

The Pack's Nemesis

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The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

After returning to the packhouse, I watched my daughter and Quirin. I know my mate struggles with him being Kennedy's mate. He and Quirin have never had a good relationship. I'm not sure they ever will. But as long as they can be civil to each other for Kennedy's sake, that's all that matters to me.

My relationship with Quirin is different than Warren's. He's always been much more kind and gentle with me than he has been with Warren. I have no doubt that it's because he feels indebted to me for saving his life, but it's given me an insight into a side of Quirin that not many people see. There is a kindness, a desire to please, and I believe, a deep-seated need to love and be loved in side of Quirin. I think he has the ability to live, but I also believe that he didn't have the best role model for a father. The man was willing to give up his chosen mate and Luna to take me as his Luna. There is no one in the world that could ever take my place in Warren's life, heart, or be. So, while I understand that Quirin has the ability to love, I also know that he doesn't have an understanding of how to truly show that love to someone, not even his mate.

It's good to see my children all together again. I know it's only been two weeks since Kennedy left us, but it feels like forever. So much has happened in those two weeks. Kennedy moved out Connor found his mate and has now taken his place as Alpha of our pack. My mate is struggling to figure out where he is now that he's not the leader of a pack and he's also still struggling with how the Moon Goddess chose Kennedy as Quirin's mate.

I watch Quirin while my children tease each other, tormenting Kennedy by telling Quirin embarrassing stories about her childhood, not that there are many. But sisters and brothers always seem to know these things and love to tell them to anyone who will listen.

One thing I realize as the evening goes on is that even though he's a bit older than Kennedy and has been the Alpha of his pack for years, he's still emotionally very immature. I guess that makes sense. He never had any siblings, he lost both of his parents when he was still a pup, and the only friend that he's ever had that I know of is Henry. He hasn't had a lot of opportunities to learn how to build emotional relationships. In times like this, that becomes very clear.

The difference between Quirin and Henry couldn't be more obvious. Henry laughs and teases as if he's part of our family, while Quirin sits outside the group, watching, looking after Kennedy, but only participating at the most minimal level.

"Oh, come on, Quirin! That was funny!" Wendy whines, after telling a story about Kennedy that had everyone laughing except Quirin.

"I refuse to laugh at my mate's expense," he says seriously.

Spoken like a true mate.

Quirin's head snaps to me and I look at Warren. "Did I say that out loud?"

"Yes, my love, you certainly did. I'm so glad you never changed," he says, taking my hand and pulling it to his lips for a kiss. Since I recognize the fire in my mate's eyes, I turn to the group.

"Don't stay up late. Don't harass Alpha Quirin, his pack, Alpha Harold, Luna Farrah, or Beta Kier," I say to my pups.

"I notice she left you out, Henry," Yorick says to him.

"Yeah, I guess it's open season on Henry!" Yvonne, my youngest daughter squeals.

"Yeah! Get him!" her twin Wade says, and the two of them leap at Henry.

"Henry, I can add you to the list," I say as I stand.

"Nah! These two obviously need a reminder, of what happens when they poke the Alpha!" Henry says, standing with one pup under each arm.

"It's about time they started poking another Alpha," Connor says standing and helping Madison to her feet. I look between

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my oldest twins, wondering which one will give me a grandbaby first.

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Warren and I say goodnight and head to our room. When we get there, I think about my conversation with Kennedy today as we begin getting ready for bed.

"Warren, didn't you say that Quirin was wealthy?" I ask him.

"Yeah, really rich. He gave Connor one hundred thousand dollar for his birthday," he asks.

I stop

and look at my mate, shocked. "He did? Why?"

Warren shrugs in the casual, sexy way that he has that still make my heart skip a beat and heat rush to my core.

"Connor and I talked about it. We both think that it was Quirin's way of letting him know that he's powerful in more ways than one. Remember, when he wrote that check, he didn't know that he and Kennedy were mates. He may not have done it if he had."

I think about that, and Warren tilts his head at me, walking over and pulling me against him. "Why do you ask?"

"Why do you think Kennedy doesn't know that? She told me today that she didn't order an x-ray machine for the pack when the one they have is probably older than I am. It costs a third of what he gave Connor for his birthday."

I slide my arms around his neck, and he presses his lips to my forehead as he thinks.

"One thing I realized today is that Quirin really loves Kennedy. I know you and I have differing opinions about him, but I wasn't sure that he was capable of love. However, I saw it in his eyes whenever he looked at her today and I believe that it's real. But he didn't have a great role model when it came to mates. I mean, look at how easily Quinton was willing to toss Yasmin aside to get to you."

"I had that same thought today, but that doesn't mean that he wouldn't tell her that they can afford anything she wants to buy for the hospital," I say.

He smiles at me and I feel the flash of the memory in his mind. "You remember how you used to joke with me that I didn't know the definition of 'discussion'?"

"Oh, that wasn't a joke. I was very serious and I'm so thankful that we now have a library in the educational side of the hospital in case I ever have to look up that or any other word for you," I say, making my mate laugh, like I knew he would. "Goddess, I love you, Yara. My point is, I don't think Quirin knows the definition of communication."

"Do you think I should say something to her?"

He sighs, his hands beginning to roam over my naked body while he considers. "No. Yesterday my answer would probably have been different. Yesterday, I didn't know that Quirin could love her as much as he does. I think they have to figure it out for themselves, Yara. If anyone else had told me that it was a bad idea to erase your records from that human university you were attending when we met, I never would have listened. But

when you said it, I had no choice but to listen. I hope, I think, they'll find their way together. But they are both still struggling to figure out who they are in this new dynamic. My confident daughter has lost some of her confidence," he says, looking sad.

"She's getting it back. Slowly, but it will come."

"Of course it will. She is her mother's daughter, after all," he says his eyes darkening as his thumbs stroke over my nipples. I let my head fall back, giving my mate the submission that I know he loves.

He growls and begins nibbling on my neck.

"I was surprised that you didn't send Bradley to watch over me at the hospital," I say, my voice becoming breathless as my mate begins stoking the fire inside my body.

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"I had him watch our pups. I was worried about the pack, but he said they kept their distance except some omegas who brought them some food they were very nice and talked about how great Kennedy is."

He

That makes me smile.

"Are we done talking now?" he growls.

"Yes," I breathe softly.

"Good because there are other things I want to do with my mouth," he says, before lifting me up and carrying me to the bed.

My mate still has an insatiable appetite for me, even after nineteen years and seven pups. And I'm so thankful because I know that I will never, ever be able to get enough of this man.

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Comment

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Quirin

I have no idea what to make of Kennedy's family. They harassed her relentlessly all evening long. I would have stepped in. but no one seemed bothered by it, not even Kennedy. I mean, she didn't

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herself, but she gave it back as much as she got. Even Henry seemed to seem to like hearing the embarrassing stories about

problem including him in their teasing.

enjoy the bantering and Kennedy's siblings had no

I wonder if this is what a family, a real family is supposed to feel like. I have no doubt that if anyone attacked any one of them, they'd give their lives for each other, even the youngest two. But they have no problem attacking each other verbally and laughing at each other's expense. I'll admit, there were some pretty funny stories, but I refused to laugh at my mate, no matter how much she didn't seem to mind the others laughing her.

After watching Henry run around with a younger twin under each arm, holding them sideways and bouncing them until they were squealing at dog whistle pitch, I wonder if this is what Kennedy expects our lives to be with our pups. There's definitely love in this family, and that love includes Harold, Farrah, and Henry.

My life never looked like this. Not only was I an only child, but my father was always very busy. He made time for me, sure. He told me he loved me every day. He never withheld love and affection from me, but he didn't spend time with me like I see Alpha Warren and Alpha Harold spending with their children

And my mother, well, let's just say that she expected us to represent ourselves as the perfect family. There was never any rambunctious behavior. I was to act like the Alpha heir that I was represent the pack, her, and my father at all times and never act out. It makes me wonder what my life would have been like if I'd had a sister or brother to rough-house with. While Henry is an only child as well, he's always been relaxed, never acting like he felt the need to present himself as an Alpha, or at least not every minute of every day.

As Kennedy and I say goodnight, Farrah pulls me aside.

"Are you okay? This was a lot for you," she says.

"Is this how all families are?" I ask.

She shrugs. "Not all of them. But personally, I think the Hills represent a loving family. They pretty much think of Henry as their oldest brother, so he's included in that bond which is why they torment him just as much as they torment each other. None of it is meant in a mean way. It's good sibling fun, something you never had."

"Henry didn't either," I say.

"Yes and no. He allowed himself to get to know the Hills in a way that you never did. Which is probably why they consider him an older brother but not you. They did try to include you tonight, but you kept yourself out of the inner circle. Maybe someday you'll feel comfortable enough to let them pull you into their inner circle."

"I don't think I could ever be that carefree," I say, frowning and watching Henry hold up the twins so they can say goodnight to Kennedy.

"It isn't about whether or not you could be that carefree, Quirin. It's about whether or not you'll allow yourself to be that way. Think about it," she says, before walking over to Harold and taking his hand.

When Kennedy comes over to me, I take her hand and lead her to our room. When we get there, she turns to me.

"You were very quiet tonight. I know they're a lot to take in. I noticed the pack kept their distance," she says.

"That probably had more to do with Bradley's looming presence than the pack members themselves."

"Well, I know it was probably hard for you, but I appreciate you hanging in there tonight. I've missed my family," she says, walking over and smiling up at me.

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I pull her into my arms, looking down at her. "Did you really see rat's leg and nurse it back to health?" I ask, referencing something that Wendy said earlier. "Well, to be fair, I thought it was a really big mouse," she says, making me smile at her. I watch her eyes track to my lips and she begins to bite her bottom lip. The sight makes me growl and reach up and pull her lip from her teeth. The sweet scent of her arousal begins to permeate the air around us.

"Your parents are right down the hall, Kennedy. Did you want to risk them hearing you screaming my name?"

"I'm pretty sure my parents won't hear anything but each other, Quirin," she says, sliding her hands over my chest.

I slide my hand into her hair and take her mouth in a dominant kiss. She's been smiling and laughing all night and I'm nearly desperate for a fix of her golden light. I move her backward as I devour her mouth, using my free hand to rip her clothes

off of her before sitting her on the edge of the bed and laying her down.

I quickly strip off my clothes before rubbing my hands over her body. Then I grab her thighs and tug her to the edge of the bed as I press the tip of my aching cock at her entrance. "Don't complain to me tomorrow if your father questions you about our night," I growl before bottoming out inside her.

Her cry of pleasure is music to my ears. I'm so thankful that she doesn't bleed anymore and that she seems to love taking everything that I give her. I feel her light pressing against my darkness as it always does, pushing it away and making me feel so fucking light and happy.

I pull her legs up, so they're laying against my chest, nibbling on the instep of her feet while I thrust inside her, loving the way her body feels fluttering around me until I bring her over the edge of bliss.

"You're mine, aren't you, Kennedy?" I growl.

"Yes, Quirin," she moans as I push her through the orgasm, feeling another one coming on quickly.

"Say it," I growl, watching her as her hands grip the sheets. "Say you're mine!" "I'm yours. I'm yours, Quirin."

"Fucking right you are," I say, my thrusts coming harder and faster, pushing her over the edge again until her light blasts around me, nearly blinding me as I find the exquisite pleasure that only Kennedy gives me.

I hold us there while our bodies jerk with aftershocks, then I kiss my way down her leg before leaning over and kissing her. "Tomorrow night at this time, you'll be my Luna. You will be mine in every way possible," I say, stroking the damp hair away from her face.

"I already am, Quirin," she says, her fingers stroking over my face, brushing over my lips.

"I want you bound to me in every way possible, Kennedy. I meant what I said. You're mine. Only mine."

"And you, my Alpha, are all mine. Only mine," she says, pulling me in for another kiss and wrapping her legs around me. I lift her up and crawl onto the bed before flipping onto my back.

"My Luna should take what she wants," I say, before watching her find her pleasure while she rides me. When we've both come again, she collapses on top of me and we fall asleep just like that.

The next morning, I get up as usual, ready for warrior training. I kiss Kennedy, waking her up.

"You have a busy day ahead of you, my mate. You'd better get up and make sure everything is ready for breakfast for your family."

"For my family and our pack, Quirin. I'm their Luna, which means I'm just as responsible for the pack as you are," she says. I sit on the bed and take her mouth in a dirty, possessive kiss.

When I pull back, she looks at me, searching my face. "This is really important to you, isn't it?"

"I told you last night, Kennedy. I want you bound to me in every way possible. You are mine, no one can ever take you from

me

She smiles, sitting up and pressing her lips to mine. "No one ever could, Quirin. I've been yours for a long time. Longer than the two weeks since you called me your mate."

I kiss her again before grunting and pulling away from her. "You are a naughty siren calling me back to bed."

"I can't help it. I like the way you feel inside me," she says, making me fucking hard.

"A VERY naughty siren," I say, standing and listening to the sweet sound of her laughter as I head downstairs for training.

I probably shouldn't be surprised, but I am when I find Kennedys entire family, Henry, and Harold all ready to train. The only one missing is Luna Yara. Even Luna Madison and Farrah are here to train.

Kier and I stand at the front of the group. "Alright, we have some new faces today.

Let's show them how we fight in this pack," I say to my warriors and begin the training.

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Kennedy

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When Quirin got up for warrior training, I quickly showered and got dressed before going downstairs to help the omegas get ready for breakfast. I know they're nervous having so many Alphas in the pack, which I'm guessing has never happened before. So, I want to make sure they are comfortable and help out if they need it.

We've just finished putting the food out when everyone starts coming inside.

"Dad, are you limping?" I ask him. Everyone else is chattering happily as they walk in.

"Apparently I'm out of shape," he says as my mother walks over to him, quickly assessing his injury.

"Arric?" she asks, running her fingers over my father's hip.

"I'm fine, my mate. It seems like this old wolf still has some new tricks to learn," he answers.

"Don't think your dad didn't get in his punches. Man, I wasn't expecting to work so hard today!" Lane says, walking up behind him and slapping my father on the shoulder.

"One of the best workouts I've had in a long time," my father says, smiling at him.

Well, that's unexpected.

"Me too. Your pack has a completely different fighting style than what we have, Ken. It's pretty awesome! I feel like I'm back in pup school learning how to fight all over again," Connor says. He's at least not limping.

"You're not the only one. Your brother is deadly," Kelvin says to me walking in with Connor.

"At least you didn't get tag-teamed by the killer twins," Terrance says, smiling at my youngest siblings.

I notice not all of the warriors are interacting with my family, but quite a few of them are. I wonder if Quirin and Kier chose the ones they knew would get along well with my family to spar with them today.

"I want a rematch tomorrow," Yorick says, walking in with Leo.

"If you'd battled against me a week ago, I would never have won. Your sister got me all patched up and now I'm stronger than ever," Leo says. He's the one who had three different injuries that have now all healed.

"Yeah, she and Mom are great at that. You're lucky to have her," he says, winking at me.

As everyone walks in, I see my mother assessing them just as I am. I'm assessing more than injuries though. I'm watching to see how the pack is interacting with them. I have no doubt that Quirin was careful during sparring. He's been very clear that nothing is to mar today for me and so far, everything seems to be going well.

It isn't until Bradley comes limping in that I step forward. However, Trena beats me to him.

"Getting a bit old for sparring with wolves half your age, aren't you love?"

"Apparently," he grumbles, pulling her to him. "Are you going to kiss it and make it better?"

She chuckles. "If it's not healed after breakfast, I will."

"Did you hear that, Declan. Don't be healing me," he says to his wolf as he leans in to kiss him mate.

"What's for breakfast?" Baron, Trena and Bradley's oldest asks as he comes in.

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"Anything you want," Christy says cheerfully.

"There's plenty of food. Help yourselves. My omegas need to start working on dinner tonight, so it's self-serve this morning," I announce.

Quirin walks in, coming straight over to kiss me.

"Everyone seems in good spirits," I say softly.

"We had a good, hard training session this morning. I expect that it will be the same tomorrow," he says, watching as everyone begins making their way to get food.

"Good. No problems?" I ask.

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He turns his attention to me. "I told you that I won't allow anyone to ruin today for you, my Luna, and I won't. Everything is fine. It was a hard training session, but it was good."

I sit with my family during breakfast and listen to them talking about the sparring session. Several of our warriors sit with us and there's a lot of easy discussion and banter back and forth. Emily and Tommy join us, since Lane is sitting with us. Tommy begins telling my mother about how I fixed his knee.

"I'm not surprised. My daughter was excellent in my hospital. I already miss her."

"I didn't think you were a doctor yet," Emily says, frowning at me.

"I'm not, but my mother's hospital has been my second home for as long as I can remember," I say, as my mother smiles proudly at me.

After breakfast, Luna Farrah, Wendy, and Madison go off to finish setting up for tonight. I've been told that it's their surprise for me, so I'm not allowed to see it until tonight.

However, my mother asks me to join her and together we walk to her room.

"Did Quirin tell you he asked me to pick out a dress for you?" she asks me.

"No, he didn't and honestly, with everything going on, I didn't even think about it. I was planning to wear one of the dresses I already have."

"Well, now you don't have to," she says, as we enter her room. "By the way, the flowers are lovely. Thank you so much. I know you did that for me."

"I wanted you to feel at home. I know Dad's a bit nervous, but hopefully he's starting to relax now."

"He is. Your mate is doing everything possible to make tonight special for you and that means a lot to your father and to me. Let's take a look at the dress. I hope you like it. I chose it with you in mind," she says, leading me to the closet.

"Then I'm sure I'll love it!" I say, knowing that my mother knows me very well. When she pulls out the dress, I know I'm right.

"Oh, Mom, it's beautiful!" It's a floor-length, A-line, one shoulder dress with a thick banded waist in dark green. It will bring out the color of my eyes and is youthful, but elegant at the same time.

"Let's try it on and make sure it fits," she says. She helps me get into it and then she stands behind me as we look in the

mirror in her room.

"Look at how grown up you are, I'm so proud of you, my sweet daughter," she says, wrapping her arms around my

shoulders.

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"Thanks, Mom," I say, feeling tears threaten.

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"Now, you'll get ready in here, so Quirin doesn't see you until you walk out. Did you want your father to walk you out to the stage?" she asks.

"Yes."

"Good. He was hoping you'd want him too. Your sisters also wanted to help you get ready and you know how good Wendy is with hair, so I told her and Yana that they could come help."

"Of course."

The rest of the afternoon is spent with my mother and sisters. Even Yvonne came

in to join us and, on her way, to get ready, Madison came in to see me too. It wasn't until my father came in that the others finally left to go get ready.

Before she leaves, my mother kisses me and my father and then heads downstairs.

When I stand and look at my father, I see a hint of tears in his eyes.

"You know, when Quirin first called you mate, I was ready to kill him for you. If you had said you didn't want to be mated to him and he had refused your rejection, I would have put the full force of the pack behind you to keep you safe and away from him. But, my dear, sweet daughter, you have reminded me that the Moon Goddess doesn't make mistakes. You are here for a reason, and while I think that the two of you still have some things to work through, I can already see the impact that your presence is having here. I didn't like letting you leave with him on your birthday. I didn't know what to expect when I brought my family, my entire world, to this unknown pack yesterday. But what I didn't expect to see was how much Quirin loves you. I can already see the change in him from being mated to you. And it's a good change. You may be the only reason that I'm here right now, that your family is here in this pack for the first time ever, but that speaks volumes about his love for you, Kennedy. I've offered my help with the silver on your pack lands, and he's agreed to let me find information for him. That's a huge step that he never would have taken if he hadn't been mated to you."

I feel my own tears threatening to spill over as I listen to my father's words.

"Many people have underestimated your mother in our life together. It's a mistake. She's one of the strongest women I've ever met. And you, Kennedy, are more her daughter than any of your siblings. You have an inner strength that others don't always see, and they underestimate you because of it. But you are my daughter too, which means there is a fighter inside you. That fight will be what ultimately wins this pack over, Kennedy."

He smiles at me, stepping forward and taking my hands. "I guess what I'm saying is that I'm so proud of you. Don't let this pack get you down. You will win them over because you are not the kind of woman who gives up or lets others win. You are strong, you are compassionate, and tonight you will take your place as a leader of this pack. You are going to do great things in your life, Kennedy and I'm so glad that I get to be here to see it."

"Thanks, Dad," I say through my tears. He gently reaches up and brushes my tears away before pressing a kiss to my forehead.

"Ready to take your place as this pack's Luna?" he asks, holding out his arm to me.

"Ready," I say, feeling much more ready now.

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Quirin

I watch as Kennerly walks out of the back of the packhorse. I have Kier and Henry standing on the stage with me. The pack will recommit their loyalty to me and Kier today while accepting Kennedy as their Luna, and Henry will preside over the ceremony which gives me the chance to just focus on how witterly gorgeous my mate is

Farrah went all out as I knew she would. The entire area looks perfect for my mare. There is some sort of gary gold material draped around the area that is covered with the artificial turf, making me everyone knows where it's safe to walk There are twinkling lights and flowers draped everywhere giving the area a magical feel.

The green dress that Kennedy is wearing fits her perfectly, falling to her feet is a soft, flowing skirt. No skin-tight, short showy dresses for my mate. Nope, this dress is elegant and classy, just like she is

I growl a low, possessive growl as I watch her walk toward me. Her eyes never leave mine as her father guides her to the stage. When they get close, I walk over and extend my hand, taking hers and helping her up the stage

"Thank you. Alpha." I say to Alpha Warren

Thank you, Alpha," he says, emphasizing that he's thanking me. I'm not sure why he's thanking me. I haven't done anything

I only let the exchange distract me for a moment, before I refocus on the woman in front of me. She's about to bind herself to the in the last possible way that she can. I don't know why I want her tied to me in every way possible. I guess there's still a part of me that's afraid of losing her. But tonight, she will accept her role as my mate, as a Luzna, and as a leader of this pack

I walk her to the center of the stage and tum, holding both of her hands in mine as Henry steps up beside and between us.

"Welcome pack members, family, and guests" Henry begins.

I can't take my eyes off of Kennedy. Her eyes, usually a grayer color, are the exact color of the-dress, as if her eyes felt the need to blend perfectly. Her hair is in an elegant bun at the nape of her neck, but there are pieces of her hair that are down. giving it a softer look. There's baby's breath in an arc at the top of the bun. The only reason I know it's baby's breath is because it is, quite possibly, the stupidest name I've ever heard for a flower. However, while it may have a dumb name, it adds a perfect touch to my mate.

I watch as Kennedy begins smiling at me. Her lips are twitching as if she's trying to keep from laughing. I frown until I hear Henry saying my name as if he's been trying to get my attention.

"What?" I ask him.

"I need your hand so I can slice your palm. Do you think you can let go of our mate long enough for me to get your blood in the cup?" he asks, raising an eyebrow at me.

I hear the snickering from the pack members and probably Kennedy's siblings. I give Henry a look and reluctantly pull my hand away from Kennedy's, before returning my gaze to hers.

"Do you, Alpha Quirin, accept Kennedy Hill as your mate and Luna? Do you agree to place her above all others, letting her lead at your side?" Henry says.

"I do"

He slices my hand and tilts it, letting it drip in the cup, but I still don't take my eyes off Kennedy.

"Do you, Alpha Kennedy, accept Alpha Warren as your mate and Alpha. Do you agree to place him above all others and lead at his side as the Luna of this pack?"

"I do," she says and this time when her lips quiver, it's because of the emotion behind her words.

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Henry hands her the goblet and I watch as she sips my blood, feeling the bond between us strengthening. I can feel the heat of my possessiveness, my need to show everyone here that she's mine, so I lean in, taking her mouth in a dominant, possessive kiss.

"Uh, Quirin, there's more to the ceremony. Perhaps you can wait to finish this later. After the party. In private. Henry says drolly.

Kennedy gasps, obviously having forgotten that we're in front of not only our pack, but her entire family as well.

"Yes, let's continue," I say, pulling back just enough that I can still nuzzle her nose with mine, but our lips are no longer touching.

"I'll need your hand again, Quirin." Henry says softly enough that only those of us on the stage can hear. I give him my hand, not moving away from Kennedy.

He slices it again, letting it drip in the cup, before asking Kennedy for hers. I know the moment he slices her palm. She hisses softly and I smell her blood. As soon as Henry releases her hand, I pull it to my mouth and lick the wound closed.

"Did you want me to accept our Luna, Alpha, or are you just going to stare at her all night?" Kier asks.

"We can do both," I say, pulling away just enough for Kier to come forward and accept Kennedy as his Luna. After that. I'm forced to step back, but I don't release her hand as one by one, the pack comes forward to accept her as their Luna.

I watch as she smiles at certain warriors, specifically those that had previously accepted her and then apologized and asked to be allowed to stay. I also recognize that none of these warriors hesitates or scoffs at accepting her as their Luna.

I glance at Bradley. Alpha Warren made sure that his mate was protected even though she wasn't a warrior. Perhaps I should consider doing the same for my mate. Although, unlike Luna Yara, Kennedy goes into the safe room during attacks. Something to think about.

Once all of the pack members have come forward and accepted Kennedy as their Luna, pledging themselves to me, her, Kier, and the pack, it's time for the celebration to begin. I'm not sure who, but someone turns on music and I watch as pack members begin

dancing with their pups and mates. Even Kier pulls an omega onto the dance floor, dancing around with her.

I'm not sure what it is, but there's a different feel in the pack tonight. It's almost as if they're relaxed. It's not something I'm used to feeling from my pack. I wonder if it's because they now have their Luna or if possibly, it's because only the ones who truly accept her are here.

Kennedy as she dances with her younger twine

"You know, when you asked me to officiate Kennedy's Luna ceremony, I didn't realize it was because I was going to have to keep you focused," Henry says, coming up to me. I'm standing off to the side of the makeshift dance floor, watching

Wade and Yvonne. She's holding hands with each of them and spinning them in circles before pulling them in and pushing them out in what looks like Kennedy's way of teaching them to dance. Alpha Wa is dancing with Yana, Alpha Harold

is dancing with Suzie and Samuel, her son, and Luna Farrah is dancing with Yorick. Connor is dancing with his mate and he has the same possessive look in his eyes that I know I've had in mine all night.

"I'd apologize for becoming mesmerized by my mate, but I'm not at all sorry. She's a beautiful woman and now she's tied herself to me in every way possible."

"You know the words of the Luna ceremony are more than just words, right?" he asks me, taking a sip of his drink.

"What do you mean?" I ask him.

"I mean, you're used to putting your pack first, Quirin. Now, you have a mate, a Luna. You have to put her first. 'Place her above all others', that's what you said you would do. That's a shift, my friend. I hope you're prepared to make it," he says, before setting down his drink and walking over to ask Wendy to dance.

I watch as Kennedy's family slowly branches out to my pack. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, they are moving into positions so that they are dancing with my pack members. Maybe the pack, or those that are here, are starting to accept

012

Alpha Warren and Kennedy's family since no one denies anyone a dance.

"How are you doing, Quirin?" Farrah asks, coming over to stand with me. She's breathing heavily after her dance with Yorick.

I turn and look at her, dragging my eyes away from Kennedy. "Did that young Alpha wear you out, Farrah?"

She smiles at me. "I'm not as young as I used to be, Quirin."

"To answer your question, I'm good now that my mate is officially my Luna"

80%

+23

"Good. I think her family is surprised at how much you love her, but I'm not," she says, turning her attention on me. "You have more to give than you think, Quirin. You are the only one who holds yourself back."

"I do that with good reason, Farrah. She's always deserved better than me. I'm selfish enough to take what the Moon Goddess gave me, but that doesn't mean that I can't try to keep her away from my darkness," I tell her.

"You know, I used to agree with you. But I will tell you this, the love of a mate is stronger than you realize. You know I understand darkness more than most. You know my history, you know how dark I became. But Harold's love pushed all that away. Don't underestimate the power of the mate bond. And don't underestimate our Moon Goddess. She knows what she's doing, even if we don't."

I smile at the woman who has become my surrogate mother, the woman who arguably knows me better than anyone. "Would you like to dance?"

"I thought you'd never ask. And, by the way, you look even more attractive when you smile. That is also the power of the mate bond," she says, taking my hand.

It's late by the time everyone starts to go to bed. While I'm desperate to be with Kennedy, I know this day is a very special one and I know that it's important for her to spend time with the pack and her family.

When I finally get her to our bedroom, I strip her, desperate to be inside her. I'm not sure if she's as desperate for me, or if she's becoming accustomed to my desperation, but she accepts me with open arms. As always, I lose myself inside her light, finding my nirvana in her warm, wet heat and her sweet moans. I pound into her until I feel her body contracting around mine and then I let go, roaring as I always do with the strength of the orgasm that rips through me when I come inside her.

When we're done and I collapse beside her, I pull her to me, kissing the top of her head.

"Good night, my Luna."

"Good night, my Alpha," she says, pressing a kiss against my chest.

I feel like my eyes have just closed when the howls of alarm go up around the pack, alerting us to an attack.

AD

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Kennedy

This is the second time that the howls of alarm have gone up since I arrived at this park. The third since my birthday. Back at home, we rarely had anyone attack our pack, maybe three times in my life. But now, it seems that Quirin's pack is always

under attack

"Get to a safe room, Kennedy, Quirin says, leaping out of bed and throwing our door open before leaping over the banister and shifting on his way to the first floor. My father, brother, Henry, Alpha Harold, and Farrah follow right behind them.

I quickly get dressed and rush outside to see my mother and Madison rushing down the hall.

"Madison?" I ask. She's a warrior, used to fighting, so I'm surprised that she's stayed behind.

"Connor is worried that I might be pregnant and if there's silver powder..."

"It could injure the pup. Good thinking," my mother says.

"Come on, I'll show you where the safe rooms are. We can get the twins and Yana on our way downstairs," I say. I know that Yorick and most likely Wendy will have shifted and will be racing out to fight. They are required to stay close to my father and brother since they're both still underage, but they're both excellent fighters.

As we race to the second floor, Yana, Yvonne, and Wade all rush toward us. "Follow me," I say, leading the way to the closest safe room.

"Did your brother and sister go with your father and Connor?" my mother asks. The three of them look at each other and shrug.

"I'll check to make sure the floor is clear," Madison says, rushing back to the Beta floor.

When we get downstairs, I make sure that everyone is getting into a safe room. "Madison, look after my pups for me," my mother says, and I turn to her.

"You know I will, Luna," Madison says rushing back up to us.

"Mom, you have to get into a safe room, too!" I say to her.

My mother turns, giving me the most arrogant look I've ever seen on her face. "I am a doctor, Kennedy. I do not hide in safe rooms while warriors need treatment. I thought I had raised you to do the same."

"I... You're right, let's go."

"We're coming!" I hear Trena yell. She's carrying one pup, and Bradley is carrying the other. They're about Yana's age and while they have their wolves, they aren't old enough to fight yet. Even Wendy is a bit young, especially with the silver around the pack.

"Here, look after your mother and sister," Bradley says to his son, Baron, before turning to my mother and L. "I'm with you."

I turn, making sure the first two safe room doors are closed and locked. "Safe room three door is closing!" I yell. When no one else yells for us to wait, I turn to Madison and nod.

"SAFE ROOM THREE DOOR IS CLOSED!" she announces, holding the door one more minute before shutting it with a bang and throwing the lock.

"Let's go," my mother says.

Chaps (31

Me jag news to the teagiral and my mother begin asking me and what i fase newly for merge in

"The pack don't cons to the fospital, Mom. I haven't made any triage nych kie few the mud of marting

die weders all and in

Nodderdy. No sulley pushes in from of us, shifting in Derian and raking denn? The two begin fighting and after pulling armd, scratching and biting each other, Declan get hold of the eatery wolf's throat, ripping it out. The wolf goes limp and Delan, arts at its mamera longer before diffing hack in Barley

We need to get inside. We need to make sure there In't any silver in your wome," I say to him. Beafley is limping as we jog the rest of the way to the hospital

Ti tart on the kits" Thegin.

"No. You know what you're looking for with the silver. You check Bradley and I'll start making kits," my mom says, turning to where my storage room is

"Quirin.' I call, pushing the mind link open when I feel that he's not in a heated fight.

Kennedy What's wrong?

Is this jasper again"

Jasper and Brogan, why?

'I need to check the warriors for silver'

It's quiet for a moment. "Tell me you're in a fucking safe room, Kennedy,' he growls.

"We'll talk later. Send anyone who has injuries to the hospital. They'll need to be cleaned of silver, I say, closing the mind link but not before I hear his snarl of anger.

Okay Bradley, on the table," I say, pointing to the table in one of the two rooms I have ready for medical treatment. When he's there, I clean the wound, looking at it.

"Declan, can you heal this?"

"No, Luna," he says.

"Okay. Let's get the silver out."

Wendy POV

I made sure my father had already shifted before I shifted and raced into the fight. With the threat of silver on the pack lands and on the attacking wolves claws, I wasn't sure that he'd let me fight. But they're down warriors in this pack because not everyone was willing to stay with our family being here, so they need everyone they can get to fight.

Wendy, what are you doing out here? Connor barks in the mind link. He's my Alpha now, so his connection to me is as strong as my father's.

Fighting to protect my family and my sister's pack, just like you, Yorick, and Dad are.

'Dad, did you know Wendy was out here?' he barks again, opening the mind link to my father as well. I can feel both of them fighting hard.

'Wendy, you aren't beside me. Are you near Connor or Yorick?'

I look around, not seeing my family, but seeing Kier close by.

11:24 Wed, 26 Feb

'I see Beta Kier

Stay close to him, Connor says, just as I hear his wolf, Bosche, yelp then snarl. The mind link snaps closed as Connor focuses on his fight.

I've just turned to get closer to Kier when a wolf leaps onto my back. I'm an Alpha wolf, so I'm large, but I'm still growing, and this wolf is larger than I am. I'm guessing he's a Beta. A well-trained Beta in his prime. He begins snapping at me and I duck away from his teeth. He may be a good fighter, but I'm fast, not as fast as Kennedy, but faster than my father and all my brothers. I use that to my advantage as my father has taught me, sliding underneath the Beta's jaws and swiping at his chest.

He snarls, turning to swipe at me. He catches Dasha, my wolf, on her ribcage, his claws going deep and slicing around to my stomach. She yelps, stumbling to the side. The Beta doesn't hesitate, he leaps and I have a moment of pure terror that I'm going to die. Everything slows down and I see the wolf, my blood dripping from his claws, saliva dripping from his mouth as it opens to clamp down on my neck.

'DAD!' I yell in the mind link, already knowing it's too late.

'WENDY! he yells back just as a huge brown wolf leaps over me, snapping his jaws onto my attacker's neck. He thrashes his head and I hear the snap of a neck as the large wolf steps backward, carefully putting his body over mine protectively as he looks around, making sure no one is going to attack.

I get his scent a moment before he shifts.

Henry?

"Let me see the wound, Dasha," he says, carefully running his fingers through her fur.

'WENDY!' my father yells again.

'Henry's here, Dad. He saved me.'

'Get to the hospital. Don't you dare leave until this is done.

'Yes, Dad.'

"Wendy, I need you to shift for me. It'll be easier for me to see your wounds and how bad they are," Henry says calmly. His voice is calm, but his eyes are tracking everywhere as I shift.

"Shit. We need to get you to your mom and Kennedy. Come on," he says, scooping me into his arms. He's about to stand when another wolf leaps at us. Henry puts me back down, ready to shift when another huge black wolf leaps over both of us and takes out the attacking wolf.

"Thanks, Raif," Henry says, scooping me back up. The wolf comes over and sniffs me quickly then looks at Henry.

"I know. I'm taking her to the hospital," Henry says.

The wolf, Quirin's wolf, chuffs before leaping back into the battle.

As he begins running with me in his arms, he continues looking everywhere, ducking around the battles that are going on around us.

"Dasha, can you heal the wound?" he asks, not looking at us.

"No, Alpha."

"Silver. We need to get it out of your body. You're still a pup. It will affect you more than the adults. Is it as deep as it looks?" he asks, and this time he looks down at me, his lips pressing together tightly.

"It's deep," I say to him.

He nods. "Your mom and Kennedy will know what to do Try to press your bele a dry the best, be seps

I nod, starting to feel woozy, "Wendy! Stay awake" he says, pulling my bly motorby w

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"I... I feel dizzy," I say, barely able to hold my head up

"Lean against me," he says through gritted teeth, "shut is proude beton workly
sweet me down change and he must shift back into Tyrus because 1 text for even
my body and 17wwwbw's get attack.

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But I feel so lightheaded, I can't stay awake and the last thing, I war is the
wedding and waysing of thing was bet the world around me goes dark

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