#### Tattooed 291

#### Chapter 291

Just know, I will be watching you from above. I am proud of you and I love you. Love, Mom If we have a daughter, can we name her Adalynn?" I asked. There weren't tears in my eyes but I mainly just felt numb. "Of course we can. That would be a great way to honor your mom." Alec k\*ssed my forehead. "Ready to see what is inside?" "I am." Setting the letter down, I opened the door to the humid Florida heat. Alec had taken the key and was unlocking the door by the time I came around. With the years of weather, it was a little worn but he was able to get it open. With a snap, the lock opened up and Alec raised the door up. Everything was covered in sheets. Alec grabbed the first one and pulled it off. It was hand drawn pictures in golden frames. The pictures were of different people or a scenery. Alec and I shift through them until he stopped. "Look at the signature." He pointed down. At the bottom right corner, it wa signed Adalynn Jeffrey. "Mom drew these?" "I guess that is where you get your talent from." Alec had a smile on his face. He left me to keep looking through them as he continued to take off the sheets from everything.

Behind the paintings were more art supplies, an easel, and many different art books. It looks like mom had studied art on a college. 12 HIGH here." I said to Alec. "Kristen, look at this." Alec called from the back. supplica

Walking to the back, there was a massive mirror. Alec had opened it to reveal it completely filled with jewelry. "What's the envelope?" I asked that was taped to the top. Alec grabbed it and opened it. "It is the appraisal for each piece." Alec shifted through them. "That ring is worth one million dollars." Alec pointed a particular beautiful ruby stone on a golden band. "Are ou serious?" I asked. you "Well, twenty years ago it was worth one million. Today it will be much more than that." Alec sounded shocked. "What are these?" I looked over at another stack of vanilla envelops in a box next to the mirror. Opening the first one, it was bonds. "Holy fuck." Alec looked at the one I was holding. "She has a large fortune in here." "It's all our, now." Alec started opening more boxes. Some where just clothes or different vases. There was fur coats and collectables. "Basically, everything that was her family's that was worth anything is in here." Alec said. There was around a hundred different drawings that mom had drawn and some that must have been her mother or aunt's. "What are we going to do with all this?" I asked. "Take it home. Hang some of these up. Give Colt some. Keep the jewelry safe. We don't need the money. I put the five million that hit the bank from your dad's death in savings. We can do whatever with it. Save it, build the house you want or even use it for something else." "We need to keep all this private so no one comes to steal it." I said.. "We could buy a bank and keep it there." Alec joked. "That really isn't a bad idea."

"I was joking but we could do it." Alec looked at me. "Let's go to the beach and talk about this. That was my mom's last wish and I want to see it through." "Anything for you." Alec scooped me up and k\*ssed me as he carried to me our car. Watching Alec lock up the storage unit, I realized all my dreams came

true. I didn't need to travel to find happiness. I already had it. Alec got in the car. After started the engine, he put his hand on my stomach as we drove to the beach. 3/3 Mrs. Smith

# Chapter 292

Hello to all my lovely readers!!! I originally wasn't planning on doing the sequel just yet but after talking with my editor, I will be posting a sequel in continuation with this book. From here on, this will be mostly Colt and Penny's story. There will still be some Kristen and Alec but due to many comments wanting their perspective, I'm going let everyone glimpse into Penny's world!

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Colt and Penny's story. Penny's POV "How are things going in here?" Colt walked into our office. Since we renovated the entire packhouse, it was more light and welcoming. Lightly stained hard wood floors went beautifully with the white. distressed accent furniture pieces. However, my favorite part of our office was our desks. We each had our own area. Knocking down the wall, we took out a spare bedroom and really opened it up. Per my request, Colt put in a floor to ceiling glass wall that let in all the natural lighting I could ask for. Currently, I was staring at different paintings and trying to figure out which ones I wanted to hang. Since Kris had everything in the storage shed moved back a week ago, her and Colt have split most of it all. She obviously kept the jewelry but she graciously shared their mother's paintings/drawings with him.

"I think we should put this beautiful charcoal drawing of this wolf head behind your desk. I love this one of the owl. That one should be behind mine." His desk was in the original place his father's desk was and mine is where the bed used to be. Each of us have large matching rugs and a joined seating/relaxing area. Taking out the bedroom door, there is only one entrance. However, we did put in a built-in collapsable wall so if I needed privacy for any reason, I would have it. "Okay." Colt nodded and leaned against my desk. "You don't honestly care do you?" It was both annoying and welcoming. I wanted him to have an input but I just wanted his opinion to match mine. Truthfully, I was a little stubborn when it 1/3 anything at all and the rest was my creative freedom. Never once did she redistrict my creative process. However, Colt was my mate and I wanted a different relationship with him when it came to this stuff. "I care, I just don't really know where it should go and you are so good with it all. Whatever you think it best." He looked out the window like

his mind wasn't even focused on this. "I can feel your anxiety. What is going on?" Usually, Colt only felt this way when it came to a topic he knew I wasn't going to like. "Your.... Cassie is ready to be discharged from the hospital." My b\*dy froze. I knew this was coming but I haven't visited her since I met her the first time. I knew I told her I would come back but it hasn't happened. More than once, I walked to the hospital and turned around. I wasn't sure what was stopping me. Something just held me back from going in. The staff saw me on more than one occasion. Thankfully, they just nodded in understanding when I turned away. Never once trying to get me to come in. Images of her laying in the hospital flashed before my eyes. She looked broken. Bandages covered what little of her neck that was sticking out and

bruises covered her arms. Zac looked dangerous and not someone I was comfortable around. Even though I wasn't as good as friends with Ace as Colt was, I was still finding it hard to forgive him. "Oh?" I wasn't sure what else to say. Picking up the owl drawing, I held it up against my freshly cream colored walls. The darkness of the owl really looked good against it "I need to know what you want. Do you want them on the other side of the packhouse or next to us?" Colt said in a soft tone. "When will the house be done?" I asked, not sure how close I wanted

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"I know. I-I just can't figure out why I feel this way. Why don't I want to see them?" Looking into Colt's eyes, I pleaded with him to have an answer. However, the sympathy in his eyes told me I wasn't going to get that. Your entire life, you thought they abandoned you. That is 19 years of anger and confusion that isn't going to go away in one week. As much as you try to hide it or not feel it, you can be angry. No one expects you to just forgive and be their daughter again." "I'm not like Kristen. I can't just have this don't give a f u ck attitude and move on. I feel things more deeply." There was a part of me what felt like Colt always compared us together. Even though he denies it. "You need to find your own way of dealing with this but you do have to deal with it. Unless you want to make them go live with Alec and Ice, they are our problem. I'll even let you punch Zac a few times if that will help?" He tried to make a joke but I didn't fall for it. He wast right. I did need to find a way to move on. "Deal with it how? Be the loving, forgiving daughter?" That kind of pis sed me off he said that. "I didn't say that. I said you needed to find a way to deal with it. If that way is anger and you yell at them, okay. If you want to confine them to their room, that is okay too but ignoring this isn't going to make it go away. I will support you in whatever you choose on how to deal with this. I love you and this baby growing inside of you deserves to have a home with zero negativity. Plus, we are living at our house anyway. Having them here isn't like we will be their neighbor."

My hand went over my stomach. I had just found out I was pregnant yesterday. Colt was the happiest I have ever seen him. Annoyingly so, 1/3 ne was nym. I urun mun to raide our mumu nome main grow up with. Constantly looking over their shoulders. Flinching anytime

someone raised their hands. I knew why Kristen was the way she was but I didn't want to be that person. My shelter for abandoned kids was being built as we speak. There was plans for changes in the school system to help those who are academically advanced. Kristen had started it but I wanted more. What they didn't know, I had started planning on changes I wish were. there when I was growing up as a teenager and now I planned on implementing them. "I guess put them where ever makes sense in the packhouse. You're right. We don't live here and I can always stay here or go home if I need space. I still don't want Cassie or Zac to know where our home. is." "Whatever you are comfortable with." Colt pulled me into a hug. "I will be beside you ever step of the way." "I wish I had someone here with me. As much as Sherry has relaxed and working through her issues, I don't have help or a friend sten took Emmy with her." "I thought you and Sherry got along?" Colt was puzzled by this. "Oh, we do get along but she is still working through her issues. I can't talk to her like I could Emmy or Kris. Part of me still

feels like she needs a mentor than a friend." "Maybe she feels like you don't view her as a friend?" Colt said back to me. "What?" That surprised me enough that I pulled back and looked up at him. Colt was frowning as he looked down. "Jacob told me that Sherry confessed to him that she feels alone here. She wants to have. "I like Sherry! She is just so timid and never says anything so I assumed she wasn't ready so I never tried to push her." I was appalled at what I was hearing. "Does she really think that?" 3/2

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"She does. She is your beta and I think maybe you should give her a task or two and see how she does. Maybe she will surprise you. You can start with having her organize the packhouse kitchen schedules. There hasn't been a menu out and we used to have one for the whole month. The staff has been frustrated with not knowing what to buy and it's been a little crazy with who's responsibilities are whose." "Why hasn't anyone told me?" I was crushed by this. "Really? You have been slammed with making sure people have a roof over their heads. We have how many projects going on to support all of our new members? For some reason, you and Kris think we still need a prom. We have your's and Kris's luna ceremonies coming up. Plus, I saw something about inviting how many packs to, ours to hold a huge party?" "That was for their benefit! Kris and wanted to see if any of the women would take chosen mates or even find their mates. By inviting all these packs, it would give a better chance for those who never had a mate to find theirs or those who lost their mate and survived, find one that will help them survive longer." "Honey, I am all for it but you are doing all these things by yourself. You are not accepting help from Sherry and you are ignoring Cassie and Zac. I know you see the bigger picture but you also need to focus on the problems right in front of you as well. We have situations here. that need addressed too."

I knew he was right but dam n if I was going to tell him that. "Fine but we are still having prom." I said stubbornly. My stomach did a little fl\*p and my mind went to the very se xy dress I had bought for the occasion. M "Well, since it is Monday and you have it scheduled for this Saturday, that is okay." Colt laughed. He let me go and started walking away. "Where are you going?" I asked as I sat down. "I wanted to see how Ice was doing at her first day back at work. We just finished up on training

session on the new warriors. I gave them a few hours as a break before we kept going. Figured I would see how she was doing and then come back and do some more training. We are figuring out what their strengths and weaknesses are." Colt yelled as he grabbed his keys and wallet. "How is that coming along?" I asked as I pulled out a blank sheet of paper. "I didn't have any real expectations so it's going good, I guess. Zac will start tomorrow so we shall see how that is. I know the guys are anxious to get their hands on him." "And you?" I asked looked up as he walked back up to me. "Very." Colt leaned down and k\*ssed me gently. His hand slid and my face as he pulled me up just a little. "Can you take these to Kris?" I asked when he let me go. Reach down, I pulled out a sealed envelopel "Sure, what is it?" Colt took it and put it in his wallet. "Information. Dates of everything I have scheduled and what I need from her." I waved him off and picked up a pencil. "I have Jacob and Sherry coming by in thirty minutes to check on you and to hang up these pictures. It wouldn't be the worst thing if your have a list

for Sherry too." Colt looked at me as his hand wrapped. around the door handle. "Already on it." I said as I held up my paper. Colt winked at me and walked out the door. Only five minutes had passed and there was a knock on our office door.

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Since my desk was far enough away, I got up and walked over to the door to answer it. I knew Colt always locked it when I am lone so even yelling wouldn't have worked. Jacob had a key so this was someone else. "Hello-?" I said confused as I looked into the eyes of Colt's long time. ex-girlfriend, Kara. "I-is Alpha Colt here?" She asked looking behind me. "No, is there something I can help you with?" I asked but I didn't move. Kara was someone that intimated me. She had Colt's heart for years. He has told me countless times that he never saw her as a Luna but that didn't stop his heart from loving her. To her credit, she has never once overstepped and tried to be inappropriate with Colt.

"Can we talk for a moment?" Her eyes finally landed on mine. "Sure." Stepping aside, Kara sl\*pped in. Her b\*dy language told me just how uncomfortable she was. As I walked to Colt's desk, I sat down behind it and she took a seat in front. After an awkward pregnant pause, I asked, "What's up?" "I have heard rumors that you are going to be making big changes. soon. With school out, I am unsure of what my future looks like. What I hoped for didn't happen..." She looked down and twisted her hands. together. I honestly felt really sorry for her in this moment. It wasn't sure fault what happened to her. However, it wasn't my fault either. "I am going to be doing multiple things, yes." I confirmed. Ignoring her comment was the only thing I could think of, that was not a topic I wanted to go into. "Can I ask if you have a job for me?" She looked up at me with ICOM, HVL CADOLIY Hoperame90 VI shame but acceptance? "A job?" I asked, confused. "Yeah. I am looking to find my purpose in life. Since you are making these changes, I was hoping I could be part of something."

"I have to ask, this isn't an attempt to win Colt back?" I was actually proud of myself for asking such a bolt question. "Oh no!" She looked horrified. "I won't like and say that my heart. wasn't shattered when you guys found out you were fated. I haven't found my mate yet but I have moved on. I want to do something than stare at my bedroom walls. Part of me always wanted to be a teacher so if you have something that involved kids, I would request that." I wasn't sure what to say.. Sitting back in the chair, I just studied her. Giving her a chance to prove herself could be huge. If she fails, that could also have a large impact. However, she hasn't given me a reason to not trust her as far as getting Colt back. The main part that helped me agree to this is the fact that Colt isn't going to have anything to do with these project. Other than checking in randomly, he isn't going to be focused on this. "For obvious reasons, I won't be placing you in a leadership position but I will grant you your request. These programs are designed to help those kids who needs a direction or a purpose. I can't very well turn away someone who is requesting that very same thing from me. Your can report directly to Mrs. Summers. She is the person seeing day by day activities for the kids. You can assist her in anything she needs. We can start there and see how it goes. Any and all promotions will be determined on your performance there. This will also help you. have the flexibility to do classes next month to get a degree in childhood

development or whatever you feel is needed. A degree is required to hold any management position in these programs. That prvy! I km yumy rest of this month, you can help out the kitchen staff with any needs. I know they are struggling right now and need more hands."

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Kara looked a little crest fallen but gathered herself quickly. "Thank you for this opportunity, Luna Penny." I wasn't sure why I felt so sh itty in that moment but I did. "I don't have any ill feelings towards you. I know you have never tried to be inappropriate to Colt since we mated and I holding out hope that isn't going to change. I acknowledge that you got your heart broke and for that I am terribly sorry. Colt is my mate and I won't apologize for that but I do hope you will find some peace." "Me too." Kara stood up. "May I be excused?" "Yes. I will let the kitchen staff know that you will report to them tomorrow morning." Kara nodded and walked to the door. Her entire b\*dy was shaking as her hands barely wrapped around the handle before the door opened first. Jacob almost hit her as he took a step in but stopped just in time. "Kara?" He looked confused at her before looking at me. "Beta Jacob." She said in restraint before she ran passed him. Jacob and Sherry walked in, looking confused at a retreating and now crying Kara.

"What was that about?" Jacob asked as he took a seat. One thing I loved about Jacob is how relaxed he is in private. Never once made me feel like I wasn't ever part of their group. "She asked for a job." I said. "A job?" Sherry asked as she sat down next to Jacob. "Yeah. Said she was ready to get out of her bedroom and wanted to be productive again. She said she heard rumors I was doing some mujor nunyou want to populi yuuuu. "She did want to be a teacher I think at some point." Jacob looked like he was trying to see in the back of his head. "So she said." "Did you give her one?" Sherry asked.

"I did. Mrs. Summers is heading the Development and Rehabilitation Center. I told her to report to her and can assist Mrs. Summers in whatever she needed. Till then, I told her to help out with the kitchen." "It is complete chaos down there." Sherry agreed. "It is, that is why I am giving it to you." I said and smiled at Sherry. "W-what?" Sherry looked shocked and scared. Jacob had a slow smile spread across his face. "Yeah, I am completely swamped and I could really use some help. The kitchen needs someone to be in charge of it. We need to bring back the monthly schedule of meals. Plan the food per event we have going on and over see day to day activities like grocery shopping and storage needs." you want me to do that?" Sherry's eyes were wide as she pointed to herself but was looking at me like I was st upid. "Yes, please. You have been adapting great and I think giving you some responsibilities is appropriate. As good as I am, I do need some I help. Since you are technically my beta, I would like you to take this over." "By myself?" Sherry's jaw was on the floor. "I mean, I will still be here for any questions and obviously Jacob and Colt are around. The kitchen ladies have been there since I was born, my advice, listen to what they want to see happen. You just have the

"Yes. I think you will be amazing at it." I smiled at her. "How about I help you organize some things while Jacob puts up my pictures?" The relief on her face was clear. "Thank you." Jacob smiled at me as he got up. "I put pensil marks on the walls where I want each one to be." I said to him. He nodded and got to work. "Let's go to my desk." I said and took Colt's chair with me. "Sit here beside me." Sherry sat down as I pulled out my laptop. I had a desk top but for some reason, I loved my laptop for my creative needs. "I don't even

know where to start..." "Let's start here." Pulling up excel, I designed a quick rectangle with seven sections. There was a line for breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. After coping and pasting it, I had quickly designed a large calender. Hitting print, I grabbed a three ring binder that was empty and a pen.. As soon as it was done printing, I put it in front of Sherry. "Fancy." She muttered. "It was quick. Anyway, you can style this however but this does seem to work for the school cafeteria." Sherry nodded. "Now, each food option would be listed. I'll use this first one as an example. Breakfast can be pancakes with assorted fruits. Lunch is ham, chicken or roast beef sandwiches, salads, fruits and chips. Dinner can be Lasagna with garlic bread. Chocolate cake for desert. As a universal option, milk, water and tea will be served. If they want something else, they can bring it in." "That seems easy enough." Sherry had her eyebrows crunched together. "It isn't too hard. For the next day, lunch could be an option of hot ham and cheese with any leftover ham or an open beef face sandwich." "I see what you did there. You took the left over ham and put it in a grill cheese and used the roast beef

as another type of sandwich. So, any left over chicken can be used for shredded chicken tacos or something." Sherry looked excited. "Exactly. I would save things like cold cut sandwiches for the day before a major event. That way the staff isn't working on making two big things at once. Only desert for dinner time but you could have cookies made and available to those who want something sweet. Honestly, for breakfast, you can have a hot option but then always have muf fins, instant oatmeal, fruit and yogurt as options. Like I said, talk to the staff and see what they want too. You have the final say but I would listen to their request since they are the one doing the work and have been for decades." "This doesn't seem so hard." Sherry was taking it all in. "It is only as hard as you make it be. Now, you will need to have someone make a grocery list. I believe they do a lot of ordering and having it delivered. Alec has farming land and will be growing their own produce. I would suggest reaching out to Luna Kristen to purchase from them. Also, we have some events coming up. You will need to sit down and create a gourmet menu for those events. There is Prom, my luna ceremony and I am doing an event over Halloween for all the packs to come together around the world. We will have thousands of people here and need to have enough food. Those will be a separate meeting though. For the rest of this week, I want you to create a menu for the rest of this month and next month. Organize the kitchen and assign everyone jobs so the chaos is gone."

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"That's not a lot of time." Sherry looked stressed. "I think you will be surprised what the kitchen staff wants to see happen. Things have a way of falling into place and working themselves out. Go to the

kitchen, as for Ms. Lucy and tell her you are there to address the kitchen organization. Ask her when the best time to have a meeting is and schedule it then. You have your mind-link. Send out a massive mind-link to all kitchen staff that they need to be present for the meeting." "Ms. Lucy is nice." Sherry said more to herself than anyone. "She is. She has snuck me more food than I could ever have wanted growing up." I laughed. "I do believe you need your own laptop. though. Use Jacob's card and get one. Once you get this going, it will be minimal effort. I can start giving your more and more." "How do you do all this?" Sherry's eyes got wide. "Honestly, I have done it so long that I have built up contacts and I have themes. Look." I hit a folding and pulled up a sub-folder that said themes. In it was pictures of different decor and items I knew we had in storage. "We have most of this in the basement. I have bought stuff as things came up. Treating it nicely, I have been able to reuse most of it." Clicking a different folding, it pulled up a list of names. These are my contacts per whatever I need. If I need lights, I call Sam. He is my light guy and so forth."

"Nice." "Exactly, so when we have something come up, I called them up and tell them what I am thinking and he will email me over the details and I will either agree or make changes and that's it. Simple and easy." "You can plan a whole party in a day." Sherry was looking at it all. "Yes I can. Been doing it for Kris for years and now I get to do it for the whole pack." "Okay. I will do my best." Sherry had a look of determination as she grabbed her stuff and walked out of the office without saying a word

to Jacob. "I've never seen her like this." Jacob looked confused as he watched the door shut behind her. "I hope it helps her become more involved." "Did Colt ask you to do this?" Jacob asked as he finished hanging the last nail. "Yes and no. I mean, he brought it up today. I have been a little stressed out and needed the push to delegate. I was waiting till she asked me for work. I assumed she would come to me when she was ready. Colt thought she needed to push." "I know she is timided to help out. You know how those women were treated. This might be good for her. It's not like she can fail at this. This will boost her confidence up. Hopefully, really make her relax finally." "I think she has made great improvements." I said as I set up an email address for Sherry. Writing it down on a sticky note, I placed it on my desk. "I do too. She is completely different than before. It has helped those ba stards are dead." There was still an anger to Jacob. There was another knock on the office door. Jacob immediately put his hammer down and walked to the door to answer it. "Is, Luna Penny here? I have an urgent matter?" Jacob looked over and me. I nodded yes and he stepped back. "I'm over here." I said as I watched a nurse walk in. I immediately knew where this was going. "I am so sorry to bother you. Alpha Colt has not told us where Cassie and Zac need to be moved to and they are standing at the hospital doors. We can't release them until there is a place for them to go. Per Alpha Colt, they are to be watched at all ti-" I held up my hand knowing exactly what he ordered.

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"It's okay. They can go to room...." I paused not sure where to put them. There was only two rooms available. One was on the alpha floor and that wasn't happening at this moment so I guess they were going across the packhouse. "Room 2002. Any accommodations that are medically needed, let me know

but you have my permission to do whatever you need." "Thank you, we will get them moved within the hour." I handed her a key to the room and she left. "I think I'm all finished" Jacob said as soon as the nurse left. "Okay." Looking around, he had everything level and I was in awe at how good she was. "She really was amazing." "Colt might not say it but this was really special to him. I'm glad your did this." Jacob wasn't looking at me but at the wolf head behind his desk. "Her absence really cost them and this pack. I hope I can be the Luna she would have been." "My dad said she was amazing. I think the centers you are doing would be right up her alley. I think she would be very proud of you." My eyes filled with tears. It might be the pregnancy but that was the best compliment I could have asked for.

"Thank you." "What are your plans now?" Jacob said, thankfully changing the subject. "Give it some time and then see Cassie." Sighing, I sat down. We haven't told anyone I was pregnant. Right now, I was doing good but I \$25 BONUS Do you want me to go with you?" Jacob asked: coulddgelshhe btcove nature coming throughitireally wasn't a bad debut! ee d odonotuse comeone as a crunchi wantedc odedikeKasadd abblaed handle my own. She had been my poleemodel for yearsadd www.fedi kke we were equals wanted to make he proo doo whod:

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going to do an outdoor theme. With wolves and all the forest animals. There was the cutest wolf pacifier cl\*ps. Most of everything came in either pink, blue, green or white. Choosing the green options, it would go with either one. After picking out a style of blanket that matched each theme, I saw an hour had passed and I needed to get moving if I wanted to visit Cassie before going upstairs to change. Closing my computer, I got up and walked up to our room.