

Tattooed Luna

C 541-550

Chapter 541

“DAMNIT BREATHE!” | heard before something heavy pounded my chest.

“KRISTEN!” Emmy's cries brought back as the water expelled from my body.

“She’s alive!” | heard someone yell before my body was picked up and wrapped tightly in something warm.

“She needs a hospital fast!” | wasn’t even sure who was carrying as | was lifted up. The cold ran bone deep and | couldn't stop shaking.

“Give her here.” | heard someone say before | was passed off. It wasn't a moment later that the blanket was ripped from my frozen grip and | was pressed against a warm body. The sparks told Alec had found me.

“Drive.” Alec said angrily as he positioned on his chest. My body was completely covered but he kept opening it to look at me.

“Stay awake. Don’t you dare close your eyes.” He growled and commanded me.

“Nnnnice....ttttry.” | said as my teeth chattered together.

“What won't work?” Alec asked in confusion.

“Commmmandddding mmmme.” It hurt to breath. Hurt to move but | tried to get my body as tightly against Alec as | could. His arms were tight, holding against him.

“Don’t talk right now. Just stay away.” Alec said a little softer.

“Nnnnnnooot rrrrooggggues.” | tried to speak again.

“Shhh, we will talk later.” Alec moved his hands up and down my body to try to warm me.

“Two minutes.” | heard someone say.

My mind was becoming clearer as the shivering wasn’t so violent.

“Pppppennny? “Eeemmy?”

“They are alive.” Alec grunted as the car came to a stop. He pulled out into the cold, making shrink back and hold onto him.

“Put her here!” | heard a woman say.

Alec listened and set down but | didn’t want him to let go. “Nnnnno!” | tried to reach for him but he wasn’t there.

“Weak pulse, slurred speech, her breathing is shallow and she is blue!” | heard voices but | wasn’t comprehending. Where was Alec and what happened to Emmy and Penny?

“Get an L.V. going. Sir, you are going to have to wait outside.” A male voice said. My body reacted on its own and moved away from his voice.

“NO! NO!” | screamed as Darin’s face flashed before my eyes. “DON’T TOUCH ME!” | tried slapping their hands away. The light was

too bright and | couldn't see anything. "DON'T TOUCH ME, DARIN!" | screamed.

"Kristen!" Alec's voice sounded beside me. "Darin is dead. You are alive. You are not trapped there anymore. Listen to me. Listen to my voice." My body instantly relaxed as | heard his voice.

"Alec?" | asked as a sob hit me. "Too bright."

"We have to get an I.V in her before her body shuts down from the cold. She is hypothermic and will die!" The male voice said.

Shrinking away from him, | held onto Alec like my life depended on it. "She has been through sever trauma in the past. Is there a female doctor? She isn't afraid of females." | heard a voice | recognized.

"Kristen. | am a nurse and | want to help you. Can | touch you?" The softest voice sounded to me.

| didn't speak but | nodded yet. Between her and Alec, they moved back to the middle of the bed. Alec kept ahold of my hand

the entire time. "Let her save you, love." Alec whispered to me.

"Can | start an I.V.?" She asked as she stroke my arm.

Again, | nodded yes. "Can we turn the lights down?" The familiar voice asked.

"Let get the I.V. in and then we can." The soft voice said. Something tight wrapped around my arm before a pinch in my hand.

The tightness went away and warmth spread through my body. "Okay, you can dim the lights."

The lights went away and | was able to try to open my eyes. "I am going to put this heating blanket on you." Looking through one

eye, | saw a female nurse say to me.

Nodding, she removed the blanket that was on and put a heavier one on my naked body. "I am going to have to look at that bite mark."

"Her ankle is broken too." As | was able to look through my eyes, | saw Colt standing in the corner of the room with his arms folded.

A hand rested on my head and stroke my hair, making | look over at Alec. He looked fucking pissed and scared at the time.

"What happened?" | asked.

"What do you remember?" He asked as the nurse lifted the blanket and inspected my thigh. The door opened and another female came in.

"A female doctor was requested then why are there two men in here?" She asked in a very disapproving way.

"One is her brother and the other is her husband." | knew the nurse was a wolf but the doctor was human.

"Injuries?" The doctor looked at my chart.

"Broken ankle and hypothermia."

"What about the thigh?" The doctor asked.

"Old wound from awhile ago. It's healing nicely, | just wanted to check it to make sure the crash didn't disturb it." The nurse waved off the doctor's concern.

"Let's get an x-ray and see how bad the ankle is. Do you have a heated I.V in there?" The doctor looked at the fluids.

"I do. Her pulse is getting better and the confusion is less. She is mentally becoming more aware of her surroundings." The nurse

looked at and nodded.

"Great. Let know when the radiographs are back." She said and walked out.

"Bitch." I couldn't help myself.

"Yes well, your bite marks do look okay. If there was anything, the cold water killed it all. Your color is looking better but I want to

do this bag and another bag of fluids before your mate takes you home."

"Any long lasting injuries?" Colt asked.

"I don't think so. As soon as we get out of the danger zone of hypothermia, she will get her wolf back and she will heal her in one

time. Everything she said was her subconscious coming back out. Like you said, her past trauma is still with her. As soon as she is

warm, she can go home." The nurse smiled and walked out.

Chapter 542

"Penny? Emmy?" I tried to keep the shiver out of my voice.

"Everyone is fine. Penny has a broken her arm but she is fine. You saved Emmy when you rolled over the one rogue and she was

able to finish the other one off. We got there just in time for one of my men to jump in and save you."

"One of your men?" I asked, confused.

"I had guys scouting an area. They were only a few minutes away from your location. I swear to everything that is holy. If you

ever fucking crash again and | am on the phone with you..." Alec shook his head. | felt the despite, almost scared feeling he had.

"The jeep would have kept us safe if Penny's window wasn't down. You did a great job reinforcing it." | tried to reassure him.

"Penny and Emmy want to cin." Colt said quietly.

"They can cin."

Colt opened the door and Emmy stuck her head in. "Are you okay?" She asked quietly. Slowly, they made their way inside.

"Please tell our dresses survived?" | asked. Alec snorted but refused to let go of my hand.

"They did." Emmy smiled at me.

"I'm so sorry!" Penny had a tear stained face as she walked up to me. "I was feeling a little hot and wanted sair." A fresh wave of tears ran down her face.

"It's okay! Don't cry. It wasn't your fault those rogues hit us."

"Alec, those weren't rogues." Emmy said, firmly as she looked at Alec.

"We know." Alec said. The anger that filled him was intense.

"You know?" | asked, looking at him.

"Colt got a good look at them. Between them and the ones that attack his pack, something is going on." Alec said but we fell quiet as the nurse cin to change my LV.

"How are you feeling?" She smiled warmly at me.

"Like I'll never get warm." | was so cold that my bones were shivering.

"In time. your tempature is already improving so good. I'm going to take an x-ray of your ankle real quick."

Everyone moved off to the side as she placed something under my ankle. Moving the machine over me, she positioned just right and clicked the button. The x-ray instantly showed up on the screen.

"Yeah, we need to reset it. Do you want to numb it before I do it?"

"No, just do it." I said as I squeezed Alec's hand harder. Colt covered and took my other hand.

"On the count of three-" She snapped it quickly. A sharp pain shot up my leg but I didn't cry out. Instead, my jaw clenched shut as I

tried to steady my breathing. "Impressive. Most people can't handle that."

"That isn't my first joint to be out of place." I said before I realized what I said. Her body froze for a second before she decided to ignore that comment.

"You will need a boot but you will probably be healed in a few days. Don't overdo it."

"No cast?" Colt asked.

"She will heal before we could even get her back to take it off. A boot will keep it in place to heal. It's pretty minor so a boot will be

fine." She typed a few things out and then looked at me. "I'll get it and clothes for you. I'll be back to get you discharged."

"Thank you." I said as she walked out the door.

"Who do you think is behind it all?" Penny asked. Looking over, she was holding onto Colt's arm with her good arm. The fear in her

eyes was clear.

“Hard to say.” Alec said quietly.

“The weird thing was there was only four. It’s like it was planned but very poorly.” | kept feeling like | was missing something.

“Like they underestimated your abilities.” Colt was still clearly pissed off.

“Exactly.”

“Everyone is dead. Who else would want to cafter us?” Emmy asked.

“Someone from Italy?” Penny asked.

“Doubt it but | guess it’s possible.

“Why don’t you guys bring the car around. My 1.V is almost done and | want to get out of here as soon as | can. | want want to see my daughter.”

“Ice...” Emmy looked nervous. “...you almost died. You DID die. A-are you okay?”

“| thought the sappy Emmy went away after she gave birth?” | gave her a look that made her smile.

“That was not a good look on me.” Emmy laughed as she turned and walked out.

Penny followed her but Colt stopped and looked at me. “Ice?”

| gave him a weak smile and tried to tell him that | loved him and | was okay. He must have gotten the message and nodded at me

before looking at Alec. “I’ll be by later this evening after she gets settled.”

“Sounds good.” Alec muttered before Colt walked out.

"Kristen..." Alec shook his head like he couldn't find the words to say what he wanted to say.

"I'm okay." | tried to tell him again.

"You're not. You thought you were back being tortured by Darin." Alec looked atlike | stabbed him in the heart.

"It was the sthing. Joint out of place, | was barely alive and | wasn't aware of what was going on around me. Alec, | looked up

and saw the hole getting further and further away. Memories of you and Adalynn flashed before my eyes. | should have died but

you saved me. You savedlast tand you savedthis time. You are my hero."

| tried to reach over and kiss him but my body was too sore. "Don't move." Alec sighed and kissed my forehead.

"| want to go to bed with you and just lay there."

"We can. However, we need to get your home. You can take a long hot shower and the curl up in front of the fire."

"We could do what we did last night... that will warmright up." | tried to look seductively at him.

Tattooed Luna

"Woman..." Alec shook his head but looked atjust like | pictured. "You need to stop trying to die on me. Do you know what it's like to watch your

mate lifeless under your arms? You take a piece ofwith you every tthis happens."

"I didn't try to go in the water. | tried to get out." | felt bad he went through this but it wasn't like | put myself in that position.

"I know. Look at the bruises that are forming on your arms."

Pulling the blanket to the side, my arm slipped out from under the heated blanket. Deep purple bruises were forming on my arms. There was multiple spots where my arms hit the edge of the ice. “Oh.”

There was a soft knock on the door a moment before the nurse looked in. “How are you feeling?” She asked. Walking in, she had a medical boot and clothes with her.

“Ready to go home.”

“I bet. Lettake the 1.V. out. | have a wheel chair for you. As much as you probably don’t want it, you body is still not functioning property. Until you

get back to a normal temp, be careful holding babies, anything breakable or doing anything strenuous. You will probably be sore tomorrow but again,

your wolf will heal you. If | may, take a hot shower and body heat is the best way to keep your body tempature where it needs to be.”

She had pulled the I.V out and put a bandage over it. “Sounds good.” | said as | tried to sit up. She was right, | was incredibly weak.

“I don't have anything warmer than scrubs.” The nurse frowned. “Did you still have the blanket you brought her in?” She asked Alec.

“Yeah, I'll have them bring it.” Alec sighed as he helpedsit up. Together, they gotdressed and the nurse but on the boot.

“Can you carry her to the wheelchair?” The nurse asked as she helpedswing my legs around.

“Sure.”

“Gently.” | said as my body protested

“Still think you are up for sex?” Alec asked in the mind-link.

“Of course. I'll just lay there and you can do all the work.” | said as he placedin the wheelchair. It was just outside the room so | saw Jasper walk

up with the blanket.

“Damn, luna. You look like shit.” He joked.

Alec growled and | laughed. Which hurt. “Even half dead, | look better than you.”

“Luna?” The nurse asked, she took a step back and looked at Alec. “What pack are you from?”

“Black Moon Pack.” Alec said.

“I should have recognized your names. I'm part of Alpha Jace's pack.”

“Little far from home, aren't you?” Alec asked.

“I am. | am part of a traveling nursing program. It was a pleasure to meet you both. | hope next t| see you it isn't in the hospital.” She bowed and

started to walk away.

“What was your name?” | asked, quickly.

“Melonie.” She answered with a smile.

“Please cto our winter ball next weekend. You can ask Jace about details.”

“I will, thank you.” She waved before walking away.

“Let's go.” Alec pushed the wheel chair down the hall but stopped before going outside. “Where is the car?”

“To the left.” Jasper said and went outside. He motioned for the car to pull forward so | didn't have to be in the cold any longer. It was still snowing.

As soon as it pulled up, Alec picked up and carried out to the SUV. Jasper opened the door and Alec climbed in the middle. He followed us

and got in the back with Emmy. Colt and Penny were up front.

“Let's go.” Alec grumbled as he got us situated. | was still on his lap with my head on his shoulder.

“Can | sleep now?” | asked in the mind-link.

“Yes, love. You are safe. | have you.” Alec squeezed tighter and | closed my eyes. Grabbing a fist full of his shirt, it didn't take long for to let

the blackness fill me.

“Love, we are here.” Alec was rubbing my back as he tried to wake up.

“Already?” | yawned as | saw my house in the windows.

“Yeah. You need to take a shower to finish warming up. Then we will get you in comfy clothes.”

Alec didn't verbally answer but when

the door shut I assumed he nodded.

Alec carried me all the way to the «_

bath room, Sitti ngon the toilet”

he turned the shower on. He didn't

say anything as he took my boot off

and then got undressed: He got

himself undressed and then helped

. 2)

At first the water was too much so

Alec turned it down until | got

comfortable then turned it up. Soon,

my shivers stopped and my skin &

turned red. Thankfully, we had a

bench that Alec could sit on as

he washed my hair and the my

body. As the water hit me he

washed his body.

After he was done, he kneeled in front of me. "How are you feeling? Do you want to sit here longer?"

"Of course." Alec stood and moved to get out.

That surprised him that I was showing this much vulnerability.

Usually, I like to be alone but right now,

I waited him with me. <

Thankfully, he didn't respond but he

picked up and sat down, putting

STN

me on his lap. It wasn't sexual but

regret of comfort. Leaning

rested my head on his chest,

relaxing to his breathing patterns.

Tattooed Luna

"I think I'm ready now." I told Alec after a few more minutes of us sitting here.

He stood up and helped out of the shower before turning it off. There was a towel on the toilet he sat on so he could dry off easier. As soon as he dried my body, he wrapped a towel around his body. I took a brush and brushed my hair as he went to the bedroom to get us clothes.

He came back as soon as I was done brushing my hair. Alec helped into a thick pair of sweats and a long sleeve shirt. He put socks on my feet before putting my boot on.

I expected him to help to the living room but instead, he picked up the blow dryer and started working on my hair. It was a little awkward as he wasn't exactly sure how to do this but I appreciated the effort. By the end, my hair was dry. Grabbing a clip, I clipped it back.

"I'm ready." Putting my arm around his neck, he helped to oversized chair. Giving the fluffiest blanket we had, he got a fire started. "Do you want anything hot to drink? Coffee? Hot chocolate?" A knock on the door kept from answering. "Colt's here already?" "No, that's Jasper." Alec said as he went to the door.

I heard Emmy walk in with my dress. She went straight to my closet and hung it up. "How are you feeling?" Jasper walked in front of and held out a cup.

"Sore." I said as I reached out and took it.

"Emmy said you might want shot chocolate." Jasper said as she came out of the bedroom. Alec went back to the fire.

"Thank you." I said as Emmy crawled under the blanket and sat beside me.

"You saved my life today." Emmy whispered.

"Sounds like you need to start training again." I said as I took a sip.

"How's your thigh?" Jasper asked.

"It's fine. I'm really just sore from trying to get on the ice." "The bite didn't go too deep. Plus, the cold water helped stop any bleeding so it's really looking good." Alec said as he stood up.

"I bet you are tired. We can talk tomorrow if need be?" Jasper looked at and then over at Alec.

"Where's Adalynn?" I asked Alec.

"She is in her room sleeping. Vivian just left." That really sucked. I knew the hospital stay forced to miss her bed but part of was hoping she was awake. "It's fine. We can talk now." I said but I really just wanted everyone to go away.

"You sure?" Emmy asked.

"Yeah, we are sleeping in tomorrow so don't call me." The hot chocolate felt amazing as it went down my throat.

The front door opened. Turning, we watched Colt walk in, take off his boots and into the livingroom.

"You're looking better." He said as he crouched down next to me. The back of his hand touched my cheek and forehead before he stood up and frowned. "Still

feeling cold." "The shower really helped." "Did you find anything out?" Alec got straight to it. He wasn't in the mood to talk but it was either now or in the morning.

"No. The men in the lake aren't going to be able to retrieve. It's too cold for divers right now. The one I assSierra killed is unrecognizable. So, we have one of them. He's not on any data base for where he might belong. There aren't any markings on him either." "We we have nothing." "How is he unrecognizable?" Jasper asked.

"She had his head between her legs. Reaching around, her claws dug into his neck and pulled it apart. Part of his face might have cwith it." I shrugged.

"Damn." Jasper shook his head and looked at Emmy.

"Can I start training again?" She asked him.

"Yeah, okay." Jasper shook his head and looked at Alec.

"We have nothing to go on." "Maybe it was a freak thing?" Emmy tried.

Alec folded his arms and sat down on the fireplace. His eyes stayed onfor the most part unless he was talking to someone. "Highly unlikely. We need to think about who else it could be." "So far, their attempts have been pretty minimal. The attack at my pack was smaller and they sent four to attack the girls. That trip was a last minute decision. It might have been an opportunity kind of thing." Colt tried to rationalize things. "There are still people who supported Rip. They could have just seen the girls and said, why not." "Let's stay alert and hope these are just normal pack attacks. We all know the risks of traveling to neutral territory." Colt tried to down play it like it wasn't a direct attack on us.

"Hey! Why are you assuming it will bethat gets hurt? Next tit is your turn!" "Nope. Next tI am going to throw you in front of them to save myself. I just need to be faster than you." My eyes traveled down her body and back up. Giving her a disapproving look.

"Exactly, you are suppose to die to protect me. If I happen to toss you in harms way to save myself, no one will be around to ratout. You will be dead." Shrugging, it was really her loss. "Sorry for you luck."

Tattooed Luna

Chapter 0545 “To think I brought you your dress even.” Emmy shook her head at me.

“It’s really anyone else’s turn to get hurt. I’m tired of being that person.” “Hey! I got hurt pretty bad last time! I almost died!” Jasper raised his hands up in his defense.

“True.” I nodded. “I still saved your ass.” “Getting back to the topic at hand.” Colt sighed. “I haven’t heard back from the other alphas. They will all be here next weekend for the ball. So far, none of them have been attacked so other than being aware, I’m not sure what

else we can do.” “I have to go to the shop tomorrow.” “I’ll swing by and check on you.” Colt offered.

“I’ll be around as well. There are a few things I need to do.” Alec stood up and cracked his knuckles.

“Isn’t Calvin suppose to start tomorrow?” Emmy asked.

“Yeah. He passed his classes and is ready to start. I have a few people lined up that have multiple tattoos that are willing to let him work on them. I promised I would fix any fuck ups for no charge.” I said as I yawned.

“Let’s get going.” Jasper looked at his watch. “We need to get up early as well.”

Emmy sighed but wiggled out from the chair. “I’ll bring you lunch at the shop.” “Sounds good. Make it something hot.” “Will do.” Emmy reached out and squeezed my hand before she walked to the front door.

“Feel better.” Jasper said as he was passed. “Thank you for saving Emmy.” “Anytime.” What was I going to do, let her die? As soon as they were out of the door, Colt came over and sat down on the edge of the chair. “Ice, you’re not okay.” It was a statement, not a question.

“I honestly don’t know why I went

there. When I set fire to the packhouse, I let go of all the hatred and negative feelings. I haven’t even thought about that whole ordeal.” “It was a very real trauma. Suppression isn’t healing. You have to stop pushing your feelings down and work through them.” Colt put his hand on my boot.

“Exactly how do you suppose I do that? Everyone is dead. There isn’t a reason I should still have any negative feelings and it isn’t like I am walking around reliving it. I’ve been going to work by myself. I’ve raised Adalynn and never once have I had a thought about it. I don’t feel anything.” “What do you feel?” Colt pushed.

“Right now, cold.”

Colt gave me a look that told me he wasn’t happy with my answer. “Come on, be serious. I’m worried about you.” “I don’t know what you want me to say. I don’t dream about it. Have I woken up crying or yelling out?” Looking at Alec.

“No.” “All I can say is it was very similar. It was a near death experience and my mind just related the two. I wasn’t sure what was going on around me and a trauma like that isn’t something someone gets over. It’s something you learn to live with and I think I’ve adapted very well.” I looked at Alec for help. “Have I not been checking in more? I’ve been more open about my feelings. Hell, I even made you stay in

the shower with me so I wasn’t alone.” “I’m just saying I’m worried about you. Seeing you thrash around on the hospital bed was a déjà vu that I didn’t need to have. It affects us too when you almost die.” “I promise I will try to work on whatever is going on with me when I figure it out.” I wasn’t sure what he wanted me to say. I still didn’t believe I had a problem.

Colt gave me a look but eventually gave up. “I’ll be bugging you about this until I am satisfied you are mentally okay.” “You’re not mentally okay. When was the last time you got a full night’s sleep?”

Colt pointed a finger at me. “Don’t turn this around on me.” Finishing off my hot chocolate, I looked at his expression. He was trying not to smile and remain serious. “Colt.

I’m tired and ready to go to bed.” “Sis, you will never get rid of me.” This time, he did smile as he bent down and kissed my forehead. “I’ll call you tomorrow.” He said to Alec and shook his hand.

“Late, man. Drive safe.” Alec walked him to the door. They exchanged a few words that I couldn’t hear but I was too tired and cold to care. &» I was setting my cup down when Alec walked back. He didn’t say anything as he gently got into the chair. I had to move a little so we were comfortable.

“I feel like I have improved from the

day you met me.” I didn’t need to elaborate on what I was referring to. “You have.” [os That was it. You have? “Not going to say anything else?” I leaned away and looked at him. I was slightly hurt by this.

“I think you have made amazing strides in dealing with your emotions.

Honestly, you haven’t made me think once that you were still suffering from that trauma. I’m not going to lie and I wasn’t waiting for it to come crashing down but maybe your subconscious is telling you that it’s something you still carry with you.” Alec rested his head on his hand and looked at the fire. He was battling with his emotions. There was some confusion, anger, concern but mostly

he was feeling hopeless. “You think I am suffering alone and not telling you?” Gm | “You wouldn’t be able to hide that from me.” Alec didn’t even look at me as he talked. He stared into the fire. “I would know if you were suffering. No, I just can’t get the images of you. More than once I have sat beside you in a hospital bed. You were on the brink of dying, covered in blood and bruises. I can’t do that again. I need you here.

Adalynn needs you.” @» I wasn’t sure what to say so I just laid my head down and watched the fire.

Tattooed Luna

Chapter 0546 As I stood in the shower, alone, flashes of last night flashed in my mind. At some point, I had fallen asleep on the chair. Alec had carried me to our room, removed my boot and cuddled against me as I slept.

However, this morning, I woke up to his side of the bed, empty.

It was still dark, I checked on Adalynn who was sleeping still and the fresh footprints leading away from the front door told me he must have gone for a run. If he wasn’t back by the time I got out of the shower, I was going to mind-link him.

Still, I wasn’t convinced I had any repressed trauma floating around in my head. However, seeing how much

Alec was suffering as he watched me heal time and time after again. It made me realize that it wouldn’t hurt to be extra careful. My life isn’t just my life anymore and as much as I wanted to be carefree to have a risk free life, it may not be that way.

The hot water felt good but Adalynn was going to be awake soon. Stepping out, I wrapped a towel around me and walked to my closet. Since I was going to be working in my shop today, I picked out a thick pair of leggings and a long dresser sweater. That would be easy to wear my boot with. Still feeling a little cold, I picked some fluffy socks out to match. Wanting to look a little more presentable, I added some makeup and did my hair. I was getting really good at curling my hair. Adalynn started crying right as I was finishing

putting hairspray on.

“Hey baby girl.” I cooed as I went into her room. She reached out for me. My heart physically ached as I thought about not being able to do this again. It was too the point that I had water in my eyes as I changed her diaper and carried her to the high chair.

Unfortunately for me, Alec got home as I was wiping my eyes. “Are you okay?” “Yeah. I just was thinking about everything you said last night and when I went to get her, I just couldn’t help but thinking if I died, I wouldn’t get to ever see this little girl grow up.” Alec came over to me. He was wearing a sweater and sweat pants but he still felt cold from being outside. “I’m

sorry. I didn’t mean to put all that on you.” “This can’t be a one sided relationship.

You can’t be worried about me that you can’t emotionally open up to me.” I pushed him away as I tried to dry my tears.

Adalynn was starting to cry as she wanted her breakfast. “Mommy’s cutting up a banana.” Alec went to comfort our daughter as I finished it up.

Taking the cutting board, I pushed all the bananas on her try. “There you go.” I said, smiling through the tears.

I started on her bottle as Alec watched me work. “How are you feeling?” Glancing at him, I had a sarcastic

remark that I couldn’t hold back from.

“Emotionally, physically or sexually?” Alec rolled his eyes at me but couldn’t help smirk at me. “Physically.” “I’m still cold but okay. Ankle isn’t too bad but still really sore. Should be better by tomorrow.” I pulled up my sleeves. “These bruises are already looking like they are healing.” My forearms were basically all yellow at this point.

“Emotionally?” Alec asked as I put my sleeves back down.

Setting the bottle down on Adalynn’s tray, I leaned against the counter and looked at him. “I don’t know. What you said really got to me. I guess I have some thinking to do.”

Alec just nodded in response. He looked at Adalynn for awhile and back at me. There just felt like there was this space between us and I didn’t like it.

“Why are you feeling... almost broken hearted?” Looking down, I went to the sink and started loading the dishwasher. “I guess I feel like there is this disconnect between us now. I don’t like it.” Alec move to come closer to me but the door bell rang. “Damit.” Alec muttered as he went to answer it.

Truthfully, I was a little relieved as I was about done talking about my emotions but I didn’t like feeling like Alec and I were on two separate planes.

Thad just finished cleaning when | Vivian and Alec walked in.

“Good Morning!” She was all smiles

today and Adalynn started screaming in delight.

“Good morning. I need to run but I am going to try to be back early today to spend some quality time with Adalynn.

Give you the evening off.” I gave her the best smile I could muster right now.

“You don’t have to do that but I guess after the day you had yesterday, good quality family time is what is most important. Nothing is more important than family. I’m so glad to have an alpha and luna that have such a great relationship that they always put each other’s needs first and now their daughter.” Vivian grabbed a wash cloth and started cleaning Adalynn up.

Alec and I just looked at each other for a moment, not saying anything. It

seemed like forever until I took a deep breath and put on a fake smile. “I love you little girl.” I said with all the emotion I could give. Feeling like I might cry again, I quickly kissed her on the cheek and waved

goodbye before darting into the garage.

Grabbing the car keys and my coat, I got in and started her up. The garage door opened, allowing me to pull out and head to my shop. Thankfully, the roads were

bad but I still drove slow as I needed the time alone. So much for what little makeup I did as I just allowed the tears to flow down my face.

Maybe I did need this.

Tattooed Luna

Chapter 0547 It's been five minutes that I have been sitting in my car, trying to make my face look like I haven't just bawled my eyes out. After fanning my face, I even looked for extra make up in my purse to see if I could fix it.

My phone buzzed in the cup holder.

Reaching down, I looked at who send me a message.

Alec: Nothing will ever come between us. I' love you more than anything. I'm just scared to lose you.

I had to blink away more tears as what he said really touched my heart. I had a few different responses typed out but | finally decided on what I wanted to say.

Me: I'm a lot of things but my priority will always be you and Adalynn. Maybe you can take the afternoon off and.

spend it with Adalynn and I? Getting out of the car, the cold wind hit me in the face, making me wish I just stayed home today. It was a quick jog inside and the warmth of the heater was welcoming.

"Hey, Luna!" Calvin was cleaning the floors.

"Hey! You are early." I said as I checked my watch.

"Yeah, I was nervous so I got here a little early to make sure everything was ready to go." Calvin rubbed the back of his neck as he looked around.

"I'm going to set my stuff down and I'll be at the desk if you need

anything." I yelled as I walked into my office. My phone buzzed in my hand.

Alec: That would be great. Maybe we both can think about what we need to say and we can reconnect. I don't want you feeling this way.

Me: reconnect... sexually??? I was smiling as I set my phone down and took my jacket off. I didn't have to wait long for his response.

Alec: Kristen...

I could just picture him rolling his eyes at me, but who was I if I didn't throw in some sarcastic remarks.

Me: I don't want to feel this way anymore. It was painful to just look at you and feel like you were at an arms length away. Like we were on the verge

of breaking up. @» My finger hovered over that message for a few minutes as my heart raced, - That was me being vulnerable and opening up. Finally, I hit send and went to the front desk.

"I heard you were in an attack yesterday. How's the ankle?" Calvin asked as he put the broom away.

"It's getting there." I didn't say anything else because my phone buzzed again.

Alec: Nothing in this world would ever make us break up. This isn't something we can't figure out. You are mine.

A few seconds later, another message popped up.

Alec: I'll remind you later how much you are mine.

Me: Yes, Daddy Alec: woman... a I set my phone down as my other two employees walked in. "Good morning, Luna!" Brittany said and waved.

"Hey, Luna." Tom nodded as he walked in.

It wasn't soon after that my clients came in and my staff got to work.

Everything was going smoothly. By the time Emmy walked in with luna, I had balanced the check book and was adjusting the advertisements, "I came with food!" She held up a plastic bag and two go containers, "What did you bring me?" I asked as we went into my office. I shut the door but I took the office phone with me.

"Open face beef sandwich." She pulled out the container and steam was literally seeping out of it. I f "You are amazing." I said as I took it and set it on my desk. Emmy sat in the second chair that Alec added for when he was there.

“Tknow. You honestly don’t tell me enough.” I just rolled my eyes at her. “Can I ask you something?” I said after a few minutes of us silently eating.

“Sure?” Emmy looked at me confused.

“Do you feel like I have emotionally grown since I first mated Alec?” Emmy’s body froze for a second as she reached for her water. “I mean...” She |

took a sip before answering.

“Yes and no. You still use sarcasm to i hide your feeling some times but you do seem more in tune to them. Like you are more open with physical contact and telling people you love them.” “Oh.” I wasn’t sure what I was expecting or wanted her to say.

“However, the sarcasm is just you. If you didn’t do that, I would think something is wrong. Did something happen?” “Just more of what we talked about last night. Alec said he can’t handle if I get hurt again, like I need to be more aware of situations and not put myself in harms way.” “He said that?” Emmy looked shocked.

“Yes and no. Not all of it but that is what I took from in.” “If you put yourself in his shoes, how would you feel?” She paused as I took another bite. “How would you feel if you watched him get kidnapped...

twice... and beaten up, touched sexually and basically dead multiple times. I think he is struggling emotionally and doesn’t want to tell you because he is afraid you can’t handle it.” “Can’t handle it?” “Maybe that was a bad choice of words.

More like he doesn’t want to put more stress on you when you are healing. He isn’t able to open up to you or he is scared to open up to you.” Looking down, I lost my appetite. That is what he literally did. He opened up to

me and I ran away crying. “Yeah.” “However, if you didn’t do what you | did, a lot of people might have died and it’s not like you sought out our crash yesterday. Trouble just finds you.” Emmy seemed clueless to my demeanor.

“Is that why we are friends. You are the trouble.” “Am I the drama?” Emmy put her hand over her heart and faked being hurt.

Tattooed Luna

Chapter 0548 A knock on my office door interrupted Emmy and I laughing. “It’s open!” I yelled. Colt and Alec were both standing at the doorway as we were wiping the tears of laughter away.

“How’s it going?” I asked as we stepped out since my office was too small for the four of us. Thankfully, the last of my employees left to go on their lunch break so we were alone.

“Just came to check on you. Why are you girls crying?” Colt looked at us like we were crazy.

I shook my head. To an outsider, it would seem stupid. “Do you really want to know what Emmy and I talk about in private?” Putting my food down, I didn’t miss Alec frowning at

the little amount I ate.

“No. I don’t. I just wanted to check on { you and see how you were feeling.” Colt checked his watch.

“Sore but I am getting there. I am actually finishing up lunch and then I am going to go home and spend the day with my girl.” Colt looked surprised but smiled.

“Good. Rest will do you some good.” “So they say.” “I got to go. I’ll text you later.” Emmy tossed her food away and started walking out. “See you boys later!” “Thank you for lunch!” I yelled as she walked out the door. She waved goodbye to let me know she heard me.

“Really, Kristen. How are you?” Colt leaned forward and got closer.

“Wow, full name and everything.” Sighing, I tossed my food away and stood up. “I’m not going to figure it out in twelve hours. You are going to have to give me some time to figure it out. However, I thought I was fine and didn’t have an issue so I’m still not sure what to say. I’m going to have to do a lot of self reflection and thinking.” I raised my shoulders and dropped them.

“I’m just worried about you.” “I understand that. I really do but you are acting like I caused yesterday to happen to myself. I didn’t seek out a fight. I was literally driving home and they pushed me over the edge. I was hit from the side and we fell down the hill,

landed in the water. I didn’t jump on the ice to break it. I was just keeping us alive until you guys came for me. I’m-a little annoyed that you are acting like I did this

to myself. It wasn't like last time where I asked them to take me so he didn't kill Alec." I gave him a look and walked over to make sure the sterilization was going and all the lights were off. Satisfied the shop was good to go, I went back to the boys. "I'm just.... you have been so happy. If this turns out to be something..." Colt shook his head not sure of what to say. "I don't want to see you go back to how you were before." "All things considered, I thought held it together nicely." "you held it together by pushing all

your feelings down and ignoring them.

That isn't healthy." Colt shot back at me.

"I'm not the same person as I was before. I know it was six months ago but damn, give me some credit. Tam a highly intelligent person." "That can't admit when she needs emotional help." Colt leaned back and whispered.

"you got the heart and I got the brains." Patting him on the shoulder, I went and grabbed my coat and purse.

"Whatever." Colt sighed but smiled at me. "Love you." He said as he grabbed my shoulders.

"I love you too." I said easily. "See? I can say it now!" Giving him a told-

you-so look, he just rolled his eyes and pulled me into a hug.

Letting me go, he walked to the door.

"Talk to you guys later." Only after he was gone did Alec say anything. "Your color looks better." "Does it? I still can't shake this cold feeling." I shivered a little and put on my coat.

"I'm all done for the day. I was thinking we could go for a drive before we go home?" I was a little surprised. The roads weren't the best but I did want the alone time with him. "Sounds good." Neither of us spoke as he drove us.

After we passed the turn off to Colt's

pack, I had an idea of where we were going. It's where everything started.

"We had our first date here." Alec said as he pulled into the empty drive in movie theater.

“We did. You were all pissy when we left. I thought you were mad at me.” I looked at him and laughed. Alec parked the car but let it idle for the heat.

«wasn’t mad at you.” Alec looked out the window but didn’t say anything else.

There was this uncomfortable silence as I tried to get the courage to talk. I knew Alec was waiting because his eyes kept looking at my fidgeting fingers.

“Emmy told me to put myself in your shoes. If I watched you get hurt like I have been, how would I feel.”

Alec nodded. “And?” “I understand why you feel that way.” “But?” Alec didn’t try to touch me, just looked out the window.

“Half of it wasn’t my fault. I didn’t decide to fall into the water. The wolves attacked me when I was driving home. I couldn’t help being kidnapped.

I know once I told them to take me but they were going to kill you. Fuck, he killed your dad. I’m not going out of my way to get hurt and I’m struggling trying to figure out what you wanted me to do in those situations. I fought back to stay alive. The only thing going through my mind during those times was what I needed to do to stay alive till you came for me. It was your face that I kept thinking of to keep me

| motivated to live.”

Tattooed Luna

Chapter 0549 Alec didn’t say anything for awhile, He just stared out of the window and battled with his own feelings. “Come here.” He reached over and pulled me on his lap. Due to my boot, my legs stayed over the center console but he wrapped his arms around me. “If anything happens to you....” Alec rested his head on mine. He couldn’t get the words out of his mouth.

“I’m too stubborn to die. The Moon Goddess would probably get tired of my mouth and pushed me back down here.” “Not funny.” Alec grumbled but I felt a little humor come from him.

“I know my sarcasm can be frustrating but it’s a coping mechanism. I can’t

change who I am but I will try to not find myself in dangerous situations. I promise to talk to you about my | feelings and work through them.” Alec picked

his head up and tilted my head back. His eyes searched my face like he was trying to memorizing it. His hands traced my hairline down to my lips. "You are my everything. Don't be surprised when I start requiring more safety measures. Danger has a way of finding you." "Still, none of it way my fault. You have to admit it." I pushed.

Alec rolled his eyes. "I'll give you 75%" "What?" I was trying not to laugh.

"What did I do that was my fault?" "Should have killed both of those

wolves quicker." My jaw dropped open. "That is a direct reflection of your lack of training." "You have been pregnant and then had anew born. Though, I do think it's time you get back in there." Alec cupped my head and just held me.

I opened my mouth to speak but Alec's phone rang. As much as he didn't want to answer it, it was Colt so he did.

"Yeah?" He put it on speaker phone.

"Is Ice with you?" Colt asked.

"I'm here, what's up?" "There was a rogue attack at ~~ Anthony's pack. His mate was killed." Alec looked up at me. I didn't need to

feel his emotions to know how he felt from just looking in his eyes. "Fuck." "Is there a funeral?" I asked.

"They already had it. I guess the attack happened two nights ago." "Two nights ago? Seriously?" I looked down at the phone. "Why are we just now hearing about this?" "Your attack was last night. The attack on my pack was just random at that point. Now that another pack has been attacked, this might just be an increase of rogue." "But those weren't rogues that attacked me." I was getting annoyed no one believed me.

"They could have only been rogues for a few weeks. The smell might not have set in at that point." Colt sighed.

"Regardless, that isn't all I have to tell you." "What else?" I said with an attitude.

"I guess he was about to die so he marked a member of his pack. She wants to have a luna ceremony tomorrow." "Are you serious?" Alec asked. Both of us were completely surprised.

“I think he didn’t want to risk dying and he doesn’t have a kid.” Colt sounded like he was miles away.

“Who did he mark?” Alec asked after a moment of silence.

“No idea. I just got a call from Jace who heard it from Lars who heard it from Hank and so forth.” Colt yelled at one 5/0

of his warriors. “Listen, I got to go but I’ll call back later. We can fly together, It will be easier to take the helicopter.” “Okay.” I said about a second before Colt hung up.

“Would you take another mate that quickly?” I asked Alec.

“Nope, I would be dead with in minutes. If you leave, I leave.” “What about Adalynn?” I asked, a little surprised.

“She will be old enough to take over the pack so it won’t matter.” Alec leaned down and placed a gentle kiss to my lips. It was a comfort kind of kiss that was showed me how much he loved me.

“Is that so?” I asked after he stopped
Kissing me.

“Yes.” | [couldn’t help but smile as I looked into his eyes. “Are we okay?” “We were never not okay. We just got to find a better way of working out our emotions.” Alec took a deep breath and let me get back over to my eat.

“What is life without a little excitement?” I laughed as Alec put the car in reverse but stopped and looked at me. “It was a joke!” “The only excitement I need is in the bedroom.” “Is that so?” Challenge excepted. As much as I could with my boot, I moved so I could pop his dick out and started sucking. The surprise Alec felt was almost amusing. It had been months

since I did this last and he was loving it. Pushing on the brakes, he slowed the car down as we made our way. | home.

“Fuck, woman.” Alec moaned as he finished.

Leaning back, I got the pleasure of watching his eyes roll forward as he put his dick away. “Yes?” I asked slowly as I finished cleaning off my lips.

“If this is what I get, we should have more car dates.” Alec smirked at me and reached over to grab my hand. We were pulling into our house so it wasn’t like we could slip away to another place.

“Is that so?” Lifting an eyebrow at him, I just had to laugh at how happy he was feeling. Is that all he needed

was some sappy talk and then a blow job to feel happy? “Yes, ma'am.” “Well, it’s too bad we are taking a helicopter ride tomorrow with my brother. Can’t join the mile high club that way.” I teased as we got out of the car.

“Well, we still could...” Alec started but I quickly slapped him on the arm.

“Gross.” I rolled my eyes as I walked faster but Alec just slapped me hard on the ass as I walked through the door.

Tattooed Luna

Chapter 0550 | “How’s my little girl?” I said as we walked up the stairs to the loft.

Adalynn clapped her hands together and reached for me. As soon as I picked her up, she gave me a hug before her eyes landed on Alec. Almost immediatly, she ditched me and reached out to him.

“My little girl.” Alec said with a laugh.

“Fucking bullshit.” I said under my breath. “Thank you for watching her.

We just got a call and another Alpha is having a luna ceremony tomorrow.

Would you be able to watch her tomorrow and stay tomorrow night? I'm not sure when we will get home.”

“Of course!” Vivian stood up and smiled at me. “I'll get out of your hair so you guys can spend the evening asa family but I'll be back first thing tomorrow!” “You are truly a life saver.” I told her as she walked down the stairs.

“Just add it to my Christmas bonus!” Vivian laughed as she went to the front door.

“She deserves a big bonus.” Alec said in a baby voice as he sat down with Adalynn to keep playing with her toys.

The front door opened and closed so I knew Vivian had left. "She really does." Laying down on the other side, I could feel Alec looking at me. "Yes?" I asked without looking at him.

"When are we going to have another one?" "As soon as you figure out who these attacks are from." "It could be nothing, let's have another." Alec looked at Adalynn and started tickling her.

"Once you turn down the difficulty setting on my life, then we can." It was hard to not roll my eyes and smile at the same time.

"you're so good at multitasking though. I'm sure we can handle it.

Vivian is amazing." Alec picked Adalynn up and held her against his face so I could see both of them stick their lips out. Alec was pleading and Adalynn was crying.

"I am great at multitasking. Look at me.

I am chilling and not losing my mind right now! Why change that?" "I know, mommy is no fun." Alec turned Adalynn around and comforted her.

Laying on my back, I was struggling with the boot. "I can't decide if I need an XL coffee, snuggles, eight shots of vodka, 842 chicken nuggets or two months of sleep." "That is quite the list." Alec laughed at me but he laid down with me on the floor. Adalynn was standing on his stomach. She was using him as a trampoline.

"My mind is an amazing thing." I couldn't help but laugh.

"It truly is." "How many kids do you want? We are

getting old." I looked over at him. He was making faces at Adalynn, making her laugh.

"We aren't old!" "I've come to the conclusion that I'm never going to have a mid-life crisis because I have fit any and all crisis in this last year." "You're not wrong. That's why we can have half a dozen kids." Alec took Adalynn and rolled over so she fell on my stomach. "Get mommy!" Adalynn kept trying to bounce but she was on my tits and that hurt.

"Too bad we didn't have triplets like Colt and Penny." Rolling to the side, Adalynn was sandwiched between us as she chewed on her toys.

“As much as I want more kids, [am good with some spaces between them.” Adalynn tossed down her toy and started patting her belly. “Is my baby girl hungry?” I asked as I tried to give her a hug but she went to her dad.

“My daddy’s girl.” Alec scooped her up as he stood up in the process.

“Next one needs to be a boy so he wants me, not you.” Alec reached out her hand so I could have some help up. “No kid will ever want you as much as I do.” Alec muttered in my ear as we walked down the stairs.

“Eat’cha heart out.” Looking back, I bit my lip. His eyes went straight there and he had to adjust himself as he put

Adalynn in her highchair.

“Just might.” I was bent over, looking in the fridge so it was too easy for him to graze the inside of my thighs.

“Keep that up and Adalynn will have an early bedtime.” “She is six months old, she won’t know.” Alec put his hands on my hips as I laid out some fruit and pieces of chicken to cut up. “Someone is horny.” On purpose, I shoved my ass back into him.

His claws dug into my hips as I purposely twisted my body as I cut up.

The arousal was filling him up as he put his head on my shoulder. His tongue traced down my neck.

Right as my head rolled back, Adalynn

started screaming because I was taking too long to get her room. At the same time, the door bell rang. SS “Fucking bullshit.” Alec muttered.

Wanting to make things worse for him, I turned around and put my arms on his shoulders, forcing him to look at me. Reaching down, I grabbed his dick.

“What I wouldn’t give to feel you inside me.” Tossing my head back, the door bell rang again.

“Fucking tease.” Alec grabbed my tit and squeezed before he walked off, adjusting himself.

I couldn’t contain my laughter as I put the bananas on Adalynn’s tray.

“Hey, Ice.” Colt walked in with dress and a sexually frustrated Alec walking behind him.

“Hey bro, what’s up.” | “Just wanted to tell you we are leaving | tomorrow at eight. Pack a bag as we might be staying the night. Penny wanted me to give you this dress to wear. Apparently, Emmy called and said you needed one?” “Well, Emmy knows everything in my closet and if she believes I don’t have a dress for a luna ceremony, I must need one.” “Good. I didn’t waste a trip over here then.” Colt let the dress down on the table. “I got to go but be at the helicopter pad by 7:45am. I don’t know what is happening but I don’t want to be late.”