

Chapter 321 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Lila's POV

Another sleepless night had passed as I lay awake in the dark and cold cell. I kept my hand on my stomach, protectively. I had twins in my belly, and I needed to do what I could to protect them.

I wasn't going to go down without a fight.

It wasn't just my life and the life of my pups at stake now, it was also Sarah's life. Her father was planning on turning her into a Volana wolf, using me as a sacrifice to make that happen. But what he doesn't know is that she will be forfeiting her free will over to Jazzy.

Sarah is going to become a vessel for Jazzy to use.

An alternate weapon.

I didn't have long before this ritual took place. It was tonight, the night of the red full moon. I didn't know what was going to happen during this ritual, but I feared the worst.

Val was still within me, and she'd been speaking to me, trying to keep me calm, even though she was powerless. But I was just glad to have her with me.

"Our mate will come..." she continues to whisper. "He will save us."

"He needs to find us first," I murmured in return.

"Our mate will always find us," she replied.

I heard the nearby doors opening and footsteps approaching. I sat up, keeping myself against the furthest corner of the cell, not wanting to be seen, but also knowing that it was unavoidable.

Jazzy came into view with a couple of unfamiliar rogues by her side. There was also a man standing beside Jazzy who didn't give me a rogue vibe; he also didn't give me a witch vibe.

He had a much darker aura and a chill coursed through my body as I looked into his dark eyes.

A smirk appeared on his thin lips as he assessed me. He stepped closer to the cell door.

“Well, isn’t she a beauty,” he breathed, staring around my body like I was a piece of meat, and he was ravenous.

“You haven’t seen anything yet,” Jazzy said, stepping beside him. She glared at me, and her expression darkened. “Shift,” she ordered me.

My heart fell into my stomach; I wasn’t going to give them what they wanted.

“No…” I said, keeping my eyes locked on hers.

She didn’t like that answer because her aura only darkened.

“I said, shift,” she repeated, this time in a much lower and more threatening tone.

“I’m getting a bad feeling…” Val murmured. “Let’s just shift.”

“We aren’t going to give in to their demands,” I told her in return.

Jazzy clenched her fists when I didn’t do what she wanted, and I saw electrical bolts bouncing around her fingertips.

“She’s going to electrocute us!” Val gasped. “Our pups!!”

Jazzy reached her hand out to touch the metal bar; she was going to turn this entire cage into a microwave if I didn’t shift.

I quickly stood up and allowed Val to take full control, shifting into my wolf form. Jazzy smiled and dropped her hands, allowing the electricity to cease.

“Wow!” The man beside her breathed.

The rogues took an unsteady step away.

“I gave her a drug, so she has no abilities, but she still has her wolf,” she explained, pleased.

“She can’t escape from this cage. She isn’t strong enough. Come tonight… we will have a new vessel and the most powerful weapon to ever exist.”

“We should get started on the dark curse,” the man said, glancing at her. “We won’t have long before they come for her.”

Jazzy nodded, agreeing, before turning her back on me and walking away. The rogues followed her, but the man stayed a little longer. He stared at me for a long while, assessing every detail of my wolf with an expression I found difficult to read.

“You’re quite lovely,” he breathed. “It’s a shame you won’t live past tonight.”

With those chilling words left in the air, he turned and followed the others out of the room.

I staggered backward, shifting back into my human form, and falling against the wall. Without my abilities, shifting took a lot out of me.

I was exhausted and I felt disgusted and used.

Tears filled my eyes as I slid to the ground, pressing my knees to my chest, and burying my face in my lap.

As silence fell around me, I allowed myself to cry.

.....

Enzos POV

“We are wasting time. We need to be searching for our mate,” Max groaned as we made our way to my mother’s village.

I agreed with him, but I also agreed that we needed to think rationally. We were a step closer to finding Lila. If we kept our heads clear, we would be able to be in the same area as her when this war breaks out.

Bastien had gone back to Higala to collect the others, leaving Xander, Selene, and me to head to my mother’s village.

I recognized the hazy shield that surrounded the village as soon as we approached. It was a shield that only I and those with Volana blood could see. Nobody else was allowed within this shield, except those who were invited by Hazel, the one who placed the shield.

“I will be back,” Selene said to us as she stepped through the shield and disappeared before our eyes.

I was unphased, Xander looked amazed by this.

We stood there, waiting for Selene to return with Hazel. She had to permit Xander to enter the barrier. Standing beside him felt awkward to me because this was a guy, I had spent a lot of time torturing.

It felt unnatural that he was on our side now, but I was grateful that he wasn’t working against us and that he really was looking out for Lila’s best interest. I never could have imagined that he was from the Ero’s pack.

When I told Lila that Xander was sent by Alpha Drake, she was going to lose her mind.

The thought of Lila made my stomach tighten. I was so worried about her. I just hoped she knew that I was coming and that I wasn't going to let anything happen to her.

Max raised his head in agreement with my inner thoughts.

We were coming for our mate even if it meant our death.

Not before long, Selene was returning with Hazel by her side. Hazel looked a little nervous to be outside her barrier, but her smile widened when she saw me.

"Hello, Enzo," she said, nodding her head at me. But then her eyes flashed to Xander, and she frowned.

"Hazel, this is our friend, Xander," I explained. "He's on our side and helping us find Lila. Would you be able to let him into the village?"

She thought about it for a moment with her brows creased as she took in his body.

"Your tattoo..." she breathed.

He tensed at the mention of his tattoo and seeing this she nodded quickly.

We couldn't speak about this outside of the barrier or darkness could hear it. Xander was trying desperately to keep his pack secret, not wanting to put their lives in jeopardy.

I couldn't blame him for that. "You may enter," she said, motioning with her hand for him to step into the shield.

We walked through the shield and entered my mother's village.

"We are safe from darkness in here. I would know if it were to enter," Hazel said as we walked down the pathway and toward the village center. "From your tattoo, you are from the Ero's pack."

"Yes, I am," Xander confirmed.

"You must know my dear friend, Eloise."

Xander froze.

"You know Eloise?" He asked, furrowing his brows together.

She glanced at him, giving him a small smile.

"I do," she answered. "She has been a friend of mine for a long time. One of the greatest prophets I know."

“She is the reason I am here,” Xander informed her. “She had a vision about this future of this world.”

“And she saw darkness?” Hazel asked.

Xander nodded.

“She saw a dark curse being placed on this world, making everybody powerless. She also saw the downfall of the nation.”

“Hazel, she saw a Lila dying,” I told her, continuing Xander’s story. “A vessel is born after Lila’s death.”

Hazel froze and her eyes grew large.

“The strongest Volana in the world will either be the uprising or the downfall of the nation,” Hazel breathed, reciting the first part of the prophet.

“That’s what Eloise said as well,” Xander said, shaking his head.

“You’re saying that if this vessel is created, it will be the strongest Volana, born from darkness?” Hazel asked as she continued to walk toward the village center.

“Yes,” Xander answered. “If Lila dies, this vessel will be born. She cannot die.”

“Where is Lila now?” Hazel asked, glancing between me and Selene.

We hadn’t had a chance to update her on anything since Lila was taken.

“That’s actually why we are here, Hazel,” Selene said gently. “We think Jazzy might have something to do with this and as of right now, Lila was taken...”

Hazel gasped, stopping in her tracks.

“Enzo?” I heard my name being called from across the street. I looked over and saw my mother rushing toward me. “Enzo, what’s wrong?”

“Mom,” I said, allowing her to throw herself into my arms and hug me tightly. “Lila is missing.”

“What?!” She asked, stepping away from me and looking at the rest of us. “What do you mean she’s missing?”

“We think Jazzy has something to do with it,” Selene explained again.

“Let’s go to my home,” Hazel said, motioning for the small house with purple trim and matching purple window shutters, in the distance. “We can talk there.”

We nodded and together we went to Hazels' house. Sitting around her kitchen table, Hazel made us each a cup of tea before joining us at the table.

We spent time catching my mother up on the prophet and why Xander was sent to Lila.

“So, that leaves us to now,” Selene said, glancing at Hazel. “Is there a way we can find out where Jazzy is?”

Hazel thought about it for a moment and then she stood to her feet.

“I’m a lot like my sister in many ways,” she said thoughtfully. “We are both very strong witches. We are also connected by blood. We share the same blood, and that blood will always be connected.”

“So, you think with your blood, you’ll be able to find her?” Selene asked.

“That’s exactly what I think,” Hazel said with a head nod. “There’s a tracking spell that I could use. I’ll just need a couple drops of my blood, and I should be able to find exactly where Jazzy is.”

“And if we find Jazzy...” Xander began.

“Then we find Lila,” I finished.

Chapter 322 Val's Plan

Chapter 322 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Enzos POV

Hazel walked across her small kitchen and rummaged through her cabinet until she found a wooden bowl. She returned to the table and placed it in the center before going to the other side of her kitchen and rummaging through some drawers until she uncovered a bag of coffee grinds.

She grabbed a knife from another drawer and sat it down on the table before taking her seat.

She opened the coffee and sprinkled some inside the bowl. Then she grabbed a knife and held the palm of her hand over the bowl.

Before she was able to slide a gash in her flesh, there was a pounding on her door, averting our attention.

“I’ll see who it is,” Selene said as she stood to her feet.

She went to the door and opened it; a small girl, maybe in her late 20s, ran into the house, breathless and panicked.

“Hazel! She gasped.

Hazel narrowed her eyes at the girl.

“What is it, Monica?” Hazel asked.

“There’s something outside It’s in the distance! I don’t know what it is.” the girl, Monica stammered.

I stood to my feet quickly and went outside with Selene. We both froze at the same time when we saw what Monica had seen in the far distance.

In the sky was a giant dark cloud; or maybe it was smoke. It looked as if it was coming toward us.

No; it was definitely coming toward us.

“It’s coming quickly, Selene breathed.

“It’s the dark curse,” Xander, who I hadn’t noticed was directly behind us. “It’s going to make everyone powerless.”

“I don’t think my shield is going to be enough to keep it away,” Hazel said, peering outside as well.

She took a deep breath and glanced at Monica who was shivering in the corner.

“Tell everyone to get inside their homes,” she ordered before looking at me. “We need to hurry and do this spell before I’m powerless.”

We went back inside quickly and gathered around her kitchen table.

Xander stood at the doorway, keeping watch of the dark curse with a grave look on his face.

“We have less than a minute,” he announced. “Do the spell quickly!”

Hazel began to speak the spell in her Latin tongue; as she spoke, a gust of wind whooshed around her house, lifting our hair up and around our faces. The table began to shake wildly as she clutched the bowl firmly in her hands.

As the lights began flickering, Xander began to count down from 15. That was how much time we had before the dark curse officially hit us.

Hazel spoke the last of her words and held her palm open above the wooden bowl which had the coffee grinds inside of it. She grabbed the knife as Xander reached 5 seconds.

With one quick motion, she swiped the blade across her flesh and blood pooled into the bowl. To my surprise, fire burst from the wooden bowl, heating up the entire room.

As Xander ended the countdown, he ran into the house, slamming and locking the door in place, as if that would keep darkness away.

“It’s here!” He announced as the entire house began to tremble and shake like there was an earthquake.

The fire began to simmer just as darkness clouded the windows and began to leak into the house.

Everything soon went completely dark.

....

Lila’s POV

“What are we supposed to do? Sit here and babysit?” One of the rogue guards asked as he made himself comfortable outside my cage.

“You heard the boss; we have to make sure nothing happens to her,” the other mumbled. “We are a few hours away from the ritual and she doesn’t want anything to happen.”

My heart was racing against my chest as I listened to these rogues speak about me like I wasn’t even there. I took a deep breath trying to steady myself, but to no prevail.

“What’s the plan for this ritual anyway?” One of the rogues asked, making conversation with the other.

“I think they are planning on draining this Volana of all her blood and having that other girl consume it,” the other rogue said, shrugging. “Something like that.”

“What is the point of creating another Volana?” The other one muttered. “Doesn’t that defeat the purpose?”

“Something about creating an ultimate weapon.” My stomach clenched upon hearing their words. I touched my stomach gently, knowing I had pups inside of me and if I didn’t do something quickly, they weren’t going to live to see the world.

I couldn’t let that happen.

“Did you even see the girl they are planning on turning into a Volana?” One of the rogues asked. “She looks like she’s about to die at any moment. She’s way too weak to be any kind of weapon.”

“Probably why she’s in the infirmary upstairs.”

I scrambled to my feet; Sarah was only upstairs in the infirmary?

There’s no way Sarah would go through with this if she knew what was happening. I had to get to her somehow.

I swallowed the lump in my throat and tried to think of the best way to get to the infirmary.

“I might have an idea... but it’s risky,” Val whispered, uncertainty clear in her tone. She had been quiet for most of the day until this point, so hearing her voice startled me.

“What is it?” I asked quickly. “I’ll do it. I trust you, Val.”

She was quiet for a moment, trying to figure out how to say it. I could feel her unease, and it made me feel uneasy as well.

“Val...” I urged. “Talk to me. What is it?”

“Okay, so bear with me on this plan...” she said softly. “I was left with a little bit of strength and energy. It’s the only way I’m able to fully shift and be here with you.”

“Okay?” I said, impatiently.

“We have to get to the infirmary, and I don’t think they will let us go unless something is seriously wrong.”

“Get to the point, please, Val...”

She was quiet for another moment before continuing.

“There is one way we can quickly be sure they take us to the infirmary,” she continued. “They have wolfsbane here... which means they probably have Starlight as well.”

My entire heart fell deep into my stomach.

“Val, I’m highly allergic to Starlight,” I reminded her. “I could die.”

“If they get you to the infirmary fast enough, they will save you,” she told me. “It would take a while for the Starlight to actually kill you.”

“I’m pregnant,” I said, shaking my head. “I’m not risking the lives of our pups.”

“I can protect them,” she said quickly. “I can keep the Starlight from affecting them. That little bit of energy I have left, I can use to protect them. But it might put me in hibernation afterward. However, I’ll do it if means keeping them safe.”

“It’s too risky...” I said in return, still shaking my head. “I can’t—”

“We need to get to the infirmary, Lila,” she said, cutting off my words. “If we don’t, they will kill us, and that Vessel will be born. This is bigger than just us. The entire world is in jeopardy.”

“But our pups—”

“Will be fine,” she assured me. “As long as I channel all the energy, I have left into protecting them, no harm will come to them.”

I stared up at the rogue guards who were still engrossed in their conversation and had their backs turned toward me, not realizing I was having a conversation of my own.

“This might be our only way of getting out of this cell,” Val said slowly. “We have to trust that the doctor here can save us...”

My heart thudded violently, aching in my chest. Fear and worry bubbled in the pit of my stomach.

Taking a deep breath, I nodded. I didn’t know any other plan and Val seemed so sure she could keep our pups safe.

I had to try. I had to trust her.

Without another word to my wolf, I stepped toward the cell door and toward the guards. I slammed my fist against metal bars and yelled as loudly as I could.

“Let me out of here, you assholes, before I kill every one of you!!” I growled fiercely.

They both looked startled, but it was obvious they were trying hard not to show it.

“Strong words for someone locked in a cage,” one of them said, folding his arms across his chest and narrowing his eyes at me.

“You seriously think this cage can hold me?” I scoffed. “I’m the strongest Volana in the world. You can’t be serious.”

“What’s she talking about?” One of the rogues asked the other. “Jazzy said this cage can hold her. She said she isn’t strong enough to break out.”

“She’s bluffing,” the other one said, but his voice grew wary. “She can’t escape.”

A bitter smile appeared on my lips.

“Is that really a chance you want to take? I eat rogues like you for breakfast,” I growled, my voice echoing off the walls of the cage. “Although, you two are a little smaller than you’d like.”

“Shut the hell up or we will use Wolfsbane to shut you up,” one of the rogues yelled, shakily grabbing the syringe from his back pocket.

I forced out another laugh.

“As if Wolfsbane is strong enough to actually sedate me” I scoffed. “I’ve been faking it.”

“You’re lying!” He growled.

I stepped closer to him, feeling the little bit of Val’s energy rising throughout my body as I growled fiercely.

Despite her energy rising through me, I knew she was busy protecting our pups.

This was all on me.

“Is that a chance you’d like to take?” I asked in a low and threatening tone. They both began to tremble wildly. “The only thing that can truly sedate a Volana wolf is Starlight,” I managed to sputter without breaking eye contact.

“Starlight?” One of the rogues asked, his tone shaky. He glanced at his partner. “There’s Starlight in the clinic. Get some with the syringe gun.”

The other rogue was too frozen to move; he just stood in place and stared at me with large and terrified eyes.

“Go, now!” The other rogue ordered.

He finally broke his eyes off me and ran as fast as he could out of the room. The rogue that stayed behind kept his eyes on me.

“Now you’re in for it,” he hissed. “Probably shouldn’t have told us that information.”

“Probably not,” I agreed.

I continued to growl and shake the cage, yelling profanities at the rogue left.

I was acting completely feral.

I channeled all the anger that I had inside of me to put on this performance. I should seriously get a reward for my acting skills.

The rogue guard returned moments later, breathless, and shaky as he held the syringe gun in his hands.

“Shoot her before she escapes!!” The other guard yelled.

The rogue trembled as he attempted to put the syringe into the gun.

“Hurry!”

I heard the syringe click into place and then he pointed the gun at me. I growled even louder, shaking the cage violently and giving it all my strength. I felt Val’s energy caging the inside of my stomach, protecting our pups.

I just hoped that it was enough.

“Trust me...” Val whispered.

As the Syringe shot through the air and in my direction, allowed myself to relax and close my eyes. I felt the harsh sting of the needle in my neck and the liquids draining into my body and into my veins.

Everything went cold and I soon couldn’t breathe.

The last thing I thought before everything went dark was, “These assholes better not let me die.”

Chapter 323 Starlight Poisoning

Chapter 323 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Third Person POV

“And how is our patient doing this afternoon?” Jazzy asked as she walked through the doors of the infirmary.

Sarah lay in the bed, peering over at Jazzy with large and alarmed eyes. Her father sat at her bedside. Sarah had been in the infirmary for the past 24 hours and she was looking a lot sicker than she had when she first arrived.

Her face was pale, and she had dark circles under her eyes. She also lost a significant amount of weight and she overall looked utterly exhausted. Jazzy thought she looked close to death, but she wasn't going to let this girl die until the ritual.

“Why can't I go home?” Sarah asked, peering up at her father. “I want to leave.”

“I told you already. You can't leave until we cure you of this terrible curse,” he explained to her.

“I've had this curse my entire life; there is no cure,” she murmured. “I'm tired and I can't sleep here.”

“You've had this curse your entire life because you haven't known me,” Jazzy said, folding her arms across her chest. “I can cure you. But we can't do anything until tonight. Then, you'll be cured, and you'll be able to leave here.”

She sighed and leaned back in her bed.

“I miss my friends...” she whispered, staring down at her hands. “I miss...” Her voice trailed off and Jazzy found herself curious as to what she was about to say, but she seemed to have stopped herself.

She glanced at her father who was also staring at her with narrowed eyes, no doubt also wondering what she was about to say. Sarah's cheeks turned a light pink shade and then she averted her eyes.

“You will be cured soon, and you will no longer have to suffer,” Alpha Jonathan assured her. “Just rest easy.”

She sighed, but she didn't say anything more.

“Your vitals are good for right now,” Hannah said gently as she stared at the monitors. “I'll give you some more fluids though, just to keep your energy up.”

“Okay...” Sarah murmured.

“I should check on my other patient as well,” Jazzy said, turning away. “If you need me, call for me.”

She walked out of the infirmary and into the hall that connected the infirmary to the rest of the clinic, which led to the basement where they were keeping Lila hostage. As she began to walk through the clinic, she heard familiar voices coming from the stairs and they were getting louder.

She froze as two rogues burst through the doors. They were both shaking and looked as if they had seen a ghost. They were holding what looked to be a gun, but it was clear to Jazzy right away that it was a syringe gun.

She furrowed her brows together as she stared up at the rogues who had just noticed her standing before them.

“Miss Jasmine,” one of the rogues said, bowing to her very presence. “We didn’t see you there.”

“H...hi...” the other one stammered, his tone shaky and pathetic.

Jazzy rolled her eyes and folded her arms across her chest.

“Why do you look like you’ve seen ghosts?” She asked, staring between the two of them. “Shouldn’t you be on guard duty downstairs?”

They both looked at one another before looking back at Jazzy, who was impatiently waiting for their response.

“Well?” She urged when neither of them spoke.

“That Volana you made us watch almost escaped,” The one holding the gun explained in a rush. “She went crazy!”

Jazzy raised her brows.

“What the hell do you mean she went crazy?”

“She kept going on and on about killing us and how this cage can't hold her. She also said wolfsbane isn’t strong enough to sedate a true Volana...” the other one said, his tone much softer and weaker.

Jazzy furrowed her brows together, confused, as she glanced at the syringe gun.

“Did you not sedate her with wolfsbane?” Jazzy asked.

They both shook their heads and the one holding the gun, rose it so Jazzy could see the label on the tube.

“No,” he said, shaking his head. “It’s Starlight.”

Before Jazzy could say anything, another voice sounded from behind them.

“Did you just say Starlight?” Hannah asked, staring wide-eyed at the rogues.

They both nodded at the same time and Hannah staggered backwards in shock.

“Oh, goddess, no!!!” Hannah screeched.

Before Jazzy could ask what had gotten into her, Hannah was running quickly past them all, shoving past the rogues and through the doors that led down the narrow stairs. Jazzy didn’t waste any time rushing after Hannah.

She had no idea what was going on, but it couldn’t be good.

They ran into the area where the Volana’s cage was; she was lying on her side. To Jazzy, she looked to be asleep. But telling from Hannah’s face, something was seriously wrong.

“What is it?” Jazzy asked, rushing toward the cage. “What’s wrong?”

“Get this gate open!” Hannah growled; Jazzy had never heard her raise her voice like this before.

“Tell me what is going on, Doctor!” Jazzy demanded.

“Those idiots gave her Starlight,” Hannah said through her teeth.

“So?” Jazzy asked, raising her brows.

Hannah spun on her heel to face her.

“I sent you her medical reports, Jazzy. Lila is highly allergic to Starlight.”

Jazzy’s heart fell into her stomach.

“What?” She managed to ask, her heart racing in her chest.

“She could die, and all of this would have been for nothing,” Hannah continued. “Now open this cage so I can get her into my clinic and save her life!”

Jazzy didn’t hesitate to get the cage open and as soon as she did, Hannah ran into the cage and knelt beside Lila, feeling for a pulse.

“She’s still alive but she won’t be for long,” Hannah announced. “We need to get her to my clinic so I can get the Starlight out of her.”

Jazzy turned away and easily summoned Zagreus to her. Zag was the easiest solution to transporting Lila to the clinic without causing any more damage. He was busy casting the curse that Jazzy had created, but he should be just about finished.

He appeared in front of her, looking confused by the interruption.

“The curse has been cast, but I wanted to watch it in its work,” he complained. “Why have you summoned me?” “There’s no time. We need you to bring Lila to the clinic upstairs,” Jazzy said urgently.

She stepped aside so Zag could see Lila lying on the ground, barely hanging onto life.

“What happened?” He asked, furrowing his brows together.

“No time to explain,” Hannah breathed, panic clear in her tone. “Just help me get her upstairs.”

Zag stepped toward her and swiped his hand over Lila’s body; darkness swirled around him and melted to the ground like shadowy smoke. It swirled around his feet and slithered over to Lila like a bunch of snakes.

It wrapped around her body, swallowing her whole. It lingered for a short while and then it slithered back to Zagreus and melted back into his body.

“She’s there now,” he told Hannah.

She jumped to her feet and ran as fast as she could up the stairs and to her clinic on the second floor of the warehouse. Zagreus and Jazzy stared after her for a short while before Zag looked at Jazzy with a curious look in his eyes.

“What is going on?” He asked again.

Before she could answer, the two rogues responsible for this appeared in the doorway. They were staring wide-eyed at the cage, clearly confused about what was happening.

Anger filled Jazzy as she stared at the pathetic rogues in front of her. She hated rogue wolves; she hated almost all wolves but especially rogues. They were only here because they were working for Alpha Jonathan. She never wanted them here but because they were here, she figured they could be useful to her.

There were tons of rogues lurking around and acting as if they were helping when they were only making things worse.

“Did we mess up?” The one holding the gun asked.

Jazzy stepped toward him and slapped him across the face, using her nails as extra leverage to make claw marks across his cheek. Blood trickled down the side of his face and he stared at her with shock.

The other one was shaking in his skin, terrified about what Jazzy was about to do.

She used the force of her magic to grab his neck and lift him off the ground without even touching him.

He couldn't breathe.

He was choking and gagging, trying to get a breath of fresh air, but just as he was about to pass out from loss of oxygen, Jazzy twisted her hand and snapped his neck, killing him instantly.

The one who was holding the gun dropped the gun and looked as if he was about to run away. But Jazzy used her force of magic to stop him and keep him frozen in place.

Darkness swirled around him as he struggled to move.

She stepped even closer to him and smiled almost sweetly. He continued to shake in his skin and whimper pathetically. She shoved her entire hand into his chest, making him gasp and then whimper in pain; she gripped his heart, watching as pain and agony clouded his vision. She wanted his death to be slow and painful after what he had done.

She squeezed his heart, making blood pour out of his mouth as the life drained from him.

She didn't stop squeezing until his heart was nothing more but goo in her hands.

Chapter 324 Nothing Will Ruin This Plan

Chapter 324 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Enzos POV

As quickly as that dark cloud of smoke came, it disappeared, leaving us speechless in the middle of Hazel's kitchen. We all looked at one another with large eyes and rapidly beating hearts.

My mother had jumped from her seat and wrapped her arms around me as soon as she saw the darkness leaking in through the window.

"Is everybody okay?" I asked after a few minutes of stunned silence had passed.

Selene glanced down at her body with a frown; she raised her hands in front of her eyes. She first examined her palms, and then the back of her hand. She was quiet and her face had gone pale almost immediately after darkness had passed through.

There was something else different that I couldn't figure out.

"Selene..." my mother breathed, staring at her with dismay written all over her face. "Your eyes... they're brown..."

My mother was right; Selene, who had one purple and one blue eye like Lila, now had two brown eyes.

"What does that mean?" I asked, looking at my mother and then at Hazel who was also looking rather pale.

"It means her Volana abilities are completely gone," Hazel answered. "My powers are gone too... I can't feel them."

My heart sank deep into my stomach as I stared at Hazel.

"She had actually done it... Jazzy created a dark curse that makes everybody powerless, including witches."

My mother stood.

"I'm going to make sure everybody is okay," my mother said as she turned and quickly left the house.

"If I don't have my abilities, how am I going to fight and get my daughter back?" Selene asked, glancing at me and then at Hazel.

"Everything is still going as planned," Xander, who was standing in the corner of the kitchen said as he unfolded his arms and walked toward the table. "The curse has been placed just like Eloise's vision."

"What else did Eloise see?" Hazel asked, staring up at Xander curiously.

"She saw a war that everyone was fighting in. I wasn't in her vision fighting in the war, but I will be there this time. Lila is a little more prepared for a battle as well. She's a better fighter than she was. It's to be assumed that she doesn't have her wolf, so she will have to fight in her human form."

"But in Eloise's vision, she saw Lila die, no?" Hazel asked.

Xander nodded.

"As long as we make sure she doesn't die, that vessel will never be born," Xander explained. "That's our main focus. Making sure she stays alive."

Max began to growl inside of me at the mention of our mate. There was no way in hell that we were going to allow anything to happen to her. But we had to find her first.

I looked at Hazel who was staring down at her bowl.

“We have to figure out where Lila is being held,” I said, trying to keep Max under control.

Hazel lifted her gaze and met my eyes.

“I know exactly where she is,” she breathed. “My spell.... It worked.”

.....

Third Person POV

Jazzy barged into the clinic and stormed over to Hannah who remained very focused on Lila.

“Are you going to be able to save her?” Jazzy asked, peering down at a very pale Lila.

Hannah had tubes and wires sticking out of Lila’s small body. She looked very childlike on the clinic bed. The heart monitor was beeping slowly, but it was steady. It meant that Lila was still alive, which was good. She needed her to stay alive until the ritual tonight.

“Right now, I’m just trying to flush the Starlight out of her,” Hannah explained. “I won’t know for another hour. Maybe.” “The ritual is in 5 hours,” Jazzy said through her teeth. “Will she be okay before then?”

“Again... I won’t know if this is working for maybe another hour. If it doesn’t work, then no... her blood has been contaminated. It won’t be strong enough to work.”

Fury boiled through Jazzy as she clenched her fists. She wanted to punch something to relieve some of the anger and tension she felt.

Those stupid rogues could have ruined everything.

“Her pups are okay... if you even care about that,” Hannah muttered.

Jazzy whipped around to face her, not caring for her tone very much.

“I don’t give a shit about those pups. They aren’t going to live past tonight. What I care about is the Volana’s blood. Your job is to get it ready by sundown tonight,” Jazzy hissed.

Hannah didn’t even flinch at her cruel tone; she straightened her shoulders and stared at Jazzy with a look that almost appeared to be pity.

“I will do my best,” she said in the most expressionless tone she could manage.

Before Jazzy could say anything more, the door of the clinic opened, and Alpha Jonathan walked in.

“What’s going on? I went downstairs and there are 2 dead rogues and—” he paused when he saw Lila lying on the clinic bed. “What happened?” He asked, his tone dropping to a whisper and the color drained from his face.

“What’s going on?” Jazzy spat as she stepped toward him. “What’s going on is that your rogue helpers are incapable of doing simple tasks. They are stupid imbeciles and nearly ruined everything we had worked so hard to obtain,” she seethed, her face heating as anger continued to pour from her.

Jonathan narrowed his eyes at Jazzy, unsure of what she meant, but he didn’t like being spoken to in such an ill manner. Or at least, he wasn’t used to it.

“What are you talking about? What did they do?” Jonathan asked, trying to keep himself under control.

“They gave her Starlight to sedate her,” Hannah explained before Jazzy could utter another word. “Lila is allergic to it.”

“Her blood is contaminated,” Jazzy hissed. “Which means we won’t be able to use it for the ritual tonight... which also means your daughter is going to die from that curse.”

Jazzy could practically hear Alpha Jonathan’s heart falling into his stomach. He staggered backward and his breathing became rash.

“We can’t let my daughter die...” Jonathan said, shaking his head.

This was the first time he had ever shown this level of weakness and Jazzy wasn’t sure what to make of it.

She certainly didn’t like him acting weak. She needed strong allies on her team. This was why she had summoned her coven who should have been protected from the dark curse. It wouldn’t be long before they showed up to assist her.

“Then let’s hope that your rogues didn’t kill your daughter,” she said through her clenched jaw.

She spun away from him, not wanting to look at his pathetic face any longer. Jonathan stood frozen as he stared down at Lila. He didn’t know what to say in response. So, he decided not to say anything.

“I’m going to check on my daughter,” he finally murmured. “Then, I have others who are willing to help us. They are stronger and I’m positive they won’t fuck up.”

Jazzy rolled her eyes.

“More rogues?”

“We are going to need fighters if there is going to be a battle,” Jonathan said, turning away. “I can’t imagine Bastien and Selene are going to go down without a fight.”

Jazzy didn’t bother responding to him. She let him leave the clinic because if he didn’t walk away, she was probably going to rip his head right off his shoulders.

“I will let you know if I’m able to flush the Starlight,” Hannah said, glancing up at Jazzy. “But I can’t do this with you breathing down my back.”

Jazzy didn’t like the tone Hannah used with her and she was about to make it very clear that nobody speaks to her like that. But Zag stepped beside her.

“Let’s give the doctor some space, my love,” he said, wrapping an arm through hers. “We should check on the dark curse and set up for the ritual. Everything is almost complete.”

Jazzy took a deep breath and then nodded, turning away, and leaving the clinic.

They wandered into Jazzy’s new office on the very top floor of the warehouse.

“Everybody is powerless except for those who were inside this warehouse when it was placed and of course your coven,” Zag confirmed. “Excellent,” Jazzy said with a grin. “Once we bring Lila outside for this ritual, that stupid mate of hers will be able to smell her scent and then he will come to find her. We can’t risk anything happening that will ruin this plan.”

“Nothing will ruin this plan,” Zagreus assured her. “Not even this small setback.”

“It better not, or I’ll kill everyone in this warehouse including that doctor and that airhead Alpha.”

Zag snorted at her words.

“It’s ridiculous that he has no idea the true plan,” Zag said, shaking his head. “Does he truly think you care that much to save his daughter?”

“I’ll probably have her kill Alpha Jonathan too, just to get that annoying wolf out of my way. She’s going to be a powerful weapon who can kill anyone in her path with ease,” Jazzy said, chuckling. “You truly are an evil witch,” Zagreus stated with admiration in his voice.

“This entire nation is going to face the wrath of darkness in the form of a young girl, and they are going to lose.”

Chapter 325 Escape Plan

Chapter 325 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Lila's POV

I gasped as air slammed into my lungs. My eyes flew open to peer at a light that was shining directly in my face. Pain shot throughout my body as I felt tubes and wires sticking out of me.

As my body trembled, I tried to grasp my surroundings. I had no idea where I was, and I wasn't even quite sure what had happened. All I remembered was losing my shit in the cage and then I couldn't breathe.

Now air was being forced into my lungs at a strength I couldn't handle.

Something was inside of my mouth, deep in my throat, forcing this air into me.

"Val?" I tried to reach my wolf, hoping to hear her comforting voice.

I needed her to confirm that I was still alive.

"I'm here..." Her small voice whispered, much to my relief. "Our pups are here as well, and they are fine."

My heart swelled at the news. My pups were okay; they were alive, and they were well. My wolf managed to protect them from whatever had happened. I tried so hard to remember, but everything was such a blur.

"But I am so tired..." Val continued. "I used the rest of my strength to protect them."

"Rest," I told her gently. "You did well."

I watched through my mind's eyes as Val lowered her head and closed her eyes.

My heart began to pound rapidly against my ribcage as the pressure between my throat and my lungs grew too intense for me to handle. I needed to get this tube out of my body.

I reached my hands up and tugged at the tube but the movement of it triggered my gag reflex and I suddenly couldn't breathe. I started to gag and cough as air quickly left my lungs.

"Oh, goddess!" I heard from a distance.

I wasn't alone as I had thought.

Someone rushed over to me and started to dismantle the tube. Soon, the tube was removed from my mouth, and I was able to breathe again. I coughed, rubbed my aching throat, and took greedy gulps of natural air.

"You're okay," a woman breathed, patting my back as I leaned over the bed and coughed.

I didn't know I vomited until she brought me a towel and a glass of water. I peered up at the woman and narrowed my eyes. My eyes finally adjusted to the lighting and her face became clear to me.

"Dr. Laureen?" I managed to say in a raspy tone.

"I'm so happy you are awake," she breathed.

She motioned for me to lie back down and then she placed a cool cloth on my forehead. I was burning up; I must have had a fever.

"Do you remember what happened?" She asked me, glancing at me briefly before checking my heart rate and my breath intake.

I tried to think harder about the events that unfolded. I just remembered being angry and trying to break out of the cage. I threatened those rogues, but I don't remember much else.

However, when I thought about the anger, it didn't feel genuine. I was angry for sure, but I wasn't angry enough to lose my mind like that. It didn't seem like something I would do; so, why would I?

I didn't say any of that to Dr. Laureen though; I knew she wasn't on my side. She was on the side of my kidnappers. I had to tread lightly when speaking to her.

So, I shook my head slowly.

"You were injected with Starlight," she told me softly. "And you are highly allergic to Starlight."

My heart fell deep into my stomach. I knew I was allergic to Starlight. Did those rogues inject me with it?

Before I could ask any questions, the door of the clinic opened.

"How is she? We only have about an hour before the ritual," Jazzy said as she rushed into the room.

"She's awake," Dr. Laureen stated. "But she's going to need to rest for a little while."

“We don’t have a little while,” Jazzy hissed through her teeth. “We only have an hour.”

“Then get everything set up. By the time you are finished, she will be well enough. She has a fever and I’m pumping her with antibiotics. I’m testing her blood now to make sure it’s no longer contaminated.”

Jazzy glared at me as if I had done something wrong. As if I was the one who injected me with—

Soon, the memory flooded into my mind.

I set this up.

I convinced those rogues to inject me with something I knew I was allergic to. Val promised she would protect my pups and she did.

But why would I do such a thing knowing that I could have died?

I broke eye contact with Jazzy and looked up at Dr. Laureen who was finishing running tests before she turned to Jazzy.

“Get Sarah ready for the ritual,” Dr. Laureen said to her. “We won’t be much longer.”

Sarah...

She was in the clinic.

I needed to get to the clinic, and this was the only way I knew how to do it. I needed to get to Sarah. If she knew what was going on, she wouldn’t want this. If Alpha Jonathan knew that they were trying to turn Sarah into a mindless Volana vessel, he wouldn’t want this either. But he thinks Jazzy is trying to save his daughter's life and free her from that curse.

He has no idea that Sarah is technically going to die tonight as well.

“I need to get some extra stuff first,” Jazzy muttered, turning away. “I’ll be back soon to collect them both.”

She soon left the clinic, leaving me alone with Dr. Laureen.

I looked at Dr. Laureen as she traveled around the room to clean up her supplies. I was in survival mode, and I didn’t have much time. I knew getting out of here was my only option.

“Why are you helping her?” I found myself asking.

Dr. Laureen, who seemed surprised by my question, paused, and looked at me.

“Excuse me?” She asked, raising her brows.

“Why are you helping Jazzy? What’s in it for you?”

She was quiet for a moment as she ate at my question. Then she turned away and continued to clean up her supplies.

“I have been her coven healer for many years,” Dr. Laureen explained. “She wasn’t always like this. But I’ve always been by her side. Jazzy means well in her own dark way.”

“She’s trying to kill me and she’s trying to kill Sarah. She’s using Alpha Jonathan to get what she wants,” I told her, narrowing my eyes at her. “How does she mean well?”

Dr. Laureen was quiet and for a moment, I didn’t think she was going to answer the question. But then she sighed and turned back to face me.

“Jazzy had a lot of wrongdoings in her life,” she explained. “She lost her parents because of a Volana wolf. She’s trying to make the world a safer place. That’s all.”

“We aren’t a threat to her,” I said, shaking my head. “I’m not a threat.”

“You are the strongest Volana ever to exist. Volanas are very difficult to kill, borderline impossible without the right tools. You have enough power and strength to kill them easily. But we also know you wouldn’t do it willingly, so we are planning on transferring your abilities and putting them in Sarah.”

While she spoke, I managed to pull out some of the wires and tubes that were sticking out of my arms. I might not have strong senses right now and my wolf was asleep, but I’ve trained enough with Xander over the month to utilize the strength of the human that I am.

It felt like Xander was preparing me for something and now I think I know what it was.

I kept my ears open for any sound around me.

I heard a light heart monitor coming from another room and I wondered if that’s where Sarah was being held.

I kept my eyes on Dr. Laureen as she spoke and traveled around the room to clean her supplies. She wasn’t paying any attention to me as she continued to speak about Jazzy like she was nothing more than a misunderstood woman.

My eyes trialed around the room, and I saw that there was a fire hydrant on the far side of the wall. There seemed to be four latches keeping it in place. They looked like the type I needed to twist to loosen. I glanced at Dr. Laureen again who was standing at a counter and taking some notes on her clipboard.

“Where is Jazzy from and how long did her parents die? How old was she?” I asked, not caring about the answer. I just needed to keep her talking.

As she began to answer my questions, she sounded thoughtful and spoke carefully. She probably didn't want to give out too much information. I pulled the IVs out of my arm, wincing at the stinging sensation.

I managed to get my hands free, but I kept them under the blanket that covered me. I was pleased that they put me in a hospital gown, so at least I wasn't naked anymore.

Realizing that Dr. Laureen stopped speaking, I decided to say something else.

"You aren't planning on saving Sarah... right? You are planning on turning her into a Volana vessel." "Maybe so; but a vessel that Jazzy can control," Dr. Laureen shrugged. "It isn't personally against you. You just happen to be the only Volana strong enough to make all of this happen."

"You are planning on killing all of us regardless," I murmured. "It's personal."

"I'm afraid it's out of our hands," Dr. Laureen shrugged again. "The best we can do is just let fate take its course."

She placed the clipboard down on the counter and opened one of her drawers to rummage through. While she was making noise, I reached over to the heart monitor and turned off the switch to silence it before removing the pads that were stuck to my chest.

I glanced back at Dr. Laureen and saw that she had taken out a syringe and was filling it with fluid. I tried to focus my eyes on it, but without my wolf's vision, I had trouble reading the label.

While she poured the liquid into the syringe, I sat up and slid out of bed. I was trying to keep as quiet as I could. I took in my surroundings, making sure nobody was watching from a distance to alert Dr. Laureen.

I walked as quickly and as quietly as I could over to the fire hydrant.

There were four latches I had to undo. I glanced over my shoulder at Dr. Laureen who was screwing the top over the lid of the mystery liquid before putting it back in the drawer.

My heart was racing as I undid the latches as quickly and quietly as I could. I didn't have long before she turned around and realized I wasn't in bed.

Just as Dr. Laureen lifted the syringe to her eyes and flicked it a couple of times, I snuck up behind her, holding the hydrant firmly.

She turned, facing the bed and then her light smile dropped, and her eyes widened as she realized I was no longer there.

I lifted the hydrant and slammed it across the back of her head.

Chapter 326 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Lila's POV

My heart was pounding as I stood over Dr. Laureen. I had never done anything like that in my life and my adrenaline was rushing.

I bent down and pressed my middle and pointer fingers against the nape of her neck and felt a pulse. I was relieved that I hadn't killed her, but I needed to get out of there before she woke up or anyone showed up.

I stood to my feet and rushed toward the doorway. I wasn't sure where I was going, but I could hear the heart monitor in the next room, so I figured that was the best place to go right now.

I needed to find Sarah and try to get us out of there.

When I reached the doorway that led out of the clinic, I could hear some light talking in the distance. They weren't close to the door, but I feared they were close enough to hear the door opening, or maybe even see me leaving.

I had to be careful.

Deciding I didn't want to leave the room unprotected, I went toward the closet on the far side of the room hoping I would find something to wear other than this hospital gown. I was starting to feel drafty, and it was making me feel uncomfortable.

The closet consisted of a bunch of cleaning supplies, but after a few minutes of searching, I uncovered a bag that had a change of clothes inside of it. They were basic pants with pockets and a shirt with a few stains on it. But it was better than nothing.

Once I dressed in them, I noticed they were very baggy on me. I had to tie the shirt in the back to keep it from flowing too much. The less my clothes moved, the better.

There wasn't much I could do with the pants, but thankfully there weren't any chains on them to make noise.

I quickly left the closet and went over to the same drawer that Dr. Laureen was rummaging through. I grabbed syringes of different colors, unsure of what they were used for. I also grabbed a couple of scalpels and tucked them each in different pockets.

Dr. Laureen was still lying on the ground. She was breathing, but unconscious.

Jazzy said she'd be making her way back here to collect us soon, so I needed to be quick.

I pressed my ear against the door and this time, the voices seemed to have stopped. Taking a chance, I pushed the door open slowly and peered into the hallway.

There was nobody there.

Holding my breath, I slid into the hallway, shutting the door behind me, and then running as quietly as I could toward an area that almost looked like an infirmary. From the big glass windows, I saw a bunch of beds set up around a nurse's station. Thankfully, the nurse's station was vacant. There weren't any guards around here either, which came as a huge relief.

When I got closer, I saw that somebody was lying in one of the beds, but they were covered with a blanket, and I couldn't get a good view of them.

I looked around to make sure no one was coming before I pushed the door open and scurried inside.

When I cautiously neared the bed, I felt like I could finally breathe when their face came into view, and I knew exactly who it was.

"Sarah..." I breathed, trying to keep my voice as low as possible.

She was sleeping, but it was definitely her. I ran over to her, placing my hands on her face. She was a little warm and she was hooked up to an IV; her heart monitor beeped lightly in the corner.

I shook her lightly, trying to get her to wake up while making as little noise as possible.

"Sarah..." I said again, hoarsely. "Please wake up..." I pleaded.

She groaned miserably, making way too much noise so I quickly covered her mouth with my hands. Her eyes popped open during that impact, and she tried to shove me off before realization dawned on her face.

When she got a good look at me, her eyes narrowed and then they widened in shock. She stopped struggling against me, and now she was just staring at me with such concern in her eyes.

"We need to get out of here," I told her in a hushed whisper, slowly removing my hands from her lips.

“Why are you here?” She asked in return, also whispering as she sat up slowly.

Her brown hair messily fell around her features; I had never seen her look so messy before. Her hair was undone and looked very knotted, she wasn't wearing any makeup, she smelled a bit musky from lack of bathing, and she was also wearing a hospital gown. She was pale as well and looked as if she had lost a ton of weight.

“I don't know what they told you, but these people aren't what they seem...” I tried to explain; I didn't know if she was going to believe me; but I really needed her to trust me.

We needed to go before they found us.

She glanced around the room before her eyes landed on me again.

“They told me they were saving me from the curse...” she said, almost sounding disappointed, but also not surprised. “I feared that it might be false...”

I was quiet for a moment as I processed her words. I knew they weren't going to tell her the entire story, just like they didn't tell Alpha Jonathan the entire story as well.

“They want to kill me and use me to turn you into a Volana vessel,” I told her, gripping her hands gently. “It's going to cure you from the curse, but it will also turn you into a mindless vessel. Jazzy's vessel.”

The little color left in her features was now completely gone as tears filled her eyes.

“I knew it was too good to be true,” she said, staring down at her hands which I was still gripping. “I'm sure my father has no idea of Jazzy's real plan.”

I shook my head.

“I don't think he does either.”

“So, what are we going to do? Do you have people coming to save us?” She asked; I knew if she was wondering if her mate was coming.

I honestly hadn't thought about Brody at all. My only concern was surviving and getting back to my mate.

“I don't know,” I admitted. “But I do know how to get outside. Once we are outside, we need to get out of here as fast as we can. Once we are outside, our mates will be able to sense us, and they will come for us.”

She looked nervous; maybe even uncertain. But then she gave me a head nod.

“I’m with you,” she said softly, much to my relief. She glanced down at her IVs with a frown. “Help me get these out.”

I slowly and carefully removed the IV needles from her wrist and disconnected her from the heart monitor. Before it could beep loudly, indicating a heart issue, I turned off the monitor, silencing it.

Sara slid out of bed, and though she seemed a bit unstable on her feet, she eventually got her footing and was able to walk normally.

“It’s been a while since I stood,” she admitted.

I smiled at her and pulled out a syringe and a scalpel, handing them to her.

“Weapons just in case we run into issues,” I explained.

Her eyes widened as she took the syringe and scalpel, examining them carefully.

“What does the syringe do?”

“I’m not sure,” I admitted with a shrug. “But I found it here so it can’t be good.”

“Fair enough,” she murmured.

“Hey! What’s going on!?” I heard someone yelling from a short distance.

I whipped around and saw two rogue wolves running toward us, they were getting their syringe guns ready as they ran, and they looked furious.

“Alert Jazzy!” The other yelled into the shadows behind them.

I knew other rogues must have been nearby.

“Shit,” Sarah gasped. “I need you to trust me,” I said to her firmly and way more confidently than I felt.

She shot me a look, but she didn’t argue with me.

I got in my stance as the doors of the infirmary opened and the rogues ran into the room, pointing their syringe guns at us.

Sarah stood behind me and I knew she was terrified of what was about to happen.

Just as the syringes were shot, I yelled, “Get down!”

Sarah immediately fell to the ground, just as I jumped and the syringe needle went flying through the air, missing us completely.

While I was in the air, the other needle from the other gun went flying and I managed to kick it out of route, and it bounced off the far side of the wall.

The glass of the syringe shattered to pieces.

By the time I landed, the rogues were attempting to reload their guns, but I kicked them out of their hands and punched one of them square in the face, he staggered backward, about to fall, but managed to get his footing. I grabbed the other one and knocked his head against the other rogue's head before kicking their feet out from under them both, making them fall to the ground.

With one last kick, they were both knocked out completely.

Sarah was still huddled on the ground with wide eyes, staring up at me.

It wouldn't be long before more rogues appeared along with Jazzy and her friend.

I motioned with my head for Sarah to follow me.

“Let's go.”

Chapter 327 Roof Top Escape

Chapter 327 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Lila's POV

Loud sirens rang throughout the building, nearly rattling my brain, but I knew I had to remain focused if I wanted to get us out alive.

Red emergency lights began to swirl around as well. I knew the door to leave this place was near the elevator, but it was surrounded by rogues entering the building.

We were going to need to find another way out of here.

“There's a stairway leading upstairs,” Sarah said, breathlessly trying to keep up with me.

I could have sworn there were only two stories to his building. But Sarah was certain there was another floor.

“Is there a way out from upstairs?” I asked her, furrowing my brows together.

“I don’t know but it seems like this whole floor is surrounded,” she said. “I know Jazzy’s office is upstairs so she might be there too. We have to be careful.”

The elevator was just around the corner, I might be able to fight the rogues in front of the elevator long enough to hold them back while we go on.

“Get the elevator ready, I’m going to fight them,” I said, taking out the scalpel from my pocket.

Sarah nodded in agreement.

As we rounded the corner and ran toward the elevator, more rogues appeared. I was able to fight one away from me, kicking and punching until he was no longer moving. The other went after Sarah who was also fighting.

However, she was weak, and he had the upper hand. I ran toward her, dodging another rogue who lunged at me. I grabbed the back of the rogue's head and slashed his throat, allowing him to bleed out in front of us as I dropped him to the ground.

“Elevator!” I ordered her as I ran to fight more rogues.

I could see the elevator in view, and I knew if I kept these rogues preoccupied, Sarah could get the doors open.

She ran quickly toward the elevator as I continued to fight. Then, much to my dismay, I heard her cursing loudly.

“They cut the power!”

Shit.

I managed to kill most of the rogues that were surrounding me. After I fought and won against the last one, I turned and ran to join Sarah at the elevator.

She was right; the power was off.

“There has to be a stairwell somewhere in here,” I told her, looking around for a stair sign.

It was Sarah who had found it first.

We ran toward the door that led to the stairs and burst through it, only to be met with more rogues.

As I fought, with minimal help from Sarah, I heard her scream from a short distance.

“Lila!” Sarah yelled and I turned to see more rogues coming out of the shadows and lunging at us.

I quickly ducked, making them miss me completely and then I kicked from behind me, kicking one of them in the groin. Another rogue jumped at us; his teeth chomped in my direction as he growled loudly.

I ran at him with as much speed as I could muster and I jumped in the air, doing a flip I landed behind him. I grabbed his head and twisted it, snapping his neck and killing him instantly.

Sarah fought another wolf who was snapping his canines at her. At first, it looked as if he had the upper hand and I was going to run and help her, but then she took the syringe she held and stabbed him in the neck.

The wolf went down instantly, hissing and screaming in pain.

She looked satisfied by this as she nodded for me to continue.

We both ran up the second flight of stairs and burst through the doorway that led into a giant hallway.

My heart was racing. I knew rogues were flooding the bottom floors. By now Jazzy and her friend of darkness knew we were missing and if we went back downstairs to find that doorway outside, they would stop us immediately.

I wasn't sure I'd be able to fight Jazzy or her friend.

Once we got to the top floor of the building, we looked around for a way out.

“How about the roof?” Sarah suggests.

I nodded, liking that idea a lot.

We ran down the hallway, unsure of the best way to get to the roof, but we had to take a chance. We burst through a random door and stumbled upon what looked to be an office.

There was a large candle on the desk on the far side of the room and a dark purple rug that sat on the ground. There were a bunch of bookshelves lining the wall and some open books scattered across the desk.

I was startled when Sarah turned on the light and I saw the giant chandelier that hung on the ceiling in the center of the room.

“Is this Jazzy's office?” Sarah asked, furrowing her brows together.

“I think it might be,” I said slowly.

Sarah went over to the window to try and get it open while I looked around the room a little more.

On the desk, I noticed one of the books that was left open with some marker and highlighter markings inside of it.

I furrowed my eyes together as I read the page; my heart weighed heavily in my chest and by the time I had finished reading it, it had sunk deep into my stomach.

Without saying anything, I ripped the page out of the book and shoved it into my pocket.

“We can climb up the side. There’s a ledge that leads to the ladder. It’s not a far climb. From the roof we can figure out how to get down,” Sarah said breathlessly.

I nodded and ran toward the window just as the footsteps grew louder. They were coming upstairs now.

“They couldn’t have gotten far! Keep looking!!” Jazzy hissed to what I thought were probably rogues.

“Shit…” Sarah murmured.

“Come on,” I said quickly as I rushed toward the window and climbed out.

I was able to use the ledge to get to the ladder and once I was on the ladder, I climbed upward. I looked down only once to see if Sarah was following me. I was glad to see her hanging on for dear life, attempting to keep up with me.

I continued to climb until I was securely on the roof. Then, I turned around and held my hand out for her to grab onto it. I pulled her up and we were both taking in greedy gulps of air as we rested on the roof.

We had a little bit of time before they realized we weren’t in the building anymore.

The cold air was chilling as I stared up into the night sky. The moon was bigger than I had ever seen it; it had a tint of red outlining it and it was beautiful. The stars were also big and bright.

I could hear Jazzy’s voice below us. She was in her office now.

I’m pretty certain we left the window open too.

Sarah was staring wide-eyed over the ledge before staggering backward.

“We left the window open,” she said hoarsely, confirming my thoughts.

I looked around the rooftop, trying to find a way down and to safety, but then something incredible wafted through the air.

I breathed in deeply, taking in the incredible scent of melted caramel and warm chocolate. It was the most wonderful and familiar scent I had ever smelled. I lifted my nose in the air and took in every detail of the smell. I allowed the warmth it provided me to wrap around my body like a blanket and cocoon me in its protection.

“Enzo,” I spoke out loud. “I can sense him. He’s on his way here.”

Her eyes widened, but before she could say anything, darkness swirled around the air, startling us both.

They found us.

My vision became blurry as I tried to stare out into the horizon to spot Enzo; I knew he was approaching us, but the dark clouds of darkness were becoming so thick that I couldn’t see through them.

Maybe if I had my wolf and my abilities, I’d be able to.

“We need to get off the roof,” I told her, running toward the other end of the roof and away from the darkness.

The smoke only got thicker, and a gust of wind nearly took me out.

Sarah was right behind me initially, but by the time I reached the other end of the roof where I found a ladder, I heard her screaming.

I turned to see dark snake-like tendrils wrapping around her waist and lifting her off the ground.

That man who accompanied Jazzy was now on the roof; he seemed to be controlling this darkness that swirled around the air. His eyes were glowing green, and his arms were raised above his head as Sarah was lifted further into the air.

She was screaming and crying at the same time.

My heart squeezed for her.

Where the hell was Alpha Jonathan?

Jazzy soon appeared on the roof, and she looked furious. She had darkness glowing around her and she was breathing deeply through her nose. Her eyes were fixed on me as she stormed toward me.

I turned away and jumped off the side of the building, ignoring her screams. I lifted my arms as I fell, and then grasped the ladder before I neared the ground. My entire body slammed against the side of the building.

Pain shot through me as I struggled to grip the ladder and regain my footing. “Lila!!!” I heard my name being called from the ground and I knew right away that it was Enzo.

My heart swelled from the sound of his voice. I glanced downward and saw him running toward the building with my mother and, surprisingly, Xander running after him. My mother and Xander were in their wolf forms and soon, so was Enzo.

I knew if I let go, they would catch me.

I released the ladder and allowed my body to fall through the air, closing my eyes and hoping to the Moon Goddess that one of them caught me.

But just as I felt myself nearing the ground, I felt something wrapping around my waist and stopping me from landing.

“Noooo!!!” I heard Enzo growl through the voice of his wolf.

I opened my eyes and saw a dark tendril lifting me through the air and back toward a waiting and eager Jazzy.

Chapter 328 The Paper

Chapter 328 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Lila’s POV

“Enzo!!!” I yelled as the dark snake-like tendrils lifted me through the air to be joined by Sarah who was also struggling against the tendrils herself. We were no longer near the roof, but closer to the ground. Jazzy had a bonfire already made in the clearing of the forest and all her supplies were set up for the ritual, including a large cauldron.

Alpha Jonathan was also there, and he was staring worriedly at Sarah. He seemed confused as he was joined by rogues.

“Dad!!!” Sarah yelled.

But before she could get another word out, a dark snake tendril draped over her mouth, silencing her immediately. She tried to speak through her clamped lips but to no prevail.

“Why are you doing this to my daughter?” Jonathan asked, glaring at Jazzy.

“Because she’s being impossible. If you want me to save her, you’ll let me do my job,” Jazzy seethed.

I saw more rogues running out of the forest, ready to help and protect. Jazzy lifted her arms and howled like an owl. I had never heard someone howl like that before and I didn’t know what it meant. That is until I saw others emerging from the forest as well.

Witches.

Telling from their auras and their glowing hands that were raised above their heads, I knew they still had their powers. I wasn’t sure how they had their powers during this dark curse, but I knew Jazzy had something to do with that.

A large, white, glowing shield began to transform from their fingertips and surround the area where Jazzy stood, which also surrounded Alpha Jonathan, some of the rogues, Sarah, and me. Enzo growled loudly and charged toward the witches, only to be zapped away. I screamed for him, tears streaming down my face. But the more I struggled and screamed the tighter the tendrils held me.

There was howling in the distance, averting my attention to the fresh wolves that were running to join us.

My heart swelled as I saw my father in his large beastly wolf form. With him was Uncle Aiden and Donovan, Beta, and Gamma of the Nova pack. On my father’s back was Hazel, Jazzy’s sister. She clung to my father as they ran to join Enzo, my mother, and Xander.

Beta Ethan was also in the mix and soon the rumbling sounds of more wolves sounded in the distance.

Gamma Jack ran through the clearing with his army of gamma warriors; I noticed there were also Nova Pack Gammas in the mix as well and they all looked ready for a fight.

“Jasmine! Let the girls go!!” Hazel demanded, her voice carrying and booming across the forest clearing. I was surprised at how powerful and forceful her voice was. “You don’t want to do this!!”

Jazzy completely ignored her sister as she motioned for the rogue army to fight the gammas. Soon, a large battle was breaking out before my eyes and I was helplessly floating in the air, unable to fight.

Jazzy, ignoring the fight, stared up at the red moon with a large smile on her face. Raising her hands above her head, she began to recite the spell that started the ritual. With each word she spoke, the fire grew and began to morph into different colors.

I was being held over the burning flames and I could feel the intensity of the heat.

Warmth pricked the back of my neck and I tried to struggle against the tendrils again, trying to get myself free. But the more I struggled, the more they held on tighter. Jazzy was speaking in her Latin tongue, so I had no idea what she was saying. Alpha Jonathan was beginning to look more uncertain than ever as he stared up at his daughter who was also struggling and crying.

Enzo was still trying desperately to break through the shield while this battle went on around him. Thankfully, he had his people around him, shielding him from any attacks.

To my surprise, Brody came out of nowhere and joined Enzo at the shield, trying to desperately get through.

Upon seeing Brody, Sarah began to struggle even harder as tears washed over her pale features.

There had to be a way to get the witches to take down this shield.

They were standing side by side and I wondered if one of them were to step out of sequence, would the shield fall?

Alpha Jonatha was still trying to ask Jazzy what was going on and why his daughter was being treated like this, but Jazzy was ignoring him completely.

Before I knew what was happening, the dark snake-like tendrils were pulling me toward the cauldron and were holding me over it. I struggled again and screamed for Enzo, but the tendrils wrapped around my mouth, silencing me. They also tightened around me even more, cutting off my air completely.

I thought I was going to pass out from lack of air; I grew incredibly dizzy, and my vision became spotty as I tried desperately to keep myself awake.

My father had joined Enzo and Ethan at the shield, attempting to break through. But the witches were too strong and kept the shield intact.

I knew Hazel wouldn't be able to help either; she was powerless due to this curse. It made me wonder how these witches still had their abilities.

"Mom and Dad would not want this, Jazzy!" Hazel cried to her sister. "They would be so disappointed in you."

I found myself closing my eyes and beginning to drift off, despite all that was going on around me. There was no air traveling to my lungs and I knew I didn't have long before completely passed out. If I passed out, I knew I wouldn't wake up again.

Jazzy would win.

She would bleed me and force my blood into Sarah before killing her as well.

Just as that paper had said.

Suddenly, my eyes flew open.

That paper.

The one I found inside of Jazzy's office on her desk. It had her plans written all over it. She was going to bleed me dry and then make Sarah consume my blood. Then, they were going to kill Sarah. But because Sarah would have consumed my blood, it would turn her body into a Volana Vessel.

If Johnathan saw that paper, he would never go along with this.

I still had it inside of my pant pocket.

I wiggled my fingers, trying to reach into my pocket. It was difficult with the snake tendrils wrapped tightly around me, squeezing the last bit of air from me, but I managed to feel the paper with my fingertips.

I gripped the corner of the paper with the tips of my pointer and middle finger, wiggling it until it came out of my pant pocket.

Alpha Jonathan stood below, staring up at Sarah.

I tried to scream to get his attention, but the tendrils around my mouth made that almost impossible.

It was now or never; if he didn't see me dropping this paper to the ground, then I had no other plans and Jazzy would win.

Just as darkness clouded my vision, I released the paper and allowed it to fall to the ground.

....

Enzo's POV

It was no use, this shield was too strong and regardless of what we said to these wretched witches, they weren't going to take it down. Max was furious and out for blood. He couldn't wait for the chance to tear the witch's throats out from their necks.

He couldn't stop growling and snapping his canines at them, and I didn't stop him. I wanted their blood on our claws just as badly as he did.

Lila was floating in the air with dark swirls surrounding her. She struggled against them, but they seemed to be tightening with each scream and struggle.

I wished I could send her strength and comfort through our mate bond, but it wasn't working.

I had a feeling it had to do with this dark curse.

But I could still smell her amazing honeysuckle scent, which meant her wolf was still within her.

As the battle continued around me, I watched in horror as Lila's head drifted downward and her eyes fluttered shut.

She was losing the little bit of strength she had left.

"Nooooo!!!" I growled as her body went limp.

But then I saw something floating to the ground.

I looked over at Bastien who was trying to get Alpha Jonathan to talk to him and explain himself. Hazel was busy trying to get her sister to stop this nonsense and Ethan was still trying to break through the shield but to no prevail. The paper Lila had dropped was within the shield.

"Alpha Bastien!" I yelled at him, getting his attention. "I think Lila just dropped something important."

I motioned with my head for the paper on the ground. His eyes followed my gesture and they narrowed. He squinted his eyes, trying to get a view of the writing, but it was folded and crinkled.

"Jonathan," Bastien said, trying to get the Alpha's attention again. "That paper on the ground, I need you to grab it."

Jonathan finally pulled his eyes away from Sarah to stare at Bastien.

"I'm sorry this had to happen..." Jonathan finally murmured. "I'm doing this for my daughter."

"And I understand that, but that paper... I need you to grab it."

Jonathan's frown deepened.

“What paper--?” He began to ask, but then his eyes found the paper on the ground.

He grabbed it and unfolded it, reading the words written on it.

His forehead crinkled as he read it again.

I could see that whatever was on that paper was affecting him greatly. His eyes widened as he read the words again. His face reddened and for a second, I thought he might explode. I could see the fury in his eyes and then the pure horror as he continued to stare at the words. “Jonathan!” Bastien growled urgently. “What is it??”

“Tell us!” I demanded through my teeth.

If Lila had it, it must be important.

Jonathan crinkled the paper in his fist and stared up at his daughter with horror and fury still on his face.

“Alpha Jonathan,” Bastien growled loudly, his voice booming across the forest and shaking the trees. Jonathan finally looked back at Alpha Bastien, meeting his eyes.

“She’s planning on killing my daughter.”

Chapter 329 The Battle

Chapter 329 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Enzos POV

Alpha Jonatha’s eyes began to glow red with fury as he glared at Jazzy.

I could feel his anger from where I stood on the other side of the shield. Lila must have dropped that paper on purpose so Jonathan would see that Jazzy had no intention of helping Sarah. She’s using Sarah for her selfish needs to rid the world of Volana wolves and have the strongest weapon ever to exist.

She would be killing Sarah, not helping her.

Jonathan was now fully aware of her true plans, and he was not happy with this.

“What the hell is this, Jazzy?!” He growled, gazing at Jazzy with glowing red eyes.

Jazzy glanced at him as the cauldron grew even hotter and the smoke that emerged from it changed colors. She had finished placing her ingredients in the cauldron and now all she needed was Lila’s blood.

The moon was at the highest point in the sky, which meant the spell was just about done. The tendrils were positioning Lila over the cauldron and my heart weighed heavily in my chest. If I lost her, I would lose my entire world.

She was my mate, my love, the only one I would ever want in life. She was my future wife and Luna, the mother to my future children. She was the light of my life, and I was about to lose her.

If I could just turn back time, I would have kept her home with me. I would have kept her tucked and safe in my arms where I knew no harm could get to her.

I wanted her to know so badly how much I loved her.

I shouldn’t have pushed her away when I first found out she was my mate. I should have kept her close and made her feel loved.

“Jazzy, answer my question!” Jonathan demanded, breaking me out of my thoughts.

The ground shook with each word he spoke.

She glanced at him with no emotion on her face.

“Down mutt,” she hissed at him. “Did you seriously think I’d help you?”

She let out a bitter laugh as the rogues that surrounded them howled in response.

“I’m protecting the world,” Jazzy continued, her voice booming across the forest. “This goes much bigger than your dumb daughter.”

Jazzy turned her back on him and he growled furiously, shifting into his large black wolf with piercing red eyes.

I had never seen Jonathan this angry before and it made me take a step back. I thought he was going for Jazzy, but he turned and glared at the witches who kept the shield intact.

I was surprised that the witches looked nervous.

Jonathan ripped through the throat of one of the witches who held up the shield. Bringing my attention back to him. The other witches screamed in horror for their fallen coven sister and blood splattered everywhere.

“It’s time, my love,” Jazzy shouted to Zagreus who seemed to be controlling the dark tendrils. Now that her witches were in trouble, she sounded more frantic than ever. “Bleed the Volana!”

The shield instantly came down once that witch was taken out and the others grew too distracted to maintain it.

I wasted no time. I allowed Max full control, and we ran the fastest we had ever run in our entire life. We used everything we could to get up to Lila. He jumped up on the cauldron and used trees to gain height. Then he jumped as fast and as hard as he could against the tree, flying through the air just as the tendril reached Lila and was about to puncture her chest.

We jumped between her, and the tendril, blocking the blow from our mate.

....

Lila’s POV

When I came through, I was being lifted off the ground and carried. I opened my eyes to see my Xander running with me and taking me away from what sounded like the continuing battle.

“Xander?” I gasped. “What is going on? Where are you taking me?”

“I need to get you out of here and to safety,” he breathed. “My only task is to keep you alive!”

“What happened?” I asked again, trying to wiggle myself out of his arms. “Where’s Enzo?”

When Xander didn’t answer, I low growl escaped my throat.

“Let me go!” I growled, struggling even harder against him.

I felt the power of my wolf surging through me, and electricity poured from my fingers. My father released me quickly before I zapped him.

“You need to stay alive,” Xander seethed.

“I do not run from fights,” I hissed, staring down at my hands that were still producing electricity.

“Our powers are back...” Val said firmly. “Now let’s get to our mate.”

I was relieved to hear her voice but confused as to how we got our powers back.

“If you die, that vessel will be born, and the nation will Fall. His sacrifice would have been for nothing.”

I narrowed my eyes.

Sacrifice?

Was he talking about Enzo?

Oh, my goddess.

Xander knew he had said something wrong when he sighed deeply.

“Lila...” Before he could get another word out, I was already shifting into my wolf form and running as fast as I could in the direction we came.

Thankfully weren't too far from the fight. When I got there, it was absolutely mayhem. The shield that once covered us was broken and it looked like the darkness that clouded the air was completely gone.

I saw Sarah in the far distance in the far distance; they were both fighting rogues. Her father was a large black beast with piercing red eyes, and he was furious. He must have seen the paper I dropped before I passed out.

Sarah seemed to be using her abilities to get rid of some of the rogues as her father tore through them with his large and sharp canines. I was surprised that Sara still had her abilities despite the dark curse, but the more she used them, the paler she got.

Brody was struggling to get to her, yelling for her to stop as he was bombarded with rogues. Sarah ran toward him to help him fight, but I could see how weak she had gotten.

My heart ached for her.

Jazzy was fighting with Hazel, but they looked to be arguing and fighting at the same time. Hazel was still desperately trying to get through to her, but Jazzy wasn't listening to her. Hazel had placed a shield around herself to protect herself.

She had her abilities back as well?

It was strange because it didn't seem like Jazzy was using her magic at all.

Did she somehow lose her abilities?

Most of the witches that were helping Jazzy were already dead. I'm sure Alpha Jonathan had something to do with that.

Nobody seemed to have noticed me breaking through the clearing and running toward the battle.

My eyes scanned the area until they landed on him.

Enzo.

He was lying on the ground, and I could tell from a distance that he was covered in blood.

My heart shattered in my chest, and I wasted no time getting to him.

I ran as fast as I could until I was by his side. I shifted back into my human form and stared down at his body.

He had a gaping hole in his stomach.

He was also pale as a ghost, and he wasn't breathing.

"Oh, my goddess..." I gasped, not realizing I was crying until I spoke, and my voice cracked as a sob escaped my lips. "Enzo!!" I sobbed.

I placed my hands on each side of his face.

"Please... you can't be dead..." I sobbed, not caring about anything else that was going on around us. "Please..." I cried.

I shook his shoulders trying to get him to open his eyes.

My fingers trembled violently as I felt a pulse around the nape of his neck.

"Lila!!" My mother yelled. "You need to get out of here. It's not safe."

Lightning shot out of her claws as she zapped a rogue dead. Shadows emerged from the ground and began to fight around her, shielding her from more rogue attacks. She positioned the shadows to cover me and Enzo, protecting us from onlookers.

She had her abilities back too.

I would have been thrilled if I wasn't so broken. My entire body felt numb as I kept my eyes on Enzo's still body.

The curse must have been broken.

But how?

"Enzo... please..." I whimpered. "I need you to be alive... We need you to be alive...."

I grabbed his hand and placed it on my belly. My entire body trembled as more sobs escaped my lips.

In just moments, my entire world had crumbled around me.

In my mind's eye, I saw my wolf lowering her head and curling up in agony as she mourned the loss of our mate. "I can't do this without you, Enzo... I'm pregnant with our pups..." I whispered to him through my tears. "You can't leave us... I love you..."

Nothing was ever going to be okay again.

"Lila, we need to get you out of here! Where's Xander?" My mother shouted through the noise of the battle.

I couldn't bring myself to stand. I couldn't leave Enzo.

I lowered my head as the shadows closed in around us, protecting us from the ongoing battle.

I buried my face in his chest and allowed myself to break. I wrapped my arms around him, sobbing into him and whispering to him about how much I truly loved him.

"Lila..." I heard my name being spoken and a hand on my back, making me tense. The voice was familiar, warm, and soft. "We have to—"

Her voice broke off as she gasped, dropping her hand from my back. I knew it was Sarah and I also knew Brody wasn't far from her. She sounded tired and I knew it was because life was draining from her rapidly after she used her abilities so much this evening.

"Oh, my goddess..." she breathed. "Lila, you need to look at what's happening."

I knew she wanted me to get up, but I couldn't even think about moving from where I was. Not without Enzo.

"Lila, she's right. It's Enzo..." Brody's voice cut through my thoughts, making my eyes shoot open.

I lifted my head a little too quickly. Dizziness washed over me, but not before I saw what they were talking about.

Enzo was glowing!

Actually... his wound was glowing.

Shards of light were pouring into him from the moon. Or maybe his wound was pouring light into the moon. I couldn't tell, but something was happening.

"His wound is closing..." Sarah breathed, astonished.

My mother had joined us as well, wafting away the shadows that covered us.

I had no idea what was going on, but Sarah was right. His wound was healing.

“Oh, my goddess...” my mother whispered.

The ground began to rumble like an earthquake and the battle around us began to lessen. Not only were most of the rogues and witches dead, but the remaining ones were now distracted by the sudden earthquake and the fact that Enzo was glowing.

But my mother’s eyes were fixed on the horizon and a small smile appeared on her lips. I followed her gaze to see whatever she was looking at.

More wolves were approaching over the horizon line. Rays of moonlight shining down on them and guiding them toward the battle, lighting up their path.

There were dozens of them.

“Are those...?” Brody began to ask.

“Volana wolves...” I finished for him.

Just as the wolf leading Volana pack began to howl, making the others howl in response, Enzo’s eyes flew open.

Chapter 330 The Moon Goddess

Chapter 330 - My Professor Is My Alpha Mate

Enzo’s POV

I was stabbed deep by one of those snake tendril things. I felt pain for the first couple of seconds and watched as blood soaked my entire body and dropped to the ground below me. Lila was released and she fell to the ground.

Thankfully, Bastien was running toward her and caught her.

I saw a faint slight and a gust of wind whooshing over us, knocking most of them off their feet. When I looked below me, I saw Selene running as fast as she could toward Bastien and Lila.

Her eyes were back to their normal purple and blue color.

She got her abilities back.

I knew the only thing holding me together was the fact that the tendril was still inside of me. Pain seared through my body, and I found it difficult to hold onto my consciousness. I wanted to get to Lila, but if I moved, I would bleed out for sure.

Bastien was handing an unconscious Lila to Xander, telling him to get her to safety.

I was wondering why the snake things weren't doing anything and why Zagreus had gotten quiet. I saw that he was staring at me with utter horror while Jazzy kept demanding him to finish the job.

Soon, I was blinded by this intense ray of light, unsure of where it was coming from. Just as the light whooshed over me, the tendril was yanked out of my body, and pain shot through me. I felt blood gushing out of me.

My body began to fall as darkness quickly consumed me.

.....

When I came through, I was in a field. I didn't feel any pain, nor did I feel any blood on my body. It felt as if was waking from a terrible dream.

I lifted my head and felt the warmth of the sun. Which was odd because it was nighttime when I was stabbed by that snake thing. Or so I thought it was.

I thought about that intense ray of light and wondered if it could have come from the sun. I struggled to sit up, expecting to feel pain, but I felt nothing. I soon realized I was in a meadow of some sort, and I also wasn't alone.

Beside me, was a large familiar wolf, sitting and watching me with concerned eyes.

"Max?" I asked, narrowing my eyes at him.

It was strange seeing my wolf like this and not through my mind's eye.

Sadness soon washed over his gaze, and he lowered his head without saying anything.

What happened?

Where was Lila?

Max looked off in the distance, fixing his eyes on something. I followed his gaze and saw what he was looking at.

Someone was coming toward us.

With a pounding heart, I stood to my feet quickly, watching as this person came closer into view.

It was a woman with a flowing white dress and long blonde hair with a crown of white flowers around her forehead. She was oddly beautiful in an indescribable way. Her face was flawless, maybe even porcelain. She also had a glow about her that I had never seen in any other being.

It was an aura that was so bright that I found it hard to look directly at her.

She was barefoot as she walked through the meadow of white flowers; the flowers in the meadow matched her crown.

When she looked at me, she had a gentle smile placed on her perfectly formed lips.

“Enzo...” she spoke gently; her voice was like a song and instantly calmed me. “You have done so well my child...”

Staring at her, I suddenly knew who she was.

“You’re the Moon Goddess,” I said slowly; her smile widened, becoming more radiant than ever.

“I am,” she confirmed. “I am also very incredibly proud of your brave and selfless act of light and love.”

“I don’t understand...” I said, glancing around at the meadow. “Where am I?”

Before she answered she turned toward Max, lowering herself and holding her hand out to him. Max stood and walked toward her, bowing his head in front of her so she could stroke her long slender fingers through his thick fur.

“This is where your wolf chose to come,” she finally answered. “A place to keep your spirit safe until it can return to your body.”

My heart went crashing into my stomach. I was detached from my body... which meant...

“I’m dead...” I said out loud.

The moon goddess glanced up at me and then rose to her feet, keeping her eyes on mine.

I couldn’t read her expression, which made the knot in my stomach tighten even more.

“With your brave act, you banished darkness from your world,” she breathed. “You sacrificed yourself for the life of your mate. A sacrifice like that creates the brightest light to ever exist. It was enough to defeat darkness and stop Jazzy from killing your mate. You did well and you should be proud of yourself.”

“Lila is okay?” I asked in a low whisper, remembering that tendril that was about to pierce her.

“She will be soon enough,” the Moon Goddess said softly. “Thanks to you, all the Volanas have their abilities back and the dark curse has been broken. Zagreus has been banished from this nation and Jasmine is powerless. You took part in restoring this nation, just as the prophet had stated.”

“The prophet?” I found myself asking.

She nodded her head once.

“Lila is not the strongest Volana alone. You have Volana blood inside of you as well, Enzo. With your light, love, and strength, you complete the other half of what makes her the strongest. Without you, this nation could never be restored as it was intended.”

I was in disbelief at her words; I had no idea I carried that much power within me. I stared down at my hands like I was expecting them to do something.

The Moon Goddess stepped toward me, reaching her hand out and placing it on my cheek, making me look up at her.

Warmth instantly spread throughout my body.

“You have endured a lot in your lifetime, but you have learned so much and you grew into such a wonderful young man, Enzo,” she said softly. “I’m so proud of you.”

I found myself smiling at her kind words, feeling a bit lighter and at ease. But that feeling soon went away when I thought about being detached from my body.

“What is it?” She asked gently, reading my expression.

“It’s just that... I’m dead... which means I can’t be with my mate anymore...” I said slowly. “Don’t get me wrong, I’m glad I could help restore this nation. I’m glad Lila will be safe... but I wish I could be with her. There is a fight still going on and I’m not there to help them.”

To my surprise, the Moon Goddess let out a laugh. Her laugh was musical, her aura grew more intense if that was even possible.

“A spirit cannot die,” she said lightly. “Your body can only be damaged. But not to a point of unrepair.”

I narrowed my eyes at her, furrowing my brows together.

“What does that mean? I’m not dead?”

“With your light and love, you were able to save Lila and restore the nation, but she is still your other half. She is still the other piece of the puzzle needed to fully restore this nation. Allow her to work her magic and restore not only the nation but you as well.”

“She can save me?” I breathed.

A twinkle in her eyes danced as she swayed her arms around her sides and an image appeared beside her like on a TV but floating in the air.

It was Lila.

She was crying and sobbing over my bloody and destroyed body. My stomach clenched at the sight, and I found it difficult to breathe watching it.

I had a gaping hole in my stomach, and it was clear I wasn't alive, but she still shook me and pleaded for me to wake up.

But then Lila said something that made me freeze.

“I can't do this without you, Enzo. I'm pregnant with our pups. You can't leave us... I love you....”

My entire body froze.

The Goddess swayed her arms again and the image disappeared. It was too soon; I needed to see more. I needed to see my mate.

Max was also staring wide-eyed and for once in my life, I had no idea what he was thinking.

“She's pregnant?” I said in barely a whisper, staring up at the Goddess. “I'm going to be a dad?”

“To twins,” the goddess confirmed. “Both boys. You will later have a little girl.”

My heart swelled at the news.

Twin boys and a little girl.

My family; my life.

“I have to get back to her,” I said firmly. “Tell me how to return to my mate.”

The Goddess smiled.

“Just trust that your mate will restore you,” she said, stepping away. “Rest assured, that everything is going as it should.”

Her image was beginning to fade, and I knew she was leaving.

“Wait, don't leave yet,” I called after her. “What if I need more guidance?”

“Look inside yourself, Enzo. You have all the answers you could ever possibly need. Use them to your advantage.”

As she spoke those words, her voice grew much softer as her image faded.

“Wait... will our children be strong and healthy?” I found myself asking, still in disbelief over this news.

She smiled, that twinkle returning to her eyes.

“Just like their parents,” she said as her body faded and she was gone.

I closed my eyes, sitting in the meadow of flowers as Max rested his head over my lap. I draped my fingers through his thick fur, and I laid my head on the ground, allowing the warmth of the sun to blanket over us.

I focused my attention on how much I truly loved Lila. I thought about how I wanted to be with her and how I would do anything to see her again. I allowed the light of the sun to fill me with strength and energy. I soaked under the warmth as the thought of Lila filled my head and my heart.

“I trust you...” I found myself whispering.

When I opened my eyes, I was no longer in the meadow. I was lying on the ground with a loud battle going on around me. I peered up and saw Lila staring wide and misty-eyed at me.

I heard loud howling in the distance, bringing my head back to the moment.

I sat up, confused as to what was happening. But before I could fully grasp it, she flung herself into my arms, crashing into me and sobbing in my completely healed chest.

“I thought I lost you...” she whispered as I held her tightly.

“You’ll never lose me...” I said in return, basking in her incredible scent. “Neither will our pups...”

She peered up at me with alarmed and tear-filled eyes.

Before she could say anything, or ask how I knew, we were interrupted by the stampede of wolves that charged toward the battle.

It looked as if some of the rogues were taking off running in a different direction. Jazzy, now powerless, was also running, knowing that this was a battle she couldn’t win.

Hazel went after her.

The stampede of wolves, I realized almost immediately from their glowing purple and blue eyes and the lighting that shot from their claws as they ran, were Volana wolves.

My heart was pounding as I saw the Volana in the lead.

Tears filled my eyes as I stood to my feet, taking Lila with me.

“It’s my mother.”