

Chapter 0512

She wraps her arm around my shoulder and leads me in, not giving anyone else attention. I can feel the stares and I don't know how much of what she said was heard by them, but it was enough to know that I was involved with his death.

We head to the formal dining room where the head seat has been left empty, but a single red rose is placed where his plate would have been. My dad, Brett and Kyle are all here waiting by the far wall. Alpha Reggie, Luna Anne, Xander, Oscar, Mina, Nickolas, Gentry, Elena and Osiston are all standing behind their respective chairs. She sits me in the seat next to hers wordlessly, takes her seat to the right of the Alpha's chair, then everyone else files in and sits.

The one major difference is that my dad, Brett and Kyle take their boys and move them up the table into their former places. Opting to sit towards the middle of the table where the boys used to be. Mateo doesn't let go of Jena's hand and sits her next to him as he takes his place next to the twins across from me and Ava. Sam does the same with Sierra, sitting next to Jena. And even Oliver moves Lil up with him, sitting between her and I. They have been talking in low voices and animatedly, well as animated as my broody Gamma can get, since they got back. I wonder what they found?

Just as everyone gets settled, food platters are placed and

Ava takes a deep breath to speak, thundering footsteps proceed from the front door after it is banged open. All of us jump to our feet ready for a fight, and then a blonde tornado flies into the room.

"I am so sorry for being late." She moves around towards the twins. "I didn't realize how early you would be having dinner tonight, thank you so much for waiting for me." Lil scoffs and Kaley glares at her as she moves towards the empty seat at the head of the table. The only empty seat at the table. ³

The growl that comes from Ava as Kaley reaches for the chair is one I have never heard her use before and Kaley stops in her tracks, looking terrified.

"We weren't waiting for you Kaley..." Dakota starts.

"This dinner is for family and close friends of our father." Cam finishes, gesturing around the fully occupied table. "Everyone who should be here has a seat already. You can see yourself out."

"But, I want to be here to support you. It's what a good Luna would do." She simpers and reaches for Cameron's arm. He pulls away before she can touch him.

"Any Lunas that should be here are already present." He and Dakota shot me a sideways glance that was so quick I might have imagined it. "Good evening." ²

"But... I..."

“Your Alphas asked you to leave. Do you need your Betas to show you out? Or can you follow simple instructions and find the front door on your own?” Jena growls darkly at her. With her head turned like that I can see the mark at the base of her neck that was so not there before we went on our plant assignments today. My brother has the biggest sh*t eating grin on his face at her comment and I can’t help but smile at his happiness. Even being mated to a Beta, her Alpha aura is strong. ³

We all just stare at her until she gets the hint or just can’t think of any other excuse to stay. No one moves until we hear the front door close behind her.

The rest of dinner was bittersweet. Ava started by saying a few words about Lucas as an Alpha, a mate and a father. She hinted at things he went through and what brought him to this point. She even thanked me for helping make his journey back the Moon Goddess as painless as possible. Many tears were shed until Alpha Reggie started to fill his plate and tell us when he first met Lucas which involved them getting stuck in a human town, naked, because they couldn’t shift back and trying not to get caught by human police. We all laughed hard and then followed suit and ate and drank and heard and told our favorite stories about him. The night got lighter and happier as we talked about him. We all called it a night around ten since his celebration was going to start at dawn. All of the pack warriors were working until midnight and then Elite and Royal pack

warriors were going to take over patrols so they could attend the celebration.

I hug Mina, Oscar and Xander who have been staying in their room. None of them are going to risk Mina getting hurt if an attack comes while they are here. She is carrying the future of the Royal pack and if Mike and the Rogue King and this witch are coming after me because I have Royal powers, what would they do to her putting another layer between them and the throne? 1

Brett wraps an arm around Ava after she hugs everyone and leads her to the elevator to go to the Alpha floor. From what she said they have been packing and plan on moving her out after the celebration tomorrow. I'm not sure where she plans on going, but I think I understand. That was her place with Lucas. I don't know if I could live where I made a home with my mate after they passed either. 1

I stop Elena and Gentry and tell them what we found. "We don't have to do anything with it until after the celebration tomorrow. I just wanted you both to know what we discovered and get your input on how to either use it to our advantage or destroy it."

"What made you think to try and change the spell to something productive?" Gentry asks. She is still a little gray looking but she sounds strong and determined.

"That was actually Lil, she's our resident pitbull, always on guard duty."



"Hey now, I'm not sure if you are trying to insult me or compliment me, but I have seen what magic does to Midge and I wasn't sure if there was something we could use the current spell for without draining her of energy right before a fight." She shrugs like it's nothing.

"You have a good mind. Much like the Gamma here, you seem to understand the way magic works." Elena says, appraising my friend. "Let us do some digging and we will let you know." 1

Gentry grabs my wrist firm, but gentle. "Stick close together tomorrow. The full transfer will render the Alphas weak for the briefest amount of time. Maintain contact with them during the whole transfer." Gentry looks right at me. "They will need your added strength." I close my eyes and breathe deep. It's like the universe is conspiring to put me in their constant orbit now that I don't want to be near them all the time. Like she's reading my mind, she says, "Trust your Goddess, she has a plan and I know that you have had the worst of things to deal with, but you are better for everything that you have dealt with." I just nod, no matter how frustrated that simple thought makes me.



Chapter 0513

Nickolas wraps Gentry up in his arms and guides her away, I'm sure to rest more. I also watch Elena walk over to my dad and start a conversation. I don't feel bad at all for the twinge of happiness at how uncomfortable he looks too. The rest of my friends disperse and I make my way to the staircase alone. It's almost weird to be walking without the usual entourage, but I don't mind the space to breathe, no matter how brief. [1](#)

I get all the way to my room, knowing I am being watched, but no one is interrupting or forcing their presence on me. I take a shower and climb into bed, not waiting for Lil, her and Oliver were in a deep conversation when I left, or at least appeared to be. [2](#)

My dreams were all over the place. I started back in Jena's and my cell, but this time I was alone. She got out safe and found my brother. I strained against the cuffs like always, and for some reason this time I was able to free myself with my own strength. I traversed down a hallway I have never seen before and out a giant metal door. I saw Tyler fighting through a sea of tall grass that kept whipping at him and he just fought and fought, shouting something to me, but I couldn't hear. Then Robbie was throwing some kind of stone at me, but not hitting me. They sparkled as they flew through the air, but I couldn't see what they were and they

disappeared as they hit the ground. Then Luna Ava was trapped behind a wall of fire and screaming for Lucas, but Brett was holding her back. My dad and Kyle were laying on the ground dead. All my friends were fighting for their lives, bloody and bruised. Kaley and Kevin were on the top of a white tower, eyes glowing red, waving hands around, conducting the wind, but still I heard no sound. There was a shadow behind them, dark and ominous, who pointed straight down. As I tracked where it was pointing, I gasped. Suspended from the ground were my guys hung by their wrists, heads lolling. I can't tell if they are conscious or breathing. I run towards them, but I don't seem to go anywhere. Then a soft lispy voice is in my ear, coiling around me like a snake.

"Choose. You cannot save them all. Look at the ones who claim to love you, sacrificing themselves. But these five have always undervalued you, always thought of you last, if they even thought of you at all. Who will you try to save? The brother who loved you only slightly better than your father. The boy who only sought you out to gain your friend's attention. The boy who thinks you are not strong enough, always needing protection. Or the twins who never seem to want you enough. You are a novelty, a tool to be used and nothing more. Choose who lives and who dies. Take their lives to spare them pain, just like your Alpha. Or come with me, away from all of this heartache. You will be better off without this neverending turmoil they cause you." 3

A hand flies at my face and I jump up and out of bed,

spinning around to try and find my attacker. When I'm sure no one is there, I run my fingers through my hair and head to the bathroom to splash some water on my face. I head back out to the room and for the first time I realize that Lil isn't here with me and Oliver didn't come for me. He's never not come for me when I am scared or lost in my thoughts. The tightness grips my heart. What was that dream about?

I am never going to get back to sleep now so I throw on some sweats and decide to go see who's in the office monitoring. As soon as I step out of the door I hear footsteps coming down the stairs.

The door to the third floor opens wildly.

"What's up Bitty?"

"Why does it feel like you're having a panic attack?"

"Have you been crying?"

"I...I...had a nightmare and I woke up alone and confused. I don't know." I rub my face again. "I think Lucas' death is getting to me more than I thought."

The twins get to me first. Cam picks me up and I don't even think or hesitate to wrap my legs around his waist, my arms around his neck and bury my face into his neck, breathing deeply. Kota is rubbing my back. After a couple minutes I look into Cam's eyes and then turn to Dakota, shifting so he can take me in his arms. I need to feel them both. Know that they are here and alive. Once I take several breaths of his

cinnamon scent, I climb down and move to Oliver, placing my forehead on his chest like I always do and he wraps me up in his arms.

"That must have been a serious dream if you came to us before Oliver." Kota tries to joke and I huff out a teary laugh into Oliver's shirt. 1

"I have a feeling Mike and the Rogue King are going to be puppies compared to this witch."

"Do you want to tell us about it?" Cam asks softly, tucking my hair behind my ear.

"Not really, but I think I need to. There was a lot going on, but I think I might need Elena to listen too. She might understand what the dream meant for me and all of us."

"Come on, you are going to stay with us the rest of the night." Kota grabs my hand and leads me to the door.

"Wait, you said you had a crazy bad dream, but we didn't even feel it until you were already out of it and leaving the room. What happened, Bitty? I should have felt your dream scaring you." Oliver looked just as panicked as I felt when I thought the same thing. I just shrugged.

"What were you doing, just a little while ago?" I ask, not really sure if I should.

"I was sleeping in your...my... room. Lil had an idea and wanted to run a few scenarios by Wyatt and Nathaniel. We

talked about things that might happen when the twins hit that weak time Gentry was talking about. If they are weak and you are sharing energy with them, that means you will be weakened too. It would be an ideal time for Mike to attack."

"If you were just sleeping then you should have felt it. It was awful." He cocks an eyebrow and moves to the bedroom door, gives it a solid once over, then starts running his hand over the frame. When he yelps a 'motherf*cker' we all rush to him. It's a bundle of the different plants we found today and the spell that is on it singed Oliver's fingers. ³

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