

Scars by Jessica Bailey Chapter 86

Chapter 86

Gideon

“Let her go, you coward.” Beta Noland snarls through gritted teeth. Lacy is strangely calm as the bright silver blade is positioned at her ebony neck. It’s as if Nox is holding the still night hostage, but by the look in Lacy’s eyes, the night was about to strike back.

“Nox, why are you doing this? I am your mate. You love me.” Lacy’s tone didn’t match her face. I could tell she was buying time. I didn’t know why. I could only play along and trust father and daughter.

“Oh, Lacy dear. I’ve never loved you. You were just a means to an end. Although you are a tempting means.” Nox takes a deep inhale of Lacy’s scent. This must have been what she was waiting for. Lacy digs her claws in Nox’s side. He drops his arm holding the knife, and she rushes to her father’s arms.

“You bitch! You will pay for that! Don’t think I will treat you as nicely as before.” Nox is holding his side but now has the silver blade pointed at me. He must be foolish if he thinks I can’t disarm him in a second.

I start to circle him slowly, “this is not going to end well for you.” Just then, a few of the Blue Crescent Warrior jumped out of the shadows.

“Stay on, Nox. I can handle these pups.” Beta Frank slashes through a warrior like a hot knife through butter. Lacy joins him, and you can tell from her fighting style she is her father’s daughter.

I hear a scream from behind me. I turn, and I see a scarred-faced elderly woman running toward me with a syringe in her hand. I grab her wrists and snap it. Then I feel a burning stab in my back shoulder right in my Alpha mark. I look over my shoulder, and Nox is about to pull out the knife and stab me again. I toss the old woman to the ground and punch Nox square in the nose. He stumbles back, and his eyes are watering. It gives me a chance to pull the knife out of my back. As soon as the blade is out, I can feel it start to heal. Wolves heal quickly, but with my enhanced fae healing, this silver was nothing to me.

I stock toward Nox with the silver blade in hand. The only color I can see is red. Blood red, I was going to gut him like the animal he was and hang his rotting carcass out for the scavengers to rip apart. Then I feel it, another Alpha aura. I see Blake Jericho running to tackle me.

“Too slow old man.” I sidestep and grab his wrist, twisting it behind his back.

"It's my family's time to rule." Blake's struggle is in vain he can't fight my grasp.

My chest is pressed to his back, and I bring the silver knife to his neck. "Look, Nox, I have a hostage now." Nox's eyes have stopped watering from the punch to the nose.

"I don't need that useless old man anymore." Nox starts to circle me now. The difference is I have no intention of letting Nox or Blake leave here alive. His attack gives me recourse to kill him.

I hear a screech and a snap, "I've been dreaming of doing that for months! Go to hell, Karen." Lacy drops the old woman's body. I see she had the syringe in her other hand. It looks like Karen was trying to save the Jerichos with one of her drug and herb cocktails.

All the warriors are dead and the only ones left are Blake and Nox. I knee the back of Blake's legs, dropping him to his knees. I still have his wrist in my other hand. I twist and break it. Blake screams in agony. It's such a satisfying sound. "Well, since you don't need him anymore, I guess I don't either."

Blake tries to break free, "The Council will not let you get away with this." It's a desperate ploy from a desperate man.

"Alpha John and I are the Council right now, and your bloodline ends here." The silver blade slices Blake's neck without effort. I release his arm and let him sputter and choke on his own blood. Nox is trembling on the ground. "What's that smell?" I look around and see that Nox has pissed himself. Good, let that fear sink in before he dies. "Greed will get you killed. Too bad, Nox, you didn't learn this sooner from your father. You are about to join him in hell. Before that happens, where's Tate? He hangs of a mother is dead, so where is he?"

"If you let me live, I'll tell you." His information is not worth his life. I'll let him have some hope because the second I rip it away, I want to look in his eyes.

I nod to Frank, and he lifts Nox off the ground and holds him up by his arms. "Lacy, I'm sure you have grievances you would like to air out." Lacy steps forward. Her rage had been swelling for months, and it was about to burst forward.

She doesn't say a word. If pure hatred had a face, it would look like Lacy's right now. She stands in front of Nox, her fists clenched. She bends down to pick up the silver knife from the floor and wipes the blood off on her shirt. I was not expecting what she did next.

She cut the palm of her hand and covered the blade with her blood. "Selene moon goddess. I offer you my blood and ask you bless me in this new life." These words I've only ever read them. Is she really doing this now right in front of him?

“Lacy, you don’t have to do this. He’ll be dead soon, and you will be released from the bond.” I grab her hand. She’s steady and calm.

“No, Alpha Gideon. It’s my choice this time! I’m not leaving it up to fate.” I release her hand. This is her decision and hers alone.

She takes the silver blade covered in blood to her mate mark and makes an X. I can’t tell if her screams are from the pain of the blade or the pent-up pain of being Nox’s captive. She covers the blade in blood again and points the knife tip at Nox, who is in silent shock. “I, Lacy Noland, reject you, Nox Jericho as my mate. I REJECT YOU AS MY MATE AND MY ALPHA!” She drags the blade in a cross pattern on her mark, blood oozing from the cuts. She is fueled by pure blinding rage. “You will never harm anyone again. You no longer hold power over me.”

Lacy stumbles on her feet. I don’t know if the ritual will take effect since it’s not a new moon, and we are not at her birth pack, but if the Goddess heard her, maybe she will grant her this freedom. I step over to steady her. She grips my arm and looks up at me, “Thank you, Alpha.” I nod. I have no words. This woman reminds me so much of Amelie with her will to fight forward. I hope the Goddess grants her a second chance, mate. She honestly would be an excellent Luna.

Lacy takes a few staggered steps towards Nox. He’s still being held in place by Frank. “Now this ends.” She uses the last of her stamina to thrust the knife into Nox’s stomach and rip it to the side. The wound is jagged and spurting blood. Frank dops him, and Nox crumples to the floor. “This won’t bring back all the people you killed or the lives you’ve destroyed, but it makes me feel better.” Lacy drops to her knees.

Frank drops to his knees next to his daughter. “It’s over, princess. I’m so proud of you.”

“Daddy.” Frank wraps his arms around his sobbing daughter. Her tank top is soaked in blood, and I can see her black scar forming over her mate mark, and her pack mark is fading. The Goddess granted her request.

“Frank, you should get Lacy back....” My chest feels tight. What’s this pain? It’s the family bond. It’s Daisy. I feel a rush of fear and panic come over me. It’s the mate-bond.

“I will die tonight, but so will your family!” Nox chokes out his last words, and I take off running.

I shift mid-stride. I run as fast as I can; I’m miles away. It was a 3-hour drive to get here. I can only hope a straight route through the mountains will cut some time and get me there faster. As I am running, I look up. It’s a full moon tonight. Ulv stops us and howls up at the moon, offering a wolf prayer. We keep running. “Please, Selene, keep them safe. I will do whatever you ask of me. Just keep them safe until I get there.”

Scars by Jessica Bailey Chapter 87

Chapter 87

Amelie

No! Somethings wrong! My chest feels tight. It's Daisy. What's wrong. My body moves before my thoughts can catch up. I have to get to the great room now. The pack-link was alerted too. I move as fast as I can. I feel someone coming up from behind me. I turn my head and see Shay and Jordan closing the gap on me. Becky and Bailey are following close behind.

"You feel it too?" I don't stop; I keep running.

"Easten is terrified." It sounds like his mother is too.

"I've never felt this much rage and fear from Ryan."

"We just saw everyone leave and felt we should follow. What's going on?" Becky is already panting.

"I don't know, but it's the kids." I keep looking forward; I must keep moving forward.

We are greeted with a paralyzing scene. I see wolves I've never seen before. They have all the Omegas and pups corralled in the corner. They have silver weapons, and the Omegas are trying to shield the pups. The worst part was in the middle of the room, huddled together are the ranked pups, and the wolf who is hovering over them is none other than Tate Cozad.

The ranked females fan out behind me. We are it for a fighting force. Tate has six wolves with him, but they don't look like warriors, but they have silver weapons and hostages. I start to circle the center of the room around Tate. He hasn't said a word, just watching me with his disgusting face twisted in a crazed grin.

"What do you want?"

"Still can't say my name. That hurts so much since our love is so deep." He licks his lips, and my gage reflex kicks in.

I link my ranked females, "I'm going to distract him. You guys get everyone else out of here, and then we will kill him once and for all."

"His blood will flow tonight." Shay is our best warrior here, and they are threatening her son. They would not leave alive if she had a say. She's a Beta and naturally stronger than the average male wolf. All my ranked females are stronger than the six wolves Tate brought, plus we had the Omegas the biggest problem was the pups. They outnumber all of us and could be used as a shield at any moment.

I choke down the bile rising in my throat, "Tate, what do you want? Why are you here?"

"Oh, my love, is that any way to talk to your mate. I'm here to take you home, of course, and rid you of these unnecessary responsibilities." He takes a step toward the ranked pups, Ryan and Easten step in front of Daisy and Rose. They are trying to block Tate. This is the first I can see Daisy clearly, and my heart drops. There's blood on her PJ's, and her lip is busted. Tate retakes a step towards the kids. Ryan and Easten don't back down and stand firm. A growl comes from deep in my chest, and I hear a similar growl coming from Jordan and Shay. Tate messed with the wrong she-wolves.

I use the pack link with all the Omegas and teens and pups over ten. "I need you all to protect the younger pups. Please follow Beta Shay and Gamma Jordan's instructions."

"Becky and Bailey, I will need you both to try and grab the ranked pups as soon as I distract Tate enough. Can you do that?"

"Yes, Luna." I hear in unison.

"Tate, don't take another step forward." I get a little closer.

"Or what?" He's challenging me. The only thing I can think to do is try my Luna aura. He's not a member of my pack, but it might work.

Inari gathers our aura, "Tate Cozad, I said not another step!" I see him flinch.

"You dear to use your Luna power on me. I am your mate. You will respect me." He takes a few steps toward me instead.

"Get closer." I link to Becky and Bailey. They sneak closer, but Tate notices and backs up to the kids.

"Oh, you thought you could just take my mate?" He grabs Ryan by the hair.

"Don't touch him!" My voice is commanding, and he drops him. This was my only chance.

"I'm going to try something. Everyone be ready to run." I link the room.

"I told you not to do that. Now How will I punish you." Tate points his silver blade at the kids. "Who will I choose... who will I choose..."

Before he can pick, I yell out using all my Luna aura, "Drop your knives and drop to your knees." Tate freezes. I see he is fighting his wolf for control. Two of the other wolves have dropped to their knees, and all have dropped their knives. "NOW!" The Omegas and teens get all the pups out as quickly as they can. Shay and Jordan each get a quick kill in the chaos, but the other four are putting up more of a fight.

“Bailey, go help them. Becky and I can handle him.” She nods and jumps in to help Shay and Jordan.

“Oh, you are tricky as always. I think I like this one still.” Tate grabs Daisy by the arm, and Becky quickly jumps in and pulls the other kids away.

“No, Daisy!” Rose screams, breaks free of the group, and runs back to her sister, pulling her other arm. “Let go, you ugly. Mommy doesn’t like you. She likes daddy.” Rose is desperately pulling Daisy’s arm. Tate is squeezing and twisting the other. Daisy’s cries feel like I’m being stabbed in the heart.

“You want to go first. Be my guest.” Tate throws Daisy to the ground and grabs Rose instead, and lifts the silver knife.

Inari takes complete control and jumps at Tate, knocking him to the ground. It’s not my body that knocked him down. It’s the body of a white wolf. We shifted. How?

Becky grabs the twins, and by now, the other wolves are dead, the pups are safe. It’s just Tate and me in the center of the room. I’m as big as an Alpha and pure white, and I must look terrifying because Tate is trying to crawl away. I swat him, flipping him over and tearing into his side. Growls from deep within my chest reverberate off the walls.

“No, Amelie. Wait, I’m your mate. We were together for ten years. We…” I hit him again, sending him flying into the wall.

He stumbles to his feet, but I knock him down again before he can try making a move. This is ending now. He tries to fight me off him, but I’m too strong and too pissed off. I slash at his chest; Tate’s screams of pain and agony do little to deter me from my goal, ending his life. I slowly lower my head, letting it sink in that this was his end.

“Please don’t kill me. I’ll disappear, and you will never see me ag” I ripped his throat out and backed away. My white fur is matted with Tate’s blood, but the only thing that matters is that everyone is safe, and it’s over. I didn’t want to give him another chance to harm my family or me. It’s done.

I feel my body shift back, and it’s a feeling I’ve missed so. I’m naked, covered in blood, but no one seems to care. They are all covered in blood, even the kids.

“Mommy!” Daisy and Rose scream as they run to me, clinging to my legs.

“Mommy’s OK. Daisy, let me look at your lip.” I bend down to look at Daisy’s lips, and a sharp pain hits me in my abdomen, and I feel something wet run down my leg.

“Mommy, did you pee?” Daisy looks at the small puddle under me.

I clench my fist, and Shay and Jordan are on either side of me. They were holding me up.

“Luna, you are in labor. You need to lay down.” Jordan tries to guide me to the floor.

“It’s too soon. I still have three weeks left. AHHHHH” I try to focus on my breathing.

“Luna, you shifted! Twins come early all the time. You need to lay down.” Jordan tries to get me to lay down again.

“No! Not here, I will not let my children be born in a room full of dead bodies.”

“OK, Luna, lean on us. We will get you to the closest guestroom.”

“AHHHHHHH,” I try to hold in my voice, but the contractions hurt.

Scars by Jessica Bailey Chapter 88

Chapter 88

“We are almost there. Just a little bit more, you can do it, Luna.” Shay’s words are meant to encourage me, but they are annoying me more than anything.

“AHHHHHH! Why are the rooms so far away?” I’m naked, sweating, holding my and back, and waddling along the hallway the best I can.

“Inari, don’t let them come out yet.” I have to get to the guest room.

“I can’t hold them back. Damn these contractions.”

We get to the doorway of a guestroom, and my team gets me on the bed. Becky and Bailey are wrangling the kids. Daisy’s lip is split and bruised. All the kids have blood on them. We are a collective mess, and we don’t have any time to wash the death off us or the kids. My contractions are getting closer together.

“Get the doctor.” I’m between contractions, but I know the boys are coming soon.

“We only have a nurse. All the doctors went with the recovery teams. The nurse is on her way.” Shay is holding my hand. I’m surprised I haven’t broken it.

“Ahhhhh. It’s too soon. I still have three weeks left.” Jordan wipes my brow with her sleeve.

“You shifted, and you are having twins. They come early all the time. You can do this.” Jordan reminds me again, but it’s not sinking in. My body feels like it’s on fire.

“Water, please.” Shay nods and heads off. I know I can depend on my team to help me.

“Becky, can you get us some clean water and see if you can find some rubbing alcohol or vodka.” Shay, in proper Beta form, takes charge when I can’t. Becky rushes off.

“Bailey, I need you to gather towels, lots of towels.” Bailey nods and disappears into the bathroom.

“Kids, I need you all to be really good for a while. The Luna is going to have her babies soon, so we want to welcome our future Alphas by being really good, OK.”

“Yes, mommy, we want to see the new Alphas.” Easten takes Rose’s hand and leads the kids over to the corner. I know they are confused and terrified, but I can’t comfort them right now.

“Inari, how far away is he?” Another contraction hits. They are coming soon.

“He’s coming closer. Can you feel him? He’s come for us.” Her phrasing sounded off, but it was comforting to hear. He was coming for us.

“We have to wait for him. He has to be here.” “Ahhhhhh,” I scream out loud.

Gideon

I must hurry. I’m whipping through the mountains running the best direct route I can. My lungs burn my paws feel like they will split and bleed at any moment, but stopping is not an option. I don’t know what happened, but Daisy was hurt, and Amelie is in a lot of pain. I’m still too far to bond-link her, but I feel her.

I feel a sharp rock split my paw; I keep going. “Ulv, we need to dig deep. How do we use our fae and elf magic?”

“Not sure, never tried.” Ulv is as determined as I am. Nothing is stopping us.

Ulv is in control, so I concentrate and search for a trigger to our magic. We needed the boost desperately. I first searched by exploring the bonds that will help me find our core and where Ulv and I are connected. When Ulv is in control, I usually don’t fully let go. The only other time was during Amelie’s heat, and then I focused on her and our spiritual connection. I start with my mate bond. It’s like a thick purple rope, and it’s twisted around all my other bonds. It makes sense Amelie is the mother of my children and my Luna. Our bond encompasses all our bonds. I follow it, and I reach a glowing red core. It has deep green rings circling it like the rings of Saturn. This must be it. I reach out to touch it.

“We’ve got company.” Ulv has come to a complete stop.

“What is it way out here?” I didn’t want to take control yet.

“Rogues real ones this time.” Damn it. We didn’t have time for this.

“Make quick work of them if they attack.” I go back to finding the core again. I’ll have to find the purple rope again.

“Looks like they are making a move in the clearing up ahead. I can handle these bugs. Find our magic core.” Ulv knew we needed our magic more than ever. It’s been passive this whole time, but if I can find it, I can maybe harness it and use it at will.

I find the purple rope again. We must have gotten closer to home. The rope feels thicker. I follow it and see two white ropes and two thin green ropes twisted into the purple rope. This must be both sets of twins. The boys are thin ropes right now, but they will thicken once they are born. I follow the thick twist of rope, and I find the core again. I reach out to touch it, and a searing pain hits me in my side. I’m pulled back from the core.

“Ulv, what’s going on?”

“I got surprised by a fourth one in the shadows. We’re fine; find that damn core!”

We are injured. It was now or never. “Gideon!” I hear Amelie. She’s a whispering echo, but I hear her.

“I’m coming! Why are you in pain?” I don’t know if she can hear me, but it’s worth a try.

“AHHHHHH! The twins are coming” It was not a whisper but a scream. The boys were coming. I needed to get this core to heal us up and get home now.

I don’t just follow the purple rope; I’m pulling it, yanking it taut to find the shortest way. I find my path nothing is hindering me. I find the core for the third time. I feel another shock of pain, but I’m not stopping this time. I leap forward with all that I have, and the fiery core envelopes me. I feel like I am on fire but at the same time stronger. I can feel the forest and mountains. It’s like it’s speaking to me.

“I found it. Can you feel it?” I reconnect with Ulv and look out to the mountain clearing. Everything looks brighter clearer. The rogues in front of us look petrified suddenly. We take a step forward, and something catches my eye. It looks like fire.

“Ulv, are we on fire?”

“You unlocked our core, so yes, we are on fire, and our senses have been heightened.”

“We need to hurry. The boys are coming. Can you feel Inari?”

"I'll finish this." Ulv jumps forward, landing on top of the largest wolves, and rips his throat out without hesitation. We growl deeper than I ever knew possible. We must have looked terrifying because the other three wolves ran off without a look back. We were not following them tonight. We needed to get back home to our family.

With complete control of our magic core, Ulv takes off faster than before, bobbing and weaving through trees. We were jet-black lighting going through the forest. The closer we got, the more I could feel Amelie's pain. I reached the edge of our territory and found an encampment.

It was odd to find an encampment near my territory, but I knew Tate was here as soon as I entered. The whole camp had been dug out and lowered into the ground. There was ghillie cloth draped around and the pungent odor of bears. Damn it, he was hiding so close, and we didn't even notice him. I'm close enough to mind-link.

"Shay, I need a report!" I start running again. I've wasted too much time.

"Alpha, Tate, and six wolves attacked the Omegas and pups. We killed them all. To save Daisy and Rose, the Luna somehow broke her seal and shifted. She went into labor shortly after." I pick up my pace to the limit of Ulv's form.

"Have the pups arrived yet?" I can see the packhouse through the trees; I'm almost there.

"Not yet, but they will be coming soon. I think the Luna is trying to wait for you."

"I'm almost there." I'm bounding through the back door of the packhouse, and I happen by the Omegas and pups. No one tries to stop me. They know their Luna needs her mate. I'm still in wolf form knocking knickknacks off tables and walls as I make my way to the stairs. I can feel her up there. I shift and take two steps at a time, and I burst through the first door at the top of the stairs.

I'm met with a bewildering sight. Everyone's covered in the blood, even the pups. Daisy's lip is split and bruised. The pups look traumatized; it's 3 AM they have to be exhausted. My mate is naked on the bed in labor with Shay and a nurse in a position to deliver. Jordan, Becky, and Bailey are comforting her and whipping her sweat. I rush to the side of the bed and almost knock over Jordan in the process.

I take Amelie's hand, "I'm here. I'm so impressed by you. How did I get so lucky?" I kiss her forehead.

"Gideon, you made it. Ahhhhhhhh." She screams and squeezes my hand.

"Luna, it's time you can't hold back any longer." In this situation, Shay and the nurse are in charge. "Luna, push!"

Amelie pushes and squeezes my hand. If I weren't an Alpha, it would have broken. "Push, you can do it. I'm right here with you."

She pushes harder. The nurse yells out, "She's crowning. Come on, Luna, you can do it."

Amelie takes a deep breath, pushes, and with a scream, the baby is out. He's screaming too, but it's a beautiful sound. "Luna, your baby. Alpha, your first heir." Shay lays the baby on Amelie's chest.

"Hello, Aspen. I've waited too long to meet you. This is your daddy." Joy tear-filled eyes look up at me, and I'm happier than I have ever been in my life. The girls sneak up to the edge of the bed to get a peek at their new brother. The nurse takes the baby from Amelie's chest and places him on me. He stops his screaming and rests peacefully.

"Luna, time for baby number two to come out. The Alpha can comfort Aspen for now. You have to push again." Amelie nods and takes a deep breath. "OK, push." She pushes. "Keep pushing." She pushes again. "OK, she's crowning again. OK, Luna, give me one big push." She pushes, and the second heir is born.

Shay places the screaming baby on Amelie's chest, but something is wrong. I can feel it right away. I knew this feeling all too well. Amelie was barely moving, and our bond felt weakened. I'm still holding Aspen to my chest, and I take Amelie's hand with my free hand.

"Amelie, don't do it, don't leave us." She gives me a slight smile and closes her eye.

"Ulv, activate our core! I don't know if this will work, but we can't lose them." I feel my body heat rise. I look down, and it seems like I am on fire, and so does Aspen. There's an audible gasp from everyone in the room, but I don't have time to explain. I take Amelie's hand and bring it to my lips and pray. I feel the twins come behind me and wrap their tiny arms around my waist. The fire engulfs Amelie and Birch, along with the girls.

"Selene, please don't take her away from us." The flames grow more substantial, and the color changes from a red to a deep green. It's both the fae and elven magic combining. I feel the mate bond grow strong again, but it's completely intertwined with the family bonds. I can feel the boys' bond becoming more predominant. "Come back to us, Amelie. I need you; we need you."

"Gasp!" Amelie opens her eyes, and the green flames recede. "Gideon, are the boys alright?"

Tears are streaming down my face, and I don't care who sees. At that moment, I was just a man who was overwhelmed with emotion. I had my family. These five meant the world to me, and I would give my life for them. "The boys are fine. You are so amazing."

I lay Aspen on Amelie's chest. She is cradling both boys, and the joy on her face gives me relief.

"Girls, say hello to your brothers." I pick up Rose and Daisy and set them beside Amelie. I also sit on the edge of the bed. My heart is overflowing.

Can we finally be a normal family? Well, our own brand of normal, I guess.

Scars by Jessica Bailey Chapter 89

Chapter 89

Amelie

"Oh no, no no no! Got you!" I lift Aspen in the air, and the sound of his giggles is the world's sweetest music. "Where do you think you're going, mister!" Birch squeals as I pick him up in my other arm. Escaping mom is our favorite game these days. I can't believe they turned one today. My little trees are growing so fast, and of course, since they are always around older kids, they have developed very quickly and have already started walking.

"Daisy, Rose, girls, can you help me with your brothers for a second?" I pop my head out of my bedroom door, looking for signs of my daughters. They come tumbling out of their bedroom door.

"Yes, mommy, we can help." Rose eagerly bounces past me into my bedroom. Daisy twirling behind.

I set the boys down on the floor with their toys. "Thank you, girls. Once mommy is ready, she will help you get ready for the party. Are you excited to see your grandparents?"

"We want to see Uncle Riley and Uncle Jammmeessssss." Daisy is in this phase where she likes to drag out peoples' names.

"Hahaha, I'm sure your uncles are excited to see you too." I bend down and give each of the girls a kiss on the head and dash off to my closet. The first birthday for an heir is a big event for a pack, and the weekend will take on a festival-type atmosphere. All the Delta Force Team Leads are here. My family will be arriving today as well. Tomorrow we are holding a formal dinner for the Council members. I thought that was unnecessary, but after everything that happened, the Council wanted to show its gratitude to Gideon and me. We could refuse, but honestly, it would be telling my dad No, and he would let me if I tried. Still, it will be a good break for everyone. This past year has been hectic.

I slip on a sundress and sandals. It's the end of summer and still hot. Tonight is just an informal BBQ for everyone, but I am still the Luna and need to present myself as such. A sundress was a good compromise. Honestly, I couldn't be happier that the most trying thing in my day is what I'm going to wear to a BBQ. I don't have to look over my shoulder, and I can raise my family and run the pack with Gideon like we were always meant to.

"Mommy Birch is trying to eat my hair again." Rose has found a bit more of her voice, but she's still not as rambunctious or boisterous as Daisy, but it's a good chance.

"Coming." I quickly leave the closet and bathroom to find Daisy and Aspen laughing at Birch trying to eat Rose's hair, and Rose is just sitting there pouting, letting him.

"Rose, he's just a baby. You can't just let him do that."

"But mommy, I'm bigger than him. I don't want to hurt him." Oh, my sweet, gentle Rose.

"You can be gentle with him and tell him No. He has to learn, and you girls have to help mommy and daddy teach them." The girls loved their brothers, and thankfully all of their visions have been of good things lately.

The bedroom door opens. "There you all are!"

"Daddy." The girls run to Gideon, and he scoops them up, peppering them with kisses as they giggle.

"How are my little flowers? Are you helping mommy?"

"Yes, daddy, we are." Daisy gives him an epic eye roll. So sassy for four.

"Let me change the flowers, and we can head down to the party. Has my family arrived yet?" I pick up the boys. Since the girls have flowers and the boys have trees as their family marks, it became natural to refer to them as flowers and trees.

"They just arrived. Everyone is in the garden."

"OK, let's get a move on it then." Magically the girls were motivated to get dressed and get down to the party once they knew everyone was there.

Once we get to the back door, I take in a deep breath of satisfaction and let my genuine smile take over my face. I have the flowers in each hand, and Gideon is carrying our little trees. Once we step across that backdoor threshold, the back garden and yard erupt in clapping and cheering. The girls go running off to find their uncles, and mom and Celeste come up, and each steals a baby from Gideon's arms. What a fantastic feeling.

“Dad!” I open my arms wide to give my dad a big hug.

I get that dad hug. “Hey, kiddo, how’s it going?”

“Great! No better than great it’s perfect.”

“I’m happy for you.” The look in my dad’s eyes in that exchange will stay with me forever. “Gideon, later on, we need to have a meeting in your office, including Logan.”

“Of course. Right now, I need to dance with my mate.” Gideon turns to me. It gives me a smirk, “Amelie, right? Would you care to dance?” He stretches out his hand to me.

I laugh uncontrollably. Yes, this was my life. This sweet man would always remind me of the first dance we had together where I ran away from me. I couldn’t deny him then, and I can’t now. “Sure.” I take his hand, and we dance, well we kind of twirl around, and I’m just giggling the whole time. It’s truly all over.

After the raid, all the Alphas and Betas that didn’t die fighting were rounded up, tried, and executed. The hardest part was what to do with the packs. Thank goodness dad is a scholar of history. He found a ritual to identify an Alpha if a new one was needed to take over a pack. The tricky part was they would have to do a separate ceremony to be blessed as the Alpha. Each ceremony had to be performed on a full moon on pack lands with four other Alphas and two pack elders. This process took time but soon, new Alphas and Lunas were running packs. The Councils had some changes too.

The Black Hills Pack and the Korey Pack were added to the Alpha Council. Now both of my brothers, cousin, and sons would be on the Council together. It was crazy to think about because I changed all their diapers at one point. There will be a lot of diaper changing going on in the packhouse for a while.

Becky and Benjamin come up beside us on the dance floor, well grass. “Becky, how are you feeling?”

“Pretty good. I still have two months left, but we can’t wait to meet our little girl!” Becky rubs her belly. She was going to be such a great mom. Benjamin has been practicing with our little trees to make sure he is ready. It’s the funniest thing to watch. It was like he was analyzing an attacker’s next move. He will be a great dad.

“Oh, have you seen Matt and Bailey?” Gideon dips me while I’m talking. Such a showboat.

“She’s on her way. She was having trouble finding something that fits. She is at that awkward stage where your normal clothes don’t fit, but maternity clothes are not the answer.” Becky chatters away, and I see Matt and Bailey come in from the side.

“Bailey, how are you?” I break away from Gideon to hug Bailey. She went through so much for so long. It’s great to see her doing better. She’s two months along now and has become a fantastic Delta.

“I feel so tired all the time. I don’t know where Becky gets all her energy.”

“Don’t make Becky your standard when it comes to energy, and she has more energy than the Hoover Dam.”

“You’re just jelly of my super stamina.” Becky flexes, showing us her guns, and no one can keep it in.

Laughing with the people I care about, watching my kids grow up. It is the most amazing feeling I will ever have. Sitting in the back of my mind behind a closed-door hide the fear of what’s to come. Ithildin’s words still haunt me. I know something is brewing, and my family will be directly involved, and I can’t stop it. I can only be the best mother, mate, and Luna that I can be and have faith in those around me. I’m more confident now that we have broken Inari’s seal but there’s no guarantee.

“Gideon, can we borrow your office for a bit?” Dad comes over with Logan and Flynn.

“Sure. I’ll be back, no dancing without me.” Gideon gives me a wink and a kiss on the forehead. James, Riley, and Harlow come over to meet up with their Alpha fathers. Our little flowers are hanging off them like little monkeys in a tree.

“Come here, you two. Your uncles and cousin need to talk with daddy and the Alphas. You can play with them later.”

Rose cups her hand around her mouth, and I bend down to hear her whisper. “It’s about the long trip, right, mommy?”

“Oh, did you see it?” Both girls nod. “Does something bad happen?” I hold my breath.

“We didn’t see anything bad.” Daisy whispers.

My breath released from my chest; I hope these peaceful times can last a little longer.

Scars by Jessica Bailey Chapter 90

Chapter 90

Gideon

“Alright, gentlemen, what’s today’s topic?” I take a seat on the sofa next to James, John, and Harlow. Flynn, Logan, and Rylie are sitting across from us on the other couch.

“The raid and the New Moon Alliance issue has found its way overseas to the International Councils. They are calling a review of the incident. So, in other words, we all have to go on a trip.” John sighs. This was to be expected, but it’s still a pain.

“So where are we being dragged to this time?” Logan grunts. Now that he is part of the Alpha Council and played a significant role in the raid, he was required to attend. Logan didn’t like traveling more than a few hours from his pack, so this was a major annoyance.

“South Korea.”

“What!?” Logan stood up in protest. “Hell No! I’m not going!”

“Alpha Logan, you know very well you don’t have a choice. You and your heir are required to attend as we all are.” Flynn leaned forward, picking up his glass of scotch from the table. “I’ll pour you one might help take the edge off.”

Logan plops back down on the couch, almost knocking Riley over, “fine.”

“Alpha John, when do we need to be there?” Rylie, thank the goddess, had a bit more of his mother’s rationale.

“Since there are so many that need to attend, it can’t be rushed. The International Council assembly will be held in six months. We could be there for a month or three, depending on how things go. Gideon, you will need to have full reports on all 1,527 kidnap victims found alive. Along with the death reports you previously identified. We will need recorded statements from all the living New Moon Alliance members and full reports on the dead ones. The big issue will be all the dead Alphas and Betas. All the new Alphas will need to attend as well to pledge loyalty to the International Council.” John pinches the bridge of his nose.

“I know it’s six months away, but it’s a ton of work to prepare in time.” I slump back on the sofa and run my hand down my face. I would be running the pack ragged to get this finished on time.

“Well, lest this will be a good learning experience for the boys.” Flynn swirls his glass of scotch.

“Do you think there will be repercussions because of all the executions?” Logan looks at Rylie out of the corner of his eye. I knew he was worried about taking his son if there could be punishment for what we had to do.

“No. I have talked to the other country heads, and this matter was dealt with according to our law, considering all they were doing to harm our own. It’s more like they want to test the next generation. See if they are strong enough to take over. Of course, Gideon

will not be bringing his heirs, but they will be interested in the twin heirs of the Druid Guard sooner rather than later.” John gives me a pensive look.

“Do you really think the Guard will split one day?” Harlow leans in from across the coffee table.

“I don’t know. It’s not up to me but the goddess. She is the one who planned this out. We will only know the day they get their pack mark.” When twin Alpha’s get their marks, the twin that would branch off will get a new pack mark symbolizing that a new pack would be forming. What happens at ten, so the pack and Alpha family have time to prepare. It’s an exciting time because the Alpha family just became stronger. I couldn’t shake the feeling my little trees would be different in this regard. I mean, they are so different in every other way.

“Anything more from the messenger?” John was the only one who knew the messenger was my grandmother, and he intended to keep it that way.

“No, we don’t know when she will return. We will have to wait.” I shrug. That’s all I could say.

“The International Council knows about the message from Selene, so they are not going to just let this go and will want an interview with you.” John’s words are more of a warning than anything.

“I understand. Everyone clear?” I look around the room. The fear in the room was not that the twins would be killed but that the International Council might try and take them or send a representative to watch over their development. Since Selene referred to them as ‘her heirs,’ most Alphas witnessed it in the US. There is no getting around the Council’s interest in them. I hope that since I am the vice-chairman and the boys’ grandfather is the chairman, they will let us be.

“Well, I guess we should prepare for our trip and get the new Alphas prepared as well. I guess there is no rest for us for a while.” Logan groans. I had a feeling traveling with him would be an experience.

We all get up to rejoin the party. Amelie would not be happy about me leaving for this long, right after New Year, but I couldn’t take her and the kids with me. I didn’t want to put the kids at risk. The girls being seers and the boys having been divinely recognized made it all too risky. I can leave both Matt and Benjamin behind to keep them safe, and I’ll bring Tyson and Marcus with me along with the third Delta Guard instead. So much planning and preparation will need to be done for this trip.

As I step outside, I see my beautiful mate crouched down, holding Birch and Aspen’s hands in hers and Rose and Daisy holding their others. They have formed a tiny circle, and the little trees bob up and down, doing a little baby dance. This is my true joy and the reason I am alive. This is what I will fight for until my dying day.

Amelie looks up at me with the most beautiful smile I have ever seen. "Gideon, right? Won't you dance with us?"

"Sure."

The End

Book Two will be out soon.