

I Rejected You, Alpha – Chapter 96

AIDEN'S POV

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I called and invited Alpha Reece to the castle early this morning and even though he said he was busy the entire day, he said he would come around to fetch what belonged to him. I didn't like the sound of his tone or how he spoke to me. He surely knows that we are now the new heirs of the throne and even if I am only here because of Eleia, it still does not change anything.

I can just keep Cleo and I don't need to explain s**t to him, but he's known for his fairness and I want to explain that we want to adopt her.

Eleia and I stayed up the entire night, wondering how he found out where she was, especially when he didn't come to us for help when he knew Zac and his family were missing.

Eleia said that word gets around and it does make sense, but the way he insists on having her back is getting on my nerves.

It's around noon when it's announced that Alpha Reece have arrived and I take a calming breath, holding Eleia's hand as we meet him outside. We have not discussed this with Cleo yet, we want to see her reaction when she sees him, I insisted on it because something felt fishy about this entire thing.

He drives up in his black range rover, the dust raising up into the air as he speeds across the gravel road, driving onto the grass patch before coming to a screeching halt in front of us. He gets out, slamming his door before fixing his shirt and walking over to us.

He bows his head lightly to us, "Alpha Aiden, Luna Eleia." he greets us, but the disrespect in his tone is beyond annoying.

"It's King and Queen." Eleia deadpans, her eyes narrowed on him. She clearly doesn't like him and I could tell he was uncomfortable.

"My apologies, my queen." the sarcasm tainting his voice while he addresses her as queen makes my hands itch. "Where is the girl?" he immediately asks, getting straight to the topic. "Inside, where she belongs." I deadpan and his eyes narrow in clear annoyance, "She does not belong here." he scoffs, "I

would be happy to take her home.” he offers a smile, “Where she has no family?” Eleia asks with raised brows, “We have people that will take her in.” he shrugs, “We are taking her in.” Eleia informs him before I could.

Alpha Reece laughs, it’s deep, right from his stomach. It makes his shoulders shake and his head tilts back, he sighs as his laughter comes to a slow halt, his eyes widening as he catches us staring at him with a straight face, “Oh, you’re serious.” , “What on earth made you think that we weren’t? Do you know how precious our time is? Do you think that we took this lightly?” I snarl in annoyance, “If we didn’t want her, we would have her out here and in your car. By the way, you drive like an a*s and I would let no child in your possession, ever.” Eleia adds and I can’t help but be proud of her, but then again, she’s so strong headed and stubborn since she had kids, so I also didn’t expect anything less.

“Look.” he sways his arms in front of us, smiling, “That girl is not apart of your pack, I promise that we will take good care of her, but you can not keep her. She was Zac’s daughter, he was a very dear friend of mine and Cleo is very important to me, she loves me.” he shrugs, looking genuine and I feel kind of bad, “Shall we ask her?” Eleia deadpans and the fear flashing through his eyes as he looks at her suddenly goes away, “There’s no need, but if you want.” he shrugs and I bet that he’s thinking that we won’t.

“Fine.” Eleia grits out, folding her arms before she whips around and walks to the house, “Where is she going?” Alpha Reece asks with narrowed eyes that follow her. “To ask Cleo.” I shrug and he absentmindedly steps forward, frowning, “Oh.” he uncomfortably tucks his hands into his denim pockets, his tongue swirling in his cheek.

“Is that a problem?” I ask with a raised brow, “Not at all.” his face stays neutral, as if anticipating only good and that makes my heart squeeze painfully, because what if she wants to go home with him? What if he will look after her better than we can?

“Excuse me.” I murmur, feeling like I need to ask Eleia if we should reconsider because we already have two sons, what if a third child is too much?

That thought fades when I find my mate standing right next to the entrance way of the door, sitting on her haunches, holding Cleo while she tries to calm her down.

I glance out to Alpha Reece glancing around like our property was a shop and step aside, "What's wrong?" I whisper and Eleia gives me a knowing look and my heart feels relief for only a second before I start to worry. Why is she scared of him?

I lower to my knees, pulling Cleo from my mate's arms and I make her look at me.

Her eyes are red, her chest rising and falling so fast that it hurts to see her like this, snot is running down her nose, mixing with her hot tears, "I will get rid of him, just say yes and I will do it." I drag my hand over her head, fixing her hair. "Yes." she murmurs, her chin wobbling as she steps back as I let her go and she seeks comfort and shelter in Eleia's arms.

I smile tightly as I leave the house and my hands itch as Alpha Reece stands with a fake smile plastered on his face, as if waiting for Cleo to follow me out with a happy smile.

"Well, where is she?" she asks, glancing past my shoulder. I hold my hands behind my back, forcing myself not to hit his lights out, "Unfortunately, she wants nothing to do with you. She seems frightened, enlighten me why such a young girl is scared of her alpha?" I c**k my head at him and he snorts, dismissing my serious tone. "She's probably just frightened and now has a trauma bond to your family, you are the ones who saved her, aren't you?" he shakes his head, his fingers dragging across his lips.

Alpha Reece is older than me, but that doesn't mean I won't fight him. "I think you mistreat children and you should leave before I lock you up.", "Are you ridiculous?" his face contorts, "Did she tell you that? She's delusional and clearly in shock if she did. I would never harm a child." the sincere look in his eyes makes me want to believe him, but after my gut told me that Zac was up to something and he was, I am listening to my gut rather than my heart or head.

"Look, I heard a lot of great things of you, but if Cleo does not want to go with you, she isn't and quite frankly, I don't have to hand her over. We are the King and Queen and can do as we please." I step forward, gritting every word out carefully, making sure that he understands and can hear me clearly.

"That is kidnapping Aiden.", "That is King to you." I seethe, I don't find it disrespectful that he calls me by my name since I am younger than him, but right now, I am not playing with this child's life. "My king." the sarcasm in his

voice and the glint in his eyes makes me snap and I growl at him, my hands flying forward and I grab him by the throat, "I will end you right now or you can leave," I growl in his face. His eyes blink so fast that it looks like he's having a seizure as he backs away and I let him go. He dusts off his shirt as if he rolled in the dirt, his jaw tightening, "I will take this up with the royal council and elders." he threatens, but it doesn't scare me, "And I will have you investigated." I deadpan and his eyes narrow before he turns and gets into his car.

I just know that won't be the last time we'll be hearing from him and it makes my skin crawl with goosebumps and uneasiness.

I just know there's something up with him, no Alpha would want to take in a orphaned child and would accept every single help they could to get them into a loving family, so why the hell is this man so adamant on taking Cleo back to his pack?

What is he hiding?

Whatever it is, I will find out.

I Rejected You, Alpha – Chapter 97

ELEIA'S POV

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After Alpha Reece left, Aiden came back inside and closed the doors to the castle for the entire day. He scooped Cleo up, took Felix's hand and said to bring Arlen before dismissing the nanny. I frowned questionably at him, but took our son and followed him as he walked to the back door where there's a small playground that has fences around, a beautiful garden, a pond with fish that has a little bridge over it you could walk over. I've never been back there, but I've glanced at it and when Aiden leads us into the place, he calls an omega to arrange a pic nic basket for us and the children.

He slowly sits down on the grass, letting Cleo sit on one leg and Felix on the other. I sit down across from them, crossing my legs and I sit Arlen upright, holding him, "Now look..." Aiden starts, glancing at Felix, "This is Cleo, right?" he smiles at Felix while he nods, "And she's not just a friend, she's more. She is your sister, our family and we will treat her as such, meaning that we will protect her, stand by her, love and care for her, understand? I'm telling you

this because you understand me, Arlen will grow up knowing that Cleo is his big sister, but she is the same age as you and that means you'll have to accept that, if you can?" the way Aiden speaks to him warms my entire body as I sit and stare at Felix as he looks up at Aiden, his eyes bright and a big smile covering his face. "Yes daddy, she's my sister." he beams so proudly that my eyes start to water from proud and joy.

"Then go play." Aiden lets them stand and they laugh before they run off to the play set, both of them climbing the jungle gym before they slide down the big red plastic slide.

"He's gotten bigger." I sniff, blinking away the unshed tears. "You weren't gone that long." Aiden mutters, the sadness in his voice makes my heart squeeze. I could tell that he was worried, still is since I didn't really tell him what happened.

"I know, but it feels so long. Being away from you and the kids was hard..." I murmur, inhaling a deep breath through my nose.

"So are we going to talk about it?" he asks and I feel like I should have seen this coming. "Well the night he took me, I was knocked out the entire time until I woke up in his car, parked in a field and he told me why he did what he did, it's all because of her." I glance at Cleo as she smiles and giggles as Felix chases her.

"I asked him if I could come and say goodbye, but he didn't trust me..My heart broke thinking that I would never see you again, or the kids." I bite my bottom lip as my eyes start to sting. "But she's just a kid and what kind of Queen would I be if I let an innocent child die?" I snort, shaking my head before tucking a strand of loose hair behind my ear, glancing down at Arlen who's pulling at the grass between his legs.

"I thought I was going to die, but I accepted my fate and when the day came, he accidentally almost overdosed me, the hunters thought I was dead and told him to get rid of my body because all they were interested in, was my wolf's head." the anger bubbling in my chest makes me roll my eyes, "But I woke up and all he wanted was to save his daughter and I went along, ready to show them I'm alive and run for the rest of my life." I stare at the kids swinging, smiling and laughing as their little legs kick back and forth.

"Why?" Aiden asks, his narrowed eyes focused on mine, "I was afraid that they would come for you and the kids, since I was no longer here." I shrug and

his eyes soften, “Don’t you ever dare to sacrifice yourself for me.” he grits out, but he doesn’t sound mad, he sounds more concern, hurt and determined.

“It wasn’t just for you Aiden, it was for our sons too but look, I’m fine and now we have a daughter too.” I glance at Cleo and smile.

“Still, in the future, let me save you. I ran these woods flat to look for you and I couldn’t feel you...I can’t do that again. I can’t lose you, ever.” he reaches for my hand and I give it to him. His thumb gently caresses the top of my hand as he stares at me, “You know we’ll die someday.” I offer a small smile, “Someday, just not in the near future.” he slightly shake his head.

“Fine, until then, you can be my night and shining armor.” I shrug, giggling.

He stares at me, the shimmer in his eyes making me feel like the luckiest girl in the world, the way the edges of his mouth raise as he smiles makes butterflies erupt in my stomach and I can’t help but fall even more in love with him.

We sit and enjoy the rest of the afternoon, baking in the sun, watching Felix and Cleo play, eating when the basket comes. I live in this moment, taking in every moment of this perfect afternoon, relieved that I’m home. When the sun starts to set, we take the kids inside, bathe them, feed them some more right before we tuck them into bed and read them a story about the powerful Moon Goddess before they fall asleep.

Aiden and I climb into bed and as I lay with my head on his chest, my arm draped over his abdomen and I listen to his steady heartbeat starting to raise.

“What’s the matter?” I ask, titling my head upwards and I glance up at him, “It doesn’t feel over.” he mutters, his eyes focused on the ceiling. “What do you mean?” I ask and he shrugs, staying silent for a moment, “Alpha Reece, he seemed determined to get Cleo back, he didn’t seem happy that we chased him away.”, “We owe him nothing.” I snort and he hums, “I know.” he murmurs under his breath. “But?” I ask, already feeling it, “But I need to investigate, what if he’s one of those people who abuses children? I mean, he needs orphans for that...” he sighs and anger builds in my chest, feeling ready to explode, “He better not be.” I seethe, shaking my head. “I hope he isn’t...but I can’t shake the feeling.”, “We’ll get to the bottom of it.” I hug him tighter.

I Rejected You, Alpha – Chapter 98

ELEIA'S POV

I wake up to someone pounding their fists against the bedroom door and I look over, seeing Aiden fast asleep, "Wake up." I swat his arm before tossing the duvet off me, "Come in!" I say as I wrap my robe around me, tying it in the front. I watch as Stefan barges in with wide eyes, an irritable look on his face, "Alpha Reece is back." he grits out, his jaw ticking from one side to the other. "What the f**k?" Aiden seethes as he scrambles out of bed, rummaging around for sweat pants and a t-shirt, hopping as he walks as he puts on his shoes, running towards the door and Stefan turns, following suite.

I quickly get dressed before checking up on the kids, finding them sound asleep in the early hours of the morning before I run down and leave the castle, catching Aiden and Alpha Reece in a heated argument.

I strut in right between them, "What are you doing here?" I interrupt as I glare up at the tall muscular man.

He scoffs, taking a step back as he glares down at me, "I'm here for Cleo." he shrugs, "I am waiting for the elders council." he grits out and my face falls as the blood drains from my face.

I want the confidence to stand up to him, to believe as I tell him that the council can't do s**t, but what if they can?

What if they can strip us of our title because we are keeping the child.

"For what?" I could feel the heat radiating off his body as he stands closer to my back, "The council can't do anything. She has no family." Aiden deadpans, "Oh, but she does." The devilish smirk creeping up his face makes my heart fall into the big pit in my stomach.

The silence that falls between the three of us is unsettling, but what he just said is impossible. Why leave yesterday and show up today, claiming she has family? He's a big fat liar.

"Who?" I ask, my eyes narrowing at him, "She has an aunt, who lives in another pack and I said I'd be happy to come pick her up and take her there." he shrugs, acting so calmly but Aiden starts to laugh, like from his stomach laugh.

“What are you going on about?” Alpha Reece’s smile falls as fast as it appeared, “If you want Cleo, you are going to have to send that aunt of hers down here for a f*****g DNA test before I let that little innocent girl out of my sight.” Aiden seethes as he rests his hand on my waist, his finger digging into my skin.

I could feel his anger, as if he might snap any second, “A DNA test can be arranged too.”, “He said it will be done here, are you deaf?” I snap and his hostile glare flicks down to me, his one bushy eyebrow slowly raising as wrinkles form on his temple, “Don’t speak to me like that,” his head slowly shakes and I could tell he was trying to intimidate me with his stare.

“Then don’t speak to me like that, who do you think I am? A orphan? A omega?”, “Yes, you are an orphan who got the best life out of your situation, little slut.” he seethes and Aiden grabs his throat before I could blink, “She is your f*****g queen!” he bellows and guards step closer, ready to step in as Aiden lifts Alpha Reece further and further into the air until his toes are barely touching the ground.

Aiden tosses Alpha Reece across the grass and he shifts mid air, stomping his large foot against the ground before charging at us. Aiden shoves me back and I fly a few feet, landing on my a*s as he shifts and attacks Alpha Reece.

“Stop!” I bellow, but it’s no use because they don’t seem to hear me, or they are ignoring me.

“Aiden!” I yell at the top of my lungs as Alpha Reece grabs Aiden by the neck with his large teeth, shaking him around. The cries and whimpers escaping my mate’s snout has my heart clenching and I shift, but before I could even dart forward, Stefan’s large wolf flies past me and his light brown coat is like a sandy blast flying through the air.

He jumps onto Alpha Reece’s back, letting out a loud snarl as he sinks his canines into the side of his neck.

Alpha Reece lets out a loud cry as he falls to the side and Stefan jumps off him, standing in front of Aiden as he gets up. I run over, standing beside him as he shakes, growling at him.

‘Go inside.’ Aiden demands and I glance at him as he rounds Stefan, snarling at Alpha Reece until he shifts back. There are claw marks across his chest, blood dripping down and Aiden shifts too, “I should arrest you.” he grits out,

“f**k that,” he snorts, turning to look at Stefan, “Arrest him.” Aiden seethes and Stefan shifts, grabbing him and pinning him to the ground.

I run inside, shifting back too and grab a shirt before I grab trousers and take them out to Aiden, Stefan and Alpha Reece.

“You have no right!” Alpha Reece bellows as he tries to escape the guard’s grip.

“I so do, I am the king and you are nothing.” Aiden crouches down to his level as Alpha Reece sits on his knees. “You are bullshit! She might be royalty, but you are not.” he spits into Aiden’s face and I storm forward, slapping him across the face, “You disrespectful piece of s**t. Go to hell. Lock him up and never let him out.” I grin as his face pales and he’s lifted to his feet and dragged past us.

I turn to Aiden, “You are the King. Our children will be the future kings and nothing and no one can change that.” I step closer, resting my hands on his chest. He glances over his shoulder at Alpha Reece being dragged away and then back at me, “I know.” he grits out, “That guy just makes my blood boil.” he grits out.

I smile up at him, “What a way to start a morning.” I shake my head and he snorts, nodding. “Let’s go.” he rests his hand over mine on his chest before he takes it, bringing my knuckles to his lips, leaving a chaste kiss on my hand before tugging me toward him and we head inside.

I take one last glance at Alpha Reece as he’s dragged into the castle and we close the doors behind us, heading back upstairs.

I Rejected You, Alpha – Chapter 99

AIDEN’S POV

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Just as I thought the stress over Cleo was finally over and we started to relax, Roman and Penelope bursts through our bedroom door while we’re getting the kids dressed. “Why is Alpha Reece in the dungeons?” Penelope begins to freak out and Eleia glances at me, totally confused, “He attacked me.” I raise a brow at them, “It has nothing to do with you.” I deadpan and their eyes flick

to Eleia and then back at me, “He said that you attacked him first.” Roman crosses his arms, every word gritted out, his tone laced with anger.

“I tossed him, but I stood my ground. He was disrespecting me.” I seethe, “Why are you acting like this? We did nothing wrong.” Eleia mutters in shock, her big eyes flicking between her uncle and aunt.

“He’s Penelope’s sister’s mate, he can not be in there.” Roman seethes, stepping forward. “I don’t know what the issue is, but you better resolve it, right now.”

My eyes flick to Penelope and so does Eleia’s. “What? Your sister’s mate? Are you serious?” She asks baffled.

That is the reason why he’s so cocky, because he’s related to the prior queen, well in some kind of way. “Yes.” Penelope rubs her arm up and down as she stares at us with desperate eyes, “They have a child, you can’t do this. Please, let him go.” she begs and the blood boils in my veins, my body temperature rising as I stare at them baffled. “Fine,” “No.” Eleia agrees and I disagree at the same time. I glance in her direction, staring at her with wide eyes and she stares at me with concern.

I turn back to Roman and Penelope, “We’ll discuss it, but we have our reasons for locking him up, not just the attack.” I grit out and Penelope glances at Roman, silently asking for help. “What reasons?” Roman raises a questionable brow, “We think that they are abusing children and for your sake, I hope not.” I stare at Penelope.

“How can you think that?” Penelope growls, stepping forward with narrowed eyes directed straight at me, “Because he’s insisting on taking an orphaned child and why else would he want her?”, “What orphaned child?” Penelope scrunches up her nose, “Long story.” Eleia sighs, “Did you steal the child?” Penelope asks with wide eyes and Eleia’s grows just as big, “What? Of course not.” her face contorts, “Zac, the man who took her, saved his daughter and got killed, he told Eleia to take care of her and that is what she’s doing.” I shrug and Penelope glances at Roman, who’s staring at Eleia with furrowed brows, frown lines forming right between them.

“Are you taking care of your kidnapper’s child?” he asks in shock, “He is not my kidnapper, he was trying to save his daughter.” she seethes, “And she is now our daughter, we are going to adopt her and I don’t care what anyone says, not what Alpha Reece claims because if she had other family, then Zac

would have mentioned it.” she seethes, stepping forward with Arlen on her hip.

Penelope glances at the kids, “Can you arrange a nanny and come speak privately with us?” she asks, glancing at Roman with eyes filled with concern, “Fine.” I deadpan, wanting to talk to Eleia alone anyway.

They leave and shut the door behind them, but I don’t say anything as I stare blankly at the shut door.

I mind link the nanny while Eleia packs their bags, running up and down like a hooligan as she tries to find an extra bag for Cleo.

I make a mental note to go and buy her one she likes, we could bond and take the kids for ice cream.

Eleia and I meet Roman and Penelope in the dining room after the nanny arrived, “Please, sit.” Penelope gestures to the empty leather couch and I glance at Eleia, taking her hand before we sit down. I cross my ankle over my knee, staring at them.

“We can’t just let him go.” I begin since no one was saying a word, “He’s my brother in law, you can’t keep him here. No one can know that he’s here.” Penelope crosses her arms, the wrinkles on her forehead becoming more as she frowns, “Well we as leaders believe he’s up to no good and have to investigate.” I grit out. How can she be blindly loyal to a possible punk?

What if he is abusing children?

What if her sister knows about it and she is hiding it?

“Investigate what? He loves children and he won’t hurt the little girl.” Penelope bellows, laughing as she tries to stay calm, “Then why not accept the fact that we as a family want to adopt her? Why come back the next day to tell us that Cleo has other family and he is to take her there?” I drop my one foot next to the other as I lean forward, resting my elbows on my knees, “I don’t trust him and just because he’s your family, doesn’t make him innocent.” I grit out and Penelope blinks, “I mean, if he is innocent, then there won’t be anything to find, would there?” Eleia asks in a very calm soothing tone.

Penelope’s eyes flick to my mate, “I guess, but does he have to stay in there? It’s dirty and smelly.” Penelope glances at Roman, like he could help, but he

has no right anymore. “Then we’ll send somebody down to clean it, but he stays where I know he can’t disappear or get near our daughter.” I shrug, “She’s not your daughter.” Roman scoffs and I growl at him, “Aiden.” Eleia snaps at me, making my eyes widen as I glance at her.

“He’s disrespectful.” I grit out in a whisper, knowing that he can hear me, I simply just don’t care.

Eleia sighs before turning her head to her loving uncle, “She will be and we’d appreciate it if you could support that.” she stands up and I do the same, staring at her as she looks at her uncle and aunt with disappointment, “You’re my family and I get it that it is your sister’s mate, but what if he’s not that innocent? How could you let him go home and perhaps hurt your sister?” she c**s her head at Penelope, “I want what is best and even though it may take time, we will find out and there’s nothing that is going to stop us from keeping him there, because you two no longer have the authority, so please, stop playing our role.” she deadpans and my d**k jumps in my trousers as she takes lead.

It’s very sexy.

Penelope and Roman look at one another, “How can we help? I don’t want my sister in danger.” Penelope shakes her head, her innocent eyes flicking between Eleia and I desperately. “We’ll let you know.” I shrug, “But right now, we have to figure it out.” I suck my lips into my mouth before I take Eleia’s hand, “Shall we?” I ask and she nods.

We head straight to the dungeons to do some questioning.

I Rejected You, Alpha – Chapter 100

ELEIA’S POV

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The smell down in the basement is gross as we walk to the cell the guard leads us to. “You can go.” Aiden mutters as we halt in front of the cell. My eyes widen as I stare at Alpha Reece, standing in the middle, glaring at his surroundings until his narrowed eyes lands on us. “Finally.” he huffs, walking to the gate, “You came to your senses, now let me out.” he grits out and I stare at him baffled, “We’re not here to let you out.” Aiden deadpans and Alpha Reece’s face goes numb, “I am not staying in this goddess forsaken

hell hole, it smells like shit.” Alpha Reece grabs ahold of the steel bars, his teeth bared, “We’ll clean up, we haven’t used it in so long.” Aiden shrugs, showing no remorse, but I wouldn’t either.

I do feel bad for aunt Penelope and I can’t imagine how difficult this must be for her, I want to set him free, just for her, but I can’t. He could be a monster, one straight from my nightmares and nobody could know but on the other hand, he could be a very caring person...

“Well put me somewhere else.” he demands and a snort escapes my lips as I glance at the floor. It’s dusty and muddy.

“We’ll ask you some questions and if we feel like you are telling the truth, perhaps then we’ll put you somewhere else.” the teasing tone Aiden uses makes me grin, but I try to hide it, “What questions?” Alpha Reece is livid, I could see it in his dark eyes. “Why do you want Cleo back so badly?” Aiden asks, folding his arms over his chest as he stares him down, “I told you, she has other family. She deserves to be with them.” his hands tighten around the steel bars, his knuckles turning white.

“Then give me her contact details and I will speak with her, but I am not handing that little girl over.” Aiden shrugs and I can’t help but fall more in love with him.

I hated how distant I was with him before I was taken by Zac, it made me feel...hate. I hated myself because I thought I was never going to see him again, I hated that I didn’t spend every second with my kids because I thought I would never see them again too.

Now every moment I have, I take it and spend it with my family, whether it’s with the kids or Aiden, I appreciate it and even since I got back, every moment is worth everything to me. I stare a little longer, take in what my children look like and I’m happy if they are.

I would never want Felix to feel hurt that we’re taking Cleo in and I would give him extra love to show him that I am not abandoning him, because I know what growing up without love feels like and it’s awful. I don’t want that for any child.

“Well I don’t have it on me.” Alpha Reece shrugs, “Is your phone in your car?” Aiden asks, glancing at me from the side of his eye. “No, her contact information is on a piece of paper in my **f**g office, I don’t use my personal**

phone to make business calls.” he snorts and Aiden cs his head at him, “Business calls? Are you seriously calling that little girl business? Does she mean so little to you?” Aiden snaps, slamming the metal bars so hard that Reece flinches back with wide eyes, “She is not my personal problem.” he shrugs, “Then we’ll go to your home, ask your mate to lead us in there and if we don’t find anything, you are screwed, hear me?” Aiden seethes as he grabs my hand and the pure scared look in Alpha Reece’s eyes makes me grin as we turn and walk away.

No matter how loud or how much Alpha Reece calls for our attention, we don’t give in to him because Aiden knows what he’s doing and so do I.

Getting out of that rotting smell is like coming up for fresh air after drowning since the entire time I was down there, I tried to breathe as little as possible. “That **st stinks like...**”, “st?” I finish his sentence and I look up at my handsome mate, who’s face is scrunched up, “Yeah, that.” he snorts and I giggle, inhaling an audible breath.

“Are we really going over there?” I ask, squeezing his hand, “We have to. But it has to be a secret, only a few guards can know.” he whispers, stepping closer before glancing around. “I’m taking Stefan and a few of the castle guards.” he murmurs under his breath and I nod, “Don’t tell anyone.” he whispers as we walk towards the stairs.

“I’ll just tell the nanny to stay with the kids.” I mumble, “No, you stay with them.” he grabs my hand tightly, tugging me towards him, “I want you to stay here, I want to keep you safe.”, my eyes flicks between his, “I don’t think there’s any danger there.” I frown, an absentminded smile making it’s way across my face.

He’s being ridiculous and over protective, it’s sweet, but I want to help.

“Please, just spend time with them.” his eyes are pleading with me. His thumb rubs over my hand, softening me, “Fine.” I agree and a smile crosses his face and he leans in, placing a chaste kiss on my temple, “Thank you.” he mutters against my forehead before pulling away, “And don’t tell Rosie.” he demands and I open my mouth to stand up for her, but decide that I’ll just keep it to myself. He does not need to know what I tell my best friend. He winks before walking off and I make my way to the play room, where I find my best friend with her kid and the nanny with mine.

Felix and Cleo are playing off on their own and it warms my heart to not see him play alone. Arlen is too little to play with and so is Duncan, Rosie's son.

"You can go." I smile at the nanny, holding out my arms and she hands Arlen to me. As I take him, all of the stress and the tense feelings inside of my body washes away, almost like I drank herbal tea, or more like smoked it.

I love him with my entire heart and soul and the way he stares up at me, slowly blinking and a very tiny smile on his face has my love becoming more and more with every passing second.

The nanny leaves and I sit down on a big bean bag chair, crossing my legs as I cradle my little boy in my arms, "Where's Aiden?" Rosie asks as she feeds Duncan, "Out with Stefan, they went to investigate." I shrug, smiling as I grab a bottle for Arlen and his tiny hands try to grab ahold of it as he opens his mouth to drink.

"He didn't tell me that." I glance up at my frowning best friend, "Aiden doesn't want anyone to know, he told me not to tell you." I shrug. We both stare at each other blankly before we break out into a fit of laughter, my stomach contracting as we laugh, our bodies shaking and I finally feel at peace, as if my life is complete.

Since we moved to the castle, I felt so much pressure since everyone expected so much of me, not only my pack, but the castle's pack and it became too much. Rosie and I barely saw each other and we spoke even less and finally after everything, it's starting to feel good again.

Like the old days.

When it was just Rosie and I, except now it's us and our children.

They are going to be best friends too, they don't have a choice.

"Wait, what are they investigating?" Rosie's laugh dials down and she blows out a deep breath, "Alpha Reece's house. We suspect he's a Regan." I snort and her jaw drops, "But what if he is?", "Then he's going to rot for a really long time Rosie, there are no place for monsters inside of children's lives...It's traumatic." I sigh, "I know."