

## SECOND CHANCE LUNA

### Chapter 31

“Jason...Jason!”

He grunted, jerking awake as the voice intruded. Beside him, Phoebe slept. A half-moon shaped mark on her neck was still red and slightly

inflamed. It would heal quickly, leaving only a perfect pink scar. Jason leaned close, breathing deep. Her lilac and sage scent was stronger

than ever, but now also carried an undertone of dogwood. Now that she was marked, she would carry his scent regardless of how often

they were together. She was truly his and only his.

~ ~

“Jason.”

He sighed, “Yeah, ma.”

“Finally! I've been calling and calling.”

“So slept in a day. I'm entitled.”

“That's not the point. I almost woke Phoebe to find you.”

“Don't. It was a big night.”

“What does that mean?”

«...I'll tell you when I see you. Are you in the kitchen?”

“Of course.”

“I'll be out in a moment.

Jason slowly disengaged from Phoebe, careful not to wake her. He stood and stumbled, suddenly light-headed. Placing a hand on the wall,

he paused as he regained his equilibrium. His mind was swirling. It almost felt like he was drunk, though he hadn't imbibed a thing except

her. Lobo remained oddly silent, as if in a deep sleep, almost as deep as when he was still dormant.

Making his way to the bathroom, Jason splashed water on his face to try to drive the vestiges of sleep away. Relieving himself, he ducked

into the closet for sweatpants before stepping out. Phoebe still slumbered. He checked her once more, burying his nose in her thick mane

of brown hair and breathed deep before stepping out and heading to the kitchen where his mother enjoyed her customary tea.

"Mom."

"Morning sweetie. What's that?"

"What?"

Norah was on her feet in an instant, pulling his arm and turning aside his head to get a good look at the red mark on his neck. Jason

grimaced.

"You're marked!" she exclaimed.

"...Yeah. That's what mates do."

"Jason! You were supposed to wait until the Luna Ceremony! It's tradition!"

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"A tradition I never liked," Jason leaned against the counter. "Other mates mark themselves in private, but I'm an alpha, so it has to be a

spectacle?"

Norah frowned. Jason had always been private by nature. Though everyone knew of his longing for his fated mate, no one knew the lengths

he went to ensure that when she was found she would never feel insecure or wonder about his devotion. From the way he organized the

closet, to the way he arranged for a private room for her to explore her hobbies, whatever they might have been, everything was made

ready for her.

Currently, that room was undergoing renovations to be turned into a library a fact that everyone struggled to keep secret from Phoebe.

Jason sacrificed a lot for his pack, but his dedication to his Luna was not something he would ever compromise.

“Besides, you know Phoebe’s self-conscious about all of this.”

“Yes, I know.” Norah sighed.

Phoebe was everything Norah hoped for in Jason's mate. She was intelligent, kind, strong and gentle. But she also bore deep scars from her

rejection. Whether Phoebe knew it or not, she had built walls to protect herself, opening up to very few. Jason patiently scaled those walls

and was now taking them apart brick by brick. Norah couldn't be prouder of how much care he showed his Luna. And part of that stemmed

from his desire not to repeat his father’s mistakes.

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Jackson had been a strong alpha and a devoted mate. He never betrayed her once they were together, but their first meeting was not an

image she could forget.

What hurt more was the fact he kept the she-wolf around. While Norah usually remained at home, Blanche traveled with Jackson when he

attended meetings. Whenever she brought it up he'd only shrug and said Blanche was a good warrior. She never felt the pain of betrayal, so

she knew he was faithful, despite the fact Blanche flaunted their private time together.

Norah still recalled one meeting in particular Blue Moon had hosted. The visiting alphas and lunas had been surprised to learn Jackson had

found his fated mate. Several shot her sympathetic looks, clearly believing he was cheating on her. It was almost as if she was the mistress

rather than his Luna.

Ashamed, she had taken the only revenge available to her and shunned his romantic advances. She made herself a private bedroom and

refused to share his bed, even going as far as to contact their pack doctor to find a means of alleviating heat pains medically. Denied access

to his mate, Jackson flew into raging fits followed by depression. Norah waited for the betrayal pains, but they never came. Jackson

remained faithful.

It was Blanche who lost her patience in the end. If the warrior had simply challenged Norah for her title, it would have been one thing. She

was confident she could hold her own in a fair fight, but Blanche never played fair. The warrior incited two of Jackson's previous partners to

attack their Luna together, nearly killing her. If not for the gamma's intervention, she certainly wouldn't have survived.

Jackson, or rather his wolf, flew into a rage upon hearing of it. At the time, Norah had been surprised he even left Blanche behind, since he

always took her on his trips. Only later did she learn his Beta convinced him to do so. Apparently, the Beta overheard several wolves talking

about how much they pitied Norah because of how he flaunted his affair in front of her. Only then did Jackson begin to understand the

image he created by keeping Blanche close.

It was the first time he left the warrior behind and it was enough to incite Blanche to seek revenge on her Luna. Norah still remembered

how potent Jackson's anger was the day he found her in the hospital, under guard, as she recovered from the attack. After hearing the

story, he rushed to the cells to deal with her attackers. She thought he was going to kill them. It would have been better if he did. Instead,

he let them live and stay in the pack without further punishment, as if a few nights in a cell were punishment enough.

After that day, she lost faith in him. Once she was out of the hospital, she hand-selected two guards from the elite warriors, making them

swear loyalty to her above all, including their Alpha. She refused to go anywhere without them. She neither trusted her mate nor her pack.

Discord wormed its way into the packs unity, weakening their bonds. Jackson begged and pleaded for her to reconsider. She gave him two

options: one, banish her attackers from the pack or; two, reject her and take his slut as his chosen mate instead.

He refused both options and they proceeded with the Luna Ceremony, but it was a joyless affair much to his parents' disappointment.

Norah knew her duties and performed them, but she allowed herself to feel no love for the pack biding its time to kill her. Jackson needed

an heir and she complied, but no amount of coaxing on his part awakened her passion. Her wolf, in pain from denying their mate bond,

agreed with her.

The only love she and her wolf allowed themselves to feel was for the pup growing within. It was their only joy and even that was almost

taken away. Once her pregnancy was confirmed, Jackson doted on her, desperately trying to build the bridge he burned, and Norah was

very close to accepting him again, even considered getting rid of her bodyguards. Thank Goddess she didn't.

Blanche came at her again, this time with a silver blade intent on not just killing her, but the pup as well. Norah was almost full term, if not

for her guards, who knew how the attack would have played out. Nearly losing his mate for a second time as well as his pup, Jackson's wolf

took over completely and killed Blanche without hesitation. But it was too little, too late. Norah's faith was gone. Only her pup mattered.

All the love she denied her mate was given to Jason. She doted on him and carefully raised him as well as Lucille, whose birth was quite a

shock and the result of alcohol, suppressed passion and her heat.

By the time Jason was ten, the pack's bonds were beginning to fray. Infighting was becoming commonplace. Sometimes it seemed like they

were all dancing on a powder keg. Without his mate, Jackson's wolf deteriorated and Jackson himself seemed to age faster than normal.

When Jason's wolf awakened, Lobo was already dominant. At sixteen, it was clear Jason had already eclipsed his father and the pack bonds

began to knit around him. Jason took on more and more duties, further solidifying his rank and drawing in the pack as only a true Alpha

could. There was only one thing missing... his Luna.

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There certainly was no shortage of she-wolves vying for his attention. Females were naturally attracted to strong males. Jason turned them

all away. Jackson worried his son was putting too much pressure on himself and Jason did not appreciate his advice. Just as there was a

disconnection between Jackson and Norah, there was also a disconnection between father and son. It was a wound neither managed to

heal before Jackson's inevitable passing. Jason hadn't even bothered to say goodbye. Norah and Lucille attended Jackson's final moments

without him.

Lucille had been torn apart by her father's passing. Jackson doted on her like a princess, so they shared a strong bond. She probably still

didn't understand the gulf that existed between Jason and their father.

Norah sighed, pushing away her thoughts. Jason was pensive and probably thinking over the same memories as she was. It did neither of

them any good to dwell on the past.

The pack had been reluctant to accept Phoebe, fearing a repeat of their previous Alpha and Luna's tepid relationship. Norah was quite

certain Phoebe had no idea what the reason was behind the cool welcome if she noticed at all. Regardless, she quickly won the hearts of

her new pack with her motherly tendencies and her fiercely protective nature.

As much as the pack tried to remain aloof, her influence seeped into their bond. A new sense of calm and reassurance pervaded their wolf

souls. It was like a shift in gravity. Instead of revolving around a single star: their Alpha, they now revolved around two.

Norah sensed and saw Phoebe's insecurity, though she was good at hiding it. Perhaps due to her low rank in her former pack, or maybe her

rejection, Phoebe doubted her ability to lead despite being a natural. Norah saw it again when Phoebe visited the daycare.

She helped the she-wolves reorganize supplies and the space to create areas for certain activities: reading in one corner, arts and crafts in

another, a place for schooling and a mat for games and napping. Prior to her arrival, the she-wolves largely let the pups free-play with

occasional attempts to educate them using workbooks some ten years old. Phoebe created a daily lesson plan for the she-wolves to follow.

The pups now had designated times during the day when they have lessons, reading time, snacks and nap time, as well as free-play. She

ordered new, up-to-date workbooks with various ages in mind as well as requested a set of computers and educational software. Though

some wondered how the pups would cope with the changes, they adapted faster than the adults.

Even without her Luna authority and influence, Phoebe's higher education and expertise would have given her all the necessary clout to

make the changes she desired. Werewolves didn't often seek education beyond primary school, but Norah had already heard several wolves

discussing the possibility of applying to the pack for financial aid to allow them to attend college courses.

Human financial aid was unavailable to werewolves, vampires, fae and other supernatural species, another reason werewolves generally

didn't seek higher education. Though packs were often quite well-off, individual wolves rarely had more wealth than the average human, a

fact most humans didn't understand. However, that also meant there was plenty of opportunity for packs to support their members and aid

their educational goals.

Usually, packs only concerned themselves with medical and technological advancements, investing in those whose interest and expertise

was in those areas. Phoebe made it clear just how neglectful packs were to their members. Who knew the untapped potential residing

among wolf packs' lower ranks?



It was a crime that most packs didn't set up such funds, not that Norah had any right to criticize them. Like most high-ranking wolves, she

was guilty of walking around her pack with blinders as much as any other. While high-ranking wolves took it upon themselves to protect

and secure the pack's safety, they didn't pay much attention to the lower ranks and nurturing them. But Norah had a feeling all that was

going to change.

Jason was going to have to put serious thought into a scholarship program and standardize a method for pack members to apply for

educational funds. Norah knew he had been playing with the idea for a while, but if he wanted to keep up with his Luna, he would have to

get the ball rolling soon. Blue Moon could prove themselves a leader for other packs to follow.

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Phoebe had more than enough clout to inspire and encourage her new pack. Wherever she led they would follow. Jason's devotion ensured

theirs and it would only grow stronger now that she was marked.

Norah had wanted Jason to wait until the Luna Ceremony because it would cement her bond with the pack. The effect would be even more

dramatic under the full moon. But she understood his aversion to displaying such intimate actions in public.

~ What was done was done. Phoebe's bond with the pack was firmly in place and her influence would grow. It would be gradual like a wave

rolling into the shore as opposed to a tidal wave. In the long run perhaps this was for the best. Norah had no doubt Phoebe would heal the

pack's strained bonds. She was the Luna they needed.

"I know you don't like public spectacles," Norah finally said. "But you know this pack has been suffering for a long time. Your father and...

Wwe never connected. Part of the blame can certainly be laid at her father's feet but it can also be laid at mine."

Jason growled. As far as he was concerned the fault lay with his father. He didn't see any reason for her to take the responsibility on herself.

"If not for me the pack would have welcomed Phoebe with open arms the moment she arrived."

"Mom."

"Phoebe is the Luna this pack has been desperate for. She'll heal them in more ways than they know...and she'll heal you too."

"Mom, I don't need healing."

"Yes. Yes you do." Norah stared at him knowingly. "I still have your father's letter. It's on my desk waiting for you."

"There is nothing he could say that I would want to hear."

Norah sighed. Jason refused to see his father right up to the end. Not even Lucille's begging and pleading stirred him. Jackson had been

too weak to hold a pen so dictated his final words to Norah for her to give to Jason. Yet he had never asked to see it and even threatened to

burn it if she ever dared give it to him.

"I called you because I felt something odd in the pack's bond but since you and Phoebe marked each other...the explanation is obvious.

Jason nodded. Once marked Phoebe's rank in the pack was cemented. Her influence within would be more pronounced and the pack would

lean on her for comfort. He only hoped it wouldn't be too overwhelming.

"I hope this won't keep her in bed all day. We planned to make brownies with the pups."

“Brownies?”

“Yes. Phoebe’s been spending most of her time in the daycare. I think she’s familiar with most all of the pups and their families now and

she’s completely reorganized it from a glorified babysitting facility to a full-blown preschool.”

Jason smiled. Ben had given him reports and handed him Phoebe’s special requests. He approved them all letting her work with an

unlimited budget to put her new syllabus in place. Nothing was too much. Suddenly he frowned.

“What is it?” Norah asked.

“I think Phoebe’s waking up.”

“You better go to her. She might be disorientated at first.”

Not only could an Alpha’s aura be overpowering a Luna’s bond to the pack was just as strong. For a wolf who came from lower ranks it

could all be overwhelming to be inundated with the pack’s most intimate needs. Grimacing Jason nodded and retreated to his room

without delay.

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There he found Phoebe still in bed. She sighed contentedly with her nose pressed into his pillow. Chuckling he slipped back into bed and

pulled her into his embrace. She snuggled into him with a smile.

“I take it you are feeling good this morning?” he asked.

“Mhmm,” she sniffed. “You smell a little like sage now:

"Of course I do. When mates mark each other they take some of each other's scent so everyone knows they belong to each other."

"like it"

"Me too, angel."

"What time is itz"

"Quarter after six

"Oh!" Phoebe stiffened jerking awake. "I promised the pups we'd make brownies."

"So I heard. We can steal a few more minutes though."

"Hmm. A few more minutes with you usually becomes an hour.

Jason laughed, "Can you blame me? When I have the world's more gorgeous she-wolf as my mate?"

Phoebe blushed, "I'm not..."

He silenced her with a kiss and whispered, "Yes angel, you are."

"You wanted to see me, Alpha?"

"Yes, come in Garrison," Jason nodded as the warrior hesitantly entered.

Garrison was young, several years younger than Jason, so they had minimal contact during school and training. He was certainly not lacking

in physique nor looks with sandy colored hair and hazel eyes. In fact Jason would have been jealous considering his own brown hair and

eyes were rather ordinary.

There was only one reason Katrina would have rejected such a mate and that was based solely on rank. But even that did not answer all of

Jason's lingering questions. After all, Katrina was the daughter of an alpha and Thomas's only heir. He would have accepted any mate of

hers as his successor. She would still have been Luna to one of the most powerful packs in the world. Which meant her true obsession was

not rank but Jason himself. The thought made him uncomfortable.

“Alpha?” Garrison approached the desk with a note of anxiousness tempered by confusion and curiosity pulling Jason from his wandering

thoughts.

“Have a seat,” Jason leaned back in his chair. “It has come to my attention...that you were Katrina's fated mate.”

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Garrison paused midway through the motion of sitting. He glanced nervously at Luke and Ben both comfortably seated on the couch before

popping into the chair and answered, “Yes Alpha.”

There was no need to ask how Jason found out. It was no secret Alpha Thomas and Katrina had unexpectedly visited and left just as

suddenly. Jason had waited a day to consider what he should do with his recently gained knowledge.

“Iwon't ask you about the rejection,” Jason said. “If you wanted to tell us about that you would have by now. What I do want to ask...did

your rejection have anything to do with the dangerous assignments you volunteered for?”

Garrison hesitated. Jason wasn't using his alpha tone so answering was wholly voluntary but he knew better than to lie. With a sigh he said,

“I guess...I figured if my mate didn't want me there wasn't any reason for me to stay around.”

“And now?”

"The Goddess granted me a second chance," Garrison said. "She means everything to me, her and our pup."

Jason's mouth twitched with a smile. If not for the fact Phoebe was in his life he would have been jealous. Finally he said, "I wish you would

have spoken up sooner. We could have helped, supported you at least. Rejection is no simple thing for a wolf to recover from."

Garrison nodded. He had been far too embarrassed. Besides Katrina made it no secret she wanted Jason for her mate. Thankfully Jason

hadn't been interested but it still hurt to compare himself to his own Alpha and find himself lacking.

"What exactly would you have done if I did take Katrina for my mate?"

Luke snorted a laugh and Ben sputtered out his drink exclaiming, "You got to warn someone when you're going to make a joke like that!

"Ignore them," Jason shook his head as Garrison gave him a curious look. "Well?"

"L...I kind of assumed I wouldn't be around by then?"

Jason sighed. He guessed he wasn't surprised by that answer but he hated to think he could have lost one of his pack members like that.

Finally he said, "There is one more thing I need to discuss with you."

"Alpha?"

"I want to make a special protection detail for Phoebe. Members of it will be exempt from regular patrol work but their training load will

be doubled. Their sole concern will be Phoebe's security both here on pack grounds and when she travels: shopping trips, excursions into

the woods, pack meetings, everything."

Garrison's interest piqued as soon as Jason mentioned his Luna. He didn't mind going on patrols but ensuring the Luna's safety was a

major concern. Blue Moon was one of the oldest packs and therefore had a long list of enemies and rivals. As a warrior Garrison didn't know

much about the political landscape of the wolf packs but he knew enough to stay out of it.

"Considering your achievements as well as your training you would make a good choice for the lead position of this detail..."

"Yes Alpha!" Garrison said. His eagerness made Jason raise a brow at his sudden fervor. "I mean, I would gladly accept such an honor."

«...I was going to say you are a good choice for squad leader provided your mental state is stable. I don't want a loose cannon with a death

wish guarding my Luna."

"Of course, Alpha. I promise I would never do anything to endanger the Luna's life. Would L...could I select my own team?"

Jason considered the request. Originally he planned to choose the warriors himself but it occurred to him Garrison may have better insight.

It was the nature of warriors to form bonds of camaraderie with each other and share information with each other that never reached their

commanders' ears. As such Garrison would have a good idea who in the ranks had the most dedication to their Luna as well as who would

work best together.

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"Yes," Jason said after a moment. "The detail will consist of six to start. They will also be expected to ensure the safety of our pups...both

adopted and...conceived."

Garrison nodded. He met Blake and Emma when he dropped his own pup at the pack daycare. Despite being orphaned at such a young age

both seemed well-adjusted and happy no doubt due to the Lunas care and attention. It was clear the pups had already firmly won the

former luna's heart as well. Like everyone else, Garrison hadn't expected Jason to go as far as to officially adopt the orphans but it was nice

to see a gentler side to their Alpha.

"Alpha...if I may ask..." Garrison hesitated knowing it was dangerous to question his alpha, "our Luna...you, you won't reject her, right?"

"What!" Jason snapped growling low. His eyes swirled amber as Lobo pressed forward.

"don't mean...it's just..." Garrison stuttered under the weight of Jason's aura baring his neck in submission. "I've survived a rejection

myself so [ know... know what it's like to have half your soul ripped out from you. No wolf could survive it twice and Luna already has

experienced it once..."

Jason struggled to reign in his wolf and forced a breath to calm himself. After a moment he said, "I will never allow Phoebe to feel an ounce

of hurt again. Besides, it's already too late for that."

Garrison raised a brow. Though Lobo bulked at showing his neck to any wolf Jason pulled back the collar of his shirt to reveal the still fresh

mark where his neck and shoulder met. The redness was beginning to fade though it still remained tender to the touch.

"I belong to her now," Jason said with no trace of irony in his voice.

Garrison briefly met his gaze before bowing. It was the answer he hoped for. After meeting his Luna and speaking with her he recognized a



fellow wolf in suffering. He was immediately taken by her caring and gentle soul and could not understand how she was able to survive a

rejection. It took strength Garrison didn't even know existed.

"I want the names of your choices by the end of the week," Jason said.

"Yes sir." Garrison stood and gave a stiff bow before departing.

After the door closed Luke said, "That took balls to question you."

"It did," Jason smirked. "His desire to protect his Luna was greater than his fear of me. He just may be the perfect choice."

Luke and Ben nodded. It seemed a bit much to assign Phoebe her own guard detail but they understood why Jason was so insistent. He

wasn't worried about threats from inside the pack. It was external threats that worried him. Blue Moon had no shortage of rivals eager to

take advantage of any misfortune they might suffer. With their marks still fresh his over-protectiveness was in high-drive. No one would

begrudge him this much.

Luke and Ben had been surprised to see the mark on his neck and insisted on another celebration. Now that Jason had settled on Phoebe's

security he felt more inclined to join them.

"Here we are," Phoebe said as she carefully removed the trays from the oven.

She set them on hot pads on the counter so that the pups could see their hard work. Many still had dusting of sugar and flour in their hair

despite cleaning up their faces while the brownies baked. They clapped excitedly.

"Now while it cools we'll make the frosting," Phoebe announced.

Immediately they gathered around helping to measure the sugar, milk and butter. She heated the mix and had the pups take turns stirring

while it heated to a boil. Taking it from the heat she added the chocolate chips stirring them until they melted. Once it was mixed they

placed it in the fridge for rapid cooling and started the next batch. They needed a pot for each tray of brownies they had made. While the

frosting set they cleaned up.

By the time the brownies cooled so had the frosting. With Norah on hand they split the pups into smaller groups and armed them with

spatulas to smooth the frosting over the trays. The pups giggled licking their hands and spatulas eager to taste the fruits for their labor.

Around them the cooks chuckled happy to see the pups so excited with what many deemed a mundane task. Phoebe had started her lesson

introducing the pups to the kitchen staff. Some were surprised their Luna remembered their names but knowing the members of her pack

had always come easy to her. Then she showed the pups the items they'd be using and the ingredients to make chocolate syrup brownies

from scratch as well as the chocolate chip frosting.

It would be impossible for the pups to make enough brownies for the entire pack so the cooks were already increasing the recipe and

multiplying the batches. The trays Phoebe, Norah and the pups made were reserved for their families. It was almost lunch so they cut the

brownies and divided them up accordingly giving each pup one for themselves as well as a small bag for them to take home to treat their

parents. The extras Phoebe presented to the cooks as thanks for use of the kitchen.

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"Thank you," Phoebe smiled at the staff. She hated to think they had interrupted meal preparation but the kitchen was quite large and the

staff assured her the use of one oven meant nothing.

“Of course, Luna,” Myra, the head of the kitchen answered. She was a robust she-wolf, a mother who successfully raised three pups and her

niece. Myra reminded Phoebe of the motherly wolf in charge of the kitchen at her old pack. “You can come by any time. And please bring

the pups too.”

Phoebe hugged the older she-wolf much to the latter's surprise before herding the pups back to the dining hall. Parents were already

arriving having been told their pups would be at the kitchen rather than the daycare center. The pups greeted their parents eager to show

off their culinary results.

“Mommy,” Emma tugged Phoebe’s hand, “can we show daddy too?”

“Of course,” Phoebe smiled patting her head. She was still getting used to the title both the siblings eagerly bestowed on her but it warmed

her heart. Though she was hesitant to disrupt Jason's work she wanted the pups to feel closer to him.

Norah nodded encouragement so she left the former luna to watch over the rest of the pups still waiting for their parents and took Blake

and Emma by the hand. Both had been given baggies with extra brownies for Luke, Mona, Ben and Lucille as none of them had pups of

their own. Considering how long both Ben and Luke had been mated it seemed strange neither started families.

Despite their enhanced libidos, werewolf pregnancies really weren't very common. She-wolves were only fertile during their heat cycle

which occurred once a year usually during the winter months thus ensuring their pup would be born in the spring a holdover from when

relied on the natural bounty of the earth. Less common were she-wolves who had their cycle in the spring so that the pup would be born in

the fall during the harvest season.

Even with a wolf's insatiable appetite for their mate that left a narrow window for pregnancies to occur and since wolves only gave birth to

one pup at a time it actually gave them a rather low birth rate. Survival rate of pups was practically guaranteed which aided consistent

population growth overall.

However in Luke and Ben's case she had a sneaking suspicion they deliberately held off having pups so as not to make Jason any more

jealous of their good fortune. She hadn't asked them yet but it made sense given how close they all were. Prior to being marked she-wolves

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had a truncated heat cycle that was both shorter and less intense than a marked female. If they mated during that time it could still lead to

pregnancy though their fertility was really not that high. Now that Phoebe had been marked her heat cycles would become much more

intense especially if they coincided with the full moon and pregnancy all but guaranteed.

All wolves shared a strong connection to the full moon. They were stronger and felt more at peace under the light of a full moon more so

than any other time. According to Mani, the effect was even more potent with them, which was why Mani insisted Jason mark them before

the Luna Ceremony which was set to take place on the upcoming full moon. Phoebe still recalled their conversation earlier that morning.

Phoebe sensed Jason departure but remained in contented sleep. She felt heavy as the pack bond knitted her into it. The connection was

stronger and more potent now. She had a direct connection to the ebb and flow of the pack's emotional state. It was a good thing it was so

early and most were still asleep or just beginning to stir. Once they woke it would strain her mind as their worries invaded her through the

link. Over time her mind would naturally learn to channel the input but for now she would have to be careful when she accessed the link.

"How are you feeling?" Méni asked.

"Good....considering. Why did you want him to mark us now?"

"It was for his own good."

"What do you mean?"

"Our strength is directly tied to the moon. We are weakest during the New Moon and strongest when it is Full."

"Isn't that true for all wolves?"

"Yes, but even more so for us. We've been hiding our true strength all this time so you've never truly experienced it. Our Mate is strong but

he won't be able to endure it full force. That's why we marked him now. It was the last night of the New Moon. As the moon waxes and our

power grows he can gradually acclimate to it."

"You mean it will really affect him that much?"

"Naturally. An Alpha's strength always increases once he is marked and mated to his Luna. How much is determined by the Luna's inherit

strength. It's best if he acclimates gradually."

Jason's return had cut off further discussion as he slid back into bed and pulled her back into his arms. He nuzzled her as he adjusted her

position so that as much of their bare skin touched as possible. Phoebe tried to pretend to be asleep but she felt his stiff member pressing

against her thigh as he held her close. His large hand gently caressed her earning a moan of approval. Jason didn't seem aware of any

changes brought on by the mark. In fact he was more concerned for her and whether she felt any discomfort from the previous night.

Perhaps it was the novelty of its newness or Mani was correct after all.

Jason was replying to an email when a knock at his door interrupted him. Luke and Ben still sat on the couch trying to convince him to join

their celebration but quickly put their glasses down at the door opened revealing Phoebe and the pups.

"Daddy!" Emma squealed running up to Jason without hesitation.

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Jason scooped up the pup as he stood. He covered his awkwardness by nuzzling the pup causing her to giggle as the bristles on his cheek

tickled hers. No matter how many times a wolf shaved they would have a five o'clock shadow a few hours later. Many usually gave up on a

clean shaved look and ended up with at least goatee if not a full beard, Jason included.

Though their bond was still new their scent was definitely becoming more potent. It wasn't quite the same as if they were truly from his

blood but it was more than enough to mark the pups as his and that they were under his protection if anyone intended them harm. In the

back of his mind Lobo wagged his tail pleased with how the pups were accepting them. His wolf had always loved pups and longed for its

own as much as it longed for its mate.

“What brings my little treasures here?” Jason asked kneeling and bringing the more nervous Blake into his embrace.

He could tell Blake was as desperate for parents as his sister but knowing Jason was an alpha made the pup too nervous to appear too

familiar. Though Jason was still adjusting to his new role he wanted both brother and sister to be comfortable with him. Blake leaned into

him and snuggled close enjoying his embrace.

“We made brownies,” Phoebe said as the pups showed off their baggies. “The cooks are making enough for the pack but the ones we made

are for the pups’ parents.”

“Try one! They are really good!” Emma said opening her bag. “This one is for you.”

Jason accepted the gooey offering still slightly warm. He had never been one for sweets but nonetheless savored the pup’s treat. It was the

first gift his pups ever gave him.

“It's good right?” Blake asked. Like the other pups they had eaten their own immediately.

“It is.” Jason hugged them close. Given his awkward childhood Jason never felt particularly close to his father so he wasn’t prepared for this

kind of situation but he wanted it to last forever.

“Does that mean we won't get any?” Ben asked. He couldn't keep the hurt from his voice as he loved chocolate.

“We have some for you, Uncle Ben,” Blake said carrying his baggy to them. “And for Uncle Luke too.”

Emma followed him to the couch and happily crawled into Luke's lap before offering him one of the gooey brownies. The pups had one for

each of them and their mates. Eagerly accepting the treats the beta and gamma popped them into their mouths devouring them in a single

bite. The gamma moaned as he leaned back practically comatose in his rapture. Blake and Emma giggled at his over the top reaction.

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“Where can I buy these?” Ben sighed.

“You can buy the ingredients at any grocery store,” Phoebe chuckled as Jason slid his arms around her and held her close. “We made these from scratch.”

“You did?” Ben looked at her in surprise. “You bake?”

“Sure. I find it relaxing,” Phoebe nodded. Her mother loved to bake and her father had about as big of a sweet tooth as the gamma.

“You missed your calling. You definitely belong in the kitchen!”

“What was that?” Jason let out a short growl at the thought of Phoebe being anywhere or anything but his Luna.

“Easy, Alpha,” Luke chuckled. “That’s just the chocolate talking.”

“speaking of.” Ben leaned forward but Blake stepped out of his reach saving the last brownie.

“This is for Auntie Lucy,” the pup declared.

Ben huffed. Like Jason, Lucille didn’t have a particularly strong sweet tooth but she would never turn away fresh baked goodies especially if

they were delivered by her niece and nephew.

Phoebe chuckled, “There are more in the kitchen. The cooks are making them for dessert.”



“Oh really?” Ben perked up.

“Well now you know the way to his heart,” Jason joked nuzzling her and kissing her temple. He didn’t care how many hearts she captured

as long as hers belonged to him.

## Chapter 34

“Here's an updated budget for the Luna Ceremony,” Luke said as he handed him a folder.

Jason sighed opening it, “Seriously? How much does my mother expect to spend on this?”

Luke chuckled knowing Jason would sign off on it. No expense was too much for his Luna even if she thought they were already spending

too much. Norah was taking full advantage and Lucille and Mona were helping. The pack had gone a long time without a proper Luna so

~ everyone wanted to pull out all the stops. The ceremony was still a week away and preparations were humming along.

The invitations had been sent to various packs and almost all RSVP'd their intentions to join the pack for its long awaited induction. Many

had also included congratulations knowing how long Jason searched for his mate.

Jason was content to see his pack so enthusiastic so he didn’t mind the constantly changing budget. What was more they were already

feeling Phoebe’s influence. The pack was much calmer. There were fewer arguments and almost zero fights. Harassment of the lower ranks,

Soe Sesos hobs bod oboboo-tetty if was nonexistent. Mealtimes were boisterous but everyone kept it to

Not only was the pack calmer but they were more focused. The warriors were more serious about their training, patrols of the border were

more thorough and rogues were handled more efficiently. In Jason's mind even the meals had improved in flavor and scope but he did miss

Phoebe's home cooking. She had yet to make a private meal just for them but he didn't want to disrupt her settling into the pack.

"Garrison dropped off his selections," Luke added handing Jason another file.

He took this one with intense interest. The warrior had written down eight names. Luke included profiles on each of the wolves with a

description of their strengths, experience, training and achievements. He was pleased to note all were highly decorated warriors with ample

experience.

"He included eight names in case there were any you objected to," Luke said.

Jason nodded. He originally intended it to be a six-man team but eight warriors allowed for alternates making the team more flexible when

it came to traveling. Jason trusted Garrison to organize his team appropriately.

"Approved," Jason said. "Tell Garrison he can pull his team and start training them."

Luke nodded. He expected as much. Even after a week Jason's protectiveness over Phoebe had not diminished. If anything it had increased.

What was more Jason's alpha aura seemed to becoming more potent. He exuded it without trying and commanded attention wherever he

stepped into a room. Luke had known Jason's influence would grow once he found his Luna but even he was surprised by just how much.

The phone suddenly rang on the beta's desk. He glanced at the caller ID before answering, "Elder, this is Beta Luke."

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Jason perked up at Luke's practiced greeting.

"Of course. He is right here," Luke brought the phone to Jason. "Elder Ansel, Alpha."

Jason grunted taking the phone, "Elder Ansel."

"Ah, Alpha Jason...I'm calling in regards to the balm you submitted to us for a patent."

"You have analyzed it I trust."

"We have completed the first set of trails....but I'd rather not discuss this over the phone."

"Of course. When should we expect you?"

"I have time in a few days and I was planning to attend your pack's Luna Ceremony."

"We look forward to your visit," Jason agreed.

The line disconnected and Jason handed it back to Luke with a thoughtful look. Luke eyed the phone then his alpha, "What do you think?"

"You know how long wolves have searched for a means to heal silver wounds."

"Practically since we started roaming the earth," Luke nodded.

"I figured they'd want to keep the information secure until it's confirmed," Jason said.

"Which is why he didn't want to talk about it over the phone."

Jason nodded. He had absolute faith in Phoebe so he was confident in the balm Bridget developed. The Council didn't have the luxury of

his confidence so they would want to confirm everything concerned with the balm. His only worry was that the balm had originally been

invented in another pack as such Rimrock could claim propriety. But Phoebe and Bridget had made it independently without using any of

the packs resources and Jason hoped that would give his pack the edge.

In any case they wouldn't know the Council's thoughts until the Elder arrived. Jason was prepared to defend Bridget's rights to her creation

regardless of whether Blue Moon was awarded the patent rights. He was already researching the next step.

Every pack had their specialty that earned the majority of the pack's finances. Blue Moon specialized in security. Wolves, witches and

humans alike contacted them to provide security teams for important personages. Other packs specialized in medicine and medical

treatments. Although it would mean less money for his pack if they partnered with another they could be able to manufacture and

distribute much more easily.

Jason was willing to sacrifice some of his pack's potential profits if it meant more creatures who needed the balm would receive it.

Ultimately he would leave the final decision to Phoebe and Bridget to determine how they would market and distribute the balm.

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"Elder Ansel, welcome," Luke greeted as the aged wolf exited the armored SUV.

Almost seventy Ansel looked closer to fifty-five as wolves aged more slowly once they reached their twenties. His once black hair was salt n-

peppered now but his blue eyes were still clear and keen. He smiled amicably to the Beta.

"There seems to be quite a lot of activity," Ansel noted looking where the pack members were stringing lanterns and icicle lights.

“The Luna Ceremony is in three days,” Luke smiled. “Were expecting the alphas we’ve invited to start arriving later today.”

“Ah yes,” Ansel nodded though he was already well aware as he planned to stay to witness it himself.

“We’ve prepared a room for you. Did you want to head there first?”

“No. I think it would be best to see Alpha Jason first.

“Of course, follow me.” Luke expected as much and led the Elder up to the office while others carried his bags to the prepared room.

Luke knocked on the door before opening it and announced their guest. Jason immediately stood coming around his desk to shake hands

with the Elder having already been informed of his arrival through the link. Ben was also in attendance.

“Would you like a drink?” Jason asked gesturing for Ansel to sit.

“Yes please, my usual.”

Ben nodded retrieving brandy from the cabinet and poured for their guest. For Jason he poured whiskey before joining Luke at the door to

ensure they were not interrupted. Ansel sniffed the brandy savoring it. It was human made so it wouldn’t affect him but the flavor was much

better than a werewolf blend as aconite added a bitter aftertaste.

“Very fine,” Ansel sighed. “First, I believe congratulations are in order. I know you’ve been looking for your mate for a long time.”

Jason nodded, “I have but she was worth the wait.”

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Ansel chuckled. Jason sounded like a wolf in love and the devotion was certainly genuine. When Ansel originally received the invitation he was worried knowing how long Jason waited for a mate and thought perhaps he had taken a chosen mate. A chosen mate was fine for other wolves but for an alpha, especially one as powerful as Jason, it could have dire consequences. But it was clear to him Jason had found his true, fated mate. He was relieved.

Blue Moon had suffered considerably with the disharmony of their previous Alpha and Luna. After taking over Jason had instilled a sense of stability and the pack's bonds were largely repaired but without a Luna it was incomplete. A fated mate was always an alpha's first choice and in the past they found them with relative ease. Now; however, it was becoming more difficult for higher ranked wolves to find their fated mates and the Council was at a loss to explain why.

Knowing how important mates were the Moon Goddess generally ensured they would find each other. Mates were often found in

neighboring packs if not their own. But there were exceptions. It had taken Jason over a decade and his mate had been found in a pack a

considerable distance away. Ansel expected great things from Jason's Luna.

"I look forward to meeting her," Ansel said taking out a file, "as to the other business that brought me here."

Jason accepted the thin folder and looked over the graphs illustrating the test results.

"As I explained over the phone we completed the first round of tests and they were...unbelievable. The healing rate of wounds was almost

three times faster with the balm and scarring was dramatically lessened," Ansel said.

Jason was surprised to see the numbers but not by the result after Bridget and Phoebe explained it. He had full faith and trust in their

balm's remarkable ability.

"We wolves have been searching for millennia for a cure for silver and we've never come as close as this. I must ask...how did you do it?"

"I didn't," Jason shook his head. "The honor goes to someone else."

He looked to his Beta and Gamma giving them a nod. Ben bowed before departing. Ansel watched the silent exchange with a note of

curiosity. He didn't sense them link which meant this was preplanned or the Gamma knew his Alpha's intention without the need for

instruction. They waited several minutes before a knock announced the Gamma's return. With him arrived a pair of she-wolves.

Jason stood immediately claiming the polite, silver-eyed one kissing her temple. The gesture seemed familiar to them both. Even so she

blushed at his attention.

"Elder Ansel," Jason finally turned to his guest, "I'd like to introduce my mate and Luna, Phoebe, as well as our new pack member, Bridget."

"Luna, hello," Ansel hurriedly stood bowing to the dark-haired beauty.

"Phoebe, this is Elder Ansel from the Council," Jason explained.

"Hello," she sweetly smiled. "Please sit."

Bridget sat on a chair while Jason pulled Phoebe into his lap refusing to allow her to sit anywhere else. Ansel watched as unobtrusively as he

could noting the Alpha and Luna's body language and was satisfied though it was still unclear as to why the Moon Goddess made it so

difficult for them to find each other. There had to be a reason behind it.

Chapter 35

“Elder Ansel and I were discussing the silver-healing balm,” Jason explained looking from Phoebe to Bridget. “He has some questions about

it so I thought it best he spoke with the inventors.”

“Oh,” Bridget nodded. “I’ll explain all I can.”

“You invented it?” Ansel couldn’t hide his surprise as he turned his attention to the other she-wolf.

“Yes, with Phoebe’s help,” Bridget answered. “In our former pack our Luna coated her claws in silver and she wasn’t shy about using them.

We came up with the balm to help our fellow pack members heal from her...punishments.”

“Your former pack,” Ansel glanced from one she-wolf to the other. “Then you both came from the same pack.”

“Yes, Rimrock,” Phoebe confirmed. “We were both unranked.”

Ansel nodded. The majority of wolves in any pack were unranked individuals that included any wolf lower than delta but higher than omega.

“So what did you do in your pack?” Ansel asked. “I mean, your former pack.”

“I was a nurse.”

“I was a teacher...of sorts.”

“Teacher?”

Phoebe nodded, “I watched over the pack’s pups and taught them lessons.”

It was always a bit awkward describing her position in her former pack. Rimrock didn’t have a dedicated daycare facility like Blue Moon and

it wasn’t like the pack paid her much for the time she spent with the pups nor compensated her for the money she spent buying supplies



for their various projects.

Ansel was silent as he processed this information. It was rare for a luna to be chosen out of the lower ranks because an alpha's strength

could easily overwhelm lower ranked wolves. His luna needed the mental fortitude to withstand not just his aura but also the packs

dependence on her. Yet there was something different about this she-wolf, something almost uncanny. She didn't seem to be suffering at all

despite the aura that seemed to be oozing from Jason.

Jason always had a strong presence. His aura easily filled a room but now it was even more potent. Ansel sensed it when he first entered but

it was even more apparent now that Phoebe was in the room. His aura swirled around her like a protective blanket. A wolf would be a fool

to challenge him or, worse, threaten her.

"So this balm was actually invented in another pack," Ansel said. "Why didn't Rimrock file for a patent?"

"Probably because they didn't know about it," Bridget said. "We only used it on the unranked and omega wolves who suffered the most.

No one else was interested in something two she-wolves cooked up in their kitchen."

"Cooked up in your kitchen?"

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"Mine," Phoebe said, "my backyard was full of healing herbs too so it was a convenient workspace for us to experiment."

"So...then you didn't use any of your former pack's facilities?"

Phoebe and Bridget shook their heads. Bridget had asked for permission to use the hospital's lab but was denied. No one was interested in what the she-wolf intended to make.

Ansel considered this news carefully before coming to a decision, "In that case, I see no reason not to award Blue Moon a full patent for the balm and both of you will be created with its creation."

Phoebe shared a smile with Bridget. She honestly couldn't care less if her name was associated with the balm. Bridget was the one who spent hours researching and experimenting to create it.

"So...what happens now?" Phoebe asked.

"Now that we own the patent we can make and distribute it anyway we see fit," Jason answered, "or we can sell it to another pack to do the same. If we choose to collaborate with another pack it will decrease our profits somewhat but if we partner with a pack that specializes in medicine they'd have facilities to mass produce and distribute it with ease."

"Meaning more wolves would have access to it," Phoebe said looking at Bridget.

"I don't mind less profits for myself." Bridget said, "I think it's worth it if it means increasing availability but this is also the pack's finances so..."

"I agree," Phoebe seconded, "smaller profits is worth the cost if it means increasing distribution."

Jason chuckled, "I had a feeling both of you would say that. That's why I've already started looking into potential partners."

"Really?" Phoebe looked at him.

“Yeah. Harvest Moon in Kansas is probably the best candidate though they are sometimes difficult to work with. Once they see what your

balm can do I think theyll be more than happy to work with us.”

Anzel nodded, “A good choice. They are leaders in medical techniques and medicine. They’ll be able to distribute the balm not just to

wolves but other creatures as well: fairies, even humans.”

“Why humans?” Bridget asked curiously.

“Our testers indicated that their skin felt much softer after using the balm. There could be a secondary market in beauty products geared

toward humans besides the medicinal benefits for supernatural creatures...minus vampires.”

“Why not vampires?” Jason asked.

The history of werewolves and vampires was punctuated with several large wars and a certain level of animosity still existed between them

though they were generally peaceful.

“Vervain,” Bridget answered.

Jason raised an eyebrow.

“Vervain is as deadly to vampires as wolfsbane is to us,” Phoebe explained.

“Since it’s an ingredient in the balm it would be dangerous for them to use,” Bridget agreed. “That isn’t to say we couldn’t come up with a

formula that will work for them but it would take a lot of trial and error to find a substitute for vervain.”

“Interesting,” Jason said.

“Harvest Moon has top-of-the-line facilities so I'm sure they could help with that,” Ansel said, “if you do end up partnering with them.”

“Agreed. Their alpha is coming to the Luna Ceremony,” Jason said, “we can discuss it with him when he arrives. Which reminds me, Luke?”

The Beta stepped forward presenting each of them with a personalized pack card. As Norah assured her, Phoebe’s was a black card with

unlimited spending. Bridget was surprised to be given a gold card.

“Is this right?”

Jason nodded.

“But I’m just a nurse.”

“Who invented a life-saving medicine,” Jason said. “As its creator you’ll receive royalties for each sale in addition to your usual pack salary.

Believe me when I say it will be quite a sum.”

Bridget nodded still not quite believing it. Not in her wildest dreams did she think their little kitchen project would lead to this. All she

wanted to do was help her fellow wolves. She didn’t need fame but it seemed it was finding her anyway.

Bridget looked at Phoebe but the latter was staring at her new spending card with a frown. It was just too much. Phoebe was happy to see

her friend receiving much-deserved recognition but she hadn’t done anything remotely as important. She certainly didn’t deserve a card

with no limit.

“Phoebe,” Jason softly intoned.

She looked up to see his eyes swirling amber with his desire and devotion. It wrapped around her like a protective blanket assuring her he

would always be at her side. After her rejection Phoebe thought she would never know this level of care and security but Jason made it

known time and time again his world revolved around her. Smiling she stroked his cheek earning a low, possessive growl that almost

sounded like a purr. He smiled kissing her fingers. Though he was keeping his advances chaste in front of their company his gaze promised

much more.

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“Beta Luke!”

“Alpha William,” Luke nodded greeting to the alpha of Winter Moon.

They were close allies so he was a familiar sight. William was rather short for an alpha barely clearing five-seven while most alphas easily

reached over six feet. This did not mean William was a pushover, the exact opposite in fact. His complex about his height made the alpha

even more serious about his training. Even when they took their matches seriously Jason only managed to stay on an even-keel with the

other.

“You remember Camilla,” William said as he assisted the she-wolf out of the vehicle.

Luke nodded trying to keep back a grimace. He was no stranger to the female who had been Williams companion for several years. She

boasted a voluptuous form with large breasts that appealed to a lot of wolves. In heels she was several inches taller than William though in

actuality Luke believed them to be the same height.

Luke was not fond of her as she was cut from the same mold as Katrina. Both were lazy despite coming from upper ranks and both were

looking for alpha mates not caring what the Moon Goddess intended. Luke now knew Katrina rejected her rightful mate in her pursuit of

Jason and he wondered if Camilla had done the same. He certainly wouldn't put it past her. In all the time he knew her she never seemed

concerned with finding her fated mate. There was a time Camilla even showed interest in Jason though she didn't have the guts to

challenge Katrina.

"Your usual room has been prepared," Luke said, "dinner is still several hours away so please feel free to relax."

"Ah yes," William hesitated. "Tell me. Is it true? Did Jason finally find his mate?"

"He did," Luke smiled. "Twas there to witness it myself

"Then Blue Moon finally has a proper Luna, eh?"

"It does indeed and I've never felt the pack bonds stronger."

"I can't wait to meet her," William nodded and made his way inside. Like most he knew how long Jason had searched and waited foregoing

all relationships in the meantime. Tonight was certain to be one of many surprises.

Luke was certain the entire weekend would be full of surprises for their guests. The Luna Ceremony wasn't for another two days but Jason

was using it as an excuse for an alpha meeting as well since so many were gathering. Tonight was only a mixer of sorts for them to greet

each other in an informal setting as well as introduce Phoebe and the pups. Tomorrow the alphas would meet formally and Jason hoped to

unveil the new healing balm as long as the Harvest Moon alpha made his appearance.

The third day would culminate in the Luna Ceremony and a moonlit run led by the new Alpha and Luna. Jason said Phoebe's wolf was

speaking to her and he was certain she would be able to shift. That in and of itself was something to celebrate considering what they now

knew about her past. They worried she might have difficulties during her shift but the few times Jason broached the conversation Phoebe

gave no hint of it being an issue.

What worried her was remembering the names of all the Alphas, Lunas and Betas invited to the event. It was a worry Jason found laughable

since she had no difficulty recalling any pack member she was introduced to even if it was only a quick hello.

Luke turned as the next vehicle arrived noting its occupants and greeting them. As he ushered them inside and a pack member parked their

car he linked Jason, "No sign of Harvest Moon yet."

## Chapter 36

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### Second Chance Luna

"Let me know as soon as they arrive," Jason closed the link.

He leaned back in his chair. With the Council's tactful approval he was eager to begin negotiations. He had only met the Harvest Moon

alpha once or twice before. From what he recalled the alpha was a tall, lanky wolf but quick and suitably stubborn. His luna was more

amicable and cooperative so he hoped she could convince her mate to work with them.

"There, you are," Lucille said entering without knocking. "You do realize there is a party going on."

"Not for a few more hours."

“Well, you have to get ready too, you know. It doesn’t look good if you are late to your own party.”

“It doesn’t take that long.”

Lucille snorted, “Right, I forgot males are so easy. Fine, well. Head up whenever. Mom and I are getting Phoebe and the kids ready in her suite so you'll have yours all to yourself”

“Why in mother’s suite?”

“So you can’t sneak a peek at your precious Luna until the party,” Lucille smirked. “If we let the two of you get ready together you'll never

make an appearance.”

Jason frowned.

“I mean, I know mates are all over each other but you two have been like rabbits.”

Jason felt his face warm.

“Don’t worry. We'll take care of her. Just don’t get so caught up in work you forget to join us.”

Jason grunted as his sister departed. She had a point. Every time he saw Phoebe he could barely contain himself and Lobo was no help

filling his mind with all sorts of lewd ideas. Try as he might he had no self-control as soon as he caught her scent.

And despite her inexperience Phoebe didn’t seem able or willing to deny him. She accepted him heart, soul and body and seemed to crave

him as much as he craved her. They had lost their inhibitions surprisingly fast trying new positions each night all equally satisfying though

he had his favorites. The only position he had no interest in was her going down on him. He didn’t like anything that focused on his own



gratification. He preferred their bodies grinding together in perfect rhythm.

Even now the thought was enough to stir him. Jason growled at himself and sighed. Somehow he had to marshal his control tonight...at

least until they returned to their bedroom. Lobo was already wagging his tail in anticipation. Jason tried to shake the thoughts away and

focused on work.

Time passed more quickly than he realized. When he looked at the clock he had less than an hour to get ready. Cursing himself he closed

his laptop and hurried to his room jumping in the shower. When he emerged and stepped into the closet he had a moment of panic not

knowing what Phoebe was wearing. He didn't want to clash nor appear too formal. Finally he settled on his customary black silk shirt and

trousers before heading down.

"Where are you brother?"

"Work ran late. 'm on my way down now."

Lucille gave Phoebe a sympathetic smile, "I swear he doesn't know the first thing about moderation."

Phoebe chuckled. Jason seemed incapable of balancing work and play. Though running late on such an important night didn't seem to

surprise everyone else who considered him a workaholic she couldn't help but feel it was her fault in some way.

"Well, yes and no," Mani said. You two have been going at it pretty steadily."

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"What do you mean? I assumed it was because our bond was new."

"Well, yes. But we're also approaching the full moon."

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‘So?

“I already told you. We are only fertile on our heat cycles that coincide with the full moon so it’s natural that our mate would have an

enhanced libido during that time.”

“But...I’m not in heat.”

‘So?

Phoebe caught Mani’s meaning. Even if she wasn’t in heat Jason would still be affected by the full moon and desire her even more strongly.

That would mean he would also become more protective since he wouldn’t want another male near her during those times.

“Bingo. Now you get it.’

“Does this mean he’ll calm down after the full moon?”

“Possessive wise? Probably. But he likes making us call his name so probably not in bed. So don’t worry.”

Phoebe fought her blush. That wasn’t what she was worried about.

\*“Mhmm. Sure...”

“Something the matter?” Lucile asked.

Phoebe shook her head, “Just a disagreement with my wolf.

Lucille nodded. Just because their wolf spirits were part of them didn’t mean they always agreed. After hearing about Phoebe’s situation

from her brother any interaction Phoebe had with her wolf was an important achievement.

“What do you think you are doing?!”

Phoebe jerked to attention at the harsh voice and saw a she-wolf towering over her pups. Since arriving at Blue Moon Blake and Emma had

enjoyed an easy, carefree life. No pack member would think about threatening them.

“Do you know how expensive this dress is?”

“We didn’t mean to bump into you,” Blake said picking up his sister who had fallen during the collision. “We were just playing.”

“Playing? I’ll show you play!”

“That won’t be necessary,” Phoebe said barely keeping the growl out of her voice as she quickly approached.

“Mommy!\* Emma ran up to her hugging her leg.

“These are your spawn?” the she-wolf demanded as Blake joined his sister under their adoptive mother’s protection.

“They are my pups, yes,” Phoebe corrected warily eyeing her.

She was several inches taller though that meant little to Phoebe used to facing wolves taller than herself. The she-wolf had a voluptuous

figure with breasts and hips that would turn just about any male’s head especially when crammed into her short, red dress. Her auburn hair

was silky smooth and framed a narrow but pleasing face. She would have been beautiful if not for her scowl.

“They ran into me and nearly knocked me over. What if I bruise?”

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"I think you will survive," Phoebe answered evenly much to the she-wolf's shock.

Phoebe had always been the first to back down whenever conflict arose because of her low rank much to Méni's consternation. Now that

she was Luna it was becoming easier to stand up against unreasonable wolves. She might have a gentle nature but she certainly wouldn't

tolerate anyone threatening her pups.

"Kids, say you're sorry for bumping into this... lady."

"We're sorry. We'll be more careful," they said in unison.

"Apology not accepted."

"Well, that really isn't our problem is it?" Phoebe said shooing the pair towards Lucille. "Go back to your aunt and uncle you two."

"Hang on!" the she-wolf demanded. "That's it! You're not going to punish them?"

Phoebe calmly looked at her, "Apologizing to you was punishment enough."

"Why you—"

"Daddy!" Blake and Emma suddenly squealed.

The room fell silent as Jason entered. Before he could apologize for his tardiness two small forms ran up to him with their arms open wide.

Chuckling, he scooped up the pair of pups and nuzzled each in turn. After a week of awkwardness Jason now had a comfortable familiarity

with the pups. His scent was firmly established with theirs and since they spent the majority of their day with Phoebe her scent was also

strongly entwined with theirs and the combination was rather addictive.

"Daddy, you're late," Emma loudly declared.

"I know. I'm sorry about that. It won't happen again," Jason said earning a few chuckles around the room from his pack mates. No doubt it

was quite amusing to see one of the most powerful alphas being chastised by a little pup.

"You better not or you'll be in trouble," Emma warned earning another round of laughter. "Right, mommy?"

Jason looked to see Phoebe approaching and nearly dropped the siblings. Her hair had been crimped to give it more body and partially

tamed in a half-up do. She wore a classic, little black dress showing off her shapely legs. The neckline was square with wide shoulder straps

and dipped just low enough to tease him with the swell of her breasts.

All of her shapely curves were on display and he cursed himself for not asking ahead of time so he could mentally prepare to see her

looking so sultry. No doubt that was Lucille's intention. It was going to be a long night.

"You're late," Phoebe said as he carefully set the pups down before pulling her close.

"I know. I'm sorry," he kissed her temple savoring her scent with a pleased growl. His mate. His Luna.

"Careful Alpha," Phoebe whispered smelling his arousal, "or your punishment will be to sleep alone tonight."

The warning practically made Lobo curl up on his back begging for a second chance while Jason marshaled his control saying, "That's not

fair, angel."

"No, what's not fair is that I'll be punished too if it comes to that," Phoebe corrected. "Do you want me to suffer for a crime I didn't

commit?"

Jason chuckled, "Message received. I'll be on my best behavior.

"I'll believe it when I see it."

Jason cleared his throat realizing they had an audience. Turning to face them with his arms around her waist he said, "Friends, thank you for

coming all this way. These days it seems we're always gathering to face some sort of crisis so I'm sure you'll all agree how nice it is to be

together for a joyous event instead."

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The alphas, lunas, betas and gammas from various packs gathered nodded in agreement. Lately it had been rogue attacks, a year ago it had

been hunters and before that vampires. They always seemed to be facing one crisis after another so it was good to gather for a celebration.

A pack member carrying a tray of drinks approached allowing Jason and Phoebe to each grab a wine glass.

"As most of you know I've been looking for my fated mate for some time," Jason said, "I can't tell you how glad I am to finally be able to

introduce her to you. Everyone this is my mate and Luna, Phoebe. And our pups, Blake and Emma. I'm sure you're all eager to meet them as.

Twass so let's toast the most beautiful she-wolf I have ever met...though I have been told I'm biased."

The crowd chuckled as they raised their glasses and toasted the new couple. Though some had doubted the announcement given how long

Jason had been waiting there was no denying the body language between them. At long last he had found his mate and Blue Moon finally

had a proper Luna. None would be able to ignore the pack's influence now that it was complete.

"I must say, this a surprise."

Jason grinned wide and eagerly shook the approaching alpha's hand, "It's been a while Will. Phoebe, this is Alpha William of the Winter

Moon Pack. Will, my angel, Phoebe."

"Pleasure to meet you," Phoebe smiled sensing a long friendship between the two alphas.

"The pleasure is all mine. And this is Camilla," William said as he snaked an arm around a curvy she-wolf Phoebe could hardly forget.

"Ah yes, we've already met," Phoebe nodded daring the she-wolf to elaborate.

No one had been more surprised by Jason's arrival or announcement than Camilla. When William showed her the invitation she assumed

Katrina had finally managed to snag her alpha. But now she found herself facing a very different she-wolf. Phoebe was petite and though

pretty enough certainly didn't have many major assets. And yet, Camilla couldn't put her finger on it, but there was something unnerving

about the female that had her own wolf cowering and ready to expose its belly.

"I am curious though," William continued. "Pups? You two only just met, right?"

Phoebe smiled, "Blake and Emma are adopted. They were orphans in my former pack. I took them in."

"Naturally they came with Phoebe when she joined Blue Moon," Jason nodded. "I adopted them officially during their pack initiation."

"Initiation? You mean blood initiation," William said to which Jason confirmed. "Still..."

"It's kind of rude to expect a male to raise someone else's pups, isn't it?" Camilla said, "especially an alpha."

"Depends on the male, I suppose," Phoebe eyed her coolly. "Though I think any male willing to display their paternal side is extremely attractive."

"What's precious to Phoebe is precious to me," Jason added as he glared at the she-wolf who spoke out of turn. "Besides, I never heard of an alpha denying their luna anything her heart desired."

Jason's embrace around her waist tightened pulling Phoebe against his chest as Lobo growled agreement. Nothing their mate requested would be denied.

"So why did your first mate reject you? Was it the kids or the fact you are wolfless?" Camilla asked. Since arriving she had been making rounds throughout the room and gained quite a bit of gossip.

Jason growled. William shot her a panicked look pleading for her to watch her step. Phoebe only smiled as her eyes shimmered silver. She

didn't bother to hide her amusement at Camilla's attempt to insult her. The rumors meant nothing to her. She made no attempt to hide her

past rejection and felt no shame. As for the rumors of her being wolfless, anyone in tune with their wolf would know it was false as Jason

already proved. For the rest they would realize the truth soon enough when they led the moonlit run.

"Neither as far as I know," Phoebe answered calmly. "My first mate had already settled on taking a chosen mate. Apparently he was more

interested in listening to his d\*\*k than his wolf."

Jason's chest rumbled agreement as he kissed the top of her head and breathed deep. Phoebe knew he was angry but it wouldn't do to



cause a scene here. Hopefully her scent would keep him calm.

“The pups weren't even born then and as for the other part...that will be cleared up on its own.”

“Why not clear it up now?” Camilla smirked. “Scared?”

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Chapter 37

“Is that a challenge?” Phoebe benignly smiled, her gray eyes shimmering

Camilla hesitated, her wolf cowering. The rumors swirling around the new Luna were enough to make most lower their heads in shame, so

Phoebe's confidence was unnerving. Apparently, her rejection was no secret and as far as her being wolfless, Camilla had only confirmed

that no one had seen her wolf

Camilla forced her doubts back. She couldn't afford to be intimidated, not now. Forcing some bravado, she said, “1 for one wouldn't wait for

a fated mate when there are better options standing right next to you.”

William sighed, not meeting Jason's pensive frown. He had been seeking his fated mate almost as long as Jason. While the latter had

foregone any relationships, William was no stranger to sharing his bed

Camilla was his most consistent companion. Lately, she had been pressing him to take each other as chosen mates. She was so convincing

and earnest he almost complied numerous times

“I find it sad,” Phoebe's gaze reflected her sorrow and pity. “Searching for your fated mate may seem arduous, but you should never forget

they are searching for you too. Perhaps they have been looking even longer

Perhaps their first mate ripped their soul apart by rejection and they have hidden themselves from the pain, still desperately craving

someone to make them whole

“But to think you would give up, break the link that binds you together before either can even feel it and abandon them to their pain when

you could have been the one to save them. Jason has made me feel more

Chapter 37 WZ complete than I ever thought was possible. He may call me angel, but he is truly my guardian angel. I don't know what I

would have done if he hadn't found me.”

Jason's embrace tightened. He bowed his head, nuzzling her as both he and Lobo were overcome with love for their mate. Jason would

never stop telling her how special she was or making her feel loved

“Our Mate loves us!” Lobo practically howled

“I love you, angel,” Jason poured all his devotion into their link

“Mommy! Mommy!” Emma said, skipping up to them and grasping her hand. “Blake and me found something! Wanna see!”

“Of course,” Phoebe smiled. “Let's see what you found.”

She gave Jason a loving look before she let the pup pull her away. He was reluctant to let her go, but they would have plenty of time

together later. Phoebe was glad to get away from the other she-wolf who was far too irritating

She worried that William would make a very poor decision if he took the other as his chosen mate. But she also wasn't sure it was her place

to speak to him. He was Jason's friend, not hers. If he asked for her advice directly she would gladly give it, but until then she hoped her

sentiments resonated with him

“See mommy! Look!” Emma said as they reached a rather quiet corner and pulled her mind away from her thoughts

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There, several pups had gathered to avoid getting underfoot of so many alphas and lunas. Though it was unlikely any would reprimand the

pups too harshly while on Blue Moon's pack lands, the presence of so many dominant figures made the pups inclined to be on their best

behavior

Only Blake and Emma retained a boisterous nature due to Jason's alpha blood intermixed with theirs

Chapter 37 Ww The pups had gathered around an old, scuffed upright piano. The front panels were carved with a woodland scene with

wolves, showing that

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at one time the piano had been a centerpiece, though it was now regulated to this corner. Her mind immediately recalled her mother's

piano currently languishing in storage until she decided what to do with it

“Well, look at that,” Phoebe gently pulled out the bench and sat down

She noted the dust before lifting the protective cover over the keys. “How long has this been here?”

The pups gathered around her shrugged. They had never heard it played in their lifetimes

“That's a shame,” Phoebe tapped a few keys to find it still in tune. = You know instruments need to be played or else they slowly die. But

this one still has some life in it.”

“Play something, mommy,” Emma said. “Please?”

“What would you like me to play?”

“Something bouncy!” Emma declared. “So we can dance!”

“You want to dance? Something bouncy...oh, I know,” Phoebe placed her hands on the keys

wee

“So..your mate,” William cleared his throat. “She’s something else.”

“You have no idea,” Jason smiled, his gaze slowly leaving her retreating form. “I can’t count the number of ways she’s surprised me.”

“She doesn’t seem all that special,” Camilla scoffed, earning a warming glare from Jason she ignored. “I mean she was already rejected

once.”

William nudged her, trying to link her to be quiet, but she seemed

Chapter 37 WZ

oblivious. Now that Phoebe had walked away her influence also waned and Camilla was eager to shed the last of her internal shame

“Who is their right minds would give her the time of day?”

Jason struggled to control himself as Lobo raged. His eyes shifted and his hair bristled. Was this she-wolf really so oblivious? Did she have a

death

wish?

Before he could answer, the sounds of someone plucking piano keys reverberated through the room. It was followed by someone running

their hands down the line of keys before hitting the strong beat of Elton John’s I’m Still Standing. The stunned crowd turned as one toward

the long forgotten piano in the corner

There, they saw Phoebe expertly playing the eighties' hit while the young pups happily danced around her, hopping to the beat. Even the

teenagers, who hovered around the outskirts, gathered close and grooved to the song none heard before. Phoebe hardly seemed aware of

the gathered crowd, laughing lightly at the pup's antics as her head swayed with the energetic song

Many looked to Jason for explanation only to see him, staring in wonder and pride. Dimly, he recalled the piano in her cottage and her

confession that her mother had taught her to play. He had forgotten, but even with that knowledge he hadn't expected her to play like this

"Did you know?" Luke nudged Jason, bringing him out of his silent reverie

"I knew her mother taught her to play," Jason said

Phoebe ended the song with a flourish and laughed as the pups applauded and giggled, their faces flush from exertion. The gathered

alphas and lunas suddenly broke into their own applause, startling her

Phoebe blushed, averting her gaze. She had never played for such a large

Chapter 37 W group before, or any group for that matter

"That was great!" Ben declared as he and Lucille moved closer. "Can you play Never Gonna Give You Up?"

"Really?" Lucille scoffed

"Why am I not surprised?" Phoebe chuckled at the gamma. "I figured you'd be an eighties fan, just like my dad."

Lucille gave her mate an exasperated look even as Phoebe turned back to the piano. Placing her fingers on the keys, Phoebe began to play

the opening chords to Astley's Never Gonna Give You Up to the crowd's surprise and delight

Ben's expression lit up, recognizing the familiar tune and, much to Lucille's horror, began to sing horribly off-key, "We're no strangers to

love, You know the rules and so do I, A full commitment's what I'm thinking of, You wouldn't get this from any other guy, just wanna tell

you how I'm feeling, Gotta make you understand, Never gonna give you up, Never gonna let you down, Never gonna run around and

desert you, Never gonna make you cry, Never gonna say goodbye, Never gonna tell a lie and hurt

you

Jason pinched the bridge of his nose, cringing in embarrassment

Luke chuckled, shaking his head. Both wished they could say the Gamma had been drinking, but he was definitely stone-cold sober. The rest

of the room tried to hold in their laughter even as Lucille flushed red because of her mate's antics

As Ben finished the chorus, a new voice picked up the song for the second verse. Mouths dropped as Phoebe sang in a clear, strong voice

that even made Ben sound better when he joined her for the chorus, "We've known each other for so long, Your heart's been aching, but

you're too shy

to say it, Inside, we both know what's been going on, We know the game

Chapter 37 Ww and we're gonna play it, And if you ask me how I'm feeling, Don't tell me you're too blind to see, Never gonna give you up,

Never gonna let you down, Never gonna run around and desert you, Never gonna make you cry, Never gonna say goodbye, Never gonna

tell a lie and hurt you.”

Lobo was practically rolling in ecstasy at the sound of their mate's voice. Jason was finding it hard to contain himself as Phoebe and Ben

finished their impromptu duet and earned stunned applause from their listeners. No one in the room had expected such a powerful voice

from such a petite body

Lunas were the glue that bound a pack together. Thus, Alphas focused on finding a strong Luna, but there was more than one kind of

strength and many forgot that a Luna's character and heart were just as important if

not more so. Phoebe was proving just how important those factors really were to winning hearts and minds

“Am I supposed to be impressed?” Camilla scoffed, earning several disgruntled glares and more than a few growls

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“Perhaps you would prefer the classics,” Phoebe amicably said, glancing at the other female

She tured back to the piano, playing Beethoven's Fuir Elise . The gathered werewolves looked on with approval. Like humans, werewolves

appreciated skill and their sensitive ears could pick out even the slightest nuances, which made it difficult to please them unless the player

was truly a master of their craft

“Luna, how did you lean to play like that?” a pup eagerly asked

“My mother taught me,” Phoebe smiled. “You have to practice a lot

Right Blake? Come here and play with me.”

Phoebe stopped playing and encouraged the nervous pup to join her

Hesitating, he climbed onto the bench. Blake fidgeted as Phoebe placed a

Chapter 37 Ww

hand on the keys and played a simple melody. Still nervous, Blake nevertheless set a finger on the higher keys and played with her. Phoebe

maintained a slow pace, making it easier for him to keep up as it had been some time since they last played Heart and Soul. They ended

together and Phoebe hugged him as the pups cheered

“Can you play too, Emma?” a pup asked

“I can play Twinkle Twinkle,” Emma proudly declared. She wasn’t quite as studious as her brother, but with a new batch of admirers, Phoebe

wondered if she would take it more seriously

Phoebe changed places with Emma so she could tap out the familiar rhythm. The younger pups closely watched, eager to learn. Phoebe

chuckled. Perhaps she had just gained a new group of music students

“I have lesson books if any of you are interested in learning,” Phoebe said. “We can turn the room next to the daycare into a music room.”

“Yeah!” the pups cheered, not only eager to learn, but eager to spend time with their kind Luna, who never talked down to them

“But first we should give this piano some attention,” Phoebe said

“You mean clean it?” a pup wrinkled his nose

“I do. It should be cleaned, polished and tuned. It’s important to take care of things that are special. It makes them stronger and better.”

“Sounds like work,” another pup said



Phoebe laughed, "It is. Anything worth having is worth working for, but work is easier when we do it together. Promise."

## Chapter 38

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## Chapter 38 WD Chapter 38

"I can't believe her!" Camilla paced the hall. "Things worth having are worth working for ..what is she a Disney movie?"

What made it worse was the effect Phoebe was having on the gathering. Everyone gravitated toward her as if she was an important wolf

Hal

She was wolfless! Did they not know that? Phoebe was nothing, a nobody. Even her first mate recognized that fact. What was her secret?

Camilla paused, glancing at her own assets on display in her tight dress

She was clearly more impressive than Phoebe, who was practically flat by comparison. And yet..

Phoebe stood in the arms of the most influential alpha in the world

Jason was completely smitten. The look on his face when she played the piano was one of pure rapture. All night long he barely let her out

of his arms, always holding her close and often bowing his head to nuzzle and kiss her as if he couldn't control the compulsion

Worse than Jason's apparent infatuation was the effect it was having on William. Prior to coming to Blue Moon, Camilla had all but

convinced him to take her as his chosen mate. With the romance of the Luna Ceremony she thought she would finally succeed, but

Phoebe's speech and the way Jason acted ruined her plans. Even now, William turned down her advances, claiming he had a headache and

just wanted to lie down

Her body craved release and he was not delivering. Camilla continued to pace. She had never been so frustrated. It wasn't easy, turning an

alpha's

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head. William's complex about his height made him an easy target, but his hope of finding his fated mate hampered her plans. And his

friendship with Jason greatly influenced him. William's desire for his fated mate mimicked Jason's obsession

Camilla sighed. Jason would have made a far better mate. The only reason she hadn't tried for him was because of Katrina. Who would have

thought that such a petite, unassuming female would unseat Katrina and take her place? If Camilla had known it would be so easy to usurp

the Alpha daughter she would have challenged Katrina herself

Jason was everything an Alpha should be: strong, handsome and tall

Camilla could only imagine what it would be like to be held down by such a powerful male while he took her. She shivered in anticipation,

her core heating up with just the thought. If that gray-eyed nobody could do it, then so could she

Coming to a decision, Camilla stalked off down the hall. Making her way to a quiet staircase, she headed upward, eventually reaching the

alpha floor. There she paused cautiously, listening for patrols. Blue Moon prided itself on its security, so there were always a few warriors

wandering the halls; however the alpha floor remained silent

Given the fact the Alpha, Beta and Gamma all lived on the upper floor, its safety was guaranteed. Added to that, the fact that the entire pack

respected their Alpha's boundaries, none would dare enter his domain without permission. This left a blind spot any wolf without a sense of

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self-preservation could take advantage of

Camilla slowly stepped out into the hallway and moved further into the heart of the pack. Her nose wrinkled in disgust as she smelled

Lucille, whom she never liked, as well as Luna Norah, who never liked her. She also caught the smell of pups and snarled

## Chapter 38 Ww

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It was ridiculous to think those orphans enjoyed the privilege of living on the alpha floor. They should be hidden away somewhere with the

omegas. Orphans were only useful as servants. With a huff, Camilla wandered further in. She had never been on this floor but all packhouses

shared similar floor plans

The alphas private suite would be in the heart of the floor. That's where she headed, reaching the final door past the common rooms. There

she paused, breathing deep and smelling the unmistakable musk of a male

in rut. It seemed he was as eager for release as she was

Smiling, Camilla pulled down her dress, letting it pool at her feet and leaving her completely nude as she hadn't bothered with

undergarments

Once he saw her, she knew he'd never look at that plain nobody again

Finding the door unlocked, she boldly stepped inside and strode into the suite past the sitting area, heading toward the bed before coming

to a stop

It was empty

Camilla frowned. The scent in the room was far too strong for its occupant to have been gone long. Suddenly, the bathroom door opened

and Phoebe exited wrapped in a towel. She laughed as Jason emerged a step behind. His arm snagged around her waist and he pulled her

back to him, growling as he buried his nose in her neck, nibbling on her marking spot and earned a moan in response

His other hand moved lower, reaching under her towel. Phoebe's back arched as she pressed against him. They had only just finished in the

shower and he already wanted more. She chuckled as her gaze suddenly fell on Camilla and stiffened in surprise

"What is it?" Jason mumbled against her neck, feeling her tension and the smell of her arousal fading

When she didn't answer, he finally looked up as a foreign smell

Chapter 38 Ww invaded his nostrils. His gaze fell on Camilla and his eyes suddenly shifted to amber, practically glowing as a snarl ripped out

of him. Rushing past Phoebe, he stalked toward the intruding she-wolf who dared interrupt his time with his mate in their private sanctum

Camilla stared open-mouthed at the Adonis approaching her, his erect member bulging out from under the towel loosely tied around his

waist

Even as his hand gripped her throat, her wildest fantasies flitted through her mind. With a growl, Jason squeezed, cutting off her breath

Camilla's eyes went wide as she struggled for breath, clawing at his hand, but Jason's grip was a vice. His claws sunk into her flesh, causing

pain to shoot through her as he dragged her back the way she came and tossed her down the first set of stairs. She rolled with a shriek,

crumpling at the bottom. She gasped for breath. Tears streaked down her cheeks as pain coursed through her. Hesitantly, she looked up to

see him, standing over her fur bristling as he fought his wolf for control. It was clear if his wolf

won, she would be ripped to shreds in moments

But why?

“Alpha?”

She looked over her shoulder as a warrior arrived summoned by Phoebe’s mindlink. He stared at the naked she-wolf at his Alpha’s feet. This

was certainly not a sight he ever expected to see

“Get this thing out of my sight!” Jason growled. “And find out how she got into my suite without being stopped!”

“Y-yes Alpha!” the pack warrior seized Camilla’s arm and dragged her away

She struggled, casting a pleading look toward Jason, but he had already turned away. His arms wrapped around Phoebe, who had hurriedly

put on a robe before following them. He breathed deep, taking in her scent

Chapter 38 WZ to calm himself

“Angel, are you all right?”

“I’m fine,” Phoebe assured him, leaning into his chest. She had been surprised when she realized they weren’t alone, but she hadn’t been

hurt

Jason groaned, trailing kisses down her neck, reaching her mark

Phoebe shivered as tingles shot through her like an electrical current. With a growl, he swept her off her feet and carried her to their

bedroom, kicking the door closed. He set her down on her feet as they reached the bed

Capturing her mouth, he tugged open her robe before tossing it aside

Her body was warm against his and his erect member still ready for her

With a groan, they fell back onto the bed. Her back arched, pressing her pelvis against his, but the adrenaline coursing through him

required something more

Jason stood, turning her over and pulling her hips toward him until she stood bent over in front of him. Phoebe tensed. This was not the

first time he had taken her from behind, but it had always been on the bed. He thrust into her far more savagely than ever before. She

moaned in surprise at the sudden intrusion, but it was quickly masked by pleasure as he withdrew and thrust into her again

Their bodies slammed into each other with a fast, unforgiving pace

Phoebe groaned, her insides aching. She struggled to keep herself propped up as he forced her over the edge. Her body tensed and

squeezed him as he filled her, claiming her with savage possessiveness before they both collapsed in satisfied exhaustion

wae

Jason slowly stirred, pulling Phoebe close to nuzzle her. Phoebe sighed as he nibbled her ear. She shivered and chuckled, but didn't dare

Chapter 38 Ww move, afraid her body would not respond

"Did I hurt you?" Jason gently pulled her to face him

"..No," she smiled. "But next time maybe warn me."

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Jason chuckled, kissing her, savoring her soft lips. Before meeting Phoebe, Jason used to roll his eyes whenever Lucille and Ben hunkered

themselves into a convenient corner and spent hours, kissing and touching each other. He wondered how they could go at it with such

indiscrimination, but now he understood

When Phoebe was close he couldn't keep his hands from reaching for her. When she wasn't nearby he longed for her and often had to fight

himself not to go searching for her. Her scent was intoxicating and he couldn't get enough. The spicy note to her scent flared, confirming

her desire for him and his chest rumbled with a growl

"Sorry, angel," he muttered. He had never wanted to take her like that: like a crazed animal, but there was no denying how satisfying it had

been

There was something about claiming her with no semblance of self-control

that stirred him and his wolf. "Was it..."

She pulled him close, kissing him. Their tongues twisted around each other, enticing him. But instead of satisfying him, it only stoked his

appetite. Phoebe smiled as their lips slowly parted, "It was invigorating."

"Good," Jason sighed. As long as she hadn't been hurt, then it was all right. Even so, he felt her discomfort through their bond. No doubt

she was still recovering and more than a little sore from the rough way he claimed her. "Let me make it up to you."

"And how are you going to do that?"

“Well,” Jason kissed her, “I’ll kiss you until it doesn’t hurt anymore.”

## Chapter 38 Ww

“That might take a while. It might take all night.”

“I don’t mind,” his lips drifted down her neck, working his way to her chest and teasing first one breast, then the other

Phoebe moaned. His mouth was so warm and his tongue incited waves of pleasure as her core ached for him. She should be tired, too tired

for more, but that didn’t change the fact she wanted him, longed for him

“Jason...what about..that she-wolf..” Phoebe sighed. She recalled the intruder well enough, but her mind had difficulty maintaining the

thought as he stimulated her

Jason growled, not wanting to be reminded, but answered her, “I’ll talk to William in the morning. He can deal with her.”

Phoebe nodded. It was a shame it had come to that. She had no sympathy for Camilla, but William would be devastated. It was bad enough

she tried to force William into marking her, but that she would even dare to seduce Jason, who was happily mated. Not only did the she-

wolf have no shame, but she also lacked common sense

“Don’t think about her,” Jason kissed her before moving lower again, slowly making his way past her navel. Phoebe shivered in anticipation.

All other thoughts were quickly left behind

## Chapter 39

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## Chapter 39 WZ Chapter 39

Camilla lay on the cot, shivering. She never realized Blue Moon had a prison. The cells were clean, though sparse. Hers only contained the



cot firmly attached to the wall and an Asian-style toilet beside a sink also firmly attached to the silver-lined wall. They left her in the

minimum security wing where the interior wall was only bars, allowing her to see down the hall and the empty cells across from her own

The pack warrior hadn't even asked her name before, tossing her into the cell without a second thought. Securing the door, he left her

without a word or blanket and her dress was still somewhere on the alphas floor. The silver bars, as well as the silver rebar in the walls,

prevented her from contacting William, so she was forced to stay put through the long, cold night

Memory of the confrontation on the alpha floor was burned into her mind. Jason was everything she imagined. But with that was also the

image of his company and the way he practically devoured Phoebe fresh out of the shower. The smell of their recent lovemaking was thick

in the steam, wafting around them. He was clearly eager for more

He had taken one look at Camilla's voluptuous form and flew into a rage. Tossing her aside like a piece of trash, he immediately turned back

to Phoebe. As much disgust and anger as he had exhibited towards Camilla, he was filled with longing and lust as he swept Phoebe off her

feet and carried her away. Jason was clearly wrapped around her finger. How did such a petite, inadequately endowed she-wolf manage to

snag the most desirable Alpha in the entire world?

"Here she is."

## Chapter 39 WZ

Camilla jerked to attention at the sound of the deep, male voice

Jason stood at the front of the cell staring at her through the bars with a look of disdain. He was joined by another and her stomach

dropped as William came into her view. William curled his lip in disgust

“I’ll leave her to you,” Jason said, before departing without a second look

Her guard appeared, unlocking the door and granted William access before disappearing. Camilla stood as William entered. Licking her lips,

she

tried to make an excuse. Before she said a word, he slapped her across the face, causing her to stumble back in surprise

“So I’m not good enough for you, is that it?” William growled. “All that talk about being chosen mates was all lies. You just want to be Luna,

you don’t care whose!”

“Of course I care.”

“That’s right, you want to be Jason’s even though he already has his Luna”

“She’s just a wolfless...”

Another slap cut her off, stinging her other cheek

“She’s a Luna! A true Luna! Something you will never be!” William growled.

“Get back to the room and get some clothes on. There are pups

around here!”

He stalked out of the cell and left her to make her own way back to their suite.

Her face burned with embarrassment thinking he would

eventually return to escort her, at least bring her something to cover herself up with, but the cells remained silent. Not even the guard came

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back to check on her. Eventually, she had no choice but to accept William wasn’t coming back

Finally, she slowly made her way out, moving along the wall to the

Chapter 39 Ww exit. A guard stood by, but said nothing as she continued past the first gate and slowly made her way to the entrance where

a pair of guards manned the front desk. They barely looked at her despite her nudity. With her face burning red, she marched toward the

door. They buzzed her out, allowing her to leave without a word

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The morning breeze was cool against her heated skin. Her wolf was a whimpering ball of self-pity in her mind and no amount of prodding

succeeded in stirring her. With a disgusted growl, Camilla tuned in what she thought was the direction of the packhouse. Wolves had very

little inhibitions when it came to nudity, but Camilla couldn't shake her feelings of shame as she finally made it to her goal

slinking through the back door, smells wafted from the kitchen telling her breakfast was being served. Breathing a sigh of relief, knowing

the hallways would be empty, Camilla quickly made her way to the fourth floor and finally reached William's suite

She would make that b\*\*\*h pay. There was one surefire way to put Phoebe in her place. Camilla would challenge her for her Luna position.

In front of so many witnesses, Phoebe wouldn't be able to say no. There was no way that wolfless b\*\*\*h would be able to fend off Camilla's

attacks

Then everyone would see her for what she was: worthless, weak and rejected. And Jason would realize the mistake he made

He was a strong Alpha and needed a strong Luna. Camilla had no doubt in her mind that she was that she-wolf. Everyone would agree with

her. They wouldn't be able to deny it

wae

“Mommy! Pancakes!” Emma squealed, showing off her plate as Phoebe sat next to her

“Emma, are you getting any of that in your mouth?” Phoebe chuckled,

Chapter 39 Ww gently wiping the pup’s face before rubbing noses with her

“So I heard you had an interesting night,” Lucille said, eyeing her to gauge her response

Phoebe gave her sister-in-law a waning look. She wasn't surprised rumors were floating around the pack after she summoned a warrior to

take the she-wolf away before Jason killed her. It certainly wasn't a pleasant experience to be interrupted in the middle of their nightly

activity, but she didn’t think it made appropriate table talk, especially not in front of the pups

Lucille seemed to catch the hint and smirked as she sipped her coffee in silence, or perhaps she never expected an answer in the first place.

She heard enough last night and Ben had a long discussion with several guards in the morning. As much as she wanted information from

the source, Lucille supposed she could wait for a private moment

“Daddy!” Emma greeted as Jason approached

Smiling, he kissed the top of the pups’ heads. His heart swelled with pride to see his family compete: mother, sister, mate and pups. It

definitely made his long wait worth it

“Is everything all right?” Phoebe asked, sensing his inner disquiet

“Yeah. Everything's taken care of

She nodded, not needing more explanation

“Alpha Jason.”

He turned, smiling as he reached to shake the offered hand, “Alpha Reed. I've been waiting for you.”

The other grimaced, not sure if he should be flattered or apprehensive. Now that Jason was mated, his influence was certain to grow. In fact,

Reed could already feel it. His wolf was tucking its tail

Chapter 39 Ww between its legs in acknowledgment of Jason's authority. It was an uncomfortable feeling for any alpha. But even among

alphas there was rank

“Phoebe,” Jason reached for her. She placed her hand in his and allowed herself to be drawn out of her seat to stand in his embrace. \*

Phoebe, this is Alpha Reed of Harvest Moon, the one I told you about

Reed, this is my mate and Luna, Phoebe.”

Reed's height rivaled Jason's and his frame was thin and wiry. What he lacked in overall bulk and strength he made up for in speed. He was

not an alpha to be taken lightly, though, like most in his pack, he was an intellectual. Harvest Moon specialized in medicine and had

developed most of the medical techniques packs currently employed. They also held patents on various medicines and equipment that

revolutionized human medical treatments

She smiled warmly as he looked at her with undisguised shock. It was clear she was not the she-wolf he expected and, like her wolf, she was

amused, “Hello, Alpha Reed. It's nice to meet you. Jason has told me a lot about you and your pack.”

“Yes. Thank you. It’s nice to meet you too, Luna Phoebe,” Reed stuttered, trying to find his words. “Forgive me, but [ wasn’t..”

“You were expecting someone else,” she nodded, feeling Jason tense though he remained outwardly calm

“You know?”

“We met briefly,” Phoebe acknowledged. “I certainly can’t fault her for her taste, but it’s rather unbecoming to covet a place that was not

meant for you.”

Reed smiled, “That is very true. I am happy to see Jason has finally

found his fated mate. Chloe will be upset she missed seeing you.”

Chapter 39 Ww

“She didn’t come with you?” Jason asked, relaxing now that the conversation moved on

“No. She’s almost six months along with our third pup,” Reed shook his head

Jason nodded in understanding. For as long as he had known the other Alpha, Reed had been mated to his fated partner, Chloe. Reed had

been lucky that his mate was the daughter of his father's Beta. They had grown up together and eagerly accepted each other as soon as

their wolves emerged

Jason had always been jealous of him. But those days were in the past. Now he had Phoebe. Jason bowed his head to nuzzle her and

breathe in her scent, reassuring himself she was indeed in his arms. He often dreamed of his mate, but he would never be able to imagine

her scent

Reed cleared his throat, well aware of a male’s attachment to his mate. In fact, he was aching because of the distance separating him from

his own. He almost declined the invitation when it first arrived, knowing Chloe wouldn't be able to attend. But the invitation came with a

request for a private meeting, indicating a business proposal Jason did not want to discuss through open channels

Blue Moon was a pack that specialized in security while Harvest Moon's expertise was medicine. They were two different worlds that seldom

crossed. Reed was intrigued by what kind of proposal Jason intended. Chloe urged him to attend without her and at least hear the other

alpha out. Jason was a reasonable wolf and whatever he wanted to discuss was no doubt important

Reed was already glad he had decided to attend now that he confirmed Jason had found his fated mate. With Phoebe by his side, he would

become a major influence among the other alphas, so keeping him

Chapter 39 Ww and Blue Moon as close allies would benefit Harvest Moon. It was clear, Jason had the same intention if he was already

seeking some sort of

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alliance

"My mate couldn't attend, so I brought my sister instead," Reed said. = This is my sister, Lily."

He turned to the female beside him who had remained silent during their introductions. She was almost as tall and just as lanky as her

brother, standing just shy of six feet. Her brown hair was tied back in a low ponytail and seemed stringy, lacking care. She was also pale and

there were dark rings under her eyes. Phoebe recognized the signs; her heart went out to the other she-wolf. It was clear Lily was suffering

from a rejection and had been filling her sleepless nights with research

Before she could greet the visiting she-wolf, another voice intruded, \*\* Excuse me, Jason..."

They turned to see William approach. His expression was downcast and shamed by last night's events. He thought it was best if he left for

the time being, not wanting to sour the mood of the weekend. But as he approached he was suddenly hit by the scent of strongly sweet

bluebells with a more subtle minty smell. The smell brought him to a sudden halt as he stared at the statuesque she-wolf in front of him

Like the others, Lily had turned at the sound of the males voice and now stood transfixed as the scent of sandalwood and clove filled her

nose

Jason moved to say something, but Phoebe stopped him with a nudge, a gentle smile on her face

William finally broke his silence with a hesitant question, "Mate?"

Lily trembled as she nodded. William finally moved, closing the distance between them, pulling her towards him. He eagerly captured her

mouth with longing and tenderness she couldnt believe. She was several

Chapter 39 Ww inches taller than him despite wearing flats, but that meant nothing as he eagerly explored her mouth

Jason and Reed stood in open shock. Neither had expected this turn of events. Phoebe leaned against Jason, pulling his arms around her.

He sensed her contentment and hugged her close

When the pair finally broke their hungry kiss Phoebe cleared her throat saying, "Perhaps you two would like to have your breakfast in a



quieter table?"

She gestured toward a few tables scattered along the wall that offered a little more privacy. The pair merely nodded and made their way to

one of them, not taking their eyes off each other. Phoebe bit her lip, trying to contain her mirth even as she opened a mindlink

"Gloria?"

"Yes, Luna."

"I know you are busy, but I would appreciate it if someone could head to Alpha William's suite and...fumigate it. He just met his fated mate

and I don't think she'd appreciate another female's scent."

"Of course, Luna. Leave it to us."

Chapter 40

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Chapter 40 ww Chapter 40

Phoebe closed the link as Reed spoke, "Well, this is unexpected."

"I'll say," Jason seconded

"No. You don't understand. Lily..."

"Was rejected by her first mate," Phoebe nodded

"How did you..."

"Wolves recognize their own."

Reed blinked, slowly understanding, "You were also rejected."

Phoebe nodded, feeling Jason's embrace tighten. He hated any sort of reference to her first mate, but the memory barely stung now. His

love and care overshadowed anything she felt before meeting him. She was far more interested in Lily's story

"Her first mate was one of our warriors," Reed explained. "She met him on her eighteenth birthday. He was a bit of a playboy, but he was also two years older, which means..."

"He already knew she was his mate," Phoebe surmised

"And he still carried on with his relationships," Reed wrinkled his nose

in disgust. "He rejected her immediately, saying a warrior needed a strong she-wolf not some nerd and she shouldn't be taller than him

either." Phoebe shivered at the male's callousness, but the irony was not lost on her. Lily was rejected because of her height and William

feared rejection because of his. Aloud, she said, "So what happened to this warrior?" "After the rejection, he flaunted his affairs in front of

her. I couldn't let anyone do that to my sister, so I sent him to a pack in Texas we share ties

with."

Chapter 40 Ww

Phoebe was glad Lily had such a caring brother. Distance wouldn't eliminate the feelings of betrayal, but it would lessen the pain she

endured

If Lily's mate was as promiscuous as Phoebe's thought, then it was vitally important to separate them

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“Lily has locked herself in her lab for two years,” Reed said. “This is the first time I managed to drag her out.”

Phoebe nodded. She was no stranger to sleepless nights, locked in her room with her books after her rejection. Though she never confided in her parents, she was certain they knew. Prior to her rejection, they

took most of their meals at the packhouse. Afterward, all their meals were conducted at home and they never said a word

Reed stared at his sister cuddled in the Alpha’s lap. William held her close, nuzzling and kissing her as if in pure rapture. Reed only knew

him through brief encounters and official meetings, so his knowledge was limited. He did recall William and Jason were good friends, so it

gave him some measure of comfort that his sister was in good hands. Though, from the look of it, William had no intention of letting his

new-found mate go

“So.” Jason cleared his throat, “there is an alpha meeting scheduled later, but I would like to speak with you privately before then.”

“Oh, but neither of you have had breakfast,” Phoebe said

“We’ll take something up with us,” Jason kissed her temple

Reed hesitated, looking over at his sister

“Don’t worry. I’ll keep an eye on them,” Phoebe assured him

Reed smiled gratitude. Knowing Phoebe suffered a similar humiliation made him certain she would indeed watch over his sister. Perhaps she

could even talk to Lily about her rejection. Talking was the one thing not even Chloe could coax from her sister-in-law. Jason gave her

another quick

Chapter 40 ww kiss before they departed, heading for his office. Phoebe watched them go

before looking over at William and Lily again. As her gaze swept the dining hall, it landed on another she-wolf slipping in

Mani pressed forward, eager for the confrontation to come. Phoebe was less enthusiastic, but she wouldn't let the other interrupt the new

bond. This was as much for Lily's future happiness as it was for William's

Camilla had hurriedly showered and quickly changed into a short skirt and tube-top. She had to speak to William and convince him it was

all a mistake. His complex about his height made it easy to manipulate him

Once she convinced him no other female would want him, he would gladly return to her arms

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Then she would challenge Phoebe for her title. Once she proved Phoebe was nothing but a weak, wolfless human, she would have Jason

eating out of her hands. Then both alphas would be willing to fight each other for her and Camilla could pick the winner as her mate. It was

the perfect plan

She sauntered into the dining hall, ignoring the stares and snickers directed towards her. Camilla wouldn't let anyone shame her. She had

chosen her future and wouldn't be satisfied with anything less. Her gaze swept the room, looking for one wolf. She figured he would be

hiding in the corner, so she wasn't surprised to see him tucked in a secluded nook

What did surprise her was the lean she-wolf cuddled in his lap. His mouth hungrily devoured her, sucking hard on her marking spot. Her

lean form convulsed with pleasure, grinding against him, trying hard not to moan out loud as those around them ignored the smell of their

mutual

## Chapter 40 arousals

Camilla's face turned beet red at the audacity of another taking advantage of her empty seat. Growling, she moved to confront them only

to find herself pulled away and shoved into the kitchen. Her wolf whimpered, tucking its tail even before she turned to face the wolf who

accosted her and found Phoebe blocking her path. Her eyes shimmered silver as she eyed Camilla with a frown

"Now, I know you weren't about to cause a scene in there," Phoebe said, "were you?"

Camilla's wolf retreated even further, leaving her to confront Phoebe alone. They stood in the kitchen, out of sight of the visiting alphas and

lunas as well as the majority of the Blue Moon pack itself. Only the kitchen staff was present to bear witness, though they kept their eyes

averted and busied themselves with their work

"What business is it of yours?" Camilla sneered, but shivered under Phoebe's steady gaze

"This is my pack and I will not tolerate anyone disrupting it," Phoebe growled. "I also will not tolerate a she-wolf who doesn't know her

place."

"William..."

"Alpha William to you," Phoebe corrected. "He has found his fated mate. There is no place for you at his side. There never was. You were

only ever keeping that place warm for another."

Camilla felt her face warm. She wanted to scream and throw things, but Phoebe's steady, piercing gaze held her in place as her Luna aura

made her wolf cower and retreat until Camilla couldn't even sense it

"You really shouldn't be surprised," Phoebe admonished. "You knew this was going to happen the moment you rejected your own mate."

## Chapter 40

Camilla stiffened. She hadn't told anyone about her fated mate. He had been the pack's gardener and approached her with a bouquet,

declaring his love and devotion. Camilla had wrinkled her nose in disdain at him. Fighting her wolf, she rejected him. She deserved better.

She deserved to be loved and worshipped like a Luna and pursued William with no second thoughts. When she heard her mate left the

pack completely broken, she hadn't shown any emotion or attachment

"H-how did you know that?"

"A wolf recognizes its own," Phoebe smiled, but there was no warmth in her expression. "It also recognizes those that offend it. Just as

recognize the rejected. I also recognize their rejecters."

Camilla bit her lip. No one had ever called her out on her past before

Phoebe's eyes reflected her amusement

"Your fated mate would have worshiped you and treated you like a queen," Phoebe admonished her. "He's here if you care to see him."

Camilla felt the blood drain from her face. He was here? In this pack?

"Don't expect him to be happy to see you," Phoebe cautioned. "He has his second chance mate. She's a nurse and a wonderfully caring

she-wolf. They are having their first pup soon."

Camilla was shaking. How could this be? He was supposed to pine for her forever while she reveled in the love of the pack as their Luna. Her

wolf shuddered at the news. For as long as Camilla had pursued William, it had pined for its mate

“.. What do I care about that loser?” Camilla scoffed, though she found it difficult to maintain her bravado as her wolf mourned

“Is he the loser?” Phoebe asked. “You're the one who is alone.”

Camilla wanted to growl, but the weight of Phoebe’s aura held her in

Chapter 40 \* place

“I've already asked the maids to move your things to a new room on the third floor. It'll be down the east wing. I suggest you stay quiet for

the rest of the weekend and think long and hard about where you will go now. I doubt very much you'll be welcomed back at Winter Moon

and you won't be tolerated here.”

With that, Phoebe finally released Camilla from her aura and left the she-wolf to consider her options. There were plenty of Alphas, Lunas

and Betas she could appeal to let her join their ranks, though they were all aware of her situation. Still, one might take pity on her