

## SECOND CHANCE LUNA

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### Chapter Fifty-One

"I'm telling you, it was strange," Lucille shook her head. "I mean, Phoebe is so gentle and unassuming but to hear her it was like she was

someone else."

She perched on Ben's lap while they sat in Jason's office. After the sparring match between William and Lily's first mate training had been

rather benign. Jason sat at his desk trying to work but his expression was pensive and Lucille's recount of their spa day was distracting. Luke

leaned against the desk listening to her

"Was it her wolf?" Luke suddenly asked

Phoebe's wolf remained as enigmatic as ever. Her former pack had been convinced she was wolfless though Jason had immediately felt its

presence. Even Luke sensed it with little difficulty. There were of course instances of wolf spirits withdrawing after a rejection but that didn't

explain why they hadn't known about her wolf before that. Even if Phoebe was a late bloomer her wolf would have emerged prior to her

rejection

Since arriving at Blue Moon it had become far easier for them to feel her wolf's aura though it remained largely quiet. Yet her eyes

shimmered silver often and Jason was convinced it was her wolf coming forward. They were all of the same opinion. What made it difficult

was that Phoebe's aura didn't seem to change at all

Usually when a wolf spirit came forward their presence and aura shifted allowing all to feel it. However, in Phoebe's case there was no such

shift..at least not unless she was angry as she had been at breakfast. They all felt her aura when confronting the young alpha and his warrior

escort

Yet those instances were few and far between

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Phoebe's presence was usually far more subtle but there was no denying her influence. In fighting and disagreements between pack

members had decreased and a new sense of unity grew. The warriors increased the intensity and frequency of their training on their own. In

fact every member of the pack was performing their tasks with optimal efficiency and taking initiatives to improve them. Everyone seemed

to want to impress their Luna with their work

"Do you think there is something wrong with her wolf?" Lucille asked

"I mean, it is like sick? Is that even possible?"

"Not necessarily," Luke said after a moment. "You said her eyes were silver but you didn't feel her aura, right?"

"Right

"Mona says that is a sign that a wolf is so in tune with their spirit that it is virtually impossible to tell one from the other

"What does that mean?" Lucille asked. It seemed strange to think a person and their wolf spirit could simply switch places on a whim and

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no one would notice

Luke sighed trying to recall how Mona explained it to him, “Think of you and your wolf as singing the same song. You are the melody and

your wolf is the harmony. The more in tune you are with each other more blended the song becomes.”

“Sure,” Lucille shrugged. She was tone-deaf so musical analogies didn’t really mean much to her

“That’s why alphas usually awaken early,” Luke said. “It allows their souls to more closely sync with their wolves.”

“Right, everyone knows that,” Lucille rolled her eyes

“Right, but they can sync so closely that they are truly one mind,” Luke said. “There is no disconnect at all between them and their wolves

Chapter Fifty-One \* They are one.”

“Really?” Lucille asked. She and her wolf argued all the time

Sometimes her wolf nagged her worse than her own mother

“Jason is a prime example,” Luke nodded to him. “He and his wolf are so in-sync sometimes you wouldn’t know his wolf has come forward

if you didn’t notice his eyes change.”

“That’s true,” Ben agreed. “It’s almost uncanny.”

“And you think Phoebe is the same?” Lucille asked

“Actually, I think she’s even more in-sync than Jason,” Luke said. “There is almost no difference between her and her wolf.

“,.SO is that good or bad?” Lucille asked

“Neither,” Luke shrugged. “Its just a fact. It explains why she’s so influential without actively expressing her aura. But it also means we won’t

always be able to sense when her wolf is exerting its influence.”

“Well, that’s kind of disconcerting,” Lucille said

Normally when one’s wolf came forward there was a shift which allowed them to prepare and raise their own guard. Their own wolf would

come forward in response. If the only sign that Phoebe’s wolf was present was a change in her eyes than they would be continually

blindsided, like today

“Maybe, but it is fun to watch,” Luke chuckled

Jason softly growled

“Relax Jace,” Luke smirked. “You saw the way she handled that young alpha and all those lunas. Name one other Luna who could do

that..and

with such poise too.”

Jason smiled and he felt Lobo swell with pride. He never once doubted the Goddess when it came to his fated mated. From the moment

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he saw Phoebe, scented her, she took his breath away. And every day she amazed him more

“Yes! Mate is amazing!’ Lobo practically howled

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exclusively available on our site. Happy reading!

“It’s so cute the way he smiles when he thinks about her,” Lucille teased

Jason immediately frowned but he couldn't hold the expression as his cheeks warmed. He couldn't deny it. Phoebe was his everything.

There was nothing he wouldnt do for her

“And the other alphas sense it too,” Ben agreed. “You definitely have them intimidated.”

“Me?” Jason asked. “I haven't done anything.”

“You don't need to,” Luke said. “You might not have noticed but we certainly have. Your aura is off the charts.”

“But I haven't even used it.”

“Not actively, no,” Ben said. “It's like the ebb and flow of a tide. When you enter the room the tide rises. If you actually pushed it out it

would be like a tidal wave and some of those alphas would definitely drown. Reed felt it when you greeted him. He's not one that's easily

frazzled.”

“Will didn't treat me any different.”

“Of course not, he's a close friend,” Luke scoffed. “Why should he? Like us, he's built up some immunity to you.”

“The rest of the pack seems fine.”

“Naturally,” Ben nodded. “You are their Alpha. You're aura is like a blanket. The stronger and more enveloping it becomes the more safe and

secure they feel”

“And you two?”

“We're your beta and gamma and we've been your friends for years,”

Chapter Fifty-One Luke shrugged

“So what now?” Lucille asked. As Jason's sister and also possessing alpha blood she had a natural resistance to her brother's aura so hadn't

noticed

“Nothing we can do,” Ben said. “This is just what happens once an alpha of Jason's status is mated. But we should watch out for the royal family.”

“Why?” Lucille asked

“Because even before Jason was mated his aura rivaled the king's,” Luke explained. “And he definitely outshined both of the princes. The

king has always been wary of him. The only reason the king never acted against him was because of the princess and the possibility Jason

would take her as a mate.”

Jason growled unable to contain his disgust. Almost as long as Katrina

pursued him Princess Selena had been an equal nuance. Every gathering the royal family hosted meant he had to endure her company all

because of his unmated status

“What's she got to do with anything?” Lucille wrinkled her nose. The princess was insufferable but it wasn't as if she held any real power

“It's no secret she's had her eye on Jason,” Ben said. “If they did mate and mark each other Jason would become a member of the royal

family and the king wouldn't have to worry about him.”

“I would never touch her,” Jason sneered

“That may be but you know how greedy the royal family is especially when it comes to power” Luke said

Jason sighed. That much was true. Millennium ago when werewolves first emerged from their predecessor's shadows and formed the

original six

packs they decided to follow the Lycan tradition of a royal family to

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centralize their politics. The same family had been sitting on the throne for generations but their influence had waned especially after

several packs migrated across the ocean

Outside the royal's sphere of authority: Blue Moon, Blood Moon and Harvest Moon packs created and maintained their own alliances with

Blue Moon gaining a decisive edge over the decades. The royal family had only moved their seat of power recently and now occupied

territory in Manitoba. However they did not gain back their influence as they hoped

Jason had little interest in the royal family's politics and certainly no desire to openly rebel against them. He maintained a neutral status but

it was clear to everyone that it was only a concession on his part. The royal family would find itself in quite a dangerous position if they

made him their enemy

"I didn't see any royal family here," Ben said. "Did we even invite them?"

"No," Jason said. "It's not required and I certainly didn't want their drama to taint Phoebe's ceremony."

The other nodded. Technically it was considered courtesy to invite the royal family to important events but certainly not a requirement.

Many invited them hoping to increase the prestige of their gatherings. However Jason did have a point about their drama and several other

packs felt as he did choosing to avoid them as much as possible

"So..what do we do?" Lucille asked

"Nothing to do," Luke shrugged. "It is what it is but I think we should be prepared."

Jason sighed. He supposed they didn't have any other choice. As much as he would rather ignore the royal family he wasn't in a position to

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do that. Blue Moon was too influential and too many relied on alliances with his pack to ignore all the royal family's antics. He would have

to shield Phoebe from it as much as possible, though as his Luna she also couldn't ignore it forever

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## Chapter Fifty-Two

The sun set hours ago. The patio was lit with soft white and blue lights in addition to the brilliant moon shining above. Floating lights in the

pool

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added even more magic to the ambiance. Q Chairs were lined-up for the alphas and lunas dressed in their finest. Most lunas wore bright,

bold colors but a few had chosen light blue which bordered on the silver or white reserved for the honored Luna

It was a direct challenge, one that made Blue Moon pack members sneer in disapproval. Jason merely frowned at the offending lunas and

making note of the packs who dared challenge him. Several alphas nervously pulled at their collars as his amber gaze marked them

His eyes passed over them settling on William who sat rather proud, his arm around his mate. Lily seemed a little self-conscious but that

didn't stop her from leaning into him. Occasionally he glanced over his shoulder to glare at Liam and his escort who had been quickly



patched up. Jason couldn't blame his friend for being obsessive. But William wouldn't do anything to ruin the ceremony

“Daddy!” Emma squealed as she ran down the aisle

Jason chuckled catching her as she reached him. She wore a pretty embroidered dress with a light blue ribbon around her waist and

matching ones in her hair. Blake trotted up after her dressed in a suit to match the other males though he was told it was unnecessary. Jason

patted his head giving him an approving smile

Blake hesitantly smiled back, self-conscious in front of so many

Giving both pups a fond squeeze he escorted them to the Q chairs reserved for his family as his mother arrived in a dark blue evening

gown. All of the

Chapter Fifty-Two = pack wore blue or black signifying their allegiance. He settled them together before returning to his place at the front

with Elder Ansel

The Elder chuckled. Like everyone he had been surprised to learn Jason adopted the pups but after meeting Phoebe and seeing them

together he was less shocked. And they did seem to be a close family unit though he did worry how this would affect Jason's decision when it

came time to choose an heir. Most alphas selected their first-born son or, lacking that, a close blood relative

Ben and Lucille emerged next to take their seats followed by Luke and

Mona who took places as the Beta pair. Jason breathed deep as the atmosphere shifted and Phoebe finally emerged

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Her thick hair was pulled in a half-up style. Her gown was shimmering silver in the moonlight as if a part of it. Against Phoebe's pale skin it

gave her an even more pronounced heavenly glow. Jason sucked in his breath as she quietly made her way down the aisle. All eyes followed

her, captivated, as her gentle aura enveloped them. They were in awe and unable to utter a single word

Jason's chest swelled with pride as he stepped forward to take her hand and guided her up to stand in front of him. Her gaze shimmered

silver and he knew his were amber given how close Lobo pressed forward eager to gaze on their mate. She was gorgeous and she outshone

everyone else

None compared and they were fools to try and compete with her

"We are gathered here on this blue moon to formally recognize Phoebe Aiman as Blue Moon's rightful and beloved Luna," Elder Ansel

intoned. "As our world has gotten bigger finding our fated mates has become more difficult. In trying times many grow impatient and act

impulsively

"We forget that our mates are sacred gifts from the Goddess herself

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They are our second half, our match and the one who completes us. A union between fated mates is always blessed by the Goddess and

great things await those who accept the Goddess's blessings with their whole hearts

"Let us therefore rejoice and celebrate Alpha Jason Aiman's good fortune at finding his match. May this bond be forged and blessed by the

Goddess for all time."

Jason pulled Phoebe close. It had been torture to hold himself back but now there was no reason. His arm snaked around her waist as he

tilted her chin and sealed their bond with a kiss. Her soft lips responded beckoning him to more passionate pursuits. He was reluctant to

release her even as their audience applauded reminding him they weren't alone

"I love you, Phoebe," he whispered softly nuzzling noses

"I love you, Jason."

The night was filled with the joyful howls of the Blue Moon pack from all corners of their territory. Phoebe gave a start but Jason merely

chuckled. His voice slipped into their mindlink, "I told you they would love you."

Elder Ansel cleared his throat, "As is tradition..would Alpha Jason and Luna Phoebe like to lead their pack in a moonlit run?"

Jason breathed deep. This was the moment he dreaded and anticipated most. Though he often sensed her wolf and his own assured him it

was there he hadn't yet seen her wolf with his own eyes. He desperately wanted to run with her. He sensed her wolf would be glorious

"Phoebe, are you..." Jason suddenly stiffened his gaze darted to the forest

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Beside him Luke was instantly on alert and Ben lurched to his feet

The celebratory howls suddenly fell silent before an alarm howl sounded

Phoebe stiffened feeling the packlink open as the border patrol reported in. Jason growled pulling her close in a protective embrace as their

guests began to realize something was amiss

"What is it, Jason?" William stood

"A breach," Jason answered. He blinked as Phoebe mindlinked him with her suspicion

"A rogue attack?" another alpha stood, slightly panicked

"No. It's a lone wolf" Jason answered. "The patrol is trying to catch up with it. It doesn't smell like a rogue. It's something else. Mom, take

the pups inside."

Norah stood gently shoos Blake and Emma inside. Lucille stood and followed making certain the pups didn't try to return where it wasn't

safe but also to guard them. As an alpha's daughter and the pack's gamma she was an impressive fighter in her own right

"Shouldn't we all be evacuating?" a luna asked

"One wolf is hardly a threat," William scoffed though he maintained a protective stance near Lily with a soothing hand on her shoulder

"Well, he sent those two back inside," the luna huffed

"That has nothing to do with danger," Jason said before dropping his voice to a whisper. "Are you sure, Phoebe?"

"It's him."

Jason growled bowing his head and kissed her forehead, "This will only take a moment."

Pulling off his coat he tucked it over her shoulders before turning and walking toward the nearby forest. Luke and Ben flanked Phoebe

watching

Chapter Fifty-Two as their Alpha went to meet the intruder

"What's he doing?" an alpha demanded. "Where are your warriors?"

"He's sent them back to their stations," Luke answered

“He what?”

“They are not needed,” Ben added. “This is personal. Luna, we should take you inside.”

“I’ll stay,” Phoebe shook her head. This was something she needed to see but that didn’t mean their guests needed to watch. “Everyone,

drinks and food should be ready. If any of you are hungry, please feel free to head inside.”

Jason walked purposefully undoing his tie and cufflinks as he opened his mindlink to his warriors, “Stand down and return to your posts.”

“But Alpha, the intruder...”

“Is here to challenge me. Let him come. It’s time to finish this once and for all.”

“Yes, Alpha.”

Jason paused once he reached the field. He carefully removed his

shirt, folded it and dropped it on the ground. As he straightened he spotted the large brown wolf rushing out of the trees. Reaching the

open field it came to a sudden halt before spotting Jason. It cautiously stalked forward

“Hello Graham,” Jason greeted. “Long time, no see.”

The wolf snarled stepping closer

“I’d ask what brings you here but I think I already know the answer,” Jason said evenly not sure if the other alpha could even understand

him.

Chapter Fifty-Two w You see Phoebe told me everything..about how even after her rejection there were remnants of the bond and she

could feel it when you were with your chosen Luna. It got me thinking what would happen to a wolf who hadn't accepted the rejection.

How much pain would they feel when someone else claimed their mate. So how did it feel when Phoebe gave herself to me?"

Graham's wolf snarled

"That bad?" Jason smirked. "I told you, she would scream my name

And you have no one but yourself to blame for rejecting perfection."

Graham's wolf growled but it came out more as a whimper

"She's mine. You should accept that and move on. You have your Luna."

The wolf snarled

Jason's gaze narrowed, "It's too late, isn't it? You've gone feral. You're only a step away from going full rogue, aren't you? Well, it seems I

have no choice but to put you down. Are you ready?"

Graham's wolf leapt on the attack

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Jason crouched, giving full control to Lobo as his wolf practically tore out of him, tired of being held back. Fur erupted over his body as his

bones cracked and realigned with amazing speed. Aside from the first time there had never been much pain and his shifts always faster than

anyone else's

Graham's wolf hadn't taken two leaps before it was complete and he was ready to face him

Jason's brown wolf was so dark it was like a living shadow at night

Outweighing his opponent by several hundred pounds it charged to meet its attacker crashing into Graham and tossing him aside. Graham

tumbled, rolling to a stop before fighting back to his paws to see Jason calmly waiting for him to recover. The wolf in front of him was at

least a foot taller and a hundred pounds heavier but Graham was too far gone to care. It lunged baring its teeth

Is he serious?' Jason couldn't help but wonder and Lobo seemed just as unimpressed

Twisting out of the way Lobo bounded out of reach and watched his opponent land in a tumble. Graham clawed back to his feet and rushed

him again. Lobo easily dodged and again took a stance and waited

"He's lost all reason," Jason sighed. 'Hes nothing but instinct now."

Lobo huffed agreement. He had been looking forward to a fight to settle the score for their Luna but now it was mute. If not for his instinct

to claim his mate Graham would have succumbed to being rogue days ago

Perhaps that was why his wolf was so desperate. It knew the only way to keep from going rogue lay in claiming its mate. But she belonged

to them now

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"There is no point to this. Let's just finish him."

"Yes. We will spare Mate any pain by showing this one mercy."

It hurt to think Phoebe would still harbor any feelings for this wolf and Jason had no idea how he would comfort her after they ended him.

But there was no choice. It was clear Graham was too far gone. When his wolf leapt on the attack again Lobo dodged and turned sinking his

jaws into the other's neck

Wringing him like a ragdoll he tossed Graham's wolf aside and waited as he struggled to his feet. This time Lobo didn't wait pouncing on

his enemy. The sickly crack of bones rewarded his efforts and Graham cried out in pain before trying to claw himself back up only to

discover his hind legs were unresponsive. With a growl Lobo seized the defenseless wolf's neck shaking hard before he was rewarded with

another sharp crack

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Releasing his opponent he stepped back watching its last breath rattle in its chest before falling silent. Lobo huffed in disgust. There was no

victory in his death but he turned his face to the sky and howled anyway

His pack echoed it back to him rejoicing and celebrating their Alpha's strength. Huffing again, Lobo turned away from the fallen wolf

walking back to where Jason discarded his shirt and where they had shredded their pants

He didn't have to wait long as Ben hastily brought him a pair of sweats and a towel. Still unsatisfied with the fight Lobo gave Jason back

control to brood in the back of his mind while he shifted and accepted the towel from his Gamma. He changed quickly pulling on the

sweatpants before reclaiming his shirt and walking back to the others

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"Alpha."

"What?"



“There are some pack wolves at the gate. They claim they are

Chapter Fifty-Three we from Rimrock trying to track their alpha.” “Send them through. They can have his body.”

At least now he wouldn't have to worry about disposing of it himself

Jason sighed nearing the patio crowded with onlookers. Phoebe stood at the forefront still wearing his jacket with Luke and Elder Ansel. Her

eyes shimmered with tears and he couldn't help but wonder if she was mourning her first mate. What did she think of him now that he had

ended him?

“Phoebe...”

He meant to apologize but she cut him off as her hands gripped his face and pulled it toward her and hungrily tasted him. His arms

encircled her pulling her soft, warm body against his and drove out the chill that settled in his heart

“Mate still loves us!” Lobo happily wagged his tail

“Are you okay?” Phoebe asked stroking his cheek. “You're not hurt, right?”

“Of course not. He couldn't touch me,” Jason smirked holding her close. “You're not angry?”

“Only because he couldn't just stay away,” Phoebe rested her head on his shoulder. “He should have let me go.”

“Agreed.”

“Alpha Jason?” Elder Ansel stepped forward. “That wolf..”

“Alpha Graham of Rimrock,” Jason answered though he loathed to admit the next part. “He's Phoebe's first mate, the one who rejected

her

"I see." Elder Ansel sadly nodded looking to her as she sought comfort in Jason's arms. "It seems his wolf could not let go of the bond. It is

a pity

Chapter Fifty-Three = but that is the danger of rejecting your mate. And a warning to all."

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exclusively available on our site. Happy reading!

Elder Ansel cast a gaze across the assembled alphas, lunas, betas and their younger companions. A few had retreated inside but most had

remained outside to watch the one-sided duel. Probably only two-thirds had waited for their fated mate while the rest settled for a chosen

one. A few he noticed looked suitably ashamed they rejected their fated mates as well

Before he spoke again an SUV circled the packhouse guided by shifted Blue Moon warriors and pulled up alongside the patio. The

passenger door opened allowing Beta Michael to exit. He looked older than Phoebe remembered. No doubt chasing down his alpha had

taken its toll

"Alpha Jason, Luna Phoebe," Michael bowed to them. "I'm..very sorry for this disturbance to your festivities."

"Appreciated, Beta," Jason nodded then looked in the direction of the fallen alpha. "He's over there."

"Thank you."

"Beta," Elder Ansel stepped forward. "Take your Alpha back to your pack. I shall stop by in a day or so to oversee the succession process. I

take it..he had no heirs."

“No. And thank you,” Michael nodded before returning to his vehicle with the other pack members who accompanied him

The SUV drove slowly across the field to where Graham's prone form lay. By now he had shifted back to his human form. They gathered

around him bringing out a body bag. Elder Ansel cleared his throat after a moment, “Perhaps we should head inside and give them some

privacy.”

Jason nodded and his warriors began ushering their guests inside where dinner waited. Under normal circumstances Jason and Phoebe

would shift and led a portion of their pack on a moonlit run for an hour or

Chapter Fifty-Three two. While they did that their guests would enjoy a cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres before dinner along with the pups,

pregnant she-wolves and others that chose to remain behind so there was plenty of food ready

There was some grumbling but none dared question the change of plans after the battle they witnessed

“Come inside, Phoebe,” Jason urged

She glanced once more to where her former pack members were gathered before turning away and accompanying him inside to her new

pack

ak

Jason sighed as he stepped out of the shower. While everyone else headed to the dining hall he had gone up to his room for a quick

shower and change of clothes. Rogue wolves had a sickly sweet scent that was not easily washed away. Graham's scent hadn't been quite to

that degree but it was close and Jason couldn't help but wonder how much further he had to slip before succumbing

He stepped out of the bathroom with a towel tied around his waist to find Phoebe seated on the edge of the bed. She still wore her silver

gown and beside her she had laid out a new pair of black trousers and a black, silk shirt. He planned to ditch the monkey-suit after the run

for something simpler and more comfortable anyway. It seemed Phoebe knew it as well

She shyly smiled as she stood to meet him

"Phoebe," Jason sighed taking her into his arms. He bowed his head

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and breathed in her scent. "I'm so sorry." "For what?" she asked her brow furrowing in confusion

"About..Graham," he struggled to keep the growl from his voice

He hated the idea of her mourning the other alpha but Graham was her first mate and as brief as their time together had been she had to

Chapter Fifty-Three harbor some attachment and thoughts toward him

"Why are you sorry?" Phoebe asked. "Shouldn't that be my line?"

"Your line?" Jason snorted. "He was your first mate and L."

Phoebe shook her head placing her fingers against his lips to prevent him from saying more, "No..he wasn't."

"What?" Jason asked. Now he was confused

"Something Mani told me awhile ago," Phoebe said. "She said the Moon Goddess loves us but sometimes we have to face trials to prove

ourselves worthy of the path she has set for us.”

“I don’t understand.”

“Graham...was not my mate. He was my trial to prove I was worthy of being your mate,” Phoebe said. “It was always meant to be you.”

Jason stroked her cheek letting his worries ease. Lobo sighed in his mind, wagging his tail. He smiled, “Yes, you were always meant to be

mine ..but you got wrong. I'm the one who had to prove myself worthy of you.”

Before she could argue he pressed his lips to hers. Her hands worked up to his neck holding him close as her lips answered his. An

appreciative growl rumbled in his chest as Lobo stirred eager for a taste of his mate

“Mmm..Jason...our guests,” Phoebe mumbled as he gently kissed down the nape of her neck to her marking spot

“They can wait a little longer,” Jason muttered finding her mark and sucking on it hungrily

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Chapter Fifty-Four

All eyes turned to them as they entered the dining hall. Phoebe’s cheeks warmed but Jason tugged her close. He didn’t mind if they looked

as long as they didn’t come between them

“Mommy! Daddy!” Emma greeted running up to them

Jason scooped her up letting Phoebe nuzzle her before they reached the main table. Patting Blake's head he ignored the stares. It was

unprecedented for an alpha to adopt pups and every time he was with them it stirred whispers but he didn’t mind. Emma and Blake were

not only precious to Phoebe but they had firmly lodged themselves in his heart as well. Lobo offered no disagreement and the pups' scent

was almost as soothing as their Luna's

A server brought a tray of champagne. Jason offered one to Phoebe before taking one for himself. It was human-made so he had no fear of

it harming her. Standing close to her as Blake stood up on his chair Jason raised his glass drawing the attention of their guests though most

were already watching them

"Friends," Jason announced. "We are here to celebrate an extraordinary she-wolf, the most extraordinary one I have ever met. She came

into my life just when I was on the verge of giving up. I spent one lonely night after another cursing the fickleness of the Moon Goddess,

wondering what I did to incur her wrath and be punished in such a cruel way as year after year I endured without my mate, my Luna

"But now I understand. It wasn't a punishment. It was a trial, a trial to prove myself worthy of this amazing, kind, gentle she-wolf. She

completes me in ways I am still discovering. The piece of me I was missing, she

Chapter Fifty-Four returned to me. And for the first time in all my years my heart and life are full. To my Luna."

Jason raised his glass and all others followed suit. Phoebe felt her face warm at the praise. She didn't dare look at anyone in particular as

Mani swelled with pride

"It's about time we were appreciated."

Phoebe couldn't help but chuckle at her wolf's satisfaction. The last five years had been rather frustrating for her wolf. Phoebe always

thought it was odd her wolf continued to hide in the back of her mind refusing to assert herself until Jason's arrival. Odder still was how

quickly her wolf became comfortable with expressing itself now. Was it because they finally found their fated mate? If Jason had also

rejected them would Mani have remained silent?

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"You're thinking too much," Jason's voice fitted into her mind as his arm slipped around her waist

Phoebe blinked, startled as he pulled her close

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"Anything wrong?" "No. I guess I'm just expecting myself to wake up and find this is all a dream." "If this is a dream I hope we never wake

up," Jason kissed her

temple, "because a life without you is a nightmare."

Phoebe rested her head on his shoulder. She agreed. If this was a dream, she didn't want to wake up either

Taking their seats they settled in as the kitchen staff served up dinner: roast beef, steamed vegetables, potatoes, a variety of casseroles and

salads. There was more than enough variety for just about any pallet though it was clear their guests were a little surprised

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It wasn't uncommon for packs to spend ludicrous amount on more expensive fare all in an effort to impress their honored guests. Lobster,

caviar and rare delicacies were the usual expectation. However, Phoebe surprised the staff by insisting on a heartier meal. Despite Norah

and Lucille's dismay she stuck to a more moderate food budget. But it wasn't just the pack's finances she was concerned about. In truth she

didn't care for such extravagant meals. They were pointless and she wanted everyone to enjoy their meal

Though the guests were surprised by the food choice they certainly weren't complaining and eagerly asked for seconds. Even Blake and

Emma stuffed themselves until they were ready to burst. Phoebe didn't complain when Jason snuck more servings onto her plate in his

campaign to get her to eat more

He was still preoccupied making sure she ate enough. Mani often nagged her to eat more but it wasn't always easy to muster the

motivation

Perhaps that was by she enjoyed cooking for the pups so much. She ate more when they ate together

Since meeting Jason her appetite had been gradually increasing and she already put on several pounds. Jason was determined to take

advantage and kept adding more food to her plate. Phoebe could only shake her head as Mani also pushed her to eat more. She had a

sense that Mani was trying to prepare for something

In the past her lack of appetite hadn't hampered them as they rarely shifted. Now Mani seemed to want to build their strength. Phoebe

wasn't certain what her wolf was expecting. Surely they didn't have to be afraid of rogues in their new pack. Blue Moon was considerably

larger and maintained patrols of its borders

Yet Mani continued to act as if there would be trouble and they had to

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## Chapter Fifty-Four

be ready. It made Phoebe anxious but she tried not to think about it in case Jason sensed her unease. He was certainly sensitive to the bond

and she didn't want him to worry given her wolf's silence when it came to answers

As the night progressed Emma struggled to remain awake and not fall asleep in her potatoes. Jason chuckled as she jerked awake yet again

before reaching over and pulling her into his lap. The pup didn't offer a word of protest cuddling into his chest and falling asleep instantly.

He nuzzled her, kissing the top of her head and earning more than a few looks from the others

Those who had gotten close to the orphaned pair noticed they definitely carried Jason's scent. They were initiated into the pack with a blood

oath but that alone wouldn't have affected their scent. The only reason they would carry his scent was if his wolf fully accepted them as his

own

The others watched as he cuddled the sleeping pup with a mixture of confusion and admiration. Lunas in particular were quite envious at

the care he showed the pups not to mention how he showered his attention on

Phoebe. It seemed he couldn't go a minute without at least kissing her hand

Alphas who had taken chosen mates couldn't understand his obsession as they had no trouble leaving their lunas for days. Their lunas

served a purpose providing balance to their pack's as well as heirs but they were nothing special. Certainly s\*x was enjoyable but for the

most part they were content to ignore them

On the other hand, alphas who had their fated mate remembered their own early days with their lunas. Watching Jason spurred them to

renew their romance and recapture that feeling whether they had been

Chapter Fifty-Four ~ mated a year or ten

“Here, let me take her,” Norah chuckled, coming up to Jason with open arms. “I’ll put her to bed.”

Jason was loathed to give up the little one but eventually acquiesced and handed Emma to his mother. Norah struggled to make the little

one comfortable in her arms before looking to Blake who was also fading

“Come along,” Norah tussled his hair. “Time for bed.”

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exclusively available on our site. Happy reading!

Blake frowned but was too tired to argue. Phoebe gave him a good night kiss before sending him off. Jason grasped her hand and kissed it

earning more jealous stares as she smiled at him. Glancing at her plate Jason was satisfied to see she had not only polished off her first

serving of roast, potatoes and vegetables but also the second helping he added. He would have liked her to have one more but decided to

let it slide for now

As the night progressed they mingled with their guests. Jealous stares followed Phoebe wherever she went as Jason kept a protective arm

around her at all times nuzzling and kissing her as if to ward off anyone thinking of taking her from him. The envious stares might have

made her nervous if not for Mani's contentment

“Jason!” William approached with his arm around Lily and seemingly unaware of the protective aura surrounding Jason and Phoebe, “I’ve

been meaning to ask you..that challenger tonight..you clearly had him outmatched. Why did you send the pups inside? It wasn’t as if they

were in danger.”

Jason hesitated, “Because he as their former alpha. I didn’t want them to have to watch their old alpha and their new one fight to the

death.”

“Meaning..you didn’t want them to fear you,” Reed surmised as he joined them. He stood close to his sister to appear non-threatening as

his

Chapter Fifty-Four wy

luna was not with him

Jason grimaced. It was true. He did worry about how the pups perceived him. Every time Emma called him daddy and ran up to him stirred

protective instincts he didn’t know existed and brought him a joy he really couldn’t describe. He didn’t want that to change. He couldn’t

bear the thought of the pups suddenly being wary of him

“You mean to tell me, the mighty Alpha Jason is just a big softy?” William chuckled

“He is and I wouldn’t have it any other way,” Phoebe said leaning into him as his embrace tightened

“Whatever my Luna wants, she’ll have,” Jason whispered. He would deny her nothing

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## Chapter Fifty-Five Chapter Fifty-Five

“Huh, wait. Your first mate was also an alpha?” William asked

His voice carried further than intended and drew a few looks in their direction. Though many heard the rumor Phoebe had been rejected

they knew nothing about her first mate. That fact no longer surprised her

Phoebe had long ago realized the shame of rejection followed the recipient not the giver

“Yes,” Phoebe nodded. “We met shortly after he returned from his time at the Alpha School. We only knew each other based on rumors. It

was the first time we ever met face-to-face.”

“And he rejected you.. just like that?” William scoffed

“He had already decided to take a chosen mate while he was at school,” Phoebe shrugged. “I guess he didn’t want to change his mind.”

She leaned against Jason hoping he would relax. The moment William started talking about her first mate he tensed. It seemed it was more

of a sensitive subject to him than it ever was to her

“You!”

Phoebe jerked to attention and turned to the door as did everyone else to see Camilla wearing a light blue gown. Mani sneered at the

blatant disrespect. This was Phoebe’s Luna Ceremony after all and Camilla was nowhere near Luna status. At first Phoebe wondered what

the she-wolf could possibly want until she realized Camilla’s attention was on Lily

“Is she really doing this now?”

“This should be interesting,” Mani mused

“How dare you try to take my place,” Camilla stalked toward their

Chapter Fifty-Five small circle

Phoebe had to give the she-wolf credit as she boldly approached three alphas even with Mani suppressing their auras somewhat. She could

tell Jason and especially Reed had their hackles up while William seemed almost frozen. Did he really think this confrontation was

avoidable?

She glanced at Lily noting she seemed startled but not overly anxious

In fact she actually seemed calm despite the situation she found herself in

Perhaps their chat in the spa...or..

“Mani are you doing something?”

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“don’t know what you are referring to,” her wolf huffed. / might be nudging her wolf a bit but don’t you feel it?”

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Phoebe turned her attention to Lily opening her mind through her wolf's senses. Though Mani was suppressing the males somewhat she

was doing no such thing to Lily. An anxious energy was surround her as if her wolf was pacing, trying to suppress the urge to attack

“Mani?\*

“Her wolf has been suppressed a long time,” Mani confirmed. ® Nothing is more dangerous than confronting one who finally has something

that is theirs.”

“Should we..do something?®

“Interesting that you think we could.”

Lily's eyes flashed as her wolf pressed forward and she stepped away from William to meet the approaching she-wolf she had yet to

formally meet. Yet she didn't panic. Her wolf practically begged to be given control so she loosened the leash a bit. She glanced at Phoebe

to see her eyes shimmering silver with mirth and she became even more confident. What was it she said to do if Camilla dared step in front

of her?

Chapter Fifty-Five —~)

Camilla approached looking furious but oddly Lily didn't sense any aura. Was her wolf not in agreement with this? Well that didn't really

matter. Lily didn't trust her courage. She knew she would wilt under pressure even though her wolf seemed far more confident

As soon as Camilla was in front of her she followed Phoebe's advice slapping her across the face. Whether it was the force of the slap or

simply surprise Camilla's head snapped to the side and she froze. Idle chatter ceased and all eyes not already watching the new drama

unfold were certainly aware of it now. But Lily remained calm with her wolf firmly at the forefront

“You dare approach your Luna like that?” Lily declared. If you had any sort of dignity you'd know better.

Camilla stood with her mouth open in shock. Her face stung and her wolf was no help at all. She thought this she-wolf was a pushover. At

least that was the rumor but standing in front of her was a fierce wolf quite a bit taller than herself

"I suggest you back off..unless you want to formally challenge me," Lily said. "Well?"

Camilla hesitated before baring her neck and backing away. The others gave her a wide berth as she retreated as quickly as she entered. A

few snickered at her unfortunate situation

Lily turned her eyes falling on William who seemed startled and turned on at the same time. She returned to him yanking him by the collar

and kissing him firmly on the lips before saying, "If you ever look at another she-wolf again it will be the last thing you do."

"Y-yes," William said with a shiver of pleasure as her eyes slowly returned to normal and her wolf subsided

She looked to Phoebe and mirrored her smile mouthing — thank you

Chapter Fifty-Five ") Phoebe gave her the barest of nods. Lily turned heading for the door practically dragging her mate after her. William

offered no resistance

"Something you want to share?" Jason asked giving Phoebe a squeeze

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"Yeah, I was wondering that myself," Reed agreed. "I don't think I've ever seen my sister act like that before."

"I might have given her a few pointers," Phoebe answered. "But you really should know better than to underestimate her. After all, she has

just as much alpha blood as you."

Reed hesitated realizing the truth of her words. That was right. Lily's soft-spoken nature often made others forget the strength in her blood

Looking across the room he wasn't the only one who needed the reminder

wae

Jason pulled Phoebe into his arms kissing her deeply and loving how she fit against him. Her scent became spicy and he had a difficult time

holding himself back. She smelled heavenly and he had been reigning himself in all night. Ever since his duel with Graham he longed to

assert his claim. She belonged to him

He dipped his head kissing down her neck and growling with appreciation as she moaned. Her fingers fumbled with the buttons of his shirt

but eventually her hands found his chest. Jason groaned

“J-Jason,” Phoebe moaned as his hands caressed her slowly freeing her from her gown and letting it pool at her feet

“I don’t know if I told you...you looked so beautiful tonight in that dress,” Jason mumbled. “But you look beautiful out of it too.”

Phoebe chuckled her hands moving to his shoulders and peeling back his shirt, “You too.”

Chapter Fifty-Five ~)

Barking out a laugh he gladly shed it eager to feel her skin against his

Her scent was so much stronger now his mouth was practically watering in anticipation

“Yes! Claim Mate! Mate is ours!”

With a possessive growl Jason swept her off her feet carrying her to bed and laying her down. His amber eyes were bright with lust as he

stared at her yanking off his belt and shoving aside his pants. Phoebe shivered in anticipation as he hovered above her. He captured her lips

in his, dominating them even as he growled again. She was his



“.. Jason,” Phoebe moaned, breathless, as he moved to her neck and found her mark

Fur bristled along his arms as his wolf pressed forward. They both wanted this, hungered for it. The full moon dominating their instinct to claim what was theirs

“Phoebe...” Jason muttered barely in control

She seemed to know what he wanted, or perhaps it was her wolf. As their lips parted she rolled onto her stomach and rising up onto her knees

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He forced her legs apart to make room as he slowly sank into her with a groan of satisfaction. They were wolves and this was the most

natural position for them to mate. Had they gone on the moonlit run their wolves would have certainly indulged in their own sport

Phoebe’s hands gripped the sheets as he found his rhythm thrusting in and out with ever increasing force. One hand gripped her hips while

the other found her clit stimulating her from both angles. She moaned her mind a riot as her body clenched and her first orgasm consumed

her all too quickly. But he wasn't finished

He teased her letting her ride her waves of pleasure only to increase his pace. She arched her back encouraging him not that he needed it

Chapter Fifty-Five

“J-Jason...”

“Say it,” he growled low. “Say what [ want to hear.”

.Mmm\_.1.. 'm yours."

"Again."

"m yours. I'm yours," Phoebe could barely breathe out the words as their flesh slapped together and he buried himself in her. Jason

growled as her body clenched around him and his control came undone emptying his release deep within and filling her

His

She belonged to him and only him

& ET. Watson a\*

Thanks for reading Second Chance Luna!!! We have now reached the end of the first story arch, "The Luna." Next is the beginning of the

new story arch "The Prophecy." I know we've all come a long way together but there is still much more to come. When Phoebe and Jason

learn the truth about silver wolves and the destiny that awaits them will they

be able to face it together or will forces tear them apart? Stay tuned! \*

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Chapter Fifty-Six Chapter Fifty-Six

"Here, try this one next," Norah encouraged giving Phoebe yet another gown to try on

This one was pink with a slight orange tint. She was pretty sure the color was called sa/mon though she never gave much thought to such

matters before. There were a lot of things she never thought of before becoming Luna to the Blue Moon pack. This was one of those

~

"It's a shame we can't go with blue," Norah fussed looking at a light blue gown. "Blue goes so good with your eyes."

"And why can't we?" Phoebe asked from the dressing room

"Raraica har raval Rain alwave waar hliia \* Licilla cinhad, "And if anyone dares copy her heads will roll."

In the three months since her Luna Ceremony Phoebe felt she had been pulled in a hundred different directions. The pack itself finally

seemed to have settled into a routine now with their Luna firmly at the helm

In fighting among the pack members had ceased completely

Everyone went about their duties with relaxed ease. There was a sense of unity and higher ranked members treated lower ranks with polite

dignity less they wished to incur their Lunas wrath. A few of the younger ones had already learned the dangers of that road

Phoebe's gentle nature and soft-spoken way lulled others into compliance but if they dared ignore her warnings they would feel the weight

of her aura press down on them sending their wolves curling into balls. None dared meet her silver gaze and would bear their necks in

Chapter Fifty-Six submission pleading for her to withdraw her anger

It only happened once or twice before the pack wised up. Phoebe would not tolerate any member disparaging another. Punishment for

ignoring her warnings was as severe as they were creative. If a warrior thought a maid was beneath them that was fine. They could clean

their own room and do their own laundry. If a wolf thought the cooks didn't contribute to the pack then they could cook their own meals

and were barred from the dining hall

Most did not last a day trying to do their own chores and in order for them to convince Phoebe to release their punishment they needed

not only to appease her but the party they offended in the first place. If Phoebe deemed such punishment too light she would temporarily

reassign the offending wolf to join the maid service or the kitchen staff until she was satisfied they respected the job and the duties.

Needless to say it didn't take long for pack members to change their behavior

And it wasn't just the pack that learned this lesson. Blue Moon often served as a mediator and neutral party so hosted other packs needing

such intervention. If these visitors attempted to belittle any of the Blue Moon's members they soon found themselves serving similar

punishments. Rank had no bearing. If they tried to appeal to Jason they found even he bowed to her. In Blue Moon the Luna's word was

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law, even for the Alpha

She was not one to laze around either. Phoebe spent most of her time with the pack nursery and daycare instituting several education

programs

A music room had been added. Her mother's piano was moved out from storage and the one already in the packhouse carefully restored,

polished and tuned. Her mother's music books had also been located and added to the room in addition to several new instruments:

recorders, xylophones, drums, guitars, bells and numerous others

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## Chapter Fifty-Six

In addition to music lessons the daycare also had its own community garden the pups were in charge of caring for: planting, weeding and

harvesting. They also went on various outings learning basic survival and foraging skills

The lessons were not limited to the pups. Adolescents, sub-adults and adults were all encouraged to take part in such lessons. Phoebe instituted cooking classes, mending, general first aid, gardening and

foraging, as well as several other classes that taught basic skills she thought every pack member should know. Not only did these lessons

help the members appreciate the contributions of others it also paved the way in developing hobbies and interests. Some even chose to do

more advance research on their own

For the most part Norah stood back and watched in fascination as Phoebe instituted one dramatic change after another. Her presence

seeped into every aspect of pack's daily routine and consciousness. It was an amazing spectacle to watch and she wasn't certain if anyone

else truly appreciated it for what it was.

It was like the moon had settled directly over the pack pulling the tide and making everyone reach for new heights. Jason's influence had

also grown. He no longer fought his own loneliness and his bouts of depression were mere memories. Blue Moon's Alpha was not only

relaxed and happy but also brimming with confidence and dominance. Even if he didn't force out his aura others couldn't help but bare

their necks in submission

Norah was naturally happy for her son and also worried. Before finding

his mate Jason already had more influence and power than any other alpha. In fact his aura already rivaled the king's before Phoebe's

arrival

When werewolves first emerged lycans were already disappearing

Some historians thought it was a natural evolution but there was evidence

Chapter Fifty-Six 5 the transition was not a peaceful one. The New Moon Pack specialized in studying and keeping the history of their kind.

Norah hadn't made a study of it herself but she did know that many of the traditions werewolves developed to govern themselves were

inherited by their lycan ancestors including appointing a king

After the downfall of the lycans the six ancient packs chose their strongest alpha to elevate to the station of king and instituted the creation

of the royal pack. Later a Council of Elders was also established. The King, Council and Alphas formed a check and balancing system though,

in truth, the king held little actual power

He was little more than a figurehead, a neutral party, to rule over disputes but any alpha was more than capable of performing such tasks

When the ancient packs decided to spread out to avoid overcrowding it quickly became apparent how little power the king truly possessed.

Since traveling back to the king to mediate was too difficult the packs mediated for each other

No doubt sensing his power eroding the royal pack relocated to North America only a couple decades ago to establish themselves a

territory in northern Manitoba but the damage had been done. Packs were already used to governing themselves and Blue Moon in

particular built a reputation of fair judgment and sound advice. The king tried to ignore it assuming the status quo would return now that

they had a presence on the continent but that did not come to pass and their influence continued to wane while Blue Moon's waxed

It could not simply be ignored. Jason's aura outstripped either of the princes and even the king himself could not command him. The

disparity

would only become more apparent now that he had his Luna

Norah was nervous what would happen when the royal family met

Chapter Fifty-Six

Phoebe. They certainly would not be able to ignore the newly mated couple. In fact she was quite certain no one would be able to ignore

them

She turned as Phoebe stepped out of the dressing room and stood in front of the mirrors. The pastel color was very well-suited to her

complexion and gave her a warm glow

"Yes," Norah smiled. "That one."

"Finally," Phoebe sighed. "Now we can go home."

She craned her neck looking for Blake and Emma who were wandering the racks. Both were disappointed they could not attend the party

but it wasn't a place for pups and, as the princess couldn't stand them, it was even a little dangerous

"I don't see why I have to go," Lucille huffed. "With Phoebe here I don't have to represent the pack anymore."

"That may be but warriors are not allowed in the royal palace. Jason can only bring his Beta or Gamma. You know he won't allow Phoebe to

be unprotected."

"So I'm a glorified bodyguard," Lucille snorted. "You think after three months he would have calmed down."

Norah frowned. Most males settled down after their mate was marked and a little time passed. And Jason had settled somewhat however

whenever Phoebe left the pack lands on an errand like today his anxiety levels spiked. Given how long it had taken him to find her it wasn't

strange but Norah couldn't help but think something else was going on

Wolves were creatures of instinct guided by energies even their human counterparts did not understand. Given the synergy between Jason

and his wolf there had to be a reason why their protective instincts hadn't lessened. It made Norah even more anxious that Phoebe's first

appearance

Chapter Fifty-Six in front of the royal family went well

Phoebe returned after changing out of the gown, "So..we are done right?"

"Not quite," Norah smiled. "Now we need to look at some accessories

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"Is that really necessary?" Phoebe asked

"Of course, you are representing Blue Moon so it's important to show the pack is strong and prosperous."

Phoebe sighed

Norah chuckled. Since arriving at Blue Moon Phoebe's only piece of jewelry was a macaroni necklace and friendship bracelet made by the

pups. Phoebe was of a much more practical mind and didn't have any use for superfluous signs of wealth

Norah couldn't help but think how well matched Jason and Phoebe truly was as he also didn't have any use for such things. In fact Jason



had very little use for gifts at all. When it came to expressing heartfelt emotions Jason preferred to spend time and devote his attention to

his loved ones. It only took a moment to see Phoebe shared the same sentiment. She loved to spend time with them as well as cook for

those she cared about

It quickly became a tradition for her to cook a meal for all of them: Jason, the pups, Norah, as well as Luke, Mona, Ben and Lucille once a

week. At first they tried to protest until Bridget set them straight. Phoebe's love language was caring and providing, which meant food and

they shouldn't waste it

Luke and Ben certainly weren't ones to complain about a well-done meal and there was no denying Phoebe's skills in the kitchen. And

Jason's thoughts were easy enough to read. He would eat anything Phoebe placed in front of him even if it was ketchup packets

Chapter Fifty-Six OS "I know you don't have much interest in status symbols," Norah said, « but these parties are all about showing status

and wealth."

"And Blue Moon is one of the wealthiest." "Yes." "All right. Emma, Blake," Phoebe called

Though her voice was soft the pups immediately returned to her side

They headed to the register where a pile was waiting for them before heading to the next store

Chapter 57

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Chapter Fifty-Seven

Jason sat drumming his finger on the desk as his eyes kept drifting to the clock then to his phone. Since his mother, sister, mate and pups

were well outside the boundaries of his territory they could not contact him through the packs link leaving cell phones their most reliable

form of communication

He had taken Phoebe phone shopping months ago not only buying a phone but also pairing it with a smartwatch. The pups were too

young for phones of their own but they now had watches that functioned as trackers and would allow them to make emergency calls if

something happened

Just a few taps of his phone would reveal their location on screen

“Jace, seriously,” Ben sighed, “you're acting all twitchy and it's not helping. My mate is with them too and now I'm getting anxious.”

Jason growled

“Ben's right,” Luke said. “It's been months. Her guards are with her and the pups. And if anything happened you'd feel it through the bond

Jason rubbed his hands down his face. They were right and he knew it. Though Phoebe was too far away to mindlink he could still sense her

state of mind through their bond. Right now she was content if a little tired as was usual when she went shopping with his mother. But he

still couldn't shake his anxiety. His wolf was no help as Lobo paced the back of his mind

“We should be with Mate. Only we can protect Mate.”

Every time Phoebe left the territory without him it was the same story

Chapter Fifty-Seven =

and it wasn't much better when he was with her. When he acted as her escort he was always on edge seeking out any potential threats and

When he was left behind he waited anxiously for her return. He was practically on the verge of shifting

“If they waited until tomorrow I could have gone with them,” Jason complained

“I know you worry about your Luna but she needs some alone time with fellow she-wolves too,” Ben chuckled

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Phoebe and Jason were almost too practical when it came to their everyday attire. It brought Norah great joy to shop and choose gowns for

Phoebe who was not nearly as opinionated as Lucille when it came to style

“And what about those sparring lessons you've been giving her?” Luke reminded

A month ago Phoebe expressed interest in self-defense classes. She wanted to make herself stronger and assured him one of her guards

could act as her instructor but Jason took the role instead. Luke thought it was a bad idea. As her mate Jason would be hesitant to use full

force against Phoebe for fear of hurting her. However since the lessons involved breaking holds and grappling techniques force wasn't

really a concern

He started slow with strength training to build her muscle tone

Surprisingly her endurance was already quite good no doubt due to years of running after pups. The training had the added benefit of

increasing her appetite

Since arriving at Blue Moon Phoebe gained at least fifteen pounds filling out her frame. She now had a healthy glow and her strength had

improved greatly. Her petite form had gained considerable curves and her aura was even enhanced. Everyone gravitated toward her. Jason

would

Chapter Fifty-Seven have been jealous if he didn't know she belonged to him...and him alone

Every night they lay together entwined. Her scent tantalized him and stoked his desires. Just the memory had him longing to touch her,

taste her and claim her all over again

"Do you mind?" Ben growled. "I can smell your arousal from here and it's rather infuriating. Luke is the only one whose mate is close by."

"If you think this is bad you should smell what it's like after they've been training," Luke chuckled

Jason glared at him even as he blushed deep red. Training had more than one benefit. Grappling required close physical contact often

causing their bond to flare which naturally led to another sort of grappling session

Not to mention the shower afterwards

Luke continued to laugh at his discomfort. Even after three months it was a touchy subject but it wasn't wise to tease him for too long,

"Besides you couldn't have gone with them tomorrow. Erick of the Cedar Creek pack arrives tomorrow and Gideon from the Fall Leaf pack

two days after that

I'm not handling that alone."

"Who?" Jason asked not recalling alphas by either name

"You want to explain since you're the bonehead who scheduled this?" Luke glared at Ben

"How was I supposed to know? They are technically allies," Ben threw up his hands

“How about a little research before you just blindly say yes?”

“What am I missing?” Jason interrupted. If he didn’t say something they would bicker for an hour

Luke shot Ben a glare. The gamma rolled his eyes before explaining,

Chapter Fifty-Seven =f Cedar Creek and Fall Leaf are too packs in the mid-south. They share quite a bit of borderland and they are allies...on paper.”

Jason raised an eyebrow

“Erick and Gideon aren't the ruling alphas,” Luke added. “Their fathers still hold the titles. The boys are their heirs. They grew up together

and started off as friends with a friendly rivalry but ever since high school their rivalry has become...bitter.”

“How bitter?”

“Bitter enough to almost tear the school apart,” Luke shook his head

“They compete in everything but up until recently it was contained. Now it's spilling into their packs...over a girl if rumors are to be believed.”

Jason rubbed his temples. Why wasn't he surprised? When would young wolves learn to settle down and start looking for their mates rather than wasting time with she-wolves that were clearly not?

“So, why are they coming here?” Jason asked as if he didn’t already know

“Their fathers are hoping some intense training and lessons will settle them down,” Ben said

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“In other words they don’t have the finances to send them to the Alpha School and sent them here instead,” Jason sighed

This wasn't the first time they faced the same situation. The only school devoted to preparing alphas and their ranked members was in

Europe. Not only was the tuition to attend expensive but even just making the journey was difficult. For packs who couldn't afford the cost

sending their heirs to another pack was a viable option. Blue Moon often hosted such individuals

Jason certainly didn’t mind, however, there was always an adjustment as the young alphas came to terms with the fact they were no longer

a

## Chapter Fifty-Seven

ranked member. They were expected to conduct themselves with humility and bare their necks to Jason. Not an easy thing for any alpha to

accept but Jason was not about to tolerate disrespect on his own territory. It would be worse if their guests didn’t get along

But something about this situation felt different. It was one thing for wolves to be rivals and even compete over the affections of a female.

Very seldom did it ever bring two packs to the brink of war. There was definitely something more to these rumors than was alleged

How were they supposed to treat the issue if they didn’t know the cause? Just what were their fathers thinking? Were they hoping Jason

would beat them into shape? That didn’t see a productive way of dealing with the contention

"Fraid so," Ben grimaced. It would be a hassle but nothing they couldn't handle

Jason sighed. There was still another month before the royal gathering to celebrate the princess's birthday. Even if the young alphas didn't

finish their lessons by then they should have at least settled down enough not to cause issues. He hoped. Still.

"Well, I guess we don't have much choice now."

Hopefully Phoebe would forgive him. As the Luna she would bear the brunt of the chaos and discontent that the young alphas might cause

Then again...her discipline was not something to be taken lightly. Maybe she was just the wolf to bring them to heel

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Chapter Fifty-Eight Chapter Fifty-Eight

Jason stirred lazily. He reached for the warm body that was always close only to find he was alone in the bed. Groaning he sat up shivering

With a note of panic. Phoebe was nowhere in sight though he scent was still strong. Where?

The mindlink opened and he felt her amusement fluttered through his mind. No doubt she sensed his panic and was now soothing him...but

~ also teasing him. Jason growled but the open link only vibrated with her laughter

"I'm in the kitchen," Phoebe's voice fitted into his mind. "You better hurry or Luke will get your share of the pancakes."

Jason lurched up with a growl he was certain could be heard throughout the floor. He hurried to the bathroom to relieve himself and splash

water on his face as he shook away the last of his drowsiness. Ever since hearing about the meals he shared with Phoebe Luke and Ben

have much skill in the kitchen and they themselves were walking disasters. To say

ite

A few weeks after her Luna Ceremony they all woke to the most delicious smells. Entering the kitchen they found Phoebe humming over

three different pans making scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon and even a peach cobbler for all of them to enjoy. Ben and Luke were

practically in ecstasy. If one expected Mona and Lucille to be jealous they were sorely mistaken. The she-wolves helped themselves to

second and third servings

Since then Phoebe made at least one meal a week: either breakfast or

Oe

Chapter Fifty-Eight dinner, for them to enjoy together. Jason certainly didn't mind indulging in his mate's cooking but he didn't want her

overworking herself either

Quickly pulling on a pair of sweats and a Q tge-shirt he headed to the kitchen. There he found Phoebe humming over a cast iron griddle

flipping pancakes

"Daddy!" Emma squealed hopping off her seat at the table to run toward him

Jason scooped her up nuzzling her and earning giggles as his stubble tickled her cheek. He carried her back to the table and situated her in

her booster seat before tussling Blake's hair eaming a growl. Jason chuckled

Over the last few weeks Blake had not just gotten comfortable around his new family but he was beginning to gain confidence. He no

longer feared abandonment and regularly challenged Jason as a growing boy should. Even in their play group in the pack daycare he was



beginning to display dominance as one would expect of a high-ranking wolf. Jason wrapped his arms around Phoebe and buried his nose in

the nape of her neck with a satisfied growl!

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“Jason,” Phoebe chuckled. “I’m trying to cook.”

“I’d prefer you to stay in bed until I wake up,” he mumbled. “I hate waking up alone.”

“When I stay in bed you usually want to do other things besides sleep.”

“And?”

“Jason...” Phoebe laughed

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“Really you two? In the kitchen?”

Jason growled raising his head and looking over at his sister. Lucille had the worst timing. She smirked as she claimed the orange juice and

Chapter Fifty-Eight joined the pups at the table. Jason tightened his embrace around Phoebe before she turned and handed him two plates

with pancakes and

bacon

He stole a kiss before taking the plates and delivering them to the pups. Jason cut up the pancakes for Emma. Blake insisted on doing his

own. He took his seat just as Phoebe delivered the first tray piled high for the adults. Lucille immediately speared several beating Jason by a

second and earning a warning growl. Emma and Blake giggled at their silliness

Moments later Norah, Mona, Luke and Ben emerged. The latter two practically raced each other to the table. Norah and Mona both shook their heads at their behavior. Phoebe just laughed before changing out the spent platters for fresh ones

She helped the pups with seconds and would have kept puttering around if Jason didn't pull her into his lap where he had a heaping pile

waiting for her. Phoebe gave him a disgruntled look but stroked his cheek before kissing him and tucking into her meal. Jason held her

close nuzzling her while she ate. Nothing gave him and his wolf more pleasure than taking care of her

"You two are so cute together," Mona chuckled. "Who would have thought our big scary Alpha was such a softy?"

Jason frowned but there was no fire in his gaze. In truth when Mona first arrived she had been terrified of her new Alpha. Back then he

suffered from bouts of depression because he was unable to find his mate followed by almost frenzied dominance fueled by frustration. Not

wanting to hurt the pack members that relied on him Jason spent his time training and patrolling his borders where he could take his anger

out and protect his pack

In the beginning she was afraid to even be in the same room as Jason

## Chapter Fifty-Eight

without Luke present. It wasn't until early one morning she went searching for Luke in the office only to walk in on Jason, half-naked,

attempting to administer his own first aid. He was covered in cuts and one rather deep s\*\*\*h that should have been stitched

kee

«I am so sorry!" Mona squeaked hurriedly stepping back so she

could close the door

“Don't...stay.”

/t wasn't a command. In fact it almost seemed to be pleading for her company. She slowly eased back into the room

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“Please, close the door. I don't want to scare them.”

“Them?”

“The pups and omegas. They won't like seeing their Alpha covered in blood.”

«.w—why don't you go to the hospital?” Mona fidgeted in front of the door

“I don't want to worry them and /know they would tell Luke and

Ben

“Tell them what?”

“That I've been out all night hunting...again.”

“All night? Again? When's the last time you slept?”

“Three days.”

“Three days!” Mona exclaimed surprised by the harshness in her own voice. “You haven't slept for three days?”

“Can't. The bed is too big. It's too..empty,” Jason's shoulder's sagged as he fought to control his churning emotions. Lobo whined in the back of his mind equally distressed

## Chapter Fifty-Eight \_

Biting her lip Mona stepped forward taking the bandage he was trying to wrap around his own arm. He held still letting her wrap his injury

for him as meek as a pup

For the first time Mona was able to see her Alpha without fear

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She saw him for what he was: a broken wolf unable to find its missing piece, his mate. The one person who would be able to share his

burden, who would hold him when he had to fall apart and give him courage when he found himself lacking; the one who would know his

pain, his insecurities, his weaknesses. Without that person he was slowly drowning

wae

With the truth finally unveiled Mona no longer feared him. How could she when she pitied him? But now.

Mona smiled as Jason tucked his nose close to Phoebe's neck breathing in her scent while she ate. He smiled more in the last few weeks

then he had the entirety of his life. His depression was only a memory as was his frustration and anger. Jason was relaxed, happy

It wasn't just Phoebe who tamed him. Blake and Emma also had their hands on the reins. No matter what he was doing the moment either

ran up to him he forgot everything else and focused only on them. There was no hesitation or reserve despite the fact they were not related

by blood and Mona finally understood the strange request Luke made before they marked each other. It had been the right decision even if

it had hurt

Jason suddenly growled his eyes glazing over. Luke and Ben froze mid-bite as their eyes also dulled. They leapt to their feet and raced to the

door. Jason was slower as he stood holding Phoebe close

“Stay inside. No outings today.”

Kissing his temple he spun on his heels and hurried after his Beta and

Chapter Fifty-Eight Gamma. Phoebe watched him go her heart suddenly racing

“Where's daddy going?” Emma asked

“He has some important business to take care of,” Phoebe answered before anyone else did. “He'll be back as soon as he finishes up.”

Emma nodded and went back to her breakfast. Blake watched them curiously but also returned to his breakfast. This wasn't the first time

Jason and the others rushed out the door and it was becoming more frequent as

rogues tested the borders. Once the situation was under control the rogue remains would be transported to Monas research facility and

the real work continued but none of that was spoken allowed as it was considered classified information

“Phoebe,” Jason's voice suddenly intruded. “The young Alpha Erick should arrive today. I hate to ask but could you entertain him until this

is settled?”

“Of course. Just focus on coming home. I don't like to sleep in that big bed alone anymore than you do.”

“Always.” 13 940 Ld i] Comments Vote

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Chapter 59

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Chapter Fifty-Nine of Chapter Fifty-Nine

“Careful with that! You caf!” a young man yelled as the Blue Moon warrior dropped his bags inside the foyer

The young male was quite bold considering he was barely twenty and the warrior in question outweighed him by over a hundred pounds

and several inches taller. To his credit the warrior simply glared at the young pup when he could have easily rolled his head

“Is this how Blue Moon treats its guests?”

“Greetings, young Alpha Erick,” Phoebe stepped forward giving the warrior an apologetic nod

The warrior bowed deeply baring his neck in reverence to his Luna

Then he turned and retreated outside leaving the young alpha in her hands

Turning back to their guest she said, “Welcome to Blue Moon.”

“And who are you supposed to be?” he sneered looking her up and down. Though not full-grown, he was quite a bit taller than her

“I'm the Luna,” Phoebe said keeping her voice neutral as Mani snorted in disgust

“You're the Luna?” he snapped in surprise

Phoebe nodded, "You may call me Luna or Luna Phoebe. Either is acceptable."

"And you can call me Alpha," he smirked

"I think not." "What?" he was clearly surprised by her answer

"A pack can only have one alpha," Phoebe explained. "My mate is the Chapter Fifty-Nine wy Blue Moon's Alpha. You are a guest, that is all."

"You can't talk to me like that"

"Oh yes, I can," Phoebe said with a small smile. "And [just did."

"I guess that explains the carelessness of the help," Erick sneered

"Don is not a porter. He happens to be one of Blue Moon's top warriors," Phoebe said. "Given he may be assisting in your training it would

be wise not to test him too much before you face him in the arena."

"He can't hurt me."

"I wouldn't be too sure about that," Phoebe said. "But we have excellent healers so you will be returned to your pack unharmed."

She let her warning sink in before she gestured for him to follow

"It's nearly noon so you are probably hungry. Or would you prefer to freshen up."

"Food is fine."

Phoebe nodded noting his more subdued nature. She linked the maid to take his suitcases to his assigned room as she escorted him into

the dining hall. While breakfast and dinner were more extravagant affairs lunch was served buffet style over the course of several hours

allowing pack members to eat whenever it was convenient

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“Here we are, Erick,” Phoebe indicated the buffet table. “You can come back for as many servings as you wish.”

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“I’m expected to serve myself?”

“Only if you wish to eat,” Phoebe said

“Mommy!

She turned and smiled as the daycare entered the dining hall for their

lunch. Emma and Blake chuckled helping them serve up their plates before directing them to a table. The rest of the kids quickly followed

with their

Chapter Fifty-Nine if own plates. Phoebe and their chaperones kept busy settling them in before getting their own plates

Once everyone was settled Blake and Emma happily chatted about their day. A number of kids wanted to know when they could venture

outside again. Only a month ago she had a new playset installed on the pack grounds. It had no less than seven different slides, three

bridges, monkey bars and numerous climbing walls. There were ten swings and three tire swings as well as a climbing dome

Phoebe fretted she couldn't give them an answer but promised it would be soon. Normally the pups would be taken outside several times a

day to play. For now the packhouse was on lockdown with only the warriors allowed to freely move about. Because of this the lunch room

was more crowded than usual as many pack members were forbidden from their usual duties



“Watch what you are doing you miserable wench<sup>TM</sup>”

Phoebe stiffened her gaze immediately settling on their guest as he stood over an omega server

“I’m s-s-sorry,” the server stuttered shuffling back

“S-s-sorry?” he mocked loosening his belt. “Oh, you will be.”

“You will do no such thing,” Phoebe’s voice rang out over the hall as her aura suddenly filled the room

Conversation immediately halted as the pack members bared their necks in difference to their Luna. It had been weeks since any of them

incited the Luna's anger and they certainly didn't want to be the one that incurred it now. Erick turned ready to snap at her until the weight

of her aura settled over him. It was all he could do to keep his legs from buckling

He looked to see Phoebe’s eyes shining silver. Despite her petite

+) )

Chapter Fifty-Nine frame her aura made it seem as if she was towering over him. As much as he wanted to shrug it off and assert his

dominance his wolf whimpered keeping its tail tucked between its legs

“You will not raise a hand or your voice at any pack member. You have no authority here,” Phoebe spoke low Manis voice seeping into hers.

“And since your parents failed to teach you basic manners I'll do so on their behalf. Since you don't appreciate the work of others you will

not enjoy the fruits of their labor. For as long as you are here no one will feed you and no one will clean up after you nor do your laundry.”

Phoebe turned away placing a gentle arm around the weeping omega and whispered encouraging words as she escorted her away

“Y-you can’t do that,” Erick managed to say

“I am Luna and this is my pack, little alpha. I assure you, I can.” Phoebe glanced at him. “Your room is on the third floor, left from the

elevator and three doors down. Enjoy your stay with us.”

wae

Phoebe sat watching the pups as they ate their dinner. It had been a long day and tensions were still running high as the warriors remained

on alert. Pack members who normally lived away from the packhouse elected to stay as they were still in lockdown leading to a rather full

house. Jason had not said anything else through the link and she did not want to distract

him by being nosy

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“There are my babies,” a deep voice said pulling Phoebe from her gloom

She jerked to attention to see Jason approach. He wore a new pair of sweats and tee-shirt. His hair was still damp indicating he had taken a

quick shower to wash away the day's labors. Bending down he kissed the tops of Emma and Blake's head before embracing Phoebe who

stood

Chapter Fifty-Nine wo Jason bowed his head nibbling her neck and breathing in her scent

Ever since the patrols first sent out the alert protecting Phoebe and the pups was the only thing on his mind. They did not let any of the

rogues live although one had a radio collar they previously tagged it with almost six month ago. All of the rogues had been taken to the

research labs and patrols doubled. Jason was not satisfied until every inch of the border was checked. Ben and Luke finally prevailed on him

to return to the packhouse

His presence would reassure the pack and his Luna would calm him

“How has it been?” Jason asked resting his forehead against hers

“Oh, just a little drama from our guest.”

“Drama?” Jason repeated

“Alpha Jason!”

He turned to see a young man marching toward him. He had sandy blonde hair and a clean-shaved face though it was more likely he hadn't

yet managed to grow any facial hair in his young life. If the man would smile he would be quite handsome but right now his expression was

twisted in a scowl

“Erick, I take it,” Jason said feeling the young man's aura precede him

Though it had no effect it was considered rude not to control one's aura when on another alpha's territory

“I have a complaint! This she-wolf here has insulted me and ridiculed me! What are you going to do about it?”

“What happened?” Jason asked

“He was rude when he arrived,” Phoebe said. “He deliberately tripped Sonya and then tried to punish her for an accident he caused. Since

he is lacking manners he is being taught a lesson in how to appreciate others.”

## Chapter Fifty-Nine a

“See, she admits it! So what are you going to do about it?” Erick snarled

Jason growled warning startling the young alpha. He couldn't tell if the pup was just that arrogant or that stupid, “Nothing.”

“N-nothing?”

“My Luna can do whatever she wants,” Jason smiled turning his attention back to Phoebe. “Let's eat. I'm starved.”

He directed her back to the table as a server brought out a heaping plate and set it down in his usual spot. Jason slid into the seat pulling

Phoebe into his lap. Kissing her he nodded to the plate

“Eat up.”

“But that's yours,” Phoebe protested. “And I've already eaten.”

“I saw your plate. It was still half full. Eat. I'll finish what you don't

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“Jason...” Phoebe stifled a protest as he nibbled her ear. His chest rumbled with a growl!

“Eat, my angel,” Jason whispered. “You know you should.”

Phoebe sighed knowing there was no use arguing. Picking up the fork she speared some asparagus. She wasn't sure how much she would

have to eat to appease him but he was right about her leaving half her plate. She had been so anxious she barely had an appetite. Now that

he was back with her the smell of dinner was stimulating her hunger. Cutting up the roast she ate another mouthful before offering the next

to him

He gave her a somewhat annoyed glance but would never refuse being fed by her. His mother and sister chuckled but it was easy enough

to ignore with his Luna safe in his arms. For the first time all day Lobo relaxed with a sigh of satisfaction

## Chapter Fifty-Nine

The peaceful moment was interrupted with a harsh growl. Jason raised an eyebrow glancing at the young alpha he already dismissed. Lobo

gave an irritated huff more annoyed that their time with their Luna was being interrupted than the young pup's challenge

Though Jason hadn't said a word the young man took a step back feeling the weight of his aura press down on him. Jason could almost

give him credit for not baring his neck in submission but at the moment he didn't want to give the young alpha any points

"W-what am I supposed to eat?" Erick finally stammered

"You can eat whatever you decide to make for yourself" Phoebe answered. "The kitchen is right over there. You can help yourself."

"I don't cook," he snorted

"You can at least make a sandwich, can't you?" Phoebe chastised. "Since you are here you are free to take one of our cooking classes. Even

an alpha should learn to make a few things for himself

"Why?"

"Don't you think it would be nice to treat your mate to a home-cooked meal every now and again?" Phoebe asked. "I know whenever Jason

makes something it's quite enjoyable."

"He cooks?" Erick snorted and earned a growl!

“Daddy makes spaghetti!” Emma happily declared

“I know a few things,” Jason said. “I’m nowhere near as talented as my Luna but I do love to provide for her.”

Phoebe smiled pecking him on the lips

“Or you can apologize to the staff” Phoebe turned her attention back to the young alpha

“Me? Apologize to an omega?”

Chapter Fifty-Nine “If not. I suggest you get used to sandwiches.” Erick hesitated expecting Jason to interject but Jason’s attention returned

fully to Phoebe as she continued to feed him. With a scowl he finally stormed off to the kitchen

Chapter 60

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Chapter Sixty to Chapter Sixty

“He’s going to be trouble,” Lucille commented at Luke and Ben finally joined them

“Who’s trouble?” Ben asked

“That young alpha from Kansas,” Lucille shook her head. “And the other one hasn’t even arrived yet.

Luke punched Ben’s shoulder, “Told you so.”

Before Ben could answer a shriek suddenly sounded from the kitchen followed by a loud crash and a shout, “What the hell is this?!”

Phoebe’s skin prickled and Mani urgently pressed forward, ‘We have to go! Now!’

Phoebe stood and moved toward the kitchen only for Jason to grasp her hand, “Angel?”

"It's fine," she assured him

Jason's brow furrowed and he moved to join her

"Jason, please. It's fine. There's no danger," Phoebe assured him

There is no danger, right?"

"Not for us."

"Jason, it's all right," Phoebe repeated

Reluctantly he let her go as another crash echoed from the kitchen

Phoebe gave him a quick kiss before hurrying to the kitchen. She didn't want to appear panicked but Mani was pacing in her mind and it

was causing her anxiety to rise

Stepping into the kitchen she saw Shannon huddled in the corner while Erick towered over her using an arm to fling a stack of freshly

washed

Chapter Sixty =

pans on the floor while the other omegas watched in terror unable to stop it

"Enough!" Phoebe snapped letting her aura fill the room

The omega staff immediately calmed. Shannon whimpered but she did straighten as Phoebe approached her. Quickly embracing the omega

Phoebe gently rubbed her shoulder. Shannon shuddered sniffing, clinging to her soothing presence

"This is your fault," Erick snarled

"What is my fault, precisely?" Phoebe glared at him

"You did something. There is no way this worthless omega is my mate!

Phoebe raised an eyebrow, "Shannon, is this true?"

Sniffing the omega nodded unable to look at the alpha who was supposed to love her. Phoebe sighed, kissing her forehead in comfort and

let her aura surround Shannon in love and protection. She had a bad feeling she knew where this was going

"Then this is a special day, Erick," Phoebe looked at him giving him one last chance. "It's not easy for an alpha to find their fated mate. This

is a day to be celebrated."

"Celebrated? Are you kidding? There is no way I could have an omega for my Luna!" Erick sneered

Shannon whimpered

"Then what are you going to do?" Phoebe asked her eyes shimmering

«1, Erick Anderson, future Alpha of Cedar Creek, reject..you what is your name?"

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Shannon hesitated, whimpering

Chapter Sixty FY "Its all right," Phoebe whispered in her ear. "I'm here. TI help." ..Sh-Shannon Richards."

"1, Erick Anderson, future Alpha of Cedar Creek reject Shannon Richards as my mate and Luna!" Erick growled

Shannon cried out her legs buckling as the bond severed but Phoebe's embrace kept her on her feet. Erick suddenly fell to his knees

doubling over as pain ripped through his body. He knelt on the floor shaking as his wolf howled, writhing



“W-what is happening?” Erick moaned

“You just rejected the Goddess’ gift, young alpha,” Phoebe said, Mani’s voice seeping into hers. “Surely you did not think there would be

no consequences.”

He glared at her but there was something uncanny about her shimmering silver gaze. Erick could practically feel her wolf lording over him,

teeth bared. But he heard Blue Moon's Luna had no wolf. Were the rumors wrong?

“You have condemned yourself and your wolf to an incomplete life,” Phoebe said. “Even in death you will never be whole. May the Goddess

have mercy on your soul in the next life.”

Erick whimpered as her words sunk in

“Come on Shannon,” Phoebe gently urged. “I’ll stay with you.”

Phoebe guided her out of the kitchen and to the omegas® dormitory

Though the rooms were not nearly as large and extravagant as those for high ranking pack members there was still a stateliness about

them. They were on the smaller side and lacked a private bathroom but there was still plenty of room for them to be comfortable. Phoebe

helped Shannon into the room but by the time they arrived it was clear her strength was nearly spent

## Chapter Sixty

“Mani, how can we help her?” Phoebe asked

When it came to rejections the one of lower rank often bore the brunt of the burden. Mani shielded Shannon from as much of it as possible

but there was no protecting her from the emptiness now ripping her soul apart

“Have her shift.”

“shift?” “Yes. Contact with me may help sooth her. “You mean, let hersee you?” Phoebe asked

Since the moonlit run had been aborted because of Graham Phoebe had yet to shift in front of anyone. Between their individual duties and

the increase in rogue attacks they hadn't been able to make time to spend together and let their wolves meet. If felt wrong to allow

someone else to see Mani before him but this was an emergency

“Yes. Contact with another wolf will help sooth hers,” Mani said. “may also be able to help the bond severe completely and spare her some pain.”

“But will she even be able to shift in this condition?”

“We can help her with a nudge of our aura.’

Alright, Phoebe finally agreed. “Shannon, I need you to shift for me.”

“MI can't”

“Yes. You can. I promise.” “need to know her wolf's name.” “What's your wolf's name?”

asif?

“Okay, let’s get undressed. We don’t want to have to clean up.”

Chapter Sixty &

Phoebe chuckled and eared a ghost of asmile. Shannon shivered as Phoebe helped her shed her clothing before she followed suit. Helping

her to the floor Phoebe let Mani speak through her

“Sif, it’s all right. Come out. I'm here. You are not alone.”

Shannon whimpered but her eyes swirled as her wolf reluctantly came forward drawn by its Luna's aura. Mani forced her aura out even

more creating a safe place and lending her strength to the omega

Shuddering Shannon bristled with fur and her bones snapped reshaping her body until a little, tan wolf lay in front of Phoebe. She reached

out patting the exhausted wolf's head before stepping back and dropping to all fours. Their shift was much smoother than Shannon's. In

fact Phoebe had often thought her shifts were a bit different from others, not that she had seen many, but it did seem to be easier for her.

Was it because she and her wolf were so in sync?

Exhausted Sif slowly caught her breath. A warm tongue licked her nose. Looking up she found herself staring at a beautiful, silver wolf. The

wolf's fur shimmered in the moonlight streaming in from the window and it studied her with bewitching blue-silver eyes. Kindness, love and

strength radiated from it as it bowed its head and nuzzled her like a mother comforting a pup

It circled her, moving gracefully before laying beside her. It lay its head over hers emanating warmth and safety into her. Sif laid her head

down letting herself give into exhaustion. Mani sighed

"Phoebe? Phoebe, where are you? What happened?" Jason's voice intruded causing Sif to shiver as her sleep was disturbed

"I'm fine, Jason," Phoebe replied. "Shannon was Erick's mate and he rejected her. I have to stay with her for now."

"I understand. But where are you?"

Chapter Sixty "Shannon's room. Once I know she's okay I'll find you. Can you please take care of the pups?"

“As if you have to ask. I take care of our pups. You focus on Shannon.”

“Thank you. I love you.” I love you, angel.” The link closed and Phoebe turned her attention back to a restless Sif

They settled next to her letting their aura cocoon the young omega. Mani blinked sleepily and dozed as the night wore on

wae

Sif wandered aimlessly through the dark, mist-filled wood

Shadows loomed around her and nothing looked familiar. How long had she been wandering to have some this far? She whimpered,

nervous

Something was missing. It felt as if there was a large hole in her chest and she was slowly bleeding out. But there was no wound. She didn't

understand. Where should she go?

“It's all right, little pup. You are not alone.”

Turning, she found herself facing a beautiful, silver wolf simmering in the moonlight. Its otherworldly blue-gray eyes were calm and filled

with kindness. She would feel this wolf far surpassed her in rank and she shivered wondering if she accidentally wandered into its territory

However the silver wolf didn't seem upset. Its aura was warm and comforting

Inclining its head in a gesture to follow the silver wolf turned and

walked off. When Sif didn't follow it paused and looked back at her. She didn't know why but she was drawn to this wolf, Sif felt safe and so

hesitantly stepped forward

The silver wolf led her deeper into the woods but it didn't seem

Chapter Sixty

so scary anymore. Eventually they came to a stream where they paused to drink. Sif was beginning to feel more comfortable but she still felt

as if something was missing. She needed to find it, somehow

A smell suddenly filled her nose: chocolate and cherries. It made her mouth water. Sniffing the wind she hesitantly stepped into the water

“Go on,” the silver wolf told her. ‘He's waiting for you.’

Who?"

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“Your Mate.”

«But, Sif shuddered. The woods grew darker as she remembered. ‘My Mate...didn’t want me.’

“Is that s0? What did he smell like?"

“Chocolate and...orange?" Sif tried to recall

And did it make your mouth water?"

“Well..not like this...but why would I get a second chance? I'm nobody special.”

“Little pup, you are special to the Goddess. She loves all her children. Go on. Go see what is out there. He's been waiting for you for a long time.”

Sif hesitated then crossed the stream and hurried into the woods chasing the scent that wafted between the trees. She suddenly found

herself at the edge of a clearing. There she found a wolf with a reddish brown coat drinking from a small pond

He seemed on edge as if unsure of his surroundings. Suddenly his head shot up sensing he was being watched. He turned spotting her and

immediately snarled baring his teeth. Sif whimpered, cowering. Was the silver wolf wrong? This wolf wasn't waiting for her. He didn't want

her

Chapter Sixty Y either. He was just like her first mate. He would reject her too

As he stalked toward her she slowly backed into the wood

Maybe she could lose him in the trees. She knew she wouldn't be able to survive another rejection. He was only a few feet away when the

wind changed

Suddenly he froze and all sign of hostility vanished. His ears came forward as his nose twitched taking in her scent. A voice she hadn't heard

before slipped into her mind

"Mate?"

Sif whimpered taking another hesitant step back. Just a few more and she would run. As if sensing her intent the auburn wolf whined,

begging her to stay. He fell onto his belly, wagging his tail trying to look less intimidating. Sif hesitated. Did he really want her to stay? She

slowly eased out of her crouch but her tail remained tucked between her legs

He seemed distressed by her fear and crawled forward dragging his belly on the ground in an effort to be less threatening. Sif dropped her

head in submission and whimpered hoping to appease him but this only seemed to confuse him. Coming closer he finally stood and gently

licked her nose, rubbing his face against hers

"Mate."

He moved alongside her rubbing his cheek along her body coating her in his scent

“Mate.”

Sif trembled with pleasure as his scent mingled with hers

Hesitantly she wagged her tail as he came around in front of her again playfully nipping her nose. He flopped on his belly again in an

invitation to play. Sif hesitantly yapped finally stepping out of the woods. He seemed as

excited as a puppy, prancing around her enticing her to romp with him

Chapter Sixty The pair was soon leaping around the meadow, rolling in the grass and wildflowers oblivious to anything else

From the trees the silver wolf watched with a satisfied gleam in its eyes. With a nod it turned and trotted off into the woods. The mist

seemed to grow thicker as it went. The trees faded into obscurity but still it

trotted along untroubled as the world around it faded to nothing