Lila's POV:

2 years later

Asher woke me up bright and early as he did every morning.

He's lucky I love him so much. Enzo wasn't in bed when I woke up, which made me worried for about 2 seconds before I remembered that he told me he had to clean up his stuff from the arena that morning It was his last day as a professor and as much as says he's happy and relieved about it, I can still see the sadness in

his eyes. He was going to miss this job. I told him that he could continue being a teacher even after I graduate, but he said his

pack needs him more than the school does and now that the boys are going to be living in the packhouse full-time, he wants to be there too.

I was secretly happy when he said that because I didn't want to return to our home without him. Asher's screaming grew louder and soon, Cooper was awake and babbling way.

I sighed and slid out of bed.

"I'm coming," I announced to the open room as I made my way into the hallway, shutting the bedroom door behind

poured out of his eyes.

me.

Once I reached Asher and Cooper's room, I turned the knob and stepped inside. "Mama!!" Cooper cheered excitedly from his crib.

I smiled at my happy boy and then went over to Asher's crib where he was still whaling. His face was all red and tears

"What's wrong, baby?" I asked him as I scooped him out of his crib and held him close to my chest. He buried his face in my chest and his little body trembled. I bounced him a few times until he calmed down and all

that was left was some soft snif es. When I felt Asher's head, I frowned.

"You're burning up," I said, worried lacing my tone. It took a lot for Volana wolves to get sick, but I suppose it was different for babies and toddlers.

I carried Asher out of his room and into the kitchen; I opened the cabinet I kept the medicine in and frowned at the little selections that I had. We really didn't need medicine often, so there wasn't much in the cabinet.

something, or he was going to be miserable today. It didn't take long for me to come up with an idea. I walked down the hallway and into my bedroom where I left my

phone charging on the nightstand. I grabbed the phone and I saw Enzo's name ash across the screen.

I sighed and leaned against the counter, holding As her tightly as he shivered into my chest. I needed to do

I smiled at the text he sent me. Enzo: If I don't see you until later, good luck today! I love you.

His text made my heart swell, and I couldn't help the goofy smile on my lips. I couldn't believe that he still had this

effect on me a few years later. With a pounding heart, I scrolled through my contacts until I came across Rachel's

name.

"Hello?" She answered the fourth ring.

I clicked her name and pressed the phone to my cheek while it rang.

I was honestly surprised she was even awake right now, but I knew she was close to the school nurse and could help me out. "I need a favor," I said without any other greeting. "Asher is burning up and I need fever reducer."

I nodded but then felt ridiculous because she couldn't see me.

"And you want me to go to the nurse and grab you some?" She nished my sentence for me.

"I t's not too much trouble," I said, biting my lower lip and feeling bad that I was pulling Rachel away so early in the morning.

morning.

"Mama!! I'm hungry!" I heard Cooper yelling from his room.

very eager Cooper.

together, and Asher isn't sick.

sitting at the table beside him.

"I'm sorry," I murmured. "If you're busy, I can —" "I'm already out of bed," she said stopping my words. "Let me just get some clothes on and I'll be there as soon as I can."

I could hear her shuf ing out of bed, and I winced knowing that she was in bed relaxing, and I just disrupted her

"I appreciate you so much, Rach," I breathed, feeling a wave of relief washing over me.

"I'll see you soon, Rachel. Thanks again," I said to her as I hung up the phone.

I carried Asher into the living room where I sat him on the couch and put on Cocomelon, his and Cooper's current favorite show. Once the living room was led with little kids' music, 1 went into their bedroom and scooped up a

"I told you I'd help you whenever you needed it and I'm true to my word," she reminded me.

"What would you like for food?" I asked him as we stepped out of his room and toward the kitchen. "Pancakes!" He cheered.

Cooper was the happy and hyper boy and Asher was a bit more mellow. But they were pretty wild when they were

I smiled at my toddler as I placed him in his highchair. "Pancakes it is," I said fondly as I went over to the freezer and pulled out the pack of frozen mini pancakes.

I put a few on a plate and popped them into the microwave. After I sent the timer, I made both Asher and Coope a

juice cup and I gave Cooper one before I went in to the living room to check on Asher.

He was curled up on the couch with his stuffed bear, staring mesmerized at the television.

"How are you feeling, sweetie?" I asked as I bent down beside him.

"Aunt Rachel is coming with some medicine," I assured him. " In the meantime, have some juice."

I felt his head and frowned at how hot his forehead was. He groaned miserably as his eyes found mine.

I gave him the cup and he took a small sip before allowing the sippy cup to fall to the couch beside him. I sighed and went back into the kitchen where the microwave was yelling at me.

"Panny cakes!!!" Cooper cheered as I pulled them out of the microwave and drizzled a little syrup on the side before placing it in front of him.

When I called for her to come in, she stepped inside and waved the brown paper bag in the air.

"I got some fever reducer," she said as she glanced down at Asher. "Awe is this our patient?" She knelt beside him

Cooper didn't waste any time eating. I ran my ngers through his dark curly hair and then kissed his forehead before

I nodded as I sat beside Asher on the couch and took the bag from her. "Thanks;" I breathed as I took out the medicine. "I owe you."

"Hey little Coop," she chuckled at the nickname she had given him.

Iwas exhausted and I had no idea how I was going to get through today.

Within the half-hour, Rachel was knocking on my front door.

and touched his head; her frown deepened. "Yikes."

He beamed happily, making me chuckle. Rachel looked up at me and gave me a soft smile.

Rachel's eyes widened and she gave him a fake shocked look.

"Panny cakes?" She gasped. "I am so jealous!"

"Are you ready for today?" She asked.

A knot formed in my stomach at the thought of today, but I managed to nod. "Nervous, but yes. I'm ready," I answered. "How about you?"

We talked for a little longer before she stood and sighed. "I should go; I need to get ready for this afternoon. If you need anything else, call me."

"Iwill, thank you again," I said as I waved at her.

"Grammy!!!" Both Asher and Cooper cheered.

cheeks. "Are you about ready to go?"

I took a deep breath before nodding.

"Yes, I'm ready," I said nodding.

"Hey, Lila Bean," he said, wrapping me in a tight hug.

She was gone shortly after.

I smiled at him.

While both boys seemed to be preoccupied and Asher no longer looked miserable, I decided it was best if I went to take a shower.

I already knew who it was before I opened the door. "Where's my grandchildren?" My mom asked as she ran into the house past me.

"I'm so glad sweetie. Are you hungry now?" I asked him, but before he could answer there was a knock on the door.

Soon, Corrinne and Flynn were walking into the house. They were silent and giving one another dirty looks so I knew they'd been ghting. I was dreading the day that Asher and Cooper stopped getting along.

I chuckled as I turned to my father who was walking in behind her.

"I can't believe our daughter is graduating college," my father said, wrapping me in another hug. "It's a big day." I smiled; he was right, it was a big day. Today was the day I graduated and my life with my family can

"Brianna is already there with Beta Ethan, Aiden, and Donovan," my mom said after she

"Auntie Ray!!!" Cooper yelled as he ran into the living room. ' Rachel smiled as she opened her arms and Cooper ew into them. "Ijust had panny cakes," Cooper announced proudly.

"Don't even worry about it," she said, waving me away.

"I've been ready for the last 4 years," she chuckled, running her ngers through her dark brown and highlighted hair.

I only took a quick shower, not wanting the boys to be left alone for too long. I wore a simple sundress and tied my hair into a ponytail at the nape of my neck. The closer time got, the more nervous I was feeling. "I'm feeling better, mommy," Asher said as I walked into the living room.

Rachel was the kind of person who changed her hair color every week and this week she had blue highlights. She

could pull off any color and she always wore appropriate clothes that brought out the color of her hair.

"Hey, Dad," I breathed, hugging him back tightly. Once he released me, he went to greet the twins with my mother.

nished pinching both boys'

nally begin.