilled in shock free them all. Stand up for your people, for your kind. Become the leader and the Queen you've always claimed you wanted to be. Save the man who is your mate, your beloved, and free everybody from this bastard's treachery.

How? How do I do it? How do I save everybody? What do I have to do I begged.

The voice was quiet. It requires sacrifice it said and I stilled.

Sacrifice. Hadn't I sacrificed enough? What more was I going to have to endure, to give up all in the name of freedom?

What are you willing to give up, in order to save everyone, including your mate?

My hand crept towards my stomach, touching it lightly, caressing it. A rueful smile appeared on my lips. My child, Bailey's child. I had wanted to save it, but now I realized what the voice was meaning. What sacrifice it was pushing for. I could feel tears pricking the corners of my eyes. How could I sacrifice one life for another? How could I willingly give up the life of my unborn child? Could I be that selfish? Some would call it selfless but that wasn't me.

Your child cannot live to be a tribrid the voice whispered into my mind as I closed my eyes and felt a tear trickle down my cheek it will not survive the transition it added.

You want me to sacrifice my life and that of my unborn child my voice was quiet.

Is that a sacrifice you are willing to make, in order to save countless other lives the voice spoke?

What choice did I have? What path was there open to me? Fury coursed through my veins as I clenched my hands into fists, despising the choice I would have to make and knowing there was no other way, that I couldn't let Bailey, Tiana, or Marigold die. Not when I could help them. When I could keep my race alive.

"I'm sorry Bailey" I whispered regretfully, "I wish we had more time together."

But the King needed to live, to lead his people and mine. He would look after the sirens, give them a home, and build on the legacy I started. He would do everything in his power to honor the sacrifice I made. He would never forgive me for this, but I would rather die than have him die in front of me.

Have you made your choice Riley? Have you decided what sacrifice you are willing to make? Are you ready to unleash your full power and free those currently being oppressed?

Yes, my tone was resolute I have made my decision my voice was barely above a whisper and I pray that he forgives me one day.

Then it's time. Let your anger come. All of it. Rage, fury, anguish, despair. Pain. Let it overwhelm you, take hold of your body, and continue to climb.

An image of Bailey's body, covered in blood appeared in front of me, causing me to grit my teeth as emotions began to sweep over me. I felt everything the voice was describing but more intensely than I had ever felt any emotion before. It felt like my heart was being torn open from my chest and tears trailed down my cheeks, dripping down, my head flung back as I embraced it all, forcing myself to continue to take it in when all I wanted was to turn away from it.

Keep going. Feel the heat of your body as it begins to burn from within. Hatred, contempt, disgust, betrayal. All emotions to strengthen and build on. Let the heat consume you it told me as I felt heat begin to take over. At first, it was merely an inkling, a small niggling uncomfortable feeling, but quickly the heat grew stronger and more intense, spreading through every limb in my body as I kept my head flung back, my mouth open in a silent scream. It felt like I was on fire, even as emotions tore through me, my mind growing dark and darker. My eyes began to gleam, pure silver, with a fiery tinge of orange behind them.

Not long now. Get ready. You can't possibly continue to hold onto these emotions and the pain without finding a way to direct them loose. Your body is a vessel, about to give way to the power you've been hiding inside of yourself this entire time. You were chosen to be Luna Queen for a reason, a representative of your people Riley. You might have had your doubts, you might have wondered why, but now you find out for certain. Open your mouth it urged as my mouth began to spread open even wider, my hands twitching, light appearing in front of my eyes and giving way to the voice inside of you. Let everything out and don't stop."

A scream. Earth-Earth-shattering, ear-piercing scream erupts from my mouth, my head flinging back, my eyes shooting wide open as I stare at my mate lying prone on the ground and see the blood pooling around him. I'm blazing with heat, the men dropping my hands, my voice

shrieking to the heavens. I sound like a banshee from the ancient past. my hand reaching up automatically to touch my collar, which breaks into a thousand tiny shards just as my finger reaches it. The men have their hands on their ears now, Bailey's men slowly coming to themselves. The other sirens have stopped, staring at me in awe, and I continue to scream, the other siren's collars dissolving into tiny shards, one by one, until none of them are left. My scream slowly fades into the distance and then stops. I feel power coursing through me. I feel my wolf returning, stronger than ever. I feel powerful. I feel strong.

Jaxon has moved away by now, his eyes darting between me and the other sirens. His men step between us and him, even as Bailey's men begin to move. Fighting commences. I see Jaxon make a dash for the woods with a terrified expression on his face. I leave him, rushing to Bailey, my hand going to his wound as he stares up at me, barely clinging to life.

I place my hand on his wound and sing a song of healing, love, light, and laughter, my voice rising into the heavens as though an angel was singing on high. For a moment I fear nothing is going to happen but then the wound begins to knit slowly together, Bailey's eyes fluttering open as he gazes at me with a soft smile.

"I heard an angel singing and I had to wake up" he murmured, sitting upright, before he grabbed me and kissed me lovingly on the lips "I have been worried sick about you" he breathed before letting go with great reluctance and turning to stare at the fighting happening around us.

"Where is he?" his voice was dark.

"He went into the forest" I pointed "but Bailey be careful, he's losing control of his wolf" I blurted out.

"Trust me that's the least of his worries" Bailey growled, "stay here and find somewhere safe" he added anxiously "because I can't stand to lose you now that I've found you again."

I watched him go, a lump in my throat. Once this was all said and done, my life would be over. It was bittersweet to see my mate up and alive again, knowing soon I would have to embrace death and descend back into darkness.

Foiled

Chapter 97 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Bailey POV

I felt reenergized. Riley's song had healed me and sounded like a chorus of angels singing from the heavens. She looked different. Her hair was a glimmering silver but her eyes, her eyes had a tinge of orange in them. I had never seen that before. Nor had I heard anything like that scream she had produced out of nowhere. It was almost as though she had come into new powers she hadn't had before. Strange. I shook my head as I continued running into the forest, chasing the scent of the man who was behind all of this, desperate for vengeance and to finally kill him. The elders were busy dealing with the fighting back on the grounds and would not reach me in time to stop me.

I shifted. My Lycan pawed at the ground, snorting. Jaxon's scent reeked of desperation and fear. As soon as he'd realized the sirens were no longer held captive by those collars, he'd fled like the true coward he was. I raced along the ground, my paws thudding on the dirt, jumping over debris and fallen trees, determined to catch up with his wolf, knowing he couldn't have managed to get very far ahead of me. I skidded to a stop as I entered a clearing and saw a wolf, with bright red eyes staring back at me. Riley's words came back unbidden to my mind "I think he's losing control of his wolf."

Jaxon's wolf was feral. Out of control. There would be no reasoning for it. It lowered its head and began to head directly towards me as I leaped out of the way, his growl filled with fury as he turned and I dodged his attack again, managing to claw him across the stomach as he howled, his eyes beginning to flash with rage.

I guess even Jaxon was vulnerable to losing his whole identity to his wolf form.

I jumped and swiped at the same time, gouging his side and causing him to turn his head and glare at me as he dug his paws into the ground and turned, eyeing me with beady, angry eyes.

A feral wolf will continue to fight until there's nothing left and still will go until it's very last breath I thought, jumping over him as he tried to rush me.

I grabbed him by the tail and swung him into the nearest tree, wincing as I heard the cracking noises produced by the tree and heard the thud of Jaxon's wolf hitting the ground. That had to have hurt.

Another rush towards me, another sideswipe at his side as he howled. His fur was matted with blood, tinged with red and his eyes were dark and filled with hatred. It was a miracle he was still standing.

Feral wolves don't feel pain like we do. It doesn't register as much. Their determination to kill, their bloodlust, overpowers anything else.

I kicked out, sending him sprawling across the ground. As he got back up, I could see that he had been injured, limping slightly on one leg.

He's injured, badly and it's still not going to slow him down. Unless his desire for self-preservation kicks in, he's going to keep going until one of us is dead. Fine by me I thought maliciously.

This bastard had kidnapped my mate and forced his mark on her after all. I wasn't going to be crying tears at his funeral. Everything that was happening to him was some form of karmic justice. I gave a low growl, side-eying him as he carefully placed his injured leg down. As he jumped, I rolled beneath, swiping my claws along his stomach and rolling out, the wolf landing painfully on his stomach and yelping.

His reaction times are growing slower. His reflexes aren't as sharp. For an Alpha wolf, I would have found this fight to be quiet pitiful. He looks severely weakened now. His guts are practically hanging out. If he gets to his feet, I'll have no choice but to continue hurting him. If he stays down, I can break his neck and be done with it. Either way, he dies.

There was blood pooling around him. I let out an exhale, watching to see what he did. Jaxon's wolf attempted to get up but then slid back down on its stomach, growling the entire time. He couldn't stand. He was too badly injured. I began to stalk over to him, my head bowed down, anticipation flooding through me. The bastard was about to pay for everything he had done, all the pain he had caused for me and Riley. I was going to snap his neck and leave him for the wild creatures in the forest to feast on. I gave a crooked grin, drawing closer, only to stiffen as I heard the sounds of the elders.

"Stop, that's an order."

My head swiveled. The elders approached, standing in front of me, denying me the chance to take my justice. "King Bailey, you will stand down and that's an order."

I growled, stamping my paws. Did they not understand the gravity of the situation? Were they trying to protect that bastard? I snarled and they narrowed their eyes. I was forced to shift back.

"How dare you protect him" I snarled, as the elders ducked their heads "given what he has done, the crimes he has committed" I began furiously, as several sirens including Riley walked into the clearing as well, several nodding in agreement.

"We are aware of his crimes," an elder said heatedly and turned to gesture to Jaxon's wolf which lay there weakly snarling and clamping its jaws open and shut "but it's our job, as the elders to determine the punishment for his crimes."

"He's feral" I yelled, "since when do we protect a feral wolf?" I demanded, just as Thomas and Damien came into the clearing, Thomas rushing to pull me back when I would have gone forward and decked one of the elders in the face.

"I'm given to understand that your mate is able to recover shifters from their feral forms and return them back to their human state" an elder said quietly.

I stared at them incredulously "You want Riley to fix him? After what he did" I tightened my hands into fists "have you no sense of decency. My mate is not yours to command" I hissed.

"Bailey" Riley's voice was soft as she placed a gentle hand on me "I understand your anger and your hesitation. But it would be wrong to leave him to die without at least putting him on trial for his crimes."

"Riley" I protested and then looked at her defeated. "It's up to you. Your compassion astounds me sometimes" I told her as she nodded, glancing at the wolf on the ground and then lifting her face, her mouth opening into a song, one that was haunting and beautiful at the same time, coaxing Jaxon to return to his human form, bringing forth his humanity that had been lost.

The rest of us remained silent, watching. Riley looked confident, her song growing louder. The wolf on the ground began to convulse, its bones cracking and adjusting, until Jaxon lay there, gasping, naked, in pain, and injured.

"It will be a miracle if he lives until your trial," I said snidely to the elders who looked at Jaxon alarmed.

"Perhaps you could heal him" one dared to venture to Riley.

Her lips flattened "I agreed to bring back his human side, but do not insult me by asking me to heal my kidnapper" she said venomously, causing the elders to fall silent.

I clutched her hand, smiling nervously at her. She eyed me "you are hurt," she said, looking at the numerous scrapes and scratches on my body.

"It is nothing," I told her, drawing her in close and breathing in her wonderful scent "being here with you right now, is the only healing that I need."

Damien reached over and patted Riley on the shoulder "Great work sis. You're like a kick-ass siren queen now" he teased her.

Riley's eyes were shimmering with tears. I assumed she was overwrought with emotion from everything that had happened. She gave Damien a tender smile. "I love you brother," she said softly.

Damien looked surprised "I love you too sis," he said chuckling "but why are you talking like that? You should be happy" he added as we turned and saw Jaxon being carefully hauled away on a stretcher under the elder's careful watch "you saved everybody's asses, literally. The sirens are safe"

"Yeah" chirped a voice from beside us and I saw Riley smile at Tiana as she rushed forward to hug her "thank you Riley. You were awesome" she added, "like a superhero" she finished making all of us chuckle at her.

Riley yawned. "Tired love?" I asked, as she leaned into me, closing her eyes for a moment.

"A little" she murmured "I just want to go home" she added in a whisper "and spend some time with you."

Why did those words sound so foreboding to me? I struggled to shake off my unease as I picked up my mate and cradled her against my chest.

"Let's go home" I told her solemnly "Where you belong."

Another Chance

Chapter 98 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

We made it home. I could feel my energy fading. Every minute I spent with Bailey was a blessing. A moment I could treasure, his arm wrapped around me, the sirens following behind. Jaxon's pack had been overtaken, the elders organizing it to be disbanded and broken up, pack members to be sent to various packs, some coming to Bailey and mine, the rest going to random ones. The sirens would remain with us for now, however. Tiana was in Marigold's arms sleeping soundly as we reached the pack house. We split up, leaving Thomas and Damien to see to our new guests, heading up to our bedroom, taking turns to wash up and get into clean clothing before collapsing on the bed together.

My hand crept down to my stomach, tears pricking my eyes as I fought them back. My child was gone, but I would soon join them. I wished I had the courage to tell Bailey that soon he would be alone again, but I didn't have the heart to. I was selfishly wanting to relish every moment I had with him. I didn't want to remember him crying or upset. I wanted to remember him as he was right now, feeling his arm over me his eyes narrowed as he raked his gaze over me, his eyes darkening slightly as he saw the line through my mark and I saw his.

"We'll have to fix that" he breathed, looking resolved.

"Another time" I smiled sadly.

There would be no other time. I kissed him on the lips, expressing how I felt about him, my hand losing itself in his hair, my body pressing against him. He gave a low growl as he reciprocated, his hand smoothing over my hip, his tongue plundering my mouth as I gave a low moan, before

we pulled away, both of us staring deeply into each other's eyes. I wanted to memorize every little detail about him that I could before it became too late.

"I thought I had lost you" he whispered, stroking my cheek and wiping a lone tear from my eye "thank god I managed to get you back. I don't think I could live without you."

A sob escapes me. Pain shoots through my heart. I want to scream in anguish, in devastation. It isn't fair, I want to yell, but I remain silent. I had made the deal. I had made the sacrifice and I did not get to try and take it back. Life did not work that way. So instead I force a smile on my face and smooth back his hair, feeling the soft silken strands between my fingers, looking into his eyes, seeing the small flecks of brown mixed with shades of green, and whisper "I love you."

"I love you too" he whispers, kissing me on the forehead as I close my eyes "my Luna Siren Queen" he adds, snuggling up against me as I lay there weak and tired.

One last time. I was going to experience him holding me one last time, his arms wrapping themselves around me, his body pressing up against me, the feel of his heartbeat against my back. I can feel him relaxing against me. I can feel his bare chest against the thin fabric of my white nightgown. The soft breeze comes through the window, caressing my skin. I hear the sound of Bailey's breathing change and become more even, his soft snores filling the room, and only then do tears fill my eyes. It's time. I know that now. I close my eyes, picturing my mate in my mind, his face, his hair, his body and then, there is nothing but darkness as I leave the love of my life behind. I feel nothing but regret and then...

I'm in a meadow, filled with colorful flowers, swaying in the gentle breeze, a full moon shining overhead, the moonlight shining down upon me. I feel a gentle breeze brush against my skin, my nightgown billowing around my legs. It's surreal. Magical. Contrary to what I expected there is no pain. Only beauty surrounds me. Is this what death is meant to feel like? I turn around and see nothing but stars in the sky and flowers in the grass for miles in every direction. I can feel the soft earth beneath my feet, and smell the grass and the perfume of the flowers. It's unnerving. Surreal.

"It is not yet your time, although your sacrifice was truly selfless child" a voice speaks from behind me, startling me out of my thoughts and causing me to turn slowly and face the stranger.

She is glorious. Her silver hair shimmers beneath the moonlight, her complexion is white and fairly glowing, and her blue eyes are like large crystal pools. Her dress reminds me of the greek goddesses, gathered at one shoulder and then flowing down to her ankles and I hear soft bells coming from the anklet around her ankle. Her feet are bare and she wears a serene smile on her face. I instantly bow my head to her, recognizing she is somebody important, although I can tell instantly that she is not a siren, she is powerful nonetheless. She radiates with it.

"I am not a siren" she laughs, her voice like musical bells "but I am somewhat powerful yes Riley," she said with amusement.

How did she know my name?

"I know all of my children's names" she answered as though reading my mind as I tried not to gape at her "but why don't we get to the reason I am here child? I can feel your pain and it hurts me," she said gravely.

"I'm dead," I said, my voice filled with sadness "this is but a place in between?" my voice is uncertain.

"Foolish child. You are neither dead nor alive right now" her voice is dismissive "but that can be changed. I am impressed at your selfless act" she continued, eyeing me carefully "you were willing to give your life, and that of your child to save the man you love and the other sirens."

"I would do it again," I told her, "although it grieves me that my child had to suffer and be sacrificed as well."

"Not a lot of people would make such a sacrifice, no matter the price. You are one of a kind Riley, unique in every way. What you did, saved countless lives. But you're still needed" she said with twinkling eyes "sirens need their Siren queen and the Lycan King needs his Luna Queen."

"But I agreed to the sacrifice" I blurted out "how am I meant to go back on my word?"

"You're not," she said with laughter "I am restoring you back to your mate."

"What about" I hesitated "my..." I could not bring myself to ask.

"Your child?" she asked knowingly "the siren was right when it told you that it could not live should it become a tribrid, but" she waved her hand and I frowned putting a hand on my belly "I think I might have rectified that problem and created the solution. The moon goddess is just as clever as a siren you know" she said smugly.

"Moon goddess" I whispered in disbelief "that means you are..."

"Selene," she said quietly, narrowing her eyes "and I've been watching you ever since you were born, siren or no, you are still part of my children. I am proud of you Riley," she said "for overcoming the pain of your childhood and forging the path you've chosen. I'm sorry your father abused you, sometimes my children are not as loving in nature as I am, much as there are bad seeds in humans, but you've achieved far more for yourself than I could have ever dreamed of."

"Is it over? Is everything finished?" I dared to ask.

Her eyes were filled with sorrow. "Oh child, I wish I could reassure you, I wish I could simply lie and tell you that it was. But your life will be filled with challenges, with sacrifices and with obstacles that you will need to overcome. However, with your mate by your side, you will face everything head-on and succeed, so long as you work as the team that you are. I wish you luck in everything" she told me and moved forward placing a hand on my stomach "your wolf is reawakening and it's time that you too, wake up. I give you but these words of advice. Do not trust so blindly. Question everything and above all, believe in yourself."

I opened my my mouth to continue speaking, but it felt like I was shoved and then it felt like I was falling, down, down, down an incredible distance, gasping as I suddenly jolted awake, my eyes opening wide, as my mate continued to slumber peacefully beside me.

"I'm not dead" I whisper, feeling stunned and still in disbelief, feeling my body quickly and then looking down at my stomach "and neither is my child."

Tears trailed down my cheeks. Bailey continued to sleep, as I slowly laid back down, snuggling against him. What did the moon goddess mean bu not trusting so blindly? That I needed to question everything and to believe in myself? I could feel a terrible sense of foreboding as I closed my eyes. The moon goddess did not give advice for the sake of it. I was going to have to work out the cryptic message behind her words and soon. I fell asleep, questions hovering on my lips.

Reclaimed

Chapter 99 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Bailey POV

Waking up to my mate was surreal. My arms clasped her tightly, my nose sniffing her scent. Her eyes were wide as she looked over at me and I sniffed again, her scent almost different but I was unable to discern why. Was it because of that bastard Jaxon and his marking of her? Was that messing with her smell? I gave a low growl, burying my head into her neck as she sighed beneath me, content to let me lie next to her and making no move to get away from me.

"It feels like I'm in a dream right now" she whispers.

"If this is a dream then I'm right there with you" I tell her, kissing the nape of her neck and trying to ignore the line across my make.

But it's staring me right through the face, along with the mark of Jaxon on there. Riley's hand reaches up slowly to trace them both.

"I hate that his mark is on me. I want it gone" she says fiercely.

"If you want it gone, then I have to mark you again" I told her "my Lyncan blood will immediately overpower his mark and my mark will return back to normal" I sounded more certain than I was.

"Really?" Riley breathed, looking at me trustingly.

"Yes. You never wanted his mark in the first place, you shouldn't be forced to bear it. Let me mark you again" I coaxed, staring hungrily at her neck.

It felt wrong for that line to be crossed through the mark. I wanted to fix it. I wanted my mark to be fully visible again and my claim on her. His mark would need to go. I wanted no reminders of him on Riley and I knew Riley wanted that too.

"Do it Bailey please" she begged, wrapping her arms around my neck and wriggling beneath me slightly as I chuckled.

"What if it hurts?" I murmured, nibbling on her earlobe and causing her to inhale sharply "I don't want to hurt you."

"It's worth it" she tells me fiercely, causing me to look at her "trust me. I would rather endure the pain than have this bastard's claim on me. Please" she urges, her eyes wide and unblinking as they rest on my face, "I want you to."

I can't deny her. I don't want to deny her. A low growl erupts from my lips. I sniff her neck, my mouth watering. My lycan is feeling possessive, wants to bite down hard and take what's his, but I hold him back, my canines slowly descending from my mouth. I rest my eyes on my mark, on the bite marks where I intend to bite down again. Through it all, Riley remains calm, waiting for the inevitable, her hands tightening around me, encouraging me. She looks sexier than ever. I close my eyes, forcing myself to remain composed and ignoring my Lycan's demands, and then ever so gently, tenderly, bite down into her neck back in the same location as before.

She tastes like heaven. Sweet and like honey. I bite down harder and hear her give a small cry of pain, before I reluctantly pull back, licking the blood away and sealing the wound. My eyes watch intently. As I had suspected, the line disappears from my mark and my mark is darker than ever, while Jaxon's fades from her neck completely. I am more than satisfied. Riley traces my mark, a dazed expression on her face.

"Jaxon's mark is gone, like it should be" I tell her smugly.

She smiles. It's like the room has lit up. My hand strokes her hair but Riley suddenly moves position and kneels over me.

"Your mark has a line too" she tells me fiercely "let's fix that."

I watch feeling delighted as she bites down onto my shoulder and then licks the wound, her eyes darkening ever so slightly. She smiles, flopping back onto the bed. "Much better" she purrs.

I trace the mark, feeling the line disappear. "Much" I sigh "my mark has been put back to its original state."

She smiles drowsily. "I don't want to ever get up" she laughs and I grin, my hand going to her hip, slowly inching up her nightgown as she sucks in a breath.

"Who said we have to get up" I breathe in her ear, sliding the nightgown up and over her, throwing it to the ground, my eyes feasting on her luscious body as I hook my fingers under her panties and use my claws to shred them, leaving her body naked and exposed to me.

I stand up and remove my clothes, coming back to her as she puts her hands on my arms. It's been so long since I've been intimate with her, that I'm struggling to control my desire. When she wraps her legs around my waist, I almost lose control right then and there, forcing myself to slowly push inside of her, feeling her wet juices as I thrust inside. She's already dripping wet and waiting for me. She arches her back, humming under her breath, forcing me in deeper, her hands clutching at my back, her nails lightly clawing me, making me groan in pleasure.

"You're tight" I pant, forcing the rest of me inside her as her eyes widen and she clutches me harder.

"Oh god Bailey" she whimpers as I clench my jaw and force myself to remain still so that she can have time to adjust to the feeling of me inside her.

"Move" she begs and I oblige, sliding out and then sliding back into her slick, wet, pussy, her walls tightly clenching down with every thrust inside of her.

It's heaven and a mixture of hell combined. I move, slowly, watching as her lips part and her head moves back, her body beginning to rock back and forth in tandem with me. She felt so good. I kept myself raised above her, adjusting the angle and watched as she tensed, a grin appearing on my face as I paced it a little faster.

"Oh, oh, god" she gasped, her back arching, her toes curling.

I reached down and lightly fingered her clit, causing her to scream as she shattered, her orgasm tearing through her. I was ruthless, pounding away inside of her, prolonging the orgasm as she shrieked and whimpered, feeling the tightness of her pussy and clenching my jaw in determination.

I began to pound into her, her nails clawing at me, digging into me, gouging me, only adding to the pleasure I was feeling. Her breasts bounced beneath me, one of my hands reaching down to touch and massage one, causing a strangled sound to come from her throat. She was so damn responsive, like every man's wet dream. My eyes never left her face. Even as she writhed beneath me, even as she pleaded, begged and mewled for me, I refused to look away, wanting to etch every detail into my mind and memory.

"I can't take much more" she sobbed "please Bailey."

She came again, her body instinctively grinding against me as she orgasmed. I could feel her pussy convulsing around my cock and it sent me over the edge. It was too good to be able to hold

back. I stiffened, thrusting into her hard one last time and then came, panting heavily. She flopped onto the bed and I carefully slid out of her, and rolled over to my side, wrapping my arm around her and cuddling her against me.

"Oh my god" she breathed, turning to look at me "that was..."

"Amazing, beautiful, sexy, heaven" I supplied as she laughed "all of the above?" I suggested wickedly as she swatted at me.

"I guess so" she laughed "but should we be lazing about in bed right now instead of checking on our guests?" she added.

I opened my mouth to answer when there was a knock on the door that had us both scrambling to put the bedcovers over ourselves, Riley blushing profusely. It was adorable how cute she looked when her face went flushed.

"Um, who is it?" Riley called out in a shaky voice.

It was still quite early in the morning. I glanced out the window and raised a brow. Thomas and the other boys would have mind-linked me if it was something important so I suspected it was not one of them. Particularly since it was none of their scents on the other side of the door. Although the scent was familiar and I gave a grin, recognizing who it belonged to, resignedly getting out of bed and putting on some sweatpants as Riley watched me with hungry eyes.

"Oh good you're awake" A voice squealed, causing me to wince slightly and Riley's eyes to widen "I wanted to come and see you" it continued enthusiastically as I fought back my laughter "but Marigold told me you probably weren't awake yet. Can I come in Riley?" Tiana's voice continued from the door, relentlessly and I chuckled, Riley hastily scrambling from the bed to put her nightgown on before the little girl could barge into the room.

I kissed Riley on the cheek and sauntered towards the bathroom as she began to open the bedroom door. "Good morning Tiana" she stammered "you're up early."

"Hmmm" the little girl murmured "why are your panties on the floor?" she pointed.

I shut the door and laughed as Riley struggled for words.

Stunned

Chapter 100 - The Beastly Alpha's Mute Omega

Riley POV

I stared at the group of elders, unable to believe what I was hearing. They had called a meeting in Bailey's office and while we had anticipated they had things to discuss, neither of us had thought they would bring something like this to the conversation.

"I'm sorry, I think I must have misheard you," I said quietly, glaring at them "Did you just ask that Alpha Jaxon remain in the dungeon for now awaiting a trial by you?"

Surely they did not have the nerve to ask us to keep him. I could already feel my anger rising. My eyes flickered a tinge of orange behind my big silver ones, causing them to look uneasily at each other. Elder Michael spoke, his voice attempting to soothe us.

"Listen this is unprecedented. You brought a feral wolf back from the brink of madness. Alpha Jaxon has done unspeakable things, but this is not something we have faced before."

"He deserves to die" I protested "he kidnapped me, he forcibly marked me, he killed innocent sirens and..."

"Allegedly killed sirens" Elder Michael interrupted, causing me to look at him in fury "We only have their words for it that he killed and maimed them. We can't in good conscience simply accept their word as truth."

"Are you serious right now?" my voice was rising as Bailey took my hand, squeezing it in warning "Are you calling the sirens liars?"

The elders glanced at each other. "That is not our intention but Sirens are not innocent in all of this either. Your kind are dangerous" one elder had the nerve to say as I gritted my teeth.

"Dangerous because they've been hunted this entire time by shifters" I shot back, rising to my feet and glowering at the men "Sirens are no more dangerous than vampires or other creatures. You insult me" I spat out, "trying to justify Alpha Jaxon's actions."

Bailey's eyes were narrowed. "I tend to agree with Riley on this one. What he did was inexcusable."

"He has paid for it. His pack has been disbanded and split up" one elder said fixing his eyes on it "We aren't justifying it, but we have to be cautious. Our priority is preserving the harmony between species, in particular shifters."

Shifters. Once again it came back to the shifters looking out for themselves. I could feel myself growing irritated. I slammed my hand on the desk, shocking everyone when it broke in two, Bailey raising a brow, the only one unfazed by my anger.

"Let me get this through your thick skulls" I declared, putting my hands on my hips "since it seems you've failed to get the memo. Sirens are now under my protection. I will not have you

slander them. I will not let you hunt them. I will not let you hurt them," I growled "Elders or not, I will prevent you from laying a hand on them."

"That's almost like declaring war on the elders" one sniffed.

"If that's what it comes to" I snarled, losing patience as they gaped at me "My kind have suffered enough at your kind's hands. You have done nothing but vilify us. You certainly didn't step in to help us. Now you want to stand here and debate whether we are dangerous or not? One more word" I threatened, water beginning to swirl around me like a tornado "One more damn word and I swear to god I'll send you flying through the nearest window, elder or not."

"Control your woman King Bailey" Elder James snapped.

"Watch your tongue" I snarled, sending water flying at him and watching his eyes widen as he ducked just in time to avoid being hit by a large spray.

"As it stands, some of us aren't convinced that Alpha Jaxon has done anything wrong" Elder Michael burst out "It's not uncommon for shifters to take over packs in a show of dominance. It could be argued that he was merely following his instincts and proving his strength was greater than the other packs."

"What about the murders, the kidnappings?" Bailey's voice was steady as he studied the elders.

"That does come into discussion. We don't have laws pertaining to sirens" Elder Michael said, looking at me warily "so it's difficult to determine what his punishment should be. We also" he hesitated and looked at the other elders who were avoiding his gaze now "Well the thing is..."

"Spit it out" I snarled.

"We wish to study and do research on sirens" he uttered as I stared at him incredulously "Perhaps determine if there is a certain gene responsible for the powers you possess. If we could find a way to silence their voices..."

"You want to maim us?" I accused, my body shaking violently "You want to take what is ours and destroy it!"

I let out a roar, and water began to whirl around me even faster. "Monsters" I shouted, losing my composure as Bailey struggled to reach my side, "Disgusting, despicable, monsters" I screamed at the top of my lungs "Get out" I screamed, as the elders backed away, their faces white "Get out now before I kill you all" I roared.

They rushed to leave, the door slamming shut hastily behind them. I let out a sob, the water whirling around me beginning to slow its flow and then dissolve until it was gone. I put my head in my hands, feeling sickened. What was wrong with these people? We weren't some animals in a zoo to be studied. We are human beings with feelings. We were more than just what they perceived us to be. Even now, they saw nothing but the danger they thought we represented. I

was so filled with anger, that my body was shaking violently, Bailey wrapping his arms around me.

"It's okay, you're okay" he murmured "Calm yourself love. They're gone. I doubt they'll step back in the office anytime soon" he added with a rakish grin.

I was not placated. "Why" my voice was barely above a whisper "Why do they hate us so much? Why do they treat us like we are nothing but the filth on the bottom of their shoe? What will it take for them to take us seriously?"

"They are simply out of touch. They don't often travel to packs and none of them have met a siren in person before. You are challenging their beliefs which isn't easy for them. The elders are set in their ways" Bailey murmured "Traditional. Give it time Riley. They just need to learn more about you and the others and discover you aren't as dangerous as they believe."

"They want to hurt us Bailey" I argued, leaning back and staring into his face "If they land a hand on any of us, I won't hesitate" I warned him "Perhaps you should discuss that with them. They are on our territory and our guests, but that can change in an instant" I added gravely.

"I have a feeling this is just the beginning. The elders are cautious. Jaxon is under guard but I don't like the fact he is here and still alive. It makes me nervous" Bailey admitted "I thought they would take care of him as soon as we arrived but they appear to be hesitant. Usually a trial would be commenced immediately. Unless" he paused, a thoughtful expression on his face "unless they are waiting for more elders to arrive which is possible. Perhaps the seriousness or gravity of the situation requires there to be more than just a handful of them present."

"Maybe," I said tightly "but I want Jaxon gone Bailey. I don't want him anywhere near me and I don't want to have to deal with him for much longer."

My hand crept towards my stomach, Bailey's eyes dipping to look. A thoughtful expression came over his face. "Riley" he hesitated and then took a deep breath, "I think you should go and get checked out. I've been meaning to say something but didn't quite know how to put it. I think, your scent has changed. It's only faint but it's definitely different to how it was before" he told me solemnly "and I don't know whether it's to do with you and your powers or the child that you are carrying" he finished grimly.

I was surprised he hadn't mentioned this before. I sniffed but wasn't able to determine anything different. Then again, it's not as though I paid that much attention to my own scent. Bailey still smelt the same to me, I thought shrugging. But my mate looked concerned and that was enough for me. It wouldn't hurt to get the baby checked up on and ensure that there was nothing wrong while I was at the hospital and it would give me something to do while also being away from those interfering, creepy, elders who seemed to do nothing but bring out the worst in me.

"Sure," I said to Bailey, watching as his eyes widened in relief "Let's go get me checked over. I want to make sure our baby is okay" I explained as he nodded tightly.

"Me too," he said, putting his arm around me "Our little prince or princess deserves the very best medical care" he winked and I giggled as he led me out of the pack house, distracted from my anger and able to focus on something else for a change.

Something far more positive than the damn elders who only incited my fury and rage.