

Chapter 71 - Once Rejected, Twice Desired

Alexi POV

It was hard leaving Alaia at home, but I knew there was no way I could get around it. The moms practically threw Xander and me out. I'm surprised we had time to pack a bag and have breakfast. But I wouldn't let it get to me. Not today. Today was my last day as a single man before I was forever tied to the love of my life.

I couldn't wait to make her my wife, but today was for us guys to have a good time. "What's on the agenda for today?" I asked the group.

Kade and Aaron hadn't wanted to share any details about the night, but I was hoping, since we were already on the road, they would give just the smallest hint.

"I've got us a suite at the Waldorf. It's not like we'll really use it much, but I figured we'd send you two out with a bang," Aaron said.

"Okay, then what's the plan after we check-in?"

"You'll see," was all I got in return.

"Kade, as your Alpha, I can command you to tell me what the plan is tonight," Xander reminded him.

Yes! Now we were getting somewhere.

"Yeah, I know. And that's exactly why only Aaron knows. We knew you'd try to pull the alpha card."

Aaron turned to the two of us from the front seat and smiled.

These dicks had really covered their bases, and now we just had to wait to find out.

"Just relax. Tonight will be epic, and we will make sure you're back in one piece to marry my sister."

I just sat back and put my earbuds in. There was no use arguing with them, not when they had put so much work into keeping the secret.

After check-in, we went up to the room to shower and change. We hadn't originally planned to be here so early, but since we were, we had to improvise until night came. We still had plenty of time before it would be dark out, so we opted to start with some lighter activities.

Kade found a place for paintball a few blocks away, so we decided to head over and shoot at each other for a while. It was a lot of fun, besides the paintball I took to the cheek that felt like a shotgun blast. Alaia wouldn't be too happy about this, but there wasn't anything I could do about it now.

We grabbed a quick lunch afterward and went back to the room for another shower. It was time for the super-secretive plan Aaron had pulled together.

An hour or so later, we all piled in the truck and headed over. Aaron pulled into a shady-looking parking lot and hopped out. We walked down a dark alley and stopped in front of a cheesy looking strip club. It had the usual neon lights and grunge look you'd expect.

Both myself and Xander looked at the building, then over to Kade, Matt, and Aaron.

"Well, it looked a lot better when I Googled it. Let's just go in and see if the inside is any better," Aaron suggested.

We walked in and found the place was packed. The bar that lined the left wall was full of people, as were all the tables and chairs that littered the floor. There was a second level that looked like it was for VIP booths and private dances.

Matt looked extremely uncomfortable with all the women around. As soon as they saw him, they'd be attached to his hip, and it didn't look like the idea excited him too much. Kade, on the other hand, was in his element and found the first half-naked woman dressed as a bunny and had her escort us to our reserved table. We were on the second floor, in a spot that overlooked the stage below but didn't leave us completely exposed to all the dancers and patrons.

Matt quickly found a seat and settled in. He did not look okay.

"You alright, man? I think if you stay in the booth, you should be fine. There shouldn't be too many women coming up here," I told him.

"Yeah, I'm fine. It's just that something feels off being in here. It's not my usual scene."

Kade then interjected. "That sounds like more private dances for me. We have a few 'special' bottles coming up, so you guys relax and have a good time. I'll be back."

“What’s so special about them?” Xander asked.

“They are extra strong so that wolves can actually catch a buzz. There’s also a regular bottle as well. We’re not trying to kill Alexi tonight.” He then walked off and into a room across the hall.

“He’s going to catch something one day,” I said to no one in particular.

Just then, our “special” bottles were delivered by a small waitress who was also dressed as a bunny. She had on a black strapless leotard that had a little white puff, which I guessed was her tail, on her butt. Her outfit was crazy tiny and pretty much left nothing to the imagination in regards to her body. She had smooth brown skin that made her striking green eyes stand out. Her long dark hair was pulled back into a ponytail, and she had bunny ears perched at the top of her head. “Good evening, gentlemen. Welcome to Eden. My name is Taylor, and I’ll be taking care of you tonight. If you need anything, just press the red button here on the wall, and I’ll be right over. Beside your drinks, can I get you anything else right now?”

Aaron and Xander quickly answered that we were alright, but when I looked around at Matt, I saw him violently shaking in the corner.

What was going on here?

“Thanks, Taylor. We’re good for now,” I said, letting her know she could leave.

Once she was out of the booth, I reached over and touched Matt’s arm.

Xander and Aaron seemed to notice something wasn’t right, because they were soon standing right beside us. “Matt? What’s going on,” Xander asked.

He didn’t answer; he just kept shaking and breathing erratically.

I wondered if he had been poisoned or something on the way in.

“Matt! Look at me,” Xander finally commanded, which pulled him back to reality.

Matt raised his head and looked off past the three of us, where the waitress had just been standing.

“What the fuck is wrong with you?”

“Mate.”

Matt POV

Walking up to this club, my hands started to sweat, and my heart raced. It felt like I was having a damn heart attack, and I couldn’t understand why. I had been around women all my life, so why was this one place making me so nervous? When the doors opened, there was way too much

sound from the music and voices. The smells of food, liquor, and cheap perfume bombarded me, and I just wanted to sit down.

By the time I got to our booth, I had thought my heart was going to explode. I tried to sit in the corner and pull myself together. I didn't want to ruin the night for the guys, but nothing was working. Then she walked in, and I was hit with the most incredible smell ever. It was like a cinnamon and vanilla swirl. It made my mouth water.

When I looked over at her, I was floored. I had never in my life seen something so exquisite—every single detail of her was perfection. And that voice? Hearing her speak was like hearing angels sing. She was everything.

She made eye contact with me and smiled before she turned and left the booth. She didn't react to me. That could only mean one thing: she was human.

I wanted to rush after her and claim her then and there. She was mine, and she had been made for me. No other man should see her body, that was something that was for me only! But she was human. If I did what my mind, body, and soul begged me to do, I would scare her. And I never wanted her to be afraid of me. I was having an internal battle with myself. I needed her, but I had no idea how I could get to her.

I heard the guys talking to me, but I was far too focused on keeping my cool and figuring out how to have Taylor.

She had such a beautiful name.

“What the fuck is wrong with you?” Xander finally boomed out.

I spoke the one word I knew they would understand. “Mate.”

“Ahh, shit! Is it the waitress? But she's human,” Alexi stated.

“I understand that, Alexi. But she is still mine. She should not be here. She should be with me. I'm going to find her. And if anyone in here touches her, I'll rip their hands from their dead bodies.”

I stood up, but all three of them blocked my path. “Matt, you need to be smart about this. We are not on our land; this is human territory. You can't just go claim a human and think it's okay.”

“Well, what do you expect me to do, Xander? That's my mate down there. I've been looking for her for years, and she's in a strip club dressed as a fucking bunny. Men are looking at her! Trying to put their hands on my mate. Move out of my way!” I could feel myself starting to shift. I was losing control. If I couldn't at least touch her, I was going to burn this entire filthy building to the ground.

“Matt, calm down and sit your ass in that chair. Now!”

My wolf couldn't refuse a command from my alpha. I sat, and immediately my body began to shake while I broke out in a cold sweat. I needed to get to her.

"Aaron and Alexi, do us a favor and go see if you can find Taylor. Just watch her and make sure nothing happens to her. Keep her safe until we figure all this out."

They both stood up and left the booth to go find her.

I should be the one keeping her safe, not them.

A few seconds later, Kade came back in the booth, pissed off that his dance had been cut short. "What the fuck, Xander? It was just getting good in there."

"Not now, Kade. We've got a bigger issue that's more important than your dick."

"I highly doubt that."

"Our waitress is Matt's mate. And she's human."

"Ohh, damn." He looked over at me and gave me a half-smile. I guess trying to offer comfort, but only Taylor could do that for me now. "So, what's the play here? What do you need me to do?"

"Go with Matt downstairs and be his wingman. We'll have to do this the old-fashioned way. She's probably used to tons of guys hitting on her working here, but I'm sure you two can figure something out."

The thought of someone else looking at her with lust in their eyes had me seeing red. She. Was. Mine!

"Matt, if you don't chill out, I swear I'll drag you all the way back home. We'll get her; you just need to be a little patient."

He was right. I had to approach Taylor differently, and I would do whatever it took to make her mine. I followed Kade downstairs and let my nose lead me to her. She was standing by the bar, waiting for her drink order. A lone spotlight shone above her, and it almost looked like she was glowing. Her curves were insane, and I could already imagine what they would feel like under my hands.

We were maybe fifteen feet away when some piece of shit walked up and smacked her on the ass.

I pushed my way through the mass of people, but before I could make it to her, she spun around and punched him in his nose, breaking it.

Blood poured, and that made the idiot furious. He pulled back his fist to hit her, which I caught in midair.

“You will not lay a finger on her. Do you understand me?” I squeezed his hand in mine and felt as his bones popped and broke.

He screamed in agony, but that didn’t stop me.

He had touched what was mine. He tried to hurt Taylor. “If you ever come near her again, I’ll wreck you. I promise you this.”

“Ahh, fuck, man! I didn’t know she was taken already. I’m sorry!”

“Taken or not, you don’t treat women like that!” I squeezed his hand one more time, making sure every bone in it was crushed before I let go and pushed him to the ground.

The guys were all standing behind me, creating a protective barrier between Taylor and the drunken dick on the ground.

“Calm down now, Matt. You don’t want to scare her,” Kade stepped up to me and said.

I focused and slowed my breathing. I needed to get it together for Taylor. When I turned around, I could only see the tips of her bunny ears behind the guys’ backs.

I gave them a nod, letting them know that I was all right. They walked off and made their way back up to the booth, giving Taylor and me some space.

“Do I know you from somewhere?” she walked over and asked.

Hearing her voice was one thing, but hearing her voice when she was speaking just for me was totally different.

I was utterly in love with this girl. “No, we only crossed paths upstairs in the VIP booth. I’m Matt. It’s nice to officially meet you.” I put my hand out to shake hers, and when they touched, fireworks exploded at the connection.

I could tell she felt it, too, by the way her breathing changed and her pupils dilated.

“Taylor, and it’s nice to meet you, too. So, what is a gorgeous guy like you doing in a strip club? I’m sure you can get any girl you want by just smiling at them. You surely don’t need to pay for it.”

She spoke her mind, and I loved that. She would fit in with our group just fine.

I smiled at her and said, “You’re right. I can get any girl I want. But I don’t want any girl. I just want one. The one who was made for me.” We were still holding hands, and I gently pulled her

closer to me. Her scent wrapped all around me, and I wanted so badly to pick her up and mark her as mine then and there. “You are the most beautiful thing I have ever seen in my life,” I told her.

She tilted her head up and cocked it to the side. “Ditto. I don’t know what it is about you, but I feel drawn to you. And it’s not because you’re so insanely hot. I feel safe with you.”

There was nothing I wanted more than to hear her say those words to me.

“You are safe. I’d never hurt you, or let anyone else, for that matter.”

She laughed, and it immediately became my favorite sound. “I can see that. I’m pretty sure you broke that guy’s hand.”

“And you broke his nose, so I believe we’re even.” I reached up and traced my finger along her cheek. Her skin was like the finest silk. I couldn’t wait to taste it.

“Hey! I don’t pay you to stand around talking, Taylor. Get your sweet ass back to the VIP lounge. Your tables are waiting for service.”

A greasy looking guy with a huge gut and horrible combover walked over. He reeked of stale whiskey and cigar smoke.

I hated him immediately. When he reached out to grab Taylor’s arm, she shrunk back from him, and I moved between the two. “Listen, buddy. Taylor isn’t a dancer. She’s a server. If you want to spend time with her, buy a drink. Otherwise, she’s got a job to do.”

He again tried to grab for her, but I caught his wrist halfway.

“Stop doing that. Do not try to touch her again.”

“Taylor, who the hell is this guy? You know what, it doesn’t even matter. You were already on your last strike, and I know you broke Bill’s nose earlier. You’re out of here!”

He turned and walked away before I looked back at Taylor. I expected her to be upset about being fired, but instead, she looked relieved. “It’s about time. I hate working in this shit hole. The customers are the worst and treat us like we’re walking fuck toys. I’ve saved up enough money, anyway.”

“Do you want to go grab some dinner or drinks? We can celebrate you getting fired.”

She laughed again, and it warmed my soul. “Sure. Let me go put on some clothes that don’t leave half my ass exposed; then I’ll meet you out front.”

When she walked off, I sent the group a quick mindlink.

She's perfect, guys. Absolutely perfect. I'm going to take her to dinner. Sorry about ditching the party.

It's no big deal. We are happy for you, Matt. You deserve this. We'll see you back in the room.

Thanks, Alexi. You guys have fun.

I walked out front, and a few minutes later, Taylor glided over to me. She had changed into a pair of dark blue skinny jeans that fit like a second skin and black knee-high boots. Her white tank top accentuated her chest, and the thigh-length cardigan drew my eyes to an ass made for me to worship.

"Do I look okay? I know it's a big difference from the stupid bunny suit."

"Better than okay. I'll have to really control myself tonight. I've at least got to be a gentleman for the first date."

"Oh, so you think this is a date? And that there will be more?"

"I hope so."

She smiled and placed her small hand in mine before she pulled me down the street. "Come on. This Chinese spot around the corner has the best crab rangoon egg rolls. You've got to try them."

Luckily, I loved Chinese food, but even if I didn't, I would have tried anything she wanted. I would do anything for her.

SEVENTY-TWO | WEDDING BELLS PT. 3

Chapter 72 - Once Rejected, Twice Desired

Xander POV

After Matt left with Taylor, the rest of us just relaxed in our booth and enjoyed our drinks. Kade went back across the hall for more private dances, but Aaron, Alexi, and I were happy where we were.

"Well, Aaron, you said tonight would be epic, and you were right. Matt's been looking for his mate for far too long. It's crazy that he finds her here of all places."

“I’m curious about what type of girl she is. And the fact that she is human makes me a little weary. I don’t want to see him get hurt,” Alexi said.

“I’m sure she’s great. The Moon Goddess wouldn’t pair her with him if she weren’t worthy. Now, let’s do some shots. This is our last night as free men.”

I poured three shots, and we tossed them back before I refilled our glasses to do it all over again. An hour later, we had gone through all three bottles we had at our table and called for three more.

Kade staggered in with lipstick stains on his neck, smelling of way too strong perfume.

“Kade, you fucking stink, man. What have you been doing?”

He smiled and raised an eyebrow. “Private dances are private for a reason.” He really was going to catch something. He needed to find his mate and fast.

Our new waitress delivered our drinks and a massive platter of hot wings that we quickly destroyed. We all sat around, downing drinks and playing drunken games in the confines of our VIP booth. A few times, dancers stopped by to see if we wanted company, but we politely sent them away. This was two soon-to-be husbands having a final night out with their best friends. We didn’t need anything the dancers had to offer.

Six full bottles of liquor later, the four of us were utterly wasted.

Aaron paid our tab before we staggered out of the club and realized we had driven here. There was no way we were driving, so we called an Uber and decided to just pick the car up in the morning. We got to the hotel and went to our rooms, where we all passed out within minutes.

It was after 3:00 in the morning, and we had to be back on the road in less than five hours. Alaia was going to kill us.

7:30 rolled around all too soon, and we were sitting in the suite’s living room, getting ready to go pick up the car and head home.

Matt walked in with a huge smile on his face. I had never seen him so happy.

“Ohh!! Look who’s doing the walk of shame,” Kade yelled out as soon as he saw him.

“Damn it, Kade, shut up. It’s too early, and I’m too hungover,” I told him. I then looked back at Matt, who was the only one of the group who looked fresh-faced and ready to face the day.

“You’re driving home. I doubt the four of us can even see straight at this point,” I said.

“Yeah. You guys look and smell like shit. You should probably shower before we leave. At least that way, you won’t smell like a brewery when Alaia sees you.”

“We have showered. This is the cleaned-up version of us. It was ten times worse last night,” Alexi chimed in. He was lying on the couch with a cold, wet towel over his eyes. Since he was human, the hangover was hitting him the hardest. He looked like he wanted to die.

“Wow. Okay, well, I’ve got the truck downstairs, so if you’re ready, we can head out.”

I grabbed my bag and walked over to Matt. “So, where is Taylor? You’re okay with going back home and leaving her here?”

“She’s at her apartment, and yeah, I’ll be alright. I’ll be back tomorrow to take her out again. I know I have to take this slow with her since she’s human.”

“So, you had a good night? It looks like you did.”

“I had the best night of my life. We talked and laughed for hours, and I don’t think she can be any more perfect for me.”

“Good. I’m happy to hear that. I can’t wait to meet her.”

“Blah, blah, blah. Cut all the sweet shit. Did you and Taylor bang last night or—”

Matt quickly cut Kade off by grabbing the front of his shirt.

“Do not talk about her that way. If it’s not respectful, you keep her name out of your mouth, Kade. I mean it.”

Kade smiled then pulled his shirt from Matt’s fist.

“I’ve been waiting twenty-one years to ask you that. That was the perfect answer. I’m so proud!” He then walked out of the room, loud as hell, fake crying about how proud he was of Matt.

“He’s such an asshole. I feel sorry for whoever his mate is,” Alexi laughed.

“She’s going to have her hands full, that’s for sure. Come on, let’s get on the road. Our beautiful wife-to-be is waiting for us.”

When the five of us walked outside, it felt like the morning sun was piercing straight through to my brain. My head pounded, and my stomach rolled. Why did we drink so much?

Alexi walked over and leaned against the truck. “I think I’m dead. I’m pretty sure I died last night, and this is my hell.”

“You’re alive, man. Barely, but still alive. Just get in. Hopefully, we’ll feel better by the time we make it home.”

We all piled in, put on our sunglasses, and pulled our hoods over our heads.

This was the sunniest goddamn day of my life. It had to be a punishment for a past misdeed, I just knew it.

Alaia POV

I woke up at 8:00 this morning to find my bedroom bustling with activity. It took me a moment to realize what was going on and why all these people were here. Lauren and Katherine were in the bathroom running a bath, while Jordyn and Cassie were in the seating area setting up a small table with my breakfast on it.

“Uhh, good morning?”

When they saw that I was awake, the ladies rushed over, full of excitement.

“Good morning, beautiful. It’s your wedding day!” Jordyn was taking her maid of honor roll seriously, I could see. “Come on, let’s get some food in you. Then it’s a nice relaxing bath before hair and makeup.”

“Has anyone heard from the guys yet? They should be on their way back by now.”

“Yep, Aaron called me earlier. They left their hotel about thirty minutes ago, and from what I heard, they had a pretty good time last night.”

“Okay. That gives them plenty of time to make it back. So, what’s for breakfast?” She helped me out of bed and over to the table. I had a fresh croissant, some sliced fruit, and orange juice. It was perfect because Jordyn knew that I could never handle a heavy breakfast when I was nervous. I took a few bites, but I didn’t have an appetite at all. Today was such a big day, and for once, food wasn’t a priority.

“You alright, sweetie?” Cassie asked.

“Yeah, I’m just ready to walk down the aisle and marry my soulmates.”

“Cool. Well, let’s get started then.”

Lauren and Katherine helped me into the tub before they began washing my back and hair for me. It was weird at first, but it felt amazing, so I quickly got over myself.

Jordyn and Cassie had left to take their dresses to the dressing room and see to any last-minute details.

“Alaia, dear, we’re so happy that you’ll become our daughter-in-law today. We know you’ll take good care of our boys and love them the way they deserve. I always knew it would be you, sweetie. From the moment I first laid eyes on your chubby little face as a baby, I knew you were made for my son. I’m so proud of you two,” Lauren said while trying to hold back tears.

“Don’t cry, Lauren. You’ll make me start. Just know that I don’t deserve them any more than they deserve me. Those two make me so happy, and I’m proud that they call me theirs.”

“Good. As a mother, that’s the best thing in the world for us to hear. You’ll understand when those little boys in there are getting married one day. You only want the best for them, and we know you are the very best there is,” Katherine stated. When the moms finished crying, they helped me into a robe and over to the dressing room.

We had about three hours until the ceremony started, and that was just enough time for hair, makeup, and getting dressed. I sat in the chair and put my headphones in. Listening to ocean sounds, or any sounds of nature, really calmed me down, so I found my nature playlist and settled in. I would occasionally open my eyes and see someone running through the room frantically like the house was on fire, but when I would look at Katherine or Jordyn, they would offer a reassuring smile, so I knew everything was okay.

An hour or so later, Jordyn waved at me to grab my attention. “The guys have just arrived and are going to go for showers before getting dressed. Apparently, there was a paintball incident, and Alexi has a bruise on his face, and four out of five of them are too hungover to think straight.”

“I knew they couldn’t come back completely in one piece. How bad are they?”

“Pretty bad, babe. They look and smell like zombies. Only Matt looks like himself.”

“Fine. After their shower, bring them over one by one. I’ll just reach through the crack in the door and heal them before we get started.”

The stylist went to work on twisting my hair up into an elaborate but elegant loose bun that sat right at the base of my neck. She took sprigs of baby’s breath flowers and placed them throughout, giving the style a sweet natural feel.

I heard a knock on the door, which Jordyn went to answer.

It was Aaron, and just like Jordyn had said, he looked like a zombie. A well-dressed zombie, but still.

“You look like shit, big brother. Did you guys have a good time?”

“Less talking, more humming. Please.”

He looked utterly miserable, so I took pity on him and just placed both my hands on his head and hummed a quick tune. It was shorter than usual, but I had three other idiots to fix up, and I needed to save my energy for the actual wedding.

“There. That’s good enough. You should be okay to stand up at the altar and not puke or pass out, right?”

“I’m not 100%, but I don’t feel like walking death anymore, so I’ll take it. Thank you so much.”

“You’re welcome. Send Kade in next, please.”

Kade came in looking just as bad, except he had hickeys covering his entire neck, which someone had tried, and failed, to cover with makeup.

“You know we can see all of those, right?” I asked while pointing to his neck.

“I tried bean. I can’t believe they are still there. It’s been hours.”

“Just get over here.”

He kneeled in front of my chair, and after he was fixed up, I checked his neck, and gladly the bruises were gone.

“You look like a respectable young man again, Kade.”

“Thanks, bean. You’re a lifesaver.”

“No problem. Now send the grooms.”

I stood up and walked over to the door. When I heard the knock, I opened it just far enough for them to stick a hand through.

“You guys are in big trouble later on. Why is it that Matt was the only one who came back in one piece?”

“It’s a long story, angel. We’ll tell you afterward, we promise.”

I reached my hand out while hiding my body behind the door.

“Put your face in my hand, wherever the bruise is.” I felt his smooth skin touch my hand and gave him the same short and sweet tune the others got.

“How does it look, Xander?” I asked.

“All clear. Now it’s my turn.” He took my hand in his, and I felt his lips brush over my knuckles. The feeling made my knees a bit wobbly, but I held on long enough to fix him up.

“Alright. I’ll see you two later. Try and stay out of trouble for the next hour if you can.”

We ran through makeup, getting dressed, and a final touch up on my hair before there was another knock on the door.

This time it was my dad. It was time to go. “You look perfect, baby girl. I’m so proud of the woman you have become.”

I stood on my tiptoes and kissed his cheek. “Thanks, Dad. I guess you and Mom did a decent job raising me, huh?”

“Better than decent. You are our masterpiece. Just don’t tell Aaron.”

I couldn’t help but laugh.

“So, are you ready to do this?” he asked.

“Absolutely.”

Xander POV

It was finally time to head outside and start the ceremony. I had butterflies in my stomach that would not stop. This was it. I was marrying my queen.

Alexi and I walked out to the altar and stood on the right-hand side, shoulder to shoulder.

Alaia would be across from us, with the officiant in the middle.

The music started to play, and soon Aaron and Jordyn walked out arm and arm. Then Kade and Cassie, followed by Matt and Kimmy. It seemed like it took forever for them to make it down the aisle to their places. I expected Alaia to be next, but it was little Sophie as the flower girl. She was enjoying her time in the spotlight and took her time setting each petal down. I heard chuckles from the small crowd of guests who were looking on. She was cute; she was stalling, but she was cute.

Finally, she finished, and the music changed, signaling the bride’s entrance. Everyone stood to their feet as Alaia, and her dad walked out of the house and made their way toward the altar.

Everything around me disappeared as she was the only thing I saw. She was a goddess on earth, and she was about to become my wife.

When they got to the end of the aisle, Jonathan shook both mine and Alexi's hand before handing her over to us. We helped her onto the altar, and she reached up and wiped away a tear I didn't even know had fallen. When we settled into our places, the officiant began to speak, but I didn't hear a word he was saying. All I heard was the sound of her breathing and the beating of my heart in my ears.

Watching her stand across from me, time stopped. I wanted to remember this moment always.

I felt her hand give mine a small squeeze, which brought me back.

"Alpha Xander, your vows please," the officiant asked.

I cleared my throat, then looked her in her incredible golden eyes. "Alaia, I take you to be my wife. I promise to choose you every day, to love you in word and deed, to do the hard work of making now into always. To laugh with you, cry with you, grow with you, and create with you. To honor the divinity in you, of you, and around you. To be your kin and your partner in all of life's adventures. Loving what I know of you and trusting what I don't yet know, I give you my hand. I give you my love. I give you myself."

"Luna, your vows to the Alpha. please."

"I, Alaia, take you, Xander, to be my husband. I promise always to be your biggest fan and your partner in crime. I promise to create and support a family with you, in a household filled with laughter, patience, understanding, and love. I vow not just to grow old together, but to grow together. I will love you faithfully through the difficult and the easy. What may come, I will always be there, each one believing that love never dies. As I have given you my hand to hold, so I give you my life to keep."

"Beautiful. Now, Alexi, your vows, please."

"Alaia Miller, I love you, unconditionally and without hesitation. I vow to love you, encourage you, trust you, and respect you. As a family, we will create a home filled with learning, laughter, and compassion. I promise to work with you to foster and cherish a relationship of equality, knowing that together we will build a life far better than either of us could imagine alone. Today, I choose you to be my wife. I accept you as you are, and I offer myself in return. I will care for you, stand beside you, and share with you all of life's adversities and all of its joys from this day forward, and all the days of my life."

"Now, Luna. Your vows, please?"

"Alexi, I choose you. To stand by your side and sleep in your arms. To be a joy to your heart and food for your soul. To learn with you and grow with you, even as time and life change us both. I promise to laugh with you in good times and struggle alongside you in bad times. I promise to respect you and cherish you as an individual, a partner, and an equal, knowing that we do not complete, but complement each other. May we have many adventures and grow old together."

Jordyn, Aaron, and Kade then passed the rings to the officiant, who spoke a few more words before handing them over to us.

“Do you, Alpha Xander, promise to be a loving friend and partner in marriage, to talk and to listen, to trust and to appreciate, to respect and to cherish Alaia’s uniqueness? Do you promise to support, comfort, and strengthen her through life’s joys and sorrows? Do you promise to share hopes and dreams as you build your lives together, and to grow with Alaia in mind? Will you strive to build a home that is compassionate to all, full of respect and honor, filled with peace, happiness, and love? Do you promise to always be open and honest with Alaia, and cherish her for as long as you both shall live?”

“I do.”

I slid the ring onto her finger and couldn’t help the smile that broke out on my face. We were almost there.

The officiant repeated the same vows to Alaia before she also answered, “I do,” and placed the ring onto my finger.

Then it was Alexi’s turn. Two more I do’s and rings followed.

“By the power vested in me, I now pronounce you husband and wife, and husband and wife. Gentlemen, you may kiss your beautiful bride.”

She took a small step forward before she stopped, a look of shock on her face.

Alexi and I both reached for her at the same time. “Are you alright, little one?”

She looked up at me and shook her head. “I’m pretty sure my water just broke.”

SEVENTY-THREE | HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Chapter 73 - Once Rejected, Twice Desired

Alaia POV

It was the best moment of my life. My fiances were now my husbands, and I couldn’t wait to start our lives together. But, fate had other plans, and my little guys decided that it was their turn to grab some attention. When I took that small step forward, I felt the warm liquid start to flow down my leg. Had I peed on myself? Was I really so pregnant that I couldn’t hold it anymore?

But this felt different. And this was A lot! As the water flowed out of me, one of the boys squirmed around, probably getting ready for his grand entrance.

“I’m pretty sure my water just broke.”

As soon as the words left my mouth, the men sprang into action: Matt ran into the house for the labor bag that I had waiting in the nursery. Kade resembled someone who’d just eaten old sushi, and just stood there looking sick. And my husbands both ran up the aisle, to the garage, to get the car. A car we did not need. The hospital was here at the packhouse.

“Wait, where are you going?” I asked, but they were gone.

I looked over at Jordyn, who calmly walked over and took my hand. “I told you men are idiots. Come on, Momma, let’s get you to the hospital.”

We started to shuffle down the aisle when I was hit with the first contraction. The force of it almost brought me to my knees. There was no way I was walking all the way to the pack hospital, even if it was just on the first floor of the house.

“J, I need help.”

“Aaron! Stop standing around and help me get her to the hospital now!”

Hearing his mate’s voice snapped Aaron back to reality, and he ran over to me. “You good, sis?”

“Not at all, Aaron. This hurts like hell.”

He picked me up and carried me where we needed to go.

On the way, I heard a car tear down the driveway. It could only be Alexi and Xander.

“Where in the hell are they going?” I thought out loud. We had practiced this a few times, and the car was never a part of it.

The moms rushed past us so they could make sure the room was all set when Aaron finally got me there. He was moving like a damn turtle.

“Aaron, why are we going so slow?”

“I don’t know! What if I go too fast or shake you up, and one of them pops out or something? Uncle Aaron is the cool uncle. Not the one who made my nephew pop out because I was too rough with his mom. No, we go slow.”

This was hilarious. Aaron didn’t even know yet that he’d be doing this for his own child in a few months. We finally made it to the hallway where the hospital was located when Matt charged past us. “I found the bag! I got it!”

In the second he was in sight, I saw that he, in fact, did not have the bag. He had an empty baby bag. Not what he was sent to get. “What is wrong with all of them? Jordyn, would you go to the nursery and get the labor bag. It’s right by the door when you walk in.”

“I’ve got it, babe. Be careful with her, Aaron.” She took off through the house on a mission that I was sure she would complete.

“We’re almost there, Alaia. You’re doing pretty good; you know that? I’m proud of you.”

I smiled up at him; I couldn’t help myself. “Thanks, Aaron. Now speed the hell up. I have two small watermelons trying to push their way out of a tangerine-sized hole. Fuck being careful, so one doesn’t pop out. Move!”

He didn’t look like he appreciated the visual, but he finally quickened his pace, and soon we were at the room.

My mother, Lauren, and Katherine had softened the lighting and turned on soothing music for me. They also had a soft, comfortable robe and fluffy slippers laid out for me to change into.

Aaron sat me on the bed just as another contraction hit.

“Motherfucker!”

Aaron looked over at our mom and laughed. “She really wants to say something to you, but I’m pretty sure you get a pass today.”

“Yeah, I better. I’m about to push her grandsons out of my vagina.”

Jordyn showed up with my bag, and after pushing Aaron and Matt out of the room, she helped me get out of my dress and into my robe.

Katherine took the opportunity to pull out the outfits that the boys would be wearing, causing mom and Lauren to coo at them shamelessly.

“I’m going to see if I can sneak you in something to eat before the doctor comes in and puts you on an ice chip diet. I’ll be right back!” Jordyn was incredible. Especially since my husbands were still fucking missing. She came back a few minutes later with some mini crab cakes and meatballs that she had Geoff pack up for me.

“Your dad and Xander’s dad moved all the guests to the dining hall for the reception. They might as well eat since they are already here, right?”

“Yeah, okay. That was smart. Thanks.”

“Hey, Moms! The photographer would like to get some pictures of you ladies with your husbands. He’s in the dining hall.”

The ladies quickly fixed their hair and makeup before leaving the room.

I looked over at Jordyn, who had a sly smirk on her face.

“What?”

“That wasn’t 100% true. I kind of forced the photographer to start taking pictures. And I figured you could use a little quiet before all hell broke loose.”

She was so good to me. I didn’t know what I’d do without her.

Finally, Xander and Alexi rushed into the room to find me munching on my contraband snacks while Jordyn brushed my hair.

“Where have you two been?” I asked as calmly as possible.

“We were going to the hospital . . . in Jade City.”

I looked up and laughed until tears ran down my face. They were serious. I couldn’t believe it.

“We practiced this at least three times, guys. We even knew the exact room I would be in. Why would we all of a sudden change to a hospital that’s over an hour away? And what’s the point of going to the hospital and leaving me behind?”

“This is a lot, angel! We just got married and didn’t even get to kiss our bride. And we’re still hungover from last night. I may look okay on the outside, but on the inside, I feel like shit!” He was so cute; they both were. And he was right. This was a lot.

“Alexi, come here.” He walked over, and I grabbed his tie, pulling him down to me. I placed my hands on his cheeks and gave him a long deep kiss. “You feel better now?”

“Yes, much better.”

“Good. Now go change. The bag is in that corner over there.”

When he walked off, I called Xander over. “You ready for this, Daddy?”

He got a dirty glint in his eye when he heard me call him by his Dom name, but he quickly refocused. “I’m ready, Mrs. Black. Are you?”

“I’m—Aahh, shit!” Damn these contractions. It felt like these babies were going to rip me in half to get out. I grabbed Xander’s hand and shut my eyes, trying to focus on my breathing while waiting for the pain to pass. After about ten solid seconds, it finally let up, and I released my grip. “I’m going to apologize in advance, baby. Your hands, arms, and maybe even that perfect face of yours are going to be abused horribly today. If I could help it, I would. But I can’t. Sorry.”

“I can stand it. Don’t worry. I’m going to change now, and I’ll be right back. Don’t overeat, you don’t want to make yourself sick.”

I leaned back in the bed and enjoyed these last few moments of quiet. Soon I would be the mother of two newborns, then toddlers, then one day teenagers. I’d never get quiet ever again.

When both guys were dressed, Dr. Bennett and her team came in and began hooking me up to IVs, fetal monitors, and other machines. She checked my cervix, but I was only at two centimeters—eight more to go. “You’re doing great, Luna. We just have to wait for now. Are these three going to be in the room with you throughout your labor? I wouldn’t suggest having any more than this. Otherwise, things can get a little crazy and crowded. And since we’ll have two teams in, one for each baby, you won’t have too much extra space.”

“Thanks, Dr. Bennett. These three are perfect. Everyone else can just wait. Or go enjoy my wedding cake or something.”

She smiled at me. “I’ll let them all know. And congratulations on the wedding. It was lovely.”

“Thank you.”

Three hours later, I was just at five centimeters. “Agh! Why is this taking so fucking long?”

“It will take as long as it takes, Luna. The babies aren’t in any distress, so we just need to let your body do its job.”

“But, I’m in distress!”

“Do you want the pain meds, angel?”

I did, I really, really did. But I also wanted to experience this the way I was meant to. So, I did the only logical thing I could think of. I started bawling my eyes out.

“I don’t know what I want! I’m a terrible mom already; I can’t even make a simple decision. And I want them out! And I really need to pee.”

They took off some of my monitors and walked me to the bathroom. Afterward, I decided to stand and walk awhile. Sitting in that bed was making me crazy. While I was pacing the floor, I thought that we could use this time for something productive. Xayden and his brother were taking their time in there, and I needed to make the most of it.

Wait, I also needed to stop calling baby two Xayden’s brother. He needed a name, too. “Okay, you three. I need help with a name. Xander has already named the firstborn Xayden. What will we name baby two?”

“Do you want to stick with the X names, or maybe he can be named after you? Maybe a mix of both?” Jordyn thought.

“I’d like my name in there somewhere, or a nice mixture.”

They put on their thinking caps before it hit me. I had the perfect name for him. “Alexander. It’s a mixture of both of my loves.”

Jordyn had a massive smile on her face while Alexi looked stunned. “You want to name one of the babies after me? Really?”

“Of course. You’ll be a major part of their lives, too, Alexi. You should be represented.”

He looked over at Xander. “What do you think about all this?”

Xander seemed to think it over before he finally spoke. “Xayden and Alexander. I think it’s perfect.”

Alexi looked like he wanted to cry. “I’m honored you two would name your son after me. I just expected to be some weird stepdad moving in the background. Nothing like this, though.”

“That’s where you’re wrong, man. He’s not just our son, he’s yours, too. Those little boys belong to all three of us. You’re an equal part of this family. Don’t forget it.”

Finally, Alexi broke out in a huge smile. “I think I’ll call the little guy Alex.”

The boys must have liked their names because I got a nice-sized kick, followed by a massive contraction. I clutched my stomach and went down on my knees. This shit was real. And I was done.

“Aahhgghh! I want drugs! Get the doctor in here, now!”

Jordyn rushed out while the guys held my hands and rubbed circles on my lower back.

“Breathe through it, little one. You are the strongest person I know. You’ve got this.”

I nodded my head and took a few deep, cleansing breaths.

Xayden and Alex seemed to be fighting their way out, and they were going to hear from me big time once they were finally here.

Dr. Bennett calmly walked into the room. “Luna, I hear you’ve made a decision?”

“Drugs! Right now. I’ve had enough.”

She laughed, then smiled at me. Why was she so damn happy right now? I was being ripped apart, and she was happy? “Could you men help her back to the bed? I’ll get everything started.” The guys helped me stand and shuffle to the bed before I watched her inject a clear liquid into the IV.

Soon it felt like my whole body was being covered in warm honey. It was beautiful. Life was beautiful. These drugs were beautiful.

“Ohh yeah. That’s good stuff.”

“Now, this will just take the edge off, but you will still feel the contractions. Only an epidural will stop all the pain. Try and get some rest, you’ll need all your energy for when it’s time to push.”

Rest. Yep. I could do that.

“Come on, baby, big push. You can do this,” Alexi gently whispered in my ear.

We had been pushing for thirty minutes, and neither of my sons was here yet. I was beyond exhausted and didn’t think I could do this. “I can’t. I’m so tired. This is too much.”

Xander wiped my face with a cold towel before he retook my hand. “Nothing is too much for you. You’re almost there. Just a little more, and the boys will be here. I know you can do this.”

I was glad someone had confidence in me because, at that point, I had none. But still, I tried. Xander and Alexi helped me lean a bit forwards, and I squeezed down on both their hands.

“Okay, Luna. I can see a head. Give me your best push, now!”

I held my breath and bore down as hard as I could. The pain was unreal, but I didn’t stop. I had to do this for my boys. When I was right at the door of passing out, I heard his cry. I had never heard anything more incredible in my life.

“Baby number one is here! A nice chunky baby boy.”

Xander leaned over and kissed my head. “You did it, baby. I’m so proud of you.”

“Go check on him. Make sure he’s okay,” I told him.

He stepped away, and Jordyn quickly took his spot. “Come on, babe. Let’s do this one more time. You ready?”

“Hell no. But let’s do it anyway.”

“Okay, Luna, on your next contraction, push as hard as you can.” Before Dr. Bennett had finished her sentence, the contraction hit.

I guess Alex didn’t want to be without his big brother for too long. I leaned forward and focused every ounce of energy I had to push. Sweat poured down my face, and I saw stars in front of my eyes, but I pushed through it all and felt my second son enter the world.

“Baby number two! An equally chubby and perfect little boy. Good job, Luna.”

His scream filled the room, and I couldn’t help but cry. I had done it. I had brought new life into the world.

Alexi looked over at the baby, and I could tell he wanted to go see him.

“Go, babe. Go check on our son.”

He beamed at me and ran over to where the nurses were weighing and measuring little Alex.

My job wasn’t done yet, as we still had some cleaning up to do, but watching Xander and Alexi cradle our tiny babies in their huge arms made all the pain and frustration worth it.

Xander POV

Looking down at Xayden was unreal. He looked just like me. He had a head full of my jet-black curls and huge, crystal-blue eyes. It was like looking into a mirror. I couldn’t take my eyes off him. “Welcome to the world, little man. I’ve got so much to show and teach you.” He looked at me, and it was like he knew who I was already. I had never felt so complete than at that moment.

Then I heard Alexander let out a small cry across the room.

Alexi had him snuggled against his chest, holding a special conversation with him. He may not be a father by blood, but he was a father by bond, and these little boys were so lucky to have him.

“Excuse me, guys. I know you’re both having some daddy time, but could I please meet my sons? I did do quite a bit of work to get them here.”

Right. I had to share Xayden with his mom. I walked over and gently placed him in Alaia’s arms.

She looked at his face then up at me. “Really? He couldn’t look at least a tiny bit like me?”

“He takes after his daddy, can you blame him?”

She rolled her eyes and went back to his little face. “No, I can’t. He’s absolutely breathtaking. Happy birthday, sweetheart.” She gave him gentle kisses on both cheeks before Alexi leaned down and passed her Alex.

It was my first time seeing him, and I was floored. He looked like Alexi. Exactly. Sandy blond hair, gray eyes, everything. If I didn’t know any better, I would swear that he had Alexi’s blood flowing through his veins instead of mine.

“Come on! How is this even possible?”

Alexi just shrugged his shoulders and smiled. “He’s adorable, though, you’ve gotta admit that much.”

She looked at the boys, then over to Jordyn, who was trying to hide her laughter. “Oh, so this is funny to you? These babies are exact replicas of these two. I get nothing? Not my eyes or even my nose?”

“They’ll have your courage, your strength, and your compassion, babe. Who cares if they look like these goofs?”

“Fine. It’s not like I can do anything about it anyway. Should we let the family know, maybe let them come in a few at a time?”

“I’ll go get the grandmas first. They’ve been itching to get in here,” Jordan offered.

When she left, I looked over at my family and smiled. They were the best things I never knew I needed.

SEVENTY-FOUR | GETTING READY

Chapter 74 - Once Rejected, Twice Desired

Alaia POV

The babies and I spent three days in the hospital before we were cleared to go.

They were both healthy and happy little boys and I was grateful for that.

I was also grateful that I was 100% healed downstairs.

There was no more pain, soreness, or bleeding.

As wolves, we usually take about a week to fully bounce back, but because of my powers that time was cut in half.

And I was ready to spend some quality time with my husbands.

After all the bags were packed up, Xander and Alexi both took a baby and headed up to the nursery.

I, on the other hand, went to our room for a nice long bath.

I was able to take showers in the hospital but I never felt clean enough. A hot soak in the tub was calling my name.

I ran the water as hot as I could stand it before I added my scented bubbling oils, lit a few candles, and sunk down into my own personal heaven.

It was strange running my hand over my stomach which was now completely flat again.

I had gotten so used to the belly it felt like a part of me was missing now that it was gone.

My eye began to droop and soon I felt myself nod off.

But just as soon as I fell asleep, I was jolted awake.

My bath had gone cold and my candles were no longer burning.

A freezing cold breeze swept over me that chilled me to the bone.

I stood up to get out of the tub when I saw clouds of red smoke snake across the bathroom floor.

“The famed Amethyst wolf in the flesh. It is an honor to meet you.”

I quickly snatched a robe from the hook and covered myself while looking around.

“Who are you?!”

“How rude of me. You had the privilege of meeting my father and the whore who gave me life, but we were never properly introduced. I am Vincent Edwards, and you belong to me.”

“Bullshit! I don’t belong to anyone.”

“You will see. I’m coming for what is mine. And you can either surrender to me. Or surrender the life of your children. It’s your choice. You think about that. I’ll see you soon.”

The smoke was sucked from the room and I was violently forced awake.

I opened my eyes to see that I was still in the bath tub, the water was still warm.

My candles were still flickering and there was no cold chill covering me.

I jumped from the tub and grabbed my robe before I ran down to the nursery.

Both the babies were sleeping peacefully in their cribs so I backed out as quietly as I could in search of their fathers.

Guys? Where are you. I need you, now!

We're in the office. What's going on, Little One.

I'm coming.

I barged into the office and rushed over to them.

"It was Vincent. I saw him and he's coming for me. He was in the bathroom..."

"What?! What do you mean he was in the bathroom. No one has crossed our borders that we don't know of," Xander shouted.

Alexi was up and ready to rush down the hall when I caught him.

"Wait! Just, wait. I'm doing a shitty job explaining this."

I grabbed his head and brought his forehead to mine replaying the vision to him. I then walked over to Xander and did the same.

"You have to find him! He's trying to take me from my family. From my babies! No! I can't leave them. You find Vincent now!"

"Alaia, calm down. We won't let him touch you," Alexi said.

"You can't promise that! I can't even take a fucking bath without him showing up. How can anyone protect me from him?"

Xander pulled me into his chest and wrapped his arms around my trembling body.

"Shhhhhh. It's alright. We will figure this out. Just trust that we will do everything that we can. All of us."

I didn't know how this would play out, but I did trust that we wouldn't rest until there was a solution.

I wouldn't let him hurt my babies.

We spent the next few days holed up in Xander's office trying to come up with plans for Vincent.

We were pretty sure we knew where he was, but sneaking in unseen was going to be tough.

Aaron and Jordyn had gone back home but they were on constant contact with us and the team they had sent earlier.

We had all of our bases covered but something still felt off about all of this to me.

All of these wolves had families, many of them had mates, and I did not want them to sacrifice their lives for my own.

What made me more important than them?

Nothing.

My sons had two loving fathers, if I were to give myself over to Vincent I knew that they would be taken care of.

They would be raised to be incredible young men, this gave me peace.

I couldn't get these thoughts out of my head, so I decided on a short reprieve.

I took a break from the battle plans to go visit the nursery for feeding time. I needed some quiet time and by the feeling of my breasts, the boys needed milk.

I was sitting in my glider with Alex when Matt rushed past the door.

“Matt!”

He came back and popped his head in, eyes closed.

Luckily I had covered myself as soon as I saw him, he was still so embarrassed by the whole breast feeding thing.

He was so sweet though. I had to laugh.

“You can open your eyes Matt, they are covered. I promise.”

He slowly opened his eyes and when he saw the blanket over my shoulder he smiled and stepped in.

“So who do you have there? Is it my favorite little guy?”

“It’s Alex. Which one is your favorite?”

He shrugged at me.

“Whichever one I’m holding at the time. So what’s up?”

“Where are you rushing off to? I thought Alexi had you guys stuck for the rest of the day strategizing.”

“That was the plan, but we’re getting burned out. Stupid ideas come from burned out brains. So Xander let us go.”

“And where are you going? You want to play a game of chess?”

I knew where he was going. He went whenever he had any free time. But he never talked to me about it. That was going to change now.

“Uhhhhh. I’m just running to Jade City for a few hours. Maybe we’ll play after I’m back?”

“Sure. What’s in Jade City? You sure do go there a lot now. You used to hate that place.”

I raised an eyebrow and smiled at him. He knew he was busted.

“I’m sorry, Bean. I didn’t want you to get upset bec-“

“Wait. Why would I ever get upset that my best friend finally found his mate? That’s the most selfish thing I’ve ever heard.”

“I know it is. And I’m so sorry for thinking it. Its just that she’s human Bean, and I’ve got to be careful and take things slow. I don’t even know when I’ll tell her all about what I really am.”

“Can I see her? I know you guys have taken a picture together.”

He flashed his beautiful smile before he dug out his phone and turned it around to me.

The home screen was filled with Taylor’s laughing face and just like I suspected, she was gorgeous.

“Matt she is so beautiful. You two will make adorable babies.”

“Thanks. But one step at a time. First I’ve got to make her my girlfriend. Then break the ‘big bad wolf’ news. Hopefully she’ll still accept me.”

I reached out and took his hand.

“Of course she will. You’re amazing and any girl would love to have you. All of them actually. Just tell her soon, otherwise she may feel like she’s been lied too. If you need me, I’ll help plan it all out.”

“Sounds good. So you need anything before I go?”

I unlatched Alex and brought him to my shoulder.

“Can you grab Xayden and bring him over? He’d sleep through every meal if he could. But Alex here is like me, he understands that food is life.”

Alex let out a few good burps for me just in time for Matt and I to do a baby swap.

“They look so different. It reminds me of you and your brother. Exact opposites,” he said while walking Alex back to this crib.

They really were completely different. But they would appreciate their uniqueness one day. Aaron and I sure did.

“Enjoy your dinner Matt. And hurry up and tell her about us. I can’t wait to finally meet her.”

He gave a quick smile before he darted out the door then down the stairs.

Taylor made him excited for life, something he absolutely deserved.

But she’d better not hurt him, or she’d have to deal with me.

Katherine and Kimmy decided that they would come and watch the babies while Xander, Alexi, and I went out for the night.

We didn’t get to have a honeymoon, and things at the house had been less than romantic with all the plotting to kill Vincent.

I decided that I wanted to have a laid back kind of date. I didn’t need anything fancy, I just wanted to spend some quiet time. So we did dinner and a movie.

We found a small diner outside of Jade City that was said to have some of the best burgers in the area.

Luckily the place was small and relevantly empty. The looks we got when we walked in were comical. They didn’t know what to make of me showing up draped across two tall gorgeous men, but we didn’t care.

We picked a booth at the back corner and settled in.

The waitress came over and immediately started giving the guys “the eye” but instead of being sexy, she looked like she was having a stroke.

She leaned over the table towards Xander before saying "I'm Trina, your server tonight. What can I get for you this evening, handsome?"

“Three cheese burgers. Two with fries and one with onion rings. And three shakes, chocolate, vanilla, and one strawberry. Thanks,” I said with a sickly sweet smile.

She gave me a fake smile and eye roll before she leaned to Alexi.

“Would you like anything else?”

“Some breathing room would be nice,” he told her.

I couldn't hide my laugh at the look on her face. You would have thought that he was the first man to ever turn her down.

She turned and stormed off behind the counter which made me laugh harder.

“Well played, babe. I think you have officially ruined her night.”

“She'll get over it,” he said while placing a light kiss on my neck.

I hadn't had sex in almost a week and my body clearly knew what it wanted.

When his lips touched my skin, it set off that delicious fire down in my belly and my whole body shivered.

Xander leaned close to me and whispered, “I can smell you already, Little One. Do you want us to make you cum in this diner? Knowing that the waitress could walk over at any minute?”

They both were trailing a hand up my thighs getting closer and closer to my center.

I knew I was already wet and that I was going to leave a puddle in the booth when I left. It would be a nice parting gift to the waitress.

They had my dress pushed up over my thighs exposing me to the cool air of the diner.

Alexi reached down and slipped a finger in the crotch of my panties and in a swift move, he had ripped them off.

“I don't think you should wear these anymore Angel. They just get in the way. Don't you agree?”

He was rubbing circles around my clit with one of his fingers and all I could do in response was nod.

“Good girl.”

Xander, not wanting to be left out reached down and easily found my soaked juicy slit and slipped two fingers inside.

He sunk down as deep as he could and began to scissor and twirl his fingers.

“I love how tight you are, baby. Will you cum for us?”

Alexi gently pinched down on my bud and I jumped in response casing the waitress to shoot us a look of disgust from behind the counter.

Fuck her.

My head fell back and a deep moan slipped past my lips. I was on fire and so close to feeling that delicious burn of release.

Alexi changes his angle and somehow pressed directly on my most sensitive spot.

When he felt my body tremble he smiled and pressed down even harder.

That was it.

I grabbed his face and pulled him in for a kiss as I screamed into his mouth.

Neither him or Xander stopped moving and my body was squirting all over their hands.

“You’re so beautiful when you cum, Angel.”

Alexi brought his fingers up and ran them past my lips before shoved them into his mouth.

“Delicious.”

“Would you like to taste, Little One? I know you’re hungry. Open.”

My mouth dropped open and Xander ran his thick fingers over my tongue.

“Suck it all off, baby. That’s it.”

He had grabbed the back of my head and was looking right in my eyes while I sucked his fingers clean.

I twirled my tongue and hollowed out my cheeks, wishing these fingers were his dick. But the night was still young.

I didn't even notice that the waitress had returned with our food until I heard Alexi speak.

"Thanks Trixi. These look great."

"It's Trina, not Trixi."

He gave her his sexiest smile and leaned forward causing her eyes to bulge.

"Is it? I don't really care one way or the other. Thanks Trixi."

She stormed off again while the guys laughed.

"That was mean, Alexi," I told him while lightly slapping his chest.

"It was. But she was rude to my wife, and I don't stand for that shit. Now let's eat these burgers and get to the movies. I'm going to fuck you until you scream, Angel.

Bonus Scene

Chapter 75 - Once Rejected, Twice Desired

Alaia POV

After we had our dinner, Xander drove us to the movie theater where the guys picked some random action spy movie for us to watch.

It seemed interesting enough but after the scene in the diner, I didn't really care what we watched.

I was distracted, all I wanted to watch was one of these two go down on me. That's the movie I'd pick.

I chose seats all the way in the back of the theater, I didn't want any distractions for what I had planned.

The lights dimmed a little for the previews and I lifted the arm rests on either side of me so that I could have easy access.

The guys were watching some explosion on the screen when I reached out both hands and grabbed onto their dicks through their pants.

Xander seemed surprised at first but Alexi, he was ready and waiting. He'd made me a promise at the diner and I intended for him to keep it.

I leaned over to each of them and whispered "Zippers down, you know what I want."

They quickly obliged and I usher my hands in their pants and grabbed on to their long, thick, perfect dicks.

These things were mouth watering and I wanted them in my mouth.

But first I had to have some fun.

I leaned back in my chair and slowly lifted my dress up to my thighs.

Since Alexi had ripped my panties at the diner, I was completely bare.

I took two fingers and slid them inside my folds. I was still soaked from my earlier orgasm.

The smell of me was drifting through the air and I could tell when it hit the guys, their breathing drastically changed.

I massaged my inner walls for a minute or so before I pulled my hand out.

My fingers were dripping, they were perfect.

I reached over and grabbed onto Xander's member, using my own juices as lubrication.

I watched his eyes shut and his head fall back when I squeezed a little tighter.

My other hand was busy between my legs getting itself prepared and once it was properly coated I grabbed onto Alexi and started jerking him off at the same time.

It was such a rush to watch how I had both of these big strong men completely under my control.

I could bring them to their knees with just a twist of my wrist or flick of my thumb.

Xander loved when I twisted my wrist and stroked him slow while Alexi liked straight up and down, tight grip, plenty of focus on the head.

I was multitasking my ass off and somehow keeping it straight who liked what. I was rocking this two husband thing.

This went on for a few minutes and I didn't want either of them to finish in my hand.

I turned in my seat and leaned over to Alexi, “You’ve got some work to do, baby.”

Then I had hopped up and was on my knees in my seat, leaning over Xander’s lap.

“You’re eager tonight aren’t you, Little One?”

Cocky huh? I’d shut him up, quick.

In one swift motion I had taken him all the way down my throat, bottoming out when my boat pressed against his crotch.

“Fuck, baby!” He whispered/yelled out.

Don’t play with me Mr. Black.

I began slowly sucking up and down his length, making sure every inch was getting the love and attention it deserved.

I could taste the salty sweet drops of pre cum on his tip, it was like candy to me.

I took my right hand and angles it in his pants so that I was cupping his round heavy balls in my palm.

When I began to gently squeeze and massage them I heard him groan overhead.

I wanted to laugh at how I was totally owning him. But before I could finished the thought, Alexi entered me from behind on one smooth powerful thrust.

His hands were holding onto both of my hips but he was hitting me with so much force that I had to throw my free hand out and prop it against Xander’s far arm rest.

Luckily for us, the movie started off with an action scene so there were plenty of explosions and gun shots to drown out our activities.

I continued to deep throat Xander as best I could while trying to keep from screaming out.

I needed to focus. I was going to suck Xander like he was the last lollipop on earth, Alexi knew what he was doing back there. He didn’t need any help from me.

I squeezed down on his balls making him release another deep groan.

When my jaw was starting to get sore I pulled him from my mouth and began to suck up and down the sides of his length, licking and nibbling the whole way.

By this time Xander had two handfuls of my hair and was guiding my head where he wanted it.

Back down my throat he went, slow deep delicious strokes that made me beg for him to cum so I swallow it down.

Alexi had pulled out and I felt when he buried his face between my thighs, licking and sucking me clean from all the juices I had been continuously squirting.

When his tongue flicked over my clit it sent a shock through me, almost making me choke on the eleven inches of meat shoved in my mouth.

He then stood and entered me again pumping as deep as he could inside my walls.

When I felt him bumping against my cervix, the mixture of pleasure and pain had me seeing stars.

His hands dig in deep on my hips and he began to brutally fuck me.

The sounds of flesh slapping were so loud, I just knew the entire theater knew what we were doing, but I wasn't going to stop it.

Xander's hips were thrusting upwards to meet my face and his grip on my hair and was tightening so I knew he was close.

I relaxed my jaw and continued to take everything he was giving, and loving every second of it.

My muscles were being wound tighter and tighter. I was about to explode all over Alexi's dick and with the build up I was feeling, someone was going to have to carry me out of here.

He leaned forward a bit and pressed his middle finger over my glut and began to rub furiously, matching the speed of his hips.

My eyes had crossed at the sensation and the little breath I had caught in my throat.

It was building up inside me and I just needed one more thing to push me over the edge.

Alexi gave me that one thing.

He pinched down on my clit as he whispered, "Fuck, fuck, FUCK!"

Then I felt him start to pump his seed deep in my walls.

The first squirt sent me over the edge and I clamped my eyes shut as my own orgasm ripped through me.

I was riding the wave of pleasure, Alexi was still filling me up, then Xander shot down my throat.

I had to concentrate on what I was doing to not make a mess all over his pants.

I held him at the back of my throat and swallowed deep every time I felt his balls contract.

It was like these two had been holding these loads in for weeks, I could feel Alexi's cum sliding down my thigh but he still wasn't done.

Maybe twelve spurts in total before he slowed down and slid out of me.

Xander had emptied all that he had as well and I was licking him clean before gently placing him back in his pants.

Thankfully Alexi thought to grab napkins in the way in and was able to clean me up a bit before I pulled my dress down and took my seat.

I looked out over the room and it seems that everyone was still totally focused on the screen in front of us. I couldn't believe it.

After the movie ended we were on our way out and a girl walked over to us.

"I just need to know what I need to do to get your life. Someone as tiny as you taking on these two sex Gods like that? You are my hero."

She then leaned walked away, disappearing into the crowd.

I wanted to be embarrassed, but hey. I did just take over twenty one inches of dick like it was nothing. I was my own damn hero.

SEVENTY-FIVE | DESTINY

Chapter 76 - Once Rejected, Twice Desired

Alexi POV

"So we've got it now. We'll strike Vincent tomorrow after nightfall. We will have all those who are unable to fight protected down in the tunnels until we return. Alaia and the twins will be among them."

Alaia had sat in on the meeting and when she heard the plan she shot up from her chair.

“What kind of plan is that, Alexi? Sending all of the pack into a fight? They will die, maybe not all of them but enough will.”

“Angel, this is how these things go. No member of this pack is unwilling to die for the life of their Luna. We aren’t doing anything out of the ordinary.”

She looked around for a moment then turned to Xander and I.

“And Aaron? Is he coming along too, or will he just send extra guys over to us?”

I knew just what she was getting at. But I also promised to never lie to her.

“He is coming. Jordyn will stay home but he wants to personally make sure Vincent dies.”

She then turned to look at Matt.

“You just found your mate, Matt. Doesn’t that matter? Taylor may not know what you are, but she needs you and you need her. You can't risk dying when you'r so close to your happiness.”

“Don’t do that, Bean. You’re my Luna. You’re life will always come before my own. It’s not going to change now.”

She just nodded once then looked back over in my direction.

“I’m going to go check on the boys, I’ll see you all later.”

Once she left we went back to the job of finalizing details and making sure everyone knew their role.

We would lose lives but we’d save Alaia. It was a risk we had to take.

Later when everything was settled I went down to find her.

I knew that she was upset over all this and I wanted to be able to offer her some comfort.

I found her on the gardens sitting under the gazebo with the babies.

They had on their tiny little sweaters and hats and were snuggled under a blanket my mom had made for them, protecting them from the chilly November air.

The sight warmed me from the inside out. I was completely in love with my family. I was going to do everything I could so they could have more days like this.

“Hi, beautiful. Are you doing alright?”

She looked down at the babies and smiled.

“I’m always alright when I’m with my two favorite boys. You can’t help but be happy when you look at their precious little faces.”

She was lovingly stroking Alex’s chubby little hand before tucking it back under the blanket.

“So what are you doing out here? Is the meeting over?”

I could tell by the look on her face and the way the words left her mouth that she was not happy with me or my decision.

“Yes, it’s over. We have prepared as much as we can. Now we just wait.”

“I should be the one going. I’m the most powerful would in existence, and you want me hiding out with the old or the injured? Maybe I could stop the war before it even began.”

“It’s not an option, Angel. You are not expendable, but the rest of us are. When this is all over, you Xayden and Alexander have to be okay, and Vincent has to be dead. Everything else is just icing on the cake.”

She jumped up and started pacing.

“This is my family, Alexi. None of you are expendable. Your lives matter. Damnit! Why is this so hard for you all to understand?!”

I sat down and pulled her into my lap. This was hitting her more than I thought and it was starting to bother me.

“We understand, Angel. And obviously none of us want to die. But we all took oaths when we became members of the pack. We will protect you till our last breath. It’s what wolves do baby. And you are worth it.”

We sat and talked for a while longer before it became a little too cold for the boys.

I picked them up and carried them back to the house with Alaia following closely behind.

“I’m going up for a quick shower. Can you watch them for twenty minutes for me?”

“Of course. Take your time, we’ll be alright down here.”

I placed them in their bassinets in the common room and went to go heat them both a bottle.

Alaia had began pumping so she could have help with feeding time and it really was nice for the rest of us to be able to help her out.

Plus spending time with the boys was a major stress reliever so none of us minded anyway.

When I came back, Kade had placed Xayden in his lap while he was cradling Alex in his arms.

It was strange to see, that's for sure.

“Hey, man. What are you doing with the boys?”

“We're talking. I'm teaching them about the ladies. They will be fighting them off soon so I figured I'd give them a jump start on the do's and don'ts.”

“Do me a favor and don't do that. Alaia would kill you. You don't have the best record you know.”

"I have been unfairly judged. I'm just a man searching for my mate, I'm just having to kiss a few frogs to find her."

I handed him a bottle and took Xayden.

“Just feed him. Save the other stuff for later. Much, much, later.”

We sat and talked for a while and soon, Xander had come down and joined in.

The boys had finished eating and we were taking the opportunity to teach them about football.

Xander produced a small football out of nowhere and was holding it out in front of Xayden.

“This is a football, son. This game is life. Maybe you'll be a quarterback or a receiver and I can come watch you play. What do you think?”

Xayden just looked at the ball before he yawned and closed his eyes.

Maybe we were getting a little ahead of ourselves here.

I noticed Alaia when she stepped onto the room. She stood and watched the scene with a big smile before she turned and left again.

I wanted to give her some space to process all that was getting ready to happen. But I also wanted to be sure that she would be alright. I never wanted a decision that I made to cause her any unnecessary pain.

“Xander, I think we should go check on Alaia. She was having a hard time with the plans for tomorrow earlier and I'm not sure if she has accepted it yet.”

He nodded then handed Xayden off to Kade.

“Kade, we’ll be right back. Don’t do anything stupid with our sons while we are gone,” he said.

Kade gave a quick salute and took Alex from me as well.

I had a bad feeling that something was going to happen so I rushed up to the bedroom.

Angel wasn’t there. I turned to go check her office when I saw a note on the bed.

I rushed to pick it up and when I did, my blood ran cold.

To My Loves,

Please take care of your sons. They will need you now more than ever.

I know you can help raise them to be men I would be proud of. Always let them know that they are loved, and that I loved them so much that I sacrificed myself so they could live.

And please don’t let this choice I have made break you. Continue to work with each other and lead this pack. I know this will be hard, but you two can do it.

Tell Matt that Taylor is lucky to have him, he shouldn’t waste any time with her. It’s precious and we never know when it will run out.

And to Aaron and Jordyn. I’m sorry I won’t see them have their first child or get married, but I have always loved them both. They kept me going until I found my way to you two. I’ll be forever grateful.

Alexi, and Xander. You two have been my moon and my stars. Being your wife as been my greatest gift. But as the Amethyst Wolf, my obligation is not just to you but to my pack, and to all. No one should die for something I can control.

I love you will all that I ever was, all that I am, and all that I would ever have been. Take care of each other.

Your loving wife,

Alaia Kosov-Black

She had drawn a tiny wolf and an angel beside her name to represent our nicknames for her.

This was real, and my wife was gone.

I fell to my knees, too weak to even stand when the realization hit me.

She couldn’t be gone.

Xander rushed in and quickly looked around before his eyes landed on me.

“Alexi! Where is she?”

I could barely speak. I lifted the note in the air and he quickly walked over and took it.

“She’s gone,” I finally said.

Alaia POV

I watched my family play together in the living room and I knew that I had to protect them.

Watching them play together, so perfectly, let me know that my decision was the right one.

These men would do an incredible job raising the boys.

They were so focused on keeping me safe, but I was just one person. How would we cope with the loss of so many others.

It wasn’t right. Sacrifice one, save the masses.

I quietly backed out and went back to the room.

While I was supposed to be showering, I was really preparing my letter to my husbands, and there was no need for a bag.

I placed my farewell to them on the bed then quickly snuck out of the house.

Since I had been in plenty of the strategy meetings, I knew exactly where Vincent would be.

He wouldn’t expect me to just come to him, and that’s what I wanted.

I needed to get to him quickly, before Alexi and Xander had time to find the note and come looking to stop me.

I already had my truck parked outside of the garage to avoid the sounds of the door opener.

As I started the engine, tears streamed down my face. It was hard to accept the fact that I’d never see my home again.

But their lives mattered more to me than my own selfishness, and now it was my turn to protect them.

I pulled out slowly and kept the head lights off until I got closer to the borders edge.

The GPS was set for the abandoned saw mill, that was the only place that actually had a usable address.

I took the two hour drive to record a message to Xayden and Alexander.

I knew the guys would come for me, and they would find my car.

So the recordings would be safe and eventually get to my sons.

Even though I was leaving them, I wanted them to always know that all I ever wanted was to keep them safe.

“Always listened to your fathers. I know that sometimes they can be difficult to deal with and it may seem like you’re talking to a brick wall, but they mean well and want what’s best for you.

When you become teenagers, DO NOT become man whores! I can’t stress this enough. All it does is hurt others in ways you could never imagine. And you will regret it in the end. If you don’t believe me, ask your dad Alexi.

Be good men, respect yourselves, and when you are blessed with your mate, treat them like the gift they are. They will complete you, and make you far better than you ever could have been by yourself.

I love you my beautiful boys. Go and make the world a better place than you found it. You two have so much potential, use it for good always.”

When I was a few miles out I turned off my voice recorder and placed it in the glove box.

I wiped my face and dried my eyes.

Vincent would not see me weak and vulnerable. He would not know how this decision affected me. I wouldn’t give him the satisfaction.

I parked behind the saw mill and set off on foot through the woods.

We just had a general idea of where he would be, but I used my strong sense of smell to guide me along the way.

Amethyst, I’m sorry that it has come to this. You’ve always been there for me and now I am walking us to our death. Maybe I was never worthy of you.

Don’t say that, Doll. This was always our path. There was no other way. And I have loved being your wolf. Believe in our destiny. Everything is happening for a reason.

After another twenty minutes of walking, I smelled the scent of rogues and knew I had found him.

It was surprisingly easy to sneak past them all and into the house.

My instincts pulled me to room at the very end of the hall. I could see light streaming under the closed door in front of me. Vincent was on the other side, I knew it.

When I opened the door and stepped in, I was shocked to see Vincent sitting and waiting. For me.

“Alaia, I’m glad to see you finally came to your senses. We were always meant to meet this way you know. Our destinies were tied to one another before either of us were even born, don't-”

“I didn’t come here to chat, Vincent. Let’s just get this over with.”

He stood from his seat and took a step forward.

“As you wish.”

Then with lightning fast speed he was on me, his teeth sunk into my flesh.

I didn’t fight him, or the darkness that soon took me under and away.

SEVENTY-SIX | FLASHBACK

Chapter 77 - Once Rejected, Twice Desired

FOUR MONTHS LATER

Alexi POV

I felt myself tossing and turning in bed. I was having the same dream that had kept me up for months.

I thought it was behind me, and behind us but I was wrong.

She had gone to Vincent. He had drained her.

She was gone.

My heart beat erratically in my chest, these memories were going to kill me.

I shot up in bed, my clothes clinging to my soaking wet frame.

I looked around and it was still dark out. My phone on the table read 3:07 AM.

I still slept in the room that we shared with Alaiia. I could not bring myself to leave it, not when everything still smelled like her. But maybe it was those scents that lead my mind down the rabbit hole each and every night.

“I’ll never get back to sleep. Maybe I just need a run,” I said as I slipped out of bed.

I pulled on some sweats and went down to the gym and hopped on the treadmill.

This had been my ritual for months now, the insomnia was impossible to contend with, so I had to run out all my energy if I had any chance of getting a full night’s sleep.

I heard the door creak open and I expected to see Matt or Kade come in and try to talk me back to bed.

Maybe it would be Xander this time. Wanting help with the boys, or wanting to go over some pack or company business.

I actually hoped it would be him, I hoped he would have some way to distract me. He was the only one who knew how this felt to lose her. He was the only one I could talk to.

But it wasn’t either of Kade, or Matt, or Xander. It was her. It was my Angel.

Maybe I hadn’t suffered enough. Now we needed to add hallucinations to the mix.

“I’m really losing my fucking mind now. I’m okay seeing you in my dreams, but this is too much.”

Her face scrunched up in confusion and she stepped over to me and touched my arm.

“Alexi? What are you talking about? I’m right here. This isn’t a dream or a hallucination. Are you alright?”

“My wife is dead and I’m talking to her ghost. No, I’m not alright.”

I turned away from whatever that was and turned the treadmill all the way up.

There was no way I was going to be any good to my sons if I was having visions of their dead mother.

This had to stop.

She reached over again and grabbed my face.

Sparks. I felt them.

How can a ghost make me feel these things? This was something only Alaia could do.

“Alexi! Look at me.”

I did. I stopped the treadmill and looked down. Maybe I just needed the closure. Maybe talking to her ghost would allow me to finally move on.

When we locked eyes, it was real. These were the golden eyes I’d been obsessed with my entire life.

“You are so beautiful. She was so beautiful. So perfect.”

A single tear slid down her cheek before she smiled.

“Thanks, baby. You’re pretty good looking yourself.”

I couldn’t help but laugh. I had missed her witty remarks almost as much as I had missed her scent. Warm honey.

My eyes widened at that realization.

I can smell her, you can’t smell a ghost!

“Angel? Is this really you?”

“That’s what I’ve been saying the past five minutes you dick. What is wrong with you?”

My knees went weak and I slumped to the floor.

What in the hell was going on? We lost her. I felt it!

“Alexi? Talk to me, please. What is it?”

I might as well. Things couldn’t get any worse than they already were.

“You left, Angel. You snuck out and you left us. You went to Vincent, and he did what he promised he’d do. He killed you. Xander and I have been living for months without you, haven’t we? So how are you here?”

I was so confused, and I was hurt. This was reopening old wounds I wanted so desperately to heal.

“Alexi, baby. Let me show you, okay? I’ve tried to show you before, but you always refuse. If I could just give you a small glimpse of the truth, I know it will help you. Please.”

Her eyes shimmered with unshed tears and the pleading in her voice made me break. Even in death I was unable to deny my Angel even the simplest request. I would still do anything for her.

I nodded my head for her to continue.

She reached up and placed both hands on my cheeks then pulled my forehead down to hers.

Flashback

“Alaia, I’m glad to see you finally came to your senses. We were always meant to meet this way.”

“I didn’t come here to chat, Vincent. Let’s just get this over with.”

He stood from his seat and took a step forward.

“As you wish.”

Vincent shot across the room and sunk his teeth into my neck.

I felt my life and power being drained from my body.

Be strong, Doll. Your strength will get you back to your family. Believe in it.

When he had his fill, Vincent released his grip on me and let me fall to the ground.

“I didn’t drain you completely. I want you alive long enough to see me destroy all you’ve ever loved and cared about. Starting with your husbands, then your sons, then the rest of that filthy pack of yours.”

Be strong, Alaia. Don’t give him the satisfaction.

I raised my head from the ground.

“F-fuck you and the horse you rode in on, you disgusting piece of shit!”

Anger took over his face, I could feel it radiating off him.

Good. He wouldn’t get to bad guy “monologue” me and expect me to politely sit and listen.

“Once your powers have fully become mine, I intend to kill all of you dogs. Werewolves are the most revolting creatures and I will never rest until everyone is dead at my-“

Vincent rant was cut short when he suddenly grabbed his chest and staggered backwards.

I looked up to see the veins of his eyes, face, neck, beginning to bulge and turn a sickening black.

He coughed and thick black blood shot out of his mouth.

Vincent fell to his knees begging for breath that seemed like it would never come.

More coughs took over and rotten black chunks of flesh fell from his mouth to the floor.

When his eyes shot up to mine, I used the last of the energy I had and pushed myself as far from him as I could.

Whatever was happening to him, I wanted to part in.

“W-what have y-you done?! What is this?!”

I hadn't done anything but sacrifice myself for my loved ones.

The voice in my head told me otherwise.

He's dying, Doll. Our powers are far too much for a hybrid to handle, and they were never meant for a vampire.

I don't understand. We were promised to him.

Yes, we were, by an ancient elder. It was a way to wipe out his blood line. He is the last of a line of extremely powerful vampires. With his death, they are wiped from this earth for good. The elders always knew that no vampire's body would be strong enough to hold this power. Vincent's father thought if his son was half werewolf it would help, but it didn't. Only alpha wolves, who are pure of heart, can handle all that being an Amethyst Wolf entails. Only you, Alaia.

So, this is why I was meant to come here tonight?

I told you, always believe in your path. This is what we were always meant to do.

I refocused my attention to Vincent who was now covered in sickly black veins. His skin had sunken in, he looked like he was one step from being a skeleton.

He did this to himself. I would never feel guilty for his death, his greed and hatred led him here. Not me.

I heard howls of pain outside the house as the rogues that Vincent had under his command began to feel the effects of his death.

They were innocent in this and I had hope that they would survive, but there was little I could do at the point.

My body was weak from all the blood he had drained from me. All I wanted was to sleep.

Close your eyes, Doll. We'll be alright. Just rest.

As Vincent turned to ash in front of me, my eyes shuttered closed and I fell into a deep sleep.

End Flashback

Alaia pulled her head from mine and kissed away the tears that had escaped my eyes.

"I'm here, Alexi. I'll always be here. You guys found me maybe twenty minutes later and brought me home. None of our family was hurt. We won."

"You're really here? But when I woke up, you weren't there. And the dreams..."

"Alexi. You should have told me you were having these dreams. I could have helped you months ago. And I wasn't in bed because I had to pee. This little girl in here is just as abusive to my bladder as her brothers were."

I finally looked away from her face and saw it. She was pregnant, her belly was round and beautiful and full of life.

It had all just been a dream, a terrible nightmare that had plagued me for too long. But not anymore.

I placed my hands on her belly and rubbed. The baby gave a few firm kicks where my right hand was, and I leaned down to kiss the spot.

In this moment, all the haze and confusion had cleared. Alaia showing me what had happened had healed any scars that lingered on my heart and in my mind.

My family was safe. Our Angel had saved us.

"What's going on in here? Alexi, are you trying to steal some alone time with our wife? 'Cause if so, I want to schedule some time of my own later," Xander said walking in to the gym.

"Nah, I was just a little confused on a few things. Angel here was kind enough to offer me some clarity."

I kissed her forehead then stood up, pulling her with me.

"Go back to bed, my love. Our little princess needs her rest."

She smiled at me before she turned and took Xander's hand and walked out.

It was all over, and our world was perfect again.

Chapter 78 - Once Rejected, Twice Desired

Alaia POV

I fully believe that wolves handle grief different than humans do.

With Alexi being human, it made it so much harder for him to get over the fear that gripped him when he found out I had sacrificed myself to Vincent.

When they all arrived to rescue me, he looked like he couldn't believe I was still alive. Maybe he had convinced himself I was already gone as a coping mechanism.

Whatever it was, we had plenty of nights afterwards where he would leave the room and wander the house or the grounds around it alone.

He still was still an amazing father to the boys, and he took care of the pack with all the love and attention one would expect of him.

But when it came to me, he remained distant. He was hurting deeply but he never said anything.

I had tried so many times to talk to him about it, to try and heal him, but he never wanted any part of it. But I couldn't understand why. Maybe it wasn't for me to understand.

That night I found him in the gym was the final straw. I had to do something. This was a sick repeat of the night of the eclipse. There was only so much his body could take and I hated seeing him like this. Neither of us deserved it.

When he finally let me show him the truth, I saw the fog clear. He touched me the way he used to again. He finally saw me, and not what he thought was a cruel figment of his imagination. Me. His wife and soul mate.

Things were back to normal and I enjoyed every moment of my life surrounded by all my crazy guys.

When we found out we were pregnant again, it was a shock, but we could really be surprised.

I think it was that night at the movie theater.

Finally, I would get my little girl, I needed a partner in crime to get back at the boys.

And I REALLY hoped I could get at least one child who resembled me.

She was born on a beautiful April morning.

Chocolate brown hair, golden eyes, and a perfect pouty little mouth.

Angelica Kostov-Black was my adorable little doll baby. My mirror image, and just like her mama, she was head over heels in love with Xander and Alexi.

She was a daddy's girl from her first breath and the love between the three of them grew stronger and stronger each day.

And she was spoiled rotten too, Blue Moon's little princess.

But she was also protected, fiercely.

With two fathers, two uncles, and two older brothers in the house, I knew no harm would ever come to her.

She, along with her brothers, would grow up in a home full of laughter and love. They would learn to fight, they would learn to think, and they would learn to be compassionate and care for others.

Our children would grow up to be incredible people. It was a vow I had made to myself, that I fully intended to keep.

We knew there would never be an end to the battles we would face, but we would face them together as a family and as a pack.

We would protect the lives of the ones we loved to our final breath. On our honor.