

Chapter 241 The Shattered Knife

Moana

Suddenly, the golden void that I was stuck inside returned to the cliff. Only now, instead of a raging thunderstorm, it was sunny and beautiful. The birds sang overhead, and the air felt warm and fresh and a little damp from the rain.

But I didn't care about any of that. I didn't even care that I was no longer in my human form, either. I only cared about Edrick.

I jerked my head up and looked around.

No, I thought to myself as I saw the two motionless figures lying in the grass.

I scrambled to my feet and ran over to them. It felt a bit strange running on four legs instead of two, but I didn't have time to think about it right now. All I could think about was finding Edrick and making sure that he was okay.

As the figures came into view, I felt my heart sink. I didn't want anyone to die — not even Michael, despite the fact that he was trying to kill me. But when I saw the golden shards of the shattered knife lying next to him, and the cuts that traveled up his arms, I knew that he didn't make it.

The knife must have shattered in his hand, and sliced up his arm. Blood was pooled around him, and he didn't seem to be breathing.

But right now, I was more concerned about Edrick. He wasn't lying too far away, and I could see his chest moving slightly as I ran up to him.

Like the knife, my heart shattered into a million pieces as I saw Edrick lying there. His body was covered in blood and gashes from the fight. Without thinking, I shifted back into my human form and fell to my knees beside him.

"Edrick?" I whispered, tapping on the side of his face as I felt my throat choke up. "Edrick, say something."

His chest was moving slightly. Maybe it was just wishful thinking, but I swore that I saw his eyelids flutter.

He wasn't dead yet... I was sure of it.

"I can heal him," I said to Mina, whose presence was stronger than ever now. "Please. I need your help."

Mina's presence strengthened a little more. Before, I felt as though she was an enigma lingering at the back of my mind, but now that I had finally shifted for the first time, it felt oddly as though she was an entirely second being existing inside of me. Like we were two whole beings shoved into one shell.

Something felt different about her, too. She felt wiser, more mature. I felt the same way; it felt as if becoming the Golden Wolf filled me with a new knowledge that I had never felt before, nor had I ever expected it.

"Okay," she said. "I think you know what to do. I'll give you the strength, and you just need to focus your energy."

I nodded. A tear snuck out of my eye and rolled down my cheek as I looked down at Edrick. I put my hands on him, wincing as I felt his warm blood beneath my fingers, and did exactly what Mina instructed me to do.

I focused all of my energy on healing him. In my mind, I pictured him being healthy and safe, without any injuries or pain. I pictured him waking up and smiling at me, and that everything would be okay.

Just as Mina promised, I felt her power and strength surge through me. I felt a tingling sensation cover my arms and my hands, and I felt that energy flow out through my fingertips.

“Come on...” I whispered, focusing even harder.

Suddenly, Edrick’s eyelids moved again. This time, they cracked open.

“Moana...” he murmured. His voice sounded hoarse and strained, but I only felt an ecstatic energy flow through me.

“Keep your hands on him,” Mina instructed. “Don’t lose focus, and don’t let go.”

I nodded again and continued focusing my energy on healing Edrick. As I did, I could feel his chest rising and falling more naturally now, and a joyful laugh caught in my throat.

“Moana...”

“I’m here, Edrick,” I said, straining still to focus my energy on healing him. “Just don’t move. I’m healing you.”

But Edrick shook his head. Suddenly, he grabbed my hands and pulled them away from his body. I felt the energy in my arms and fingers fizzle out, as though someone had snuffed out a candle inside of me.

“What are you doing?!” I shrieked. I struggled against him and tried to put my hands back on him, but he wouldn’t let me.

“The baby,” he said, his voice barely more than a strained croak. “You’ll hurt the baby... Just go. Go to Ella...”

I shook my head, my eyes filling up with tears. “No,” I said, wrenching my hands free. “I can heal you. The baby will be okay. Just... Just hold still.”

Edrick groaned. I pulled my hands out of his weakening grip and cursed under my breath as I saw the unmistakable red flowers of blood blossoming out beneath his white shirt, staining the fabric a deep scarlet color.

I placed my hands back on him and began to focus my energy again...

But I couldn't feel Mina's power surging.

“Mina!” I cried out loud, not caring if Edrick heard me. “Help me! What are you doing?”

“Look at him,” Mina replied in a calm tone of voice that made me sick. “He's not going to make it now that the healing process has been broken, and besides... Neither of us knows if this much energy will hurt the baby. The baby has already been through so much today—”

A sob caught in my throat, and I shook my head. My red hair, which was caked to my forehead and the sides of my face by the rain, fell into my eyes as I continued pressing my hands into Edrick's wounds.

“Just help me!” I demanded. “Please, Mina! He'll die!”

Mina didn't respond at first. I pressed my hands harder into Edrick's wounds. His blood and flesh squelched beneath my touch, and I grimaced.

Finally, a small surge of energy burst forth. The tingling sensation returned to my arms and hands, and I focused my strength once more on healing Edrick's wounds.

“Moana...” His voice was just a whisper now. “I love you and our baby. Tell Ella...”

“Shut up,” I demanded as my vision became completely clouded with tears. “Shut up and let me heal you.”

Edrick just shook his head and touched my hand. His fingers felt cold and weak, and his hand shook. I looked down at his shaking hand and felt my chest heave.

“Moana, please,” he muttered, his voice fading quickly as his breathing became rattled and strained. “Just tell me you love me...”

Edrick’s icy gray eyes looked up at me. They were clouded over, just moments away from death. I felt my strength fade, and I fell back onto my butt on the wet grass and sobbed.

“Moana...” His hand fell down to the ground.

There was nothing I could do. I grabbed his cold hand and held it up to my face, pressing my cheek into his palm.

“I do love you, Edrick,” I whispered between my sobs. “I love you.”

A soft smile came across Edrick’s face. And then, his hand fell limp.

Chapter 242 The Tears of a Lover

Moana

Edrick's hand suddenly fell limp. The smile on his face faded as his eyelids fluttered shut, and at that exact moment, I felt my heart shatter into a million pieces.

"No..." I whispered, my throat closing up already. "Edrick?"

He didn't answer. I felt a sob catch in my throat.

Without thinking, I pressed my hands into his wounds. I heard the flesh and the blood squelch beneath my touch as my vision became clouded with tears.

"Come on," I said, my voice shaking violently as I pressed harder and tried to focus my energy.

"It's no use, Moana," Mina said, sounding full of regret. "I'm sorry. His wounds were too deep."

I shook my head in disbelief and just pushed harder on Edrick's wounds. His body shifted beneath my touch, filling me with a false sense of hope that he was still alive. But he wasn't — he was dead. When I felt his neck, there was no pulse.

There was no containing my grief anymore. As a keening wail started to rumble in my throat, I felt the tears spill out of my eyes and pour down my cheeks.

“Edrick...” I cried. I threw my arms around him and fell onto him, sobbing hysterically and not caring if I got myself covered in his blood.

My fated mate was dead. There was no greater pain than this.

“I want to go back!” I cried out to Mina. “Let me go back! I don’t want to be here anymore!”

“I can’t,” Mina replied. “You already made the choice to stay in the real world. There’s no way for you to switch with me now.”

Another wail escaped my lips and carried across the wind. The birds, which had just been singing as the end of the storm came, now fell silent. Or maybe I just drowned them out with my sobs.

But then, something happened while I cried onto Edrick’s limp body. I thought it was just in my head at first, but when I suddenly froze and felt it for a second time, I sat up abruptly and wiped my tears away.

I felt Edrick’s heart start to beat in his chest.

“E-Edrick?” I stammered, looking down earnestly at his pale face. “A-Are you alive?”

He didn’t answer. Shakily, I leaned back down and placed my ear on his chest.

Nothing happened for a moment. I started to lose hope; maybe I really was just imagining it, or maybe it was a muscle spasm.

“Moana, I don’t—”

“Shh!” I shushed my wolf and pressed my ear harder into Edrick’s chest. My eyes widened.

There it was: another heartbeat. Edrick was alive.

I suddenly sat up again, and pressed my hands into his chest once more. This time, I focused my healing energy with even more passion and

squeezed my eyes shut as I felt the tingling sensation take over my arms, hands, and fingers again.

I focused my energy with all I had left. With my eyes shut, I pictured everything that I loved about Edrick... Everything that I wanted to see again. His smile, his laugh, the feeling of his warm arms around me. His face, red with embarrassment when the kids teased his artwork. The way that his chest rose and fell as I laid my head on it at night.

Suddenly, I felt my power surge. I almost felt sick from it, but I kept focusing.

“M-Moana...”

Edrick’s low voice startled me. My eyes shot open, red with tears. He still looked asleep, but I could see it now; I could see the color returning to his face. I could see his eyes moving slightly beneath his eyelids.

But healing him still was too much. I needed to get him to a point where I could transport him, and then I would need to get him back to the mansion.

Gritting my teeth through the weakness and nausea that took over me from using this much energy to heal him, I pushed a little harder. I could see Edrick’s wounds closing slightly. Fresh blood stopped oozing out and it filled me with hope.

I couldn’t heal him anymore though. I feared that it would hurt the baby.

“Edrick, if you can hear me,” I said, leaning down to him and cupping his face in my hands, “I’m going to take you back to the mansion on my back, in my wolf form. Can you hold on?”

Edrick slowly and painfully nodded his head. I couldn’t help but laugh out loud at this miracle that just happened before my eyes, and I leaned down and kissed him deeply on the lips. I felt his lips twitch beneath mine.

I stood then and began to shift. Unlike the first time, it already felt more natural. Despite my dizziness from healing Edrick, I allowed Mina to take over, and within mere moments I was standing on four legs with my golden fur billowing in the breeze.

Crouching down next to Edrick, I nuzzled his hand to get his attention and nearly leaped for joy when I felt his fingers close around a chunk of my fur. I then nudged my large muzzle underneath his back, and helped him roll over and put his leg over me.

“Hold on,” I said. In my wolf form, no physical words came out, but I knew he could hear me because of the way that his grip tightened on me.

Slowly, I stood. His body managed to stay on my back, although I could feel him growing more limp by the moment, and I knew that I would need to hurry.

“We’ll be home in a few minutes,” I said, taking my first few steps forward. “Just hold on until then. We’ll get you some help.”

I felt Edrick’s body move a bit, and felt his fingers tangle through my fur. Filled now with a sense of relief, I started walking toward the mansion.

In my wolf form, and with the mist dissipated, I knew how to find my way back easily. Taking care so as not to drop Edrick or hurt him, I carefully trotted into the woods and let my wolf guide me home.

I kept telling myself that it was over now. Edrick would be okay... Michael was dead, but at least the knife was destroyed and the legacy of the Golden Wolf could continue. Now, I just needed to get Edrick home so that the others could help me heal him the rest of the way.

I felt weak, though, from the whole ordeal. Somehow, I could sense that the baby inside of me was running out of strength. I picked up my pace, praying that the baby would be okay after all of this.

Edrick groaned as I jostled him while leaping over a fallen tree, but he held on tight. Soon enough, I was already reaching the edge of the woods

where Kat and I were walking together. Kat, of course, was nowhere to be found; she had likely made a run for it after her little plan came to fruition. But none of that mattered now, because the mansion finally came into view. I saw the faces of Selina, the maids, and the bodyguards as they ran out of the back door, and I knew that Edrick would be saved.

Chapter 243 Daddy's Home

Moana

As I ran across the back lawn to the mansion, I could see Selina, the maids, and several security guards come running outside with scared looks on their faces.

All of them froze, their mouths hanging open, as I approached.

“Moana...?” Selina said quietly as she took a tentative step toward me. I nodded and slowed my pace.

“Moana is the Golden Wolf!” Amy yelled out loud, cupping her face excitedly. “I can't believe it!”

“I'll be damned...” One of the security guards, Darren, slowly walked up to me with his eyes wide. “I never thought the Golden Wolf was anything but a fairy tale for kids.

I wished that I had time to let them process this, but I could feel Edrick weakening on my back. I felt a warm liquid trickle into my fur, and I could tell instantly from the metallic smell that assaulted my new wolf senses that it was blood.

Suddenly, Edrick groaned and fell completely limp. He lost his grip and started to slide off of my back, causing everyone to gasp. I quickly shifted

back into my human form and caught him in my arms just in time before he hit the ground.

“Hurry,” I said, watching in horror as I saw fresh blood starting to create red blossoms on his shirt. “I couldn’t heal him fully by myself.”

In a flurry of activity, everyone suddenly crowded around me. The bodyguards hoisted Edrick’s limp body up and began carrying him back to the house, while Selina and the maids checked on me.

“Are you alright?” Selina asked with worry in her eyes. “What happened? All we knew was that Edrick said Michael was here, and then he ran off. The security guards have been running around like chickens with their heads cut off.”

I shook my head and swallowed. My throat felt hoarse from screaming, and now that we had returned to the house, I suddenly realized just how achingly sore my body was. Selina and the maids helped me to my feet, and I held my belly as we began to walk back to the mansion.

“He tried to kill me,” I said. “Michael. He had a knife... I shifted just in time, but... Michael didn’t make it. Edrick got horribly wounded, too. I tried to heal him but I’m running out of energy, and his wounds are deep.”

“Don’t worry, dear.” Selina wrapped her arms around me. “We’ll heal him up. You need to rest for both yourself and the baby. Did you get hurt?”

Once again, I shook my head. “I’m dizzy, but I’m alright,” I replied. “I’m just worried about Edrick...”

As I thought back on Edrick’s limp body, I felt tears come to my eyes again. If I lost him again, I wouldn’t know what to do with myself. I knew the pain of losing a fated mate now... I never wanted to experience that ever again.

“Here.” Selina guided me in through the door. A sob instantly escaped my lips as I saw Edrick laying on the dining room table with the security

guards circled around him. They had shoved everything off of the table and laid him there so they could work on healing him.

Before Selina could stop me, I wrenched myself away from her grip and ran over to Edrick. His eyes were still closed, and he seemed even less responsive now.

“Edrick!” I cried, cupping his face. “Are you there?”

“Miss, can you please step back?” one of the guards asked, gently trying to guide me away. “We need to heal him—”

“No!” I shouted. I yanked my arm away from the baffled security guard and practically glued myself to Edrick’s side. “I’ll help heal him! I refuse to just stand here!”

“Moana...” Selina reached out to touch my shoulder with a shaking hand. “The guards are well trained. They can heal him.”

“No.” I shook my head and pressed my hands into Edrick’s chest, just like I did on the cliffside. I still felt woozy from everything, but I was determined not to just stand by idly and hope that they could heal him on their own. “I’m the Golden Wolf and his mate!”

Everyone fell silent. I started to focus my energy, but suddenly stopped when I realized that they didn’t fall silent because of me, but because of something else. There was a creak on the stairs, and I jerked my head up to see Ella standing there with wide eyes.

“Ella, honey, go upstairs,” Selina said, rushing over to the bottom of the stairs. “Go play in your room. Here— Lily, go with her.”

Lily rushed over and tried to guide Ella up the stairs, but Ella wasn’t having it. In one swift movement, she ducked under Lily’s arm and ran down the stairs, dodging past Selina and the security guards, and ran over to the table where Edrick was lying.

I couldn't move or speak. I was frozen, horrified at the fact that Ella had to see her father like this. I suddenly felt overcome with guilt as I realized that she likely wouldn't have come downstairs and seen all of this mess if I hadn't started wailing and shouting like a madwoman.

"Moana?" Ella asked, looking up at me as her little hands gripped her father. "What happened to daddy? Why is he bleeding?"

"H-He's..." I didn't know what to say. My voice faltered, and I kept opening and closing my mouth as though something would eventually come out, but nothing ever did.

"Is my daddy dead?" Ella's eyes started to fill with tears, and her face turned red.

I shook my head and pulled my bloody hands away from him, then rushed around the table and crouched in front of Ella. "No, sweetie," I said gently, taking both of her shoulders in my hands. "He just got hurt, but he's still alive. The security guards and I are going to heal him and he'll be alright."

Ella didn't seem to believe me as her big eyes searched my face. Her hand was still gripping her father's arm so tightly that her knuckles were white, which stood in stark contrast to the redness in her face.

"What happened?" she whispered.

I swallowed and glanced up at Selina, who was shaking her head. She didn't want me to tell Ella the truth... But I couldn't lie to her. Not after Edrick had just promised that we would always tell her the truth about everything.

"He... Your grandpa... He attacked me," I said, feeling my lower lip quiver. "Your daddy saved me, but he got hurt. Can you trust me to take care of him?"

Ella started to sob. Suddenly, however, I felt as though I knew what to do. Somehow, I knew that I had always known how to do this. Even before

my wolf ever emerged, it was a special ability of mine. I always thought that I was just good with kids, but now I knew differently.

Pulling the little girl into my arms, I hummed gently. Within moments, her crying ceased. Selina, the maids, and the security guards looked on in shock as Ella took a step back and wiped her teary eyes.

“Okay,” Ella whimpered. “I trust you. Please take good care of my daddy.”

Chapter 244 Healing Touch

Moana

“Can you trust me to take care of him?” I asked.

Ella began to sob, but I somehow knew exactly what to do. It all felt so natural now... I didn't even really need to think about it. I just knew to wrap my arms around Ella and comfort her, although whether it was my abilities or simply my nurturing instincts, I couldn't be entirely sure.

Suddenly, Ella stopped crying.

“Okay,” she whimpered after a moment, stepping back and wiping her tears out of her eyes. “I trust you. Please take good care of my daddy.”

I managed a weak smile and nodded at Ella, taking her little hands in mine. “I will take good care of him,” I whispered as I looked into her eyes, still using my pacifying ability to keep her calm. “Don't you worry.”

Ella nodded and stepped away, allowing the security guards and me to get back to work on taking care of Edrick. My ability to pacify children was always strong even before my wolf emerged, but it was even stronger now. I felt as though I could command Ella to do somersaults if I wanted to, although I knew that I would never abuse my powers.

With a collective deep breath, the security guards and I gathered around the table again while Ella ran over to the maids and the rest of them looked on in horror.

“Moana, are you sure about this?” Selina called, her voice shaking a bit from nervousness.

I looked up to see the elderly housekeeper standing off to the side and wringing her hands nervously. I smiled at her, just as I did at Ella, and nodded. “I’ll be fine,” I said. Even though I felt like I would pass out, it was a risk that I was willing to take.

The security guards and I circled around Edrick. Each of us held our hands out and pressed them on Edrick’s limp body, then began to work at healing him.

I closed my eyes and focused my energy, feeling the power surge through my body again, traveling down my arms and into my hands and my fingers with that strange tingling sensation. I started to feel a little more lightheaded but I pushed through it and just focused on healing Edrick.

However, something was wrong. I opened my eyes to see that Edrick’s wounds didn’t seem to be healing very well. Every so often they would start to close up, but then they would reopen. I didn’t know if it was just that his wounds were deep or if it was because the Golden Knife had created some of his wounds. Either way, it was worrisome.

Noticing our struggle, Selina rushed over and rolled up her sleeves. I watched in awe as she put her hands on him and squeezed her eyes shut, focusing intensely on him.

Noticing our struggle, Selina rushed over and rolled up her sleeves. I watched in awe as she put her hands on him and squeezed her eyes shut, focusing intensely on him.

But it still wasn’t working. Edrick would start to stir, but then he would quickly lose conscious again as his wounds began to reopen.

“It will take the Golden Wolf’s healing powers to heal any wounds created by the Golden Knife,” Mina said. “But you’re getting weaker. You’re running out of energy, and so am I. I’m not sure if we can do it.”

I cursed under my breath and focused harder. “Just try,” I said to Mina in my head. “We can do it. I made a promise to Ella. We have to do it.”

I felt Mina’s power surge a bit, but not for long.

“It’s not working,” one of the security guards said. “We need more power.”

I shook my head. “I need more power. It has to be the Golden Wolf who heals him because it was the Golden Knife that injured him. But I just don’t have the strength...”

Suddenly, I felt a tiny hand on my arm. I looked down to see Ella standing beside me. She was looking intensely at her father, but then tilted her head back to look up at me.

“I’m here, mom,” she said quietly.

I felt my heart skip. At the same time, I felt my wolf’s power surge greatly. Suddenly, all of the aching and nausea that I felt melted away as though it had never even been there, and I blinked back tears as I nodded and returned my gaze toward Edrick.

I closed my eyes, and let my wolf’s power surge through me.

Just a little more...

I practically leaped for joy as I felt Edrick’s body twitch slightly beneath my touch. His breathing, which had just been strained and hoarse, seemed to be returning to normal. I squeezed my eyes shut even harder and focused even more energy on healing him as I felt Ella’s little hand grip my arm.

All of a sudden, I felt a huge amount of movement that nearly knocked me back. But before I could stumble backwards or even open my eyes, I suddenly felt warm lips pressed against mine, and I felt two warm hands cup either side of my face.

My body felt so light that I was certain that I would fly away. I smiled against Edrick's lips and threw my arms around his neck, hearing the sound of everyone around me letting out a collective sigh of relief.

My body felt so light that I was certain that I would fly away. I smiled against Edrick's lips and threw my arms around his neck, hearing the sound of everyone around me letting out a collective sigh of relief.

"Daddy!" Ella shouted.

Edrick and I pulled away. I laughed as I wiped the tears out of my eyes.

"Hey, Princess," Edrick cooed, scooping Ella up into his arms.

Ella giggled. "You're alright! See? I knew mom would take good care of you!"

I was speechless as I watched Edrick hug Ella tightly, and so was everyone else. With a grin, he held his free arm out and pulled me in as well, and the three of us held each other. I wasn't sure if I wanted to laugh or cry. My dizziness returned almost immediately, but I didn't care.

"Oh, thank goodness," I heard Selina say. "Thank you, Moana."

I shook my head. "Don't thank me," I said. "Thank Ella for lending me her strength."

Ella, however, just giggled. "I didn't use any of my powers," she said with a laugh.

My eyes widened. Was it possible, then, that Ella simply calling me 'mom' was enough to give me strength?

"You're both superheroes," Edrick said. His voice was still slightly hoarse, but there was color in his face and a wide smile spread across his lips as he sat on the edge of the dining table. He looked around then, and especially looked me up and down for a long few moments.

"Are you alright?" he whispered. "Are you hurt?"

I shook my head. “I’m fine. Just a little tired.”

“Come on.” Edrick stood, still holding Ella. “Let’s get you two some rest. We’re all safe now...”

I started to follow Edrick over to the stairs. But just as we reached the stairwell, my ears suddenly picked up a strange sound. All of us stopped and looked at each other in confusion; even Selina, the maids, and the security guards seemed baffled at the strange shuffling and groaning noises coming from the back patio.

My eyes widened, and so did Edrick’s eyes as we stared at each other in disbelief.

“It can’t be...” I whispered.

Edrick just stared at me with a wide-eyed gaze, and clenched his jaw as the groaning noises continued to grow closer.

Chapter 245 Return

Moana

Everyone froze and stared at each other with wide eyes as the sound of the groaning and shuffling came closer.

“Daddy?” Ella whimpered. “Who is there?”

Edrick slowly sat Ella down, then walked toward the door. He gestured to the security guards, but before anything could be done, the last person we expected walked into the doorway.

“Thought you could kill me, huh?”

Michael stood in the doorway with an evil smirk on his face. Selina, the maids and I all let out a collective gasp. Selina suddenly grabbed Ella by the arm and shoved her behind us to keep her protected.

“Michael,” I said, taking a step forward, “you were dead.”

Michael just laughed. “I was indeed,” he said. “But not for long. I guess you didn’t realize that I was waking up thanks to your healing abilities by the time you took off with Edrick and just left me there.

I shook my head. “I never healed you—”

“Oh, but you did.” Michael took a step forward. The security guards moved to stop him, but Edrick held his hand up to make them wait. “Because you’re an untrained i***t who has no right having werewolf abilities, you didn’t just heal Edrick. You healed me alongside him, because I was within close vicinity. Convenient, isn’t it?”

My eyes widened. I looked up at Edrick, but his eyes were fixed on Michael.

“Why are you here?” Edrick asked angrily. “How did you even get here? Why are you so hell bent on killing the Golden Wolf that you would try to kill a pregnant woman and your own son?”

Unsurprisingly, Michael simply shrugged. “I suppose you wouldn’t understand,” he snarled. “I’m sorry, Edrick. But if you just step out of the way and let me finally finish the job, I won’t bother you from now on. WereCorp is yours.”

Edrick stared disbelievingly at Michael for a long time, and held his arm out to keep me behind him.

“You’re a monster,” Edrick said. “I’d never let you kill Moana. You could promise me all of the wealth in the world and I still wouldn’t let you anywhere near her.”

Michael just laughed. His laugh was low and grating, and as he laughed, he coughed slightly. I watched as a bit of blood trickled out of his mouth, and he wiped it away. The gashes on his arms were still there from when the Golden Knife shattered, although they weren’t bleeding so much now. However, he still looked weak.

And he didn’t have the knife, but I wasn’t going to say anything just yet. I was curious to see where this would go now that he had no real way to kill the Golden Wolf.

And he didn't have the knife, but I wasn't going to say anything just yet. I was curious to see where this would go now that he had no real way to kill the Golden Wolf.

"I'll have you locked up." Edrick took another step toward Michael. Suddenly, my hand shot out and I grabbed Edrick's arm, causing him to stop and look at me over his shoulder. I just slowly shook my head and then walked in front of him. He didn't seem to want to let me do it, but we both knew that there was no stopping me now.

Michael almost killed my mate and my baby, and he put Ella in danger. Even if I wasn't the Golden Wolf, I was still a mother. And Michael unleashed my rage.

"If you want to kill me so badly, then do it now," I said, walking toward him with my arms outstretched. I stopped a few paces in front of him and stared down my nose at him. The cruel Alpha who once towered over me seemed so small now. "Go ahead. Kill me."

"Moana—" Selina began, but I just held my hand up for her to stop and she fell silent immediately.

Michael laughed again. A little more blood trickled out of his mouth, and he swayed slightly as he gripped the doorframe.

"Maybe I will," he murmured. "I won't let you and your agenda get in the way of my business. I built my empire off of the backs of lowly humans. Don't think that you can ruin that for me."

Now, I was the one who laughed. "You can kill the Golden Wolf as many times as you want," I replied. "But it won't stop change from happening. The Golden Wolf is a feeling, an idea. It's not a physical entity. You can't kill it. The seeds of a revolution have already been sown by the very people who you abused to build your so-called 'empire'."

Michael's face darkened. "You know nothing, w***e," he whispered, taking a staggering step toward me. "All you know is how to trap a man with a bastard child—"

"Don't speak about our baby like that!" Edrick shouted, his voice rumbling like a growl.

"Oh, so now you care how I refer to your child?" Michael chortled. "You never cared when I called Ella the same thing. She doesn't even know, does she? Ella, do you know that your father is a worthless—"

"Shut up, grandpa!" Ella suddenly shrieked in a shrill tone of voice, causing everyone to whip around in surprise and stare at her. She shoved past Selina and stood there with her hands balled up into fists at her sides. "You're nothing but a big meanie! No one likes you!"

"Shut up, grandpa!" Ella suddenly shrieked in a shrill tone of voice, causing everyone to whip around in surprise and stare at her. She shoved past Selina and stood there with her hands balled up into fists at her sides. "You're nothing but a big meanie! No one likes you!"

Suddenly, while my back was turned, I felt movement behind me. I whirled around just in time to see Michael lunging toward me.

But I only smirked.

I held my hand up with my palm facing outward. As I did, that same blinding golden light shot out, only this time I knew how to control it. It beamed out toward Michael and collided with his body like a physical force that sent him flying backwards. He flew out the door and onto the grass on his back, groaning.

"Moana!" Edrick called.

I stormed out the door and walked over to Michael, who lay writhing on the grass in pain. The wind got knocked out of him during his fall, and he couldn't even speak now.

“You can’t kill me, Michael,” I said, bending down to look him straight in the eyes. “I know you can’t. You act like you’re tough, like you’re smarter and somehow better than everyone else. But the fact of the matter is, you’re just scared. You’re scared of a woman and a child.”

Michael swallowed, having regained the strength to talk. “I laughed when I slit your w***e mother’s throat,” he whispered.

Suddenly, I reached down and grabbed a fistful of Michael’s shirt with more strength than I thought I had. As I did, I could see fear flash through Michael’s gray eyes. By now, I could hear everyone running out onto the lawn where we were. Their footsteps echoed through the air as they ran toward us.

“Say more,” I replied. “Tell me about all of the people you’ve killed. Tell me why you’re not on that list.”

Michael’s eyes widened slightly.

“Moana! Get away from him!” I heard Edrick shout from behind me. “He’s dangerous!”

With a sneer, I let go of Michael’s shirt and let him fall back to the grass. I stepped away and shook my head as the security guards swarmed around Michael.

“He’s no threat,” I said, turning and walking back to Edrick. “The knife is gone. He’s just an angry old man now and nothing more.”