Chapter 0458

As I dream, it dawns on me that they will all be eighteen in six months and I could lose this. What am I thinking? I will lose this. No mate would want to share them, any of them. I hope that I am lucky enough to have Sam mated to Sierra. At least that friendship can remain, but what about Oliver and the twins? I am so close to all three of them, we have some type of symbiotic relationship. I don't even know if I will be able to leave them to go back to the training compound again. Just the thought of that hurts my heart.

I stir from my fitful sleep and notice my cheeks are wet. Was I crying in my sleep? This is worse than I thought.

I get up to go shower again. I can only imagine what my face looks like if I was crying. I let the scalding water make my whole body red as I try to wash away the sadness my dreams brought on. When I can't stall anymore, I hop out and get dressed then step back into Cam's room noticing both of them are standing in the middle of the room waiting for me, clearly having a conversation over their mindlink.

Kota grabs for me as I try to pass them and I let him pull my back to his chest as Cam steps in front of me placing his hand under my chin to raise my eyes to his. He doesn't say anything, just searching for something in my eyes. I just take a deep breath, breathing both of their scents and letting it calm me. I shake my head. We have things to get done today and I have months before any of my worries need to be dealt with.

He looks at his brother and something passes between them, he nods looking at me again and they both let me go, following me out of the room.

The walk downstairs is somber, or we are all just tired only getting a few hours of sleep. But the drama hasn't even begun yet. As soon as we get into the kitchen, Kaley's high pitched screech greets us.

"Good Morning, my Alphas. I hope I was able to help you sleep well?" She bats her lashes suggestively, standing from the island where she was sitting with her dad. He's wearing a smug look of triumph.

"Uh, no actually. Your nighttime activities gave us a migraine. Smalls had to help us out." Kota says wrapping an arm around my waist as Lil spits out and Jena chokes on their first sips of coffee.

"Ah! Wha .. ?"

"Please try to keep your link closed when you are having s* x. It's inappropriate and disrespectful to whomever you're with." Cam follows behind.

"How dare y.." Kevin starts, but Cam cuts him off with a hand up.

"Lenny, thank you for breakfast." He leads us past the tray that Lenny has set for us with wrapped breakfast burritos piled high, we each crab a couple foil wrapped burritos then out the door to the training grounds.

We have settled into a good routine with training in just a

couple days. I forgot how much I loved this. I love teaching and working with all the kids. I guess each of the lead warriors take turns doing the Sky training, because it is extremely early and kind of brutal since it is a punishment training. It is funny to watch the kids come from SKy training and then get paired with Lil, Jena or I directly after. Many of them are not repeat offenders.

We each shower and change after training. Lil and Jena head to the school with Mateo and Sam, the twins head back to the packhouse to work on the pack financials for the month and Oliver and I head down to the bonfire space, following instructions from Elena in the grimoire.

Today I am going to try to manipulate earth today. I have been able to levitate it, but not actually move it and if it comes down to a war Elena thinks that will be a good skill, I agree.

"So talk me through this, Bitty. What should I expect?"

"A lot of misfires actually. I started with water and I think for the first couple hours, Elena was soaked even standing directly behind me." We both laugh, but I am serious. I can only imagine what I will do with clods of dirt.

I sit on the ground with the book opened to the marked page and begin chanting. The reaction is almost immediate as chunks of earth begin floating around me. It feels like my mind is holding lots of strings pulling them up and suspending them in the air. Now I have to split my focus and suspend some and throw others. The first chunk I try to move explodes with a pop and shower of dirt. Oliver lets out

a little laugh, so I focus on one closer to his leg, which also explodes, hitting him with some of the debris. He jumps and moves to the side and I focus on another close to him getting another explosion.

I find that having him to focus on as a target helps me. I am still only making them explode but I can isolate better. After about two hours, I can make little dime sized pieces of dirt follow him around the clearing.

"Midge, we need you. Not an emergency, but wrap up what you are doing. I found something."

"Okay, give us twenty minutes."

"We are needed at the school, Jena found something." I pick up the grimoire and stand, brushing the small bits of dirt in my lap.

"Umm, Bitty?" I finally look at Oliver and almost fall over laughing.

My Gamma is covered head to toe in dirt. He looks like he was crawling around on the ground through a mud pit and then let it dry. I don't know if there is more than an inch of him that is left clean.

"You look good, you should totally rock the look." I choke out between laughter.

"Oh yeah?!" He comes at me and I drop the book to defend myself.

Oliver drops low to take out my legs, I spin, but he still manages to get one and I am thrown forward so I tuck in a

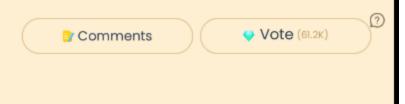
roll and he follows to try and gain the advantage, but I use his weight to my advantage. I flip us both around and end up sprawled out across his chest.

He could easily reverse our position, but he doesn't, he just stays on his back and holds me. I lay my head on his chest enjoying the closeness.

He takes a deep breath. "I know you don't want to talk about it, but I have to ask." He rubs my back a few more times before he continues. "How fast are you trying to get out of here? I know you want to get back to training and you are doing all kinds of stuff with Alpha Reggie now that you know you are connected with them, but how long do we get to keep you? Last time was really hard. I know none of the others are going to say anything, but it was really bad."

"What do you mean really bad? No one said anything."

"No one wanted to make you feel bad about being gone so long and with how it went down, I think we just wanted to focus on having you back, but you need to know..."



Chapter 0459

"Midge! What are you doing? Time is of the essence here!"

"Lil, your timing is terrible, you know that?"

"Why? You banging your Gamma?"

"You know I'm not, asshole."

"Then move your ass, you can ogle your boy later."

I take a deep breath and press my forehead to Oliver's chest. "Can we table this? Lil is being insistent that what she has is time sensitive. I also feel like this is a conversation for all of us to have together and shots will be needed."

"Shots? You have grown up haven't you?"

"I had to learn how to keep up with college kids and stay safe, so yeah a little. We should maybe sneak out and do the bonfire tonight."

"Why not? Let's go see what your team found."

"We really should go clean up first."

"Nah. They interrupted something, they should know that. It will also help to spread some rumors at school." He winks at me.

I just shake my head, picking up my book, packing it back into my bag and we head out. He won't let us walk though

and heads towards a black jeep.

"Is this yours?" He nods. "When did you get this? I thought you guys went everywhere in the truck." I copy him and climb in as he starts it up and pulls out of the driveway.

"We still take the truck when we're together, but we have been divided a lot over the last year really getting into our individual training and jobs. Like I said, lots of changes. I don't know if all they guys are going to come clean, you just need to know we were all in a dark place for a while after you left. For me, it was getting to you so late. The twins actually didn't speak...to each other... for almost a month. No one knows what happened there, but they stopped sharing a room too, and I've never seen them sleep separately in our lives. They did until you got back."

"Yep, drinks are needed, especially if we are going to trade horror stories like that."

We pull up to the school and head into the office. We get strange looks from the few people in the hallways as we enter, making us both laugh.

For only two people. Lil and Jena have a flurry of things going on. Papers and blueprints are spread out everywhere.

"What is all this?" I ask, heading straight to the desk tracing my fingers on a stack of blueprints..

"We have them and we will be able to get the house built in a month. Cunningham is using pack funds to pay for this big ass house." She points at plans in front of her. "That he wants and he has no actual permissions from the Alpha or anyone that should have signed off on it. The original report shows that there was suspicion of foul play and arson, but no one followed through on the investigation and everyone just skipped to rebuilding the house." She hasn't made eye contact yet, she is back to typing on her computer.

"That's strange, I don't remember anyone saying anything about foul play and the guys and I were all a part of the teams that took care of the damage and cleared out the areas to make room for the rebuild. Cunningham's house was one of five that were really damaged to the point that the families needed to vacate." Oliver supplied.

Both of them looked up at us finally with different expressions on their faces. "Not banging your Gamma, my ass! What were you two up to?"

"I told you magic can get a bit messy."

"That's what we're calling now?" She laughs.

"You know none of us can do anything like that, stop."

"Like what? I want to actually hear you say it." Why my friend insists on embarrassing me I don't know. "Your Gamma is a hotty, none of us would blame you."

My eyes go wide. "Stop teasing her and her Gamma. Even he's blushing." Jena chuckles.

I clear my throat then ask, "Where did the other four families go? We didn't kick them out of rooms at the packhouse did we?" Trying to change the subject.

"No, their houses were fixed within six months. They all

stayed at the packhouse while we rebuilt one house at a time and vacated as soon as they could. The Cunninghams project was the last to be started. Kevin said he was being generous and allowing the lower, more needy pack members to be taken care of first." Oliver rolled his eyes, going with the subject change. "He just used it to stall, we all know that. As people moved out of the packhouse they slowly took over more rooms on the guest floor, then there were constant problems with plans, or inspections, or materials. Kevin actually spent about two weeks going through each piece of lumber that was delivered and if he found anything wrong he would send the whole delivery back. We had a lot of angry suppliers. My dad had to placate them and then finally kick Kevin off the construction site because people were quitting."

"So, that begs the question 'why would it take more than a year for one house when four others were completed in six months?' Why did no one else catch this, or allow it in the first place?" Lil asks.

"I honestly think that they make so much noise and cause so many headaches, that having them focus on the rebuilding of their house was a break for so many people. While being a massive irritation for others. And Kevin was incharge of the rebuild project so any complaints about him didn't go anywhere." Oliver shrugs.

"But you guys can't even relax at home with them around. It used to be a safe space to be normal away from pack members and now you don't even have that. They are everywhere, trying to insert themselves in everything. I

mean, just listening to Kevin try to insert his opinion about training programs when he doesn't even train himself is painful." I don't know why I'm pleading with them, they get it.

"That's what we are going to fix." Jena looks like Christmas came early. "He expects the pack to pay for the full rebuild of his house since it was damaged in an attack. Then recommendations for 'necessary improvements' were made. Recommendations that came from an uncertified inspector Kevin hired personally, mind you. And before you ask, yes I have concrete proof. With that knowledge alone he isn't eligible to have the pack pay for the extra expenses. So we are going to build his house as originally planned, when it was torn down."

"How long will that take? And how do we keep Kevin from stalling again?" I ask.

"We take over the project. Oliver, I need you to reach out to the company who is in charge of construction. We need a meeting tomorrow morning, right after training. I also need to meet with Alpha Lucas to get a couple of things approved. If we can get everything finalized it should take a month if we all help with labor to get framing and walls up. I know everyone I talked to is completely over this project and are all hands on deck to be done with the Cunningham's BS. They have been hateful and rude, blaming problems on workmanship and incompetence. They have burned bridges thinking they can because they have the Alpha in their pocket."

Chapter 0460

"You didn't say how you were going to keep the Cunningham's in the dark about this." I say.

"This is where you and I come in." Lil claps her hands. "He already is banned from the construction site, but has regular contact with the contractors. I have talked to the current contractors and they are going to basically move all communication to email, so we can have control over it without him knowing. That will cover that side of it. We will give him the plans and move forward, he will get what he is supposed to, we won't lie to or deceive him, but we will just word everything in a way to keep him placated."

"So how do we keep him from checking the sight?"

"We are scrutinizing all of the school's safety protocols as the Alpha King's first line of security. They, most likely, already know about the plans to move non-warrior pack members, but until we actually start the move, the safety of the pups is our," She points between herself and me, "Main priority and assignment from the Alpha King. Alpha Lucas has already sent him instructions to do as we say, which means he's going to be on our asses. We need to get really specific and have daily early morning meetings with him and of course since it has to do with taking care of the pack's safety, the 'future Luna' should be involved." Lil rolls her eyes. "I have already sent them both emails, we are starting right after training first thing tomorrow."

"That keeps us out of helping to build though." I exclaim. I really don't want to deal with Kaley for a month, even if Lil is there to be my back up.

"But you have such willing and strapping young men to do your bidding." Lil winks. "It's perfect. Kaley is going to be so focused on you that she won't pay attention to what is going on around her. She's also going to see this as a benefit since she will see you nowhere near any of your guys all day everyday for a month. And they can't claim you did anything wrong because you will be with them the whole time."

I can't really argue any other points. We spent the rest of the day planning out our security detail for the school. Both plans were a go. We were able to get a hold of the contractors in charge of the Cunningham's house and they agreed that the constant changes were unnecessary and would only come back if we could guarantee that Kevin would not be involved at all. Alpha Lucas agreed to Jena's terms and even offered to pay a bonus to the laborers if they could have it done before the new year. He seems to be more willing to go against Kevin recently as opposed to just letting him have his way. I would love to ask him about it... when we both have time.

Following training the next morning, Lil and I had a meeting with Kevin and Kaley highlighting all of the necessary changes for the school and several that were not required, but would take time and of course needs their input. Lil and I made a point to make fun over mindlink of the fact that Kaley was allowed to skip classes for this when Kevin tried to give me and my friends a hard time about setting good

examples to younger students.

The more that Lil stroked her ego the more Kaley pushed for the extensive changes to her father, wanting to use it as her Luna project for the pack. He couldn't say no to her. She was on board with everything that Lil suggested and said I shouldn't f*ck anything up and make her look bad.

We were able to fill the guys in on what we were up to over the mindlink daily, but we didn't see much of each other until a few weeks later when they needed help hauling lumber to the Cunningham's property overnight for an early start the next day.

The whole crew was buzzing with excitement and anticipation of being done with this massive irritation. We were able to organize the entire site with all the tools and supplies and the general contractor was confident that with this many people, the second floor framing would be completed and the roof started by the end of the day tomorrow. All of the other contractors have just been working quickly around adding pipes, ductwork and electrical as they can. It's been really impressive to see the camaraderie and teamwork. I know they are hoping to put the drywall up in the next couple days, then flooring, paint and appliances.

Kaley did throw a fit about Lil and Jena moving up into my room and repeatedly made comments at dinner each night, until last night Luna Ava told her to deal with it and she would run her pack house as she sees fit. And she doesn't even allow the future Alphas to act the way that she has been since our arrival. And with the expectation of warriors

coming to the pack for the impending war, we need to make preparations. One of those is making room in the packhouse for those warriors to have a place to sleep and eat.

When Luna Ava told her 'that is what a responsible Luna does' Kaley went pale and didn't say anything the rest of the night. Alpha Lucas had a smile on his face the rest of the night.

I also heard from Elena this morning, she said that the coven was preparing to come and do a barrier spell around the Blue Crescent Pack borders and she wanted me to be a part of it. She had instructions that would be coming with Nathaniel and Wyatt for my part in the spell.

Alpha Reggie checked in with Alpha Lucas and I, saying they were ready for us to start moving any non warriors to the Royal pack grounds for safety. The plan is to move them in waves so no one suspects what we are doing and we will be placing warriors in the homes on the outskirts of the pack so it still looks like everyday life is going on.

Wyatt and Nathaniel were fully immersed into finding Gentry for Nickolas, but said that they could do that from anywhere so they were planning on joining us in the next week and they could help with our construction labor team.

By Christmas the Cunningham's home was complete and we even made time to pull all of their furniture from storage and place it all exactly as it was before the attack happened.

Alpha Reggie proudly presented them with keys at a ceremony to celebrate pack unity and camaraderie, knowing full well Kevin Cunningham wasn't going to refuse in front of the whole pack, who of course was invited to this momentous event. We even made sure that all of the packhouse Omegas carefully packed and moved everything out of the packhouse for them so no strain was felt by the family most affected by the attack from almost two years ago.

The air in the packhouse was light and giddy as we celebrated. Sierra was even able to join us which was a loud and girl-scream filled reunion. Although, I think the mistletoe got to her and Sam and they disappeared early in the night.

For the first time in a very long time I felt happy and light.

All of my friends are here and safe.

