

Tattooed 61

Chapter 61

"Ice, it's Ace's dad. He went f ucking crazy. They had to sedate him. He's blaming you for not picking him. over Alec." "There is no reason to tell her this now! This could have waited till later. What do you expect her to do?" Jasper was strangely on my side. Giving him a weird look, I crossed my arms over my chest. "I don't know. This whole thing is f ucked up. My brother died. I just..." Jacob was lost. "Sit down." I said to Jacob. He listened instantly as out his head in his hands. "I don't blame him for his reaction. He just lost a son. His only son. I would had been surprised if he took it well. Ace died a hero and will be honored as such. I feel your pain. He was my brother too. He was part of us and will always be part of us. It would be a disgrace to his memory if we fell apart and didn't seek out who killed him. We will figure this out and get our revenge but you need to keep your head in the game. We can't afford to lose you too." "I know your right but dam n." Jacob was lost. "I know. My eyes hurt and dried out as I can't cry anymore. We will keep him with us." I saw Colt running down the hall. He sighed as he realized he was too late. "Sis, why are you out of bed?" "I'm sorry, I shouldn't have come." Jacob stood up. "You can always come to me. Jacob, just keep on pushing. For Ace." He nodded as he turned to walk back.

"You okay?" Colt asked. "Sore but good." Colt nodded as he took off after Jacob. I had just opened the door when Jasper talked. "Kris, I'm sorry." "Save it. Not in the mood." I noticed the bruising on his cheek. "Colt?"

"Yeah." "You're lucky that's all you got." I said before going back inside. "What's going on?" Alec asked. "Jacob said Ace's dad needed sedated." "Come here." Alec opened his arm for me. Inching my way over, I crawled up next to him. "What do you want to do to honor Ace?" "What do you mean?" His question threw me. "Do you want a certain tree? A ceremony?" "Oh um, I'm not sure." I guess I don't know what I wanted. Resting my head against his shoulder, Alec held my thigh. "Just let me know and we will do that." Alec k*ssed the top of my head. "What changed? Why are you acting like this? Last night you were upset when Emmy said he loved me." "Colt and I talked." "Oh." Dam n him. "What else did you talk about?" "Nothing really." "That's a lie but whatever. I just want to go home and shower." "Which home is that? Mine or your old pack?" My first thought was with Alec but his question was as right. "I guess your home isn't mine." "But it is." "Maybe on Friday but right now, I'm just a guest." "You're coming home with me. End of story." "I wasn't arguing." Sipped off the bed, Alec pressed the call button. Getting his stuff, he put his sweats on that his dad brought him. "What do you need?" A nurse came in. "We are leaving." Alec muttered.

"Any chance you can wait a few more hours?" "No." Alec said as he pulled his gown off. He kept his sling on. "Alright. Sign these." The nurse handed him paperwork. "Call if you need anything." She sighed and left. "What's up?" Jacob popper his head in. 2 "We are leaving." Alec pushed the wheel chair over to me. "Sit." I was too sore to argue Sitting down, Jasper took over pushing as we walked out of the hospital. It was still early morning. The car wasn't far away so we got in okay. Alec sat in the back with me as Jasper

drove. Leaning on him for support, I found my eyes falling. "She's sleeping." Jasper whispered. "Good." Alec sighed. "I told her I was sorry and she didn't want to hear it."

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Alec snored. "You're surprised?" @ "No. Just wish she forgave me." "Maybe after she showers and rests." Alec's hand rested on my hip. It was like he didn't need to wait till Friday to know. That confused me but I decided to accept it. I must have drifted off as next think I knew was the car doors opening. "We are home." Alec whispered. He got out and helped me out. "How are you not sore?" I was unconscious so my muscles didn't get strained like yours did when you were thrown from the car." un "How's your arm feel?" I asked. The sun was rising but thankfully we didn't run into anyone. Alec walked me straight into his room. "Stay h here." He muttered as he went to his closet. Coming out with his Tshirt. "Do you want to shower?" "Yes please." Alec walked to the bathroom and turned it on. Following him, he laid out female soaps anything I could ask for. "Who's are those?" I asked annoyed. Alec smirked. "I had someone buy them for you. I didn't know what you liked so..." "You didn't just ask Emmy?"

"Didn't think of that." "Thank you." Grabbing some shampoo, conditioner and b*dy wash and put them in the shower. "Do you need help?" "No, I'm good thanks." Alec looked conflicted. "Alec, get out." He smirked before leaning down to k*ss me softly then left.

Undressing, I got in. The hot water stung but after a minute it felt amazing. I washed my hair and b*dy but then just stood there. It massages my muscles. They will feel better by tomorrow by I'm sure. Getting out, I put lotion on and put on Alec's shirt. He didn't give me panties so I guess I was sleep like this. After brushing my hair and my teeth, I walked out. "Still alive?" Alec asked. "Barely. That felt good." He was laying in bed, reading. "Take those." He pointed to two white pills on the night stand. "What are they?" "Tylenol." "What are you reading?" I asked as I took the pills and crawled in beside him. "The Tempest." "Ah, William Shakespeare." "You know it?" "Read it a few years ago. Not my favorite of his but still good." Alec set the book down and turned off his light. The blinds were pulled, making it pitch black. I was as asleep instantly. When I woke up, I was alone. Looking around, I saw the bathroom had steam coming from it. Testing my muscles, I was still sore but felt okay. My stomach rumbles. The clock read 1:36pm. Dam n, slept a good amount. Standing up, I was just about to go across the ha when I spotted my suitcase by the closet. Grabbing a pair of panties, lose shorts, sports bra and tank, I got dressed. I was finished putting my hair in a messy bun when Alec came out of the bathroom in just a towel.

"Turn around." I was scared to see what it looked like. "I think it looks bad as s." Iv "It doesn't look too bad. Let me put lotion on it." "Yes, ma'am." Walking to the bathroom, I grabbed the lotion and came back out. "You're walking better." I "Shower, meds and sleep helped. Now I need food." I said as I put the lotion on his back. "On the bright side, you were my Wednesday appointment so I don't have to

cancel anyone.” “There is that.” Alec grabbed some shorts. Turning my back, I pretended to look for something so I didn’t get caught looking. “Ready?” Alec asked. “Yeah. As much as I am going to get today.” “It’s Wednesday and you haven’t trained at all.” “I’ve been busy.” I said as we went down the stairs. Alec wasn’t wearing his sling but still kept the bandage on his arm. “Oh, Alpha! I was so worried about you!” A few girls ran up to him. Mrs. Smith Author Thank you all for reading!! I love reading all your comments! 07

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Alec grabbed my hand. “We are okay. Please excuse us.” They all looked shocked as we walked to the kitchen. “Alpha Alec, Ms. Kristen! Can I get you something to eat?” An elderly kitchen staffer asked. “Yes, please.” I said as we sat down. “What do you want?” She asked. Alec looked towards me. “Whatever easiest. I’m just hungry.” “Yes, dear.” We watched as she made us cold cut sandwiches. Wrapping them, she made us each a fruit bowl and a side of pasta. “Thank you.” Taking our food with a plastic fork, we headed out. “This way.” Alec said. He headed towards the front door. “Oh?” “Sunshine will do you some good.” We walked a little ways to a picnic area. It was in a park with kids running around that were too young for school. “This feels nice.” “I like to come out here and eat on nice days.” “What else do you like?” I asked genuinely curious.

“Oh, I don’t know. Watching you do your thing.” “Come on, I’ve told you a lot about me,” I pushed. “Fine. I like to read, star gaze, Sunday cruising, relaxing with friends.” “All basic stuff” I frowned. There was a pause as Alec thought about it. “I’m a movie junkie.” “What kinds of movies?” “All of them. Black and white ones to modern Disney.”

“Disney? Not a Rambo kind of guy?” +15 BONUS “Moana isn’t bad “That made me laugh. “I can’t picture it.” “And I collect books.” “I knew that. I need to go look at what you have. I have a few at home that I think you will be interested in.” “You can put your books on the free side of the library on Saturday when you move in.” “So sure aren’t you?” “Yup, 99.9% sure.” “Why?” “Colt said my wolf calmed yours down extremely fast. Faster than he has done. Plus the way your b*dy. responded to my touch.” “Colt told you about our wolves? For some reason that annoyed me.” “Yes. I think he wanted to see if I’d run.” “Do you?” “Not even a little. I would tell the pack you’re my girl today if I thought you would go for it.” I frowned at that. “Exactly. That’s why I said move on Saturday.” “My wolf didn’t scare you?” “Nope, just turned him on actually.” “Has anything I told you scared you?” “Not sure scared is the right word. Maybe nervous or anxious but the answer is still no. You intrigue me. I find you fascinating, sexy, warm.” “Not intelligent?” “Obviously you are but that’s not your only quality. Your heart is massive.” That caught me off guard as I blinked a few times. Most people can’t get pasted my brains or my looks.

Thank you.” It took me a second to put another bite in my mouth as I was still processing his words. “No one ever told you that before?” Alec asked, pulling me out of my trans. “No one that matters.” “Well” Alec froze as I assumed he was getting a mind-link. “You about done?” “Yeah, why?” “They just brought my

car back.” Well s hit. Time to put on my big girl panties and get this going “Okay. Let’s go Alec took our to-go bores and tossed them in the trash. We started walking to the garage. “Colt’s here “Right on time.” The sun did feel amazing on my skin. Almost like I was lacking the needed vitamin D it offered. I wasn’t overly excited to see the vehicle but it was my job. Turning the corner, everyone was outside as the tow driver lowered it down. After he unhooked it, he drove off. “Hey, Ice. How are you feeling today?” Colt came over and gave me a hug. Alec kept walking to his dad “Better. The shower and sleep helped.” “Should feel normal by Friday.” Colt nodded. “This is my hope.” We walked up to the vehicles. “Hey, kiddo. Doing okay?” Dad asked but didn’t approach me. Guess who I got my emotion habits from “Yeah, dad. I’m good.” Everyone was just looking at the car but I started walking around it. It was peppered with bullet holes but it was the one that got Alec that surprised me. From the blood on the car where we were ducking, it was a bullet that went through both sides. It was a bigger hole.

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“What do you see, Ice?” Colt asked. “The bullet that shot Alec came through the car and it was a different gun. The hole is bigger. Almost like they tried to kill Alec to take me easier. Alec and I could have easily handled three rogues. Almost like this was a plan B. It wasn’t well thought out. They could have attacked me in the shop and gotten a better outcome.” I made my way to the windshield and had a flashback of my b*dy going through it. “Look at the angle, the gun that shot Alec was on a roof. I bet they knew he would get on top of me, so he was an easy shot. The drive by was to get him in place.” The whole thing made me sick to my stomach. Why would anyone want me? There is literally nothing special about me. I don’t shoot fire out of my hands or lasers out of my eyes. I can’t fly or freeze water. I am just a highly intelligent person. I “Then I guess we are lucky they only took one shot.” Marc folded his arms. Colt’s phone started ringing. He stepped away to take it. “He could have shot me when we walked out.” Alec muttered. “Those windows are tinted so you can’t see inside. I bet he wasn’t ready and that was his only option.” My

eyes went back to the hood. There was smear marks in blood. “Kristen.” Colt’s tone of voice plus the use of my full name had me worried. “What’s wrong?” I asked glancing at Alec. He had an unreadable expression. “It’s...it’s the shop. Someone broke in and trashed it. Cops are there now.” My jaw dropped as tears threatened to fall. My heart literally shattered as it sank in. “Kristen?” “Take me there.” Taking a deep breath, I kept my head high.

Colt looked worriedly at Alec. “Maybe it’s best if-” “If you don’t finish that statement and you either drive me or I will drive myself.” I said firmly. Colt sighed. “Let’s go.” Alec instantly started following Colt. This wasn’t going to break me. I kept repeating that. The entire way to the store, I kept to myself and stayed strong. Alec tried to hold my hand but I pushed him away. Not that I didn’t want his comfort but if anyone touched me, I’d lose my composure. When we got there, cops had surrounded it. It was marked off with yellow caution tape. “This is a bad idea.” Alec muttered to Colt. “I know. She’s barely holding herself together and yes the threat on her life.” I heard them but I didn’t. Walking up, the police tried to stop me. “No passing this point!” “That’s my business! I own that!” I could feel my anger

growing. "Please come in. Be careful." "They are with me." I said getting Alec and Colt to come in. As I walked up to the store, broken glass littered the sidewalk. There was blood on the sidewalk. Standing on top of it. I calculated the angle of the shot. "Colt, the shooter was on that building." I looked over to the middle sized one. "You sure?" "You doubt me?" I asked. "No." "What's up?" Alec asked as he walked up to us. "Shooter was from that building" Colt whispered very low that a human wouldn't hear. "She figure that out?" "Yes." Colt replied. Again, I ignored them as I made my way inside. Everything was broken. My chair, the 360 mirror. Floor had holes, sterilization was in pieces. Ink splattered on the walls. My portfolio book was ripped to

shreds. Alec and Colt walked as I was looking at two half's of a full leg I did last year. Letting it fall, I just felt empty. This was my pride and joy. My baby. This was giving me my future. "Kristen Jeffreys?" A detective asked. "Yes." "I have a few questions. When were you here last?" "Yesterday afternoon." I was looking at the link on the wall. It started to not look so random.

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"When did you leave?" "I don't know. It was getting late." "Was anyone with you?" "I was." Alec stepped forward. "She finished my back." "Know anyone who would do this?" The detective asked, "No." Then it hit me. It was an abstract moon. A midnight moon. As in the Midnight Moon Pack. Darin. "No..." I said as I took a step back in shock. "What was that?" The detective asked. "Colt. It was the Midnight Moon Pack. Look at the ink. It's their logo." I mind-linked Colt. He looked at it and frowned. "Miss?" The detective touched me shoulder. Making me jump. "Nothing." Alec moved behind me. "I want to leave now. I'll be on touch and I'll give you a list of broke items for insurance." The detective handed me his card but Alec took it. "Thanks." He said for me.

As soon as we were in the car, I grabbed Colt's phone. Googling the pack, I held it up for him to see. It was a match. "Da mn." Colt took the phone and showed Alec. "They painted their logo on my wall." I said to Alec. "F uck." Alec muttered. Sitting back, I let my anger stew. This was f ucking b ulls hit. Just because I wouldn't go on a date or chose him. He was destroying my life. "We need to have a meeting." Colt told Alec. "Agreed, Brian still at my pack?" "Yeah. I'll go there and we can meet now. This just got turned up." Colt stepped on it. I didn't know what I

wanted. Did I want to go to this meeting or be alone for a bit. When we got to the pack house, I found myself hanging back. Colt and Alec marched on with a purpose. towards me but Colt stopped him. Colt understood I needed a minute. Alec looked conflicted but in the end, whatever Colt said to him, made him turn around and go inside. The wind pulled at my hair as I leaned against the car. Taunting me with it's freedom. My legs started moving as I walked. No where in particular, just walked. There was a small playground with some swings. It called me as I sat down and slowly moved back and forth. The sight of Ace laying there, the feel of my b*d*y breaking through glass, my head bouncing off the hood, Alec passing out from blood loss, to finally my shot bring destroyed. I ure how for The sun was starting to

drop and the lighting bugs came out. I wasn't I've been here but my as s was numb. "Where are you, sis?" "Some small playground in a swing." "Okay. Sit tight." I have, my as s is numb" "Geez "Colt probably rolled his eyes but a second later they came into focus. Their relieve on their face was clear. Alec sat beside me as Colt stood. "We need to close the bar "I said. "Yeah, most likely "Yeah, most likely." Colt agreed. "Make sure everyone still gets paid for two weeks. We aren't sure how long it needs to stay close but that

will get the by till they find a job." I said as my foot drew a pattered in the sand.? "Okay. I'm going to head home." "Drive safe." I said looking at him "Alec has your phone. I programmed yours already. Alec will need to do his." "Thank you." "Stay safe." Colt said before turning and walking away. "I'll never understand your twin bond." "Many have tried." "If you want to stay in a different room, that's okay." Alec stated with a stotic face. That confused me, "You don't want me with you?"

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"I do but you seem to need your space. Colt said give you space." "Not that kind of space. Just wait for me to be ready for you to touch me like holding my hand. Just... Physically be there but I'll come to you when in ready to be comforted." "Oh." "Sorry. Didn't mean to make you feel any type of way." out! "I'm just figuring out how to help you. Learn you really. Don't be sorry." "You're doing a a job" I I gave him a small smile. We just sat together for a few more minutes. "How's your arm feeling?" "Sore but okay." Alec sighed. "Seems silly to have a birthday party on Friday. "It will give something for people to look forward to after Ace's funeral." "I didn't give him a basket." I frowned. "Colt did. I asked." "Thank you." "Funeral is tomorrow at 10am." Alec sighed.

"Hmm" "Emmy has a dress for you." It was like he read my mind. "Of course she does." I gave a small chuckle. "It might be best if we show up separate. Emmy will go in a car early with you and you guys can sit together as a group. We will be in the back of you need us." "Thank you for understanding."

"Just make sure you come to me." Alec sighed. His pcessive side was starting to show. "Okay." "Come on. You need food before bed." Alec stood up but didn't offer me his hand. "I'm not hungry." "Try? Please?" "Fine." I sighed as we walked. The stars started showing as we walking into the pack house. There wasn't as much activity as I figured there would be. Alec took us straight to the private dinning area where two plates of pasta was waiting. I ate about a fourth when I finally put my fork down and leaned back. "I'm done." "Okay." Alec surprisingly didn't argue as he stood up. We went straight to the bedroom where he starting looking for a movie. Grabbing some silk pajama set, I got changed in the bathroom. When I was done, Alec had picked a movie and was in nothing but shorts. We climbed into bed. The TV was moved so it was at the foot of the bed. Alec moved the pillows so he was propped up. Moving his arm, I curled into him, resting my head on his chest as he pulled me close before hitting play. I was asleep before the movie title came. on. Then next morning, I woke up to text on Alecs phone. He

turned over and replied “who’s that?” “Dad.” “What time is it?” “8:03.” “I should get up and shower. When’s Emmy coming over?” “In 30 minutes.” Alec yawned.

I Alec set his phone down as I went to get out of bed. Alec caught me and pulled me towards him. “Not so fast.” “Oh?” “How are you? I can’t wait to be mated so I will know without asking.” “I don’t really know. Sad... Confused. Maybe guilty.” “It wasn’t your fault.” Alec cupped my face. “Yeah.” I didn’t look him in the eyes. “I’m serious. Keep your head up today. I’m here if you need me.” “Thank you.” Alec gave me a soft k*ss that made my l*ps tingle. *Felt that did you?” He asked as I touched my l*ps. “Yeah, what was that?” “The mate bond. I have felt it since yesterday.” “I don’t turn 18 till tomorrow.” “Jasper said he felt a light version of the bond the day before Emmy turned 18.” Alec studied my face. “Oh...” My spirit lifted a little having some clarity in it. “Oh?” Alec raised an eyebrow. “I assumed it would hit full force the moment my birthday comes. I didn’t realize there was a built up.” “Me either. Jasper said he knew when he met Emmy that she was his mate. Remember how he was stuck on her?” “Yeah, I do.” It was in my tattoo shop. “Are you upset?” “About what?” I asked “About being my mate?”

“No.” I scooted up so my forehead was against his. “Just absorbing it all. I wouldn’t have given you my b*dy if I doubted it.” Alec’s hands wrapped around me. I

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“Such a perfect b*dy.” He muttered as he k*ssed my neck. It sent shivers down my spine. “Nope. I need to shower.” Pushing him away. I got out of bed quickly so he couldn’t pull me down again. I needed to shower quickly so I was ready when Emmy came. Since I didn’t have my robe and Alec wasn’t around, I grabbed one of his button ups to wear. I had just put on a pair of my panties when a knock was on the door. “Hey.” I said as I opened the door for her. “Good, you been in the shower.” “Yes ma’am.” “I’m sorry about your shop.” Emmy said as she put her stuff dow.. “Me too.” I sat on the chair and watched her unpack. “You and Alec huh?” Her voice was shaking as she was trying to keep herself from crying. “Guess so.” Luna?” “Do I get to call you Luna?”

“Not till tomorrow.” Turning around, she got to work on my hair. “I always knew you were destined to be a Luna.” “I’m glad we get to live together again.” I said looking at her. “Me too. I really missed our friendship.” I squeezed her hand. “I hope you have waterproof makeup.” “Bought some yesterday.” Emmy laughed. Emmy worked quietly as I just stared at myself in the mirror. This was all surreal. Never once did I think we would be attending his funeral before we were even 18. Emmy was lightly curling my hair and put

the finishing my makeup. The guys walked in as Emmy was handing me my dress. “How is it going?” Alec walked in and did a double take of what I was wearing. Instant butterflies turned my stomach as I stood there. Jasper went up to Emmy so out interaction went unnoticed. “Just getting ready to change.” +15

BONUS Alecs eyebrow raises as I swear I saw a hint of arousal in his eyes. "Okay. We need to get going. You girls should get there early to greet people." Nodding, I went into the bathroom and shut the door. It was easy to unbutton Alecs shirt and sl*p into the dress. It was a simple black dress. Sleeveless with a modest cut. In it was a looser fit but still flattered my b*dy. It came down to my lower thigh. Perfect for a funeral. Emmy had the best fashion sense. Emmy came in to change as well. "Here are your shoes." "Thank you." I said as I sl*pped them on. Emmy got changed in a similar dress and sl*ppered her shoes on. She had done her hair and makeup before coming. We stood shoulder to shoulder in front of the mirror. Knock! Knock! Knock! "Ready?" Jasper asked sweetly. "No." I said lamely as Emmy opened the door. Emmy sagged into Jaspers arm as she broke a little and shed a tear. I felt too numb as I walked out. Alec was standing there, waiting. Both guys were in all black with their black button up sleeves rolled. Hair was gelled and freshly trimmed beard. "Doing okay?" He asked. "I guess." I said as I grabbed my phone and purse. "Lets go." Jasper said as him and Emmy walked out. Alec waited for me as I took a breath and followed

them. He stopped me to give me a quick k*ss before following Emmy and Jasper. "You girls take this vehicle." Jasper opened the door for me to drive. Emmy wasn't emotionally in a spot to drive "There are warriors lined the whole way there to take sure you get there okay. We will leave in ten minutes." Alec said as I got in and started the car. Emmy waved bye as I mouthed bye to Alec. We were silent the whole way. I would catch glimpses of the warriors every now and then. Colt and Jacob were waiting for us as we pulled up. "Kristen..." Emmys voice broke as we came to a stop. "I know." We saw the black tent and smoke in the background. Grabbing her hand, I gave it a squeeze. Colt and Jacob opened our car doors for us. Helping us out of the car. The four of us wrapped our arms around each other as we walked towards the tent. Colt had my on his side with us girls between them. That way, Jasper wouldn't get jealous over Jacob.

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Together we made our way to the entrance and started greeting everyone as they entered. One by one, our pack filled the tent. Ace's b*dy laid at the front, making me keep my attention on the back. Only once everyone came up, did we see Alec, and the ranking wolves of his pack make their way up. Jasper went straight to Emmy. She fell into his arms, breaking down again. Alec came up to me and k*ssed my cheek "You okay?" "Holding it together." Alec shook Jacobs and Colt's hands, as did everyone else. Once Emmy let go of Jasper, he did too. My b*dy stiffened as dad and An n walked up with Ace's dad. When he saw aw me, he stopped walking. Ace walked up behind me. Dad whispered something in his ear and he put his head down and walked right past me and to the front. I wasn't as lucky with An n. "You have some nerve showing up here" An n put her hand on her hips.

"Enough An n." Colt stepped in front of me. "Watch yourself, he won't be around to save you every time." An n glared as she walked off. "Maybe I should stay back here I muttered to Colt. "No. You are coming up and sitting with us." Colt looked murderous. "Colt..." nodded to me. "Kristen, no. You're coming." Alec put his hand on my shoulder. Looking up at him, he r Frowning, I grabbed Colt's hand for

support as we walked down the aisle. I kept my head high but it took everything I had in me. Dad, Ann and Ace's dad was in the left side, we sat in the right. Once we were sitting, Dad stood up.

"Today, we celebrate the life of one of our own. Taken too soon but died a hero. Ace was a son, brother to many of us and a friend. Ace touched so many of our lives and will continue to inspire the bravery he showed. Ace's sacrifice has earned him our highest level of respect with an Ash Elm Tree." The crowd erupted in cheers. "The family has decided to open the microphone up to those who would like to say a few words." Colt stood up, adjusted his suit and walked up to the microphone. After clearing his throat, he started talking. "Ace was like my brother. We grew up together, learned how to throw together, talk to girls and just be a man. He was by not only my side, but my sister's as well. The three of us were inseparable. Then Emmy wiggled in and then Jacob. The five of us became more than friends. We were family. Ace was needed for our brother when we needed shoulder & bodyguard when the general was around my sister and Emmy were safe, he ended up proving me right. Ace was the type of man that put his personal safety to the side if it meant saving someone. Especially sooner he cared about and had conversations about how we would and passing away of us said in a battle, saving someone Ace did just that. He died saving my sister. Someone he loved. I have a feeling that if he were here today, he'd tell me he would do it all over again. Because of his sacrifice, I will forever be in debt. I will honor his memory by tracking down who is responsible and eliminating them. Ace, my brother, love you" Mrs. Smith Author

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Colt stepped aside. Jacob shook his head no and I was clinging to Emmy for my life. After a second, Colt picked up the torch and placed it on the wood under Ace's body. It instantly went up in flames, making me flinch back. Colt walked back to us and sat down. Soft music played as we watched Ace being ash. Dad sat there for about ten minutes before he stood up and walked up front. "There will be food and drinks located in the backyard of the pack house. The family has asked for anyone to come and join the continuation of celebrating Ace." People started getting up and making their way to the backyard. A few people lingered but most headed down. Looking over, only Ace's dad was there, watching the fire. Taking a deep breath, I was about to do something seriously brave or seriously stupid. "Excuse me, sir" "My body was shaking as I approached him. I felt so many pairs of eyes on me. "What?" The hatred was thick in his eyes. Seriously stupid it was.

"I would like to tell you how sorry I am. Ace was someone I admired and loved as a brother. I know my pain is nothing compared to yours, but I want you to know that I do feel guilty and I will have to live with that guilt." I took a deep breath as he looked at me. "I also know because of who I am, you probably haven't gotten to vent the way you need to. I am giving you permission to tell me what you want to. You can yell, scream or cuss. Whatever you feel you need to get off your chest. This is your chance." The shock on his face was clear. I waited as he stood up. I swear there wasn't a single breath being taken around me as they waited to see what would happen. "Young lady, I watched you grow up. I know what kind of person you are. I have wanted nothing but to do

what you just said. My boy loved you and that got him killed. You poisoned his brain, shattered his heart and took his last breath. I know you will carry this with you. I know what it means to be a ranking wolf but if he didn't love you like he did, he would have never taken that bullet. There might be forgiveness in my heart, but that day is not today." He turned and walked away. Tears were silently running down my face as I kept looking at him in the eyes. Right as I was about to turn back to my friends, a sharp pain erupted across my cheek. It caught me so off guard that I stumbled. Hands caught me before I completely fell. "Fucking damn it, Ann!" Dad roared. Looking over, dad had Ann by the arm in a firm grip. She was smiling evilly at me. I felt something run down my chin. "Cunt deserved it." I knew my eyes went black. "Tomorrow, when we are equals and I'm no longer a member of this pack, we "Alec, get her out of here!" I hear Colt yell as my claws grew. "I command you to go to the cells!" Dad said. "Take her Colt." Alec tried to get me to move but that wasn't going to happen. This bitch was going down. Alec ended up picking me up and tossing me over his shoulders. Thankfully, I had a better view of her kicking and screaming to the cells. Jacob was helping and Alec's pack was following us to our cars. "Kristen!" Alec firmly yelled in my face. My attention was taken off Ann and to him. "Baby girl, breath. Relax your bitch." Alec had me pinned against the car. His hands were rubbing my arms up and down, leaving something weird in their path. "I'm going to kill her." "It's okay." "You said you wouldn't allow her to hit me." I know. I'm sorry, I was too far away to get there in time."

Chapter 70

My bitch started relaxing as I felt my eyes go back to normal. "Yeah." Not sure what to say to that.. "Ready to go home?" "Yes." Regardless who was my mate, I'll never call this place home, I'll be packing my bags and never looking back. Alec grabbed a tissue from somewhere that I didn't see and started to clean up my lip. "It's fine. Not deep enough for it to matter." I muttered as he was looking at it. "ALEC! HOLD UP!" Colt yelled at him and Jacob ran up to us. "I'm so sorry, Kristen." Colt came up to us. Alec stepped back, allowing Colt to look at my face. "FUUCK!" Jacob yelled. It looked like he was going to punch something. "I'm fine." Reaching over, I grabbed Jacob's arm and helped him cool off. "He was out of line saying that. I'll talk-

"You will do no such thing!" I demanded. "That man just lost his son. He is entitled to feel the way he does. Ace literally jumped in front of a bullet to save me. If it helps for him to get that off his chest then I'll survive. Plus, we all know him. In a week, he will call and apologize. "Ice..." Jacob started. "No, Jacob. You boys listen. I allowed him to talk to me that way. He's hurting and I am a big girl. My heart will recover. We need to come together as we move forward. Fine a new normal. Who knows who you guys might mate tomorrow. You have a pack you need to think about. Put your pain to the side and be the leader they need. Grieve at night but right now, they need to see that you are not wounded. The pack needs to know that you can protect them, provide for them and still make good judgements. You need to go back there and keep your head up high. You two are the future of this pack. Emmy and I are gone. Even if Alec isn't my mate, I'm packing my bags and I'll never be back here. You can't ask me to. You have everything you need in here." I put my hand over their hearts. Both of them were looking up

at the sky as I lectured them. "I hope whoever I mate will be half the Luna you will be" Colt wrapped his arms around me. "Ah, Ice. You do have a heart." Jacob joked as I gave him a hug too. Alec shifted annoyed behind me but I ignored him. "Don't tell anyone." I tried to frown but smiled. "I won't be far. Close enough to come and kick your ass if I believe it." Jacob started walking away. "Colt. I love you." *S hit, Ice. Did you actually say it first without me forcing you?" He smiled as he hugged me. "Don't get used to it." I didn't even try to not roll my eyes. "What about tomorrow?" Colt asked. "I'm going to get my dresses and take them to Alec's. We can get ready there and come over together." "Damn, so I won't be there when you guys find out once and for all?" Colt frowned. "I'm not avoiding the man for the entire day of my birthday so you can watch us k*ss that evening." "It's a magical moment..." Colt teased. "I hope whoever you get mated to will kick your ass." All I could do was shake my head. "I doubt it." Turning to Alec, "I'll be right back. I'm going to grab my dresses." "Okay. Need help?" "I'll go with her. I'll need to get mine too then I guess." Emmy said. "I will be going with you girls. She might be in a cell but still." Jasper grumbled. Colt frowned but didn't say anything. Alec POV

"How is she really?" I was pissed I had to ask. This bond can hurry the fuck up and snap into place. "I don't know how she is standing." Colt said in a sullen voice. "Has she even asked about the meeting yet?"