

Payment To the Alpha by Ms.M Chapter 34

Avery's POV

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Alena and I were sitting on her porch after she told me that her son was my father, making her my grandmother, I was stunned, and I didn't speak or react for fifteen minutes. Alena had brought me a coffee with milk and sugar and put it on the table, I took a sip and opened my mouth but closed it up again, and this same procedure went on for another five minutes before I found my voice again.

"How?" That was all I asked.

"Love, that's how. Love is the most powerful feeling there ever was, it is from the love that hate is born, and it is with love that we can truly live. However losing love, means losing a part of yourself, and for some people, it means losing all of yourself, a pain that not many can handle." I nodded my head as I took another sip of my coffee, then I licked my lips and looked at Alena.

"Why?" I asked,

"That's the real question, isn't it? Because for a child to grow up without love, they choose to hang on to anything they can. In my son's case, it was hate and revenge, it has consumed him, and unfortunately, only death can save him." I looked at her, baffled. She just said that her own son has to die.

"It's not easy Avery, he is my son, but I also know what threat he poses to so many people. An entire species will die by his hand if he doesn't die first."

"And mine." I said. Alena had told me how he would use my witch genes and manipulate the werewolf gene, tying me to every werewolf in the country. He has worked on this plan for the last eighty years and perfected every part. They would all die by his hand but also by mine.

"Yes, but you can stop him. Only you can kill him, Avery." I bit my lip, letting everything sink in.

"Why do you look so familiar?" I asked her. She giggled, and then a bright smile lit up her face.

"I actually have two grandchildren, my dear." That smile, I have seen that smile before, but where.

"Who is your other grandchild?"

"Natasha." She answered.

"WHAT!?" And suddenly everything fell into place

Natasha's father, her mate, died, she ran. Ever since the beginning, she has been nothing but kind and helpful towards me and nothing like what they all said that she would be like.

Because she was my sister. Natasha and I shared the same father.

"Holy shit." I said in an exhale.

"Language, dear." I coughed and cleared my throat, realizing my mistake.

"Sorry." I said with a small smile. She smiled back at me.

"You seem to give me every answer I ask for. Why is that?"

"So that you're not too surprised when he does." She replied.

"What do you mean?" I asked with furrowed eyebrows. If I keep furrowing my eyebrows this much, I'm gonna have a wrinkled face before I turn twenty.

"Once it begins and you come face to face with him, you will already have all the answers, so nothing he says will break your focus. He will use the information that he doesn't know you have in order to make you lose control, to make you vulnerable, to make you weak."

I understand where she's coming from, but how am I meant to carry on knowing all of this?

"It's okay if I talk about this with the others, right?" Alena looked down at her hands before answering my question.

"They already know, James has known for a while, and the others found out just a while ago. But Avery, no sweetheart, you can't speak of this to anyone. Everything has to be an element of surprise with my son, and the lesser that they know, the better." Alena looked through the window to her house, where a clock was hanging.

"It's almost time for you to leave," She spoke as her eyes faltered. "It has been a pleasure meeting you, Avery, and I can assure you that this is not the last time we will see each other. Remember to keep all of this a secret, soon you'll make a choice, and I know that you will choose right. Just believe in yourself and believe in the people around you. Natasha made James promise not to tell you anything, for the same reason that you can't tell anybody. This is a secret that is best kept hidden, for your safety above all." I don't want to leave her. She's my grandmother. I just met her, and already

she's sad over me leaving, my parents couldn't wait to get rid of me, and my father only created me to be his killing machine. It's nice to have a family member who actually cares about you.

"Thank you for everything, Alena. It was a pleasure meeting you too." We both stood up and embraced each other in a big warm hug that ended way too soon. I wiped away the tears that were falling and looked at her, memorizing her facial features.

"Goodbye, Alena." I said as I was about to turn around and leave. Alena shook her head and grabbed my hands in hers.

"Until next time, Avery." I smiled and walked away. As I stepped off the porch, Alena called from behind me.

"And Avery, please, stay safe." She said with fear in her eyes.

"I will do my best." I couldn't tell her that I promised because that would be a lie. All I could say to comfort her were those words, that I will do my best, and I will, I have too much to lose in dying, and too many to lose by losing.

James' POV

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I had mind-linked all the ranked members and told them to meet us in my office. After they were briefed on everything that had been said, they all sat like collies and stared blankly.

This is a lot of information for anyone to take, but I want everyone to get over it so that I can go to my mate.

"Are there any questions?" Lisa looked at me, she and everyone else were mad and sad all at once, and that's a dangerous combination for a werewolf.

"Will Avery be able to face Crow without harming herself?" She asked me.

"She must. There is no other way for this to go down, and trust me, I would know, I have searched for any other way to beat him or to at least replace Avery's part in all of this, but it is like it's written in stone, there is no way around it.

But I have absolute faith that she will be able to handle it, and if she doesn't, we will all be here." So I said, not sounding the least bit convincing. I'm scared to death about Avery fighting Crow, not because I don't think that she can handle it, but because of what could happen if she doesn't. I could lose her, and I will never let that happen.

"Natasha, before we end this, is there anything else you need to tell us?" All eyes went to Natasha. If there were anything left to say, now would be the time to say it.

"Yes, Avery can't know that I'm her sister."

"How the hell are we supposed to keep that from her?!" Jackson shouted.

"You're going to have to find a way. She mustn't know, not yet. That's all I know. Besides that, I have said everything." Natasha exclaimed.

"Very well then, I'm gonna go see my mate, Amber. Let me know if there is any update from your friend and Jackson. Make sure that the warriors are practicing the tactics for the witch hunt."

"Yes, Alpha." They both said before heading out.

"Lisa, in an hour, I have a phone call to make with Alpha Ines from the Blue Moon Pack. I need you to be with Avery during that time." Lisa was about to answer before Natasha spoke.

"Actually, I would like to spend some time with Avery. If you don't mind, I could keep her company in the meantime." She said. I thought about it for a moment, whether it was a good idea considering everything, but Avery is her sister, and she would never harm her.

"Okay then, Natasha, I will have someone get you when I have to leave."

"Thank you, Alpha." She responded with a slight head bow before exiting my office.

"You guys know what you have to do."

"Yes, Alpha." They all said in unison and left. I had told Alvin and Trish to keep an eye on the pack members to see if anyone acted odd. Something didn't feel right. It felt like there were eyes inside the pack that shouldn't be here.

"So, brother, how are you?" Alex asked me as he took a seat in front of me.

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Amber's POV

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I was walking down the stairs on my way to the kitchen to fix up some snacks before dinner when my phone rang.

"Hello?"

"Hey Amber, it's me. How is everything?"

"The same way it's been the past few days, except...Do you know who Natasha is, too, Avery?"

There was a silence that followed my question.

"Yes, I've known for a while, I couldn't tell anyone, that's why I haven't visited, I couldn't be around Avery and keep this secret, not again."

"Well, now that it's out, can't you come here and visit her? I think that's what she needs, and there's a room you can live in while you're here." I said as I opened the fridge to pull out some orange juice.

"Yes, I can, and I will. Let me just pack up some things, and I'll be on my way."

"Great." With that, we hung up, and I turned to the cabinet to pull out a granola bar.

"You should know that sneaking up on a werewolf is pointless and stupid." I said as I turned around and faced Jackson." I wasn't sneaking up on you. Who was that on the phone?" He asked me as he pulled out a glass and placed it next to mine. "It was Lydia." I answered him.

"We've been talking ever since they were here, and everything started, she hasn't wanted to visit because she said she couldn't face Avery, and now I know why." Jackson looked at me befuddled, and I poured some orange juice into his glass. "Why?"

"Because she knew that Natasha and Avery were sisters, and she didn't want to be around Avery knowing she couldn't tell her." Jackson bobbed his head as he drank from his glass.

"That's respectful." He said.

"It is. So, how is the training going?" I asked him as I sat down at one of the tables, and Jackson sat beside me.

"It's good. They're learning fast. I just hope that it's fast enough." We don't know when Crow will show himself, we don't know what he has planned, and there is no other way for us to prepare than what we are already doing.

I walked out on the training field with Jackson to see how the younger warriors were doing. As we got out there, I noticed how some of the female warriors weren't actually practicing, but they were standing around talking and snickering. I overheard some of their conversations.

"Well, perhaps now that the Alpha has seen what a worthless human he brought home, he might actually reconsider his choice and choose a new Luna." One of the girls, named Myra, said, and I felt Stella clawing her way up.

"Hey, shut up. Avery isn't worthless. None of us know what's going on."

"You're just saying that because you have a crush on her, Chase, but hey, if someone else gets chosen by the Alpha, she will be free for you to grab, your loss though."

"WHAT IS THIS! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE PRACTICING, BUT YOU'RE STANDING AROUND TALKING SHIT ABOUT YOUR FUTURE, LUNA!?" The authority clear in my voice made all the young wolves turn their heads towards me with a horrified look in their eyes.

"Gamma." Chase, the only one that didn't look horrified but submissive, said as he bowed his head the rest soon followed.

"If I hear one more fucking word come out of your mouths regarding Avery, there will be hell to pay. Understood?!"

"UNDERSTOOD!?" I asked again as I didn't get an answer.

"Yes, Gamma." They all said, one after the other. "Well, then, get back to practice. Maybe these skills will be the only thing protecting your sorry asses one day." I said as I crossed my arms over my chest and kept eyeing them. They carefully lifted their heads, meeting my gaze, and hurriedly got back to practicing.

Jackson and I decided to go for a run and check the borders and the border guards. But, something didn't add up. I felt like we were being watched.

Payment To the Alpha by Ms.M Chapter 35

James' POV

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I was in the dungeons, sitting on the mattress and watching Avery sleeping.

I stroked her hair gently, and she started turning and groaning before flickering her eyes open.

"Hey there, beautiful." I said as I looked down on my beautiful mate.

'Oh, how I wish I could take your place for you.' I thought to myself as I looked into her big brown eyes.

"Hey there, handsome." She replied. It's nice to see the change in reaction from the last time I uttered those words when we were in the hotel room the morning after she had been drugged. To her, I was a stranger, but to me, she was home. Even if I refused to believe it or acknowledge it, she is my home and has been ever since I first laid eyes on her.

Avery sat up and. Her legs were behind me, and one of her hands rested on my leg and the other on my shoulder. She took the hand that laid on my shoulder and cupped my face with it, her eyes bore into mine, and a shiver went down my spine at the intense gaze. She looked down at my lips and then back at my eyes. Her eyes were enchanting, the brown color looked like honey, and the amount of love showing in her eyes was enough to thaw any frozen heart.

She turned my face more as she leaned in and gently placed a kiss on my lips, I need more, and I need to feel her. As she was about to pull back, I put my hand on the back of her head, stopping her, and kissed her with everything I had. She cupped my face with both her hands, deepening the kiss. Passion, love, secrets, lies, truth, dominance, and desire, everything I am and have went into this kiss, and I have never experienced anything like it.

My hands roamed down her back, and I pulled off her shirt. In a quick motion, I lifted her over me so that she was straddling me. Avery removed her hands from my hair, and she started removing my shirt. She lifted it up and pulled it over my head, we met each other's gaze, and I knew that I needed to be inside her. I need to mate with her and mark her. She was mine. There no way in hell that I was ever letting this girl go, human or not. She belongs to me.

I gripped Averys' legs and stood up, her legs wrapped around my waist. Using my speed, I pushed her up against the wall. As her back hit, she groaned for a second, but it only seemed to enthuse her. Her hands took a firm grip of hair as our lips met in an aggressively intense kiss. My tongue grazed her lips, wanting to enter. I squeezed her ass, making her moan as I stuck my tongue in her mouth, wanting to taste every part of her. Avery was naturally submissive, and she seemed quite inexperienced, I wonder?

"Avery, have you ever slept with anyone?" Her doe eyes faltered a little at my question, and she shook her head. Avery was a virgin. I carried her to the mattress and gently placed her down, and kept eye contact as I pulled off her sweatpants and placed featherlike kisses all the way down. As I moved my lips downwards, I placed small kisses near her sex, and she gasped. I pulled over her panties and moved my lips up to her mouth. As we kissed, I reached down and started rubbing her clitoris with my finger before carefully inserting one finger and letting her get familiar with the feeling.

"Holy shit." I groaned. She was so fucking tight.

Avery moaned, which was good and as I started pumping my finger in and out, making her wince from the stinging sensation.

"Shh, it's okay, baby." I cooed as I sped up my finger, and Avery's face relaxed, she started writhing underneath me, and the groans turned to moans of pleasure.

When she fully started enjoying herself, then I knew she was comfortable. I inserted another finger, stretching her out, or else I would never fit my dick inside her. I laid small kisses on her plump lips, and her hands reached up and took hold of my hair, pushing herself into the kiss.

"Oh my god! What is this?!"

"Just relax and let your body take control." She did as I said, and three seconds later, she was screaming in ecstasy.

"JAMES! YES!" Her body spasmed, and her eyes rolled back as her first-ever orgasm hit her. My dick was throbbing in my pants, and I felt like I was gonna cum just from pleasuring Avery, a feeling I have never felt before.

As she was coming down from her high, I stood up and took off my pants and my boxers, letting my growth spring free. The look on Avery's face was priceless.

"Umm...yeah, I'm not so sure anymore." She said as she bit on her nail and scrunched her nose. Werewolves are known to have larger muscles, better stamina, better looks, and also bigger genitals than humans, and to someone who has never had sex and maybe not even seen a dick, it could be quite intimidating.

I placed myself on top of Avery, placing my hand on either side of her head.

"I will never do anything that you're not comfortable with." I said in a low, hushed tone. Regardless of how badly I wanted to be inside Avery. I would never pressure her into anything.

"Is it gonna hurt?" She asked me with a worried look on her face.

"Only for a little while, and then you're going to enjoy it. It's up to you."

She nodded her head and cupped my face.

"This isn't how I expected my first time to be like but, I want you, I know that much." She said and relaxed her body.

I searched for her opening and carefully slid in the head, holding it for a while.

"Was this the part that would hurt?" She asked me, and looking down at her closed eyes and her lips that were pressed together. I was praying for this to not hurt too much.

"No, this is." Then, with one fast and hard thrust, I broke her hymen, and Avery screamed out in pain.

"AAHH!!" I held the position for a moment, not wanting to inflict more pain than necessary.

"It hurts!" She screamed as tears rolled down her cheek.

"I know, baby, just relax and take your time. I won't do anything until you tell me to."

After a few minutes, Avery started to relax. I could mostly feel it on my dick because the blood circulation wasn't strangled anymore. Avery slowly flickered her eyes open, and I wiped her tears away.

"It's okay now." She said with the sweetest voice I've ever heard. I started moving in and out of her tight pussy, going faster with every thrust, and Avery didn't wince, not once. Instead, her eyes were glued to mine the entire time as she moaned and dug her nails into my back. I felt her core tighten and knew she was close to her climax, I was close to mine too, and Avery's head flew to the side, and now was a perfect time.

'Not yet.'

Blade interrupted.

Why?

I got no answer. Blade had blocked me out.

I lifted Avery's right leg and put it on my shoulder as I thrust into her, touching every part that she had to offer. I used my left hand to cup her breast, giving it a few hard squeezes, and with that, Avery hit her second orgasm, and mine wasn't far behind. A few hard thrusts and I was burying my seed deep inside of her as I let out a loud growl. I dropped her leg and leaned forward, placing a kiss on her lips as she panted for air with a smile on her face. I felt the blood drip down my back from where Avery had clawed with her nails.

"James," Avery said. I took a lock of her hair and placed it behind her ear.

"Yes, love?" I realized after I said it that this was the first time I had called her 'love,' and a sense of panic started growing inside of me. Avery took my face and caressed my cheek.

"James, I-"

"ALPHA!" Avery was cut off by Damon coming down into the dungeon.

"Alpha- Oh shit!" He quickly averted his face and turned around, Avery hid her face behind her hands, and I was wondering why the fuck we have the ability to mind link if no one uses it.

"I'm so sorry, Alpha, but you blocked us out, so we couldn't mind link you." I scrunched my nose and bobbed my head at the comment, which was quite accurate.

"Right, my bad." I quickly got up grabbed Avery's clothes, helping her get dressed before putting on my own.

"Is there a problem, Damon?" I asked as I scowled at him while covering Avery from his view.

"The Alpha of the Celestial Pack is on the phone. He wanted to talk about the rogue problems." The Celestial Pack? Alpha Nicholas is the last man I want to converse with right now, but fine.

"I'll be right there. Please tell Natasha to come down here."

"Wait, what? Why?" Avery asked, looking shocked. "She said she wanted to spend some time with you, catch up, and whatnot." I answered her, placing another kiss on her lips. "I have to go, but I will be back. If there's anything you need, just let the guard know."

Avery stood on her tiptoes and wrapped her hands around my neck, her eyes were filled with love and lust, and I knew if Damon hadn't walked in, we would be going at it again. The thought alone was making my dick begin to harden, and I could tell Avery noticed. The devious grin that was growing on her face proved it. She bit her bottom lip. This girl has to be taught a lesson.

I gripped a handful of her hair and pulled her head back, making her gasp. I placed kisses down her neck and up to her ear as I nibbled on her earlobe.

"Two can play this game." I whispered as I laid a final kiss on her lips, savoring her taste, before turning around and heading for my office.

"Hello?" I answered the phone in a bored tone. I wasn't in the mood for bullshit, and that's all the Celestial Pack was, bullshit.

"Is that how you greet an old friend Alpha James?" Nicholas quickly responded.

"Old was the word, Nicholas. Even your voice is raspier than it was last time we spoke. You called; what's the issue?" I wasn't in the mood to beat around the bush, my mate

was waiting for me in the dungeon, and I had more important matters to attend to with her than sitting around talking to this old bag of potatoes.

"The rogues, have you had any encounters with them?" I was wondering whether or not to tell him about the rogues we had that was scanning the village. The Celestial Pack weren't our enemies, but they weren't our allies either.

"None whatsoever. However, I've heard of other packs encountering the same problems as you. So we're looking into it." I answered him, wanting to end this quickly.

"What about the three spies spotted near the village on your territory Alpha James?" His tone was low and serious. How the fuck did he know about that?

"Yes, they walked in on our territory and were disposed of. I wouldn't call that a problem, more like a mess that was cleaned up." I countered. This piece of shit was indirectly telling me he has a spy within my pack.

"Never pegged you for a liar, James." A growl left my mouth, and I heard Alpha Nicholas swallow hard on the other line. "You listen to me, Nicholas, nobody dares to set foot or paw onto this land for a reason, a reason known by even you, but if you're having trouble remembering, I would have no problem reminding you of who we are. Is that clear?" My Alpha voice was enough to make anyone submit, even a weakling of another Alpha.

"I'm sorry, Alpha, there is no problem. Thank you for your time." The phone line went dead quickly, and I released a breath. How a pathetic man like him could be alpha is beyond me.

'Alpha, ROGUES by the west border!' I got a mind link from Anna, one of the warriors, and started running out of my office and out of the house. The second I got out, I shifted and started running towards the west border. On my way, to my left, I saw my brother's wolf, Cesar, running as well. Blade jumped over branches and ran past the trees when we got to the west border it was a bloodbath.

Amber's POV

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Jackson and I were talking to two of the border guards, Evan and Clara, checking if there had been any unusual movement or sighting, neither of which had happened.

Stella was starting to become anxious in the back of my mind, and I could feel the restlessness, she started growling and baring her teeth, and that's when I smelled it.

"Rogues." I informed the others, and all four of us shifted and communicated through the mind link.

'How many?' Jackson asked.

'At least ten.'

I couldn't smell more than ten rogues but the way Stella was growling and dominating told me there were more than ten, and then they came running in from different directions. How is this possible? Five rogues coming from the direction of the packhouse, five from north and ten from the south, there were twenty rogues coming from different directions.

Two brownish-grey ones were coming towards Stella. She quickly bit down the neck of one of them ripped his artery. She dodged an attack from the second one, which Jackson then jumped on. Stella rammed into one of the black rogues that were attacking Clara and took it by the neck, swinging him around causing him to fly into the trunk of a tree.

'Where the fuck is the Alpha?' Evan yelled through the mind link.

Jackson had two rogues on his flank, and one of them managed to bite down on his hind leg. Jackson had a death grip on the other one, so I quickly jumped on top of the one having a hold on Jackson and started clawing at his snout.

Five more rogues were seen coming from the north. They were bigger. Two of them were heading towards Evan but were rammed in by the warriors that had finally arrived. Three of them came towards Jackson and me, I bared my teeth and let out a warning growl, but it didn't do shit, one of them charged at us, but Stella dodged his attack. However, another one came just as quick, and we were thrown into a tree, as we tried to stand a sharp pain came from my throat and I saw one of the rogues having dug their claws into the back of my neck, Stella whined from the pain before regaining her composure.

She rolled over, letting his claws be dragged through her neck as she got back on her feet, a little unstable but strong nonetheless. Then, as Stella was about to charge, a loud growl was heard, and the rogue in front of us had his jugular ripped out clean.

I see my brother decided to join us. One by one, James started forcing their shifts and ripping their heads off, biting their necks or ripping them open. What ten warriors were fighting to accomplish, James did in under five minutes. There was a reason why nobody wanted to be enemies with our pack, James says that it's because our pack is strong and powerful. The truth is, our Alpha is strong and most powerful, but he never takes credit.

Blade took his stance, blood dripping from his muzzle, he lifted his head, and his chest was pushed out. His thick, black mane was blowing in the wind, and everything about Blade screamed authority and power.

One rogue was still breathing. Blade walked up to him, and the rouge shifted into a middle-aged man with a beard and blue eyes, late forties-early fifties.

'Bring him to my office. Damon, Anna, and Evan clean this up.'

My brother said in a mind link to everyone present, and Alex, who had shifted back, knocked the man out and threw him over his shoulder, and we started walking back to the packhouse. James, Clara, and I were walking in wolf form.

'Amber, I need to deal with this. Can you keep Avery company?'

'Of course, James, I would love to.'

Payment To the Alpha by Ms.M Chapter 36

Unknown POV

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A bucket of ice-cold water was poured over me. It was laced with wolfsbane, making every part of my skin that the water touched burnt like acid.

"Wake up!" I heard someone shout, it wasn't the Alpha, but he held authority, probably the Beta, what was his name again? Oh right, Alex.

I slowly peeled my eyes open, ignoring the burn damage that made my eye sockets glued together.

I was healing quickly, and I was beginning to be able to make out certain details. In front of me, there were two men, and I could smell a female was standing behind me. How kind, they brought me a snack.

"If you answer my questions, I might spare your life, but if you lie or refuse to talk, I can promise you a slow and painful death." I gulped, that was definitely the Alpha, and I see where he gets his reputation from.

"I understand." His arms were crossed over his chest, his eyes were dark, meaning his wolf was trying to surface. Let's not let that happen, I saw what his wolf did, and I don't want a re-run of that show.

"Good. First question, what's your name?"

"My name is Sebastian."

"Why are you here?" I can't, he will kill me, but if I don't, then the Alpha will kill me, so I guess, either way, I'm dead. So I might as well have some fun going down.

In one swift motion, I was up on my feet and standing behind the delicious-smelling female. I wonder who she is. However, the second I stood behind her and placed my hand around her throat, she gripped it, bent it, and using her knee, she broke the bone by my elbow.

"AH, YOU BITCH!" I screamed as I held my arm with my other hand. I'm going to kill this slut.

I started to shift, but I couldn't. Why the hell can't I shift?

"I wouldn't do that if I were you, Sebastian."

"Natasha?" Why is Natasha here? She's gonna blow everything.

"It's nice to meet you again. Clara, would you mind giving us some privacy?" She asked who I'm presuming is a warrior.

Clara looked over at the Alpha, who, with a slow head shake, gestured for Clara to leave. She bowed her head and left the office.

"You two know each other?" The Alpha looked between Natasha and me, I threw her a helpless look, but she was always stubborn, not giving a fuck about you when it came to the truth. We were never really friends.

"He knows my father." Oh, you bitch.

"I will ask you again, why are you here?" The Alpha asked me as he dug his fingers into my wound, making me nearly faint from the pain. I may be a werewolf, but I'm a rogue, which automatically makes me weaker than a wolf who belongs to a pack and definitely weaker than an Alpha.

"The girl! I was told to get the girl!"

"James," Natasha said in a warning. James removed his hand from my arm and instead delivered a sucker punch to my nose. I heard the bone-breaking as the blood came spilling out. I fell to my knees. This is it, my last few breaths.

"Who told you to get the girl?" You really don't want to know the answer to that, James.

"You sure you wanna know?" I asked him, at least I asked, the decision was up to him.

"Who?" He asked, seething through his teeth. His eyes were glowing. His wolf was in charge.

"Jack." I felt a hand wrapped around my throat as I was lifted off the ground.

"WHY THE FUCK DOES JACK WANT AVERY!?" He isn't my Alpha, yet my wolf was wincing, and he had his tail between his legs. "B-Because he heard that she was happy, and they couldn't accept that, they paid a hefty amount of money to... get the girl and t-they were planning to sell her to the Wizard." I felt the grip around my throat being released, not one second before I passed out, and I dropped to the floor. "We had a deal," James said as his eyes bore through mine.

"They went back on the deal. They don't care anymore, they don't care about the soul contract either, nor the locking spell. I'm sorry, Alpha, but I had no choice."

"YOU HAD NO CHOICE? You could've said no!"

"He has my daughter. Yes, they offered money, but I didn't accept it, none of us did, but then he took my daughter and some of the other pups, and we had no choice." As I looked into James' eyes, I could see the sorrow swimming around in there. He was upset, he was sad, heartbroken even, and he truly loved this girl.

"Looks like Lily was right," I began as I struggled to get up on my feet.

"This girl sure is special. She said something about an unbreakable love, something she wished all her children would experience."

"You knew my mother?" James asked me. He and his Beta looked at me, scanned me to see if I was lying.

"Lily and I were close growing up. I belonged to the Half-moon Pack. I knew Avery's parents too. On occasion, we would run over to your pack, and we would all hang out when your mother was younger. She had several recurring dreams. She said she believed she talked to the moon-goddess, we all told her she was crazy," I looked down, laughing at the memory.

"She knew what would come to happen to our pack and to Madeline, but she swore me to secrecy. I still didn't believe her until the day where it all came crashing down. Multiple attacks were taking place, and then the Luna got kidnapped, she came back, and suddenly a while later, she was pregnant. I met up with Lily and asked her how the hell she knew. She had just shrugged and looked at me sadly, telling me, 'It was the moon-goddess'. I couldn't call her bluff after that. She knew everything. I told her that we must tell the others, but she refused. She said that this has to happen, she said that it was fate and that this was all part of something bigger, that we had to let everything take its course. You were just a child, and she barely ever talked about you or your siblings. She did everything to protect you.

And then it happened, our pack was ruined, hundreds dead, the Alpha and Luna called for a truce after that, some pack members joined the rival pack, and some found homes in neighboring packs, and some of us, like me the ones you slaughtered out there, became rogues and have been living on our own ever since. Our leadership abandoned

us, all because they didn't believe we would win and maybe wouldn't have, but a real Alpha couple fights with their pack until the end. They chose the end before it could choose them."

Amber's POV

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"So you're really feeling better, huh?" I asked Avery with a hint of uncertainty. I didn't want her to pretend like she was fine just to please me or the others. However, I could smell my brother on her, so I'm guessing something perked up her mood. "I'm fine, Amber, I promise! Seriously I haven't felt this good in a long time. I would really love to hang out with you, though, outside these bars, maybe a spa day and then some shopping?" She looked at me with puppy eyes and a big pout.

That did sound really nice, so much so that I'm actually considering it. "We'll have to ask James first." I said, and she bobbed her head up and down. I guess some fresh air and a shopping mall wouldn't do any damage.

'Hey, Avery wants to go shopping and have lunch. Is it okay if we leave?' I mind-linked at my brother.

'Sure, just keep an eye on her at all times and never let her out of your reach. The rogues were after her.'

'WHAT?!'

' We'll talk about it later. Just keep Avery safe.'

"Uhh, Amber..." I heard Avery's voice and broke the mind link. Her eyes were wide open, and her finger was pointed towards my face, and that's when I felt that my canines were out and my claws were out. I calmed Stella down and retracted my canines and my claws, and looked back at Avery. She smiled nervously at me. I stood up and reached out my hand for her to grab.

"They're not gonna pop out again, right?" She asked, and I just rolled my eyes and took hold of her hand, pulling her up to her feet.

" Let's get you showered and changed. Then we're leaving." I told her.

"YAY!" She said, jumping up and down like a little girl. I sometimes forget that she's only eighteen years old with everything going on, but then again, given the circumstances, I think she has had to raise herself for a long time.

* * *

"Amber!" Avery whined from behind me as we walked through the mall. "I know that this was my idea, but my legs hurt, my stomach is growling at me, and I'm tired." She said as she pouted, we had been in three different stores and spent around one hour in each one. I guess it was time for lunch. I stopped beside a bench so that Avery could rest her legs. "Fine, let's eat, and then we hit the spa." Her face lit up, and after she had rested and massaged her legs for a few minutes, we walked out of the mall and headed to a sushi shop not too far away. It was right beside the spa, so it was perfect.

What Avery didn't know was that Kaden was sitting in a car that was following us in case something were to happen. So after my brother told me that the rogues were after Avery, my eyes and ears have been on high alert the entire time.

We sat down at a round table in the corner. Kaden came in not too long after and sat on the other side of the restaurant, Kaden and Avery hadn't met, so she wouldn't recognize him, and even if she did, she knew that we have warriors with us whenever we leave. I wanted her to believe that it was only the two of us.

Our food came out ten minutes after we had ordered. There weren't a lot of customers in the restaurant, which was great for privacy. "This is so good!" Avery moaned as she put a piece of sashimi in her mouth. I giggled and ate my California rolls, and we sat there talking. It was lovely. I have girlfriends, but I've never had a sister, and that's exactly what Avery was, she was my sister, my family, and I'll be damned if anything ever happens to her.

"How come you're feeling so good all of a sudden?" I asked her, genuinely curious as to what changed. Avery tensed a bit upon hearing my question but quickly relaxed, and a smile grew on her face. I can't say it was honest though. "I honestly don't know, I just feel amazing, and whatever happens, whatever goes down and however things turn out, I am so grateful for you, and for Alex and James, you guys gave me a family." She answered as she took my hand. I found her response a little weird, almost like she was planning something or like she knew something that I didn't. I shook that feeling away, wanting to focus on Avery.

"You ready for a massage?" I said as we were heading out of the restaurant. "You have no idea." Avery groaned.

We were walking towards the car, Avery was talking about how rejuvenated she felt, and I made a mental note to book a spa day for the two of us at least once a month.

"Anything else you wanna do before we head home?" I asked her as I started up the car.

"No, I would really like to go home, maybe spend some time with Alex. Now that I feel better, he might actually be able to teach me how to fight." She said with a smirk on her face.

And so we drove home.

As I parked the car, I saw Sofia outside talking with Amanda. I decided to listen in on their conversation.

"You're going to get caught if you continue this." Amanda whisper shouted to Sofia, her phone rang, and Sofia walked away. What the hell is that girl up to?

"Amber?"

"Hey Amber!?" I snapped my focus back to the car and saw Avery was trying to say something.

"Are you okay?" She asked me.

"Yeah, I'm fine. I just have a thing that I need to sort out. Why don't you go find Alex." I told her with a smile as we exited the car.

"Alright, and hey, thank you so much for today. You have no idea what this meant to me." She said as she hugged me.

"Anytime, Aves, I love you."

"I love you too." And with that, we pulled back, and Avery went into the house. I went to see what the bitchy she-wolf was up to. But I couldn't help the sickening feeling that something was up, the look on Averys' face, and the display of her gratitude and love as if she was thanking me for something that wouldn't last.

Avery's POV

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I went into the house and saw several of the pack warriors and members walking around, but as soon as I entered, many of them turned their eyes on me and started whispering to each other. Do they know?

"Hey, Avery!" I looked to my left and saw Chase jogging towards me with a big goofy smile on his face. When he reached me, he wrapped his arms around me, and I reciprocated the hug.

"Hi, Chase," I said with a smile as well, his happiness easily rubbed off on you.

"How are you?" He asked; his eyes lingered a little too long, I saw the pity in them, and I don't know why, but seeing someone pitying me makes me frustrated.

"I'm good, thank you, but Chase, please stop looking at me like I'm some broken little girl." I said with a smug smile on my face. I didn't want him to think that I was mad at him, so I tried to be funny. I can't say I succeeded, though.

"Sorry." He said as he cleared his throat.

"Does everybody know?" I wasn't sure if I wanted to know the answer, but not knowing felt just as bad. Chase looked around the hall at everybody whispering and watching sneakily.

"Yeah, umm, unfortunately, there has been some talk about you around the pack, but the gamma has made it clear to everyone that it's forbidden, but they can't be around to keep tabs on anyone all the time, sorry."

"Don't be. It's okay. Honestly, they can't possibly know everything that's going on with me because even I don't." I said and jokingly slapped his arm.

"Do you wanna grab something to eat?" Chase asked me and pointed towards the kitchen.

"I actually had lunch with Amber earlier, but thank you. Have you seen Alex? I really need to talk to him?"

"Of course, the Beta is with the Alpha in his office." He answered and put his hands in the pockets of his sweatshirt. "Thank you, Chase, for everything." I hugged him one more time, really appreciative of everything he has done for me since I came here. He's been friendly from the start.

I made my way up the stairs and headed towards James' office. As I reached closer, I started hearing a familiar voice. The door was slightly opened.

I pushed the door open further, not wanting to sneak up on them in case they were having a private conversation. There was an unfamiliar man standing on the carpet, bloody and bruised, but why did he sound so familiar?

"Avery!" James called with a big smile on his face. My hands were clasped in front of me, and I smiled at them all.

"Sebastian, this is Avery," James said, but his eyes darkened at the mention of my name when he looked at Sebastian. James came over and put his hand on the small of my back, urging me to walk towards the unknown man. There was something about him like I had seen him before. Sebastian bowed his head in acknowledgment, and when I

saw why he didn't give me his hand, my hand flew to my mouth, and my eyes grew three times the size.

"Holy shit, sorry, babe!" James shouted as he stepped in front of me, covering the horrific sight that had been burnt into my skull.

"WHAT HAPPENED!?" I yelled. However, the words came out muffled because my hand was still covering my mouth. I was afraid I might throw up if it wasn't.

"I got a little too handsy on a certain female warrior." He said, and suddenly, any urge to throw up disappeared, and in its place was a desire to do to his other arm what the warrior had done to this one.

James carefully steps aside, leaving the man on full display.

"Hello, Sebastian." I said I looked him dead in the eyes. I had seen those eyes before.

Payment To the Alpha by Ms.M Chapter 37

Avery's POV

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"So you were going to kidnap me!? On behalf of my father!?" I asked Sebastian in shock.

I had been briefed on what had happened, why, and who Sebastian was. Needless to say, we haven't started off on the best of terms. But I still couldn't shake the sense of familiarity that came from him.

"Yes, and as I said, I'm sorry, but he has my daughter. I didn't have a choice." Sebastian said, and I could see the pain he carried. It must be an unbelievably terrifying feeling knowing someone has your child.

"I understand. I really do. But I have to ask, what was he going to do with me?" He looked over at James, who nodded his head. "He was going to sell you to the wizard." My mouth did an O-shape, and my brows lifted, and as I let it sink in, I just rolled my eyes and scoffed. I wasn't that surprised that my parents wanted to make money off me.

"I see." I said.

"You say you knew Lily and my parents. Did we ever meet? I have this feeling that I know you."

Sebastian stroked his injured arm and smiled sadly at me.

"When you were two years old, we started realizing that we were going to lose the battle. Even though we had the Knights on our side, the opposing pack had a much too powerful witch on their side. So when your parents planned to make a run for it and leave us to die, you came crawling out on the field. They didn't pay much attention to you even then. I picked you up, and you put your tiny hand on my cheek. It was like feeling the sun warm my face, the light you exuded. I didn't know what it was. But then your parents came and took you away. I had been so distracted that I didn't notice the witch's eyes on me, she did some spells, and I prepared myself for whatever was to come. But it never did.

She looked frightened by the realization. She kept lifting her hands up and down and chanting something, but nothing happened. I wasn't affected. Her eyes shifted to a friend of mine only a few feet away, and she started chanting again, he was in his wolf form, and every bone in him broke before he collapsed and died, blood pouring out from his eyes and ears as he shifted back. After that, she left. She was too scared or startled by the fact that her magic didn't work on me, and as was I. It was then that I realized that whatever you had done protected me from her magic. You protected me. I used to babysit you, I was a warrior, but whenever your parents were too busy or too tired from pretending to care, I took you, and you would sometimes be with me for a week at a time.

We would play, go on adventures. We actually went to visit here once too, the BloodMoon pack. I was visiting Lily, so I brought you with me. I guess some part of you felt that I didn't deserve to die. You protected me, Avery."

"And you were going to sell her to the person we're trying to protect her from. Nice way to repay someone for saving your life." Alex snapped at him. "Alex, my father, has his daughter. I said that I understand and that it's fine and it is, plus I think everyone is forgetting something fundamental about the story." I said as I looked around at everyone. When my eyes landed on Natasha, she was smiling, and I knew that she picked up on it too.

"You did magic." She said, and everyone's eyes perked up as they looked at me.

"Does that mean that I'm a witch?" I asked as I kept my eyes on Natasha. I already knew the truth, but I couldn't say that, and I wanted to see what they would say. "Well, you already know that you're related to one, so yeah, perhaps the genetics from the witch's side is that strong." She responded, not the truth but not a lie. I'll take it.

"That's pretty cool, you guys." I squealed as I looked at James and Alex with a smug smile and a raised eyebrow. "Haha, yes it is a cupcake. Perhaps you can kick ass after all."

"Oh, that she can. She just doesn't know it yet." Sebastian said as he looked at me with a soft smile and loving eyes. "Your daughter, perhaps we can help you with that. I'll

make a few calls." James said as he looked at Sebastian. "I would be forever grateful." He responded.

"Great! Well, as you guys do that, Alex, I thought that now that I'm almost normal again, we could give training another shot? I promise I won't get mad." My voice sounded weak, and it was. I felt terrible for how I acted towards him the other day. My head was tilted to the side, and I pouted when he took too long to answer. "Sounds great, cupcake." I bit my cheek, fighting back the annoyance from that name, and smiled at Alex. I went up to him and grabbed his hand as we walked out of the office.

James' POV

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Avery and Alex were about to leave my office, but before they did, Avery turned around and walked up to me, giving me a hug and a kiss on the cheek. "I'll see you later, okay?" She said with that soft, melodic voice. "You better." I said as I grabbed her cheek and kissed her hard and long before letting go.

Her cheeks were flustered, and she kept her eyes on the floor as they walked out.

The tension in my office could be cut with a knife, Sebastian and Natasha were having a staring contest, and I was just standing there with a lifted eyebrow, wondering how the fuck I ended up here.

After a few moments of neither of them breaking eye contact, I decided to speak up.

"Either you two kill each other, or we get on with trying to save your daughter. Which will it be?" Sebastian looked at me eagerly while Natasha was looking like a smug ten-year-old who just won.

"Great, let's do this."

* * *

I had been calling around ten different packs. None of them had any idea where Jack might be, and they didn't have any interest in helping mainly because they thought the Smiths had some powerful people on their side. "Do you know who they have, backing them up?" I asked Sebastian after I hung up the phone call from the tenth pack.

"I honestly don't. I have heard stories going around that they sided with an enemy pack, and some say that they work for the wizard, but nobody knows the truth." He answered.

We don't have much to go on, and calling the wrong pack for help could draw unnecessary attention to ours. "Maybe we don't need to look for her. They wouldn't harm her, knowing the penalty for such crime. The wizard wants Avery. Sooner or later,

he is going to come searching for her. I bet he will have the Smiths and your daughter when he does.”

It was mostly a hunch, but as of right now, that’s all we had to go on. Crow would come looking for Avery, and when he did, he would bring any and all means necessary to make sure she goes with him. If the Smiths were going to use Sebastian’s daughter as a ransom, then she would come with them too.

”We will have to sit back and wait, I’m afraid.”

”YOU WANT ME TO WAIT WHILE MY DAUGHTER IS OUT THERE BEING HELD BY THOSE SONS OF BITCHES?!” Sebastian roared, shaking the paintings on the wall. He has a strong wolf.

”You trespassed onto my territory with the intention to kidnap my girlfriend, injuring my warriors. If sitting back and waiting isn’t good enough for you, then, by all means, I’ll kill you instead.” I growled as I got up in his face, ready to break the fucker’s neck.

Sebastian wisely stepped back and bowed his head. His wolf may be strong, but mine is and will always be the strongest in this country, and he will be respected as such too.

I mind-linked Damon,

’Tell three of our best warriors to go searching for Sebastian’s daughter. I have a shirt of hers in my office. I don’t want them back until she has been found.’

’Yes, Alpha.’

”The shirt that belonged to your daughter give it to me.” He handed me her shirt, and Damon came up not long after, taking the shirt to the warriors so that they could catch her scent.

”Thank you.” Sebastian said. His eyes were glistening. He was on the verge of crying.

”Have a seat. We need to talk.” I gestured for him to sit down on the sofa as I took a seat in the armchair.

”You said that Avery protected you against magic. How come you weren’t protected by Natasha’s?” I had been wondering this ever since he told the story, but I didn’t want to ask in the presence of Avery in case I already knew the reason.

Sebastian looked over at Natasha,

”Does he know?”

”Yes.” She answered, and his head turned back to me.

"They share the same bloodline. That's why it didn't work. The protection Avery put on me could only be removed by her or by somebody who shares the same blood. Natasha's little stunt removed the protection."

"You were going to shift. It wasn't a little stunt. I was keeping your ass from killing everybody." Natasha snapped.

"I wasn't going to kill James, who I'm guessing you're referring to because he and his family are the only ones you've ever given a damn about. Except for yourself, of course. I only wanted to kill the bitch." I gave away a warning growl, and Sebastian started shifting uncomfortably on the couch.

"You touched her, she responded in the way she should have, and when you speak of the members of this pack, you speak with respect." Blade was now surfacing, taking control. Whatever happened hereon after was up to Sebastian.

"My apologies, Alpha. I just haven't heard of many female warriors."

"In this pack, anyone who wants can be a warrior. Everyone is equal." I said as I lifted my head. I had always prided myself on the fact that we had both male and female warriors. I heard how other packs never let women out in wars and battles. To me, that was baffling.

"It is rarely heard of, but it is admirable."

"That is why we are the strongest pack because we train everyone to reach their full potential, to fight, and to win." Sebastian looked at me with amazement brimming in his eyes, but also confusion was written on his face.

"You are just like your mother. She would never take credit for anything either. James, this pack isn't the strongest and the most feared because of the warriors. It's because of their Alpha. People don't fear and respect your pack. They fear and respect YOU." He said, and I bit down hard,

"A pack is only ever as strong as their Alpha, which is why we lost, both the battle and our dignity." Sebastian continued. He leaned back onto the couch as he remembered the downfall of his pack. I had heard of it. It was bloody and gruesome. They never stood a chance.

Avery's POV

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"Get your lazy ass up and start punching me!" Alex yelled at me when I laid down on the grass, catching my breath, and enjoying the endorphin rush happening inside me right now.

"Oh, come on, five minutes!" I whined, but before I could fully enjoy the feeling, Alex grabbed my hand and yanked me up on my feet.

"You can rest later. Let's do this." He said as he held the pads up, and I started throwing punches. I may not be strong, but I actually made his arm move at least a few inches with the right technique and breathing.

"You got this cupcake!" I stared him dead in the eyes and threw another punch. This time, his arm moved a lot more than a few inches, and his mouth made an O-shape.

"Haha, that was AWESOME! Now I know what gets you going, anger." He said with a smirk. I was really wondering when we could remove the pads, and I could punch him in the face, preferably after drugging him so that I could run away once I had hit him.

"Alright, we're done for today. You did great, Avery. It's good to have you back." A sense of guilt washed over me when I saw the happiness in his eyes. He had been so worried. They all were.

But I needed to follow my heart.

"It's good to be back. Come on." I said as I grabbed his arm, and we went to sit on one of the benches next to the training fields.

"What's on your mind?" Alex asked me before he gulped down the water from the bottle.

"I wanted to apologize to you for how I acted the last time we worked out. I don't know what got into me. I could say it was the wizard and make myself feel better, but I'm not entirely sure that it was. Maybe partially. But anyhow, I just wanted to say I'm sorry, I think it's lovely how much you care about me, 'and I'm just not very used to it.'" I said as I shrugged my shoulders and put my hands on my knees. Certain conversations made me uncomfortable, and the ones where feelings were exposed were the worst ones.

"It's okay. You're going through some weird shit, kid. There's nothing to apologize for. I will always care about you and protect you and annoy the shit out of you. Because that's what family does." He said as he took my hand and looked me in the eyes. He was sincere. This is going to be harder than I thought.

"Alex, umm, you're like the brother I always wish that mine was. You're so loving, joyful, and serious all at once. You can make anyone laugh and cry at the same time. You're so special, and I want you to really understand that" Alex's smile dropped and was replaced by a frown, his eyebrows furrowed, and his eyes were scanning mine.

"I need you to know how special you are and how eternally grateful I am for everything you've done. I know that in the beginning, I was just supposed to marry James and that I was sold to him, but along the way, something changed. You guys have become my family, and I wouldn't trade that for anything in the world."

"Avery, what's going on? Why does it sound like you're saying goodbye?" I bit my tongue and dug my nails into my hand, trying to fight back the tears.

"I'm not. It's just. You never know what's gonna happen. We have no idea what we're about to face. I just want to know that I've said everything in my heart, so I don't have any regrets." I said, hoping it would somewhat comfort him, reassure him in some way.

"Nothing is ever going to happen to you, Avery. No one will let it."

That's the problem. I thought to myself.

"I know. Alright, enough of this. Seriously, everything is fine. I just needed to get that off my chest. Let's go eat. I'm starving."

I stood to my feet and started walking before I realized that Alex wasn't behind me. I turned around and saw him sitting on the bench, looking out over the fields.

"Hey, you coming?" I asked him, and his head turned to me slowly. He showed me a sad smile before getting up. I could see the sorrow in his eyes. He knows.

'No, but he assumes that he does. So leave it that way.'

The voice in my head that I now know who it is said. Her voice only comes in moments where I'm desperate. And this was truly one of those moments.

Payment To the Alpha by Ms.M Chapter 38

James' POV

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I was sitting in the dining hall with Sebastian and Natasha. We were eating, and Natasha was telling me about how she and Sebastian knew each other,

"My father needed allies amongst the werewolf kind, and so he reached out to a few different packs. The half-moon pack was one of them. Madeline didn't know anything about him at the time and wanted to go along with his offer; however, Sebastian here didn't. He sensed that my father wasn't a person you wanted to be on the same team with, he also came asking this pack, but your parents refused, however a pack of this magnitude and strength was exactly what he needed, and that's when I came in the picture.

He refused to leave the pack alone and was ready to start a war against you. When Carlos told me this I decided to pay you a little visit and the second he knew that I was apart of the knight family he began plotting and planning. Sebastian was going to help him,"

"Forced to help him." He corrected. "They were going to ambush you and Crow was going to hem my magic so that I wouldn't be able to help, however, he changed his plans suddenly, I don't know why, but Sebastian and I got into it because he knew Derick, they were cousins. I and Sebastian just Never got along and when I found out who he was I realized the reason.

We both lost someone we loved, and we both lost him to my father, we were each other's memories of him and I guess neither of us could handle it."

I looked at Natasha who seemed to feel guilty, and Sebastian wore the same feelings, however now we all have the same enemies so we must work together or we are all fucked.

"Hey!" Avery and my brother came walking into the dining hall and grabbed some food before coming to sit with us.

Hey Blade, does Alex seem weird to you?

'He seems upset.'

What happened?

A long silence followed before Blade answered me.

'I don't know, but I think it's best we don't ask him. A lot of things are happening right now, James, but the worst has yet to come.'

You're being cryptic again.

I said in annoyance.

I didn't get an answer. Blade was ignoring me.

"How is everything?" Avery asked in her sweet honey-laced voice, making me want to take her and lock us in the bedroom alone for eternity. God, I love her.

"Everything is good. I'm truly sorry about what I was going to do." Sebastian answered her.

"It's okay, really, you didn't have much of a choice."

"James, I was wondering after we have eaten if you have time to take a walk with me?" Avery asked as she placed her hand on mine, Alex looked at me with worry, what the hell is going on?

"Of course." I simply answered any time spent with Avery is time well spent.

She smiled and continued eating before anyone could say anything else Amber stormed in looking furious. " we need to talk!". Everyone turned their attention to Amber and we all got up on our feet, except for Avery who had a mouthful of potatoes and chicken in her mouth. She looked upon everyone, and then locked eyes with me and shrugged.

"I'm hungry." I smiled at her cuteness before placing a kiss on her cheek.

"You stay here and eat, I'll be right back." Avery nodded and ate her food while the rest of us walked towards my office.

To my surprise, when I walked into my office, Sofia was standing there, her hands cuffed behind her back and a guard by her side.

"What the hell is this?" I asked, looking at Amber.

"Sofia has been talking to Crow." Amber answered. Sofia looked scared and startled all at once. She shook her head frantically.

"No! I swear I haven't!" She tried defending herself, I tried thinking rationally but both me and Blade were on a thin thread and ready to kill anyone who has any information or any participation in the thing happening.

I looked over at Amber who was seething, her face was red and her fists were shaking.

"Explain." I said using my alpha tone.

"When Avery and I got back home, I heard Sofia talking to some other she Wolves, she got a phone call and walked away, I followed her and heard that she was talking to him, they were talking about an attack, and about Avery." She said and when she said Avery's name I could sense Stella surfacing and Amber took a step forward.

"SHE'S LYING!!" Sofia screamed and Amber's eyes were now glowing, Stella had control.

"She's lying I swear that's not what the call was!" Sofia said again looking mad as hell and Amber started walking towards her.

"ENOUGH!" I roared, making everyone freeze and causing Stella to stand down.

I looked over at Sofia who was shaking, I couldn't take any risks.

"Take her to the dungeon." I said and Sofia once again started shaking her head as she tried to free herself from the silver cuts on her wrists.

"No! You can't do this! I will kill you!" The guard dragged her out of my office and before they made it over the threshold I saw Sofia's eyes turn yellow, she was trying to shift,

however, it was meaningless, and she wouldn't be able to shift with silver, containing her wolf.

"James I will kill her." Amber said and I looked over to Alex and the others who were standing there, the only two people who weren't mad but looked rather confused, were Natasha and Sebastian.

"Something is wrong." Natasha said as she looked towards the door.

"I don't understand, why would one young she-wolf do this to her own pack?" Sebastian asked looking at me as if he was expecting a certain answer.

"Because she's in love with the Alpha." Alex answered.

I looked at Sebastian, he was still looking at me, expecting an answer and not just an answer but the answer, what was he fishing for?

"You believe she was set up." I stated and apparently, that was the answer that Sebastianian was waiting for.

He took a step back and gave a slow nod before looking over to Natasha.

"You have a traitor within your pack." Natasha said and everyone's guard went up.

We knew we had a traitor, we just thought we sent that traitor to the dungeon, but it seems that we didn't.

Avery's POV

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I had just finished my third chicken leg and felt like my stomach was about to burst. I guess working out really makes you build up an appetite, I had never eaten this much in my entire life.

I exhaled and rubbed my belly with my hand, I looked at my wrist to see what time it was and if James is held up with the meeting, I have time to take a twenty-minute nap.

An omega came and took my plate and while I was sitting there, contemplating on whether or not I could stand without falling over, a hand was put on my shoulder and I turned around quickly, seeing Michael and Amanda standing there.

"Hey, um, we were wondering if we could talk to you?"

"Sure, have a seat." I said and gestured with my hand for them to sit.

"No, this table is for ranked members." I looked at Amanda funny after hearing her words but decided not to go against the order around here, and so we walked out of the dining hall and into the community room. We sat down on the couch, and I was starting to worry that this conversation wasn't just a normal one.

"Have you heard about Sofia? Amanda asked me, and she looked as if she was pushing back her tears.

"No, what's going on?" Has something happened to her? Why were they asking me about this? It's not like we're friends?

"She was sent to the dungeons because the Gamma believes she was working with some wizard." Amanda said while flapping her arms.

"Well, has she?" I asked, trying not to sound too confident, they don't know anything, and I can't spill it to them.

"No! Of course not, she doesn't know any wizards or witches except for Natasha." Amanda quickly defended.

"Look, Avery, I know that you and Sofia aren't on the best terms but could you try and see what the hell it's all about? She would never betray her pack or her Alpha, and regardless of her feelings towards you, she would never harm you, she wouldn't risk getting banned or killed even." Michael said, and I started to wonder what had happened, Amber would have never punished an innocent member, which must mean that there was proof of Sofia's betrayal.

"Look, I understand that you guys are worried about your friend, but she would have never been sent away had there not been any proof." I looked at them with pity, because I understood the charges Sofia was facing and that they worried about her, but there was nothing that I could do.

"We understand that, but if you-

"Hey, what's going on?" We all turned our heads towards the voice and saw Chase walking in.

"Have you heard what happened to Sofia?" Amber said as she ran up to him and grabbed his hand.

"Yeah, I heard, serves her right don't you think?"

"How can you say that?" Amanda said on the verge of tears.

"I think we all know that the alpha would never have sent an innocent pack member away like that, there was proof, the Gamma heard her, and because of that, Sofia was

caught before she could do any damage to the pack." Michael stood and looked angrily at his friend. "Damage to the pack or to Avery?" He asked.

"What!?" I stood to my feet and looked between Chase and Michael.

"The Alpha is protecting our pack, and just because you're friends with that bitch you're blind to what she's doing!" Chase screamed, and Michael jumped over the couch and got up in his face. "Watch your fucking mouth, you were friends with her too." Michael seethed.

"You're eighteen aren't you?" Chase asked as he looked at Michael with a smug grin.

"So?"

"And Sofia turns eighteen in a few weeks, missing that mate of yours do you?"

Only then did it dawn on me, they're mates, no wonder Michael was being so protective and worried.

Chase crossed his arms over his chest as he looked at Michael, something tells me that this will end badly if nobody intervenes, but what can I do? Amanda is standing there looking like she's enjoying the drama, she's looking at Chase with such admiration.

"I said, watch your fucking mouth!" Michael's claws were extended and his canines were showing, he was shifting, what the hell do I do?

"Michael calm down!" Amanda tried warning, but he wasn't hearing her, she was holding onto Chase's arm, I have to do something.

I have to think quickly.

What do I do?

Oh fuck.

I quickly got around the couch and went to stand between Chase and Michael, I held my hands on his chest, feeling his speeding heart rate.

"Michael, Michael listen to me, listen to my voice, you can't shift here, you know that, calm down and we will talk." I tried conversing with him but it wasn't working, it was to no avail, it was as if he didn't hear me.

"MICHAEL!" I screamed, but still nothing, he was responding, like he was blocked.

His eyes started to glow and his breathing became harder, he is going to shift, I was certain of it, but then, a loud ass growl was heard all through the house, the windows shook and fear struck everybody, including myself.

James entered, his eyes were black, his jaw ticked and his breathing too was hard, fast, and ragged.

"Your luna is standing in front of you and you're about to shift!!?" He growled loudly as he took slow, calculated steps towards Michael, I didn't know what to do or how to act, I froze.

"Answer me." He demanded as he got closer.

"Alpha, I'm sorry." Michael said as he bowed his head and clasped his hands in front of him.

When James got to us, he took his hand around my waist and pushed me behind him, I complied not knowing what was about to happen.

"Look at me." James demanded and Michael slowly rose his head and looked at his Alpha. James stared at him, his eyes were pitch black, Chase stepped back and so did Amanda, his alpha aura alone was enough to make others move away, and then James' aura on top of that was, magical in some twisted sense. Who was this man?

Everyone was completely silent, you could barely hear them breathing, and it wasn't a comfortable silence, but a deafening one. And then the Alpha spoke,

"Shift."

"What?" Everybody said as they looked at James in horror.

"I said, shift. Don't make me tell you again" He said, he was giving Michael the option to shift willingly.

"Alpha, with all due respect, why?" James' eyes were now glowing and I knew that Blade was speaking.

"You were going to shift and risk harming your Luna, now you can shift and face your Alpha."

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Avery's POV

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"You were going to shift and risk harming your Luna; now you can shift and face your Alpha!"

James said in a loud growl.

All of us stood there, gasping. I held my hands over my mouth, not wanting to scream. I knew that James wasn't the one being put in harm's way, yet I was worried about him getting hurt.

But Michael, Michael was only worried about his mate, he didn't have any ill intentions, he shouldn't get hurt because of it.

"James," I said in barely a whisper, but I got no reaction. I knew he heard me, but he refused to take his eyes off Michael's. He wasn't going to break eye contact.

"James, he was just worried. He didn't mean to cause me any harm." I tried reasoning with him.

"Yet he almost did." He growled angrily.

"Please, don't do this." I don't know if I would believe myself with how weak my voice sounded. In my head, I sounded a lot stronger.

James turned his head, and there and then I knew that no matter what I said or did, it wouldn't change his mind or his actions. I nodded my head and took two steps back.

"SHIFT!" Blade roared, forcing a shift upon Michael, and that he did. His bones were breaking, his wolf was surfacing, and his canines were showing. A loud growl came from his wolf the second he had shifted, but why isn't James shifting?

Michael's wolf looked around the room, not in anger but in pain. He then looked into the eyes of his Alpha, and I saw why there was no need for James to shift. Michael's wolf bowed his head and bent his front legs to where it looked like he bowed. He had his tail tucked between his legs, and his ears were pressed back.

Michael's wolf was submitting. By only looking into Blade's eyes, he knew he had done wrong, he knew who was in charge, and he knew he defied his Alpha.

James' eyes were going back to his normal blues, his chest wasn't puffed out, and his shoulders were relaxing.

"Face me." The wolf rose to his paws once again and raised his head. His tail was still between his legs, meaning even James' aura was affecting him. The wolf then faced my way and started walking towards me. I felt small compared to a werewolf, but not afraid. Not now that James was here, at least.

He came up to me and bowed his head. As his head was bowed, he looked up at me, playfully and I couldn't help but giggle. Then, he nudged his snout at my hand, and so I raised it and started petting him. I never knew werewolves were so big on cuddling.

After a while, he went back to stand in front of James, Alex threw him a pair of shorts, and with a slight head bow, James indicated that Michael could shift back.

James threw him the shorts, which Michael quickly got into and then took his stance, awaiting further orders.

"Don't ever put your luna in harm's way again, or you know the consequences."

"Yes, Alpha." Michael saluted but stayed in his spot,

"Are you okay?" James asked me, and I walked up to him and grabbed his hands in mine.

"Yes, Alpha." I responded, however, more in a mocking way than Michael had. James laughed, and I believe I heard Alex snicker in the back. He knows I'm funny. He just won't admit it.

"Michael, I will talk to Sofia, but I can't tell you that she will be set free. There are things going on now that are beyond your understanding, things that must be dealt with caution, so for now, just hang tight okay?" I said in my most confident tone as I looked at Michael,

"Yes, Luna." I cringed at the word. I'm still not very okay with being called Luna, but I guess I'll have to get used to it.

James dismissed Michael, and he, Amanda, and Chase went on a run to blow off some steam.

"I believe you owe me a walk." I took James' hand, and he led me out of the room. I giggled at the memory of when I had told him that. The fact that we're going to the same place only makes it so much more wonderful. But as we were leaving the room, I made eye contact with Alex, and the way he was looking at me broke my heart, he knew something was up, and the realization hit me, why we're going to the clearing and what I have to do when we get back.

Alex's stare was so intense that I had to look away, I looked down at my feet, and the knot of guilt in my stomach grew larger. I had to bite my tongue to hold back the tears. He will understand. They all will.

"So, where exactly are you taking me?" James asked after we had walked for fifteen minutes,

"Don't you remember from the last time we walked here?"

"We're going to the clearing." He said in a knowing tone. He was smiling, good.

When we reached the clearing, the sun was starting to set, but there was still plenty of light around us, I had asked Elisabeth earlier to set out a blanket and a picnic basket by the lake, and she had. It looked perfect and romantic.

"You did this?" James asked me in shock. He went and sat on the blanket and opened the basket right away. "Is it so shocking to think that I did?" I felt the frown on my face and the sass in my voice, but I felt a little offended by the amount of shock that he portrayed. I had my hands on my hips and stared at him while he put a handful of grapes in his mouth and then looked at me.

"Well, did you?" He asked me with a raised brow and putting another grape in that big mouth of his.

"Wha," I started, but technically, I hadn't, and I couldn't lie. At least not a good one. I looked around the clearing, anywhere but at him, which probably gave me away.

"My eyes are here, love." He pointed at his eyes, and I puffed out some air before going to sit with him on the blanket. He wrapped his arm around me, pulling me tighter to him.

"No, I asked Elisabeth to do it because I didn't have time." I said as I exhaled.

"Well, it was your idea, and it was a wonderful idea. Remind me to thank Elisabeth too."

He was looking down at me as I rested my head against his shoulder. I was looking up at him, I could never have enough of looking into his eyes, and then I felt the tears coming back, threatening to fall, so I quickly averted my eyes and looked over the little lake instead.

It was a little warmer today. The sun was still bright and shining down onto the lake, making those beautiful shapes, and how I wish I could be in this moment forever. But I can't, can I? Forever isn't measured in time. It is measured in the importance of the moment you are currently living, and this moment is truly important.

"What's on your mind?" I heard him ask. I was so lost in thought that I hadn't realized he was looking at me, but then I realized it wasn't the sun that was warm, it was the gaze of the man I love, it was his touch, his love. I looked back up at him and saw everything I needed in his eyes.

"James, I-" I licked my lips and leaned up, placing a soft kiss on his lips before retracting.

"I love you." His eyes lit up upon hearing my confession, and his lip drew up, making out a grin.

"Took you long enough." I gasped at his response and playfully smacked his arm, and scooted away from him, I stared at him with the vilest eyes I could muster up.

James scooted after me and grabbed my arm pulling me to him, a small scream came out as I hit his chest. He took his index finger under my chin and lifted it up so that our eyes met.

"I have loved you since the first time I saw you, and I will love for as long as we breathe, and after that, I will love you still." This time a tear did escape, but not one of sadness, but one of happiness, love, family, belonging, so many emotions all at once. James Knight was my forever, he was my forever moment.

James' POV

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She loves me, she finally said it, and I feel like a kid. My heart has never felt this complete.

"I have loved you since the first time I saw you, and I will love for as long as we breathe, and after that, I will love you still. Always." I looked into her eyes as I made a confession of my own, one that I vow to keep always and forever. My mate, my love, my Luna.

A tear rolled down Avery's cheek and I kissed it away, I saw the happiness in her eyes. Just when I thought that everything was perfect, a lump of guilt started building up in my core. She didn't know the truth about the marriage, if there was any time to tell, now was it.

"Avery, there is something I need to tell you." I saw the uncertainty in her eyes, she was so used to hearing only bad news, and this time was no different, she was frightened.

"It's about why we must get married." I closed my eyes not able to look at her, I then turned and looked at the lake instead, so as not to turn back on what I've started to say.

"When you're parents made the deal to sell you, they wanted to make it certain that the deal went through, so they asked for a lock spell," I could see Avery through my peripheral vision, her eyebrows were furrowed and she was paying close attention.

"A lock spell is a spell where if the contract isn't held up to what the deal says, both parties will suffer. If we don't get married," I paused, not able to continue, not able to even think of the fact that she will die, I will die too but that seems minuscule in comparison to losing her.

"If we don't get married then what? What will happen?" Avery asked as she laid her hand on my arm, bringing me comfort.

"We will both die." She removed her hand and her mouth was open, she tried to speak but no words came out, I looked at her, she was panicking, I grabbed her hand in mine and cupped her face with the other.

"Hey Avery you need to breathe alright?" She nodded her head and started taking quick, short breaths.

"Slower, breath slower." And so she did, she started taking long, deep breaths and closed her eyes. She removed her hand from mine, the second time she does that and for some reason, it's really agitating. She dragged her hands over her face, and then placed them beside her on the blanket.

She bit her bottom lip and looked up at me, her eyes were big and doe and all I wanted to do was tell her that it's going to be okay but I can't.

"Why didn't you tell me?" She asked as I released a breath.

"I couldn't, I mean I, I didn't want you to marry me to save my life,"

"ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!" She yelled and I looked at her in shock for scolding me.

"OF COURSE, I'LL MARRY YOU TO SAVE YOUR LIFE, YOU DUMBASS, YOU THREATENED ME TO SAVE MINE, DID YOU NOT?!"

"Could you stop yelling, woman!?" Avery was now standing up and flinging her arms around as she yelled. I thought she would be upset, not mad.

"When do we have to get married?" She asked me as she took her place back on the blanket.

"Before you turn nineteen."

"That's only a few months." She gasped, and I nodded my head.

"Yeah, I know, but listen, I'm gonna talk to a witch I know and see if there is any way around this. Until then, let's enjoy every moment we get together." Something changed in Avery's eyes the second I said those last words. What is she holding back? Her jaw ticked as if she's biting it together to fight back something.

"Yes, let's do that." She snuggled in close to me and took my arm, wrapping it around herself. The gesture alone was cute as fuck. But what aren't you telling me?

We were looking out at the lake, and every time I looked down at Avery, she seemed so far away.”

Avery’s POV

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I felt it every time his gaze was on me. The heat warmed my entire body, his touch filled me with life, and his eyes made me forget reality.

But you can’t live in a fantasy forever, and if I keep looking into his eyes. I will never be able to do what I need to in order to keep him safe. To keep everyone safe.

”Hey James?”

”Yes, love?”

”What’s your fondest memory?”

He took some time to think about my question, I don’t know where I was going with this, but I guess I was hoping it would bring him joy wherever it was.

”I was twelve. I was walking home from school with Alex, and on our way, we took a detour to see the warriors fight. We didn’t realize how long we had been there, looking at them in awe, until my parents came out searching for us. Amber was fourteen at the time, and when she came up to us, Alex was going to act tough, like the warriors, so he tried attacking her, but my sister was older and had trained a fair share, so she beat him to the curb, not too violently of course.

My parents came, and we just played tough together, fighting, learning, laughing, and then they took us out to the village for dinner, and that night we sat up late as hell just watching a bunch of movies together.” When he explained it, there was, of course, pain in his voice, but the love in the memory trumped the pain of the loss.

”Why do you ask?” I shrugged and looked up at him.

”No reason, I want you to think of the good times whenever things get rough. Think of the love and the happiness, and know that everything will be okay.” He looked at me, and I think I saw his eyes brimming from unshed tears.

Baby, everything is going to be okay.

”Why does it sound like something bad is going to happen?”

"Something bad will always happen. Life isn't a garden of roses, especially for a werewolf, I have noticed. But in the end, they have this way of just working out for the better." I placed a kiss on his cheek and saw the smile I so longed for.

Alex's POV

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My brother and Avery were out on their date. Before they left, when Avery and I made eye contact, I could have sworn that I saw guilt in them. Earlier, when we were talking on the bench outside, it did truly sound like she was saying goodbye.

I was in my room. I was changing so that I could hit the field for some practice before going to eat. But I was detoured when a subconscious need nagged within me to find my sister.

I walked to her room and knocked on her door. When I was about to knock again, Amber swung the door open and looked at me knowingly. I wasn't the only one.

She let me in, and I sat down on the four-seat couch she had by the wall, facing her TV.

Amber came and sat beside me as she pulled her legs up under her and then a blanket over us.

"Have you been noticing anything strange about Avery?" I asked her, and she looked at me and then down at the floor.

"I mean, yeah, I guess, she was acting a little weird today, she declared her love and thanked me for everything, but I didn't really give it much thought."

"She did that to me too earlier, and she looked on the verge of tears, but I couldn't make out what it was. Do you think she's leaving?" Amber's head turned to me quickly, but she didn't look convinced.

"Honestly, Alex, I think that she's been through a lot lately, she's so young and she was tossed into this fucked up situation and this unfamiliar world and on top of that she's had a wizard bunkering in her head, I don't think she's leaving, I think she's lost."

"It's just, by the way she was speaking it sounded like a goodbye, not a cry for help." I was certain that Avery knew what she was doing, in one day she had made time to hang out with Amber, myself, and my brother. There was only laughter and happiness like she wanted one last moment with each of us. But when I explained that to my sister, she still wasn't convinced, and I hoped for everyone's sake that she was right. Because if she left, I along with everyone else would be heartbroken and my brother would tear down this entire country to find her. We would lose our Luna.

Even though Avery wasn't officially the Luna, she somehow had that connection to almost everyone.

She was respected and loved.

"Don't worry too much brother, Avery just needs some time to come to terms with everything that has happened, and she needs time to adjust. Not many people would still stand strong after what she's been through, she's my sister, I would never let anything happen to her and neither would you and especially not James. She's protected and she knows that. Go get some rest, I think it will do you good."

Perhaps that's the problem. I thought to myself.

Payment To the Alpha by Ms.M Chapter 40

James' POV

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Avery and I were walking back to the house after our little picnic. It had been an amazing evening, though I was left with a few questions, like what it was that was eating at her. She wouldn't share, and I wouldn't pressure her to. Perhaps she'll tell me tomorrow.

We were walking hand in hand when she suddenly stopped mid-track and looked at me whilst stepping closer.

"If you don't mind, could you shift? I really want to see Blade." I was a little shocked by her request being as she hadn't seen me shift many times. Only once, if I remember it correctly, but who am I to deny a request from my Luna.

I stepped back and removed my clothes, smirking when I saw Avery's eyes growing darker the further down she scanned my body.

Soon my love, soon.

The first time we made love was in a dungeon, and the second one wasn't going to be in the woods. It was going to be in our bedroom, on our bed.

Are you ready?

'Always.'

Blade took control and started shifting. When we had shifted, Blade let out a powerful roar, and Avery stood still. She didn't move. She wasn't scared. We were then standing on four paws, walking towards our mate.

"Hey, Blade." Avery reached out her hand and stroked blade's face. He nuzzled into her touch and really enjoyed the love he was getting. Because Avery didn't have a wolf, Blade didn't get to meet his other half, I did feel bad for him, but he was happy being loved by Avery.

"Soon." Avery said in a calm yet serious manner. What does she mean by soon? Why couldn't I hear Blade?

Soon what?

I didn't get an answer. The fucker blocked me out. But I could still see Avery through his eyes, and Blade was looking at Avery with such longing, with such love and pain at the same time.

Blade pushed his snout against Averys' chest, and she started scratching him behind the ears. She held his head and closed her eyes, enjoying the moment as much as Blade was.

* * *

We were back at the house now, and Avery had jumped into the shower. I was removing my shirt,

Why did you block me out earlier?

'It was a private moment.'

What can be so private when you can't speak with each other?

'Not yet.'

THEN WHEN?!

I was losing my patience with this mutt.

'Soon, and call me mutt again, and I will dig your own claws into your ass.'

Sorry, what happens soon? Earlier, Avery told you 'soon,' what did she mean?

'I can't tell you.'

I heard the uncertainty in Blades's voice, he wanted to tell me, but he really couldn't, and the only time he couldn't tell me something was when it was a direct order from Selene (The moon goddess)

I wanted to respect it, I really did, but when there were things I didn't know, there were things I couldn't control, which meant I couldn't do my job. As an Alpha, surprises are the worst things I know.

I decided to block Blade out and focus entirely on Avery tonight. We had shared such a special moment, and I didn't want the night to end. By the looks of it, neither did Avery.

She walked out of the bathroom, drying her hair with a towel, and she had another one wrapped around her body. When she saw me, she dropped the one in her hands and slowly undid the other one, giving me small peeks of that gorgeous body of hers.

She was now standing in front of me, completely naked. I could tell that she was a tad bit insecure, her cheeks were flaring up, and she bit her bottom lip. She stretched her arm and opened her hand, letting the towel fall to the ground.

She was a real tease, seeing that only stirred up the animalistic parts of me.

Avery took slow, long steps towards me until her body was pushed up against my own. Her nipples were stiff, and her breathing ragged. She drew her hands over my chest and down to my pants, her hands fiddled with my belt, her eyes never leaving mine.

Avery's POV

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I was slowly unbuckling his belt and slowly pulled it off, letting it fall to the ground before unbuttoning his pants. I stared into those beautiful eyes as I slowly started pushing his pants down, but then, like a spell was lifted off me, James' eyes dimmed over, and my whole world came crashing down.

"Rogues! Stay here, don't leave this room. I'll be right back!" James placed a soft kiss on my lips, worry evident in his eyes.

"I love you."

"I love you too," I said and then swallowed a lump in my throat.

No, no, not yet, it's too soon!

"Wait, Jam..." The door was slammed shut, and James had taken off. This wasn't supposed to end like this. We were supposed to have more time.

"SHIT!" I screamed in frustration as I fell to my knees, and then the door opened up, and a dress was thrown my way, landing in front of me.

"You started too soon! You were supposed to wait!" I screamed in frustration.

"I'm sorry, but we were running out of time. We have to leave right now before they realize."

"I just wanted some more time..." I said as a few tears rolled down. I quickly wiped them away and knew that I needed to hurry. I got into the dress and ran to the closet, taking out the bag that I had packed. I opened it up and at the top were three letters,

Too James,

Too Alex,

Too Amber,

I placed James letter on his nightstand and handed the other two to her,

"Make sure they get these, Natasha." She nodded her head and took them before offering her hand, which I grabbed. As we were walking out of the bedroom, the thing that wasn't supposed to happen did.

"Alex," I gasped as I looked at him standing there in the hall, his hands were hanging by his sides, and he didn't need to speak for me to know what he wanted to say.

"Please don't go." He said, his eyes pleading, and he took a step towards me.

"I'm so sorry, but everybody seems so hell-bent on protecting me, so it shouldn't come as a surprise that I'm now choosing to protect you." I said as I grab his hand.

"I won't let you leave. Nobody knows you're leaving, Avery. Stay, we'll figure everything out together." Alex said.

"I can't."

"And I can't let you go." His eyes were turning darker, and I knew that he had no intention of stepping aside and letting me walk.

"Then please, forgive me for this." I stepped back, and Natasha lifted her hand. With a flick of her fingers, Alex fell unconscious to the floor.

I kneeled beside him and kissed his cheek before placing his letter beside him.

"I'm sorry, Alex, but I won't allow any harm to come to my family. I promise this isn't forever."

Natasha and I walked out of the house and into the car that was waiting for us. As I had one leg in the vehicle, I turned around and took one last look at the first place that ever truly felt like home.

"I'll be back soon. I love you, James."

James' POV

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'Why aren't they dying !?' Anna yelled through the mind link as she fought a rogue while dodging attacks from another.

That was a good question. We had been fighting these rogues for twenty minutes. I had killed at least a dozen, but as if they rose from the dead, they stood back up and continued the fight.

Even weirder was the fact that none of my warriors were injured. Something was way off about this fight.

A grey rogue came at me, and I jumped up, biting down on his neck, raising off a piece of his flesh. Two others were charging at me. I dodged one while killing the other. I dug my canines into the second rogue's hind leg and ripped it clean off. This was a never-ending battle.

'Alpha, look to your left.' Damon said he had stopped fighting and was looking to my side. He looked unbothered. I turned my head and saw why. The rogues were retreating.

'What the fuck?' They weren't only retreating. They were dissolved. They disappeared like ashes spread into the forest.

'Alpha-'

'I have no fucking idea.' I quickly answered.

Why would someone send a dozen rouge ghosts or whatever the fuck that was? Nobody got injured, nobody lost their life, and it was like this was all some sort of a ...

'IT'S A DISTRACTION!' Blade let out a growl loud enough to shake every member of the pack.

'Where's the Beta?' Damon again asked. I looked around at the warriors and saw that Alex wasn't here. Blade let out a howl, which was responded not too long after, my brother's wolf came running towards us.

Cesar stopped a few feet away from the rest of us and looked around, seeming confused by the absence of dead bodies and injuries.

'Alpha...'

'What is it, Alex?'

'It's Avery; she left.'

I stared at my brother's wolf, a deep desire to kill him for reasons unbeknown to myself.

Get home. NOW!

I yelled at Blade, and he started running faster than he ever had. We were back at the house within three minutes and quickly shifted before heading in. I ran up to our room to see it empty, I looked in the closet and saw half her clothes were gone, the bag that laid here before, it was gone too.

"WHERE IS SHE?!" I growled loud enough to wake up the dead.

"She's gone." Alex said, standing by the door frame.

"I CAN SEE THAT! WHERE THE FUCK DID SHE GO!?" I growled while walking up to my brother, grabbing him by the throat and lifting him off the floor.

"Hurting me isn't going to bring her back!" He said, unfazed by my hold, he was upset too. I let go and he dropped back to his feet, he straightened his t-shirt and started walking over to the nightstand.

"She left with Natasha earlier. I had noticed her weird behavior, but I tried not to read too much into it. Then today with he rogue attack, not many rogues or wolves, in general, are suicidal enough to step foot onto this territory. Yet a dozen came? I knew that something was up so I came looking for her and that's when I saw her, with Natasha and a bag in hand. She also left this." Alex said taking an envelope from the nightstand and handing it over.

I grabbed it and saw that my name was written on it, was this her goodbye letter? A FUCKING LETTER?

I felt my face heating up with rage, and my shoulders taking a predatory bow, my eyes were black and everyone in front of me became an enemy.

'You need to calm down.'

DON'T TELL ME WHAT THE FUCK TO DO!

'James, you need to breathe, you're an Alpha.'

Who just lost his mate.

'We haven't lost her, she'll be back, read the letter and you will understand.'

I decided to listen to Blade and took a few deep breaths. He was right, I'm an Alpha. Regardless of the circumstances, I can't lose my temper or I will lose control over everything. I will become feared instead of respected, the one thing I swore would never happen.

I looked at my brother and the warriors standing by the door, when suddenly they were pushed aside by two frantic she-wolves. My sister and Lisa. They entered the room in a hurry, and it looked like the air was punched out from Amber's lungs.

She stared at the emptied closet and at my angry expression and quickly put the pieces together.

"She's gone." Amber said in a sigh.

I was still holding the letter from Avery. Alex has his and I'm guessing there is one for Amber as well.

"What's that?" Amber said as she reached for the letter that I held so tight.

I jerked my hand back, not wanting her to take it, to touch it. Why? I don't know, this is the last thing I have from Avery, and hopefully, there is some kind of explanation in it.

Amber looked at me with a frown.

"I think there's one for you too. Check your room." Alex said as he waved his letter. Amber quickly left to go check, and not two minutes had gone by before she came back. With the letter in hand.

"Have you guys read yours?" We shook our heads.

"Could everybody please leave?" I asked the people in my room, including my siblings.

"Alpha, what do we tell the pack? That our Luna has left us-"

"YOU TELL THEM NOTHING!" I roared, making everyone wince from the authority that exuded.

"My apologies Alpha." Damon said, bowing his head.

"Please. Leave." I demanded this time.

They all turned around and walked out. Lisa and Amber held hands while the others hang their heads. This loss wasn't only felt by me. But it was more excruciating for me than the others.

I walked over to the seating area and poured myself a drink. I then went and sat on the floor where Avery and I had sat the morning of Christmas day.

Staring at the letter, I finally decided to open it.

To James,