

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Chapter 26-30

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Kennedy

I've just come downstairs, still feeling disappointed that Quirin didn't finish what I tried to start this morning, when one of the omegas comes up letting me know that my medical shipment has arrived.

"That was fast. Tell them I'll meet them at the hospital," I say, knowing I ordered a lot.

Christy shoves a breakfast sandwich into my hand as I walk out and the rest of my morning is spent organizing and putting away the supplies that I ordered. I'm pleasantly surprised that everything that I ordered was approved.

The only thing that I didn't get was the microscope which is scheduled to arrive tomorrow. I sigh, wishing I could look at Tommy's tissue samples, but it will have to wait until I get back from Connor's Alpha ceremony.

The afternoon is spent organizing the two rooms that I decided to put in order so that if any more pups come in, they can actually sit on the beds instead of the

counters.

When I finish for the day, I head back to the packhouse. I need to pack for this weekend, making sure that I have everything for Connor's Alpha ceremony and that I make a list of what I'll need to bring back.

When I go back up to our room, I realize that there really isn't any room for my furniture. We already have plenty of dresser space that can accommodate my things here, except maybe a dresser that I could put in the closet, something to hide those birthday unmentionables until I can dispose of them. After Quirin's weird response to the picture with him and Henry in it, I wouldn't want him to go nuts seeing lingerie that another man bought for me.

The rest of the evening is much the same as our other nights. I have dinner with Quirin and the pack, and check in on Tommy who is starting to heal.

"Luna, I don't know what you did, but it's already working," Emily tells me showing me Tommy's knee.

"I'm not sure I did anything, but I'm glad that he's healing. The microscope didn't come today so when we get back after being away this weekend, I'll check to see what it looks like. Hopefully, though, it will continue to heal and we won't have to worry about it." I tell her, looking over the wound on his knee and seeing that it really is healing.

I've just turned to go sit down when Samuel calls out to me.

"Luna, look!" He rushes over and I notice that he's not limping at all.

"It looks like you're healing as well," I say to him, picking him up and putting him on my hip.

"Almost completely healed," he says. I look down seeing that he's wearing shoes.

"And I see that you're wearing shoes now. I'm sure your parents are happy about that," I tell him as Kelvin comes walking

over.

"Yes, we are," he says, taking Samuel from me. "Thanks again, Luna."

I shrug. "I didn't do much. I just pulled a big splinter out of his foot."

After dinner, Quirin takes me out to spar with me. Once again, Echo and I take every opportunity to brush up against him but even though he seems to be affected, he still didn't shower with us and still didn't do anything after he showered. He just crawled into bed behind me.

The next morning, we're up early as usual. Quirin goes to warrior training and I go to the hospital, making sure everything

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is in order before we leave. I know it's only a couple of days, but if something happens, I want to know that Deborah can handle it. After breakfast, we pack up the car and make our way back to my family's pack.

"You look pretty excited, Little Pup," Quirin says as he drives.

"I've never been away from my family this long. It will be so good to see them," I say.

"Did you get your brother something for this ceremony?" he asks me.

"I did. It's in my room back home. I got him a bourbon glass etched with Alpha Connor and today's date," I tell him.

"Your room back home?" he asks.

I shake my head. "My old room, I mean."

When we arrive at the gates, I'm practically bouncing in my seat. I lean over

Quirin to say hi to the guard. He smiles at me. "Welcome back, Alpha Kennedy."

"Luna Kennedy," Quirin says, stressing my title as his mate.

"My apologies, Alpha, Luna. Welcome home."

"Thanks, Christopher," I say, and put my hand on Quirin's thigh before he can growl at the man.

"It's just habit, Quirin," I say as he pulls away.

"This isn't your home anymore," he grumbles.

"It was for a very long time. Relax, this pack is my family. And no offense, they like me a whole lot more than our pack does," I say, a bit irritably.

When we pull up to the packhouse, I see my family waiting for me. As soon as

Quirin puts the car in park, I leap out rushing over to my family.

My dad catches me first, wrapping me in his warm, strong embrace.

"Welcome home, Ken," he murmurs.

"Thanks Dad, but it's not my home anymore," I whisper back.

Next I turn to my mother, hugging her tightly. "That's a nice mate mark you have there, Kennedy," she says.

"Thanks Mom," I say before turning to my twin. He swings me around, making me laugh, but I know my twin. He's nervous. "You're ready for this. You were born for it," I say to him quietly as I hear my mother greeting Quirin.

"Thanks, Ken," he says to me.

I hug the rest of my siblings, listening as they tell me everything that I've missed in the last week, which is mostly preparing for Connor's ceremony tonight.

Quirin grabs our overnight bags, while my family pulls me into the packhouse. All of our pack members stop what they are doing to hug me and welcome me back.

I spend the rest of the morning and afternoon talking to my family and the pack.

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Over lunch, Quirin brings up my Luna ceremony next week.

"You're all invited, of course," he says.

My father looks at him and then at me, but it's my mother who speaks.

"Alpha Quirin, I know there is a lot of animosity in your pack toward my mate and most likely my family. I am unwilling to put my family at risk. If you tell me that my mate and family will be safe in your pack, I will believe you. However, if you do not believe that they will be safe on your pack lands, I can come by myself," she says, making my father growl.

"Luna, I will be meeting with my pack this week and ensuring the safety of not only you, but of your entire family. You can rest assured that no one in my pack will harm you. If they so much as say a disrespectful word to any of you, they will answer to me," Quirin growls. "As much like today is about Alpha Connor, Kennedy's Luna ceremony will be about her."

"Then we'll be there," my father says, smiling at me. "I wouldn't miss my daughter taking her place in her own pack anyway. Wild horses couldn't keep me away, much less a pack of wolves," he says making me smile.

"I'll make arrangements for all of you to stay the night, unless you feel the need to return home right away, Alpha Connor," Quirin says. He's being so perfect.

"Thank you, but the pack is pretty settled, so I think I can be away for one night. If that changes, I'll let you know."

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Kennedy

After lunch, Connor and my father go off to talk, probably about the ceremony tonight. My mother, Quirin, and I head up to my room to pack the rest of my things.

"I looked around last night and I don't think I need to take much. Quirin has plenty of furniture, so I just want to take one of my smaller dressers," I tell my mother.

As I pack up my things, Quirin takes them to the truck we brought. When I'm done, I look around the space that was my bedroom for eighteen years and realize that it no longer feels like home. Home is where Quirin is, and he was never here.

After we're done, I shower and start getting ready for my brother's ceremony. I'm not sure where Quirin went, but he comes in just as I finish getting ready.

"You look stunning, Kennedy," he says, coming over stroking his fingers over my cheek. "Absolutely stunning."

I wrap my arms around his waist. "Can you believe it was one week ago that you called me mate?" I ask him.

"So much has changed in one week, Little Pup," he says.

"My entire life has changed," I whisper.

"Both of our lives did," he says, leaning in to kiss me. I hold him, trying to tell him without words that I want him, that I miss our intimacy. When he pulls away, I'm not sure that he understood.

"You know, we could recreate our mating night here tonight," I tell him. I watch his eyes go wide with something close to fear in them, but that makes no sense.

"Little Pup, your father and I have a very tenuous truce going right now. Let's not push it by mating a couple of rooms away from him," he says, kissing my nose before walking into the bathroom.

I feel the tears prick my eyes at his words. My father knows that I'm mated. He wouldn't care if Quirin and I were together. This feels like an excuse. An excuse that just reinforces what I thought before. Quirin's had me once, and that's all it will ever be for him.

I go downstairs to greet the guests for my brother's ceremony. Most of the Alphas from our birthday are back, but this time when they see my mark, they keep their distance.

However, when Alpha Henry arrives, he doesn't bother keeping his distance. He comes right up and hugs me. "How's Quirin treating you? Are you doing okay over there?"

"Things are great," I say, forcing a smile. Henry's eyes narrow, but he doesn't say anything more.

Soon after that, Betas Franklin and Savannah arrive, along with their children. "Madison, Happy Birthday. You look beautiful," I say to her. She's Franklin and Savannah's oldest child and she just turned eighteen.

"Thank you! I didn't find my mate in my pack, so I'm hoping to find him here tonight," she says excitedly.

"Good luck. There are a lot of Alphas here," I say to her.

My brother stayed upstairs, waiting to make a grand entrance into his party. When my mother announces that it's time,

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everyone begins making their way outside. Since the ceremony will only be for my brother to take his place as Alpha, there are no chairs. The ceremony will be short and then there will be a party afterward.

We've all just gotten outside when I hear a possessive snarl behind me. I'd know the sound of my brother's wolf, Bosche, anywhere. I feel Quirin's arm go around my waist, ready to pull me out of the way if something is wrong.

Everyone turns, seeing my brother standing at the doorway, his chest heaving and his nostrils flared. Almost as one, everyone steps back, leaving a clear line of sight between my brother and Madison.

"Mate," she says smiling as her eyes fill with tears.

"Mate," he growls and stalks over to her, pulling her to him and taking her mouth in a passionate, possessive kiss.

My heart twinges and I look away. I already know the kind of relationship that Connor and Madison will have. My brother is just like my father. He will openly adore Madison for anyone and everyone to see. He will claim her publicly, kissing her and expressing his love for her as often as she'll let him. And there is no doubt in my mind that they'll have a pup within the year. Unlike my mate, my brother won't be able to get enough of his mate.

I watch as Connor asks Madison to join him on stage. She can't take her place as the pack's Luna yet, she's not marked. But I know without a doubt that she will be tonight. My brother and I have always liked Madison and I'm happy for both of them. She looks as thrilled as he does to be mated to him and she stands by his side, proudly watching him as he takes his oath as Alpha of the pack.

She's the first one to swear her loyalty to him, and then, one by one, the pack goes up to pledge their allegiance to my brother.

Afterward, he brings her over to our parents and then to me, introducing her as his mate and future Luna.

"We'll have to figure out timeframes, Maddie. Kennedy's Luna ceremony is next weekend. I really want to attend," he tells her.

"You don't have to make any decisions tonight, Alpha Connor," I say, smiling at my brother. "You've had a very busy night and it's nowhere near over yet," I say, making Madison blush. "I'm so happy for both of you."

I stand with Quirin, talking to my previous pack members, watching as my brother steals kisses from Madison every chance he gets. She laughs and blushes, but

she kisses him back. Each time, pain shoots through my heart. Finally, I can't take any more.

"Let's go home, Quirin," I say to him.

"What? Why? What's going on, Little Pup?" he asks me.

I shake my head. "I just want to go home." I know I won't be able to stand by and watch my brother dote on Madison tomorrow. They have what I want, and I want

to be happy for them, but I can't. Not right now when I feel so raw inside.

I quickly go over to say goodnight to my parents, letting them know that we're leaving.

"I have some things that I have to do at the hospital tomorrow and now that Connor is mated, well, he won't be coming down before I had to leave anyway. I'll see you both next weekend," I say, cutting them off before they can ask me any questions.

"Are you sure, Ken?" my father asks.

"Yeah, Dad. It was great seeing you, all of you. I'll see you soon," I say, turning and nearly running into Quirin.

"Alpha, Luna, it was nice seeing you. I guess we're leaving," he says, still watching me closely.

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The drive back to our pack is quiet. I can tell that Quirin wants to ask me what's wrong, but I refuse to look at him. I stare out the window, fighting my tears.

When we get home, Quirin turns off the car. "Kennedy..." he begins, but I get out and walk to the packhouse.

"Ken..." he begins, but stops as we step inside. The tension in the packhouse is so thick that you could cut it with a knife. I look over and see Beta Kier and several warriors standing up against Arlo, Slater, and several other warriors.

Quirin growls menacingly, stalking toward them. "Is there a problem?" he asks. "I don't know. Arlo, is there a problem?" Kier growls.

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Kier

I was one of the original members of Quirin's pack. When I approached him about living on his pack lands, the scars of the bear attack that he'd sustained were still healing. Twelve years later, you can still see the silver lines all over his chest where that bear nearly shredded him. He has never said it, but Alpha Henry tells everyone that Alpha Quirin saved his life that day, putting his own life at risk to save his best friend. That's the kind of man Alpha Quirin is.

After I'd been here awhile, helping him to rebuild this pack, I'd asked him about it, about how he survived the attack. He'd told me how Luna Yara had saved his life and that, because of that, he could never get the revenge that he wanted on Alpha Warren for killing his father. That same night, I'd opened up to him and told him how my father was an abusive alcoholic and one day I got tired of being his punching bag so I left.

We bonded over our blood, sweat, and tears from rebuilding this pack together from the ground up. Once the pack started to grow and he realized that he couldn't manage it alone, he asked me to be his Beta. He took me in when I had nowhere to go,

he gave me a home and a position in the pack and for that, he has my undying loyalty. I will never betray my Alpha, and I will never allow anyone else to betray him either.

I've managed this pack multiple times when Alpha Quirin is away. He usually doesn't stay overnight, but there have been times, such as Alpha Henry's eighteenth birthday when he does. I've never before had any problems when he's been away. But I've also never felt the tension in the pack that I've been feeling since Luna Kennedy arrived. So, I'm not surprised when Arlo begins mouthing off at dinner.

"How the fuck are we supposed to accept a Luna who can't even fight? What the hell kind of bullshit is that?" He's been getting progressively louder as the evening has worn on and I know he's still pissed off about the extra patrols he's had to

run.

"Knock it off, Arlo. She's your Luna. If you don't like it, you can leave. Alpha already gave you that chance and you chose to stay. Stop mouthing off. You made your choice," I tell him before addressing the entire pack.

"Alpha is going to make an official announcement this week before her ceremony. Anyone who wants to leave, can leave. No one's forcing you to stay," I tell them.

"This is MY fucking home. She's the intruder here," he growls.

"This is your home because Alpha Quirin allows you to live here. She's your Luna. That makes this her home too and believe me when I tell you, Alpha will choose her over your sorry ass," I tell him.

"Maybe Alpha's getting soft. He used to hate Alpha Warren and now he's inviting him to our fucking pack? For what? What are we, are party pack now?"

I make note of the warriors who are nodding in agreement. These are the ones we'll have to watch out for. I'm not afraid of Arlo. He's a good fighter, but he relies solely on his strength to win a fight. He's not an intelligent fighter. I am. So is Alpha Quirin.

"Maybe it's time for a change in leadership," he growls.

The chair I was sitting in slams into the wall behind me with the force of my anger as I stand. "You think you can take me Arlo?"

"You're nothing more than Quirin's bitch," he says, looking me up and down as if assessing my weaknesses. I don't have any. Not where he's concerned.

I only have one weakness and she better be in the fucking kitchen staying out of the way. There are two reasons I haven't told anyone that she's my mate. The first is because she came from a terrible pack. Her abuse rivaled my own, except she was an omega and wasn't strong enough to defend herself. She was terrified when she realized that I was her mate, but I swore that I would take things as slowly as she wanted. And I have, even though it kills me not to claim her. The second is, I

don't want to put a target on her back. Until she's ready to open accept me as her mate and her place as the Beta female in this pack, I'm not going to say a word to anyone.

I'm about to respond to Arlo when I hear Alpha Quirin's snarl behind me. He isn't supposed to be home, so something must have happened.

"Is there a problem?" he snarls, walking up to stand beside me. I'd been so focused on Arlo that I hadn't realized that other warriors had come to stand beside me, a clear division in our pack.

"I don't know. Arlo, is there a problem?" I taunt him. He was full of himself a moment ago when he thought he had the entire night to get reinforcements and try to take me down and take over the pack before Quirin got back. Now that he's here, Arlo is back pedaling quickly.

"No problem," he growls.

"No, no problem at all. He just basically said it was time for new leadership," I say. I'm not about to let him get away with his bullshit and undermining my Alpha.

I expect the roar of anger that comes from Quirin. He's a true Alpha and I think our pack sometimes forgets just how strong he is. It's moments like this, when his aura pushes out and he forces the submission of everyone around him that they remember.

As his Beta, I'm not immune, but unlike the warriors in front of us, I'm not forced to my knees. Quirin directs his anger on the group that stood against me, but all of us have lifted our necks in submission.

"You think you can be Alpha, Arlo? You think you can take me? You and your little posse wouldn't have gotten past Kier. There's a reason I chose him as my Beta. You obviously haven't learned your lesson yet," Alpha Quirin growls. "Throw him in the cells. He can think about his future for a week while he rots down there."

Some of the warriors behind me move around us, their necks stretching even higher as they get into the path of Quirin's angry aura. But they grab Arlo and begin dragging him to the cells.

"Arlo!" he says, still holding the others in place. "If you don't want the cells, I'll be happy to remove your head from your body. You fight these warriors, you cause injury to any of them, and I'll kill you. You had the choice to leave, you chose to stay and now you're causing problems. This is your last chance."

Arlo nods and they continue dragging him away.

"The rest of you have two choices. You can join Arlo in the cells for a week, or you can run double patrols starting tonight. I'll even give you a third choice. Pack up your shit and get off my pack lands. You have one minute to decide," he snarls. Unanimously, they choose double patrols.

"Then get your asses outside and start running. If I hear that any of you aren't pulling your weight, you can join Arlo in the cells."

"Yes, Alpha," they murmur.

"Damn, I'm going to get lazy not having to run patrols for a week. Whatever will I do with all that time? Maybe it's time to give Susie another pup," Kelvin says smirking at the group as they head outside. He was one of the warriors standing behind

1. me.

As he turns, I fall into step with Alpha Quirin. "Is it wise to leave Arlo alive? That's twice that he's gone against you and our

Luna."

He turns, looking in the direction of the cells. "Probably not, but I have a bigger issue to deal with right now." This time, he looks up the stairs to the Alpha floor.

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"I'm assuming something happened?" I ask.

"Yeah, I just don't know what. But I'm going to find out," he says, before jogging up the stairs. He stops and turns to me. "You're good?"

"I'm good," I say.

The moment he's out of sight, I go looking for her.

I'm almost to the kitchen when I smell her soft, soothing scent. Lavender and chamomile. She pulls me into a dark hallway, and I smile as she looks over my body as if I might have an injury.

"I'm glad you stayed away from that," I tell her.

"I was so scared, so scared that you'd get hurt," she says. I can smell her fear and the salt of her tears.

"Were you worried about me, Arianna?" I say, softly brushing a tear off her cheek.

She nods, looking up at me with her soft, chocolate brown eyes.

"Can I kiss you?" I whisper.

She nods again and I lean down, gently and carefully caressing her lips with mine until I'm lost in her scent and her taste and her body melts against mine.

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Quirin

The entire ride home, Kennedy mentally shut me out. I don't know if it's as hard for her as it is for me. I pretty much keep the link between us closed all the time and she's never said anything about it. But for me, it feels like torturé.

I can smell the salt of her tears, see her quickly brushing away any evidence of her sadness and by the time we get back to the pack, I can't take it anymore. I have no idea what's wrong and it's killing me. I can't fix it, I can't make her happy, if I don't know what's making her unhappy.

Unfortunately, we walk into the Arlo shitshow. Just the fact that several warriors are standing up against Kier has me seeing red. It's not just Arlo. Now he's got his brother and some others joining in his rebellion.

Kier is right, I probably should have just killed him for being insubordinate, sent a message to the entire pack about what happens when you challenge me or my Beta, but my focus is on Kennedy. I need to know what's going on with her and what happened to make the light in my little mate go out. Arlo can rot for all I care. Kennedy is more important.

When I get upstairs, she's leaning against the wall, looking out over the back of our pack lands. She's changed out of her dress and her hair is down.

"Everything okay?" she asks, barely turning her head to look at me.

I close the door. "If you mean about Arlo, then yeah. He's been dealt with. If you mean about you, then no, Kennedy Everything is not okay."

"It's fine, Quirin," she says, turning and walking to the bed. "It's late. You need to be up early for warrior training." Her voice is so sad that it's breaking my heart.

"Kennedy, what happened tonight? Everything was fine and then it wasn't. I'd be worried that someone said something to you, but I was with you all night. And you've shut me out. Something must be wrong if you've closed off your mind to me," I

say.

She turns and gives me a look of total disbelief. "Are you kidding me right now? You NEVER open your mind to me, Quirin. Never! I have no idea what you're thinking, what

you're feeling, whether you're having a shitty day or if something incredible happens. I never have a single clue about what's going on with you. I have to wait for you to tell me."

She stops, shaking her head. "It's fine, Quirin. I just...I finally came to terms with reality tonight, that's all." "What reality are you talking about, Kennedy?" I say slowly, feeling like she's slipping through my fingers.

"That I'm just like all the others," she says, her voice breaking and her eyes filling with tears.

I take a step toward her and she looks away from me.

"What others? What are you talking about, Little Pup?" I ask, getting a sick feeling in my gut.

She makes a sound that's half laugh, half sob before she looks at me. "I'm just another of your one night stands, only your mark is on my neck. You must feel so strangled being stuck with me," she says as the tears begin to trek down her face.

I feel nausea roiling in my stomach at her words. "What the fuck are you talking about, Kennedy? You're my mate. You're not some woman I use for release and then walk away."

"Aren't I? Why won't you touch me Quirin? I watched my brother and Madison tonight. They couldn't stop touching and kissing. That won't change tomorrow. If anything it will only increase and yet, I can barely get you to kiss me and when you do, it's for only the briefest of moments and then you pull away.

I close my eyes, trying to get hold of my emotions. I feel like I'm on the verge of losing control again.

"You think I don't want you?" I ask quietly.

"I know you don't. Mates can hardly ever keep their hands off of each other, but you barely touch me."

Before I'm consciously aware of what I'm doing, I've grabbed Kennedy around the waist and pressed her against the wall. "You think I don't want to touch you? All I want to do all fucking lay long is bury myself in your sweet heat, Kennedy. You drive me fucking insane," I growl.

"Then why? Why won't you touch me? Why won't you be with me?" she asks as her tears continue to slide down her cheeks.

"Because, Kennedy," I say through gritted teeth, trying hard to hold on the last little bit of control I have left. "Being inside you, marking you, connecting with you was the most exquisite feeling I've ever experienced. Being with you was like fucking nirvana. I swear I

touched the Moon Goddess' realm when I was inside you Kennedy. I lost control, I lost myself inside you, and I hurt you. I wasn't gentle with you. I wanted to be, but... I lost control and I've been trying to gain control over myself and my body when I'm around you, but I can't. I don't want to hurt you, Kennedy. I never want to hurt you," I say, my voice pleading with her to understand.

"You not touching me, not treating me like your mate, hurts me so much more than any pain I had when you were inside me," she says softly.

And what is left of my restraint snaps. I smash my mouth against hers, devouring her, possessing her in the way that I've needed to since our first night together.

Her legs wrap around me and her arms tighten around my neck as I push off the wall and carry her to the bed.

I sit her on the edge of the bed and rip the nightshirt she's wearing down the front. I slide my hands down her body, cupping her breasts and stroking her nipples. She gasps, her head falling back. I growl possessively before leaning in to lick and suck on her neck, sucking my mark into my mouth and loving the sound of her moan as her citrus and mint scent begins to permeate the air around us.

"Lie back," I growl. She does as I ask, watching me. I run my hands over her body, my own body shivering with my need for her, my dick throbbing in my pants.

"I never again want to hear you say that you're like the others. You are nothing like them, Kennedy. You are my everything I close my mind off to you because you are everything that is bright and beautiful in this world and I am not. I don't want to taint your beauty with my anger and resentment. I know you felt my darkness. You shouldn't have to deal with that."

"It's part of who you are, Quirin. I love you. I love every part of you, even the darkness. It's made you the man you are and the man you are, is the man that is perfect for me. You were made for me, just as I was made for you," she says.

I watch my fingers as they slide through her soaked pussy lips, looking back up when I hear her gasp.

"I told you before that I don't know how to be gentle. But I'll try. I'll try to be gentle, Kennedy."

She sits up, taking my face in her hands. "I was made for you. I can take whatever you give me. Don't hold back, Quirin. I want it all. I want your love, your fire, your passion, and your darkness. Give it all to me," she says softly. My eyes sting with the tears that come from hearing her words.

I gently push her back on the bed and resume my examination of her body, my fingers gliding over her soft skin as I listen to her sweet sounds of pleasure. "Please Quirin," she moans, her breaths coming in ragged pants.

"I want to taste you, Kennedy. Open your legs for me," I say. Maybe if I can make her come like this, it won't be so bad if I lose control again.

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She lets her knees fall to the bed, watching me as I remain standing beside the bed. I lean over, taking a deep breath of her sweet scent before taking my first taste of her arousal.

"Fuck you taste so sweet," I growl, before latching onto her clit, swirling my tongue to capture her arousal.

She begins whimpering my name as her hand grips onto my hair I growl, sliding my hands under her ass and holding her pussy against my mouth as I devour her.

Her first orgasm comes fast and hard, her arousal soaking my face. I slide a finger inside her, feeling how tight she still is. I make her come again before sliding a second finger in. I pull off her clit, using my fingers to make her come as I watch her fall apart in front of me.

"Quirin!" she cries as her inner walls pulse around my fingers.

When she comes down, I pull my fingers out of her, quickly stripping off my

clothes before tugging her to the edge of the bed and lining myself at her entrance. My own breaths are coming in ragged succession as I prepare myself to get lost inside her again.

"Everything, Quirin. Give me everything," she growls.

I roar as I thrust inside of her, once again feeling the ecstasy of being inside her slick, wet heat. I feel my canines come out, both Raif and I needing to remind our mate that she belongs to us.

She arches on the bed in front of me as I hold her thighs, unable to slow my brutal pace. I hope she knew what she was asking for when she told me to give her everything because she's getting it.

Just as I feel her inner walls clamp down on my cock, I lean over her, sinking my canines into her marking spot, reclaiming her as mine.

She screams, pussy grabbing onto my cock like a vice grip just before I feel her canines sink into my neck.

And there it is again, fucking nirvana. I roar against her neck as her light, her shining brightness, blasts away my darkness leaving me feeling light as air and happier than I ever thought possible.

My orgasm goes on and on and when I finally come down, I pull my canines from her neck and she pulls hers from mine. I slide out of her and move her up on the bed, crawling beside her and pulling her against me.

"I can smell blood," I say, feeling the darkness start to seep back in.

She places her hand on my cheek, forcing me to look at her. "I may bleed a couple more times, but the more we have sex, the more my body will adjust to you and then I won't bleed any more. Echo says she'll have me healed in no time. Don't pull away from me again, Quirin. I wanted this. I want you. That hasn't changed."

I lean down and kiss her nose. "I love you so much, Little Pup."

She pulls back and looks at me, smiling.

"What?" I ask.

"That's the first time you've ever said that

you

love me."

I frown. "Are you sure?"

"I am absolutely positive," she says confidently.

"Well, it won't be the last," I tell her as she snuggles up against me

"Good, because I love you too, Quirin."

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Kennedy

I wake up, still wrapped in Quirin's arms, lying on his chest. It's unusual because he's always up before me, headed to warrior training. I smile, thinking of last night when Quirin finally let go. I know he wanted to try and be as gentle as possible, but I knew the

minute his control snapped. Now that I know that loves me and wants me, I feel empowered that I'm the one who can make this man lose control.

It was a lot. He is a strong, powerful man and when that power is thrusting inside your body, it's a lot to take in. But like I said, I was made for him. I took everything he gave me and embraced it. So did Echo. She was purring happily before I fell asleep.

'We should try to convince him to be late for warrior training,' Echo says in my head. I run my fingers over his chest. It's covered with the scars of his bear attack. This is the first time that I've really had a chance to look at him and enjoy the man who is my mate.

'Isn't he already late?' I ask, unwilling to turn and look at the clock.

'Not quite yet,' she purrs as I slide my hand down his hard stomach, tracing my fingers over the ridges of muscles. Just as my fingers touch his adonis belt, he gasps, jerking awake, his hand covering mine and stopping my teasing.

"What are you doing, Little Pup?" he asks, his voice deep and gravelly with sleep. "Seeing if you're awake," I say, kissing his chest.

"Did you have something in mind?" he asks.

I nod. "I wanted to start the day like we ended yesterday," I say, blushing at my boldness.

His eyes are still half-closed, but he smiles a sexy smile. "Aren't you a naughty little pup."

"You know I'm not a pup anymore, right?" I ask.

"No, you are not a pup, but you'll always be MY Little Pup. So why don't you slide on top of me and take what you want like the Alpha female you are," he suggests.

I sit up and look at his body, not exactly sure what I'm supposed to do.

"Straddle me," he says, pushing the blankets down so I can see that he obviously likes this idea.

I bite my lip and do what he says. His hands come to my hips and his thumbs rub against my hip bones. "In this position, you control the movement. You're in charge. Slide onto my length and do what feels go to you," he says softly.

"What about you?"

"Oh, anything you do is going to feel good to me, don't worry."

I smile and lean forward, kissing him. In this position, I can even control the kiss. He shifts underneath me while we're kissing and then I feel the tip of his hard length slide

against my wet entrance. He groans as I sit up, gasping at the feel of him as I slowly take him in.

I slide up and down a couple of times, getting used to the feel of him stretching me and sliding deeper than before. When I'm finally seated all the way on him, I look down at him.

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"How does that feel, Little Pup," he asks, his eyes nearly black with desire. "Incredible," I gasp.

"You're not too sore?" he asks me.

74%

I shake my head, grinding my hips against his. He holds my hips then pushes his up, going as deep as he can. I whimper at the feel of him.

Then he settles back down, watching me. "Ride me, Little Pup. Make yourself come while I watch you," he says.

I begin to ride, slowly getting my rhythm while his hands move over my body, cupping my breasts and stroking over my nipples, bringing them to hard peaks. "Oh, Quirin. This feels really good," I moan.

"Maybe we should have started in this position," he growls. "I definitely like the view."

I can feel the orgasm building, feel my body tightening around him. I begin moving faster, putting my hands on his chest so I can ride him harder until I cry out as I feel my body explode. Quirin's hands come to my hips, forcing me to ride out my

orgasm.

When I finally start to come down, I look at him. "You didn't come,"

"Not yet. You're not done, are you?" he asks, a glint of challenge in his

This.

Say, disappointed.

I slowly shake my head, and sit up, taking him deep again. This time as I start to ride, his thumb goes to my clit, pressing against it, letting my movements direct the pressure and speed of his thumb.

I throw my head back, knowing I'm going to come again quickly.

"You are so fucking beautiful, Kennedy," he growls.

This time when I come, he grabs my hips, thrusting into me a few more times before I feel the hot jets of his cum spraying my insides. I collapse onto his chest, both of us panting as his arms come around me.

"We are definitely doing that again," I say.

It takes a moment and then his chest starts to bounce with me bouncing on him. I

look up and realize for the first time in my life, Quirin is laughing.

"Quirin?" I ask, not sure if I should be happy or worried that he's laughing.

"Oh, Kennedy," he says, pressing a kiss to my lips. "I'm creating a monster. Pretty soon you'll be demanding sex from me at all hours of the day."

I rest my chin on my hand, watching the happiness that I've never seen on

"Is that a complaint?" I ask him, smiling back at him.

Quirin's face before.

"Not even a little," he says, abruptly flipping our positions so he's laying on

of me. Since he never slid out of me, I feel

his length going hard inside me, stretching me again.

"You think

you have another one in you?" he asks me.

"I definitely do," I say, reveling in the feeling when, once again, my mate loses all control inside of me, sending my body into

74%

orgasmic bliss, before roaring his own release and collapsing beside me. Henry POV

I had really wanted Kennedy to be my mate. She's perfect in so many ways, and neither Quirin nor I had been able to find our mates in any of the packs that we've visited. So, I had hoped, knowing that it was a possibility that she would be mated to another Alpha, one closer to her age. It had never occurred to me that she'd be mated to Quirin. Maybe it should have. The two have always shared a strange bond, with him being nicer to her than almost anyone else and her openly adoring my dark and grumpy brother.

I love my brother, I really do. But when he'd taken Kennedy home the night of her birthday, I'd worried about how she would integrate into his pack, and into Quirin's life. I've kept my distance, not wanting to overstep, but I was anxious to see her at Connor's Alpha Ceremony, just to witness with my own two eyes that she really was doing well.

When I'd seen her, I'd known instantly that things weren't good. Kennedy has always been a shining light of happiness and kindness. The light hadn't gone out in a week, but it was significantly dimmed. Even being around her family wasn't bringing out the usual brightness that surrounds her.

And then they'd left. I could tell from watching Alpha Warren and Luna Yara that their departure was unexpected. It was all I could do to not go after them and punch my brother for making a mess of his mate bond.

I stayed the night, waiting to see Alpha Connor this morning and sign our new alliance agreement. We've been working together for years while his father taught him how to be an Alpha just like mine did. I anticipate that the transition of our alliance will be as seamless as it was when I became Alpha of my pack.

I realized that Connor didn't know his sister left the night before. Granted, he was busy enjoying his new mate and showing her off to everyone and then spending most of the night marking and mating if his level of exhaustion is any indication. I could tell that he was disappointed that she didn't say goodbye, and when he asked, his parents said they didn't know what caused them to leave last night. Well, I do and it's time I confront my brother. He needs to realize that he's going to have to change if he's going to make this bond work. He doesn't get to be the crabby, angry, dark person he's been since I've known him. I warned him not to accept her if he couldn't be a good mate to her, and he didn't listen. Well, he's going to listen now.

As usual when I pull up to the gates, I'm allowed into the pack with no questions asked. It's the same when Quirin comes to my pack, even if his visits continue to be very infrequent.

It's late morning and I expect to find my brother in his office. I stride into the packhouse ready to go head-to-head with him when I see him skipping down the stairs.

Skipping? He looks... happy.

"Hey, Henry! What are you doing here? Did we miss something last night?"

Is he smiling?

"Hey, I wanted to..." I cut off as Kennedy comes skipping down the steps behind

him, looking much brighter and happier than she did last night. What the fuck is going on?

"Hey Henry! Oh, Quirin, that reminds me. We didn't get our picture taken last night," she says. I watch as Quirin pulls her against his body, smiling down at her. Yep, that's definitely a smile, or at least Quirin's equivalent of a smile.

"No, we didn't, and we definitely need to replace that picture in our bedroom," he growls. I watch as she bites her lip, staring at Quirin with blatant love and adoration in her eyes.

"Just remember, no complaints," she says, grinning mischievously at him before skipping out of his grasp. He growls a low,

possessive growl at her, making her smile even bigger.

"Not one," he says, watching her as she turns and says goodbye to me before

heading out of the packhouse. When he can no longer see her, he turns back to me.

"Sorry. Did you need to talk about something?"

"Ahh, no, apparently not."