

The Pack's Nemesis

– Chapter 56 - 60

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

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"Next time I'm here, I hope to see a full functional biopal' my mother quid amiling. She auf & callest about my conversation with Quirin he hugged me telling me the

nation is very impietant in a relationship. Eknow she' right Now I just need to convince my miste that he asks to lie to me of course, my mothery shif me that I need to dra better job of communicating as well. I guess Quirin and I both have work to des

Later that night the others returned back to the park. The feeling in the pack fe different now. What had begun to feel calm and relaxed, now feels strained. There seems to be a division between the pack members, those who have accepted me and those who haven't

I know Quirin feel it too, but since no one has outwardly said anything against me, he hasn't disciplined anyone. I ordered what I needed for the hospital, excited when Quirin told me that everything had been approved and ordered. He wanted to make sure that I knew that I hadn't overspent the pack's money. Although how that would be possible with all those zeros in our bank account is beyond me, but I'm glad to know that it didn't impact our pack's financial situation.

He also got the pack warriors to start tearing out the old showers in the hospital and retiling them. Beta Kier ordered shower gel and shampoo dispensers that will be sealed into the walls and can easily be filled by omegas when needed. After speaking to him, we decided to order commercial size vats of the shampoo and shower gel, so that we have plenty on hand to refill the dispensers.

"You want to tell me what's going on with you and Arianna?" I finally ask him. I've caught the two of them spending more time together recently but neither of them have made an official announcement about being mates.

I watch the smile he tries to hide spread across his face. "You figured out that she's my mate?"

"That was pretty obvious. She makes you special food every single day."

He shrugs. "Not obvious to most people. Even Alpha Quirin doesn't know. But, well, she came from a pack that mistreated her, I've been giving her time to adjust to being mated to me so that she wouldn't reject me outright. I don't care that she's an omega. I think she's fantastic. After the last battle, she wanted to spend more time with me. She's been sneaking into my room at night. Nothing is happening, but we both sleep better when she's by my side."

"Is there anything I can do to help her feel more comfortable?" I ask.

"I don't think so, Luna. You haven't had the life that most of us have had. A sexual relationship is terrifying for her. One day, when I know who hurt her, I will hunt them down and kill them," he growls.

"You have my full support, not that you need it," he says.

"It's good to know that I have it, Luna," he says, just as we hear a crash and snarling.

We both race to where the warriors are working on the bathroom.

"What the fuck is going on in here?" Kier demands as we watch Slater, his fists clenched and his chest heaving. Lane is getting up off the floor. Both men have blood coming from their busted lips, although both are already healing.

I realize the warriors are in two groups facing off against each other. The side with Slater and the others who left the pack and the side with Lane and the ones who remained.

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ou've already been warned about disrespecting can Luns, Arlo. Are you really ready to take on your Alpha?"

Tuhar to know the armwy to that an oil Quirine voice says behinwl me I burn and we him slowly bridine imto the root: Tve known Quirin all my life. I've seen the way others avoid him because of the dangerous aura that he gives off. But I've never felt the menacing wave

that is rolling off of him right now. For the first time in my life, I understand why so many people are afraid of my mate.

I watch as Arlo steps back, his neck raising in submission.

"Anyone else?" Quirin snarls. His focus is on the side of the room with the warriors who left the pack during my Luna ceremony. He must also realize that the others were protecting me. Every one of the warriors he's focusing on raises their neck in submission.

"No, Alpha," they mumble.

"Since you all seem to be so interested in causing problems, you must have too much time and energy. You all," he says, pointing to the group with Lane, "are all excused from this project. The rest of you will finish this bathroom by the end of the week as you were previously instructed, and you will also continue your patrols as scheduled. If, after that, you still have anything to say about my mate and your Luna, then I suggest you bring it to me and we'll discuss it." The way he says 'discuss' makes me think that anything they have to say about me would end up with them looking like Slater who is still out cold on the floor.

"Lane, Kelvin, get this piece of shit to the cells. I'll deal with him later," Quirin says. "Do you want me to take a look at him first, Quirin," I ask him, knowing that he's probably suffered a minor concussion from the punch Kier gave him.

Quirin gives me a side eye glance and I swear I see him sigh, like he thinks I'm being too nice by asking if I can help the man who just made derogatory statements about me.

"No, Kennedy. He doesn't deserve your care. But Warrior Lane, if your mouth isn't healed by the time you get Slater to the cells, come see your Luna."

"Yes, Alpha," he says, smiling at me as he passes me dragging Slater by one arm with Kelvin dragging him by the other.

Quirin stands looking at the group. "Well, get back to work," he barks, before extending his arm to me. "Kennedy," he says, his tone more gentle.

I move to his side and his arm comes around me. When we step out of the bathroom area, he turns to Kier. "Did I miss anything else?"

"No" he says, looking behind him. "But tensions keep getting higher. I think Arlo and Slater are the instigators, but I

been able to catch them until now. Slater didn't even pretend that what he said wasn't derogatory."

Quirin teens down and presses a kiss to the top of my head. "Have you decided

on who you want to be your Luna Guard, Kennedy

"I was going to talk to them first and see if they were interested," I say.

He nods. "Who's your top choice**

"Besides me, of course," Kier says teasingly.

"Besides you, and even before today, I was thinking of Lane."

"A good choice. I'll talk to him and have him come see you. I don't want you here alone with this group."

"I can put some patrols around here. Alpha. Make sure there are others who are close in case they start something." Kier

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"Do it. I'm going to talk to these guys individually, let them know they're skating on thin ice and that I won't tolerate disrespect. I didn't want to start throwing people out of the pack, but I will if I have to. And if Arlo or Slater open their mouths again, I'll make an example out of them," Quirin says.

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The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Quirin

I was intending to have lunch with Kennedy, but instead I walked into the Arlo and Slater shitshow. If Arlo had made a move on Kier or anyone else, I would have killed him. As it is, it took everything in me to not kill Slater. I'm going to give myself time before going down to the cells because I'm ready to kill him. I heard what he said before Kier knocked him out and I was seeing red. He's truly lucky that my mate was there to help calm me or I might have killed the entire group. I don't fucking care if I have a pack of three as long as those three are people who care about my mate.

"Christopher!" I bark. I've been sitting in my office trying to control my emotions and my fury so I didn't start killing everyone. Holding on to Kennedy as we walked out of the pack hospital had served two goals for me. It has helped to calm the fury inside me and it had ensured that she was safe and away from those who apparently don't realize that they will respect her as their Luna or they can leave.

Christopher walks in and looks at me. I can see the line of warriors behind him.

"Close the door."

When he does, he turns back to me.

"Come here."

He walks over to my desk and I stand. He immediately shows me and Raif his neck.

"You want to tell me what the fuck happened today?"

"Alpha, there was an altercation between Slater and Lane."

"Uh huh, and which side were you on?" I ask him, my eyes narrowing, daring him to lie to me.

"Alpha, I was not on a side. I was to the left of Slater working on the tiles when the altercation began."

I begin pacing in front of him, my hands behind my back. I'm clasping them so I don't punch him like Kier punched Slater.

"I don't remember seeing you at the Luna ceremony this weekend."

"No, Alpha. I went to Apha Henry's pack."

"Did you now?" I ask.

"Yes, Alpha."

"And why is that?" I ask, stopping right in front of him. I'm pretty sure I hear his neck creak with his effort to raise it even higher.

"Alpha, we were given the option to leave and so I did."

I lean forward, putting my face in his. "Why?" I snarl..

Sweat breaks out on this forehead while his eyes look anywhere but at me.

"I ... I didn't have any respect for Luna Kennedy."

"Didn't or don't?" I snarl.

"Didn't. But I heard about what she's done and... I see that the others have gained respect for her."

08:44 Mon, 3 Mar

"Are you following Arlo's lead, Christopher?"

"His lead, Alpha?" he asks, as if I don't know who the ringleader is of this group.

I let Raif push out his aura, and watch Christopher try hard to stay on his feet as his wolf yelps in pain and panic.

"I'm sorry, Alpha. It won't happen again. I swear it!" he says.

"Let me explain to you what will happen if I ever find out that you disrespected your Luna again. I will put you on your knees in front of this pack and I will remove your head from your shoulders. If you do not think that you can live with her as your Luna, get the fuck out of my pack! I will not allow ANYONE to disrespect her. Do you understand me?" I snarl as he drops to his knees.

"Yes, Alpha."

I let him go and spend the rest of the afternoon having basically the same conversation with the warriors who were siding with Arlo against Lane and the others who did remain in the pack.

I save Arlo for last. I have Kier bring him in and the two of us face him together. "Do you like living here, Arlo?" I ask him.

"Yes, Alpha."

"Are you sure? Because lately I'm questioning whether or not you really do." "Yes, Alpha. This is my home."

"Why'd you leave during your Luna's Luna Ceremony, Arlo?" Kier asks him.

"Alpha gave us the choice and we were told that nothing was going to impede Luna's day. I have a problem with her father. He killed my father when he attacked Alpha Brady's pack. Out of respect for our Alpha, I left so there would be no problem with me and Alpha Warren."

"Out of respect for your Alpha. But what about the respect for your Luna? Alpha Jasper and Alpha Brogan both attacked while you were gone. You weren't here to help, but Alpha Warren was. Alpha Connor was. The younger Alpha Yorick and Luna's younger sister, Alpha Wendy, all helped to fight and protect this pack. But not you, you weren't here, were you."

"I would have helped if I had been. Like I said, this is my home," he says. "The posse that you were trying to create, whether it was to overthrow me or to try something against your Luna, is done. I've warned them all and I've already warned you that if anyone disrespects Kennedy in any way ever again, there will be no option to leave. I will remove your head from your body in front of the rest of the pack and make an example of you. You and your brother are VERY lucky that I didn't do that earlier today. If you ever challenge your Beta again, you better be ready to lose your head. In front of you and him, I'm telling you now that he has full authority to kill you if you ever pull that shit again. I'll be telling Slater the same thing. If you like your head where it is, get your shit together. There will not be another chance. Are we clear, Arlo?"

"Yes, Alpha."

"Get out of my office. You have patrols to run."

He turns and walks to the door. "Can I see Slater?"

"Not until I've spoken to him and not without a guard present."

He nods and walks out.

"What do you think?" I ask Kier.

Chapter 15%

"I think he's had too many chances"

"That was the last one. If he goes again you, me, Kennedy, or anyone else in this pack, kill him. If you get any whitt that he's trying to turn the pack against us, kill him."

"Yes, Alpha. When are you going to speak to Slater?" Kier asks

"Is he awake?"

"I'm not sure. I was pissed and I hit him pretty hard"

"He can sit overnight. I'll talk to him tomorrow."

"Yes, Alpha," Kier says, walking out.

If I had known then what I know now, I would have killed Arlo and Slater then and there.

Arlo POV

"What are you going to do?" Slater asks me quietly through the bars of his cell. We're careful to make sure that the guards can't hear us.

"I'm going to let Jasper know how he can get that bitch. If Alpha Quirin hadn't let himself get weak, I never would have gone to that Alpha, but ever since he brought that bitch into our pack, he's changed. If Jasper kills him, fine. If not, he'll still deal with her. And he's agreed to cut us in on the profit of this pack. You know how wealthy Alpha Quirin is. Before, I didn't care because we were strong, and he could relate to us. But now, he's gone soft, and I won't allow anyone like that to lead me. He doesn't deserve the title of Alpha."

"I've still got several days in here. If you do anything before I'm out, you'll have to break me out," he says.

"Don't worry. I'll make sure you're out. The others are afraid Alpha will kill them, but I know they despise her as much as we do, so they'll turn when the time comes"

"When I'm out, you know I've got your back."

"I know you do, brother. And when this is done, we'll be rich."

I grip his shoulder as Terrance walks over. "Time to go, Arlo."

"I'll come back and see you tomorrow," I say to Slater.

He nods and I climb the stairs out of the cells. I glare at the hospital. That fucking place. We've been working nearly fifteen- hour days to get that done and still run our patrols daily. But today, we finally got it finished, just like Alpha requested. As I watch, I see her heading to the hospital. It looks like she's got food in her hands. I smile, walking towards the hospital. When I step in, the lights are dim. Kennedy hasn't been here alone since the day they put Slater in the cells. "Luna? Luna, are you here? I brought you some dinner."

I quietly make my way to the place where we've been retiling the showers. I stand

in the shadows as I watch her. Talk about a peach. She's been ripe for the picking for a while now.

When she turns, she doesn't immediately see me. She takes two steps and must catch my scent. She stops and the scent of fear spikes in the space.

"Hello, Christy," I say.

The plate of food in her hands clatters to the floor, smashing and sending food everywhere.

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

****Slight Trigger Warning References to sexual abuse**

Kennedy

Ever since my Luna ceremony and my discussion with Quirin, I feel like things have gotten better in our relationship. Our bond feels stronger and while he still keeps his mind mostly closed off to me, he's much more affectionate at night when it's just the two of us. Well, he's become quite affectionate in the mornings too, waking me before warrior training in the best possible way.

This morning is no different. My body is humming with the pleasure that only Quirin can give me. I love knowing that he tries so hard to maintain control but eventually, that carefully held control snaps and his thrusts inside me become hard and rough. I love every minute of it. I've even started trying to find ways to make him lose control faster. He

doesn't treat me like I'm breakable or delicate when he loses control. He takes me in the hard, rough way that is all Quirin

So, when I nip at his throat and I feel his body quiver as his control begins to break, I smile and ignore the warning tone when he says my name. Instead, I bite down more firmly until he's pinning me to the bed underneath him, pulling my legs up to take him deeper and giving me everything he has to give.

I love feeling the walls and the bed shake with his roar of pleasure as my body clamps around his and his body responds, shooting the warm jets of his cum into my body.

"You are going to be the death of me, Little Pup," he growls, and I giggle underneath him.

"You think that's funny?" he asks, lifting up to look at my face.

"What a beautiful death it would be. It's not the worst way to go out," I say, running

my fingers over his chiseled features. I know it's what gives him the broody, dangerous look that most see. For me, it's the look of my handsome mate, especially when his eyes are soft like they are now.

"Hmm, I'm not ready to leave this world or you, just yet," he says, running his nose over my jaw and making my body flutter around him again.

His deep growl of happiness reverberates through me as he lifts his head and looks at the clock.

"I don't have time for another round. Save that thought for later."

He slides out of me and gets up, heading for the shower. I turn on my side and prop my head on my hand as I watch him make his way to the bathroom.

"What are you staring at?" he asks, not looking back.

"Your fantastic ass," I say, unashamed that I'm ogling my mate.

Now he turns and looks at me, smiling a rare smile before shaking his head and walking into the bathroom.

I hop out of bed and follow him. When I step into the shower, he washes the soap off his face and looks at me.

"You're playing a dangerous game, Little Pup," he growls softly.

"I've never been afraid of you, Quirin," I tell him, sliding my hands over his chest.

"I've created a monster, haven't I?"

"Are you complaining?" I ask, looking up at him through my lashes.

"Don't say I didn't warn you," he growls before lifting me up and pressing me against the shower wall as he thrusts inside me.

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I wrap my arms and legs around him, lifting my neck to him as he plunges into to me over and over again. He bites down on my neck, his arms on either side of me against the wall as he maintains his punishing pace while I take everything that he's giving me.

"You'd better fucking come, Little Pup. I want to feel that tight pussy clenching around me while I empty myself inside you." he growls and his voice is so raw, so visceral that my body instantly responds.

"Oh, you're such a good fucking mate," he growls his body jerking as he loses control. He grabs my hips thrusting into me two more times before he slaps one hand against the wall, roaring his release again.

I purr against his throat, proud that I've once again made my mate lose control with me.

He shakes his head against my neck. "You're right about one thing," he pants, "What's that?" I ask, my own breaths still coming in ragged succession.

"If I die like this, it would so be worth it," he says, making me laugh. "Now, you naughty girl, I need to go kick some warrior ass. I'll see you tonight?" "You know it."

"Good," he says, pulling out of me and kissing my nose before quickly washing himself off and getting out of the shower.

I take more time, washing my hair and body before finally getting ready to go to the hospital. When I'm done, I head downstairs to get something to eat before heading to work.

"Luna, have you seen Christy? She hasn't shown up this morning and she isn't in her room," Arianna says.

"I'm just coming downstairs. Has anyone seen her?" I ask.

"No, Luna, not since yesterday," Susie says.

"Maybe she brought me breakfast early this morning, thinking I'd be at the hospital by now. When you find her, let me know," I tell them, grabbing a breakfast sandwich and heading to the hospital.

My thoughts turn back to Quirin and this morning and how I feel like maybe, just maybe we've turned a corner in our relationship.

Now that the hospital showers are complete, Lane doesn't have to stick with me at all hours. Quirin agreed that he could return to warrior training this morning

before joining me at the hospital. I smile remembering our meeting.

"You know Quirin wants me to have a personal guard, right Lane?" "Yes, Luna."

"I know it's not very exciting, but I was wondering if you would like the position. You can say no, of course. I wouldn't hold it against you," I'd said.

He'd frowned at me. "Luna, you realize that the Luna Guard is a highly respected position in the pack, right? It's basically at the same level as a Beta, maybe even a bit higher. I would be honored to be your Luna Guard."

That had made me smile and I've found Lane to be a wonderful companion. He helped me to unpack the medical supplies as they arrive and he asked me questions about my education and knowledge of the medical field. In the few days since he's taken on his new role, he and I have become what I would consider friends.

When I walk into the hospital, I see that another shipment arrived. I squeal a little when I see my new x-ray machine is among the other supplies here.

I begin to walk back to the storage room ready to make room for my new machine when the smell hits me. Blood.

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Echo lifts our nose in the air and I race to where I can smell it. When I get to the brand new showers, I stop dead in my tracks. There, slumped against the wall, is Christy and she's covered in blood.

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"Christy!" I say, racing toward her. She's got a black eye, fingerprints around her throat, and blood in various stages of drying between her legs.

"I've got you. I've got you," I say as I carefully slide one arm around her waist and the other under her knees.

She begins sobbing. "Luna."

"I'm here. I'm here," I say, moving as fast as I can to get her to one of the rooms. I've just walked out when Deborah walks into the hospital, her eyes going wide.

"What happened?" she asks.

I'm pretty sure I know.

"Christy needs medical attention. I need you to get these items from the storage room and meet me in Room Two," I say to her.

When I get her there, I put her on the bed. She continues to hold herself in a ball as if the pain of stretching out is too much for her.

"Who did this to you, Christy?"

Her mournful cry breaks my heart.

"Was it Arlo?" I ask softly and she nods.

"Why didn't you link me?" I ask her as I remove what's left of her clothes.

"He threatened to kill you if I did." Her voice is raspy, whether because he forced himself into her mouth or because he damaged her voice box while squeezing her neck, possibly both.

Rage unlike anything I've ever felt before boils inside me, but I shove it down. There will be time later for me to unleash my fury. Right now, Christy needs me. "I'm going to take care of you, Christy," I say, gently taking her face in my hands as Deborah comes in with everything I need. "Do you trust me?"

She nods. "Don't leave me alone. I don't want to be alone."

"I won't. I promise. I'm going to put you under because I need to operate on you, okay? You're bleeding internally and I need to stitch up your wounds. But I won't leave you and if I have to step out, I'll leave Deborah with you, okay?" I stay in her line of sight, my eyes focused on hers, and my voice calm, hoping that it will help her to stay calm.

"Luna, do you want me to put the IV in?" Deborah asks.

"We're going to put you under now, Christy, but I'll make sure you're never alone, okay?"

"I'm so sorry, Luna," she says, the tears streaking past her temples.

"You have nothing to be sorry for, Christy. I'm sorry that I wasn't here to protect you," I say to her as her eyes begin to droop.

I brush her hair away from her face and once her body goes slack, I begin laying her out on the bed.

"Luna, tell me that she wasn't..." Deborah begins, looking up at me with tears in her eyes.

"We don't have time for tears right now, Deborah. We need to save her life. She's been bleeding out all night."

13:03 Tue, 4 Mar

Deborah takes a deep breath and nods, pulling her tears back.

"Let's get her washed off. I need to know what we're dealing with," I say.

"LUNA!" Lane says with an urgency to his voice that let's me know he smelled the blood.

"Start washing her body," I say to Deborah, walking out of the room.

"Lane, I'm right here," I say and he comes running from the showers, looking me over as if unsure if that was my blood.

"What happened? Whose blood is that?"

"Christy's. I have to get into surgery."

"I'll let Alpha know," he begins.

"NO!" I snarl, "I will handle this when I'm done."

I'm not sure what he sees in my eyes or feels in my aura, but he nods. "Yes, Luna.

What can I do to help?"

"If you want to unpack those boxes, you can. If I need you for anything else, I'll let you know."

I turn, walking back into the room to save this sweet girl.

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Quirin

Life is about as perfect as it could be. Well, besides still needing to treat our pack lands to get rid of the silver and dealing with Slater who is set to get out of the cells tomorrow, my life is better than I ever thought it could be. And it's all thanks to that little mate of mine.

True to his word, Alpha Warren sent me some information on how I could treat our pack lands to eliminate the silver. I'd looked it over and while he was right about it being expensive, it looks like it would work. Now it's more about disposing of Jasper's silver powder supply and then starting the long, arduous job of clearing the silver from my land.

When my scouts return, letting me know that they think they've found Jasper's supply. I'm even more excited.

"Where is it?" I ask.

"He's got this barn looking structure on his pack lands. We were able to sneak in and get to the barn. It looks like they have the silver powder laid out in enclosed trays. I'm guessing that they bring them when they come to attack and then the pack members shift and step in it," one scout says.

"Yeah, they have these on the wall. I'm guessing they put them on before they step in the silver to protect the pads of the wolves' paws," another scout says, tossing something that looks like a fingerless glove for a wolf onto my desk.

I pick it up and hiss as I feel the residual silver on the glove. "I'd say you're right. Good work. So what we really need to do is start a fire and let that silver combust in the barn," I say.

"I didn't think silver was flammable," Kier says. I wanted him to be part of this conversation so we can decide on our next steps.

"It isn't in solid form, but it is in powder form. I'm guessing Jasper didn't think about that," I say, giving him a vicious smile.

"Well, I think it's about time that Jasper got a taste of his own medicine," Kier says.

I look at my scouts. "Take the night off. Your Beta and I will decide how we want to proceed."

"Thank you, Alpha," they say before walking out.

"Did you want to talk about this now or after dinner?" Kier asks.

I look at the time. "After dinner. We need to get to warrior training."

We finish afternoon warrior training and head inside as the food begins to come

out. I look around, expecting to see Kennedy, but she's not back yet.

"I'm going to take a shower before Kennedy arrives," I tell Kier, turning to go upstairs.

I stop dead in my tracks as my mate walks in, fury and power unlike anything I've ever felt before are rolling off of her in

waves.

"Where the fuck is he?" she snarls.

"Kennedy, what happened," I ask her. In all the years I've known her, I've never, ever seen Kennedy this angry before. I didn't know that she even possessed this level of fury. What I feel coming from her is my level of dark fury. It's so far from her bright light that I feel a trickle of fear slither down my spine. It's not fear of her, it's fear that I was right and my darkness has

taken her over.

She ignores me and walks into the dining hall. "You," she snarls. Every single warrior in the room yelps with the strength of her anger, all of their necks rising in submission.

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"You raped that girl. You knew she didn't want you, but you just wouldn't take no for an answer," she snarls at Arlo.

What the fuck?

"Is that what she told you? She's lying. She wanted it," he says. Somehow, even in the submissive state that Echo is demanding, he sounds cocky. I notice that Kier is also submitting to her and even Raif feels the power of her anger and Alpha command, although he's refusing to submit to her under these conditions. However, the omegas in the room are unaffected, as is Lane. She's excluding them from her anger. I look at him and he gives me a look that tells me that he's sorry for not telling me, but he was following Kennedy's order.

"Who?" I ask him.

The omega, Christy. It's bad, Alpha. Really bad. Luna's been stitching her up for hours.

I clench my fists, furious that anyone felt they could hurt another pack member like this.

"You left her to die! She nearly bled out overnight," she snarls.

"Everyone knows virgins bleed like stuck pigs. You sure did. We all saw the sheets the night Alpha brought you home," he growls. Echo instantly pushes her aura more strongly over him as Raif snarls at his mention of that first night. The few warriors who were standing on their feet fall to their knees.

I hadn't realized that when I'd wanted to get rid of the evidence of the pain I'd caused Kennedy that the entire pack would have witnessed it, but apparently they did.

"Is this what you wanted? Is this the kind of Luna you want? The kind who is mean and cruel and hateful? Well, you've got her now! Don't tell me none of you knew. Someone knew and no one, not one of you did anything to help that girl. I've never been so ashamed to be a part of a pack. A pack who doesn't even care enough to protect their own. You should all be ashamed of yourselves. I'm certainly ashamed of you and ashamed to call myself the Luna of a pack like this."

"Kennedy," I say, trying to get hold of the situation. However, she spins around, her fury now directed at me. She slaps her hand against my chest with enough power that I rock back on my heels and have to fight not to step back.

"You're just as much to blame for not listening to me when I warned you. Maybe if you started recognizing that I'm an intelligent, grown woman rather than the little pup you're so fond of calling me, this wouldn't have happened," she snarls. I can feel that Echo is just as angry at us as Kennedy is.

I feel the tension inside me growing as wave after wave of her fury rolls over me. She spins back around, facing the pack.

"You all think you're so strong and that's all that matters? You think my omegas are less than you just because they aren't warriors? Well, I'd like to see you survive without my omegas taking care of all of you. You think you're so fantastic, then you

and I am can fucking fend for yourselves. Effective immediately, my omegas on strike. You can rot for all I care. And don't even think about leaving this packhouse

a mess. If you do, my omegas won't be coming back at all."

She spins back around to confront me and I brace myself.

"I want him gone, Quirin. I want him gone or so help me..." her. I won't.

It

Fear, unlike anything I've ever felt in my life fills me. I can't lose

"I want him gone," she says, spinning on her feet and walking out. "Omegas, you're with me."

As soon as she steps out of the room, everyone breathes a sigh of relief, their necks coming back to normal. I watch her as she walks away.

"Get him outside," I snarl.

"You can't be serious! I told you she wanted it! I didn't do anything wrong!" Arlo yells.

"Get the fuck up, Arlo, and shut your fucking mouth before I do it for you," Kier says.

I stare at the place where Kennedy left, feeling an emptiness in the space that she has come to fill in my life. She did warn me. She specifically told me that she wanted to go on record that she didn't trust Arlo and I didn't listen. And now, I may

lose her because of it.

I turn and stride outside where Arlo is still shouting about how he didn't do anything wrong, I walk up and backhand him so hard that it knocks him to the ground.

I grab him by his hair and yank him into a kneeling position in front of me.

"You were warned, Arlo. I gave you more chances than I ever should have. Kennedy is right, I'm as much to blame for what happened to Christy as you are. For your crimes against Christy, your Luna, and your pack, I sentence you to

death."

Arlo continues to yell as I lift my hand, Raif extending his claws and in one swoop, I slice his head from his body. Then I turn to the pack who has congregated to see what I would do,

"Anyone who knew that Arlo was planning to force Christy into having sex with him, step forward," I say, putting the full force of my Alpha command behind it. Three men step forward. "Anyone who knew what he'd done, step forward," I snarl.

Two of the three step forward again.

"Please, Alpha. Please," they begin but I extend both arms and swipe their heads off at the same time.

The one remaining man stands, shivering in fear. "Your life is now in your Luna's hands. If she says she doesn't trust you, then I don't trust you," I say, looking around at the pack members standing speechless.

"Ever since I brought my mate home, I have put this pack above her. That ends today. I will never again second guess my mate's impressions of anyone in this pack. If my mate doesn't like you, I don't like you. If my mate doesn't trust you, I don't trust you. If my mate wants you gone, you're out. If anyone dares to ever speak against her again, I'll kill you. I haven't had my priorities in the right order, but that changes today. Believe me when I tell you that I'm willing to lose every single one of you if it means that she stays with me. No one is more important to me than her and it's time that I started showing her that. Every one of us will become the type of pack member that she is proud of or you can find somewhere else to live."

I turn and look at Kier. "Take him to the cells. Once Kennedy gives her verdict about you, David, you'll either be released or I'll kill you," I say, my voice devoid of emotion.

I walk inside, wash my hands, and head over to the hospital. I need to try and talk to my mate. I somehow need to apologize for not heeding her words and for letting one of my pack members suffer because of it.

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Comment

The Pack's Nemesis (Quirin's Story)

Slater

I'd been laying on the bed in my cell when I felt it, my brother's death.

I snarled, rushing to the cell bars. "What the fuck just happened?"

I'd heard a commotion above us and the two guards who were watching me raced upstairs. Down here, we only have small windows at the ceiling to let in just enough light to make you remember how much you hate the dank, dark area of the cells. It's barely enough space to hear what's going on above you,

No one answered my question because no one was here. Then, I'd felt two more tethers snap, friends of mine. Their deaths had come at the exact same time. Are we under attack? No one sounded the alarm and Arlo said that Jasper was waiting to attack until he gave him some information on Kennedy,

But now, my brother is dead, and I don't have a fucking clue what's going on.

I stand there, waiting for someone to come tell me what happened to Arlo, seething in my fury. If Jasper betrayed us, I'll k him.

When the door finally opens, I'm shocked to see David being dragged down the stairs and thrown into a cell.

"What the fuck is going on? What happened to my brother?" I snarl,

Beta Kier comes to the front of my cell. "Your brother was warned. He was told not to disrespect our Luna or this pack and he didn't listen. Now he's paid the price. If I were you, Slater, I'd be very careful. Your life is hanging by a thread"

Since I know Kier is true to Quirin, I don't bother asking him any more questions. I stand back and wait until he and the other guards walk out, then I turn to David. "What the fuck happened?" I growl low enough that the guards can't hear us. "Arlo finally got to Christy. Luna Kennedy found her and went ballistic," he says, making me scoff.

"Who the fuck cares, Kennedy's a fucking peach."

"No, Slater. You weren't there. Even Arlo was submitting to her, that's how powerful her aura was."

That gives me pause. As soon as Arlo and I got far enough away from the pack, we both renounced Kennedy as our Luna. He shouldn't have had to submit to her.

"Are you sure he wasn't faking it?" I say.

"She had the entire pack on their knees, Slater. She's stronger than she looks and when she's mad? Holy Mother Moon Goddess. Even Beta Kier was submitting to her."

"What about Alpha Quirin?" I ask.

"No, but you could tell that he was affected. She's as strong as he is, possibly even stronger, at least when she's furious like she was."

"Christy's a fucking omega. Who gives a fuck if Arlo had sex with her?"

"You know how Arlo is. He was rough with her. Apparently, she nearly bled to death."

"FUCK!" I say, beginning to pace. I knew Arlo had a thing for that omega. I never understood why. She's pretty, yeah, but she wasn't worth losing your life over.

Wed, 5 Mar

"Why are you in here?" I ask, turning back to him.

"Alpha says that from now on, whatever Luna Kennedy says, goes. Apparently she warned him about Arlo and he didn't listen. It sounded like she might try to leave him..."

"Good," I interrupt.

"No, not good," David insists. Alpha says that he's willing to lose all of us to keep her. And from now on, if she doesn't like you, neither does he. We were all in that fucking bathroom the day that you and Lane got into it. She knows which side we

were on."

"Don't go flipping on me," I snarl at him.

"I'm not losing my life for you, Slater. It's not worth it. I didn't have any respect for her before because I didn't realize how powerful she is, but now? Fuck, I bet she could put Jasper on his knees if Alpha Quirin gave her a chance."

"She can't possibly be that strong," I say.

Trust me, she is."

I pace some more, thinking. "What about Joe and Ben? Why were they killed?"

"After Alpha killed Arlo, he pushed his Alpha command out, telling us to step forward if we knew about Arlo's infatuation with Christy. Then he wanted to know who knew that he'd fucked her. I didn't know until Luna walked in, but they did. Because they did and didn't say anything, Alpha killed them."

"What the fuck? For a girl?" I growl.

"You're not listening to me, Slater. Something snapped inside of Alpha. When he said he didn't care if he lost all of us if it meant keeping Luna Kennedy, he meant it. We all felt it."

I begin pacing again. I need to get out of here. I need to figure out how to get rid of that bitch. We wanted her gone before but now, she's the reason my brother is dead. Since it wasn't Jasper and I know he wants her, I need to find a way to get out so I can tell him how capture her. Arlo and I had already been talking about it. We'd figured out the perfect spot for Jasper to grab her. It won't be easy, but if Alpha Jasper really wants her, he'll make it work.

Now I just need to figure out how to get out of this pack with my head still attached to my shoulders.

Quirin POV

When I walk into the hospital, all of the omegas and Lane are standing or sitting in the waiting room.

"Uh, Alpha, Luna said no ranked members were allowed in here right now," Lane says.

"Good, make sure no one else comes in. Where is she?" I ask. I know she doesn't want to see me and besides needing to speak with Kennedy, Christy is my pack member too. I let her down and I need to see for myself just how bad she is.

I watch Lane's eyes go unfocused and I wait. A moment later, Kennedy comes out.

"What do you want, Quirin?" she asks, the angry fire in her is still burning hot.

"I want to see Christy."

"She's asleep. I'll tell her you stopped by."

"No. I'm her Alpha and I want to see her."

She snarls at me, and I see Echo pushing forward. Raif does as well.

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Wed, 5 Mar

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"I do not wish to fight you mate. Christy and her wolf, Sanjana, are our pack members. Yes, we let them down. We did not protect them as we should, but we can't make that right if you don't let us," Raif says, trying to calm our mates.

+13)

She stares at us for several long moments. "Don't wake her up," she snaps, before turning on her heel and walking down the

hall.

I nod at Lane and follow my mate. When I walk into the room, Raif immediately starts growling, but I cut him off. Kennedy said not to wake Christy up and I'm not going to. Her

eye looks swollen shut, I can see the fingerprints on her throat from here, and I can smell the blood and antiseptic from where Kennedy stitched her

up.

I walk over to the bed and brush her hair away from her face. She looks so fragile.

I lean forward and kiss her forehead.

"I'm sorry I didn't protect you like I should have. I promise, it will never happen again," I say to her softly. I have no idea if she can hear me, but I hope that my presence helps her.

"Has her wolf gone silent? Is that why she's not healing?" I ask Kennedy.

"I have to assume so. I didn't have much time to talk with her and her voice was raspy when she did try to speak."

I nod. "When are you coming back to the packhouse?"

"I don't know. I promised Christy that I wouldn't leave her alone and I don't intend to break that promise."

"What about the omegas in the waiting room. Some of them have families, pups that need them."

"They're free to go whenever they want to, but if you, Beta Kier, or any of those warriors asks them to lift a finger to help with anything, I will rip you or them apart," she growls softly.

I nod again. "Understood. Kennedy..."

"Whatever it is you want to say, Quirin, I don't want to hear it. I don't have the energy or the inclination to hear anything that might come out of your mouth right now."

I nod again. "I'll be waiting for you when you're ready," I say and turn to walk out. I'm not surprised when she doesn't follow me, but the hollow feeling that filled me

when she walked out of the packhouse earlier stays with me.

When I walk back to the waiting room, I look at Lane. "Show me."

He seems to understand that I need to see where Arlo hurt Christy. He takes me back to the bathroom, the brand-fucking- new bathroom that now has blood smeared all over the floor.

"We'll clean this up, Alpha," Susie says. Several of the omegas followed us in here.

"No. Your Luna was very clear that none of you are to do anything until she gives the okay. You are able to return to your families when you're ready and I doubt Luna meant that you can't feed your pups, but don't let her catch you doing anything for your mates if they're warriors. She won't hesitate to dress them down and I won't stand in her way."

"Yes, Alpha," they say.

I stare at the blood for a few moments longer. The weight of my actions and decisions that were in direct contrast to Kennedy's lies heavy on my shoulders as

I stare at the evidence of Christy's pain.

Without another word, I turn and head back to the packhouse. Not surprisingly,

Kier is waiting for me. "How is she?"

"Which she? Your Luna or Christy?" I ask, gesturing for him to follow me.

"Both."

"Christy is in bad shape. Her wolf is silent, which isn't surprising but it means that she'll be sporting that black eye and the

Wed, 5 Mar

fingerprints on her throat for a while," I say. I'm not surprised when Rowd snarls, just as angry as Raif was.

"Where are we going?" he asks as I head to the cells.

"Her blood is all over that bathroom. There's no way that Slater didn't know that

Arlo planned to force Christy into something. He was in the cells when she was attacked, but he and David knew what Arlo intended and they didn't say anything. Therefore, they can clean up the mess. Also, Kennedy was very clear that anyone who has an omega help them with anything will answer to her, so be warned."

"Noted."

I walk into the cells and gesture for Terrance and Randall to join us.

"Our brand-new bathroom is covered in blood. Since you assholes knew what

Arlo was planning to do, you get to clean it up," I say, turning to Kier. "If they so much as blink wrong, kill them," I say, turning and walking out.

I need to shower and go back to the hospital. If my mate is sleeping there, then so am I.

AD

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