

# The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

## Chapter 31-35

### The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Quirin

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This is the best fucking morning I think I've ever had in my life. After realizing that I can actually be with Kennedy, that she actually wants to be with me, wants the intimacy that I was denying both of us, I'd allowed myself to bask in glow of her bright light.

It was fucking nirvana, and I can't wait to have her again.

"Christy, your Luna left without eating. Can you make sure she gets some food?" I ask one of my kitchen omegas.

"Sure thing, Alpha. Do you want me to have someone send in some food for you and Alpha Henry as well?"

"That would be fantastic," I say, noticing Christy frowning at me. I guess I am acting strangely. I feel great!

"Alpha, we missed you at warrior training today," Kier says as he walks up, smirking at me.

"I was busy."

"Are you planning to be 'busy' every morning?"

"As many as possible," I say, unwilling to let his teasing get to me. I'm flying too high right now for anyone to bring me down.

"Hello, Alpha Henry. What brings you to our pack today?" Kier asks him.

"Yeah, wh.

does bring you here?" I ask him, nodding for him to follow me to my office.

"I was worried when you left early last night. I just wanted to make sure everything was okay."

"Everything is perfect," I say, sitting in my chair.

"You need to stop smiling. You're freaking me out," he says, giving me the same look that Christy was giving me. "Well, since you're here, I'd like to talk to you about Kennedy's Luna ceremony next weekend."

"What about it?"

"You how many of my pack members feel about Alpha Warren."

"I do."

"Well, he and his family will be coming for Kennedy's Luna ceremony. I'm going to make an announcement that anyone who doesn't feel that they can remain civil during the time that her family is on pack lands can leave. I'm guessing they'll be here two maybe three days."

"Right. I'm planning on being here with Dad and Farrah as well," he says.

"Right. But I was wondering, depending on how many and who choses to leave, if

I could offer for them to come stay in your pack while they're here," I say.

I watch my brother flip the switch from brother to Alpha. "How many do you think we are talking about?"

"It could be as many as fifty, some are families with pups," I tell him.

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He whistles low, "I'm not sure I can house that many, be they can steep on my pack bands if they'd like. I'll find a place for the families with pups, but if they're young singles or complexes, deepang cxwide for a tight or two shouldn't be a problem

"What?"

"Do you think it's a good idea to give them the choice of leading I mean, can't you put fyre your Pighva command to force them to behave?" he asks,

"I could. But I don't want any animosity before, during, or after the ceremony. Add to that, Farrah is doing the party planning and creating a Kennedy-appropriate ceremony and it's just better if they're given the option to leave if they want to"

"Kennedy-appropriate. You mean with lots of food, music, and dancing?" he asks incredulously

"Well, yeah. This is her day, I want it to be special for her?"

"You think your pack members are going to dance?"

"No, but she will. Her family will. Your family will. I'll dance with her. The others can stand around and eat and talk," I say. "Are you going to let me dance with your mate?" he asks, grinning. I think of that darn picture on her nightstand.

"No," I say forcefully, making him laugh. "She's got three sisters you can dance with though," I say, making the smile drop off his face.

"Wendy is the oldest and she's half my age?"

"She's will a good dancer, I say, narrowing my eyes at my brother. "You're starting to consider taking a chosen mate, aren't you?"

"I'm thirty years old, Quirin. Kennedy was my best shot at finding my mate and for some reason, the Moon Goddess thought YOU would be good for her?"

"Jealousy doesn't become you, brother," I growl at him.

He leans forward. "The difference between you and me, Quirin, is that you never expected to have a mate. I did. I've always wanted her. What did I do that I don't deserve a mate?"

"You do deserve a mate, Henry. Of course you do. Believe me, if the Moon Goddess gave ME a mate, then she definitely has a plan for you. I don't know what it is, and two weeks ago, I would have told you something completely different. But I'm telling you now, wait for her. She'll be worth it," I say seriously. He stumps back in his chair, waring up at the ceiling. I can't help but tease him a little.

"You should dance with Wendy this weekend. Who knows, in three years, maybe she'll announce you as her mate," I say, fighting a smile.

"You're not funny, Quirin," he growls at me

"You're a year younger than me. She's three years younger than Kennedy. It's not that much more of an age difference than What Kennedy and I have. And there are other ranked she wolves coming of age between now and then. You and I are sort of an in-between generation. There aren't a lot of the wolves our age. They're all about ten years or so younger than we are."

He shrugs, "I qu

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"Give it some more time, Henry. You can thank me after you find her."

He shakes his head at me. "Since when did you start giving advice?"

"Since I found my mate, I guess."

"Being mated to Kennedy looks good on you," he says seriously.

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"We still have some things to work through, I'm sure, but one step at a time. Her Luna ceremony will be the next step."

"I'm heading back to my pack. Let me know how many want to come stay. We'll figure it out," he says as he stands.

"Thanks, Henry," I say, walking him out.

"Keep doing whatever you're doing with Kennedy. It was good to see her smiling this morning."

I wave, watching him leave before turning toward the hospital. It was good seeing her smile. I think I'll go try to put a smile on her face again.

I walk into the hospital and look around. There are boxes of supplies in various stages of being unpacked. I lift my nose in the air and follow my mate's scent to a room in the back of the hospital. There, I see her reading what looks like instructions to a microscope.

She's so engrossed that she jumps when I wrap my arms around her.

"What are you doing?" I murmur, nibbling on her ear.

"Trying to figure out how to put this together. What are you doing here?" she asks, turning her head to look at me.

"Not complaining," I purr.

"Is that so?" she asks, and I feel her ass press back against me.

"Mmmm, are you sore from this morning?"

"No," she says breathily as I slide my hands under her shirt.

"Want to try something new?" I ask, sucking her earlobe into my mouth.

"Yes," she gasps as my hands push her bra up and begin teasing her nipples. "Quirin," she moans.

"I love how you say my name, all needy and breathy. Did you want me inside you?"

"Yes," she pants.

I look at the counter in front of her, seeing that it's covered with parts. I turn her to another counter and begin undoing her pants. "Hands on the counter," I say, smiling when she eagerly complies.

I push her pants down, undoing my own before standing behind her and gently pushing her forward.

"Arch your back," I say, growling when I see her glistening lips, just begging for my touch.

I slide my fingers between her folds. She's soaked.

"Have you been thinking about me?" I ask her as I slide my tip through her slick heat.

12:40 Wed, 5 Feb MMO

"Yes," she says, looking at me over her shoulder.

"And what were thinking?" I ask as I slowly slide inside her.

"How good you feel inside me," she moans.

"What do you

think of this position?" I ask as she arches even more to take me deeper and I

fight to keep my pace slow.

"It feels good," she moans. Her eyes are nearly black when she looks at me

again.

"You don't have to be gentle, Quirin. I was made for you."

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"Fuck, Kennedy," I growl. I was barely holding on, trying to make sure she wasn't sore. But her permission, her request for me to let go was all I needed. I grab her hips and begin thrusting, feeling her light shining brightly inside me.

"You feel so fucking good, Kennedy!" I say, letting go and thrusting hard and fast as I feel her light shining brighter and brighter.

"Yes, Quirin! Yes!" she screams, her inner walls clamping down on me tightly as I continue to thrust, pushing her through her orgasm and into a second one before I finally let myself release deep inside her, roaring once again at the pleasure she brings me.

When my head finally clears, I lean over my mate who is laying on the counter,

panting as much as I am. I kiss her shoulder and lean my forehead between her shoulder blades.

"We should do that again soon, too," she says through her pants.

I burst out laughing, wrapping my arms around her and holding her as I bask in

beautiful light.

"Oh goddess, how I love you, Kennedy."

She begins purring. "I love you too, Quirin."

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## The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Kennedy

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I feel like Quirin and I have leaped over a hurdle. Just the fact that he came to find me, to show me how much he wanted me, feels like a feat in and of itself.

'And it didn't even hurt this time,' Echo purrs. No, it didn't, it just felt good.

'We needed to adjust to him and now we have,' she says, stretching in my mind like a damn cat.

Between her and the tingles that I'm still feeling in my body, I'm struggling to figure out this damn microscope. It was slow before Quirin came and distracted me in the best possible way, but now... I give up. There's no way I can focus on this.

So, instead, I spend the rest of the afternoon putting the last of the supplies away and making sure that everything is organized in a way that I can get to it quickly if necessary.

"Wow, Luna, I've never seen so much stuff in here," Deborah says, walking in.

"Well, I doubt we'll need to replace most of it for a while, but it's good to have it on hand if we need it," I tell her.

"Do you know how to use all this stuff?" she asks, walking into the storage room and looking around.

"Yeah. I learned how to use it while I was taking classes and most of this I have practical knowledge of having been in my mother's teaching hospital all my life." She turns and looks at me before looking at the items that I've put away.

"What classes taught you to use these things?" she asks.

"Well, I double majored in biology and chemistry. Both are key foundations for the medical and veterinarian degrees that I want to get."

She turns and looks at me, frowning.

"What?" I ask.

"You double majored?"

"Yes."

"Didn't you just turn eighteen?"

"Yes, but I took the college courses while I was in high school. Well, some I took before. It would have been a lot to do that and my high school classes all at once."

"You double majored in college courses before you graduated high school?" she asks me slowly as if making sure she understands what I'm saying.

"Well, yes. I mean, I know it sounds hard, but I grew up in my mother's teaching hospital. I've been listening to the same. classes and lectures since I was six. I mean really, it isn't a big deal that I passed my first college test at ten I'd heard the same. lectures, watched the same videos, and participated in the classes for four years by then. By the time I was thirteen, I could pretty much recite the classes and the passages from the book verbatim."

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"How old were you when you passed your first college course?" she asks me.

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"Fourteen. The math stuff was harder, and the chemistry too because what they teach in college builds on what you learn in high school, so those courses I didn't pass until I fifteen and sixteen. But the biology ones were great, and I was able to start passing those classes early on."

"Uh huh," she says, still staring at me. It's making me a bit uncomfortable, so I turn back to the supplies.

"All of that to say that I know how to use this equipment. I'll know how to use the microscope once I figure out how to put it together."

"It didn't come assembled?" she asks.

"It was cheaper to buy it this way and since I was purchasing so many things, I thought I'd try to save the pack some money."

"Uh huh," she says again, still frowning.

"Sooooo, did you have any thoughts about how I've got things put away in here?"

I ask, still not sure I understand why she's staring at me.

She shakes her head and looks around. "No, it seems very organized."

"Okay, good."

"I'm going to head back to the packhouse. It's getting close to dinner time."

"Okay, see you later."



She stops at the door. "You're not at all what I expected Luna," she says. "Is that good?" I ask.

"Yeah, it is," she says, smiling at me before heading out,

I'm not sure Deborah counts as a warrior, but I'm chalking that up to getting my second warrior on my side.

I look at the time and realize I've still got a couple of hours before Quirin is done with warrior training, so I go back to the microscope. Now that Echo has settled and my body has stopped humming with pleasure, it's easier for me to focus and put the pieces together.

When it's finally put together, I go get the samples I took from Tommy's knee. I dab the swab with saline and then smear it on the slide before putting it under the microscope. I see the usual microorganisms that you'd expect to find on the skin, along with some bacteria that you'd expect, especially with a young pup who skinned his knee. There's no infection, but... what is that?

When I can't figure it out, I take one of the scraping samples that I got off of his skin. This time when I put it under the microscope, there's more of the trace elements that I didn't recognize.

What the hell? Why would there be traces of silver on that pup's knee?

'Kennedy, where are you?' Quirin's voice floats into my mind.

I look at the time and realize that warrior training just ended.

I'm at the hospital. I'll head over now.'

+13)

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I look at the slide one more time before putting everything away I head over to the packhouse, distracted with my thoughts of how this could happen. Is it intentional? Is it some sort of contamination on the pack lands that we need to handle immediately? Is it only on the pup playground and if so, do other pups have similar injuries that aren't healing?

When I walk into the packhouse, Quirin comes jogging over, a rare smile on his face. "Hey gorgeous. Everything okay?" he asks, leaning in to kiss me.

I take a moment to enjoy the kiss, relaxing against him and feeling my body already responding to him.

He growls softly as he pulls away. "Did you have a nice day?"

"Well, this Alpha came by and distracted me for a while, but I managed to get some work done," I tease.

"Hopefully it was a good distraction," he says, taking my hand and leading me back toward the dining hall.

"The best. Hey, listen, I want to talk to you about something. I...

My words cut off as the howls of alarm go up around the pack.

"Son of a fucking bitch!" Quirin snarls as the packhouse rushes into action.

"Get to a safe room, Kennedy," he growls as he rushes toward the doors. "Quirin, I can help..."

"NOW Kennedy! Get to a safe room!" he barks before shifting and racing out the door.

I stare after him until I feel someone tugging on my arm. "Come on, Luna. We need to get in a safe room."

I turn and see Susie holding Samuel in her arms, pulling me toward a safe room. I look around and see the omegas and the young mothers getting their pups into

safe rooms.

"GO! I'm right behind you!" I say. I don't have the full pack link yet, so I'm not sure

if anyone is taking the lead to make sure everyone is in a safe room.

I can hear the sounds of the fighting getting closer outside as I hear a safe room door slam and lock across the hall.

"Luna, please!" Susie

says

behind me.

"Is anyone else coming?" I shout above the chaos as I hear another safe room door slam shut and lock.

I step back, ready to close the door when I hear someone cry out

"HOLD THE DOOR!"

a young mother says, her newborn clutched to her chest.

I wait until she's inside before slamming the door shut and throwing the lock. I turn

and look at the scared faces surrounding me. It's been years since I was in a safe room. In my family's pack, warriors cover the hospital if there's an attack so the medical staff can treat the injured.

There I have a purpose. Here, the scent of fear feels like it's about to choke me.

## The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Quirin

I've been excited to see Kennedy all day. I've never been so distracted, so

desperate to be with someone. But her love, her light, just fills me with happiness and I want more of it.

'I definitely want more of it,' Raif purrs in my head.

"Tonight. Tonight we can take our time, explore her body and then bask in her light again?"

'We need to take Echo out again. This time when I catch her, I'll be mating her, Raif says, growling possessively.

'You realize that's counter-productive to what we're trying to accomplish, right? She's not going to run hard if you're just going to mate her every time you catch her,' I tell him.

'I have a feeling my little Alpha mate will want me to work for it,' he purrs.

Warrior training seemed to go on and on and I was almost disappointed when Kennedy wasn't waiting for me when I got done. I could tell when I reached out that she was distracted, trying to work through something. Since she's in the hospital, I have no idea what could be so distracting, but it doesn't matter. The moment I smell her sweet citrus and mint scent, I have to taste her.

I have a moment to enjoy her teasing me about distracting her today when the alarms go up.

ALPHA JASPER IS ATTACKING!' my patrols yell in the pack link.

'ALPHA BROGAN IS ATTACKING TOO!' I hear another group of patrols say.

'I'll take Brogan,' Kier says as I turn to Kennedy and tell her to get to a safe room. She's not a fighter and I don't want her anywhere near these warriors. They'll kill her without a second thought, especially if they know that she's my mate.

I don't have time to argue with her and I need her in a fucking safe room, so I don't have to worry about her getting killed. So, before she can argue, I tell her to get in a safe room and then I race outside, shifting as I go, letting Raif take the lead.

I leap over our warriors as they fight. I don't see any of my men and women who look like they're struggling so I keep focused, searching for Jasper. It's only been a week. I'm surprised that he's recovered enough to attack again, but maybe that's why he's recruited Brogan to attack us too.

When I find him, he's taking on two of my warriors and slicing large gashes into both of their bodies.

Raif snarls, leaping on him and snapping his teeth at him. We only get fur, but he shakes his head violently, tearing the fur before his teeth rip out of him. Raif spins, meeting Jasper's wolf head on as the two of them scratch and snap at each other. Jasper's a good fighter. He fights dirty like I do, which is why we've struggled to defeat him when he's attacked us in the past.

We've been fighting for a while when I hear the howl of retreat go up.

'Brogan's retreating,' Kier says, just as Jasper pulls away from me and howls his own retreat. I chase him, following him off our pack lands, but there are too many of them, coming from all directions and I don't want to get caught, surrounded and unable to defend myself against so many attacking wolves.

I howl the end of the battle and our victory as I return to the pack.

'Kennedy?' I say, reaching out to make sure she's okay.

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it safe to come out?' she asks.

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'Yes,' I say, feeling exhausted. Jasper picked a good time to attack, right after two hours of warrior training and before we could eat. I'm tired but I need to check on the pack.

I'll go to the hospital. Send anyone who needs to be treated,' she says.

I don't have the heart to tell her that no one is going to go to the hospital. I'm sure she can stitch up my warriors, but they'd rather eat and get some sleep while letting their wolves heal them than go get treated at the hospital.

could go see her,' Raif says.

need to make sure we don't have any warriors whose injuries are too bad. If they are, I'll send them over to Kennedy. I on't know what she can do, but we'll see. I didn't feel any links break, but I want to check in with Kier and see how it went with Brogan.

When I get back to the packhouse, my Beta looks like shit and I tell him so.

"You should see the other guy," he says, making me laugh.

He and I go around checking our pack members, making sure that no one is too terribly injured before sending them in to get food and rest.

When I finally get to our room, I see that Kennedy isn't back yet.

'We should go see her,' Raif says.

'Let's shower first, and if she's not back by then, we'll go get her,' I say, stepping into the hot shower and letting the heat of the water soak into my sore, tired body.

Kier POV

That Alpha nearly kicked my ass. He's a strong bastard, I'll give him that. My body aches as I go through the pack, making sure that everyone is okay and when Alpha says that he's heading upstairs to shower, I go find Arianna.

I mind linked her the moment the call came up that we were under attack telling her to get to a safe room. Then I'd checked to make sure she was actually in one, and when the other packs retreated and the pack lands were clear, I'd reached out letting her know that it was safe to come out.

I find her in the kitchen working hard to put food back out for the warriors to eat. We're all used to being sore and injured after a battle but I know that smelling her gentle, calming scent will help Rowd heal me faster.

When I see her, her eyes widen and she sets her platter of food down, rushing over to me. I know I shouldn't, I'm covered in blood, but I pull her to me with the arm that isn't aching and bury my face in her hair.

"You're injured," she says, pulling back and looking me over. I haven't looked at myself. I just know that I hurt all over.

"I'm okay. Being with you helps," I say smiling.

"Luna's at the hospital. You should go see her," she says.

"I'm fine, Arianna. Really."

She looks up at me, her lips trembling. "Please. Will you go for me? I'll go with you," she says, her eyes welling with tears.

"Shhh, Arianna..."

09:43 Sat, 8 Feb

"Please, Kier."

"Alright. I'll go."

"Give me one second. I'll go with you," she says, bolting back into the kitchen. I hear her telling one of the other omegas that she needs to help someone and then she's back. I notice that she didn't tell them that it was me. I'm not sure if that's because she isn't yet ready to let everyone know what she is to me, or if she didn't want to make it look like I was injured.

We walk over to the hospital together, avoiding the main road. I may be willing to do this for my mate, but that doesn't

an that I want the others to see me. They might get the wrong impression that my wolf isn't able to heal me, which isn't

ase. Rowd is still a strong and capable Beta wolf.

en we walk in, I'm not surprised that I'm the only one here.

"Beta Kier," Luna Kennedy says walking up to me quickly, looking me over in a way that makes her look like she knows what the fuck she's doing. It actually makes her seem more mature than her eighteen years.

"Can you help him, Luna?" Arianna asks, her voice still trembling.

"Of course I can. Come on back."

"I really don't think this is necessary, Luna. Rowd will heal me overnight," I say, following her to a room. I notice that there's a new table in this room, one of the ones that she ordered and I approved.

Luna Kennedy turns and looks at me. "Beta Kier, is there a reason you want to make your wolf work harder than he needs to?"

The question takes me off guard. "Well ... no."

"Good, then sit on the table and let me look you over," she says, taking a towel and draping it over my lap when I sit.

'I like her,' Rowd says approvingly.

"Your shoulder's dislocated," she says.

"Yes, Rowd is healing the gash on my leg before getting to the shoulder."

She puts on some gloves and leans over my leg, looking at the wound.

"Is it healing, Rowd?" she asks my wolf.

"Yes, Luna," he answers, watching her curiously.

"Okay, that's good. I'm going to take a swab anyway," she says. I have no idea what she's talking about, but okay.

She finishes looking me over, evaluating all of the gashes that I have. "Stay put, I'll be right back."

When she steps out, Arianna comes to stand in front of me. "Thank you for doing this for me."

I gently stroke her cheek. "I would do just about anything for you, and not just because you make the best desserts I've ever tasted in my life," I say, making her laugh.

When Luna Kennedy walks back in, I let my hand drop. I notice that my Luna sees the gesture, but doesn't say anything and for once, Arianna doesn't seem skittish that someone saw us together. Interesting.

"Rowd, you're still healing the gash on our leg?" she asks him.

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"Yes, Luna," he tells her.

"Okay, I'm going to swab these, and stitch up the other ones. Then I'm going to put your shoulder back into place, Beta. If after all of that the gash on your leg isn't healed, I'll stitch it up too."

I watch her as she swabs all of my gashes, including the one on my leg. Then she begins cleaning my wounds and stitching them up.

"Those are some clean stitches, Luna," I say, impressed with how quickly and confidently she's closing up the gashes.

"I've been stitching up warriors since I was ten, Beta. I'm pretty adept at it now," she says, glancing up at me.

"Ten?" Arianna asks. I'm just as surprised as she is.

"You know my mother runs a teaching hospital, right? Our warriors didn't mind me practicing on them. And my mother is a great instructor."

"She's a great doctor too, from what Alpha Quirin says," I say.

"She is. I hope to be as good a doctor as her one day," she says.

Almost before I'm ready, she tells me to lie down so she can put my shoulder back into place.

"Rowd, don't fight against me. I need both of you to relax and let me manipulate your arm," she says.

I close my eyes and take a breath. Dislocations always hurt going back in, even when Rowd does it. Arianna takes my free hand and squeezes it. "Ready, Beta?" Luna Kennedy asks.

When I nod, she moves my arm. I grit my teeth against the pain, fighting to keep my arm relaxed. I hear and feel it pop back into place.

"Alright, Rowd, it's all yours now," she tells him, moving to the gash on my thigh. "How about I just finish closing this up for- you?" she asks, looking up at me. "Thank you,



Luna," Rowd replies. She smiles and within a few minutes, I'm done. "There you go. Rowd should have you back to normal by tomorrow morning."

I realize that he's already healing me faster because the wounds are closed. "Thanks, Luna. I appreciate it," I tell her.

"Any time. Let me know if you have any problems or if you think one of them is getting infected," she says.

"I will."

As we walk out, I turn and look back at Luna Kennedy as she cleans up the room.

I'm not sure our Alpha realizes just how lucky we are to have her here.

## The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Kennedy

After finishing up with Beta Kier, I realize that no one else is coming to the hospital. Whether they don't think I'm capable of helping them or they just don't trust me, I'm not sure. What hurts the most is that even Quirin didn't come. He could lead by example, show the pack that I can help to heal them, but it seems that while we may have made some improvements in the bedroom, he still thinks of me as that little pup.

When I walk into the packhouse, I stop, seeing people milling around, burning off the residual tension of the battle. I can smell the injuries on them, smell the blood and seeping wounds that their wolves are having to slowly heal. I feel frustrated tears prick at my eyes. Would it be so terrible to let someone help them?

"Hey, there you are. I was just coming to check on you," Quirin says, skipping down the stairs. He's freshly showered, his hair still wet and the scent of soap still clinging to his skin.

"I just got back," I say softly.

He gives me a pained look. "No one came to the hospital, I'm guessing."

"Why didn't you? I can tell you have injuries."

"Raif is a strong wolf, Kennedy. He can heal me. The others, the warriors in this pack, their wolves are strong too."

So, it's not the warriors, it's my mate. He doesn't have faith in me, so the pack doesn't either. I can't imagine what it took for Arianna to get Kier to come to the hospital tonight. Or maybe he just listens to his mate, unlike mine.

I step past him, feeling too vulnerable to argue right now.

"Did you eat?" he asks.

"I'm good," I say.

"I'm going to get some food. I can bring you something," he says.

"No, I'm fine," I say. My stomach is in knots, and I know anything I put in my mouth will just get stuck in my throat.

I make my way upstairs, feeling the weight of Quirin's stare at my back. I don't look at him, not trusting myself not to burst into tears. That would just confirm what he already suspects that I'm just a little pup. When I get to our room, I shower quickly and crawl into bed. I'm too hurt to want to be with Quirin tonight.

When I hear the door open and close, I don't move, keeping my eyes closed. I hear him stop and I know he's looking at me, but I still don't open my eyes. I hear him sigh, then move to the other side of the bed and crawl in behind me. He pulls me against his body and murmurs that he loves me before falling into a deep sleep.

Sleep takes much longer to find me. I have no idea how to win the respect of the pack when my own mate doesn't seem to respect me.

In the morning, I feel him get up and get ready for warrior training. Before he leaves, he comes over and sits on the bed. "Kennedy, time to get up. I'm headed to warrior training," he says softly.

"Okay. How are you feeling this morning?" I ask him, unable to help myself. Did Raif really heal him over night? "Almost as good as new. Like I said, Raif is a strong wolf, Little Pup."

78%

"Yeah, I guess so."

He frowns but presses a kiss to my lips. "Are you still upset about yesterday?"

I shrug. "I just wish you had at least come to see me, Quirin. Maybe then the others would too."

"Or maybe they'd see me as weak, Kennedy and begin challenging me. An Alpha always has to look strong to his pack."

"My father..." I begin.

"That's different. Your mother is a doctor. You will be too one day. And I know you'll be just as great as your mother is, probably even better, knowing you. Look,

I have to go. We can talk more about this later if you want."

+13

"Okay," I say, feeling even more frustrated with my mate. He has no idea what I'm capable of. He's just assuming that I don't know what I'm doing.

After he leaves, I get up and head over to the hospital. "Luna, don't forget your breakfast!" Christy calls out to me as I'm walking out.

"Thanks, Christy. Are you all doing okay after yesterday?"

"Yes, thank you, Luna. We'll need to order more food today or tomorrow for your Luna ceremony though."

"Let's plan on doing that tomorrow. I have something I want to take care of at the hospital today and I want to take as much time as you and the others need to talk through the order," I tell her.

"Okay, Luna. I'll let the others know and we'll start putting together a list of what we think we need."

"Perfect," I say, and turn to head out.

"Hey Luna," Beta Kier says, jogging up.

"Beta Kier, how are you feeling this morning?" I ask him.

"Fantastic, Luna," he says before his voice changes to Rowd's. "Thanks to you.

Both of us feel great this morning. I'm not even tired."

"That's great news. I'm so happy I could help," I say to him.

"Next time, I'll be the first in line," Kier says smiling.

"Let's hope there's not a next time," I say.

"Unfortunately, you can bet there will be, Luna. Gotta go, I was just getting the stragglers rounded up for training."

"Have a good workout, Beta."

He turns and grins at me. "I'm pretty sure mine will be better than anyone else's, except maybe our Alpha."

I doubt that, but as I head to the hospital I feel a little bit better.

'One at a time is better than none,' Echo says encouragingly.

"Very true," I say as I step into the hospital. I want to look at the blood samples

that I took from Beta Kier. If his samples have silver in them as well, then we definitely have a problem.

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78%

I say hello to Deborah and then go to get the samples that I took last night. I carefully drip saline on the swab and swipe it onto the microscope slide. When I put it under the microscope, there is no evidence of silver. I set that one aside and look at the others. Beta Kier had four gashes, and I have four swabs.

Not one of them has silver in them.

I sit back, huffing out a sigh. What does this mean? Is it only on the pup playground? Is it maybe just a contaminated area of the pack lands?

I have a lot of questions and no answers.

## The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Kennedy

As I sit, I hear the doors to the hospital slide open. Thinking maybe it's Quirin, I stay put. I'm not in the mood for a repeat of yesterday, but maybe we can finally talk about what I found on Tommy's leg.

"Luna? There's someone here to see you," Deborah calls out.

I step out, seeing Emily and another warrior. He does not look happy to be here.

"Luna, could we talk to you please, in private?" Emily asks.

"Of course, come this way," I say, leading them to one of the new rooms that I've set up.

"Oh, you got the new table you mentioned," she

Says.

"I did. How can I help you?" I ask. The man is leaning against the wall with his arms crossed over his chest.

"Luna, this is my mate, Lane. I've asked him, well begged him really, to come see you," she says, looking at her mate.

"What seems to be the problem, Lane."

"There's no problem, Luna," he says.

"Lane, please!" Emily pleads.

He huffs, pushing off the wall. "It just needs more time to heal, Emily. Derion will heal the wound but the attack yesterday didn't help."

"Why don't you have a seat and let me take a look," I say.

He huffs again. "It's on my thigh."

"Okay, you can remove your pants and then lie down so I can take a look at it," I tell him as I pull on some gloves. I also grab some swabs to check this wound for silver as well.

I look at the wound that looks partially healed. "You said you got this last night?" I ask, carefully looking at the wound.

When he doesn't answer, I look up and see his lips are pressed tightly together. He refuses to make eye contact with me. When I look at Emily, she looks like she's about to smack her mate.

"No, Luna. He got it last week. It's from the attack on the day of your birthday, the day that our Alpha realized you were his mate."

"You got this wound eight days ago and it hasn't healed yet?" I ask.

He nods.

"How's your wolf?"

"I'm strong, Luna," Derion says.

"Then why aren't you healing, Derion?"

"I'm... not sure," he says, obviously uncomfortable that he's unable to heal his human.

"He's a great wolf. He'll heal me eventually," Lane says defensively.

"I didn't say he wasn't a great wolf. I'm sure he is," I say, seeing something that catches my eye.

"I'm going to take a swab of this wound. Do you have any others?" I ask him. "Yes," he grumbles.

"Are they also from a week ago?" I ask.

"No, they're from last night, two of them haven't yet healed."

"Let me swab those, too." I take swabs of all three wounds then look at them.

"Wait here for me. I'll be back in just a moment," I say.

"Is everything okay, Luna?" Deborah asks me.

"Yes. Everything's good, thank you."

I go to the microscope and rub the swabs on the slides. All three have silver in them.

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I sit back again, thinking. This is the same family with silver in their body, but the father got the wounds during a battle and the pup got it playing on the playground.

'Quirin, can you please come to the hospital?'

'Is everything okay?'

'Yes, but I need to speak with you,' I tell him.

I swear I hear him sigh through the mind link. 'Okay. I'll be right there.'

I ignore the sigh and go back to the room.

"I'm going to clean these wounds, scrape them like I did with Tommy's knee," I

say.

"Okay," Lane says, frowning at me.

"It may sting," I tell him, getting a bowl to collect the tissue.

"That's fine," he says and I'm pretty sure he won't even hiss as I scrape this open, raw wounds.

"The first battle was against Alpha Jasper's pack, right?" I ask while I work.

"Yes, Luna."

"And last night, there were two Alphas who attacked, Alpha Jasper and Alpha Brogan, right?"

"That's right," he says.

"Whose pack did you fight against last night?" I ask.

413

"Alpha Jasper's" he says, watching me

"Do you know who Beta Kier fought against?" I ask, wondering if I'm finally on to something,

"He fought against Alpha Brogan, although apparently you fixed him up so well that he kicked out me today, welding Alpha's," he says, making me smile. That shouldn't make me happy, but it does.

When I finish, I put my finger in the bloody goo, feeling the sting of the silver. Shirt 1 was night

I hear Quirin walking down the hall and the door opens. "Hey, Kennedy, what's Lane? What's gringo be as stepping

in

"You called Alpha? That's just fucking great! Nothing's wrong Alpha," Lane says angrily, starting to get up. I've had about as much of these damn warriors as I'm willing to take

"LAY YOUR ASS BACK DOWN UNTIL I TELL YOU THAT YOU CAN GET UP I say, unintentionally using my Alpha command, startling everyone in the room.

"Yes, Luna," he says quietly, his neck up in submission.

"Quirin," I say, directing my attention to him. "Lane has a wound that isn't healing." I begin, but he cuts me off

"Give it time, Kennedy. It's only been one night..."

"Will you for once stop disregarding everything that I say and just LISTEN to me?

I'm telling you that this will NOT heal on its own," I snap.

I can tell that he's not happy with my tone, but I don't care. I'm tired of him

discounting everything that I say.

"What do I need to hear, Kennedy," he says slowly, as if trying to hold on to his patience. Yeah, well, get in line.

"Put your finger in this," I say, holding the bloody goo out in front of him. I watch as his lip curls in disgust

"You want me to touch that?"

Okay, maybe it's petty, but I'm still pretty aggravated with him.

"Afraid of a little blood, Alpha?" I say, my tone challenging. His eyes narrow and the tension in the room ratchets to an uncomfortable level if Emily's and Lane's submission is any indication. I, however, am unfazed by his aura. Without taking his eyes off of me, he steps forward and sticks his finger in the goo. The moment he does, he hisses, yanking his finger out of the bowl.

"What the fuck? What is that?"

"That's what I've been trying to tell you," I say to him, feeling quite pleased with myself. "Your warrior's wound is laced in

silver."

"Silver? Luna, I'd know if I had silver in my system," Lane says. Now that Quirin's angry aura has receded, he and Emily have lowered their chins.

I look at Emily. "This is what I found on Tommy's knee. His wound was laced with silver dust, that's why it wasn't healing." "But how? We don't have any silver, not anywhere in the pack," she says, and looks at Quirin.

"When Beta Kier was here last night, I swabbed his wounds. He didn't have any silver in his wounds. But he also didn't fight



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Alpha Jasper, Warrior Lane did, during both battles. I'm not positive, but I think that Alpha Jasper is coating his pack's claws with silver powder before they attack. Some of that silver dust is getting onto the pack lands. That would explain how it got onto Tommy's knee and how it got in Warrior Lane's wound" "For what purpose?" Quirin asks, frowning at the goo as if it's an enemy. "I'm guessing he's attacked multiple times and obviously never won. So, he had to come up with a way to defeat you from the inside out. He's slowly weakening the pack, Quirin. Since none of your warriors use the pack hospital, their wounds won't heal. And since none of them want to be considered weak, they wouldn't tell you that they weren't healing, would they? And every time he attacks, he's putting more and more silver into your warriors' systems. Eventually, he will defeat you."