

Tattooed Luna

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Tattooed Luna

Chapter 0571 “Damn, you're good!” Lars reached across the table and fist bumped Jasper.

“What can I say!” Jasper looked pretty pleased with himself before he took a drink.

“So, what has been going on?” Jace asked in a hushed voice.

“Yeah, we haven't heard shit this last week.” Lars added.

“Nothing yet. We have a few things in play but nothing has been reported.” Alec said. His hand kept rubbing my thigh, making it hard to focus.

“You know, my pack is pretty close to Anthony's. It might not be a bad idea for you three to come visit us and if

Alec and Kristen want to do some sight seeing... that might not be a bad idea.” Jace said as he took a drink.

“I would love to meet little Adalynn!” Echo smiled warmly at me.

“That will give you some quality parenting classes!” I laughed at Echo's spark in her eye.

“When are you guys having kids? You been mated for a few years now.” Emily rounded on Echo.

“Probably next year. We have a few more things to check off our bucket list before we bring kids into our lives.” “YES!” Penny practically screamed.

“Do them! Who knows, you might get triplets out of it!” The whole table laughed at Penny's

face. She was dead serious. “Why don't you guys come too! I would love to meet the little ones you have been calling the Quads.” Echo tried to stop her laughter.

"I'm curious. Does Adalynn look like the triplets? I guess she would be their half sister? Is that what the DNA would say?" Emily asked.

"Hey, guys. Do you mind if we sit with you all? Jacob walked up with Sherry around his arm. She looked petrified as she kept her eyes on the floor.

The table got quiet but Penny smiled warmly at them. "Of course. There is an open chair here you can sit at." Colt moved over to make room for Jacob and Sherry.

"What are you all talking about?"

face. She was dead serious. "Why don't you guys come too! I would love to meet the little ones you have been calling the Quads." Echo tried to stop her laughter.

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"Hey, guys. Do you mind if we sit with you all? Jacob walked up with Sherry around his arm. She looked petrified as she kept her eyes on the floor.

The table got quiet but Penny smiled warmly at them. "Of course. There is an open chair here you can sit at." Colt moved over to make room for Jacob and Sherry.

"What are you all talking about?"

Jacob asked. I could hear the nervousness in his voice. Sherry still didn't look up as she sat down with her hands in her lap.

"Adalynn and the triplets would be considered half siblings. You are correct." I said looking at Emily.

"Right now, if you put them beside each other, the boys looked identical and there is a strong resemblance of the girls. They looked like maybe fraternal twins or something but still clearly different." "That's crazy!" Emily shook her head in disbelief. The tension was slowly starting to fade.

"I know! I'm excited to see what they look like and act like when they get older. If Elaina got Penny's personality and Adalynn got Alec's.... well that will

be a fun parenting time." "Oh shit! Adalynn will get Elaina into so much trouble!" Echo laughed.

"I think we should create some distance between us..." Penny avoided eye contact with me as she took a drink but was smiling.

“Oh shit! Family drama!” Emily sang.

“I would like to see you try to keep Adalynn away if she gets Alec’s personality.” Jace was stone cold serious.

“Shit.” Colt shook his head and looked at Alec. “Hopefully the boys get my personality and then it won’t matter.” “Those boys have to keep those girls in line so they better get your

personality.” Alec muttered.

“However, Adalynn will be extremely watched...” “If she has my personality, how do you expect to keep an eye on her. I am a free spirit that cannot be tamed!”

Looking back, I batted my eye lashes at him. “Besides, I heard you were quite the playboy and Adalynn will NOT be like that.” “Who said I was a playboy? That was fuck face over here.” Alec looked appalled but completely tossed Jasper under the bus.

Jasper’s mouth dropped open. He had put his hand over his heart and was about to protest his innocence when he was interrupted. “Don’t be shocked.

Even I knew that!” Emmy looked at him like he was stupid.

Jace and Lars busted up laughing. “I wouldn’t laugh boys. I have it on good authority that you two weren’t innocent either!” Echo rounded on them.

“I bet Colt never told you shit!” Jace challenged Echo.

“Bros before-” “Don’t finish that statement.” Penny put her hand over his mouth.

The whole table was laughing, even Jacob and Sherry. “So, Sherry. What have you been up to?” Emily asked, nicely.

“Oh, um. I have been doing mostly self healing things. I got into yoga and been eating healthy.” She said very timidly.

“She has been writing letters to those

who have wronged her and we held a burning ceremony. By putting everything she had endured and felt on the paper, she let it all go when she put it in the fire. This is the next step we are working on. Getting back into mingling and building relationships.

So, we decided it was a good time to join the table and make that next step.” Jacob said. I wasn’t sure if Sherry wanted him to share all that. By the blush that crept across her cheeks, she was a little embarrassed.

“That is incredibly healthy way to go about it! I am so proud of you.” Emily said, nicely.

“I agree. With the trauma you have lived, you have to start somewhere and it sounds like you and Jacob are making good progress.” Echo nodded in approval.

«rhank you. It might take me awhile to get comfortable but I would like to be a friend to you all... if you would let me.” Sherry was looking up but still avoided eye contact.

Alec didn’t trust her and I could tell Colt didn’t really either. It would take quite awhile for her to win their trust back. She might not had lied directly but omission in their eyes is lying.

“That would be lovely. One person could never have too many friends.” Penny said.

Jacob looked at me as picked up my drink and downed the rest of it. “I'm going to go grab another one. Does anyone need one?” IL asked, standing up.

«11 come with you.” Alec muttered.

“If you don’t mind, I'll go with her.” Jacob asked Alec. /

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Chapter 0572 “Is that okay?” Alec mind-linked me.

The whole table, froze as they looked between us. “Yeah. I'm good.” I was more curious what he had to say.

Alec sat back and relaxed his body.

“Okay.” Jacob waited for me to walk around before he fell into step neck to me. We walked in silence the whole way but I could always feel Alec’s eyes on my back. The line for the drinks was longer and since Jacob wanted to talk, I decided we would just wait it out.

"I'm sorry I haven't been around much." Jacob said quietly. There was almost an ashamed tone to his words.

"You have been busy." I wasn't sure what he wanted me to say but I wasn't sure what exactly he was sorry for, either.

"I know but I haven't been that great of friend to you. I haven't been there to help you." "You're here now." This was getting a little awkward.

Jacob shuffled his feet a little bit before he kept going. "I did want to apologize but I'm really here on Sherry's behalf." That caught my attention. "Why so?" "She would like to make amends. She feels responsible and it's part of her healing to address all those who she

feels like she betrayed or hurt. Would you be willing to come over and spend an evening with us?" = I wasn't sure what to say to that. Alec and I have emotionally cut her out of our lives, and in extension, Jacob too. I wasn't going to lie that I didn't miss his friendship but I had a new life.

"What can I get for you?" The bartender snapped me out of my thoughts.

"Two whiskey doubles, please." The bartender looked at Jacob.

"Whiskey on the rocks, please." "Coming right up." "Listen, Jacob. We will come. I miss your friendship but I can't promise anything. Alec has some really strong feelings about it all." "I'm sure but if it is all the same to you, we would like to try. Even if the only things that comes out of it is Sherry checking this box." The bartender handed us our drinks.

"Remember the old day would you brought that random girl named Candy to the table we were sitting at?" Jacob snorted. We walked to the side but didn't make our way back to the table. "Simpler times, for sure. The thing is, I have been doing my own soul searching and I think the Moon Goddess was laughing when she put me with Sherry." "Why do you say that?" I had my own ideas but it would be nice to hear it from him.

"She thought I was a terrible man so she put me with a damaged girl, knowing that being a mate would make me have to help her. In doing so, she made me a better man. All those women I used... I know I didn't do anything that Sherry was put through but I didn't exactly treat them correctly. Sherry is making me a better man and I'm helping her through her troubles." I didn't think I could get anymore surprises but Jacob did it. "Look at you growing up!" I teased.

“Yeah, yeah. Let’s head back.” Jacob rolled his eyes but blushed a little.

“Sounds good. Just call me with a date.” Jacob just nodded in return as we made our way back to the table. Alec held

open his arm for me to slide into before wrapping around me tightly again.

Bringing my drink to my lips, I spared a glance over at Sherry and Jacob. He had placed her back on his lap and was whispering something in her ear.

“What was that all about?” Alec asked in the mind-link.

The table was laughing at Jasper’s dance moves at the moment so it allowed me to just sit back and talk to Alec. “Jacob wants us to come over and talk with them. Sherry wants to personally talk or apologize or whatever she is calling it. She wants to make amends. As part of her therapy and to start working her way back into our group.” “Why didn’t Sherry ask you that?” Alec wasn’t exactly happy about this.

“I’m not exactly delicate with my words and she probably was too scared to ask. Jacob also apologized for not being around.” “Yes, you have a dirty mouth.” Alec was done talking about this and was changing the subject.

“Oh! I love this song! Let’s dance!” Echo jumped up and ran off without waiting for anyone. Jace got up and followed her out there. Everyone else followed, even Jacob and Sherry.

“Don’t want to dance?” Alec asked since we were the only ones at the table.

“Not particularly.” Turning around, I wrapped my arm around his neck.

Alec studied my eyes. “What’s on your mind?”

“I think that will be good to visit Jace and Echo. We can leave Adalynn there and do what we need to do.” “I’m not going to lie, it will be fun to give them hell with you. However, if we do this, you need to promise me you will listen and not put yourself in unnecessary risks. This whole thing could be very dangerous and I don’t want you getting hurt... again.” “you need to accept the fact that most of that was not my fault and unless you wanted me to tuck tail and run, I’m going to fight.” I felt very strongly about this and it was something Alec disagreed on.

“Not running but not engaging either.” “If I didn’t engage, you would be dead right now.” I pointed out. Kissing his

nose, I gave him a sweet smile.

Alec just rolled his eyes at me. “I think maybe we need to do a training session tomorrow and whoever wins gets to call the shots.” Alec’s eyes glanced down at my lips before going up to my eyes.

“That’s not fair since I haven’t trained in ages.” “Are you saying you are too weak or just admitting that I am going to win?” “Never!” The fight was on. “Let’s go to the cabin and I’ll show you how dominate I can be.” I whispered in his ear.

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Chapter 0573 “I think we are going to head out.” Alec said once everyone came back to our table.

“Ah! Really? Wse sare havfing sso much ffun!” Echo slurred.

“Sounds like you need to head home too!” I laughed at her trying to speak correctly. She was mouthing each word as if try to not slur but it was just making it worse.

“Maybe we should head back too.” Jace shook his head but laughed at her.

“Night is still young! I’m not ready to give up yet!” Emmy exclaimed and ran back out to the dance floor with Jasper.

“Me either!” Penny laughed and pulled

Colt out to the dance floor.

“I’m ready for bed.” Emily yawned.

“This is way past our bedtime.” “It’s like 11:00 pm.” Jacob looked at his watch.

“We need our beauty rest.” Emily stuck her tongue out at Jacob.

“I wouldn’t mind going home too.” Sherry said quietly. She looked up at Jacob. The smile he gave her didn’t reach his eyes and his shoulders showed his disappointment.

“If you are ready, we can leave.” He tried to make it sound like it wasn’t that big of a deal. Downing the rest of his drink, they stood up, allowing everyone else to follow.

I watched her mouth, 'thank you' to Jacob before we all headed towards the door. By this time, others were starting to leave as well, making it a little more crowded out front. The front steps all had females waiting on their dates to bring the car around.

With all the fresh powder that has accumulated, Alec just picked me up bridal style and carried me to the car.

"My strong man." I whispered in his ear.

Alec rolled his eyes but I felt the humor inside of him. "Really?" "Can we start a fire?" "Of course. I already planned for that and have wood in the fireplace." "You're amazing." Alec was able to open the car door and place me inside so didn't touch a single snow flake unless it had landed

on me. A shiver ran up my spine as Alec got in. I was able to see Jacob get into his car before we pulled out. We made eye contact as we left our parking spot for a brief second before he was out of eye sight.

"Do you really think she is going to change?" Alec muttered. He was so skeptical that I doubted he would actually listen to her.

"She doesn't have anything to hide anymore. She was ashamed of her past and didn't want us to find out. It wasn't that she was trying to hide information but hide what happened to her. I remember a time I didn't want to tell you about Ann because of what you were going to think." "There is a huge difference." Alec retorted.

Not wanting to argue about it tonight, I let it go. Besides, we pulled into our cabin. Alec had light on that were on the walk way and one in the livingroom. "This is so beautiful at night." I whispered as he turned off the car.

"It is. I'll grab our bags if you want to head inside." Alec said and pushed the trunk button.

"Alright." That meant I had to walk in multiple inches of snow but I was going to be taking my shoes off anyway. The way my foot fell into the snow was so cold and wet that I started to run up the ramp.

[was about half way when something caught my eye. There was a void in the snow. Bending down, I started

examining it before it hit me what it was. Looking ahead, there was a trail.

“Kristen, what are you doing?” Alec came up behind me.

“There are footsteps on the ramp, leading inside.” Alec kneeled down beside me and looked at the indents. “Stay here.” He said quietly and gave me our bags.

I was left in the cold as Alec quietly walked to the front door. Looking in the windows, I watched his body relax before waving me forward. “Who is it?” I asked as I got closer.

Alec was holding the door for me, very clearly annoyed. He just motioned for me to go inside, which I was thankful for. As soon as I stepped inside, I saw

Gunther standing by the fire place. He had started it and was just enjoying the heat.

“We have an office.” I was annoyed now too.

“I’m keeping a low profile and that doesn’t mean walking into your packhouse.” Gunther stood up but stayed by the fire. His clothes were damp and I realized he was trying to warm up.

“What are you doing here?” Alec asked as I took our bags and walked to the bedroom. I wanted to change and I knew Alec kept clothes here that I could exchange with him so I could put his in a dryer.

Thankfully, I packed some shorts and a fitted tank. After hanging up my dress, I walked out to the boys again. “Here.

Wy TI RUWNS You can change and I’ll put your clothes in the dryer.” “Oh... um..” Gunther looked down at his clothes and at me.

“Just go.” He didn’t argue after that but took the clothes and walked to the bathroom. “What does he want?” “To give an update. I told him to wait for you.” Sitting down on the couch, I just grabbed a blanket and curled up. Alec walked to the bedroom to change his clothes. I was alone for just a few moments before Gunther came out.

Getting up, I took his clothes and put them in the dryer without a dryer sheet. Judging by the clothes, he wasn’t in a position to be smelling like

lilacs.

Alec met me as I was walking back to the livingroom. Gunther had resumed his spot by the fire. “So, what was SO important you wanted to tell us now, instead of just calling us?”

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Chapter 0574 “I do still have some contact that aren’t exactly happy with me but they hate Anthony more. Ann has decided to mess with his business affairs so they were happy to do shit. On top of that, I offered some rogues some money to attack their pack tonight and if they survived after doing a few things, they would get a bonus.” “So, what have you accomplished?” I asked. I had resumed my spot with a blanket and Alec had sat beside me.

However, he was leaning forward with his elbows on his knees.

“I’m sure you know what Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs are?” Gunther asked Alec. “What a Kharpa Beetle is?”

“I know what the Stink Bug is.” Alec confirmed.

“I don’t...I mean I do know what a stink bug is but what does that have to do with anything?” “They are highly invasive and reek havoc on their farm. It will ruin their crop.” Alec told me.

“Correct. The beetle thrives in grain bins and is on a quarantine list. If they find it, everything will be shut down.” “Where did you find all these?” Alec asked.

«you can find anything if you know where to look. The rogues Were able to distract the guards while I made my way to their farm land. Their job was to get close to the house and release

termites on their foundation.” Damn.” I was so happy and impressed.

This is playing the long game but I think it will benefit us in the long run. I have more I am going to do but this is the beginning.” Gunther shrugged.

“What else do you have planned?” Alec asked. He didn’t leave room for Gunther to refuse to answer.

«I have more rogues that are organizing an attack. My guy is looking at what other insects he can get his hands on. In the mean time, there are a few people that will

be messing with the heater and air conditioner in the pack house.” “phat’s good. It’s a stal t.” I said asl took it all in.

-- bet “Anthony hasn’t put the fear in them the way you have so it's been easy to organise it.” Gunther shrugged like it ! was no big deal.

“Have you ate anything?” I asked.

Gunther looked at me confused for a moment before he answered. “Yeah. I did.” He opened his mouth a few times before closing it.

“Just ask or say what you want to.” I “The person you are here is not the person you were in the office.” «I have many talents.” Smiling slyly at him, I heard the dryer buzz.

standing up, I made my way into the Jaundry room. “Ghe isn’t one that you want to cross.” Alec said as soon as | had opened the dryer. A smile came to

my face. Grabbing his pants, I went to walk back but I stopped.

Digging in his pockets, I pulled out a few receipts. One was for a pet store.

He had bought a handful of mice. The next one was for a hotel. Slipping my phone out of my pocket, I took a picture of it before shoving them back into his pocket.

“Here are your clothes.” Laying them on the couch, I got back under the blanket.

“Thank you.” Gunther took them and went to the bathroom. As soon as he came out, I got a glimpse of the clothes [let him wear were folding on the counter.

«Can I return home tomorrow and see Kara?” Gunther asked.

Wy TV eave “Are you traveling by foot?” Alec asked.

“Tam.” We looked at his combat boots as he tied them around his pants. “Come on.

I’ll drive you.” Alec stood up and walked to the door.

Gunther looked alarmed at me before looking over at Alec. “I can walk...” “Not in this weather.” Alec had his boots on and came over to me. “The hot tub is ready to go. Ill be backin a few hours. You don’t have to wait up.” He said before he kissed my forehead.

“Drive safe.” Twas extremely disappointed but there wasn't anything | could do about it Alec needed to drive Gunther. We couldn't

just send him out in this weather. It was the right thing to do.

They walked out and shut the door behind them. I waited until I heard his car drive off before I moved. There wasn't a reason to wear a bathing suit so I grabbed a towel and got naked.

Alec was right. The hot tub was ready.

The lid was pulled back and the snow made a beautiful view. I wasn't sure how long I laid there, but my body thoroughly massaged.

[heard some rustling in the leaves that sent off warning bells. I wasn't sure why but I decided it was time to get out. Trying to act normal as possible, I turned out all the lights and headed towards the bedroom. Grabbing some sweats and a t-shirt, | started looking around. It had only been an hour and

Alec would just be dropping Gunther off.

There was a 9mm hand gun under the night stand. Right as I reached down to grab it, a shadow ran across the room. I expected my fingers to feel cold steel but it was gone. The only thing that greeted my fingers was leather that was unsnapped.

Grabbing my phone off the top of my bed, I dialed Alec's number.

Thankfully, he answered it on the first ring. “I'm on my way back, love.” “The gun is gone and something is outside.” I whispered. I didn't have any lights on but I heard the power shut down. The alarm clock that was reflecting off the T.V. went out.

«pm coming! Can you make it to the safe room?»

The sound of his engine speeding greeted my ears but it was broken glass that really caused my wolf to come forward. “No. Some glass broke. I think they are inside.”

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Chapter 0575 “Don't engage! Stay hidden!” I couldn't hear anything but everything in me told me they were inside. “Alec, be realistic. They will find me. I have no choice but to fight.” “I'm coming.” “Okay.” I whispered. Tossing the phone

under the bed, I got up and moved to stand behind the door. The floor board creaked just outside of the door. The element of surprise was the only thing that I had going for me.

Sierra came forward. She didn't fully shift but she did extend her claws out.

As soon as the shadow of a man was just inside the door, she jumped

around and shoved her claws into his chest. He had about three seconds to look into the whites of my eyes before his eyes looked down at his own heart.

His body dropped to his knees, making it clear there was another person behind him.

"SHIT!" He yelled as Sierra swiped at him. She got his jugular, making blood spray around the room.

"FUCK!" He cried as he kept moving around until he finally fell to the ground.

It was key to stay in this room and not allow them to surround me. The third guy came in swinging, making Sierra go on the defense. As he came around with his leg, Sierra took a step back.

However, the step was right on the dead man's arm and she fell off

| balance.

"Damit!" I said as he lunged forward > and fell on top of me. He was fat and heavy. The smell of bacon grease, tobacco and sweat made me want to gag.

She kept my forearms in front of my face to keep from getting any blows but a few landed on my kidneys. It wasn't until another figure came in cause Sierra to have enough.

A wave of power ran through my veins as Sierra shifted into her form. "NO!" The man in top of me was tossed back and through a window.

"Give me that!" Sierra looked over just in time to see something shiny getting passed around.

"Sierra! Run!" I screamed but she had

already taken off. We weren't sure how many more men there was but Sierra was massive and being trapped in a bedroom with a gun wasn't ideal.

Shots ran out as she jumped through the window. A piece of glass scraped against her shoulder but it was the burning hot pain in her thigh that told me we got shot.

However, she kept going. She knew where she was going and that was down to the road to hopefully run into Alec. A few more shots flew by us until only the sounds of her paws going threw the snow filled out ears.

“Don’t stop! The blood is leaving a trail.” Sierra looked back once. If it wasn’t for the blood, she would blend it perfectly.

We might have had a chance to hide

and do a sneak attack.

Pushing the pain out of our minds, 5 Sierra was in full speed. She was faster than any rogues or even faster than warriors. It wasn’t a worry they would catch her but she needed back up.

After what felt like hours, she finally slowed down to look at her leg. The bullet was still in there and the bleeding had slowed. Shoving ice from a tree in the hole, she was able to keep the blood from flowing more. Staying alert, Sierra tried to clean a little before her ears perked up.

“We need to move.” I wasn’t sure why I whispered but Sierra had the same idea. She got up and started running again.

“KRISTEN!” Alec’s sweet voice filled my head, making me whimper in relief.

“Alec! We are running in the woods, p Where are you?” “Driving. Get to the road!” ‘ “I’ve been shot in the thigh!” “Damit, woman!” “Technically Sierra got shot.” I felt her amusement and annoyance but she was happy her mate was near.

“They are still coming.” Sierra cut from the trees right as Alec’s car came into view. She collapsed on the pavement, shifting back into our human form. She couldn’t fit into his car so she was forced to let me take the lead.

Alec skidded to a stop as I tried to stand. “Hurry!” I cried out as he came up to me and picked me up.

“Our warriors are on their way here.

I'm taking you to a hospital." Putting me in the passenger seat, Alec came around and slammed his door shut, Alec turned around and sped off as a dozen men came out from the tree line.

"I thought we had a bigger lead." "Can't run as fast with a bullet in your leg." Alec grabbed a shirt and pressed it against my wound.

"Shit!" He didn't let up so I reached over and turned up the heater. "I think our white carpet is ruined." "You left your fucking phone on. I had to listen to you fight." "Would you rather I hung up on you and you would have been in the dark?" My teeth started clattering.

Alec looked over at my lips and hands before turning the heater on high.

"You need to get warm." mm | "I think I'm going into shock..." It was all T could get out before the world started spinning. My heart started beating really fast.

"Don't pass out! Stay with me!" Alec growled. "That's a command! Stay awake!" It took everything me to stay half awake. My head fell against Alecs arm.

It was like I was watching my life happen and nothing I could do about it.

The hospital lights illuminated just how blood stained the shirt was.

Why there was a gurney waiting for me was beyond my comprehension. Alec had to keep my body from flying forward as he slammed in the breaks. I

was vaguely aware of being pulled out of the car and taking inside.

"I love you." I said in the mind-Tink before blackness took over. :

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Chapter 0576 The nurses kept me from going back past the double doors. Kristen's voice echoed in my head as she told me she loved me before she passed out. It was like she was incapable to staying out of trouble. Mentally, I knew this wasn't her fault but I was tired of seeing her hurt. I was emotionally ready to break from time and time again thinking I might lose her.

Grabbing my phone, I dialed Vivian.

Thankfully, she picked up on the second ring. "Hello, Alpha Alec. I wasn't expecting to hear from you." "Kristen was just attacked at our cabin.

Are you guys okay?" "Oh dear! Yes, we are perfectly fine."

"Good. I want you to get Adalynn and go into the panic room. Shut and Tock the door. Don't come out until I get you out. I'm just being cautious but I need to know you both are safe." "Yes, Alpha. I'm headed there now!" Vivian said instantly before she hung up on me. I had the security cameras on my phone so I was able to make sure they got there before I looked around the property. After a quick glimpse, it appeared to be okay.

Next was Jasper. "We are just getting here. So far it looks like they abandoned ship. Men are chasing their steps in the snow. Alec, they took the bodies." "What do you mean?" I asked.

pinching the bridge of my nose, I sat

down and tried to keep ahold of our bond. It wasn't faulting so it was easy to do.

"I see a heart and the blood splatters on the wall tell me there are at least two if not more dead but there aren't | any bodies." | "Mother fucker. Get samples of the blood for DNA." "Already done." "Get someone watching my house to make sure we are attacked there. I have Vivian and Adalynn in the panic room." "Already did that too. They should be there soon if not already there." "Call me with any updates." I said before I hung up on him.

Next was the phone call I was dreading.

It felt like I always gave him bad news.

IT took four rings but he finally.

answered in a sleepy voice. "Hello?" "We have a problem. I'm at the Mountain Ridge Hosptial. Kristen was shot but will be okay. It was in the thigh." «The fuck?" Colt sounded wide awake now.

«What's wrong?" I heard Penny asked in the background.

«I don't want to say too much over the phone. I can either call you when we leave or you can get your ass here." "I'm on my way." Colt said.

"Make sure your house and your guards are on high alert. I would advice

penny and the kids getting to a safe room." There was a pause before Colt talked.

“Okay.” Click! Looking at my phone, I saw the call was ended. Opening up the app for my security cameras, I saw my men were standing guard now. They had night vision binoculars and were scanning the area.

The best part of the cameras was the voice to talk feature. Hitting speak, I was able to talk to them. “You can go inside. They are in a safe room. Stay warm, take rotations to make sure no one is outside.” My warrior jumped about a mile in the air before he looked up at the cameras.

He shook his head and went inside after yelling something out to someone

else. Next was to let Vivian know there were guards in the house, not intruders. — Me: There are guards stationed around the house and inside. Stay in the panic room, all you need is in there.

Vivian replied okay within seconds.

Now it was a fucking waiting game.

Standing up, I started pacing around.

This was the worst part. T knew she was going to be okay. Our bond was as strong as ever but it hurt to see her hurt.

The girl I first met was indestructible.

The fact she managed to kill at least two men was huge. Not to mention that she was aware they were there to begin with. I was proud as hell at the progress she has made by working on opening up to me. Allowing her

emotions to come to the surface. The connection we have is the strongest it has ever been. = “Alec.” Colt’s voice shocked me. I hadn’t realized it had been a full hour since we hung up.

Nodding for him to come to the corner, I started telling him everything. “We were going to the cabin.” Colt nodded.

He was aware of the cabin, even though Kristen didn’t know that.

“When we got there, Gunther was there. He told us a basic update of what he had done and his plans on moving forward. He asked if he could visit Kara since he has accomplished something.

Gunther was on foot and soaked head to toe. Kristen dried his clothes but we weren't going to let him walk in this weather back to your pack. So, I gave him a lift. As soon as I dropped him off,

Kristen called me and told me there were men in our cabin. She must have put the phone down because I listened to her fight before glass shattered.

Eventually, we were close enough that we could mind-link and I got her here.

Jasper is already at the cabin with warriors. He said by the blood splatter and the heart on the floor, there are at least two dead but no bodies. They are following the trail but no update yet.” “Who all knew you were going to be at the cabin?” “Just you, me, and Jasper. Kristen didn’t even know until today.” «There are only two options. We either have a mole or Gunther is working both sides again.” Gunther’s face flashed before my eyes.

The look of surprise when I told him I was going to drive him was real. “How did Gunther know we were going to be at the cabin?”

Tattooed Luna

Chapter 0577 “It’s likely he could be the mole.” It wasn’t like it surprised me but there was a part of me that hoped he would have turned his life around after everything he had been through.

“I think it would be a good idea to take up Jace’s offer and do some of your own recon.” Colt folded his arms over his chest and looked at me.

“Kristen and I had already agreed to go. She will be pissed I am leaving her behind.” “I’ll go with you. Jacob can take over for a few days and I assume Jasper will be fine as well.” Not that I minded but there was little room for argument.

Plus, it would be smart to go with someone, At least this way, I wouldn't

be worried about Kristen's safety and she would be around to take care of Adalynn.

‘Jaspers’ good.” “Shit, I would bet Jace would want to tag along.” “More man power.” My voice trailed off as I saw the doctor come into the waiting room. We made eye contact and I immediately walked around Colt to talk to him.

“We got the bullet out. Nothing major was damaged. She has a strong wolf so she should heal within a week but I would say no weight for 24 hours and then weight as tolerated.” The doctor whispered quietly so only we could hear.

“Can I see her now?”

“Sure... you are?” The doctor looked over at Colt. “We have a strict family visiting hours.” “I’m her twin brother.” Colt said in a rather unnecessary aggressive tone.

“Alright.” The doctor didn’t give Colt a second glance as he turned and pushed open some double doors. Colt and I towered over most of the staff, making everyone turn and look at us as we passed.

Everything was white and smelled like beach and alcohol. Sterilization was more annoying to my nose than anything else. The floor was white tile, the walls were another shade of white and even the rails on the walls were white. The only thing of color was the scrubs the staff wore and that was

random. &» “Here you go.” The doctor stopped walking and pointed to a room.

“Visiting hours are over so please stay in the room unless you are leaving.” He didn’t wait for a response before he walked away.

Opening the door, Kristen had her eyes closed and the lights were low. Only a nurse was in the room, checking her vitals. “She is still sedated. However, she should be waking up within the hour.” “Thank you.” I said before I pulled up a chair to her bedside. Colt stayed standing at the end of her bed.

“Let me know if you need anything.” The nurse bowed before walking out of the room.

“Let's get past the 24 hour period and then we can go to Jace’s. The quicker we move on this the better and if we wait too long, Kristen will fight with us on going.” “Probably right. She is incredibly stubborn and nothing will be changing that.” Reaching up, I took her hand in mine and rested my head against hers. It was more to calm me than anything. I knew she was going to be okay so it wasn’t as touch and go as last time. However, I was done being in a hospital.

“At this point, you might just build a hospital between our packs.” Colt tossed the idea out there.

“What did you ever do with the casino?”

“We have all the names switched over and Penny as completely cut ties with the Alpha title. She wanted to do it in private because of the pain. She wants to hold girl camps so she is organizing that. Come this summer, there will be stuff going on there.” “Alec?” Kristen groaned as her eyes started to flutter.

“I’m here.” The chair about flipped back since I stood up so quickly. “How are you feeling?” “High.” It took her a little bit but she finally got her eyes open. She looked at me before realizing Colt was in the room. “Hey, bro.” “Why do you keep ending up in a hospital?” Colt interrogated.

“This was not my fault! I didn’t seek out a fight.” Kristen glared at me.

“I know. I’m glad you made it out alive.” “My poor cabin.” Kristen looked around.

“What do you need?” I asked, confused.

“A drink.” Colt walked around to the other side of the bed where a cup with a straw was sitting on the end table. “Here.” Colt held it up to her lips. After a quick sip, she pulled her head away. “How bad is it?” “Not bad at all. Nothing was damaged.

No weight for 24 hours and then as little as possible but about a weeks worth of recovery.” Not fully what the doctor said but close enough.

Colt glanced at me but didn’t correct me. “Well shit. How many did I end up killing?” This time, it was my turn to shift uncomfortably. “Well, we are thinking two or more.” “you are thinking? Did you not go to the cabin?” Kristen tried to sit up more. Colt pushed the buttons, helping her sit up.

“We did but there wasn’t any bodies.

Only thing we found was a heart and a lot of blood.” I could see the realization on her face sink in. “So, we don’t know if they were rogues or warriors from Anthony’s pack?” “Not right now but we will do blood

testing to see if we can figure who they were out.” “They attacked me. In our home!” I could feel the hysterics starting to rise in Kristen. She looked around at Colt for help but he just looked at her. I did what I could and pushed calming emotions in her.

At one point, I worried she was going to push it down and bury it but after watching her take a deep breath with her eyes closed, I thought she was going to be able to come out of this.

That was, until her eyes opened and I saw her wolf.

Tattooed Luna

Chapter 0578 As soon as my hand touched her cheek, her head relaxed into me. I watched as her eyes closed and her emotions were starting to level out but the anger was still there. It took some time but eventually she was able to open her eyes again and they were back to normal.

«What are we going to do about this?» She asked. The restraint in her voice was clear.

“you are on a 24 hour no weight so | am going to take you home and we are going to relax under a guard. Then, Colt’s family and our are going to Jace’s pack. You can heal with their help and Colt and I are going to go see what Gunther is up to.”

“How convenient that I am stuck home with a bullet wound when we decide to go to Jace’s pack for undercover work:” Kristen pushed my hand away and folded her arms. If Adalynn pouted this way, I would die laughing.

“Nothing is convenient about your pissy ass when you are bed ridden.” Kristen looked both shocked and disgusted at me. “I ley!” “He isn’t wrong.” Colt added.

«The fuck? Why are you here if you aren’t going to be on my side?» «Who's idea do you thinkit was?» Colt raised an eyebrow at her.

«I hate you both.” The sheer stubbornness of this woman surprised me, even after all this time together.

Colt ruffled up her hair. “We love you!” Kristen slapped away his hand as a nurse walked in. “I see you are awake.

How are you feeling?” «Had better days. Can I go home?” “you need to stay the rest of the night but I'll get papers to you guys first thing in the morning.” The nurse hung up another bag of fluids. “Do you want any pain meds?” “1f I'm going to be stuck here than I do.” Kristen rested her head back on the bed and looked up at the ceiling.

“Figured. I have them here.” After shooting in some white medicine, the nurse looked at Kristen's leg. The

wound looked rough but it didn't appear to have any infection. “This is for you.” I felt a nudge and looked over. She had a zip lock bag in her hands and was pushing it on me. I was so confused until I looked at the bag and it had a bullet in it. “Um..” «We wrote it down as ice sickle stick so no police were called. Figured you would want it and so did the doctor.” «pamn. Thank you.” I did want it but it hadn't even occurred to me to ask for it.

«Of course.” She nodded before walking to the door. “Let me know if you need anything. The call light is tied to the rails.” She smiled at Kristen before walking out.

“How are you feeling?” Colt asked.

“Better now.” Kristen's eyes were starting to flutter.

Colt chuckled as he leaned down and kissed her forehead. “I'm going home.

Let me know when you leave.” “gShhure.” Kristen slurred before she completely passed out.

“Keep me updated.” Colt waved as he walked to the door.

“Here. You take it and get it tested. I won't be able to as quickly as you can.

Get to Gunther before he takes off.” Colt took the bullet from me and nodded.

“Oh, Gunther will be very much aware of what happened.” Colt said as he was half way out of the door.

As soon as Alec was gone, I just went over and laid down on the rock solid couch. Nothing about this was comfortable but I wasn't about to leave this room.

I had just gotten to sleep when the door opened. The nurse tried to be quiet but she came in with a pillow and blanket for me. After checking Kristen's vitals, she left quietly.

Since I didn't need the blanket, I used it to put some separation between me and whatever was poking me in the back. Once again, I was just about asleep when I heard Kristen call out.

“Alec!” My body instantly woke up as if there was a threat around us. As quietly as could, I walked up to her. Kristen was

tossing her head around as if she was having a bad dream.

“Shhh.” Being as gentle as I could, I laid on the edge of the bed. Kristen curled into me, resting her head on my chest. I don’t care where we are at, whenever she does that, my heart melts. “Sleep. I got you.” I whispered to her. It didn’t take long for my arm to go to sleep and for me to follow right after.

Kristen's fingers were tracing my face, making my beard itch. “Why must you always do that to wake me up?” “you like it.” The door to the room opened up and the nurse stuck her head in. “Good morning! I got papers. How are you feeling?”

It took me a second to get off the bed with only one arm. The other was so dead that I couldn’t even lift it up. My shoulder didn’t want to work as I moved to the side so the nurse could look at Kristen.

“Ready to be in my own bed.” «1 bet.” The nurse handed Kristen the papers before she lifted the bed sheets and looked at her thigh. “This looks pretty good.” Laying the sheets back down, she took the papers from Kristen and laid them on the table.

“Here is some scrubs you can wear since you came in naked and a wheel chair for you.” “Thank you.” “Would you like to bring your car around and we can meet you out front?” 1 wasn’t looking at the nurse

but I did after that question. I wasn’t sure why but it irked me she even asked that. = My eyes glanced at Kristen. She nodded, giving me the okay. “Sure.” Before I walked out of the room, I opened the mind-link up. “Don’t close this.”

Tattooed Luna

Chapter 0579 “Iwon’t be.” Kristen replied.

It was still dark out and I was exhausted. My bed sounded perfect.

Part of me hoped Vivian would stay home but the responsible part of me told me I needed to be responsible for my own daughter. That meant letting Kristen sleep and I was going to stay up, regardless of how tired I was.

Getting into my car, I had to turn the defrost on for a few minutes before I could even see a little out of it. This is why I parked in a garage. The cold never bothered

me until I had to scrape my windshield. Grabbing the ice scraper, I went ahead and cleared it off so I wasn't making Kristen wait an hour before we could leave.

"We are headed to the door." Kristen said in the mind-link.

"Alright." By the time I got into the car, the heater had really started blaring. Anywhere I missed was starting to melt and the only thing left was to clean the frozen blood off the seat.

Pulling around, I saw Kristen in a wheel chair and the nurse flirting with a male doctor behind her. The look on her face was hard to miss but as soon as she saw me, she stopped and looked professional.

Neither woman moved until I was out of the car and had opened the back seat. "Back seat?" Kristen asked.

"The front is covered in blood." "This is better anyway, that way you don't put pressure on your thigh." The nurse gave Kristen a stern look.

"Yeah, yeah." I was able to help Kristen stand up and inch her way into the back seat. She was practically laying down as I buckled her up. "Thank you." I told the nurse before I shut the door.

The nurse had started walking away at this point. "Of course. Have a great day, hopefully I don't see you again!" She waved as I got into the car.

"Are we going home?" Kristen asked as I put the car into drive.

"We are. Is that okay?" Adjusting the rear view mirror, I was able to see her face. She was a little pale but doing okay.

"Yeah. I am going to close my eyes a

little." "A little? How do you close your eyes a little?" The smile couldn't stay away as she basically just passed out in the back.

Grabbing my phone, I dialed Colt's number. "Hey." "We are leaving the hospital.

Everything looks good." "Perfect. I called everyone and told them what happened and our plans.

Text me when a good time to come over and talk. I rather not do it over the phone and I bet you guys are tired. I would like to see Ice again so whenever is fine."

“Sounds good. I'll let you know.” As much as Colt denies it. Him and Kristen are very similar in their mannerisms

and ability to multi-task. They always go one step above and beyond.

Thankfully, the snow had stopped coming down and the roads had been partially cleaned off. That made it easier to get home in one piece and quickly. As I got closer to our home, warriors had lined the way. Everyone nodded at me as I passed.

After parking in the garage, I had to carry a sleeping Kristen inside and laid her on the bed. Once she was situated, I went straight down to the panic room.

After unlocking it, the door opened up to Vivian and Adalynn playing with some toys. “Look! It's daddy!” Vivian smiled warmly at Adalynn.

Adalynn got a big smile on her face and reached out to me. “Hey baby girl! How was your night?” “Very uneventful. She behaved .

beautifully and we have just been playing. However, she is getting hungry.” Adalynn had her head on my shoulder as we made our way upstairs. “Thank you so much for staying with her.” “It was my pleasure. How is Luna?” “She is good. Resting in bed right now.” Sitting Adalynn in her highchair, I let out a big yawn. “You look exhausted.

Did you get any sleep last night?” Vivian asked as she pulled out a banana.

“Not really but I'm okay if you need to head out.” 68/9

“Of course not! You go take a name and we will just be hanging out whenever you are functional to take her, €» “I'm not going to argue. Kristen needs to be off her leg for 24 hours and then we are going to take Adalynn to another Alpha's pack so I can do some work. You will get to have some vacation time to relax.” “Then I guess I need to soak up today! Now, off to bed you go...alpha.” “Thank you.” I didn't have it in me to argue. I went to give Adalynn a kiss and she was too busy eating bananas that she didn't even realize I was leaving. If the betrayal I feel right now is what Kristen feels every time Adalynn choses me, I feel like the biggest dick to walk the earth.

It took me just a few seconds to shut

the bedroom door, taking my clothes off and put shorts on, before I climbed into bed. “Alec?” Kristen looked up at me. Her eyes were barely open and her hair was covering half her face.

“Yes, love?” Wrapping my arm around her, I pulled her against me. “Where’s Adalynn?” “With Vivian. She sent me to bed.” “Good.” Kristen curled into me and her whole body relaxed. It wasn’t until I ran my hand down her ass that I realized she was only wearing her underwear and my t-shirt. When she got up to change was beyond me but I was all for it.

“Sleep good, love.” I whispered into her ear and closed my eyes. I didn’t

dream but I was so damn relaxed that I doubted either one of us moved the entire time we were sleeping. Very — much needed.

Tattooed Luna

Chapter 0580 I woke up before Kristen did. Sliding out of bed, I managed to use the bathroom before Kristen started to stir.

“You were going to leave me here?” “I was hoping I didn’t wake you.” Walking into the bedroom, Kristen was trying to scoot herself up. “You leaving the bed wakes me up. Can you get me some sweats and we can spend the afternoon by the fire?” “Sure.” Going to the closet, her loosest sweats she owned was about to fall apart but she loved the rag.

It was fairly easy to get her into her sweats. I still didn’t have a shirt on but that didn’t bother me. As careful as

possible, I picked up Kristen and carried her to the couch. She was biting my arm to keep from yelling out.in pain.

“Look! It’s mommy!” Vivian was walking down the stairs. “We just woke up from our nap too!” “Hey, baby girl!” Kristen cooed. Vivian laid Adalynn down on Kristen. Taking a blanket, I covered them both up and turned on some cartoon on the T.V.

Adalynn turned around and snuggled next to Kristen and I went to go make a bottle.

“How did she sleep?” I asked Vivian.

“Really good. She is a very easy baby.” “I appreciate you letting me take a nap.” I told her, “Of course! I'll get out of your hair but let me know if you need me. I can always come back in a moments notice.” Vivian waved as she headed towards the door.

“Will do, thank you again!” I yelled.

“Thank you!” Kristen yelled from the couch.

“Feel better!” Shaking the bottle, I was able to hand it to Adalynn before grabbing my cell phone. Sitting down on the other end of the couch, I pulled up my text message and sent one to Colt.

Me: We are awake and you can come over anytime.

After a few minutes, I got a reply Colt: Okay.

“Can you start a fire?” Kristen asked.

“Oh shit, yeah.” That slipped my mind.

Getting up, I started putting the fire wood in the fire place. “Colt will be here shortly to update us on what has been discussed.” “Okay » “Do you need anything to eat or drink? Need any pain medicine?” I asked her as the fire came to life.

“Not right now. Thank you.” Kristen didn't even look at me but kept running her fingers through Adalynn's hair. As Adalynn watched her cartoon, Kristen watched Adalynn and I watched them both. Sitting just a few

feet from me was my entire life and damned if I didn't want another baby more now then I did before. ~— “Hello?” Colt yelled as he opened the door. I had almost forgot he was coming over.

“In here!” Kristen yelled.

There was two loud thuds before Colt walked into the livingroom. “How are you feeling sis?” Colt asked Kristen but leaned down and tickled Adalynn. She reached for him and he graciously accepted her hug.

“Was great until you stole my daughter.” «pechnically, she is my daughter too.” Colt walked over to another chair and sat down. He put her on his lap and was making faces at her. Adalynn's little

giggle was music to my ears. & “Gross.” - I was with Kristen on that one. “Did you get with Gunther before he left?” I asked, jumping right into it.

“I did. He swears he didn’t know anything about it. I put a command on him and everything. He did say that he has been using your cabin as a safe house. He found it when you were first building it. He was under cover and would always cover his tracks so you wouldn’t know.” “Damn. Why didn’t he just ask?” Kristen looked shocked.

“Get real, sis. He wasn’t going to ask that.” Colt looked at Kristen like she just asked the stupidest question possible. Which, it was a really stupid question.

“Anything on the blood?” I asked.

“Yup. It made a hit immediately. Came back to a warrior was part of Alpha Rip’s pack that is listed as someone who died in battle.” “He was listed as deceased?” I clarified.

“Yup.” Colt nodded. “He supposedly died awhile ago.” “Yet, he didn’t actually die until last night.” Kristen stated.

«The other DNA was the same. Listed as deceased. Only two DNAs found so you managed to rip someone’s heart out quite literally and probably nicked the artery of the second. The bullet hasn’t come back yet but I would assume it is registered to the dead

man.” © “Why is everything always a puzzle?” Kristen rolled her eyes and turned off the T.V. Adalynn immediately started crying so she turned it back on but turned the volume down.

“Did Gunther leave to go back under?” I asked, half ignoring Kristen’s question.

“He did. Left earlier this morning. I have a two SUVs lined up for us to take tomorrow. They are getting the oil changed and car seats put in. With you having to keep weight off your thigh, it would be too much for us all to take on.

This way, you can lay in the back and relax as Alec drives. You can take care of Adalynn’s needs.” «That would be a lot of babies in one vehicle.” Kristen nodded.

“you only have one baby to listen to cry. I have three.” “No, I have two babies to listen to whine.” I said as I stood up. My back was turned but I expected the pillow that hit my back.