

The Alpha's Slave Mate

- Chapter 40 -

Chapter Forty

Caleb's Point of View

I snuggled with Daphne and felt her drift off in sleep. I know that she was stressed out. I felt bad for making her worry about her sister, but there was a lot of truth to her words. In a lot of ways, I do treat her like a child, not meaning to. I must learn to treat her as an equal. In the morning I know that I need to be honest with her. There are a lot of things I have kept from her, thinking that I was doing the right thing. I need to let her know about the peculiar talents that some of our pack members possess. I need to start showing her the different trades that we are involved with, the storage yards, the winter preparations, and the training schedules.

I look down at my mate, I know that she is strong. I know that she went through traumatic events that have shaped her into the woman she is today. I just hope that she is strong enough to handle everything that is coming. I hope that she knows how proud I am of her. With that thought I kiss the top of her head and snuggle in closer to her. Soon sleep pulls me into its arms.

I wake up before Daphne, all my senses on alert. I do not know yet what has pulled me from sleep, but I know that something is different. I mind link my patrolling guards asking if there is any activity, but I am told that everything is fine. I immediately turn my attention to Daphne; her forehead is beaded in sweat. Her face is pale, but she is still asleep. Her body starts trembling and I know that she is caught in a nightmare. I gently start shaking her to wake her up.

"Baby come on wake up, it is just a dream." Finally, her eyes flutter open and she seems to be gasping for air. "Honey it is ok, you were just having a nightmare. You are home, you are safe, and I am here." I pull her close to me, laying her head on my chest! start rubbing her back. Trying to give her some comfort. I feel her tears slide down my abdomen. "Do you want to talk about it Daphne? It might help you feel better about it." I will not make her open up about the nightmare if she does not want to, but I want her to know that I am here to listen if she needs me.

"I was having a dream about the first time I shifted. My father had gotten so mad at me, Scarlet had already moved away finding her mate. He was in a rage, he broke my ribs, had strangled me, ripped some of my hair out. I remember wanting to die, begging the Moon Goddess to just take me away from it all. I refused to cry out though, and I think I just made him even more angry. He had kicked me in the face, breaking my nose."

Daphne's voice is almost monotone as she recounts the horrific situation, she had been in. "I crawled on my belly using my hands to pull me, because I knew that he would kill me if I got blood on the carpet. I finally made it outside and I was determined to die in the woods. I felt safe there. It was only a half moon that night. I remember that I did not know what was happening to me when I started shifting. It hurt a lot, I was sure that I was dying. I thought of Scarlet, and how I never got to tell her thank you." Daphne is barely whispering now.

Hearing about the hell that she had endured breaks my heart. My mate is more powerful than she realizes, and I am starting to realize that she can handle more than I ever gave her credit for.

"Then it was done, I remember the first time my wolf talked to me. She told me that she would help me heal. She told me that we were strong. I did not believe her then, I still just wanted to die. My wolf was determined though, and she was right we did live. She did make me stronger." Daphne is quickly drifting back off to sleep. I have continued rubbing her back, just letting her know that I am here. My wolf is ready to go kill her father and I am to stomp him back down. Right now, it is more important to hold her, to let her know that she is not alone. In this moment I know that I have fallen in love with her. *

Holding her tight we both doze off. I am awakened again when my phone starts ringing. I grab it off the side table, glancing down I can see that it is Theo. "Hey what is going on?"

"We have reached Portland; we will be home in roughly three hours. I wanted to give you our timeline." Theo sounds tired on the phone; I know that this trip has taken a toll on him mentally.

'I will have everything prepared for your arrival. Theo be safe, and perhaps consider a vacation soon.' I know that Theo will never take me up on the offer.

He is too dedicated to the pack, and his work. I put the phone back on the table and turn to stare at my sleeping mate. She is so beautiful. A wicked thought crosses my mind on how to wake her up. '

My mate had only worn her robe to bed last night. I carefully slide down the bed, trying hard not to wake her just yet. It is warm under the covers, but I am determined to wake Daphne with a smile on her face. I carefully slide her legs apart gently, and start kissing her hip bones. I love the way my mate is shaped. I trail kisses over the lower part of her abdomen, trailing from one hip to the other. Daphne starts to wake up and I know that I need to act now before she starts moving. I position myself between her legs, and start lapping at her rose bud. She is awake now and pulling the covers off my head. She goes to move her leg, but I grasp her around her hips keeping her in place.

She moans my name, and I increase the strokes of my tongue on her enjoying how wet she is getting my face. I love feeling her arousal, the special scent that only belongs to my mate. She tangles her hand in my hair, encouraging me to press my face into

her slick folds harder. Too soon she arches her back and releases her sweet juices into my mouth. I am greedy as I lick them up.

Once I am satisfied, I climb on top of her kissing my way up her body.

“Hmmm good morning love.” I cannot help but tease her as I lean down to kiss her lips. Her cheeks are stained pink, but I know that she enjoyed waking up this morning. Daphne slips her tongue in my mouth as I am kissing her, and I love her boldness. It is hard to imagine that my mate was once a slave. I roll off her and lay beside her on my back.

“My turn.” Daphne surprises me by getting on her knees and straddling me. She bends down and kisses me passionately.

“Baby I am happy just to wake you up smiling.” I do not want her to feel like she always has to reciprocate when I give her pleasure. I love pleasing her, knowing that she is mine.

“Who said I was doing this for you?” My mate has a mischievous smile on, and I can only imagine what she has rolling around in her brain. I was already hard from licking and tasting her, but as she grinds her wet folds over me, I feel myself grow harder still. I reach up and start teasing her nipples, I love seeing the little pink buds roll through my fingertips. Daphne moans out loud, and I sit up to capture the bud in my mouth. My mate is amazingly beautiful.

Looking past her, I have a great idea. I wrap one arm around her waist and move us to the side of the bed. Daphne looks at me confused at my sudden change in movement. I pick her up and turn her so that her back is to my chest.

On our far wall is a wardrobe, with a large mirror. “Daphne, I want you to be able to see how beautiful you are. How you affect me and bring me pleasure.

You can watch everything you are doing from the mirror.” I position myself so that my feet are over the bed, giving her the perfect view of us. : Daphne seems a little shocked, but she does not tear her eyes away from the mirror. I take one hand and start playing with her nipples, showing her how exciting it is for her to watch her own pleasure. I then take my other hand and start rubbing her clitoris. This seems to spur her into action. She raises her hips up a little which gives me a perfect view of her ass. I help her get a little more comfortable in a modified form of reverse cowgirl. I lean back a little which gives her better access to my cock.

Daphne is still watching herself in the mirror as she begins stroking me. I cannot stop some of the precum that has escaped my body, she just feels too good. She lifts her hips and starts using the head of my dick to tease herself.

Finally, she starts to slide down my cock slowly, taking me in an inch at a time. She is so wet, and so tight. I cannot take the slow torture anymore, and I thrust my hips up, burying myself deep inside of her, feeling my balls slap against her. I grab her hips and stop her from pulling up and gyrate slowing in a circle feeling her juices coat my cock. +

“Caleb please” Daphne’s voice is husky, and I can tell that she is close to orgasming again.

“Yes, baby tell me what you want.” I love when she talks during sex.

“I want to cum please.” Her voice is raspy, begging me. Using her hips, I keep my cock buried deep inside her but move her hips in a back and forth motion. She tightens around my cock and I know she is ready to release.

“Open your eyes Daphne, see yourself baby. You are so beautiful.” I command her to watch her own orgasm. I quickly release one hip and use my finger to play with her clit, remaining deep inside her the whole time. Her orgasm rips through her body, her slicks folds gripping my dick hard. It is hard not to spill my seed right there. Once her body has stopped shaking, I pick her up off me, and gently move her.

I gently position her on the bed, laying on her stomach, I grab her ankles and pull her down to where her feet are on the floor, her perfect round ass is up in the air, and I can see that her legs are still shaking slightly. I am pleased to see some of her juices are running down her thighs. I deliver a slight smack to her ass, enjoying seeing the light red marks of my fingertips. My cock is straining hard, I cannot wait to bury myself deep within her.

I move her legs farther apart loving seeing my gorgeous mate fully open to me. Bending at the knee slightly, I position my cack at her slick folds.

With one big thrust I am deep within her, she moans at feeling me. I love feeling my balls slap against her when I thrust. Her tight folds have me lost, I start thrusting into her slowly, pulling out till just the head of my cock is in her and then slamming every inch in. I can feel her tightening up again and I know that she will find yet another orgasm at my hands. I start thrusting a little faster, then I surprise her as I fully pull out. I quickly flip her over so that she is on her back. I lift her legs high and place them on my shoulders. Her ass is hanging off the bed slightly and she is shocked by my movements.

I slide my cock back into her, and her eyes go wide. With this position I know that I am deeper in her than I have ever been. I shift my hand and grip her ass, pulling her closer to me. I start sliding in and out of her slowly at first, letting her body get accommodated to my size.

As I feel some of our combined fluids on her ass I slide my fingers in it as lubrication. I slide my hand on her butt closer to her crack and I can see her eyes get wider. I slip on of my digits into her back door. She does not stop me, and I start thrusting into her faster. I feel her pussy clench and I know that she is about to orgasm. It pushes me over the edge and with a loud moan I spill my seed deep in her. I move my hand and pull away from her, we are both spent.

“I would love nothing more than to climb back in bed with you and sleep the day away, but we need to get showered and get ready.”

“Ugh we can sleep a little longer right?” Daphne gives me a pouting look. I can tell that between the nightmare, and our activities that she is tired.

Unfortunately, I cannot give her what she wants.

“Nope sweetheart we need to shower and get ready. Your sister is on her way here.” Daphne lets out a squeal at my words.

“Why did you not tell me that first.” Daphne bounds off the bed in her excitement. I try to stop myself from chuckling at her, but I cannot help it.

“It is not funny Caleb; she cannot see me like this.”

“Daphne calmed down they are still three hours away.” That finally stops her frantic searching for clothes. She shoots me a scowl as she starts walking into the bathroom. I can not help but swat her ass before she can make it all the way in. I am grabbing my clothes as I hear her turn on the shower. Today is going to be a busy day.

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Chapter Forty-One

Daphne's Point of View

I cannot believe that my sister is coming here today. I am excited, nervous, and truthfully a little scared. I have not seen Scarlet in so long. I wonder how much she has changed. Scarlet is almost thirty years old; does she have kids?

The thought of kids stops me dead in my tracks. Crap me and Caleb have not been using any protection. My hand floats down to my stomach, what if I get pregnant? Would Caleb be happy or upset? I look over at Caleb as he is putting on his shirt.

“Caleb, we have not been using protection.” I feel dumb even uttering those words.

“Yeah, so?” Caleb just shrugs at my statement as he sits down to put on his socks, and shoes. How can he be so casual about this?

“Ok, um what if I get pregnant?” I can not believe that he is continuing to get dressed. Having a baby is a big deal. Caleb finally looks at me and realizes that I am shook up at the thought of children. This is not a subject we have ever spoken about before.

“Daphne, you are my mate. I assumed that eventually we would have children. Is this not something that you want?” Caleb finally stops moving, he is focused on me waiting for me to answer him. *

“Um I have never really thought about it before. I mean I think I want to have one someday, but what if we already

made one?” Caleb and I have been having sex regularly and not once have we used protection.

Caleb is very still considering my words. “Sweetheart, I think I would be the happiest person in the universe if you already are with child.” Caleb gets up, and I have to laugh because he only has one shoe on. Regardless he walks over and gives me a hug.

“Daphne, you would make a wonderful mother, and I look forward to when that day comes. I am not in a rush at all, but if that time has already come than great. If it has not then also great, it will come someday. Stop worrying about every little step love, some things are better left in fate’s hands.” Caleb’s words do calm my fears. I am a little less anxious because at least now I know that he is open to children if it does happen. ‘

“Now hurry up and finish getting ready your sister will be here soon, and I know that we have a very busy day before us.” Caleb’s words snap me back into reality, and I finish getting ready. By now Scarlet should be getting closer to where we live, and I am very excited to see her.

Caleb attempts to feed me breakfast when we get downstairs, but my stomach is so unsettled I beg him for just some toast and honey instead. I hate that I know so little about my own sister, and I hate our parents more for helping to cause this distance between us. As we are eating, I keep seeing Caleb pause, as if he is in deep thought.

“What are you doing?” I finally had to ask him because he paused with food halfway to his mouth. Caleb glances at me completely clueless as to what I just asked him. “Caleb you keep pausing in the middle of eating, and you look like you are a million miles away.” I clarify my question for him.

“Oh, I was using the mind link to talk to the patrolling guards to see if Theo’s car has been spotted yet.” I am confused at his words.

“What do you mean you mind linked?”

“Daphne a mind link is formed with members of the pack you are in. It is like a telepathy. The closer two members are the stronger the link. I have even heard that there are links so strong that a person can feel when another person is hurting. You should try it

sometime with me. You simply concentrate very hard and try to send a message to me using your mind." I am blown away by Caleb's explanation. I did not know that werewolves even had the ability to use telepathy. I do not think that mine and Caleb's connection is strong enough yet, but I try anyways.

"Did you get anything?" I eventually asked him when I did not feel or hear anything in my head.

"No, but you are still relatively new here. Do not stress it will come with time love." Caleb is reassuring and I love that about him.

"I have had a room set up for your sister and her mate. I have also ensured that housing is available if any of their pack members come with them." Caleb informs me, and I smile at his thoughtfulness. :

"Thank you for thinking ahead. I have been preoccupied with wondering over how my sister is doing that I did not even think about the fact that she is spending a few days here." It is still hard to process that I will finally be seeing her. Caleb stands up abruptly from the table and wipes his mouth. –

"Theo's car was just spotted; they will arrive in about five minutes. We should meet them out front, I am sure you are anxious to see Scarlet." Now I am super happy about this mind link business. I jump up and grab our plates, dumping them unceremoniously into the sink.

Normally, I would wash them and put them in the dishwasher but right now I am too excited to see Scarlet.

I feel like Hannah bouncing around on the front steps. Caleb seems nervous, but I am too excited staring at the road waiting to see the car.

"Daphne, please do not forget what I said about having a picture in your mind. It has been a long time since you two have seen each other." Caleb's words stop my bouncing for a moment, but I can not help being excited. Just then I see Theo's car coming up the road. I let out a small squeal, surprising even myself. It feels like it takes forever for Theo to finally pull in. °

Caleb pulls me close in a sideways hug. I know he is worried, but this is my sister. Soon I figure out why he was worried. Dorian exits the car first, not bother to help Scarlet out. He has a scowl on his face and is practically sneering at everything. My sister finally comes out of the car and! am in shock to say the least.

Scarlet was amazingly beautiful the last time I had seen her. She was athletic, but curvy in the right spots.

She had gorgeous crimson hair that matched her name, and the most emerald eyes anyone could ever want.

She had been a bubbly but mature woman, that instantly put people at ease. The woman standing in front of me was a far cry from the girl I remembered.

This Scarlet was skinny, skinnier than I could imagine her being. Her cheeks were sunken in, she had dark circles under her eyes. Her once flaming hair was flecked with silver in spots, it was thinning and looked greasy. Her bubbly personality had vanished, and she seemed meek. Even her bright shiny emerald eyes were dull now. She smiled but it was not the thousand watt smile she used to have, this was forced and barely turned up the corners of her mouth. Even Caleb let out a small gasp at seeing her.

Caleb recovered first, much to my relief. "Dorian, Scarlet let me welcome you to our home here. We have made all the arrangements to make your stay here pleasant with us at the Blue Mountain pack." Caleb shoots them a big smile, and I am eternally grateful to my mate for pulling me out of my state of shock.

Dorian grunts at Caleb's words, sneering up at our home. "It is Alpha Dorian if you did not know, and I am only here because my mate wanted to come." Dorian practically snarls at the word mate. I cannot believe that this was the blonde tall gentleman that came so long ago to claim Scarlet. Back then I thought that Dorian looked like a knight in a fairy tale, now he appears to be nothing more than a villain.

"I will have Bradley show you up to your room Alpha Dorian, you must be very tired after your trip." At Caleb's words Bradley, one of Caleb's elite soldiers comes around from the side of the house ready to help in anyway possible. Dorian does not say thank you, or even attempt to grab any of his bags. He walks up the steps ready to follow Bradley into the house. Caleb gives Bradley a knowing nod, indicating that even though Dorian was acting like a jackass, it was ok. °

Once Dorian is inside, I can no longer hold my excitement back, I bound down the steps. "Scarlet I cannot believe you are here; I mean it has been so long." I reach out to hug her, but I noticed she flinched. "Um is everything ok?" I do not mean to pry into her life already, but after the display that Dorian just made, I am starting to get a clearer picture of the kind of life my sister is living.

"Oh, um yes everything is fine. I am sorry about Dorian; he is just tired from the traveling. We do not leave the house much, so this is new for him." Scarlet is talking and using her hands. I cannot believe that she is making excuses for him, but I just got her back after being separated for so long I do not want to cause waves.

"Here let me help you get these bags into the house, and then I will make some tea and we can catch up." I try to put on a cheery demeanor. Scarlet nods in agreement. I scoop up some of her bags, and Caleb gathers the rest, leading her into the house. Bradley is just coming down the stairs as we enter. He lets Caleb know that he will take the bags upstairs. I am grateful as! lead Scarlet into the kitchen. Caleb excuses himself using work as a reason to give me and Scarlet some time to talk.

"Thank you for coming here for my mating ceremony. I know that it is sudden timing." I start talking as I am filling the tea kettle. "I appreciate you being here since you are the only family that has ever acknowledged my existence." I try to laugh a little at the end, hoping this will break the ice.

"It is really great to be here. I am sorry Daphne; I should have done more when we were younger. I should have never left you in that place." Scarlet's voice breaks a little at the end.

"You were just a child Scarlet. I do not blame you for anything. I have come to realize that mom and dad are just broken people." I want to reassure her. *

That is one of the reasons why I wanted to see you again. I wanted to thank you for being there for me when I was growing up. You were the only person that cared about me and I never got to thank you." I did not plan on getting into the heavy conversation so quickly, but I needed to get it off my chest. "Alright enough of that, now tell me all about you. Do you and Dorian have children? How do you like California?"

"No, I do not have any kids. California is alright, it is warmer than Oregon, but the trees do not grow as big there. I miss home a little. What about you, how did you meet Caleb?" Scarlet changes the subject quickly.

"Caleb purchased me from dad. I did not know that he was my mate at the time, but he did. I have been here about a month. He has been very patient with me as I had to learn everything I missed growing up." Once again, we find ourselves back into heavy conversation.

"Did it ever get better?" I am a little surprised by Scarlet's question.

"Truthfully, no it did not get any better. It got worse actually. There were a couple times that I thought he would kill me. Mother drinks constantly, and her hatred grew over the years. In the end I am grateful for it all. If I would not have gone through everything back then, I would not be so appreciative of what I have now." *

"How does Caleb treat you, is he nice?" Scarlet is not leaving any opening for me to ask about her life.

"Caleb is amazing. He is patient and pushes me to be better. He encourages me to make friends. Sometimes I feel like he treats me like I am a glass doll, but overall, I could not have asked for a better mate. I think I am in love with him." I have not said those words out loud to anyone, and I am surprised that I told Scarlet so willingly. Scarlet reaches across the table and pats my hand.

"I am glad that he treats you well, you deserve it." I can see that Scarlet is fighting back tears.

“Scarlet I do not mean to be rude or intrusive but is everything ok between you and Dorian?” I hope that my question does not upset my sister.

“Well when Dorian and I were mated he was the Beta of our pack, then our Alpha passed, and Dorian became Alpha. After that he really changed.”

Scarlet lets a tear fall. “He is under a lot of stress and he does not handle it well.

He has a quick fuse. I do not seem to please him anymore, and I know that he is sleeping with other women.” I immediately get up and give my sister a hug. My heart breaks for her. How could her mate treat her so callously? Scarlet waves me Off. ‘It is fine really; I have come to terms with it. He is my destined mate, so what can I do really. We are not like humans; we cannot just divorce someone.” She laughs a little at the end of her sentence. I am resolved to talk with Caleb about this. There must be something that can be done to help my sister. °

“I am sorry Scarlet; I had hoped that Dorian would be a great mate for you.”

“Oh, he was at first. He used to take me for moon light walks on the beach. We used to run together as wolves and play in the forest. For a long time, I was happy, truly happy. Like I said he is under a lot of stress, and that changed him.” I do not know what I would do if Caleb ever turned like this. I would not be able to handle it.

“Hey, I have to go pick up the cake tomorrow. How about you come with me, and we can stop and get you a new dress for the ceremony?” I am hoping that she says yes. I want to spend more time with her.

“I will have to ask Dorian if it is ok, but I would like to go.” Scarlet seems nervous now.

“You do not have to ask him if you can go. Scarlet you are a grown woman. Your acting like I used to with mom and dad.”

The words are out before I can stop them, and it is like I dropped a bomb in the kitchen. The tension is so thick it feels like it is choking me. I wish I could go back in time and just shut up. I feel like I have ruined everything.

“Look Daphne, every pack has different rules. Dorian is not only my Alpha, but he is my mate. I have to play by his rules. I am sorry but I am very tired now. Can you show me to my room?” scarlet has not met my eyes yet. I want to cry. In less than ten minutes I screwed up my relationship with her already. I let her know that I can show her upstairs.

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Once Scarlet is in her room, I retreat to my room as well. I am glad to find Caleb is there. He takes one look at me and rushes over crushing me into his chest. I can not stop the tears, instead I let them flow freely clinging to Caleb like a life raft.

"Caleb she is so different, and I think he is hurting her. She acts like I did around our parents. She even said that he is sleeping with other women, but she cannot do anything about it. How can he treat her like that?" I need him to have all the answers right now.

"I do not know love; I truly do not know." If Caleb does not know how this can happen, then how am I ever going to be able to make sense of it all. I want to help her, and there is a part of me that wants to hurt him badly. Maybe this is my time to stand up for her finally?

"Caleb there has to be something that can be done. Someone that can punish him for the pain he is causing or at least get him to understand that his behavior is not acceptable." I am desperate to find a way.

"I will see what I can do sweetheart." Caleb is trying to comfort me, rubbing my back. What would I do if he ever changed like Dorian?

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Chapter Forty-Two

Caleb's Point of View

I want more than anything to be the white knight for my mate. I would love to tell her that I have all the answers to her problems. I would love to be able to magically wave my hands and make the world perfect for her. Unfortunately, I find myself questioning everything, not knowing what if anything I can do.

The excitement of today has worn Daphne out, and she is sleeping in my arms. My mind will not shut down, sleep eludes me. I wonder if I could find out any more information on the previous Alpha's death. I know that if I start a big investigation that it will draw attention and could potentially start a war. I also know that if the suspicions surrounding Dorian's rise to power are correct, then he should be punished.

I am also worried about the information that Daphne has revealed to me. Scarlet is his fated mate, knowing that he willingly breaks that sacred bond makes me lose all respect for him. I need to talk to Theo and find out more information. Theo had indicated that many former members had turned rogue. I am not comfortable with this man in my home. I also can not ask him to leave, because he is my mate's brother in law.

With all these thoughts in my head I know that there is no way that I will be able to sleep any time soon. I must get some of the questions in my head answered before I will ever be able to get any rest. I gently ease Daphne off my arm, ensuring that she is tucked in snugly. I mind link Theo and confirm that he is awake. We quickly decide to meet outside. I grab my sneakers, and head out in search of some answers.

Theo is already outside when I reach the front steps. I can see that he has not changed clothes and judging by the dark circles under his eyes he has not gotten any rest yet either. "I can see that you have not rested yet."

"Hannah was excited that I was back, so I took her to dinner. Then she insisted on showing me her outfit for the mating ceremony and was catching me up on all of the preparations her and Daphne have completed for the ceremony." I cannot help but chuckle, Theo will always put Hannah's interests' first. I wish he and his mate would have had biological children; he is an amazing father figure.

"Yes, I made sure that they stayed very busy while you were gone. Things have gone very well here, although I cannot express how happy I am to have you back home. Things run smoother when you are here." I want to make sure that Theo knows how much I appreciate everything he does for this pack.

"I know Hannah was full of dress store shopping stories, and catering company information, and shoes, and everything else that a young woman could want. It made me a little sad hearing how excited she is for the ceremony. I know that eventually she is going to find her mate and may move away. It breaks my heart a little." Theo does not normally get emotional when talking, so I do not disrupt him. "I know that Hannah is not my child, but in a lot of ways she is. It is hard to believe how fast she has grown, soon she will be grown. I know this much though if her mate turns out anything like Dorian, I will rip him to shreds with my own bare hands."

"Daphne told me that Dorian has affairs, and that Scarlet is aware of them. That is one of the various reasons that I sought you out tonight, with all that I have learned I cannot sleep. I need you to tell me everything that you know, and everything that you suspect please." I hate probing Theo for information, but this is not just business, this is now family.

"The pack itself is in a sorry state all the way around. Financially they appear to be broke, the manor house itself looks run down, and in need of basic repairs. Most of the remain pack members are skinny, and I only seen one pup while I was there.

The size of the pack has been decreased significantly. There are perhaps thirty pack members and about a dozen slaves." Theo has done a great job assessing the situation from a war standpoint.

"What did you learn about the previous Alpha?" I am curious as to what truly happened to him.

"Most of the remaining pack will not speak about the previous Alpha, it is almost as if Dorian has forbidden it. What information I was able to gain was from a rogue I met, and from a slave." I understand that Theo is informing me that the information may not be trustworthy. I nod in understanding prompting him to continue.

“What I could gather is that the previous Alpha was loved. He did own slaves but treated them fairly. He had been mated, but like me his mate had passed away. He was searching for another mate when he passed away. To everyone’s knowledge he had no heirs. Dorian was his Beta, and with his passing he took the Alpha position.”

“Yes, but how did the previous Alpha actually die? Were you able to gather any information on that?”

“Apparently the pack was attacked by a large group of rogues. The Alpha had sustained some deep wounds. I was told that originally the pack thought that he would recover; however, after three days in the hospital he suddenly took a turn for the worse. Officially he died from infections that spread through his blood stream and stopped his heart. I have heard whispers though that many believed that he was poisoned in the hospital.” Theo has gained some important knowledge, but it still leaves me with questions.

“Rogues are not known to attack packs, especially wolves that are in their home territory. This whole thing seems very

suspect to me, and I do not like having him in my home.” I do not have to hide my true feelings from Theo.

‘I feel the same way. There are too many coincidences surrounding the death of the Alpha for it not to seem like it was specially orchestrated. We heal abnormally faster than humans, there are very few things that would hinder the progress of healing. The fact that he succumbed to infection is very suspect.’ Theo also does not hide how he really feels from me.

“How did Dorian treat you while you were there?”

“He was suspicious but welcoming at first. It was a forced welcome though. He did brighten up after learning that you were financing the trip up here. From observing his behavior, I can tell you that he is highly egotistical, and acts like a tyrant. I know that his behavior has led to the pack losing money, and many of its members turning rogue. I also know that he abuses his slaves, and Omegas. Worse than what Hannah or Daphne went through.” Theo’s voice is soft at the end, and I know that he is wishing that he could have done something to help them.

“I want him closely observed while he is here. I have a bad feeling about him. I feel that he may try something underhanded while he is here.” While most of what I have learned about Dorian is second hand, it is enough to confirm my suspicions. “Also, I have a question, if a marked mate that has already gone through the ceremony were being abused by their mate, would it be possible for them to leave?” I have never investigated this, so I am hoping that Theo may have some insight.

“To my knowledge even if they are mated if someone wants to leave, they can leave. The bad thing is that after the ceremony it is not a simple rejection. So even if they encounter their second chance mate, they will not know it. The only way that I have heard that wolves are able to possibly find a second chance mate, is if their mate dies.”

“Thank you, Theo for everything. I will continue to observe Dorian while he is here. I hope that your message made it out to the rogues and that they know that they are welcome to come here. I am going to go upstairs and try to find some sleep.” I clap Theo on the back and turn back towards the house. I jog up the stairs and for a moment] just stare at my sleeping mate. I

She is beautiful both inside and out. I could not imagine ever betraying our vows and sleeping with another woman. She will always be enough for me. I will spend every day proving that to her. Perhaps I should have a man to man talk with Dorian, try to find out why he feels the need to cheat on his mate. Finally my brain starts to quiet and as a nestle in next to Daphne sniffing her sweet scent, I drift off to sleep.