

Tattooed Luna

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Chapter 0521

Everyone instantly shut up and looked up at her. Stepping back, I just folded my arms over my chest and watched her. Speeches weren't her thing and the fact she was even doing this surprised the hell out of me.

"While I was being held hostage..." Penny paused and looked down like she was trying to find the right words. "I was terrified, yes but I wasn't terrified for myself. I knew you all would come for me. I was scared for your safety. I was scared for my children's safety but never my own. Knowing the warriors I had behind me... behind Colt left me knowing their time was limited. It was because of you all, that I was able to stay mentally able to do what I needed to do to survive. I had so much faith in you all, that I knew it was just a matter of time before I was rescued. So, thank you for saving me." Penny ended her speech and no one spoke.

You could hear a pin drop. She felt so confident in her speech but once she ended it and no one said anything, she became unsure. Looking back at me for help, I only took one step forward when the room erupted in cheers.

She was so startled that she almost dropped the microphone but the D.J was right there to catch it. "That was epic!" Jacob came around as we were exiting the booth. "Are you sure?" Penny asked as the music started bumping again.

"Oh yeah! You are a loved luna." Jacob put his arm around her shoulders and guided her to our seats,

I was both annoyed and amused to see him act that way towards her. He has always been a playful guy and it wasn't like he was hitting on her but making her feel like he sees her as a sister. Showing his love of her in a different way. He used to act like this towards Kristen but he was intimidated by Alec enough that he waits for Kristen to hug him first.

As we walked through the crowd, many warriors nodded at her in passing or even held out their hand to her. Every time this happened, she blushed a little more but her back stayed strong. She wasn't the scared, unsure luna anymore. She was strong and finding her voice. Penny's body had grown since finding the real power and strength of her wolf and people were noticing.

It made me sick that it took her life being in imminent danger to get her to realize her full potential but knowing she was finally got there, made me so proud of her.

They haven't even made it to the table when she was fully engulfed by warriors and their mates. Walking around, I made myself comfortable and just let her do her thing. She was feeling very happy in the moment and I didn't want to stop that. Just seeing her smile was all I needed.

"Here." Alec pushed over a whiskey on the rocks to me.

Picking it up, I took a small sip before putting it down, "Thanks."

"That was a great speech she gave." Kristen looked at me and smiled.

"I wasn't aware she was going to do that." Only glancing at them, I kept watching Penny for the most part.

Kristen reached over and put her hand on my arm. "Relax, Colt. She is in a room full of warriors. Nothing is going to happen to her here."

"Ice, why don't you go join her and then maybe I will."

Kristen made a face at me. "Oh really?"

"Yeah. Go dance or something. Let your hair down or whatever they say. Make her have fun." I wanted Penny to enjoy tonight.

Kristen didn't need telling twice as she hopped down. Practically running to Penny, it didn't take long for all that group to start dancing. "Penny sure seems like she has embraced her wolf." Jace said behind me as he pulled Penny's chair away from mine. Giving us more space between us, he sat down as Lars sat beside Alec. Their mates were out there with everyone else.

"I knew she had it in her!" Lars raised his glass to me and then took a drink.

"How does it feel to know your luna... I'm sorry, your alpha mate is stronger than you?" Jace teased as he pushed my arm.

"Pretty good." I couldn't resist smiling and rolled my eyes.

"What's up? Why are you still so... moody?" Lars asked. "Everyone is dead. There isn't anyone else out there to come for her."

"Still trying to sink in. We thought it was over when we got Ice back. Then it started up again with Penny. I guess I'm just waiting for another shoe to drop."

"Some call that PTSD." Jace whispered.

"Shit, Colt just needs to catch up on his sleep and after a few weeks, he will be back to normal. You can't say that after everything, you wouldn't have your mate and children under lock and key if it was you." Alec came to my rescue.

"He's got you there!" Lars laughed at Jace's expression.

"True. She would probably be prohibited from leaving our room." Jace brought his drink up and downed it.

"Where is Carson, Hank, Aston and Anthony?" Alec asked.

Jace took out his phone and looked at it before putting it away. "Carson and Hank are here. Aston was on his way, last I knew and I haven't heard from Anthony." "Do my ears burn or are you talking about me?" Aston asked as he pulled up another seat.

*Just wondering where you were." Lars moved a little so we were sitting comfortably. "That was a hell of a fight! I'm glad it's over but damn, I'd love to be involved in more action." Aston laughed and looked around.

"I hear you. Being with you guys and seeing action again... things were getting boring. You train to protect but when everything is smooth sailing..." Lars shook his head.

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"I'm happy I could provide that for you." The sarcasm in my voice was clear but everyone just laughed.

"We defiantly need to get together more." Jace finished his drink and started looking around for a waitress. "Kristen wants to do that Halloween shit every year." Alec finished his drink too. "Con, Jace. Let's get another round." Alec and

Jace got up and headed to the bar. "What's on the agenda now?" Lars shifted now the girls were coming to sit down. Scooting my chair, Penny climbed on my lap. "Emily thinks she twisted her ankle." "Really?" Lars shifted so he could see her ankle.

"I'm really not made to wear heels. Don't worry, it will be healed soon enough." She waved off Lars's concern and took a drink from his glass.

"You should have seen her. She was doing moved that would make everyone blush." Ice laughed.

"It's nice to let loose. This club is amazing! How cwe've never visited?" Emily looked at Lars.

"Someone's in trouble!" Kathryn giggled. Aston shook his head but looked at Lars. It was filled with amusement and apologise.

"That's because car rides makes you sick so we didn't cup." Lars nicely reminded her.

"That's right. Car rides are really a bitch but after being here, we are defiantly going to cback more." "Here we go." Jace said as he sat down the drinks. After, he picked Echo up and sat down before placing her on his lap. Ice got up and let Alec sit down but she didn't sit down on his lap. Instead, she stood between his legs and took his drink.

"Is the bar staying up with the business?" Ice asked Jace and Alec.

"They are doing okay. You don't need to work tonight." Alec grumbled.

"Is it really work when you are having fun?" Ice looked back at him and challenged. Alec raised an eyebrow at her and took his drink back.

"Yes." "You guys are really the perfect couple. I wondered who would be able to keep up with Ice's personality." Jace laughed at their exchange.

"Really? He calls you Ice?" Alec looked slightly hurt.

The table busted up laughing and I couldn't help but to join in. "You don't let him call you Ice?" Echo asked.

"Don't worry, Alec. None of us girls can call her Ice either." Kathryn leaned forward and tried to help Alec but it didn't help. Everyone else had tears in their eyes from laughing and Alec just shook his head.

"I didn't grow up with them!" Ice said in defense. She turned to face him and pulled his head down to hers. She whispered something in his ear that I don't think I wanted to know what she said.

In the end, he rolled his eyes but picked her up and forced her to sit down on his lap. "I got sbeers for the table!" Carson's voice interrupted, bring the attention Alec. However, I watched him visually relax from it. I had to hide my laughter. Draping my arm over Penny, I leaned forward and took a beer.

"Where have you been?" Aston asked.

"Molly thought it would be nice if we mingled." Carson said with a smile.

"Well..." Molly looked at Carson with an annoyed expression. "You can go into battle with zero fear but small talk makes you sweat?" She had her hands on her hips and was glaring at him.

In unison, Aston, Jace, Alec, Lars and himself all answered for him. "Yes." "Every single one of you are alphas! How do you run a pack without small talk?" She turned her attention to us.

"Betas." I said for everyone. They all looked atand laughed.

"Jacob does have that personality." Jace tossed his head back and laughed.

"Jasper isn't that far behind." Ice added.

"Did you guys know that my beta found his mate from the women we rescued?" Lars added.

Everyone stopped laughing and looked at him. "Seriously?" Jace asked. We were all so shocked that we weren't sure what to say.

"Did we get the test results back yet?" Lars asked Alec.

"Nope. Still waiting on it. Should be the next day or so." "That's crazy. Where is she?" Ice looked around to see if she could see him.

"They stayed in. She needs stime. Which reminds me, did Sherry ever caround?" knew why he was asking. With Sherry's background compared to lers, she might have the samet lifficulties. Sok of I'd give him stoff and let them work hrough their stuff. Have her slowly cfamiliar with how you run hings." Penny answered before I could. >w"If you don't mind, I might call you later on if we need to." Emily looked hopeful at Penny.

"Of course! Anything you need, just let know." Penny held out her hand to Emily. After a quick squeeze, they let go. "Let's get back out there, ladies! The night is still young for all this talk!" As the women slipped off into the dance floor, we kept talking. "Does she have any idea of who she is?" Jace asked.

"None. She does have a little accent though." Lars shook his head. "She doesn't even have a memory until she was in the cage. They had to give her something to erase it all." Lars finished off his beer.

"I was asking around and there aren't that many ranking females that have been missing. However, the anrate over seas is very high. Too bad we couldn't ask Joe if he was in the business of smuggling women." "I doubt it." I said but paused. "I don't know. When we had that meeting, he was about respect. It is disrespectful to steal someone's ranking daughter. He even offered Penny a soft hotel room to deliver in if she willingly gave up her blood. If there was a way around violence, he did it. Still, if they owed him money, he might have taken them as payment." "Now, you are assuming he was aware of what Vin was doing from the beginning. If we make that assumption, we have to think whoever took over for Joe will pick it back up." Lars continued.

"Naw, I don't buy it. I would put money on it that he wasn't aware until he cover." Alec seemed positive.

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"This is all speculations. Let's just not go down that rabbit hole." Alec shook his head.

"What rabbit hole?" Ice asked as the girls cback to the table.

"How's your ankle?" Lars asked Emily.

"Scan't feels it!" Emily slurred her words.

"Wow." Lars shook his head but laughed at her.

"As much as I am having fun, I do think it's tve head out. There is another party tomorrow and I can't stay up too late both nights." Penny put her arm through mine.

Jace and Carson stood up too. "I think we will head out also. We aren't young enough to do this twice in a row!" Carson laughed. Molly and Carson waved goodbye before they walked away.

Penny pulled to my feet, being as she must be that ready to go. "Can we go to your office for a moment?" She asked in the mind-link.

Confused, I just looked at her while Jace said his goodbyes. "Sure, why?" She didn't answer but pulled me. "See you all tomorrow!" Penny waved.

"Later." I said as I followed her. "Jacob, make sure things don't get out of control. Penny and I are leaving." Mind-linking Jacob, I made eye contact with him.

"Will do." He nodded and responded before shutting the link. He was on the dance floor with Sherry and didn't want to cough. Penny was practically running up the stairs. "What is going on? Are you okay? Why are we headed up here?" She didn't answer but threw the door open and waited for a minute before slamming it shut and locking it. Standing with my arms out slightly, I was so confused on what she wanted. However, I didn't have to wait long.

Penny turned and looked at me. Reaching behind her, I wasn't sure what she was doing until I saw her dress fall at her feet. Standing before in just her bra and underwear with her heels still strapped, my brain finally realized what she wanted.

It only took two steps to close the space between us. Grabbing her neck and wrapped my arm around her waist, I kissed her hard. Penny's body melted under my touch. Her desire for uninterrupted sexual was running through my veins, I could hardly handle it.

Picking her up, I moved to the couch and laid her down. Before I could even do anything else, her hands already had my shirt unbuttoned and was working on my pants. Right when I went to unhook her bra, Penny flipped and we fell off the couch.

Landing on my back, Penny was straddling me. Every time I tried to touch her, she slapped my hands away. This was her show. As she sucked on my mark, I couldn't help the waves of pleasure that shot down my body. It was becoming increasingly hard to let her do her own thing. Her nails raked down my sides, little strips of blood showed just how hard she was pushing.

Moving down my body, Penny pushed my pants down the rest of the way. Our eyes met as she wrapped her hand around my dick and started stroking it.

"Fuuuucckk." I groaned.

As soon as her lips touched me, my head fell back. Penny's tongue moved around my dick with so much desire that I had to focus on not cuming too early.

My eyes were closed so I wasn't aware of Penny moving. Since I was so focused on not blowing my load, I wasn't prepared for her to sit down on my dick. My hands firmly gripped her hips as she started moving forward and backward. My eyes were finally able to open. Penny had her hands in her hair with her eyes closed as she moved to her own Rhythm. I let her do her thing for just a few more minutes before I couldn't handle it anymore.

It was my turn to flip her over and get going. Penny opened her mouth to argue but I stopped her. I stopped her with my own kiss. It was my turn to have my own fun. Pinning her hands above her head, I moved down her body with my tongue. Goosebumps lined my track. As much as she squirmed under me, I held firm. As soon as my tongue touched the inside of her lips, she gave up her fight. Now, she was arching her hips into me, begging for me to keep fucking her.

This was a side of her I haven't seen before. A dominant side that wanted to be in charge. Moving back up, I just looked in her eyes and gently pushed into her.

Penny's eyes rolled in the back of her head as I moved in and out before picking up my pace. Her orgasm hit and she couldn't hold it in anymore. As my orgasm hit, my fangs extended and I bit down into her neck. The bond between us strengthened. "Oh, Colt." Penny groaned as our breathing calmed down.

"Never did I think you would bring me here to seduce me." Resting my head on my hand, I looked into her eyes. Her face was still flushed but satisfied.

"Eh... you weren't doing it." "We should probably head to the kids." My finger kept rubbing her cheek.

"Yeah, I just wanted to be alone with you. It's like they know we are together and they start screaming!" Penny laughed. Climbing off of her, I held out my hands for her to grab. "I know. Cute little guys though." "Can we go out the back way so no one sees us?" Penny asked.

She was trying to put her dress back on. "Don't want people to see how I affect you?" I teased.

"I might be finding my new role but allowing them to know I just seduced my mate isn't part of that." Penny gave a look.

"I could show them these new claw marks down my side." I threatened.

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By the time it got to the last night, the babies were all sleeping and just had ate. They were all in their own rooms, wrapped tightly in their swaddles and looked so peaceful.

It almost felt wrong to lay in bed and go to sleep for a few hours before they were up and at it again. Twice, we had gotten up and taken care of the kids before they refused to go to sleep again. It wasn't until we put all three babies in the crib that they laid next together and went to sleep.

I was laying there in bed before the sun came up, listening to the quiet noises of house when a faint sound of tires on gravel got my attention. Still, I didn't think anything of it until I heard the front door open and close. At this point, all my eternal bells were going off.

As quietly as I could, I got up and crept down the hallway. Two people were quietly whispering when I reached the stairs. "I told you no!" Relief flooded when I recognized Ice's voice. Half annoyed, I went to the babies and gathered them to take them down stairs. With any luck, Penny would be able to sleep in.

Little Adalynn was cooing softly in the bassinet I just deposited my three and went into the kitchen. "The fuck are you doing here?" I whispered.

Ice about jumped out of her skin as a quiet shriek escaped her lips. Her eyes were wide but as soon as she recognized me, she got annoyed. "The hell is wrong with you?" She has as she clutched her heart.

"You sneak into my house and you want to ask what is wrong with me?" Emmy was quietly sitting in the corner with a cup of coffee. Her snickering brought my attention to her and that instantly took the smile off her face.

"Alec got the result and he is waiting for you in your office. I can help with the babies till the nannies get here." She turned back around and started cracking eggs.

"A phone call or text would have been nice." I growled as I walked up the stairs. As quietly as I could, I walked into our bedroom, grabbed jeans, socks and a t-shirt and walked out. Getting dressed in the babies room so I didn't wake Penny up with my belt buckle, I went back down stairs.

"Here." Ice held out a thermos. The coffee smelled amazing as I just nodded my head and walked out of the house. The black coffee started melting away the sleep but the need to get a better lock on the door kept growing.

The whole drive to the pack house was a blur so when I parked and stepped out of the vehicle, I was a little surprised to find I was here already. The place was crawling with pack members and guest getting ready for the big party tonight. Why Kirsten decided she needed to be at my house cooking eggs instead, was beyond me.

My office door was open and Alec was sitting at my desk on his laptop. "Keep your mate out of my house." I grumbled as I walked in.

Alec just raised an eyebrow as I sat down on the couch. "Need sbreakfast?" Ignoring him, I just decided I might as well get to work. "Dipshit said you got results back?" "We have a list of who the girls are related to and we were able to match it. A few of these girls were part of packs that were wiped out and presumed dead. Those lands are just sitting there as far as I am aware. A few more have relatives from packs in Europe. Lastly, all the remaining girls don't have any relatives left." "What about the girls the packs were gone?" "They have relatives but they are distant and according to the records, left the original pack for their mate's pack. The other girls don't have any connection that we can find so far." "Or they lived off the grid or on the run." I added. If their family spent generations living a certain lifestyle, there wouldn't be any evidence of who they are.

"Possible but at least we know their names. They have been going by names they picked. We have to re-register them so they can pick their own names if they wanted or take back their birth names." Alec sighed.

"When are they doing that?" I asked as my stomach growled.

"A few of the other alphas wanted to be here for that. They are scheduled to be here within the hour and the girls will be here around the time. Between yours and Penny's office, this area is big enough for everyone to do it here." "That's fine. We can open everything up." Standing up, I started rearranging a few things so people could all sit here comfortably. Pulling up sfolding chairs from the closet. I had just finished moving the baby items off to the side when the office door opened and people started piling in. "I was asked to bring you this." Jace walked up with a plate of scrambled eggs, sausage with salsa and pepper on the top. "The kitchen said this is how you like it." Alec avoided my gaze as I took it. "Thanks." Taking it, I sat down in a chair and started eating.

"Why aren't you sitting behind your desk?" Lars ask as him and who I assumed his beta walked in There was a shy looking girl clutched to his hand. Her eyes were wide as they took a seat in the far corner, like she was trying to blend in. "This is Alec's show, I did my part." Shoveling a bit into my mouth, I just ignored him.

By the ti was done eating, the room was completely filled. "Is Antho-" Alec started to ask but then Anthony walked in.

"I'm here." He said and closed the door behind him. "Let's begin."

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"As the alphas know, we got all of your DNA results back. I'm not sure the best way to go about this so I am going to call the names you have been going by. I am going to ask that you walk up and stand in front of me. From there, I will tell you what I know." I watched as all the girls were visibly shaking. It occurred tothat it might have been helpful if the girls were here but I guess it was too late for that. A few of the girls were holding hand, like they had formed a friendship over the tthey were held captive. "Could Grace, Samantha, Vivian and Kenzie cforward?" I watched a four girls walked forward. Sweren't too much younger than us and swere more around our age. "Do you remember anything from your past?" I asked before Alec got started.

"No, we tired everything." The oldest girl shook her head. Tears filled her eyes but it was her shaking hands that wrapped around the other girl's shoulds that got my attention.

"I called you four because you have the sstory. Everyone needs to understand that when you beca ranking member, you are required to submit your DNA to the database for these reasons. So, when we took your blood, we were able to cross match it with those who have done the same. From that, we can figure out where you were from and match it with the missing persons report." He paused and waited until they all nodded that they understood. "The thing you all have in common is the fact that your DNA traced you back to packs that got attacked and are not active anymore. The four of you were presumed dead and everyone else in the pack were killed. However, you do have family that has been connected to you. I have not reached out to them as I felt like that was something you could do when the tis right or I could help you as well. These folders are yours and I have placed your chosen non front. With that being said, you are the remaining ranking members alive, making the pack yours. You have options as to what you want to do going forward. You can join one of our packs as a regular member or you can go back and claim your land. In those folders, there is a paper, you can either take

back your birth and claim the rights to the pack and land or you can keep your chosen and put the past behind you. You don't have to decide right now." By the end of the truth bomb, all the girls had their mouths wide open

and their gazes fixated on their folders. One by one, they each came forward, grabbed their file and sat back down in their seats.

The mood in the room was very tense. So the other girls had silent tears running down their faces. I sensed more fear than anything but their gazes at those four girls were nothing but sympathy.

"Can Hannah, Brittany, Nova, Tracy, Kelly, and Victoria stand in front of please." All the girls moved in front of Alec and stood there. Some holding hands and seem to just hold onto themselves. My eyes went over and realized Lars's beta and the girl hadn't moved. I wasn't sure which option was the worst in this situation.

"I have folders for each of you as well but your DNA traces you back to European decent. There are family members there. I have also added your missing posters that were spread around. All these are from when you were young girls, like three years old." A few of them opened their mouth to speak but shut it again. As they came forward, Alec stopped two of them from getting their folders. "I'm sorry?" One of the girls asked. I wasn't sure who was who. "You two came back with positive DNA matches. It shows you both are cousins. All that information is in there." "A-are the families there?" The girl asked.

"If I was able to retrieve them, they are. I haven't been able to do that for everyone." Her face fell as she took her folder. The girls looked at each other for a moment before going back to their seats. Ironically enough, they were sitting beside each other.

"Everyone else can step forward." Alec shifted and pulled out the smallest of the folders. "Your results are a little different. The hits we got were from fifty to seventy-five years ago. Looking further into it, there isn't any missing posters. The relatives you had showed and died natural causes. Where we would see son or daughter take over, the alpha names switch. There aren't any records of your birth on any files. Where we can trace the others back to a certain pack or territory, it appears you were raised as rogues almost. I don't have any evidence to show if your parents took you and ran from something or didn't like the change of alpha so they went to leave. Basically, I don't have answers for you. All I can

tell you is who your grandparents were. There isn't any evidence of foul play or an declaration of war. We will keep looking but I don't even know what your birth

nwas. I'm sorry I don't have any more information." They each took their folders and sat back down. Everyone was silent for awhile before I stood up to conclude this meeting. I wasn't sure what I wanted to say something to ease their minds.

"Do we have any options?" One of the girls asked, suddenly. How long do we have to decide what we want to do? "What I want you all to know is you are free." I started my speech.

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"No one got information they wanted but it's a start. You can chose to keep your chosen nor you can look into your past. Hell, you can do both. In this room, we are allies and all run our packs similar with sdifferences. If you wish to join one of our packs, you only have to walk up to them and ask. If you want to join a pack but still look into your past, you can do that. If you want to leave here and see where the world takes you, you can. However, I want you to understand there is a certain level of safety we provide. Not a single alpha in here will keep you from finding out your truth but please know, if you join a pack, you don't have any rights to being a ranking member. If you have any other questions, you are more than welcto sit down with us and ask them. We will always be available to you as you move forward with your life. You don't have to decide tonight but everyone but Alec and I will be leaving tomorrow. Everyone here is welcto stay here as long as you need to. I'm not going to be kicking you out but for safety reasons, I don't allow guest for an extended period of time. Obviously, your situation is a bit different so we can cross that bridge when it comes to it." A few of the girls seemed to take deep breaths and relax just a little. No one was crying anymore and a few of them looked like they accepted what it was.

After a few moments, the girl that looked to be the oldest stood up. "M-may we be excused to look over everything before the party tonight?" "Of course. You can find any of the staff and ask them to mind- linkif you need anything in the mean time, otherwise I should be in my office most of the day. See you all tonight." Quietly, all the girls stood up one by one. As if they didn't truly believethat they could go. At the end, only one girl was left and that was Lars's beta's mate.

"I guess we all know what I am going to ask..." She tried to give a light hearted laugh but it was almost filled with sadness. "We haven't marked each other. Are you sure this is what you want?" He looked at her a little confused.

"You just toldlast night that you didn't want to be part of a pack. I can't and I won't be leaving. This is my home. I'm happy to support you in finding out your past. We will use every resource available but I'm

not leaving." "I heard you. Between how I felt spending the night away from you and since it appears there isn't much of my family left, I might as well start building my future. I still want to know what happened to my family but I can't spend my future stuck on my past." I was really surprised to hear that from her. Not that I didn't disagree but most would need to find their families. "I'm happy to allow you to join my pack. We can have a private ceremony when we get home." Lars nodded down at his beta and his mate.

"I don't think there is anything else that needs to be discussed. Everyone is free to do what they would like to." Alec went back to his laptop and started working away.

"I'll see you all at lunch." Aston waved before heading out.

"Yeah, I got swork to do also." Carson followed him out. Anthony didn't even say anything as he jetted out of the office.

"The girls asked for shelp doing something we we will be back." Jace said as he slapped Lars on the chest.

"I forgot about that..." Lars sighed but followed Jace. His beta and mate followed them out as well.

In the end, Alec and I were the only ones left. Seeing as Alec was on my desk, I moved to Penny's to work. There was still so many emails that I needed to shift through. Smany signatures that still needed signed. At this point, I felt like I might not ever get caught up. "I figured it out." Alec yelled a little too excited.

"Figured what out?" I asked, only half paying attention.

"About the casino." That got my attention. Getting up, I moved over to Alec to see that he was talking about. "What does it say?" "The ownership was under the Midnight LLC but there is a board of trustees. All of these people are alive." Alec showedthe report he had finally able to get his hands on.

"Who are these men?" I didn't recognize any of their names.

"No idea. I think they are humans but we won't know until we have a board meeting. You will need to file for ownership transferal and then clean house if they are wolves. Assuming since Joe had a nice office, it wasn't the first the was there. Worst case, these are still his men." "This might be tricky. Penny will need to keep the title as long as this business in functional. The land could be changed easilyenough but this will get messy. She will need to decide once and for all what

she wants to be." I was so happy to see Penny find her inner strength but she can't be a luna of one pack and an Alpha of another. "She has become pretty badass." Alec muttered, half listening to me.

"She really has accepted that part of her." Sitting down in an armchair, I wasn't sure how to approach this subject with her.

"I think she will handle it just fine." Alec shrugged with little concern.

"Handle what?" The door opened and Kristen and Penny walked in with smiles on their faces.

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"We got the information back on the casino." I said as she sat down in the other seat. Kristen stood off to the side and just folded her arms over her chest.

"And?" Penny looked between us.

"The ownership is listed under Midnight LLC and there is a full board of trustees and everything. Now, since you hold the title still and the paperwork backs up you being the ownership of the Midnight LLC name, you are the ownership." Alec said, simply.

"What is the problem?" Penny didn't change her defensiveness that had built up.

"You have a choice. We can go in there and clean house. Take ownership and do all the legal work that it would take to take over the ownership. The people on the board are people that we have never heard of before so we don't know if it is all humans or wolves. We don't know if they are even Joe's men. Up until now, we have merged the Midnight pack with the Blue Fang pack. You have been known as the luna to the Blue Fang. If you keep this listed as Midnight LLC, then you would have to step into that role and not be known as luna of the Blue Fang pack." I said as I took her hand.

"If I chose to keep being the alpha of the Midnight pack, I can't be luna of the Blue Fang?" Penny asked.

"What's the difference between now and then?" "The difference is you didn't have anything under your name. The land was split and isn't known as Midnight anymore. Now, there is a property and under the werewolf law, you can't hold two ranking positions. However, we can take over the casino and then work on

merging it but you would need to decide which title you want to give up." Alec clarified.

"Okay, Let's work on changing the name switching over so the Midnight name is gone." Penny said simply.

"A-are you sure? We wouldn't have to reject each other or anything. You will have to denounce your ties to the pack when we join them together." I was shocked she was being so calm about this but then again, I wasn't.

"I wasn't ever part of the Midnight pack and the only reason we got the titles was because of Cassie. Blue Fang is my home. Everything else has been eliminated and I assumed we would just do the same as we did before so I'm not sure what this is."

"The difference is this is entirely your decision. The rest I highly encouraged you on how to move forward. There isn't a wrong or right way to do this." "I mean, I would like to just take it over and change the name. The name would be amazing for our pack and help fund my programs. I know this means so much legal work and headache but is this not the best way to go about this?" "I think that is a great choice." I said wanting to reassure her.

"Sounds good. We will get the paperwork in order so we can start the process." Alec said simply.

"What are you girls here for anyways?" I asked, ready to change the subject.

"To see if you guys want to get lunch?" "Yeah, we can get lunch. That would be nice." Alec said as his fingers flew across the keyboard.

"Just in the kitchen?" I asked.

"Yeah, they are having a taco bar. It was simple and easy to do with all these people here and the fact they are getting ready for the BBQ tonight." "Sounds good to me." I said. The desire to put off signing all this paperwork by far was greater than my hunger.

"Yeah. Might as well take a break. This paperwork will take awhile to fill out." Alec slammed his laptop down and stood up.

"How are the kids?" I asked. There was even a little withdrawal I felt from not seeing them.

"Sleeping. We just fed them and laid them down before we cdown here." Alec walked behind Kristen as she headed towards the door. Penny followed Alec and I brought up the rear. "How are they doing?" I asked as I shut the door.

"Really well. Their lives are eating, sleeping and pooping. Nothing much difference." Kristen sighed. "I can't wait till they are a little older so we can play with them." Penny laughed. "I agree but the snuggles are something else." The kitchen was over flooded as >eople were walking around, eating >r just mingling. From what could ee, no one was sitting according to acks but mingled together as one. The head table was empty from all he alpha and lunas but I wasn't completely surprised. We went to the line that had formed and waited out turn. More than once hey offered to let us put but we leclined Instead, the four of us just stened to the chatter that was joing around. A few of the girls we escued were talking about wanting o find their families. The general feel of the room was complete delight and happiness. As I went through the bar, I was vaguely aware of what I was getting. Instead, I kept my attention the pack members around me.

A group of guys tried to hit on sgirls but got shut down hard. There was a group of guys wrestling in the corner of er of the room and a group of girls happily gossiping about something. It was like our lives had finally gotten the chance to go back to a normalcy. Friendships were formed and bonds were found. "Earth to Colt!" Kristen snapped her fingers in front of my face.

"What?" Taking a bite of rice, I tried to act like I was paying attention.

"What do you think?" She asked, knowing she caughtnot listening.

"I wasn't listening." I said, not wanting her to win.

"What do you think about having a ceremony for Penny? To signify her retiring her alpha title."

Tattooed Luna

"Do you know where they were making the mutant wolves?" "I didn't. I was only part of recruiting the women here. He would havego to human pubs or homeless shelter and find swith no families." He didn't even blink as he answered.

"Do you know anything about a casino?" "Oh yeah. Rip owned that and he used it to finance the whole thing. The idea was really Rip's and Darin just took it over when he was old enough. Vin was Darin's right hand threw it all so when they died, he tried taking it over. Except, he was pissing everyone off and not paying

off people like Rip would. That's why he called in his uncle. Joe had been here weeks before I think you probably found out about it. Though, my tline might be off, head injury and all." "What did Vin want with Penny?" "He wanted what he felt like she owed him. Darin promised Vin a lot of things that he had no intention giving out. Vin didn't think you would find the casino because it was under the Midnight nand he wouldn't accept that a girl was an alpha. He blamed Penny for it all since it was her mother that had Penny first. All this would have been avoided if Penny wasn't around. Vin wanted everything Darin had.

"That was a lot of nothing." Alec said, behind me.

"I'm not sure what to tell you. There isn't sbig truth bomb. Vin was just trying to take everything Darin had built. He would had lost it all if it wasn't for Joe but I wasn't privy to any of that." "Is there anyone else that is still alive that would cback to try to kill Penny?" I asked.

"No. I'm the last person. Though, the warriors might still hold a grudge but I haven't talk to any of them." "What are your intentions?" Alec asked.

"I just want to live a quiet life with Kara. I'll join your pack." Gunther's eyes scrunched together.

"Penny is his alpha." Alec muttered in realization.

Shit, he was right. She was still his alpha. "She is what?" Gunther asked.

"Penny. She is technically still the alpha of the Midnight River pack." I clarified. "We joined the lands but we haven't officially gotten rid of the name." "Well, shit." Gunther looked shocked. "So, all the warriors that are under your command?" "I'm her mate, that makesable to command them to listen." Shrugging, it wasn't a big deal will now.

"However, we are joining everything and the Midnight River pack will be gone." "Probably for the best." Kara whispered as she looked at the ground.

Alpha, I did as you asked. I went >ack under cover willingly. I let you our deaths. I \$ ready to give ak life to help you so could be free my life to rom Vin. Now Vin is dead and I'm skinng for my life back." Gunther ept his back straight but he was ware his future was in my hands. Still, he wasn't wrong. "People will not take kindly to seeing your face again." "I'm aware. I was hoping you would let them know what I sacrificed... what we sacrificed and hopefully they could find it in their hearts to forgive." "We could just leave the pack and never cback..." Kara said in a hopeful voice.

"No, Kara. This is your home. We have no money, no where to go. We literally the clothes on our backs. We need to at least stay for awhile or until we get back on our feet." Gunther looked at Kara with an expression I hoped to never see again.

"You will be under probation. You each will have a job that I assign you and you will put in the tto make it up to the pack. You betrayed everyone here, Kara. Gunther, you nack are literally the enemy. The crimes I said at the trial still resinate in their hearts. It will take tand effort on your part. Tonight, I will make an announcement. There is a BBQ for everyone before they leave tomorrow."

"Where will we live?" Kara asked as silent tears ran down her face.

"You will stay in a room I assign in the packhouse." I wasn't sure I was making the right call but I did tell them they could have a fresh start if they went under cover for me. "I'll talk to Penny and we can have a meeting about it later to discuss further action." "What aboutjoining the pack?" Gunther took in what I said and accepted it all.

"At the end of your probation, we will decide on your future." I said, firmly.

"Why are you doing this, Colt? Why not just exile us and you will never see us again!" Kara was crying. The anger in her eyes didn't surprise me. She was going to have to face her family, her friends and her old life.

All the people she betrayed, it was coming back to bite her in the ass.

"KARA!" Gunther said, shocked. "You can't sa-" I held up my hand to stop him from talking. "Kara, running from your choices isn't going change anything. You had choices... both of you, You could have walked up to my office and toldwhat was going on and I would have helped you. Instead, you committed treason. Now you get to face the people you turned your back on. If you want my forgiveness, this is how you are going to do it. You don't have a choice. If you run, I'll hunt you down and bring you back kicking and screaming." "What happened to Zac?" Gunther asked after a short pause.

"He has been confined to his house with Cassie. I'll be allowing him to cout of house arrest tonight too." "Good." Gunther had something in his eyes that toldI wanted to be there when they cface to face.

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Tattooed Luna

"You did what?" Penny was looking at like I was crazy.

Currently, we were getting ready to walk downstairs to the BBQ. She had ran hearlier and got us clothes to wear tonight. Penny was wearing a fun, light blue cotton dress. It had buttons down the front and she had put on white sneakers. Leaving her hair down, she did a light layer of makeup and looked perfect as always.

She grabbed a pair of jeans and a simple white button up, athletic fit shirt. "What was I suppose to do. I told them if they went under cover, we would forgive them. It was the only way I could figure out how to get to Vin. Besides, they only want to be with each other." Penny was not taking the news about Kara and Gunther as well as I hoped. "I don't want them here. Why can't they just be exiled and be done with it?" "For starters, you are his alpha. You hold the title and he is still part of your pack. Second, the pack will give them a hard tbut eventually, they will forgive them. If I let them go, there would always be that regret in their hearts. They need this." "What about what I need?" Penny put her hands on her hips and looked at with so much anger, it surprised me.

"Why are you so angry about this? I figured you wouldn't be happy but I didn't think you would be this angry." Finishing buttoning my shirt, I was ready to go.

Penny crossed her arms. "I just want to forget everything. I had to give birth in a hotel, watching you fight for our lives and..." Penny closed her eyes. "I don't want to remember and that is all I see when I see them." Walking up to her, I pulled her into my chest. She turned her head so her makeup wouldn't get on my shirt.

"I understand that was very traumatic for you. I didn't enjoy it either but I have to stand by my word. If a man doesn't have his word, how trustworthy is he?" There was a knock on the door that kept Penny from answering. Instead, she pulled away from and walked over to the door. Afte collecting herself, she opened the door to Alec and Kristen.

"Hey! Are you guys ready to head down?" Ice asked as she looked at Penny's dress. "That is too cute!" Kristen was wearing a maxi dress and a jean jacket with her

hair in a pony tail. Alec was in jeans and a black button up. "Apparently, we are the last to head down." He said.

"Well, let's head down." Penny had on a smile and waited till Kristen and Alec went first. "After you." Kristen took Penny's arm. "We can walk together!" Alec just shook his head and followed the girls. Coming in last, it was my responsibility to shut the door. The babies were wailing and the nannies were just hanging out, waiting for us to leave. With two guards at the door, I was getting more and more comfortable leaving them for short periods at a time. As soon as we made it downstairs, the sun was starting to set. Soft lighting had turned on, music was playing and the smell of BBQ made my stomach growl. "This turned out good." "Thank you!" Kristen guided us over to one of the head tables. She had placed multiple tables for each Alpha to sit up front. "Colt, they are ready for your speech and then we can eat and mingle." Carson said as he walked up to me.

"Kara, are you in position?" I mind-linked her as I walked up to the podium.

"Y-yes." She said. Her voice made it sound like she might cry at any moment.

"Good. Be ready." I said, firmly and walked up. "Hello!" I said in the microphone.

The tent was large enough that it wasn't a bad idea to have a microphone. Within seconds, the noise quieted down and the music turned off. Kara and Gunther were in a little tent off to the side. I had asked people to put up Do Not Disturb signs so they wouldn't be seen before I was ready for them to.

"Thank you all for coming tonight! There has been so many emotions lately and with all the ups and downs, a little relaxing was defiantly needed. I have one announcement I need to make before we continue to enjoy tonight's festivities." Looking back at Penny, she had her arms folded and wasn't happy. Kristen and Alec had picked up on her emotions. Alec knew what was going to happen but apparently, he hadn't told Kristen because she looked confused.

"Not that I need to explain my reasonings to anyone but I feel like everyone here deserves an explanation." I paused trying to find the right words. "Many times, when people are in danger, you have to use the tools that are in front of you. When an opportunity presents itself, you have to take it by the horns and not look back. That is what I did. I saw an opportunity at a point in this war that could have broken the case wide open. If you are from my pack, you will remember when we held a trial for Kara, Gunther and Zac for treason. They were found guilty and sentenced to death. What you don't know... is I faked their death." A loud gasp ran across the tent. "WHAT?" A few people yelled out.

"I made a deal with them. I would fake their deaths and toss their bodies at Vin's feet. My hope was that Vin would believe I failed aback.

killing them and take them This plan worked. They were invited back at Vin's private mansion. I have put trackers on them so we followed them there. I can go into details but the bottom line is they put their lives on the line so I could gather information."