

Scars by Jessica Bailey Chapter 36

Chapter 36

Gideon

“Maybe it wasn’t Tate but Karen. Amelie said the emotional and physical abuse and control got worse once she moved in with them. Unfortunately, I haven’t been able to find too much about her. She is in her early to mid-fifties. Would you or your father have crossed paths with her?” I look at John, hoping he has something.

“If I did, Amelie would never have been in that situation, to begin with. I would have locked Amelie up and never allowed harm to come to her.” I can tell he blames himself for everything she’s been through. “I think she was your second chance mate, but you are her destined mate. I know this sounds insensitive, but you would not have your daughters if Amelie was not your second chance. I do believe Amelie was meant to help you raise them. Not many wolves know what it feels like to have stepparents.”

“I hope you can accept them as your own grandchildren as well. They do not have grandparents, and they would not have cousins as Mandy and I were both only children.” My heart rate rises a bit. This was a big ask of another Alpha.

John smiles, “Amelie will carry their family mark and raise them as her own. That makes them my grandchildren. I will warn you to know Celeste will spoil them rotten,” we both laugh.

I still have the family tree in front of me. Something is telling me that part of the story is here. But where and who? “Maybe we can set a trap.”

“A trap? For whom exactly, I hope you are not going to try and use my daughter as bait.” He raises an eyebrow and tilts his head. That’s where Amelie gets it.

“It’s a ways off, but if you truly trust your extended family, then maybe we can use the Ember Moon festival and the family dinner. In some way.” My wheels are turning.

“The dinner is called the Aruna Banquet. We have always hidden the family reunion in plan sit as a black-tie invite-only Banquet. With that in mind, how would you propose to set your trap?”

I think for a moment. There had to be away. “What if we set up a fake Banquet. We would have two Banquets, the false one, and we would add some of my Delta Force as most Alpha’s think they are stand-alone packs. Get with your extended family and see if they have been targeted as well or have any suspicions. We will send invites to those Alphas. In other words, we are going to keep our enemies close. We will need a list as quickly as possible to gather as much information about our targets as possible. One of two things will happen. Someone who was not invited will try and crash the party, or

they will be on the guest list and try to make a move. Either way, we will be ready, and between your family and my men, we should be able to sniff them out. We can hold the real banquet on a different night at a different location. I don't want to take Amelie's first Aruna Banquet away from her." I let out a sigh. Festivals were already a pain, but to pull together an entire sting operation on top of that was going to take time.

"It's early March now we need to have the "Invitations" out by early May since the Festival will start June 9th this year. I feel like you and Amelie haven't been able to have a normal start to your relationship. Now adding a full investigation on top of that. You and Amelie are stronger than most." I know all he wants as a parent is for his daughter to be happy, but she keeps getting pulled into harrowing circumstances.

"I'll assign the investigations personal. I have some second Alpha children who have joined my pack, so I will have to be careful who investigates and keeps it necessary. How soon do you think you can get me the list?" I need to get things moving quickly. We need as much time as possible to investigate to get the correct invitation list together.

"I should be able to get it to you in two days." John pauses and chuckles a little, "I'll get it to you in three days. Did you forget about what will start tomorrow?"

I look at John, confused, trying to think, "We just have James' training schedule but nothing so pressing I can't handle the list."

John laughs, "Won't Amelie's heat start tomorrow?"

I stand there like an awkward teenager that doesn't know what to do with their hands. "Um, well, there is that, of course."

John laughs a good hard laugh and pats me on the shoulder, "I'll see you in a few days, my friend."

"I'll get the preliminary investigation going and have my Beta looking into the best locations. I'll give you an update as soon as I can. I'll be going now." Talking to your mat's father about her heat was officially the worst conversation I have ever had. I get up and leave the room.

Dinner will be ready soon, and I wanted to talk to the girls early today since I didn't know if I would be able to the next two days. I head to Amelie's bedroom.

"Tyson." I mind link my Beta.

"Yes, boss man." He was never serious.

"I would like to talk with the girls. Be ready in ten minutes."

"OK. Shay will have to call you. I am in the middle of recruit tryouts."

"I'll be waiting for her call."

"Yes, Alpha." I ended the mind link.

I get up to the room and wait for the call. It's only been a few days, but I miss them terribly. I always do when I leave. My phone rings, and it's Shay's number.

As soon as I accept the call, I get, "Hi daddy!" screamed through the phone.

"Hey, girls, are you being good?" Daisy gives me a huff.

"Daddy, we are always good!" She shakes her head.

"Daddy, where is Amawee?" Rose was trying to look behind me. See her bob up and down and moving the phone around was so cute.

"Rose, she's in her workshop right now. She makes jewelry, and she's working right now." I see their eyes widen.

Daisy puts her face up to the phone and yells. "Daddy, we want a princess crown!"

"Daisy! That's not how you ask for things. If you are good girls while daddy is gone, he might ask Amelie to make you one." I am optimistic she will just win them over, but I can use it to my advantage.

"Daddy, we will be so good! I promise!" Rose is determined to get a princess crown.

"I know you girls are always good." They giggle.

"Daddy, don't let the bad people hurt mommy Amawee." Daisy stand and demands.

"What bad people, Daisy?" Have they been watching scary things on TV again?

"The bad blue people. They have blue on their arm. They are bad people." Rose adds in nodding.

I really need to talk to Shay and Jorden about what the twins are watching. "I understand, girls. I'll protect her. That's what daddy does."

Just then, Amelie enters the room. Nothing gets past the twins. "AMAWEEEE!" They shriek.

"Hello, beautiful girls. Are you having fun talking to your daddy?" She comes and sits next to me on the bed.

"Yes." In unison.

“Amawee, daddy said you make jewwreee!” Daisy wants that crown.

“I do. When I get there, I’ll bring you a present. You can help me set up my workshop too. Does that sound fun?” I pull her a little closer. This small moment warms every part of my being. I felt so lucky.

“I want to help, and I want to help.” They were both bouncing around, repeating it over and over.

“Rose, Give Shay the phone. Girls, daddy loves you, and I will talk to you tomorrow, OK.”

“OK, daddy. Wub you.” They say in unison. Rose hands the phone to Shay.

“Yes, Alpha.” Shay was not looking at the phone but watching the four kids around her as she talked.

“Shy, I will mind link you later, but I have a few questions regarding what the girls are watching.”

“I understand, but we haven’t watched anything out of the ordinary.”

“We will talk later.”

“Yes, Alpha.” I hung up the phone.

“Everything OK?” Amelie asked.

I flop back on the bed with my arms over my head, “The girls have been saying such odd things the last six months. I don’t know what they are watching or where they are picking it up.”

Amelie leans over me slightly, “What are they saying.” A somewhat worried look comes across her face.

“They were saying how I needed to protect you from the bad blue people.” I shake my head and run my hand down my face.

Amelie gives me her one eyebrow head tilt look, “Like Smurfs are coming for me?”

I sit upon my elbows, “Did you upset Papa Smurf?”

She hits me with a pillow. “It’s almost dinner. Let’s clean up.”

We clean up and head down for dinner. It’s a pleasant night, and once we are done, we head to our room. We are both tired from the past few days. We get ready for bed and

snuggle under the covers, just talking, and Amelie is giggling, and we fall asleep in each other's arms.

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Chapter 37

Amelie

It's so hot! I kick off the blanket. Gideon is still asleep. I try to be as quiet as possible and move to a cool spot on the bed, flip my pillow, and try to get back to sleep.

Nope! Burning up! Do I have a fever? I feel fine; I'm just so hot. I get up as quietly as possible and go into the bathroom. I splash some cold water on my face, but it doesn't help. I turn on the shower and undress. I get under the cold water, and it feels better, but I'm still so hot. I get out of the shower and grab a towel. As I'm grabbing a towel, I look at myself in the mirror. I look back again, and I saw my eyes were flashing between their usual dark grey to Inari's topaz yellow. Then as I walk closer to the mirror to get a better look, they turn solid topaz, and I can feel I don't have control of my own body. Inari is in control.

"Inari, what's going on?" I'm frantic. I have no idea if this has to do with her being sealed or what.

"Shhhhhh. It's OK. You need to trust me." That's all she said.

I feel like I do when we would shift, not in control, just in the background. This has never happened in my human form. I trusted Inari, but it was still weird and foreign feeling, and she was not talking to me. She walks back into the bedroom and pulls the blanket off Gideon slowly. "Inari, what are you doing your going to wake him up."

She giggles, "That's the point." Then she straddles him. She rubs his cheek. "Time to wake up."

Gideon groans, "Amelie, what time is it. The sun's not even out yet."

I feel Inari pull her strength to her voice, "Ulv, it's time, my love."

Gideon's eyes shoot open, but they are a bright ruby red instead of their usual lush green. It's not Gideon; it is Ulv. His wolf is in control, just like mine.

"Inari, my love, I finally get to have you to myself," Ulv's voice is huskier than Gideon's. He runs his hands down our body, and I can feel the goosebumps under his touch. I stop trying to fight Inari for control. Ulv and Gideon were our mates, four souls in 2 bodies bonded together.

Before I realized what was going on, Ulv flipped us on our back. He was more forceful than Gideon. He was an Alpha wolf, after all. It was clear he wanted his mate to submit but only to him. He was taking what he wanted, and Inari was willing to let him have whatever that was. First, it was her lips. Gideon and I have kissed many times, but our wolves haven't fully bonded. Typically, we would have let them run together, but their need to connect was more intense since they could not. As they kissed, I could feel the bond growing more potent, like roots digging deeper and more robust. I feel sparks all the way through my body and soul. It's warm and comforting.

Ulv works his way down our body, kissing, licking, and nibbling every inch. Claiming what is his. He reaches our hips and slowly spreads our legs apart, kissing and licking the inside of our thigh. Then he bits, sinking his canines in just a little. Inari howls, and I moan. It was pleasure and pain a bit from our mate. Ulv was making his claim to his mate. I feel the roots of the bond growing more vigorous and a bit deeper.

He licks at our lips, lapping up as much of our juices as he can. He runs his tongue over our clit. We both moan. He licks it again harder, our back arches. He looks up with a devilish grin and sucks on our clit. The sensation made me feel like I was going to explode. Inari screams, "Ulv, Ulv, more. I need more." He grabs our hips tight and pulls us to him. He shifts his head, and his tongue enters our core. He sucks and nibbles and devours our pussy. Inari grabs the sheets balling them in her fist. I am screaming more, and Inari is howling. He pulls us in more, and Inari starts moving our hips as he takes the movement to go harder. I can't take much more and release. I can feel myself relax, but Inari is still holding on for more. Ulv does one last deep suck to our clit, and Inari climaxes.

She's panting, but I can feel she wants more she wants her mate, all of him. Ulv sits up and kisses Inari. There's no passion in the kiss. It's hunger and greed. He wants more of us, and he is determined to take it all. As he kisses, his hand moved to our soaking pussy, and he starts to play. Just touching and exploring like his hand was trying to memorize every centimeter of us. He teases with one finger at our entrance. Inari shifts trying to force it in. He stops her pulling back his hand. "My love, what do you want?" He whispers while licking our ear.

Inari moans, "You, all of you. I want you." She pulls him closer, showing her hunger in her kiss.

"I will give my Luna what she desires." He opens our lips and slowly penetrates our core.

I gasp. I feel the roots growing even more substantial, reaching the depths of my soul. Inari can feel it too. She howls again. Ulv, lets out a deep rumble from his chest. "You feel it? The bond grows. Let's make it stronger, unbreakable." With that, he thrust all the way in. Between the feeling of the bond growing and him inside me, I start to feel Gideon push through to me.

I can feel his love, desire; I feel it all. I push back to him. Ulv feels it, too, as his pace quickens. Inari screams for more. Ulv keeps going, Inari matches his speed, and I feel her climax again, but this time a rush of her emotions engulfs me. I give into it all, letting the bond take over, bathing in its intensity. Ulv slows and goes deeper it seems more demanding. Each thrust more intense than the last Inari climaxes again.

This time I feel Gideon pulling me. He's pulling my soul to his. I can feel him; it's like he's wrapping himself around me. It's warm, and it feels like the safest place in the world. I hear a soft whisper, "I love you."

"Gideon, I love you too." He was with me. I have never felt a bond this strong before. He wasn't mind-linked with me. He was a part of me. We were a part of each other.

"Inari, my Luna, my love, we will be united for our lives and beyond. I feel it you are my true mate beyond this life." Ulv's love for Inari was eternal. It had to be his love for her that engulfed us all.

"Ulv, I have been waiting for you for centuries. I know it. Never let me go again." A tear falls from Inari's topaz eyes. She found him, that's what I felt, that she finally found him again.

Ulv kisses Inari with all his love, and I can feel Gideon wrap me up tighter. Ulv continues penetrating slow and deeply, and then he picks up his speed again. Sparks start to shoot through me, and Inari screams. Ulv bends down right before his peak and bits down on our mark. Inari does the same to him. They are remarking each other's bodies, our bodies. As soon as they do, the bond intensifies, and everything feels like it freezes for a split second. It felt like in that second; our four souls became 1 in perfect harmony.

As soon as Inari and Ulv release their canines, Gideon and I take over as our wolves sleep. It was the most fantastic sensation I have ever felt, but I didn't know what it all was. Gideon is on top of me as we were left in the positions right before Ulv and Inari slept. Gideon looks at me, sweetly smiles, and kisses my lips. I no longer feel the intense heat I did earlier. On the contrary, I feel calm and relaxed. Gideon lays next to me, pulling me close.

"Gideon, what was that just now?" I look up at him, and I can see he is a little taken back.

"That was the start of your heat and the finalization of our mate bond or our second marking. Didn't you do that before?" I could feel his emotions now. He was curious.

It made me stop and think. Why didn't I have a similar experience before? Was there indeed something wrong with me? "There is nothing wrong with you. I only ask because of something your father said, and it might be true."

"Hey! How did you know I was thinking that?" He kisses the top of my head.

"I can feel you too. But to be honest, I have never felt a bond this strong before. It's sooo...." He trails off, trying to find the words.

I knew what he was trying to say. "It feels like it's deeply rooted in your soul?" I felt the same.

"Yes!" Gideon pulls me closer and kisses my mate mark. Sparks shoot through my whole body. "Once this heals again, it will be brighter, and the bond fully connected. Ulv was right. I feel like I've found a missing part of myself." He nuzzles my cheek.

"This whole thing seems so surreal to me. I didn't know I could feel this way." Of course, I was happy, but I still wanted to know what happened just now entirely. "Gideon, is it normal for a wolf spirit to take over while in heat?"

He pulls back and looks at me, "Yes, it's normal for a wolf spirit to take over a little bit but to be honest, that was more intense than..." I knew how he felt. Talking about his dead mate to me and me talking about Tate in this situation felt unnatural.

"I know," I lean my head up and kiss him gently. "You don't need to say anymore."

"Am, is this the first time you have gone into heat?" I feel a bit of possessiveness coming from Gideon. It's like he wants this experience only ever to be his.

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Chapter 38

Amelie

"Am, is this the first time you have gone into heat?" I feel a bit of possessiveness coming from Gideon. It's like he wants this experience only ever to be his.

"I think so. I thought I had before, but after experiencing this, I know I didn't before." I push my feelings of love and security through the bond.

Gideon hums when he feels my emotions, "These two days will be intense. We will swap back and forth with our wolves and continue to solidify our bond." Gideon's hands slowly trail down my back. I feel him push his emotions through the bond. The rush overtakes me. It's not a feeling of lust or desire but need and longing.

I cup his face in my hands, "You are the greatest gift I could ever receive." I pull him to my lips. It's different than any kiss we have shared before. It's like a greeting in a way. As if we are embracing for the first time. I guess, in a sense, we are. The bond changes everything.

We continue to kiss, and Gideon pulls me on top of him. His hands softly explore every curve of my body as I look down at him. This feeling was different from before. Gone were our playful games; it was replaced with a burning desire to be connected in every realm possible. I sit up and slide Gideon inside me, and he gently pulls my hips, rocking me back and forth. He pulls me back down to his lips with one hand while keeping the other on my hips. He kisses and nibbles my ear and neck making his way to my mark. He kisses it ever so gently, sending shivers down my spine. We take our time learning every secret spot the other has.

I can't even count how many times I came. It didn't matter. I was one with him. I was connected to him physically, emotionally, and mentally. We slowly journeyed through our exploration of each other. He entered my mind again. It was a bond link, not a mind link; it was stronger. We could talk but also pick up the other's thoughts. I didn't realize it was possible. We used this to our advantage and didn't use our mouths to communicate but used them to devour each other.

I could feel Gideon holding himself back for me. "Gideon, we have time. Let's come together." I tell him through our bond. I'm straddling his lap as he sits on the edge of the bed. He pulls my hips so he can get deeper in me. He kisses my mark at the same time.

"I love you, Amelie." He sends through the bond.

I feel him release inside me. I climax too. I feel warmth rush in and overtake me in an instant, and bright light feels like it enters my body. I feel weightless for a moment, and it's gone.

"What was that? Did you feel that?" He had to have felt it too.

"I felt you. I felt the bond." He lays us down on the bed. The sun was starting to rise. We were both exhausted and hungry.

I shake off the strange feeling and chalk it up to the mate bond and look at my phone for the time. It's almost 7:00 AM. I know Becky will be starting breakfast soon.

"Let's go get something to eat and we can come back and rest. I know Dad is giving you a pass on training because of my heat. I'm starving, and I feel awkward to have food brought up by someone." I start to get up and slip out of bed when Gideon pulls me back to him.

I look into his eyes, and they are flashing between red and green. I feel a strong desire to possess me and guard me coming through the bond. Ulv's instances are kicking in, and he is in rut. He doesn't want any other males around his mate while she is in heat. I wrap my arms around Gideon's neck and nuzzle his cheek.

I kiss his mark, “No one would dare try and touch me. The only two unmated males are your men and my brother, who would fight to protect me. I am safe.” I can feel Ulv reseed and clam.

“Inari, connect with Ulv. He needs to feel you.” I can feel Inari pull Ulv to her, and the last bit of tension in Gideon’s body is gone.

He breaths in my scent deeply, giving me a quick peek. He looks in my eyes, “You are my calm and my storm. I love you.”

“I love you too. Now let’s go before I pass out from hunger.” I jump up and attempt to drag Gideon with me. This damn mountain of a body of his. He doesn’t budge.

“Pull harder. I know you can do it.” He’s egging me on. I drop his hand

He gets up, we get dressed, and we make our way to the kitchen. As we enter, we are met with a failure sight Becky and Benjamin enjoying a moment together. Somethings different I can smell it. “I think they marked each other,” I tell Gideon through the bond. “I wonder when? We need to find out so we can make sure we give them time too.”

Gideon nods. I can tell he mind-linked Benjamin so Becky wouldn’t be embarrassed. “It happened last night. Their marks just healed this morning. So your heat will finish before her starts.”

Becky and Benjamin turn in our direction, “Hey, Luna!” Becky is exploding with excitement. “Look at our marks.” She grabs poor Benjamin’s collar before he can even greet his Alpha. “Benny has thyme, and I have lavender. I never expected to get anything more than a stare or paw!”

Gideon chuckles, “Well ‘Benny’ is a high-ranking Delta so that you would have a more detailed mate mark.” Gideon walks over and slaps Benjamin on the back. “Benny, hmmm.”

Benjamin looks up at his Alpha, “Alpha, she’s so little and cute, but when she get’s excited, I can’t handle her. It’s easier subduing a Rouge than handling her.” Becky pinches Benjamin’s arm, and he winches.

Both Gideon and I laugh. Gideon slaps Benjamin on the back again, even harder, almost knocking him over, “Looks like this little Omega is too much for an elite Delta like you to handle.”

Becky stands there, arms crossed with a smile of satisfaction on her face at Gideon’s comment. She had grown so much in these few months. She was always happy and bubbly, but I could see her confidence grow.

“OK, OK, OK. I am starving! I’m jumping in and making food. Move it or lose it, boys.” I felt like I was about to go feral if I didn’t eat.

“Don’t be stingy. You woke me up early.” Gideon grazes my arm as I walk past.

I bit my bottom lip and smirk, “you did work hard, I suppose.”

Becky giggles and jumps in to help me. Benjamin stands there as awkward as ever, not sure if he should sit or stand. Gideon gives him a look, and Benjamin relaxes and sits at the counter.

I want something hearty. I whip up some biscuits, and Becky starts some sausage gravy, but I also want some fried eggs and hash browns. Once everything is done, I notice everyone is in the kitchen. I was so focused on cooking because I was so hungry, I didn’t even realize it.

James has his torso leaned all the way over the counter, and he’s trying to steal a biscuit. I smacked his hand. “Hey, who said this was your breakfast.” He looks at me wide-eyed then turns away from me.

“Mom, Amelie won’t feed me, and she hit my hand.” Celeste just shakes her head. James turns back to me. I stick my tongue out at him. We become children when we are together. It’s worse when Hope’s around. I missed Hope. I want to visit her soon. I know she and Phillip will be back for the Ember Moon Festival in June, at least.

“OK, if your eating, come and get it,” I yell out. I dish up plates for Gideon and myself and sit down.

“You should hurry and eat. The next wave of our heat is building. We need to get back to our room soon.” Inari interrupts my meal.

“I just sat down to eat. Can’t you hold it off a bit longer? I feel like I’m going to die if I don’t eat and sleep a little.” My heat had only started a few hours ago, and I was already physically drained.

“You have a little time, but eat fast.” Inari’s warning was needed but not well received.

I linked Gideon, “Inari said we need to hurry and eat. The next cycle of my heat will start soon.”

Gideon turns and looks at me. A quiet chuckle leaves his lips. “You are going to be the death of me.”

“Oh, can the big bad Alpha not handle his mate Heat?” I give him my signature eyebrow raise.

He smiles wide, "I'm not worried about me, but you I'm concerned with.

That's how the next two days went. We slept when we could and ate when we could. We had no other concept of time, just the start of a heat cycle and its end. Our connection was more substantial than I ever could have imagined. How could I have fooled before? I now know what I had back was never real.

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Chapter 39

Amelie

"Time to get up," I feel Gideon nuzzling my neck.

His touch makes me want to enjoy the moment, "Can't we stay in bed a little longer."

"Come on, up." He bites my neck playfully. It is instantly making me want to keep him in bed. "We are leaving tomorrow, and we have a lot still to prepare."

"If you keep that up, neither of us will leave this bed." I pull myself closer to him. I nuzzle and kiss his chest. It's become my favorite place cuddled up next to him.

He picks me up, "We will have time again tonight, my storm." He carries me to the bathroom and puts me down; he turns on the shower. We jump in, still teasing each other but hurrying at the same time. Every second we are together, I can't help but smile.

We get dressed and head down to the kitchen. Benjamin and Becky are already down there. It has become routine for us to interrupt their morning flirting. It never gets old watching how uncomfortable Benjamin gets when he's caught kissing his mate. This is our last few days here at the Ashwood Pack before Becky and I leave our home to join a new pack. It's almost hard to remember life 30 days before Gideon. I mean, I can, but the last few weeks have been the best of my life; why think about unhappy memories.

Becky has been a fantastic help to me. I had so much to prepare, and today the moving truck was coming. My work studio has been packed, and it is ready to go. I had prepped many plants for the journey as well. I haven't even packed all my clothes and personal belonging. Becky had all her cook wear and personal items too. We were lucky to have such great mates to help us move all our things.

Benjamin being a high-ranking Delta lived in the Packhouse. He would move to the mated wing, and Becky would take over as the personal chef to the Alpha, Beta, and Gamma families. We had a lot to do once we got there. Not just unpacking, but we had to learn the new pack. Becky and I would need to meet the Beta and Gamma along with

their mates. Gideon said they each had a little boy that were playmates to Rose and Daisy.

In only a few days, I would be face to face with my new stepdaughters. I was going to be who they remembered as a mother for the rest of their lives. I was going to be responsible for their upbringing and welling being. I was extremely nervous, and if that was not nerve-racking enough, two weeks after we arrived, I had the Luna ceremony. Even though I was not even there yet, it was being planned, and invitations have already gone out to other packs to witness my ceremony. At least for the ceremony, my mother, stepmother, and sister would be there. It calmed me a bit. There was just so much still to do.

“Amelie!” I was snapped back to reality by Gideon using his Alpha aura on me. I look down, and I am burning the French toast in front of me. The smell makes me a little nauseous.

“Oh crap,” I pull it off and drop it in the sink. “I guess I’m a little distracted. Sorry.”

Gideon sips his coffee, “I promise everything is going to be fine. You have a whole pack to help you.”

“You have a whole pack. I’m not their Luna.” I sigh. I feel like crying, and I do not know why. It is just burnt toast.

“You bear my mark. It’s a mark gifted by the goddess you are their Luna! Ceremony or not.” I could tell this was not up for discussion with Gideon. I also couldn’t deny the facts. I knew I would receive the Luna markings since I was Gideon’s, fated mate.

I never wanted to lose Gideon. I was simply scared that somehow my happiness was going to be stripped from me. Now that I know what the mate bond is and the love of a true mate, I could not handle it if these somehow all came crashing down. I would not be able to live.

Gideon can sense my fear and anxiety and comes around the counter to hold me. Usually, he’s not allowed past the counter, but I need to feel his touch. I need to be reminded that I am his mate, and this is the fate blessed by the goddess.

He pulls me through the bond-link, “It’s going to be fine. I am with you.”

“Thank you. I will get through it. It’s just everything is going to change again, and I’m just a bit scared.” He rubs my back while resting his head on mine. I don’t even notice everyone around use coming in and out of the kitchen and eating. Everyone leaves us be; they were acting like we don’t even exist. I am somehow OK with it, and I just needed my mate for that moment.

Gideon pulls away. "I have to go and meet your father and brother in the office. I will come to find you when I am done."

"Remember. My mother, Celeste, and I are going dress shopping for the Luna Ceremony gown." I sigh.

"Yes, Alpha Logan and Luna Ann will be here shortly." I can tell he mind-links Matt because he gets up and leaves the kitchen.

"Do you not like my stepfather?" I am a little confused.

"Not at all; Alpha Logan and I have a great relationship. Why would you say that?" He looks at me frowning his brow.

"You sent Matt out like he was on a mission." I give him my one eyebrow raise. "It felt odd."

He laughs, "You need to not be so presumptuous. I sent Matt to get something I have prepared for your mother, if you must know." He starts swaying slightly while still holding me.

Matt comes back into the kitchen with a small book in hand. "What is that?" I ask with wonder.

"It's a Luna prayer book. It is a tradition in my family to give the Luna's mother a prayer book to write in, requesting blessings from the goddess. It is meant to keep you safe and to keep you connected to your family for support. I already gave one to Celeste." I can feel my eyes tear up. That was so beautiful! This large intimidation warrior pack had such a sweet and loving tradition.

I hug him tightly, "Mom will love it. You might need to give her a new one every year. I'm sure she will fill it up quickly." I was feeling very emotional lately.

"Why don't you go out to the garden for a bit till your mother gets here. I need to see your father and James. I'll send Matt with you." Gideon kisses my head and goes to see my father.

He was right; a nice walk through my gardens and beds would help me feel better. I didn't like having a guard at all times, but that was Gideon's new requirement. I had to have an escort if I walked outside of the house. He was so sure Tate would come after me again he would have Matt or Benjamin follow me around. I tried to be calm about it and instead get to know them better since I would be their Luna.

Matt came out to the garden shortly after me, "I guess you're on babysitting duty today."

“Luna, it’s an honor to be your guard. Plus, I get a break from training.” He gives me a slight smile.

I smile back. “Well, as long as you are OK with it. I guess if you are stuck with me all day, might as well help me pull weeds.”

“No problem Luna.” He bends down and pulls a few weeds. “Luna, may I speak freely?”

I stop pulling weeds and turn to him. “Matt, I’m not Gideon; you know you are welcome to speak your mind with me.”

“Luna, as you know, I was sent here to help with the investigation into your ex-mate. I saw firsthand the aftermath of the fight with him and your rejection ceremony. I was the one who carried you back that night; you almost died in my arms. Now you are Alpha Gideon’s second-chance-mate, soon-to-be stepmother, and Luna of the Druit Guard. Most people would have broken down by now from all the stress and ups and downs. I know you are nervous about your responsibilities, but from someone who has been an observer, you are what our pack needs.” I am in shock. It is the nicest thing, anyone, outside of my family and Gideon has said to me. “We are the guardians, warriors and, investigators for all packs. We see the worst of what our kind can do and what others can do to us. It’s easy to lose your humanity and become robotic. I’m sure you know that many of the Druit Guard are orphans or the second or third children of Alphas and Betas. We all have one thing in common. We want to make a difference and make a name for ourselves. The drive and determination can blind us to simple joys. Just being around you has made me well as cheese as it sounds, stop and smell the roses. You don’t even realize how much light you bring to us.”

“Matt,” I’m in tears at his words. “I will work as hard as I can always to bring light the Druit Guard needs.”

Matt smiles and chuckles, “there’s going to be a lot of sad she-wolves when we get back. That’s for sure!”

My tears dried quickly, “What? Why would there be upset she-wolves.” Rage and jealousy started to bubble in me, and Inari was completely locked into the conversation as well.

Scars by Jessica Bailey Chapter 40

Chapter 40

Amelie

My tears dried quickly, “What? Why would there be upset she-wolves.” Rage and jealousy started to bubble in me, and Inari was completely locked into the conversation as well.

Fear was the only emotion on Matt's face, "Oh, I mean, Alpha Gideon was an eligible widower, and you know there is a group of she-wolves who would try and get his attention. I mean, it never worked, of course. Kind of like a fan club. Honestly, the only females Alpha paid attention to were his daughters."

Inari and I calmed a bit but knowing that other women tried to claim mine was irritating. The only woman who didn't bother me but I was jealous of was Mandy for apparent reasons. The goddess fated her and Gideon. I couldn't hate her for that. "It's fine. Let's go back in. I need to clean up before my mother gets here." I need to get my emotions in check; I feel all over the place.

I go back inside and up to my room. I quickly turn the shower on and do a quick rinse off. This was my last day in my childhood home, and I was spending it with two of the most important she-wolves in my life. It helped ease my tension. I walk into the closet and grab a pair of jeans and a button-up. I didn't want to keep taking my shirt off over my head all day. Buttons were kind of a pain, but it is better than messed up makeup and hair all day. The problem was finding a button-up. Why will nothing button over my boobs? Ugh, they hurt too. I think they got bigger. I did not need to grow; they were already a DD. I get an idea. I go over to Gideon's clothes and find one of his buttons ups its forest green. No matter how big my boobs get, his shirts will always be oversized on me. I get to have his scent with me all day. It was a bonus. I roll up the sleeves and tie the bottom in a cute knot. I grab a pair of flats and head down to my dad's office. I know Logan and mom will be here soon, if not already.

"Come in," he always does that. I do not even know why I attempt to knock.

I walk into dad's office, and everyone is there, "Well, I feel like I'm late to a party." Mom comes rushing over. I had not seen her since the day I ran out and knew she missed me. I missed her.

"Let me see," my mom is pulling at my collar.

I huff, but I am excited to show her. "Well, what do you think."

"It does suit you so well. I am a little sad. I can't feel you anymore." She pouts.

I giggle, "Well, mom, that's the way it's supposed to be. Anyway, let's go. Celeste, you ready?"

"Yep. Let's go, ladies." She grabs her purse.

Dad chimes in, "Beta Lucas and Matt are going to be escorting you ladies, please be nice."

Gideon bond-links me, "Nice shirt."

I giggle. I look over my shoulder and wink, "What's yours is mine, and what's mine is mine. Remember that."

He laughs out loud. Dad knows we are having a private conversation and shake his head. Logan is still lounging on the sofa. He was looking over a map with James. I guess they will have their Alpha time. Poor James, I can only imagine what they are going to try and drill in his head.

We jump in the back seat of the SUV. I sit in the middle of Mom and Celeste. I love having both of them all to myself. It rarely happens, but when it does, I get to feel spoiled. I love it. It's a short trip into town to the dress boutique. I have made this trip a million times, but I start to feel nauseous.

"Honey, are you feeling OK?" Mom asks as she feels my forehead.

"I feel a little nauseous, is all, not sure why." She rubs my back. I lean into her. Sometimes you just need your mom.

Celeste asks, "Have you not been feeling well all day."

"Off and on all week." Celeste and mom give each other a look.

"What? Tell me." Did I miss something?

"Have you felt like crying for no reason?" I sit up.

"YES!" Was I sick and didn't know it.

"Have you been craving things like potato chips and chocolate, maybe even putting them together?" Mom knows, but how?

"I might have done that." I felt like I was missing out on a secret.

Mom leans up to talk to Lucas, "Please take us to the pack hospital. DO NOT TELL THE ALPHAS! GOT IT!" She used her Luna aura. It was so cool.

"Mom. Why? Is there something wrong with me? Am I sick?" I was going to cry.

Celeste laughs, "Sweetheart, you're not sick, but I think we need to see the doctor."

We get to the Pack hospital, and mom and Celeste take me to the OBGYN. It hits me. Oh, yes makes sense. Why not? I mean, everything else was changing. Why not that too. I'm in a daze at this point. I don't even hear the doctor when they ask me to pee in a cup and give blood. Mom snaps me out of it. I give them their samples.

We are waiting in the office for about a half-hour when the doctor comes in. "Hello Luna Celeste, Luna Ann, Luna Amelie." He bows to show his respect to us. "Luna Amelie, when was your last heat?"

"It was the 9th and the 10th of March. About three and half weeks ago. Why?" I was on the edge of my seat.

"Congratulations, you are three and a half weeks pregnant." There is a knock on the door and a nurse wheel in an ultrasound.

"We are going to be grandmas!" Mom squeals and grabs Celeste's hands. They are excited, and I'm in shock. I can't even speak.

"Luna Amelie, please lay back and can you undo the top of your jeans and pull up your shirt." I just shake my head and comply. I don't even know if this is real. He squirts some gel on the wand and moves it across my belly, and then stops. "Look, there it is. It's your baby."

Mom and Celeste are squealing, looking at the picture. I can't help but cry looking at the tiny blob, but I know it's my baby. I'm having a baby. He prints the picture and hands it to me. I wipe off my belly.

"Doctor, I trust this is confidential." Celeste uses her Luna aura, making sure my news would not get out.

"Of course, Luna." He bows and leaves.

"Well, dear, what do you want to do now?" Mom looks at me and holds my hand. In the other, the ultrasound picture. I look at it, and I know I need to go back and tell Gideon right away.

"I'm sorry I know you both wanted to go shopping, but I think I should go back. I think there's some Alphas who are going to be pretty shocked today." I laugh, but a few tears fall. I'm so happy I can't help it.

We get back into the car, and Lucas and Matt look like they are on pins and needles. Mom smiles at Lucas, giving him a nod and a wink. I see the tension release from his face. Matt, on the other hand, is about to explode.

"Luna Amelie, are you OK. Should I call the Alpha?" He's about to mind-link Gideon.

"NO!" All of us say at once.

"I am fine. Please do not alert Alpha Gideon. We are heading back to the Ashwood Packhouse right now. It's OK." I calm him the best I can. He still looks nervous, but I know he won't disobey.

“Inari, we have a pup!” Inari has been so excited the whole time.

“It’s an Alpha. We are going to give birth to an Alpha!”

“It could be a girl.”

“No, it’s the Alpha Heir. I know it. He’s going to be strong.” She is howling with joy.

“Don’t tell Ulv. We need to tell them in person, OK.”

“I want to see their face when they hear the news.” She’s squealing.

Lucas gets us back to the Packhouse in record time. It’s right around lunchtime, so I know they are all in the kitchen. I am starving, but I will have to wait till after I tell Gideon. I walk up the front stairs and take a deep breath. I have the Ultrasound picture in my pocket. I push the door open. I’m ready!