

Payment To the Alpha by Ms.M Chapter 51

James' POV

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It's 11:30, and all pack members are at their stations, getting everything ready for the pending war.

Lisa and Trish have gathered all mothers, pups, youths, and elderly inside the house. Natasha had put a spell around it, and when the war starts, all she has to do is activate it. It was a barrier; an invisible wall meant to protect the ones in the house. She said that only the strongest of the strongest could break through it. As long as Crow didn't lay his fucking hands on it, the barrier will stay intact. Alex was out on the field, preparing the warriors with Jackson. Making sure everybody knew their positions.

Alvin went with the omega, Elisabeth, to ensure that the clinic and the tents had all that they needed. The other omegas had a job to protect the different medical stations.

We don't know when Crow is coming or who he is bringing. All I know is that this will be a war, that not many will come out from alive. My job is to make sure that the casualties aren't my own. At least to the best of my ability.

I walked outside and saw a car driving up through the gate; it was Natasha.

The car circled and stopped by the entrance as she stepped out.

Natasha walked towards me. She looked like hell. What the fuck happened?

"Tell your men to close the gates," She said and walked straight past me. I passed the message to the guards through a mind-link and saw the gates come together. The last time I told them to close the gates was when Avery had just found out the truth. She has already been through so much, and I hope that after today, she can finally breathe again.

I walked inside and looked for Natasha.

"What happened to you?" I asked her when I saw her sitting by a table in the kitchen.

"Avery knows," She said.

"Knows what?"

"She knows that we're sisters." I leaned back against the chair I was sitting in.

How the fuck could she know? I looked at Natasha in confusion.

"She's been having dreams. Dreams, where she's met people, talked to them. They've guided her. One of them was Alena. My grandmother," Natasha explained with a sad smile.

"She told Avery everything. It was when she was still in the dungeon. She had been told to keep it to herself." She continued. I knew there was more to be said, so I stayed silent.

"When we got to the other location, I didn't tell Avery whose house it was or what had happened there. But she found out for herself. At first, she simply heard my mother's screams. And then, that night, she dreamt of the day when my mother was murdered." My eyes grew wide as Natasha told me everything that had happened.

"I woke up this morning to objects being moved around the room James," I felt my entire body slump down on the seat. My legs turn into jelly, and my heart felt like it stopped.

"Averys' fear and anger towards Crow caused her magic to resurface in the outer world. She is much more powerful than I imagined, and" she paused. A flicker of hope and pride showing in her eyes.

"And what, Natasha?" I asked her impatiently.

"And I think she might even be more powerful than our father." Natasha finished. Lifting her head and meeting my eyes. I felt my chest heave out. My mind not believing what Natasha had told me.

Avery has her powers. This is amazing. My mate is gaining her identity back. The one that they stole from her.

'Our powers are in our core. They cannot be removed.'

Blade repeated what he had told me once before. I scoffed at his proud tone. He wasn't proud because Avery had her powers back. He was proud because he had been right.

Natasha gave me a big smile that reached her eyes.

I felt so happy, a happiness that cannot be explained. I had carried around a pang of certain guilt for Avery being stripped of her powers. And now that she had them back, it was as if a weight was lifted off my shoulders.

"With power comes consequences. She must learn to control them." Natasha said, her face turning serious.

I wrapped my arm around her shoulder.

"That's what her big sister is for, isn't it?" I said, and Natasha laughed. I don't think I have seen Natasha this happy without being around my uncle. Both Avery and Natasha lacked the love of family. They had it from other people, yes, but none that were blood-related.

Not that it matters to any of them, however. But I do believe that this will fix something that was broken long ago.

Blade started growling in the back of my mind. My body tensed, and I flew to my feet. Natasha's eyes locked with mine, and we both knew what was happening.

A loud howl was heard from within the woods. And it didn't belong to one of ours.

Natasha and I went out of the kitchen and out the door. I walked down on the gravel and closed my eyes. Letting my other senses take over.

"It's time." I said as I turned to Natasha. Lisa was standing by the door. Her hands behind her back and awaiting an order.

"Is everybody inside?" I asked her.

"Yes, alpha,"

"Good, close the doors."

Lisa closed the doors, but before they shut completely, she turned to me,

"James, for the love of the goddess, be safe." She said.

I nodded my head, and the doors closed.

Natasha went up to the house and lifted her hands, but before she could activate the spell, the door opened, and Alex walked out.

He didn't say a word but moved towards his position. Natasha continued with her spell, and a purple shadow lifted from the ground all the way around the house.

"It's done." She said and turned to me.

Natasha was on her way to the warriors. I grabbed her arm, making her turn around.

"You have a daughter and a mate. You have no obligation to fight in this war. I am giving you an out, Natasha. Think carefully before you decide." Natasha looked at me with a raised brow.

"You're an amazing Alpha, but sometimes you can be a real idiot. We're facing my father. He killed my mother and planned on taking my sister. I appreciate you giving me an out, James, but if you had allowed them, every single person in that house would fight beside you. Do not ever tell Carlos that I told you this, but there is no better Alpha in any pack than you. Now let's go kill a wizard." She said, her voice filled with determination. Natasha stormed off towards the fields.

The warriors were lined up in their positions—all of them awaiting orders.

I turned my head and looked at Natasha, who was standing across the field. She gave me a nod, and I turned my eyes to Alex. He winked at me. He fucking winked at me. I rolled my eyes and turned my eyes to Amber. Her eyes were glowing, showing that Stella had surfaced.

That wolf had some serious revenge cravings, and she was strong, alpha-strong. I was worried about my sister getting hurt, but in all honesty, besides me, Stella was the strongest wolf out of all of them.

Alex's POV

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I was talking to the warriors. They were all clear on their positions and the war we're about to enter.

They were all prepared to fight. No pack has succeeded in taking over or winning a battle against us.

Looking over the warriors and the omegas running to their stations, I was beginning to see why. This pack was a bunch of lazy-ass werewolves who would come up with some shitty excuse to be annoying. But when it came down to it, when it came down to protecting the pack, they were all fearless. Both women and men switched some sort of button when there was a battle or a war to be fought. They were all driven to succeed, to win, to fight, and to thrive.

Jackson and I were lining up the warriors when a howl was heard from the edge of the forest. It was loud and powerful.

Everybody's eyes darkened, turning black. Some of their wolves surfacing and growling.

I looked at Jackson and felt a smirk growing on my face.

'The letter.'

Shit!

Cesar reminded me of Avery's letter.

I ran into the house and up the stairs. I threw my door open and went to pick out the letter Avery had written, only I couldn't find it. I threw out everything that laid in my drawers in search of the letter.

After nearly ripping apart my entire fucking bedroom, I saw the letter under one of the pillows that laid on the floor. Relief washing over me.

'Hurry the fuck up, Natasha is putting the spell up!'

Cesar yelled in my mind. I groaned in frustration and picked out the letter, lighting a match and holding it under the paper. The letter soon emerged into flames and turned to dust in my hands.

"See you soon, cupcake,"

I made my way downstairs and saw that the doors were closed. I pushed one of them open and stepped up, making eye contact with my brother. He looked at me suspiciously. Natasha was holding her hands up, activating the barrier.

I walked past them and made my way to the front line.

James' POV

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I saw Natasha mumbling something and used my hearing to hear what she was saying.

"James, can you hear me?" She whispered while looking at me.

I nodded my head slowly, indicating I could hear her.

"There's something I forgot to tell you,"

I furrowed my eyebrows and turned my body so that I was facing her.

"In Avery's dream, about my mother," She said, not so much as a question, but a statement, waiting to see if I understood.

I gave her a slight nod, and she continued.

"My mother had told her how to kill Crow," Natasha was speaking quietly so that the others wouldn't be suspicious and listen in.

"But Avery wouldn't tell me," She said, uncertainty laced in her words. My eyes grew wide at the realization that Avery knows something this vital and wouldn't tell Natasha. It meant only one of two things. Either it was unsure, or I will go on a killing rampage if it's true, it's something that will cause Avery harm, and she doesn't want to be stopped.

I felt my blood start to boil, anger towards the information Natasha forgot to tell me about earlier.

This leaves the outcome in Avery's hands, and she would do anything to keep everyone else safe.

Noises were heard from the forest, and I could see shadows emerging through the trees. There were several werewolves, along with the wizard and, I believe, vampires as well.

How the fuck can they have vampires during the day?

I saw Crow walking out first. Dressed in a black coat with a hood. He wore a smug smile, and his eyes were empty. My mind went back to what Natasha had told me about Avery's dream. This is one severely fucked up man.

"Hello, Alpha. It's nice to see you again," He said as he emerged from the forest. Hundreds of other people followed him—some in their wolf form and others in their human bodies.

The man standing on Crow's left looked familiar. I tried placing him. He looked familiar, and I knew I had met him before. And then it dawned on me, it was Alpha Nicholas, from the Celestial Pack. The Celestial pack was working with Crow. They may be a pathetic excuse for a pack, but they have over four hundred pack members.

Nicholas was smirking as he gave a small nod. I stared at him, my eyes blank.

"Aren't you going to greet your guest, Alpha?" Crow asked me.

"You won't live long enough for my greetings to matter." I said as I took a few steps forward.

The warriors were growling. Some had shifted and were baring their teeth.

"You're outnumbered. Now give me the girl." He said.

"As I told you before, she is no longer a part of this pack." I stated. A smile on my face grew when I saw the one on Crow fall. His eyes were getting darker, and his hands were itching to hurt someone.

My eyes went between Crow and some werewolves who were making their way towards my pack. If those wolves attacked, they would have initiated the war.

Some of my own were moving towards the intruders. They gave away warning growls, but that didn't stop them. I looked between them and Crow, waiting for their next move.

I saw something change in Nicholas' eyes. He lowered his head, his smile going into a menacing one. In the blink of an eye, he had shifted and let out a howl. And so, the war was on.

Nicholas ran towards me. As he pushed off from the front and lunged at me, I rolled my eyes and grabbed his wolf by the throat.

"I thought I told you to show me respect," I said and flung him towards Crow.

Crow's jaw tensed, and he lifted his hands. He was moving them around in circles in front of him, and flames were starting to surround him. He gave me a cynical smile and pushed the flames at me.

A strong wind came and twirled around the fire, suffocating it. I looked over to my left and saw Natasha's hands lifted in the air and looking at Crow.

Avery's POV

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I was sitting outside on the porch, looking over the burnt-down garden. Not a single plant or flipper was alive. Natasha told me before she left that I should get ready. The war is about to start.

Before she left, Natasha also asked me again about how to kill Crow. I simply shook my head, and she sighed, taking her to leave. I couldn't tell her how my own and Crow's lifelines were entwined. How after he used the dark magic to get inside my head, he also locked himself within my soul—kind of disgusting when I think about it.

But it also gives me exactly what I need to kill him. I will try every other possible way to end his life. But if nothing else works, then I must do what I have to. This isn't about him or me or even James. It is about every werewolf out there.

I was staring at the depressing scenery before me. Thinking about all of the horrific things that had happened in this house. Then all of a sudden, a small flame appeared before my eyes.

"See you soon, cupcake." I heard Alex's voice as the flame grew to the size of my hand before slowly dying down.

It's time.

I stood up quickly, grabbed the keys lying beside me, and ran down to the car.

It was a fifty-minute drive to the pack, and I had to hurry. I entered the key and started the engine, pressing down on the gas pedal, and the car flew forward in a hurry.

I know I must have broken several traffic rules, but all I could think about was my family right now.

I drove up on the road that led to the gate and saw that they were closed.

I stopped the car and ran out, deciding to go through the woods. I heard growls, screams, and snarls. I used the sounds to lead me to the packhouse. I ran over branches and zigzagged through the trees. Jumping over rocks and doing everything I could to reach them.

After running for, I don't know how long, I started to see movement and knew that I was closing in on them. I emerged from the woods, only to freeze by my nightmares flashing before my eyes. Only this wasn't a dream. I wasn't going to wake up from this. Wolves were jumping at each other, biting down, ripping the flesh off the other. Those in their human form were fighting each other until one ended up dead. There was blood, body parts, and corpses lying scattered on the ground. I felt my stomach turning and looked around. And the view my eyes landed on caused the air in my lungs to vanish. My throat was tightening, and I tried so hard to keep my heart rate steady.

I watched as Crow held vines around James' neck, strangling him. He was holding Natasha in the air with one hand, and the other, he used to control the vines. I saw blood trickling down James' neck. They had thorns on them. The thorns were digging into his flesh.

I gasped at the sight and ran out of the woods and into the masses.

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Avery's POV

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"NO!" I screamed as I ran up to James. His eyes widened when he saw me, and he tried his best to shake his head. But with even the slightest of movement, the thorns pushed deeper into his skin. Crow turned around, and a smile grew on his face. A smile that could make the bravest shake with fear.

"Well, well, well. Who do we have here?" He asked as he scanned me from top to bottom.

Making me shiver in disgust.

"Let go of him!" I yelled, walking closer to the man I was here to kill.

"By all means," He said and released his control of the vines. I looked over to Natasha floating in the air, and immediately the memories of her mother came flashing in my mind.

"Her too," I said sternly.

Crow laughed and closed up his open palm, leaving Natasha to fall to the ground.

I ran up to James and got down on my knees. Wrapping my arms around his, helping him back up on his feet.

"What is your plan?" James asked me. Worry and anger the most evident emotions showing in his eyes. I take it, Natasha has told him.

I gave him a lopsided smile and let go of his arm, stepping up to Crow.

Crow raised his hand, and as if someone pressed a mute button, everybody on his side stopped what they were doing. They all backed up, leaving our warriors and myself equally confused.

I watched as Natasha got back on her feet. Worry was swimming in the pool of her eyes as she looked at me. All warriors were gathering behind me, keeping their eyes locked on Crow.

James took a few steps forward. His hands balled up into fists. But as he was about to reach me, Crow flicked his hand, and James flew back. He was caught by Alex, whose eyes were black. He was covered in blood and had bite marks up and down his arms.

"This is between you and me," Crow said as he looked at me.

I nodded my head before turning to James. His eyes were glowing, and his canines were showing.

"It's okay," I said with a smile.

I could feel their energies around me. Everybody was tense, waiting to attack once more.

I turned my gaze back to Crow. Trying to keep my face as void of emotions as possible.

"Speak," I said. Shocked by the authority in my voice. As was he, but only for a second before he covered it up with a sickening smile.

Crow raised his hand and gestured for someone to come forward. From behind him, many familiar faces were shown. I gasped in shock as I watched my old family step forward, all of them looking disgustingly proud, except for Isabel, who didn't know what was happening. She waved her small hand at me when she saw me, and my eyes lit up when I saw her toothy smile.

Another girl was walking beside her. She was younger, and she wasn't happy. She was looking down on the ground, sucking on her thumb. I didn't recognize her.

"Melody!" I heard someone yell. I looked to my side and saw Sebastian running towards the little girl.

Her face lit up, and tears escaped her eyes when she saw him.

"Daddy!" She screeched and ran towards him.

Crow held his hand up, and Melody froze, mid-track, one foot off the ground.

"ENOUGH! If you want anything from me, you will let her go. Children are not to be harmed. I am here now, and as you said, this is between you and me." I shouted and stared at Crow, befuddled at how he could be so heartless. Crow scanned my face, and he must have seen that I was serious because he let her go.

Melody ran into the arms of her father, and he lifted her. He turned to me and mouthed 'Thank you,' before walking away.

I gave my baby sister a weak wave, hoping she wouldn't be caught in the middle of something. Perhaps she already was. I continued watching the crowd of people stepping forward. I knew many of them.

But then my eyes landed on a face I thought I would never see again, Liam. The guy I thought was the love of my life. The guy that cheated on me and broke my heart.

I saw Crow studying my face as I watched everyone come and stand beside him. I couldn't hide my shock. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't mask it as the others can.

Liam, however, didn't look happy. He looked miserable, as if he was in pain.

His eyes were pleading, and I could tell that he wanted to say something. But before he could, my mouth opened, once again without me giving the clear.

"You're a werewolf?!" I blurted out.

Liam gave me a weak smile and nodded his head. But he didn't speak. He opened his mouth to say something, but one look from my father had him close it again.

Crow stepped aside, leaving my old family in front of me. He flicked his hand, and my father fell to his knees, screaming in agony. My mother and Isabel looked at him in shock.

"What are you doing?!" My mother asked Crow as she ran to my fathers' side. Isabel is only a child. She shouldn't have to see this.

Next, Crow flicked his hand again, and my mother fell beside her husband.

Isabel was fighting to keep back the tears. She was shaking in fear.

"Please stop! What is happening?" She yelled in a high-pitched voice. Her tears streaming down her face, and she didn't know what to do.

I saw Crow giving me a look and then looking at my sister. I shook my head violently. He wouldn't...

"No," I said in a gasp.

"You know what you need to do," He said.

My parents were screaming on the ground, and I couldn't care less about them. But they were good to her. They were good to Isabel. She didn't deserve to lose her parents.

He was about to flick his hand.

"NO! I'll Do It!" I screamed. My eyes were on my little sister.

When she saw me, she ran up to me. Her white hair was in a low ponytail, and she swung around as she ran.

"Not yet, sweetheart," Crow said and snapped his fingers. Isabel fell to the ground.

"NO!!" I yelled as I ran up to her. Her small body laying on the ground. I put my hand on her neck, hoping to feel a pulse. My hand was shaking as it touched her warm skin.

I sighed in relief when I felt it. She was breathing.

I looked at Crow with such hatred and stood back up on my feet.

"She's just a child!" I screamed.

"So was Natasha. Children are stronger than you think," He said, and I looked back. I saw Natasha staring daggers at Crow.

"They are still children." I said.

"Let them go!" I pointed to my parents, who were now lying down and spasming in pain.

He raised his hand, but what he did only inflicted more pain as they became quiet. Their mouths and eyes were wide open.

"They're dying, Avery. What's your plan?" He asked me.

It was too late to think of another way. I was reaching for the syringe in my back pocket. But before I could grab it, Crow let Isabel's parents go. Saying my parents sounded so false because they weren't.

I let my hand fall back down and watch as they gasped for air on the ground.

"Let's leave, shall we?" He said and extended his hand.

"NO!" I heard James roar from behind me. I looked back and saw him shifting into Blade.

He ran towards us. Flashes of my nightmares came playing on repeat in my mind.

This was exactly how it happened. At that moment, right there and then. Everything moved in slow motion. I looked back at Crow, who raised his hand, a smile on his face. The same smile he had in the room the night he killed Natasha's mom.

Blade was sprinting, ready to attack Crow.

I'm sorry, James. But you can't die.

I turned around and saw Blade lunging himself from the ground. When he was about to jump over me, I raised my hand. I don't know how I did it, but I moved my hand, and Blade flew several meters away. Landing on the ground.

Everybody looked at me in shock, and as if someone pushed play, everything moved faster than ever. Crow waved his hands around, creating flames. They swirled around him, looking like waves on the water, but instead of harmless water, it was a deadly fire.

Crow pushes forward his hands, sending the tree high flames towards the...packhouse.

Oh no.

I gasped and looked in shock as the flames moved faster than I could run. I saw them reach the house, but they were stopped, unable to get through. Natasha had put up a barrier.

The fire laid itself like a blanket across the force field, pushing it in. A smile grew on my face when I realized that they weren't going to burn down the house.

But just then, as it seems to happen a lot, my smile dropped. I saw the fire igniting the grass from underneath the shield. It was making its way in from underneath.

I looked around, trying to find Natasha, and when my eyes locked with hers, I saw that I wasn't the only one finding this odd. She shook her head, and her eyes were wide in disbelief.

Crow was focused on the fire. I had to do something.

'Are you ready?'

Ready for what? Who is this?'

'Are you ready to show them who you truly are?'

Xena?

'Yes,'

I'm ready.

It felt as though my body was on fire from the inside. Every bone in my body breaking and dislocated. The screams coming out sounded nothing like my own.

This was unlike any pain I had ever felt before. I felt myself grow. I felt my bones extending and my head shifting.

I heard that this process could take a long time, but as if Xena sensed the hurry, I had shifted.

I looked down at my paws and saw that they weren't white. They were silver. The sun shining on them made them glisten.

I looked around, and everybody was staring in shock.

They look so small,

'They aren't. I'm just huge.'

Let's go.

Xena took off and ran towards the packhouse. She was moving so quickly and gracefully, and I couldn't believe what was happening.

Xena, the barrier!

'I think it's time you learn who you are too. Once we're through, it's up to you.'

She said and jumped off the ground and right into the barrier. I was prepared to be hit by a wall, but Xena flew through the barrier, shattering it into pieces as I did in my dream.

The barrier being shattered, however, didn't only mean that we got through. It meant that the fire did too.

I shifted back as soon as Xena's paws landed on the ground. I looked up and saw the fire circling the house, clinging to the walls.

Rage and fear for the people inside the house washed over me, and I reached down to take the syringe. Only to realize that I was naked. I didn't have it.

'Out with your arms, Avery. Embrace your powers.'

I stretched out my arms and relaxed as much I could. I felt a surge of power radiate from inside, bubbling up like a volcano ready to erupt. A light started to surround me, and my hair was blowing across my face.

I looked at Crow. His eyes were, for the first time, wide. He was shocked, and he couldn't mask it.

I used my hands and called for the fire. I called for the flames to obey me. I circled my hands, collecting the flames in a tornado. I searched the masses looking for him, for James. I saw Blade's eyes looking at me.

"Bring me my pants. There is a syringe in it. I need it." I said quietly. Blade ran towards my clothes and picked them up with his teeth, making his way to me as fast as possible.

Crow was busy trying to take control of the fire, and he was almost succeeding. I clenched my jaw, feeling drained already, and tried to stay focused.

Blade came up in front of me and shifted. James took out the syringe and held it up.

"Avery, what is your plan!?" he growled.

"Do you trust me?" I asked him. His eyes searched mine for a second before he nodded his head.

"Then I need you to put the syringe down and move away." I said in a whisper. I didn't have much energy left. And James must have noticed. He placed the syringe down and moved to the side.

I made eye contact with Crow, knowing that I will only have seconds before the house was submerged in flames after I let go.

I gathered the last of my energy and rippled the tornado before releasing my hands and bending down to take the syringe. Crow regained power over the fire, and it started surrounding the house.

I took the syringe and removed the cap, looking at James one last time. His eyebrows were furrowed, and he was starting to know what I was doing.

"I love you," I whispered to James and then plunged the needle into my neck. Pressing out all of the liquid and letting it enter my veins and my blood system. The syringe contained Lobelia extract.

It makes you lose focus for a moment, and losing focus when you're a witch, could be your doom. Natasha had told me about it some time ago, and I remembered it. It was perfect for my last resort plan.

I took out a knife from my sweater and placed it on the ground. I watched as the flames died down because Crow couldn't concentrate. I shifted back into Xena, and she picked up the knife and ran up to Crow.

Once there, I shifted back and picked up the knife. I held it by my side.

"What have you done?!" Crow shouted.

I stared at him, waiting for him to realize it on his own. And when he did, his eyes flew to mine, and he raises his hands. But the lobelia made it hard for him to concentrate, meaning he couldn't perform even the simplest of magic. One thing I didn't consider in my plan, however, was the other wolves. As I raised my hand and planned to plunge the knife into him, a wolf started running towards me. Blade thankfully tackled him, and another fight broke out. The war wasn't over, and because of the Lobelia, I couldn't use my magic either.

Crow stepped back and let his followers do his bidding.

I gave Xena control, and we join the war.

I saw Chase running towards me as I was fighting another wolf, and he jumped, shifting midway.

I smiled on the inside when I saw him again. He has been such a good friend to me this entire time.

He bit down on a wolf that jumped at him and flung him away. He was about to come to me when I saw Liam running towards him, shifting into his wolf and tackling him to the ground.

He stood above Chase and bared his teeth, biting down on his neck.

Xena bit down on the wolf's snout, making it whimper and back away. She proceeded to lunge at him and bit down on his throat until he stopped breathing.

The entire scene still too gruesome for me to cope with.

Two others came running towards us, but our warriors were faster. They got in front of me and fought the two wolves.

To my relief, Chase got back up, and Liam's wolf whimpered as blood spilled out of him. He tried getting back on his feet but was too weak.

Liam came towards me as another wolf lunged at us. Xena dodged his attack and walked up to Chase. Then again, another wolf, a smaller brown one, tackled Chase again. The wolf looked at me while she had Chase pinned to the ground.

The warriors were surrounding me, helping to fight those attacking.

I saw in the cracks between the wolves that Chase and the other wolf fought gruesomely.

Once again, the she-wolf was the one who whimpered and stayed down, and Chase jumped from the ground and into the circle.

But unlike what I thought this reunion would be like, Xena started growling at him.

Stop it. He's our friend!

'No. He's not.'

The warriors fought around us, and I felt a stinging pain coming from behind. Xena looked back, and I saw how a wolf had his teeth dug into her back. Chase's wolf looked Xena in the eyes. She was wounded. But instead of helping, Chase only stood there. He stared at us, his chest heaved out, and then he looked up and released a loud howl.

Everybody stopped what they were doing. Chase looked back at me, and the warriors turned around. Xena growled again and turned her head, biting at the wolf whose teeth were still digging deeper. As Xena tried reaching the wolf and kicking her hind legs, even worse pain came from her neck. She looked back at Chase, and he had his teeth in her neck, forcing her down.

Chase, what the hell...

'Told you, Avery. He's not a friend.'

Xena whimpered as she was pushed down to the ground by Chase's wolf.

Growls and howling were heard from all around as our own were walking closer to us. But when Chase dug his canines deeper into our skin, they all stopped.

Why are they stopping?

'Because, if he puts more pressure, we'll die.'

Xena said. Her voice strained. I felt my head getting groggy, and like a slap to the face, I could feel Xena's pain. All of it at once, from one second to the other.

Oh no...

I gasped.

Chase removed his teeth, and I shifted back to my human form. Lying on the ground. Bloody and bruised. I couldn't move.

I watched as Crow moved up to me, his feet moving slowly. I looked around and saw the pain in everyone's eyes. They all know. They know that I have to be the one to kill him.

That only I can do it. Leaving them with no control of the outcome.

I looked around more until my eyes landed on a shiny object only a few inches away. It was the knife. I looked at Crow, who was standing by my body.

"THE WAR HAS ENDED!" He said aloud. People clapped their hands and cheered, Crow laughed, and my pack looked like they were tortured. Which, in a sense, they were.

I saw Crow looking at all the people joyously laughing and 'whooping' and took the chance to reach for the knife.

I extended my hand, but another few inches away from the knife, I saw a body laying, barely breathing, blood spilling down. It was Sofia. She was the wolf that tackled Chase.

She tried to save me.

We made eye contact, and she saw what I was reaching for. She pushed her foot out, touching the handle of the knife. Her face scrunched in pain as she pushed me the knife with the last of her powers. I grabbed it and held it tightly.

It's too late to use the knife on Crow. I'm too weak. He would win in an instant.

'You share the same lifeline,' I remembered the words Natasha's mother had spoken to me.

I used the last of my energy, calling for every single drop of it, and got up on my feet.

I could barely stand, barely hold up my own weight. But I needed to.

Crow turned to me, and his eyes fell to the knife. He started laughing and shaking his head.

I reached out and held the knife, with the blade pointed inwards, towards me.

He raised an eyebrow and took a step towards me.

"You'll die, you stupid girl."

Everybody stared at the knife that was about to kill the Wizard. I looked Crow in the eyes, and I was glad to see fear swimming around in them. The silence was eerie, and I heard gasps and screams from all around.

"Maybe, but at least we'll be rid of you." I said. And then I plunged the knife into my stomach.

"NO!" I heard at least five people scream. But I wasn't in the right state to look for whom the voices came from.

I saw how Crow doubled over, clutching his stomach with his hands. His hands were red with the blood that is spilling out.

We share the same lifeline. Except for one big difference,

"What have you done?! You killed yourself!" He said as he fell to the ground.

"Except for one thing," I said. Slurring with my words.

"I'm a half werewolf, you dick," I said before I felt myself fall completely.

I looked over and saw the life slowly leaving Crow's eyes, but before it did, he spoke his last words to Natasha, who was standing by my feet.

"Does she know?" He asked. A smile tugging at his lips, a weak one.

"Does she know you made the soul contract?" With those words said, his eyes rolled back, and he stopped breathing.

I looked at Natasha. Her emotions are no longer masked. She was Terrified.

Payment To the Alpha by Ms.M Chapter 53

Avery's POV

* * * * *

I woke up to the sound of a beeping noise and a difficulty to move. I closed my eyes quickly when I felt the strong light burn my eyes.

I decided to open them for a few seconds each time and slowly adjust to the brightness.

After a few moments, I flickered them open and saw the lamp hanging on the ceiling. I looked around and realized that I was in a hospital room. The walls were yellow, and they had some painting hung up to break the awfully boring wallpaper.

As I scanned the room, my eyes landed on a beautiful man sleeping in a chair next to my bed. His head was rested on the bed, and his arms were used as a pillow. I gently stroked his head, and he flew up, startling me.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to wake you." I said quietly. Cringing when I heard my own voice. I sounded like an old woman who had smoked her whole life.

"Avery? Am I dreaming?" James asked me and took my hand.

"No, you're not. I'm awake." I said calmly, caressing his hand with my other one.

James laughed and leaned in, placing a kiss on my lips.

"How long was I out for?" I asked him when he pulled away. Making me miss his lips immediately.

James scratched the back of his neck before answering me. I raised my eyebrows, thinking that it couldn't have been that long.

"A week," he said. My eyes widened, and in pure panic, I started removing all the cords and needles in me.

James grabbed my hands and pinned them to my sides.

"Hey, stop! It's okay. Everything is okay." He said, taking a seat on the bed.

"What happened?" My memories were groggy, and I didn't fully remember everything except that there was a war.

James had told me everything that had happened. From the magic to the wizard, to my wolf, and how I killed Crow. He didn't like telling me that last part, however, as I almost died too.

"Oh, one more thing. You're never allowed to fight a war OR a battle. Ever." He said. His face was grave.

"What?! You can't do that!" I shrieked and crossed my arms over my chest.

"Oh, but you see, that's the best part, I can. It's the Alpha's orders." He said with a smirk.

"We'll talk about it," I said and reached for the water that James brought me.

There was a knock at the door. I yelled for them to come in.

The door opened up, and the last person I thought walked in.

"Liam," I said quietly.

James was standing with his arms crossed over his chest and a smile on his face. Did they know each other?

"Hey, Aves," Liam said as he came and took a seat on the chair by the bed.

"How are you feeling?" He asked me.

"What are you doing here?"

"Right... I want to explain what happened in Brooksten."

I sat up straighter and faced Liam.

"When we were about thirteen, your parents came to my family. They said that I had to be with you, as your boyfriend. I had a massive crush on you but didn't want to force you to be with me, so I told them no. Your father, the Alpha, laughed, and ten other werewolves came walking in. He said that if I refuse, we're all dead: me and my family. So I started dating you, and my feelings were real, Avery. Then when you turned eighteen, they said that it was time to end it.

Not only to end it, but they wanted you to hurt in the worst possible way.

And so they made me stage what you saw." Liam took a break to gather his thoughts. I felt my tears falling and a hand on my shoulder. It was James.

"I'm so sorry, Avery, for everything. You didn't deserve it, any of it."

"That's why you tackled Chase," I said in a gasp, and Liam nodded.

"Yeah, I knew that he was a traitor. And I knew that he wanted to hurt you."

"You could've been killed," I said and took his hand. Earning a growl from the Alpha behind me. I rolled my eyes, and Liam chuckled but pulled away from his hand.

"Sorry, but the Alpha scares me," He whisper shouted.

"yes, I could have been killed, but I deserved so much worse for what I did to the girl I truly loved." Liam said.

I grabbed his arm and pulled him closer to me, and I wrapped my arms around him, hugging him hard.

"Alright, that's enough!" James said from behind me. We pulled away, and I turned to James.

"That was like five seconds." I said.

"Yes. And that's enough." He showed me a price-winning smile making me roll my eyes and giggle. And then it hit me,

"Sofia! Where is she?" James looked down at his feet before meeting my gaze.

"She didn't make it. She was badly wounded. She did, however say to Elisabeth when she was in the infirmary that you're going to be a wonderful Luna."

I leaned back, and my head hit the wall.

She's dead. She spent her last time in the dungeons, and now she's dead.

"It might make it easier for you to know that she lived in the house for the week leading up to the war. She and Michael found each other, even if for a short period of time. She was happy. She wanted to fight for you." James added.

I'm so sorry, Sofia. Thank you.

Another knock was heard, and the door opened up. James growled beside me.

“You woke up like ten seconds ago. Can’t I have you for myself for an hour at least?” He said, pouting like a child.

Natasha came in, and I felt my breath hitch in my throat.

“Can we speak privately for a moment?” Natasha asked.

I looked at James and nodded my head. He leaned in and kissed me before he and Liam took their leave. James put a hand on Natasha’s shoulder and smiled at her before they closed the door.

Natasha sat down on the chair next to the bed and fiddled with her hands nervously.

I remembered what Crow had said about the contract.

I felt a small smile make its way up on my face as I watched Natasha, not knowing what to say.

I decided to end her misery and placed a hand on her hands, causing her head to jerk up and her eyes to lock with mine.

“I am so sorry, Avery,” Natasha whispered.

“I’ve known that you’re my sister for a while. I just couldn’t tell you. And about the contract, I don’t care, Natasha. If it had been before, then, I might have, but I don’t. You’re my sister, my family, and that doesn’t change. Sometimes we’re put in impossible situations, and we have to cope with it, trust me, I know how that feels. But I wouldn’t have been able to cope with my impossible situations if it weren’t for you. I love you, Natasha. That won’t change. Let’s just not keep anything from each other again.” I added and smiled at her.

Natasha looked at me. Her eyes were glossy. She didn’t say anything. She simply stared at me before wrapping her arms around me in a big hug.

~1 WEEK LATER~

Avery’s POV

* * * * *

Today is the day I get to leave and go home. James is signing some forms, and I’m fixing myself up.

The thought of getting home and meeting the others had me in a swirl of emotions, happiness being the primary one.

I checked myself in the mirror one more time.

Liam was now a part of our pack. He also met his mate, and I was incredibly happy for him.

There was a knock at the door, and James stepped in.

"You ready to go home, babe?" He asked me and reached for my hand.

"More than ever."

We were standing in front of the house, and for some reason, it felt strange. I'm not walking in there as the girl I was. I'm walking in as the half-witch, half-werewolf, soon-to-be Luna.

James gave my hand a light squeeze, reassuring me that it will all be fine.

When we stepped in, we were met by most of the pack members, cheering and screaming. Welcoming me home. A wide smile spread across my face as I went up to hug everyone. Alex and Amber being the first ones.

"Good to see you again, cupcake," Alex said with a sincere smile.

"Do not ever do something like that again!" Amber said as she wrapped her arms around me, squeezing my air out.

"I'm sorry I scared you. But I'm home now, and I'm not going anywhere.

We walked out to the garden where they had prepared a barbecue and a table full of sweets. Making me drool by simply looking at it.

I looked around and saw Amber sitting on a stub, looking a little sad.

I walked up to her and took a seat on the stub.

"Hey, how are you?" I asked Amber as I nudged her shoulder.

She quickly plastered on a big smile, and I raised an eyebrow.

"Drop it," I said sternly. Something was bothering her. It was obvious.

Amber sighed heavily.

"I met my mate." She said, and I gasped.

"But that's amazing!"

Amber looked at me, tears in her eyes, and she shook her head.

"It was a girl working for Crow. I don't know which pack she belongs to. I saw her during the war. She was fighting Alex in her human form, but the second our eyes met, she dropped him and started fighting her own people." Amber explained.

"But that's good, isn't it?" I asked her.

"She pulled me aside after we had fought off some of Crow's men. And she told me we couldn't be together, that there will only be a pain. Apparently, her family is very...special."

I looked at Amber with sadness in my eyes. She deserved to be happy.

"But maybe if you-" I started, wanting to say something to ease her pain.

"She hasn't always been a werewolf, Aves," Amber started. I gasped and looked at her in shock, silently waiting for her to continue.

"She was a vampire before. Her family is vampires, quite respected ones too. And," Amber's voice trembled as she took a deep breath.

"And what, Amber?"

"She was turned by a Knight. By someone in our family. I don't know by who, but I plan to find out who and why. Someone must have information about it," She said. Her voice pleading. I can't imagine the things going around in her head.

"Amber, you trusted me with your secret. And I haven't told a soul. But you can't be going through this alone. Tell them they won't judge you. And if you two are meant to be, you will be. I will help you look for information, and we will figure this out together," I told her, hoping to be somewhat helpful.

"I'll never see her again. So I don't know if there's any point of telling them."

I heard sounds coming from over by the trees. A woman was walking towards us, and she was looking at Amber with such love in her eyes.

"You sure about that?" I said. Amber's head flew up, and I saw that she caught her scent.

The woman walked up to us and stood silent for a moment. So did Amber.

After a few minutes of awkward silence, I decided to speak.

"Hey! I'm Avery," I said, a little louder than I had intended.

"Hey, I'm Malia. It's nice to meet you," she said and shook my hand. I looked between the two of them before feeling that it was time for me to go.

"I'm going to give you guys a minute." I said and went back to the others.

I was sitting in-between James and Elisabeth on the lounge couch, talking to Elisabeth. Amber and her mate were coming towards us when all eyes were diverted to the two women holding hands.

"Hey guys, this is Malia," Amber introduced, staring and lovingly looking at the girl standing next to her.

"My mate." She finished.

Everyone flew up and walked over to Malia, introducing themselves.

Some were looking a little confused, not knowing that Amber liked women. But there was no judgment or prejudice. They welcomed her like a part of the pack. Alex and James went to congratulate their sister and sat back.

"So that's why you saved my life," I heard Alex say to Malia. Malia simply shrugged. She was a little shy but delightful.

"Hey, when is your birthday, by the way? I need time to plan." Elisabeth said, sounding giddy.

I looked at James and smiled.

"It's in April." I said, smiling.

I walked over to James and grabbed his hand, turning him to face me.

"What's up, babe?" He asked me while putting a strand of loose hair behind my ear.

I looked up at him and tilted my head to the side.

"I know this may be a little unconventional, but" I started and cupped his cheek with my hand.

"Will you marry me, James Knight?" Gasps and giggles were heard from all around, and James looked taken aback by my question.

He raised his eyebrows and scanned my face.

"Are you sure?" He asked me, and I nodded my head.

"Yes. My answer to you, my love, will always be yes." James said with the most loving voice I had ever heard. He grabbed my waist and lifted me, spinning me around.

"So, does that mean I can fight in a battle?" I asked when he put me down, sticking out my bottom lip.

"NO!"

"NO!"

James, Alex, and Amber yelled. I groaned and pouted.

But the pout turned into a smile when James leaned in and placed his lips on mine.

A toothy smile grew on my face when I saw mine and James' future flash before me, how I could kiss him whenever I wanted, how I could touch his unbelievably handsome face by only extending my hand. How I would never have to leave him again.

"Welcome home, my love," James said with such adoration in his voice. And his eyes held nothing but love.

"Thank you for giving me one," I replied and leaned in to kiss the most perfect lips in existence.

"My uncle, Lydia, and Natasha are on their way here too," James said.

"Great!" I said, jumping up and down.

I forgave Natasha for the contract. The second Crow had spoken those words. At least they chose a witch that they trusted. We're family. We will always be family.

"I love you, Avery,"

"And I you Alpha James,"

~THE END~