

Chapter 0544

I can feel their heartbeats change pace, they are coming for me without even a thought for anyone else and I can't decide if that is sweet or stupid. There is so much more to deal with and Mike is here for me. They could be saving rogues and getting help to our warriors while Mike is busy talking to me, because one thing I know is he's going to talk and talk and talk. He should be a cartoon villain with the way he likes to monologue.

"Did you break her in for me yet? I was really hoping she would be primed and ready when I finally came for her."

Mike saunters up flanked by two wolves. Their eyes are red, but they don't look confused or scared. These guys want to be here. They volunteered for this bullshit.

Dakota moves behind me, wrapping an arm protectively around my waist again and I let him pull me back to his body. I definitely feel safer and stronger like this. He's smart enough to know not to say anything yet, though.

"Are you ready to come home, Skylar?"

"I am home, Mike. Leave and take your pack of jackasses with you. Stop harassing our pack."

"Oh no, I must have my Luna and you are the one that I have chosen. My mother has been planning a long time for you, I would hate to disappoint her. She is right, you are perfect.

You will be the perfect Luna to sit by my side, to carry my children and make me the most powerful Alpha so I can take my rightful position as the Alpha King." Dakota's hands get tighter the more that Mike talks about how he wants to use me, but I can't hear any of it. 3

I start laughing uncontrollably. I have no idea where it is coming from, but with him right in front of me talking about how his mom wants to set us up, I can't help myself.

"I don't think I would have pegged you for a mama's boy." I keep laughing as Mike's face loses some of its bravado. "You really let your mom tell you who you are going to mate with? I figured maybe your dad had some kind of expectations for you. I mean being second best probably really does suck. I wouldn't know though." 1

"Smalls, what are you doing?"

"I thought that was obvious. I'm pissing him off."

"That much I gathered, what I don't know is why."

"I can't wait for this lesson." Lil huffs a laugh.

"You're all still here?"

"Yes we are...Big Daddy. Don't you think that one is ever going away." The rest of my team laughs and Dakota squeezes my hip again.

"Another thing you will pay for, Sweetness." Dakota says out loud.

"Hmm! What does this one want to punish you for? I may want to keep you alive to watch those. I think I want to know what kind of ways she likes to pay for her sassy behavior." Mike is musing out loud. Gross. "And yes, my mother saw you coming. It's why she made her deal with your Alpha eighteen years ago. It's why we are all here now. She is smart and powerful and you are destined to be mine."

"The fuck did he just say?" Cam snarls. 1

***"We are five minutes out, keep stalling Sky. Dakota, keep your cool, but feel free to insult him. He deserves it, the f*cking prick." Jena's ETA is music to my ears.

"What deal did your mother make? It's not anything we were made aware of when we took over the pack." Dakota's arm tightens around me as he steps to the side of me. "

Considering she will be one of the next Alphas, I can see the appeal to your mother. Once she had Skylar, there would really be no use for you. And you, Mike, are a disappointment." 3

Mike physically bristles at the idea. "What are you talking about? I got here all on my own and she can't be an Alpha. She will be my Luna, standing beautifully next to me for all the world to appreciate while I rule."

"I will agree she is beautiful, but if your only plans are to try and keep her as a Luna, then you are in a world of hurt and so much more stupid than anyone has mentioned. I'm sure

your mother figured that out quickly when you lost Skylar and Jena. And from what I understand you can't sire any heirs anyway, no matter how many girls you molest." This time, Mike does growl.

"WHAT THE F*CK IS TAKING SO LONG! Will you just grab her skanky ass and let's go. It can't be that hard. I have sh*t to do!" 1

Her screechy, loud voice could not have shown up at a more perfect moment. I thought Mike was going to lunge at us. It's not that I'm afraid of him, but at the same time, I want the whole team here to subdue him. I know he isn't the brains behind this and from what it sounds like his mom might be even more than his dad. We need her to make this sh*t stop.

"Get your f*cking slut so I can have my Alphas like you promised." Kaley walks over and shoves Mike in the shoulder. I have no idea where she came from, but she definitely isn't dressed to traipse in the woods, so that means there is a car nearby. And Mike looks pissed at her blatant lack of respect for him. "Dakota, get your arm off of her. You will be of age tomorrow and able to officially claim me as your Luna and I don't want anyone thinking that they can get your attention to stray from me." 2

He just huffs a laugh at her. "What are you talking about?"

"You and Cameron will be eighteen tomorrow and will be able to mark me as your Luna. No more stalling or planning

or whatever is going on here.” She waves a hand around at the wolves still fighting around us like it’s a minor inconvenience. “You said this would all be done by now. Stop stalling.” She looks at Mike.

“You have no authority, here you stupid b*tch. They aren’t even interested in you anymore.” Mike makes a gesture with his hand and two more guys join us dragging Kevin between them. He’s breathing, but for once, I don’t feel bad for a person. He has never done anything but try to cause me harm and pain. 2

“What?! You promised they would be completely under my control by their eighteenth birthday. What the f*ck did you do wrong?”

It’s like they’ve forgotten we are here, but I’m afraid to move and gain their attention.

“I did nothing wrong. Your father however is so incompetent that he couldn’t even complete a simple spell to maintain your hold over these two dimwits. That would make sense though, coming from this pack.” 2

I can feel Dakota tense around me. This time I do move just enough to lace my fingers with his. I’m even afraid to speak over the mindlink. I don’t want to miss anything they might say about the magic or the pentagram.

Chapter 0545

"We're here. You have a full circle. Nathaniel has eyes on the car Kaley came in. Some of your guys were able to flatten the tires. She isn't going anywhere unless she wants to get dirty." Lil gives me the basics, she knows I need to focus, but knowing we aren't alone helps calm my nerves.

Kevin lifts his head up. "I did everything you said to do. It took years to make that spell work." He wheezes out. She changed the ingredients or incantation and it didn't hold the way you said it would. You were never going to give us this pack anyway were you?" He asks and I can see his brain working. They made a deal to help get me and secure the twins for Kaley, but Mike had no intention of leaving my pack unharmed, more than likely including them. It was probably easy for him or one of his people to convince them to do the hard work of setting up the spell with the promise of power and the form of the future Alphas, knowing he was going to kill everyone anyway. It was a deal easily made.

"Of course I changed the ingredients and the spell! I needed them to be mine, but one of you f*cked the whole thing up!" When is she going to ever learn to take responsibility? Who am I kidding, that has never been her thing and it never will be.

"Who gave you a different spell?" I find myself asking. If there is another player, I want to know, but I am also

genuinely curious.

"Adrielle said if I added a couple lines to the spell at each of the plant thingies, then it would be stronger for me." I think this is the first time she has addressed me and not insulted me. "But the guys I had do it must have done something wrong. You weren't supposed to be here anyway."

"If it really was Adrielle that gave her the things to change the pentagram, something else is going on. She didn't want KAley to have the twins. Or something else."

"Maybe she thought you wouldn't survive the things you went through breaking the spells." Cam muses.

"It might not have been Adrielle, but someone like Gentry and I that wanted to stop her."

"Elena! Are you close? Is the fire breaking the spell on these rogues?"


"Of course you are cornered by the enemy and thinking about people who were attacking you not two hours ago." 2

"Enough of this bullsh*t. I want my Luna, hand her over." Mike demands, like Dakota would do anything of the sort.


At that moment Oliver and Cam walk up. I can't see them, but I can smell them both. Cam wraps an arm around my waist standing on my other side and Oliver next to him. I can't help but feel like Oliver is too far away though. 2

"Don't worry Bitty, there's plenty of time to get close." 2

"Stop reading my thoughts, Oliver." I try for snark, but I can't help smiling.

"Not your thoughts, but your emotions. I would definitely like to have you closer, but we have business to attend to first." He turns his attention to Mike. "Unlike you, she craves our presence and our touch." 

He's goading Mike too. But Mike's patience is better than I thought.

Kaley walks over to Cam. She has always sought him out over Dakota. "Cameron, honey, please see reason. Mike is going to destroy your pack all for this skank. Just hand her over and everyone will be safe and sound. We can go back to our happy lives." 

For a brief second, I have a flash of him saying something placating to her, just so she stops causing problems, like he always has when it comes to her or the way his dad dealt with Kevin. She doesn't get two steps from Mike though when he reaches out to stop her.

"Stay right where you are. If your Alphas want you they can have you, your usefulness has run its course for me. But they must give me Skylar in exchange." She winces and he must have given her wrist an unpleasant squeeze.

"That's easy enough. Boys, hand her over and we can get back to normal." She goes to move again, but he doesn't let her go.

Kevin whimpers to my right. He knows what's coming as much as I do. They won't let me go and he will die.

"Skylar, do as you're told, by your future Luna. Get over here!" She squeals this time. 1

"No." I say dryly and I really want her to understand before she is actually dealt with. "First you are not and have never been my future Luna. I'm really tired of saying that. Second, have you thought this through? Mike wants me as his Luna, so he can be the next Alpha King." Mike's eyes light up at the sound. "So if this exchange were to happen the way you want it to, I would be your Luna. You would have even less authority over me than you think you do now. As I see it though, I'm good here. You can't have them. Not now, not ever. Keep Mike if he will take you, but I doubt you would be good enough."


She growls and moves to lunge at me, Quick as lightning, I am shoved back into a hard chest, Cam and Kota in front of me. But the sight of Mike with his fist around Kaley's neck is what surprises me. 1


"You would attack my Luna?! How dare you? You got what you asked for. YOU got your spells and control of your pack. If you were not capable of handling the kind of magic you were given, that fault lands on you." Her eyes are popping out of her head. I can just barely see past their massive shoulders.

"Kaley please. Just let it go. We will find you a new mate. A better one." Kevin is pleading from somewhere on the ground near us.

"Never! I want my Alphas. I will be a Luna!" She wheezes, holding on to Mike's hand at her throat. He must have her lifted off the ground. She's so delusional. Even with her life being threatened, she can only think about being a Luna, about the title.

"I told your father you weren't fit to be anyone's Luna, but he didn't listen. You have worn out your usefulness. Neither of you can be trusted to follow orders correctly. You are both so blind and selfish, you made stupid mistakes to your own detriment." Her eyes go wide and she starts to flail, making the pressure on her neck worse.

Then I feel the snap of the connection from Kevin. He's gone, just like that. He should have suffered more for his crimes, but he is no longer anyone's problem. 

"Are you sure you don't want to try and save her? She is a pack member after all. What kind of Alphas would you be letting an innocent member die at the hands of your enemy?" Mike tries to goad the twin's 

I can see Kaley looking at us, hoping, depending, that at least one of the twins will jump in to save her. But no one moves. No one says anything. She sealed her fate when she put the whole pack in danger, just to gain a title. 