

# The Pack's Nemesis

## – Chapter 66 – 70

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

Quirin

It starts at the top That's what Kennedy had said to the pack and she'd looked at me, basically letting me know that it's not just our warriors that need to change, that I need to change as well.

I've never really thought of the pack as a family, I mean, I spent enough years in Alpha Harold's pack that I probably should have, I saw the love that the pack members had for Harold and for Henry, but since I didn't have a pack at the time, I didn't take much notice. I didn't realize the value and importance of a pack being a family, Hell, I don't even recognize the value of family at all, or at least I didn't before Kennedy. Even my own mother chose to let herself wither away and die rather than be a mother to me, to be a family to me.

Of course, Kennedy's more than just family to me. She's everything to me. If she wants this pack to become a family, then we will. I don't know how to do that, but I'm sure that she does, and I'll follow her lead.

When Lane comes to ask about someone watching, Kennedy, something inside me tightens. I'd expected Kennedy back by now, but I also know that she would take her time if Christy is awake and she'd also want to check on Lillian and their son.

That feeling inside my gut only gets tighter when Lane links me that Kennedy isn't in the hospital. I immediately try to link her, opening up the link between us and I get nothing. Absolutely nothing.

I'm up and moving before I tell Lane that I'll meet him there. I quickly make my way through the packhouse.

"Alpha, what's going on?" Kier asks, jogging over from where he'd been standing by the kitchen.

"I'm not sure, I can't reach Kennedy," I say as we get to the back of the packhouse. I leap off the back patio and begin running to the overhang. I lift my nose in the air, searching for my mate's scent just as I hear Rowd, Kier's wolf, begin running behind me.

'I can't reach her either, Alpha, Kier says in the mind link. 'Wasn't she at the hospital?'

'Lane went to check on her and she's not there. She's been gone for a while according to Deborah'

I ignore the burn of the silver from my pack lands as I hurriedly make my way to the overhang. I catch Kennedy's scent and push harder. And then, I smell him. Jasper and several of his warriors.

'What the fuck? How did he get on our pack lands?' Kier asks, as Raif snarls angrily.

We race over to where Kennedy's scent is strongest. She was sitting here, probably looking out over the world. She loves to do that. I sniff around trying to figure out how Jasper got to her, but I only smell his scent around and in front of Kennedy's.

I follow the scent to the cliff's edge and that's when I smell it. He climbed the fucking cliff. I don't know how he would have even thought to do that unless... Slater.

'ALL WARRIORS REPORT TO THE PACKHOUSE NOW!' I bellow in the mind link as I begin racing back to the packhouse.

When I get there, I shift quickly and turn to Kier. "Update the group. Split them up. I need warriors to stay here and protect our pack and others to come with us."

"Where are you going?" he asks me.

"To get reinforcements. Jasper's about to find out just what happens when someone fucks with me," I snarl and rush to my office. I grab my phone and pick it up, searching for the number that was given to me years ago. I've never once dialed this number, never thought I would, but I'm willing to beg for help if it means finding my mate.

I push the button to connect the call.

"Alpha Quirin, is everything alright?" Alpha Warren answers.

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"Alpha, I need your help. It's..."

He doesn't let me finish. "Whatever you need, Alpha Quirin. All you ever needed to do was ask."

80%

Something twists inside me, something I don't fully understand and don't have time to figure out right now. I need to find

my mate.

"Kennedy's been taken."

He snarls almost as viciously as I did.

"I'll get Connor and the pack. We'll be there soon," he growls before hanging up.

Next I call Henry as I walk back out to the main packhouse. Everyone is exuding nervous, anxious energy.

"Q what's up? It's late."

"Kennedy's been taken. I need your help."

I hear him moving around, probably getting out of bed. "Did you call Connor?"

"I called Warren. They're coming too."

"I be there as soon as possible."

"Thank you," I say, hanging up.

"Listen up!" I say to the pack, and I let them know this isn't just a rescue mission. This is a seek, find, and destroy mission.

"Jasper is mine. Kill as many of his warriors as you can take out. His pack is done, effective now."

"Yes, Alpha!"

"Kier, pick someone to stay behind that we trust who can direct the others once they get here."

"Terrance, you stay. You have a vested interest in protecting this pack right now." Kier says immediately.

"Yes Beta. I won't let you down. Just bring our Luna home."

"I intend to," I snarl before leaping and racing off with the assigned warriors and Kier following behind me.

Jasper is already going to suffer, but if he so much as lays a finger on my mate, he will suffer for a very, very long time before I let him die.

Warren POV

"I'm coming with you," my mate says as I rush to get ready.

"Yara..." I don't want her anywhere near whatever problems we come across.

"Our daughter will need me and so will her pack members. I will not let her down, Warren," she says in the tone that I know means it's useless to argue with her. So, instead, I wake up my son.

'Connor, your sister's been taken.'

"Which sister?" he asks, his groggy voice going sharp with focus.

"Kennedy. I need the pack ..." I don't get any further before I hear Bosche's howl, waking the pack for battle.

11:21 Sun, 9 Mar

I stop, startled that he acted so quickly.

'Where are we going?' he growls.

'Quirin's pack. They'll direct us from there,' I say.

'Meet in the packhouse. I'll see you in a minute.'

My mate's soft hands cup my face. "He is his father's son. You didn't expect anything less from him, did you?"

"I..." I stop, my throat getting tight. "I guess I'm still struggling with not being in charge."

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In my conversation with Harold, he'd told me that it takes time. 'You don't let go of decades of being in charge overnight, he'd said. I guess I still need more time. "Are you ready?" I ask her. Yara and I moved out of the packhouse when Connor took over as Alpha. He and Madison needed space and he didn't need me or his siblings under his feet

while he started his new life. Yorick, being sixteen, had stayed on the Alpha floor in his room, but I'd moved my other children and Yara to a house on the pack lands close by.

"Dad?" Wendy asks as we step out of our bedroom.

"You stay here. There's no way I'm letting you get hurt again, young lady."

"What's going on?" Yana asks, coming out of her room.

"Your sister has been taken. We're going to get her back," I say.

"Dad!" Wendy begins and I know she wants to help.

"I need you to look after your brother and sisters. Connor is coming with us and

I'm guessing Yorick will too. If we're gone too long, go stay at the packhouse with Madison," Yara tells Wendy.

"Okay, Mom, but... let us know she's okay."

"We will," she says, before we both quickly strip and shift. When we get to the packhouse, everyone is already there. "Ready Dad?" Connor asks. I see Yorick is also here, ready to go find his sister.

"Let's do this," I say, leaping as Arric pulls the shift and racing to find my daughter.

AD

Comment

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

Jasper

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Getting this girl down the cliff was a lot harder than getting up there. I probably should have accounted for that a bit more, but I didn't. Once Slater told me how to sneak onto the pack lands, I came right away, bringing some of my strongest warriors and I'd hit the jackpot. I hadn't expected her to come to me. Slater said the patrols didn't come out this way, so I had intended to climb into the pack lands and sneak to the hospital where she apparently spends most of her time. However, when opportunity knocks, I always open the door.

After repelling down the cliff face, I stop to look at the girl. She was dead weight and repelling with over a hundred pounds slung over your shoulder isn't easy. I'd slammed into the cliff several times when my body had begun to spin. When I look her over, I can see that she's got some bumps and scratches on her head, back, and arms. She's bleeding a lot from the head wounds, but she's still breathing, and her heart is still beating, so she'll live.

Rather than heading back to my pack, where Quirin is sure to show up and my warriors will be waiting, I head to Brogan's pack. I didn't tell him I was going after the girl, but I'm sure he'll be thrilled. Now, we can move forward with killing Quirin and taking over his pack and finances.

I shift quickly, having my warriors strap the girl to my back before we take off, running quickly. I'm surprised that I don't hear the howls go up at Quirin's pack. I heard one howl, but then nothing. Down here in the valley, I should have been able to hear it. Have they just not realized that she's gone yet? Not knowing makes me uneasy, so I push harder to get to Brogan's pack.

When I get close, I howl my approach. Brogan's patrols meet me at the border and then let me and my warriors through. I rush to the packhouse and Brogan is waiting for me.

"You fucking kidnapped her?" he growls as I rush up.

I growl in return and shift, letting her body slide to the ground as my human body stands.

"Yeah, Brogan. We talked about this," I say.

"Tell me that Quirin is dead. Tell me that you didn't take his Luna and leave him alive," he says.

"Look, we needed a way to get to her and I found it," I growl. He's starting to piss me off. We agreed to getting the little bitch.

"I had a way that included killing Quirin! You told me that you weren't ready to attack yet. Now, he's going to bring not only his entire pack, but also Alpha Connor's and Alpha Henry's! And you thought bringing her HERE was a good idea? Or are you just smart enough to realize that he's going to kill you for taking her and you needed someplace to dump her? Get her off my pack lands before he rains hell and fury on my pack!"

"What the fuck is wrong with you? You said you wanted the money. You said you would help me! You agreed with us taking the girl," I yell, pointing to her body that is still lifeless at my feet.

"The girl is an ALPHA, you asshole. She has a very powerful twin brother, a very powerful father, and very powerful friends. And that doesn't include her fucking powerful mate!"

he screams. "I agreed to taking her once her mate was dead! Get her off my pack lands, now!!!"

"Fuck you, you coward. I took all the risk. You know Quirin is going to go to my pack first. MY pack is ready for him! He may already be dead, we don't know."

"YOUR pack can't defeat him in his own territory with a surprise attack. Are you hearing what I'm telling you? It's not just going to be his pack after us. There will be at least three packs raining down on your warriors. You'll be lucky if your pack isn't decimated when you get back!" he screams before reaching down and grabbing the girl's arm. "Now get her off my pack

lands."

"No fucking way! I'm not taking her back out into the wilderness where I'll be exposed and unprotected!" I say, grabbing her other arm and trying to yank her out of his grasp.

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"This isn't your pack! Get her out of here!" he demands, trying to yank her away from me again.

"No!" I yell, yanking back.

At that moment, she twists, pulling out of both of our grasp, shifting quickly, and racing away.

"GET HER!"

Quirin POV

79%

My warriors are fast, but I'm pushing hard to get to my mate. I'm going straight to Jasper's pack and anyone who gets in my way will meet their end.

It starts about a mile outside of his pack border. Warriors begin attacking me and Raif either wounds them enough to get them off of us, or he kills them before continuing on. More and more are coming and they're slowing me down until Kier's wolf, Rowd, jumps into the fight and the two of us begin moving forward again. However, it isn't until my warriors catch up that I can begin to move more quickly to find Kennedy.

Inside the pack lands, it's much the same with warriors attacking us, but now, they have my warriors to contend with too. I don't stay to fight, my goal is to find Kennedy. I'm already worried because I don't smell her scent anywhere around here.

When I get to the packhouse, I shift. A wolf leaps at me, and I grab him by the throat, ripping it out before dropping him on the floor and continuing to move forward.

"KENNEDY!" I yell. I feel sick to my stomach. I'm pretty sure she's not here, and if she's not, she could be anywhere,

Kier comes in behind me grabbing another wolf and snapping his neck.

"Get those safe room doors open," I command before running up the stairs.

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"KENNEDY!" I yell, banging open door after door on the Alpha hallway and finding the rooms empty. As I race to the Beta floor, I hear Kier slamming something heavy against the safe room doors. I'm on the Gamma floor checking rooms when I hear the safe room door start to give and the people inside begin screaming in fear.

I can feel the darkness taking over, the black anger of hatred at this pack that took my mate. I slowly make my way downstairs ready to kill every last one of them.

My warriors rip the safe room door off its hinges as I walk up. The scent of fear is so thick in the air that it nearly chokes me.

As I walk up, Kier steps back. "Search the rest of the packhouse. See if she's been here," I say, my voice deadly calm as I stare at Jasper's pack members.

"Yes, Alpha," he says. I'm not sure what he sees on my face, but he looks at me for a long moment before going in search of Kennedy.

I stretch my fingers, looking over the group. "I'm going to ask you one time and one time only. If you don't answer me, I'm going to begin killing you. Where is my mate?" I ask.

They all start crying. Young mothers clutch their pups more tightly. "We don't know. We swear!"

"Wrong answer," I snarl, lifting my hand and letting Raif extend his claws. They scream and try to cover their heads or the heads of their pups, but just as I begin my sweeping motion to kill the first one, a hand stops me.

"No, Quirin. We don't kill innocents," Alpha Warren says. I snarl at him, yanking my hand out of his grip.

"They are part of Jasper's pack. He came for what's mine. They die too."



"Is that what Kennedy would want? When we find her, and we will find her, will she be okay that you killed innocents because of her?" he asks me. "Remember, it's only because I don't kill innocents that you are alive today. I didn't know then

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that I was saving my daughter's mate. But just as you were not to blame for your father's actions, neither are they to blame for the actions of their Alpha."

I think of my mate's face, the disappointment that I know would be there if she found out I killed omegas and pups because of her. I've disappointed my mate enough, more than enough.

"Alpha, she's not here," Kier says, rushing back to where we're standing.

I look around. Alpha Warren and Alpha Connor are watching me closely.

"You deal with them. I need to find my mate," I say them before turning and nearly running into my brother.

"I'm coming with you," he says and I nod.

"Where are you going?" Connor asks.

"Brogan has attacked my pack with Jasper multiple times. If anyone knew of Jasper's plans, it would be him. Kelvin!"

"Yes, Alpha."

"While we're here, burn that shack where he's keeping that fucking silver power down," I growl.

"We can do that too," Alpha Connor says. "And then we'll join you."

I nod then turn to my warriors.

"Let's go!" I say before Raif leaps and pulls the shift.

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

Kennedy

When I wake up, my head is throbbing. I'm uncomfortable and when I try to open my eyes, blood drips into them. People are yelling around me and it's making my head hurt even worse..

'Echo'

I'm here. I'm weak, but I'm here.

'Do you know where we are?'

By the smell of the two arguing over us, they're Alphas, no one we know. I'm guessing this is one of their packs. One is Alpha Jasper, the Alpha who took us."

"Tell me that Quirin is dead. Tell me that you didn't take his Luna and leave him alive," one of the Alphas snarls.

ECHO! Echo, we have to get out of here! We have to warn Quirin!' A ball of fear knots in my gut. No matter how upset or angry I am at Quirin, I still love him. I won't let anyone kill him.

'Echo, can you shift?' I ask her.

'If it means saving our mate, I will.' I know what she's saying. She's saying that she would exhaust herself, force herself into exhausted silence to save our mate.

'I have no intention of losing you either, Echo,' I say fiercely.

"Then let's try to get to Quirin quickly. If I go silent, just know that I'll do everything in my power to get back to you!

'I love you, Echo, and so do Quirin and Raif. They won't let you go either,' I say, just as my arm is yanked by one of the Alphas. It hurts and I realize that I'm injured in more places than just my head. Echo is taking a huge risk by shifting, but we have to get out of here and I'm not fast enough on two feet.

'Don't heal me. If we get to Quirin, Mom will take care of me. Save your strength to run,' I say, just as my other arm is yanked but the second Alpha.

'Are you ready, Echo?' I say, knowing I'm going to have to push my strength into her to help her get out of here with the injuries we have.

'Yes. Ready?.... NOW!' she yells in my head.

I yank my arms out of the Alphas' grasps and leap, trusting my wolf to pull the shift. It's painful, but she lands on her paws and takes off, running hard and fast.

"GET HER!" I hear one of the Alphas say before hearing two sets of heavy Alpha paws join the warriors in the pack around me that have all turned to try and capture me.

I hear the howl of the hunt from one of the Alphas, I'm assuming the one whose pack this is, because suddenly, there are warriors coming from every direction trying to capture us.

I open my mind, needing to try to connect with someone, anyone, to let them know where I am. As I reach out in my mind, Echo ducks and leaps over the warriors trying to capture us. When one gets too close, she kicks them with her back paw, slicing her claws across their face.

I refocus on the area ahead of us, seeing that the patrols have collected together ready to tackle Echo when she gets too close. She quickly looks behind us and not seeing anyone close on our right side, she lowers her head and runs full-out toward the patrols. At the very last minute, she twists agilely to the side, skirting around them as they all push forward trying

to tackle her.

I hear their snarls of frustration as they turn and join the hunt. As we run, I'm thankful for Quirin's endurance training with Echo and I. She's stronger than she was when we moved to his pack a few weeks ago and now, that strength is helping her to run while injured.

I'm trusting Echo to know her way home and to keep us ahead of the warriors that are after us. I'm not sure how long we've been running when I feel a flicker in the mind link. I latch onto it, knowing that as soon as we're close enough, I can call for help.

I feel the person on the other end latch on to the link as well, as if both of us are desperate to make contact. Whoever it is, they must know who I am and that I was taken.

It's only a few more minutes when I feel the link snap into place and his voice booms into my mind.

'KENNEDY!

'Quirin,' I say, my voice shaking in the mind link.

I'm coming for you, Kennedy.' I hear Raif howl in the distance, and Echo turns to run toward him.

'I got away, but Echo's weak. They want to kill you, Quirin. You need to be careful,' I tell him. 'We had to make sure you knew.

'We are not so easy to kill. Hang on, my mate. Don't leave me,' Raif croons at Echo. I feel Quirin and Raif wrap themselves mentally around me and Echo, holding on to us and giving us the strength that they can through the mind link. I can feel Echo's strength starting to wane, the fatigue of the chloroform and the injuries starting to slow her down. But then, we see him, our fierce mate, running right toward us. Only it's not just him. I see our warriors and Henry and his pack members as well.

'Stay low,' Quirin says but now his voice is a snarly growl and I know he sees the Alphas behind me. 'Get her to Luna Yara!' he says as he leaps over Echo. Knowing that we're safe, she collapses, pulling the shift back to our human form.

I feel our pack members running past me, just close enough that I can feel their fur brush against my body. It's as if they're letting me know that they are here and I'm safe. I have no idea who he told to take me to my mother until Beta Kier kneels down beside me.

"I've got you, Luna," he says. I hear horrible snarling and snapping behind me, but Echo has faded and I'm only moments behind her.

'Be safe,' I say in the mind link, hoping Quirin heard me as Kier lifts me into his arms and begins rushing me to my mother.

Quirin POV

The moment I saw Echo, I felt the darkness consume me. She's covered in blood, which means that Kennedy has multiple injuries that are still bleeding. She was already weak before Jasper took her, but now she's been injured and drugged and Echo isn't strong enough to heal her.

I knew when she told me that they had to make sure I knew that Jasper and Brogan wanted me dead, that Echo was putting her life at risk, at risk to save me.

'Raif!' I said, feeling panicked. I can't lose my mate and I know that Raif can't lose his. Kennedy will be devastated without her wolf.

When he wraps himself around her mind, I know it's to hold on to her. He will fight to keep her here with us. I don't care how long it takes for her to come back, as long as she does.

When I tell her to stay low, it's because I've locked eyes on Jasper. He will not get away this time. I also tell Kier to get her to Luna Yara. Her mother will help save both of my mates. She may be the only one who can. I would have preferred to have Henry take her, but I don't have a mind link with him, and I know he's ready to take on Brogan while I deal with Jasper.

I don't give Jasper a second to attack. Raif barrels him over, clamping down on his back leg and snapping it before turning

back to attack.

Be safe, my mate's sweet voice floats in my mind before the connection ends. I know she's unconscious, but I hold on to the link between us, needing to know that my mates are okay. Even as she's falling unconscious, she's thinking about me.

That just makes what Jasper did that much more infuriating. He almost took that from me. He tried to take my mate from me and if he thinks for one minute that he's going to kill me and take her, he is very, very wrong.

Raif leaps, his teeth sinking into Jasper's wolf's back. He's smart enough and we've fought enough that he drops, but Raif's teeth still sink into his fur and skin and when he yanks his head side to side, we rip a hole in Jasper's wolf's flesh.

He howls in pain, but Raif and I are relentless. The possibility of losing Kennedy and Echo is still heavy in our minds and hearts and the darkness, the fury that only my mate can abolish, surrounds me.

Raif is on him again, grabbing hold of an ear and shredding it before snapping his jaws in flesh and ripping a huge chunk out. Raif breaks one of his front legs, then slashes his back flank, our claws snagging on his bones before Raif yanks harder, dislocating his hip and pulling the bone outside of his body.

Jasper's wolf whimpers, unable to stand as Raif prowls around him, snarling and snapping, periodically biting or scratching him. Finally, his wolf pulls the shift, forcing Jasper back into his human form. He screams from the pain of it then looks at

1. me.

"Please. Please have mercy."

Raif lets me pull the shift and I stand, towering over Jasper. "You tried to take what was mine. You tried to take the only good thing that has ever happened to me in my life. You tried to take the light that pushes away my darkness. But she's not here now, and there's no one who can push this darkness away, so there will no mercy."

I look at the group of warriors surrounding me. Most of Brogan's warriors are dead, but some have been left alive. "Let this be a lesson to anyone who comes for my mate. I will hunt you down and there will never be mercy. She is mine. She is my everything. Without her, you are left with this," I say, gesturing to my body that is covered in Jasper's blood like some macabre horror movie. "You are left with the monster inside me."

I turn and lift my leg, snarling at Jasper before slamming my foot into his face, killing him instantly.

"Anyone else?" I snarl.

"Alpha Quirin. Your mate needs you. We'll clean this up. Go be with your mate," Alpha Warren says, taking a step toward me. He's treating me like I'm a cornered animal and I probably seem like one. I haven't felt this level of anger and hatred since... well, not since I watched my father get murdered in front of me. And maybe not even then.

"Quirin, go to Kennedy. She needs you," Henry says, watching me carefully.

He's never seen me like this. No one has. This is me engulfed in my darkness. This is me without Kennedy's light that heals me and makes me human. This is the person that I am without her.

"Yara's in your pack. That's where Kennedy will be. You need to go to her," Alpha Warren says.

Without a word, I shift and race home to make sure that my mate has survived. I've never truly understood how important Luna Yara's words were that no one dies in her hospital. But now, I'm trusting that she has not only saved Kennedy,

but Echo as well.

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

Yara

When Beta Kier raced into the hospital carrying a bloody and unconscious Kennedy, my heart tightened. This is twice my daughters' lives have been at risk, only this time, there is no one else to save her but me.

"Bring her in here," I tell him, rushing into one of the surgery rooms. Now that she's gotten more supplies, I feel confident that I have what I need to treat anyone who walks through those doors.

"Tell me what happened," I say as I begin looking her over. She's bleeding from multiple head wounds and other places on her body. Echo must be weak if she's not healing her.

"I'm not exactly sure, Luna. We went to Jasper's pack and he wasn't there. We searched everywhere but Jasper hadn't taken her there. While Alphas Warren and Connor dealt with the people in the safe rooms, we raced to Alpha Brogan's pack."

I'm surprised that Quirin left the innocents alive. His father never did.

"He wasn't going to, but your mate intervened. I'm glad he did. I didn't like the idea of killing omegas and pups," he says, making me realize I spoke out loud.

"Kennedy wouldn't have liked that either."

"That's what Alpha Warren told him and it worked. So, we raced to Alpha Brogan's pack and about halfway there, Alpha asked if any of us were getting a faint link. Maybe it's because they're mates, or because he's an Alpha, but it took us longer to realize that we were close enough to Luna Kennedy to pick up the mind link. When we did, we realized she had gotten away from the others and was being hunted by both Alphas and Alpha Brogan's warriors."

"My daughter is fast," I say, wondering how Echo even managed to shift with the injuries I'm seeing. She would have had to pull on all her strength to do so. Between that and the injuries that aren't healing, I'm sure Echo has gone silent. 'Annika, we're not letting our daughters die on us.'

I feel my wolf reaching out in the mind link, searching for even the faintest link to Echo. When she finds it, she mentally

latches on.

'Our daughters aren't going anywhere,' she growls softly. I let her focus on Echo while I focus on Kennedy.

"What of Alpha Jasper?" I ask.

"Alpha was attacking him when I left," Kier says.

"And Alpha Brogan?" I ask as I wash the largest gash that Kennedy has before starting to stitch her up.

"Alpha Henry was going after him. You're going to save her, right Luna? You're not going to let our Luna die, right?"

"I have a rule in my hospital, Beta. No one dies. I've never lost anyone and I don't intend to start with my own daughter."

I watch as he breathes a sigh of relief. "Thank you. She's been everything that this pack has needed and more. None of us come from good packs, obviously we were all rogues when we came to Alpha Quirin, but she's showing us what it means to be a pack, to be a family. I'm not sure I've ever seen or felt a pack that was so desperate to please someone before now. Maybe it's because I'm a Beta and can feel the pack or maybe it's just your daughter's influence, but it's pretty incredible to

watch."

I think I like this Beta.

"Thank you, I like you too, Luna," he says. Shit! I spoke out loud again. Usually Warren is around to intercede with my mumblings, but right now, it's just Beta Kier and 1.

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I've just gotten the worst of the injuries stitched up, attached monitors to her, and put an IV into Kennedy's arm when Kier's head snaps up.

"What is it?" I ask him.

"Alpha's back. He's on his way here."

I nod and it's only a few moments later when Quirin walks in, covered in blood with a dark, heavy aura rolling off of him.

"Alpha Quirin, you should use the new showers that you had installed here. You smell like blood and death. Kennedy doesn't need to wake up and worry about you. She needs to focus on her own healing," I tell him.

"You need to save Echo too. She pushed herself too hard so that they could warn me that Alphas Jasper and Brogan wanted to kill me. She was willing to give her life to save me. You have to save her," he says, his voice breaking.

I stop, turning to look at him. "And I am. Annika has already connected to the tether of her mind. When Warren, Connor, and Yorick arrive, I'll have them do the same. I'd be surprised if you haven't already done so, but as your pack returns, they could connect and hold on to her as well. It will help give Echo strength and help Kennedy to heal."

He nods but doesn't move.

"Alpha Quirin." I wait until he pulls his eyes away from Kennedy. "Go shower, then you can come and hold her hand if you'd like."

He nods again. "When she wakes up, I want her to know that I'm here for her."

"Go shower. I'm going to finish stitching up her wounds and draw some blood. Then, it's mostly just waiting."

"Come on, Alpha. I'll show you where the towels are and as the warriors come home, I'll have them connect with our Luna to help keep her strong," Kier says. Yeah, I really like that Beta.

Both men look over at me and I press my lips together. I did it again.

I've finished stitching up all of Kennedy's wounds, adding antibiotics to her IV drip since Echo is silent, and I'm drawing blood when Quirin walks back in, clean and dressed.



He pulls a chair over and takes Kennedy's hand. "The others just arrived. I sent them to the showers, but the pack should be connecting to Kennedy, holding on to her and to Echo," he says.

"Do you know if she ever ate?" I ask him. I've never seen Kennedy's hands shake like I saw when she was doing the C-section for her pack member.

"She barely ate anything. She didn't have time, Luna," he says, his eyes never leaving Kennedy.

"I think that's part of the problem here. I'm running her blood work now to see if she's deficient in anything and if she is, I'll add those supplements to her IV line. It's good that she stocked the hospital. And it's good that the two of you talked," I tell him, leaning over to grip his forearm.

"I can't lose her," he says, his eyes filling with tears and his voice thick with emotion.

"You, more than most, know the rule in my hospital, Quirin."

He looks up at me, the anger in his eyes from before has turned to devastation, grief, and fear.

"I'm trusting you, Luna. I'm trusting you to save her, to save both of them."

There's a knock at the door and Warren looks in the room.

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"Is it okay if I come in?"

I turn and look at Quirin. Kennedy is his mate. It's up to him.

"Yes, Alpha. She's your daughter." Quirin says, not looking away from her,

"I'll be right back. I'm going to go check on her bloodwork," I tell them, stopping to wrap my arms around my mate,

Are you okay?' I ask him in the mind link.

His face is buried in my neck, so I know that he's trying to gain control of his emotions.

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For the first time. I see why so many Alphas are afraid of Quirin. I saw what he's capable of, what he did to Jasper. He didn't just kill him, Yara, he tortured him, made him suffer, made him beg for death before he finally gave it to him. I understood his fury, I felt that way with Simon when he took you. I let the pack torture him because he hurt you. But I've never seen it in action. I've never seen another Alpha toy with someone they are furious with, someone they want to suffer. Thank the goddess that men like he and I have women like you and Kennedy,"

I hold my mate, letting him breathe in my scent until he finally pulls away,

"I've attached my mind to her, even though it's a shallow link. Connor and Yorick have done the same. There are a lot of people in the waiting room holding on to our daughter," he tells me.

"Are you surprised? She was always loved by everyone. She is the best of both of us," I tell him, cupping his cheek. "Let me go check her bloodwork. I'll be right back," I tell him.

Several people stop me on my way to get her bloodwork results, asking if she's okay. I spend a few minutes with each of them, letting them know that she's weak, but she's stable.

When I get to her office. I pull up the report. I'm not surprised to see that my daughter is deficient in many things. I grab a pen and then pull open drawers to get something to write on so I can make sure I don't forget anything that I need for her.

When I open a drawer in her desk, I see it. I read the results then put the information back before getting what I need.

I shake my head as I make my way back to her room. I begin injecting the different drugs and nutrients that she needs to help her heal and make her stronger. I cannot believe with everything that we've talked about recently that she never once mentioned that she's having a pup. She and I are going to have to have a serious conversation about that.

"What did you say?" Quirin asks. When I look up, his eyes are intent on mine. I turn and look at my mate. "What did I say?" I ask him.

He raises an eyebrow. "Something about a pup?"

I turn and look at Quirin. He looks shocked.

"You didn't know?" I ask.

He'

"No

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

Quirin

A pup? I'm going to be a father? It's the next thought that makes my stomach twist into knots. Why didn't she tell me? Is she so angry with me that she's not happy that she's having my pup? Is she ...

The thought of her wanting to leave me nearly makes me vomit.

'Let's wait until she wakes up. Our mate has been through a lot. She and Echo aren't just healing themselves. They're also growing a pup. Our pup. I'm sure that the pregnancy is also making it harder for the two of them to heal. Echo would be using her strength to protect our pup, I'm sure it,' Raif says diplomatically.

He's right. Our mate would make sure that her pup, our pup, was safe and healthy. It makes Echo's willingness to sacrifice herself for me even harder to bear. This woman and her wolf were willing to give me everything, every last part of themselves to protect me. I always knew I didn't deserve her.

'Then let's make sure we DO deserve her, because she is going to have our baby and she is going to make one hell of a fantastic mother, Raif growls.

"How far along is she?" I ask Luna Yara.

"Not far. I found the results of her blood test. She must have only just realized that she was pregnant. It may also be why she wasn't eating. I know she was busy, but women in the early stages of pregnancy can have nausea or an aversion to the smells of certain foods. It will probably be a week or less before you can start smelling the pup on her now that you know to look for it. Either her scent will become stronger or your scent on her will become stronger, depending on whether she's having a girl or a boy," she says.

"Are you okay, Quirin? Finding out you're going to be a father for the first time can be a lot to take in," Alpha Warren asks me gently.

I nod, looking at my mate. Kennedy has made me face a lot of hard truths about myself, about the person, Alpha, and mate that I am. I have a lot of shortcomings, and she's always accepted those things about me. But now, it's time for me to step up, to be the man

and the mate that she deserves and the Alpha that she expects me to be so that I can be the father that our child needs me to be.

I stand, pulling her hand to my lips and kissing it. "I need to let my pack know that she's stable for now. I know they're all out there, waiting to get news about her. Will you stay with her, Luna, until I return?"

"Of course, Quirin. Everything is going to be okay," she says. This woman, who glows almost as brightly as her daughter, has always been able to see past my tough exterior into the softer side of me. Her and Kennedy both.

"Thank you, Luna. For everything."

I walk to the door and Alpha Warren holds it open for me. When I step out to the waiting room, he follows me and stands off to the side with his sons. It looks like the entire pack is here. Everyone turns to look at me and I realize that Alpha Harold and Luna Farrah are here as well, sitting with Henry. They're here to support me as they have been since the day they took me under their wing.

"Kennedy is stable," I say and it feels like the entire room breathes a sigh of relief. "She still has a long way to go. Echo put herself at a great risk to escape and try to warn me that Alphas Jasper and Brogan wanted to kill me."

The pack growls at that, and so does Henry. I look at him. "Brogan?"

"Dead."

I look at Warren and Connor. "Their packs?"

"We've offered for them to join any of our packs. Not surprisingly, Alpha Jasper's pack members chose mine and Henry's

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packs," Connor says. I haven't spent a lot of time with the man, but I can tell that he's a lot like Kennedy. His strength is more outward where hers is internal, but he's a powerful Alpha.

I turn and look back at my pack members. "Your Luna has said a lot of things lately. She's given all of us some hard truths that we need to face about ourselves and this pack. But I will tell you this, she requires us to rise to the level of her expectations and we will do that. We will become the pack that she is proud to lead, to be the Luna of. We will do that for her and we will do it for each other. I have just as much growing to do as all of you. But she's worth it. This pack is worth it. I think she will be proud of all of you when she wakes up. You either protected our pack lands or you hunted down our enemies to get our Luna back. You worked together and you protected each other. Maybe for the first time

ever, we acted like a pack should. If not, I'm sure she'll tell us what we did wrong and we'll fix it," I say and hear several chuckles around the room.

"Go get some rest. Kennedy's going to need some time to heal and for Echo to regain her strength. Get some food, keep yourselves healthy and strong and if you need anything, I'll be here and Beta Kier will be available."

"When can we see her, Alpha?" one of the omegas asks.

"Not until she wakes up," I tell her.

"Is it okay if we wait here when we're not busy? Just in case she wakes up? We want her to know that we love her and we're here for her."

I look around and see all of my pack members nodding in agreement. It seems I'm not the only one who loves basking in my mate's light.

"I think she would really appreciate that, as long as you look after yourselves and each other," I say to them.

There are several other things that I need to do, but the most pressing is one that I can do right now.

I turn to the man who I have hated most of my life, the man I've never done anything but reject and scoff at, but who has never once treated me the same way.

"Alpha Warren, may I speak to you in private please?"

"Of course."

I turn back to my family, the ones who accepted me as a brother and son from the moment they took me in. "Will you all wait until I'm done?"

"We're not going anywhere, Quirin," Farrah says to me. As always, she's one of the very few people who understands me, who knows what I need without me asking.

I nod, then lead Alpha Warren to the opposite side of the hospital from where Kennedy is. Her scent is strong here and I know from the couple of times I've been here, that this is where she spends her time when she's not treating

someone.

I gesture for Alpha Warren to sit at a table. He walks around, but when he sees me standing, he remains standing as well. I put my hands in my pockets, unable to meet his gaze.

"Kennedy would tell you that I'm not very good at listening." I smile sardonically, thinking of her frustration and anger when I haven't listened to her. "She'd be right. I've never been very good at listening."

I finally meet his gaze. "All those years ago, I wasn't listening when you told me about my father. I wasn't ready to hear what you had to say or to believe you when you told me you gave him an honorable death. But after what happened in the last couple of days, I realize that it's exactly what you did. You gave him a death that was probably more honorable than he deserved. I wasn't willing to listen to you then, but I'm willing to listen to you now, if you're willing to talk to me."

"I'm willing to tell you anything that you want to know, Quirin, and I'll answer any questions that you may have," he says.