

Dr Luna Book 5

Taming Her Beastly Mate Epilogue

Alexis was sitting on a porch swing with her eyes closed. The sun was beating off of her face as she breathed in the fresh air. It was finally quiet... for the time being. It had been a week since Micah claimed Brandy as his mate. Brandy was now Alexis' guardian too. And she fit in perfectly as if she was a piece of their puzzle.

Everything was great but she missed seeing Brian and Raine. She had grown up with them and not having them around all the time was bittersweet. That chapter of their lives were over. Everyone was finding their mates and starting families of their own. She realized now how much she took that time for granted. Not that she would change living here with Aken, but it was the fact of realizing that chapter of her life was over.

She smiled as she sensed his presence and then felt him dip onto the swing beside her. He pulled her into his side and brushed his lips against her head.

“That part of your life might be over, but I promise these new chapters will be even better. Plus, we can visit anyone you like whenever you want. Just like we are today. Ready to visit your parents in Elysium?” Aken turned his head to the sound of Micah and Brandy walking towards them. “Looks like everyone is ready...” He paused for a moment and Alexis’ eyes got wide.

“Oh my gosh!” Alexis jumped up on her feet. “Let’s hurry!”

“What am I missing?” Micah looked up at Aken curiously.

“Levi just informed me that Lucy has gone into labor.” Aken smiled and pulled Alexis up into his chest. “Don’t worry you aren’t going to miss a thing. We will be there in less than

a second.” He chuckled as he saw how impatient she suddenly was. The air shifted around them, and they were standing in the middle of the castle of Elysium. Alexis sprinted away down the hall towards the infirmary room.

Alexis sprinted down the hallway and enter a very crowded waiting room. Almost everyone was in there waiting except for Aiden who was back in the Diamond pack. But there was someone else who was missing... Destiny and Harley. She looked around the room searching for their faces. She knew her grandmother and mother would be with Lucy so it wasn't weird not to see them.

“Alexis.”

She saw her father wave her over as the rest of her group finally made their way there.

“Destiny has also gone into labor.” Levi hugged his daughter as she walked up to

him. “Your grandma has them both in the room.”

“And everything is going well.” Tyler said with a smile as he patted Wyatt and Jason. “Just relax grandpas.”

“This is just like our family.” Justice chuckled as he leaned back in his chair.

Alexis watched as he comfortably put his arm around Nita. This was the guardian that she refused. Well it looked like Justice wasn't refusing her. She figured she needed to say something to her. She wasn't exactly nice to her. She took a few steps over towards her and stubbed her toe into the floor.

“Sorry about before. It was nothing personal... it's just...” Alexis glanced over and looked at Micah and then back to Nita.

Nita smiled and shook her head. “I understand. You don't need to apologize.”

“Yeah, don’t worry about it. Soon she will have a fairy princess of her own to watch over.” Justice grinned as Nita looked down in embarrassment.

“Are you two...” Alexis watched as Nita’s face heated up red.

“It took me forever to convince her. She was stuck on the thou shall not take a mate rule but luckily she caved. She is going to stay here for a few months while a new guardian is being trained. Then she is going to join me.” Justice grinned widely. “What can I say she is crazy about me.”

Nita clicked her tongue and turned to look at Justice. “Who was the one following who around?” She watched as a cheesy grin spread over Justice face.

“No need to get into the minor details of it all. The fact is we are choosing one another. We can’t all impregnate a person and make them their mate can we Micah?” Justice

turned flashed a wide white toothy grin up at Micah.

“It’s not like I knew that’s how it worked.” Micah felt Brandy lean into him, and he smiled down at her. Apparently, a primordial can fasten a bond as a mate with someone they have conceived with. It isn’t like a mate trap, but it is something to aid in their unity. Which worked perfect for both Micah and Brandy. It was something they both wanted, and this was the push they needed. “Even without that this crazy red head found her way into my heart. She is the perfect spice to my life.”

“There’s the future papa bear!” Brian’s voice rang out.

They turned their heads to see Titus, Lila, Brian and Bella inching into the room. Titus and Lila made their way over towards Levi while Brian and Bella came over towards Alexis.

“You two are coming back to the dragon kingdom after this?” Brian asked looking over at Raine and Ryker. Ryker had been going back and forth while Raine stayed in Elysium. She wanted to stay with her family a bit longer before separating from them. Her father and mother would be staying in Elysium while she would go back to the West Dragon Kingdom with her mate.

“Yes, Raine wanted to wait until after the babies were born before she left.” Ryker squeezed Raine’s hand and looked over at her. “But when it is time for her to deliver we will come back and stay here. So she can be close to all her family.”

“Ryker—” Raine started to say but Ryker interrupted her.

“I know that is what you want. That is what will happen. I’m sure Brian can manage to tie his shoes without me for a month or two.” Ryker winked at Brian who nodded his head.

“He’s right Raine. When the time comes I’ll be able to manage without Ryker for a little while.” Brian then looked over at Alexis. “So when are you going to be laying eggs?”

Alexis clicked her tongue and arched her brow up at him. “You are one to talk...” She watched the funny twinkle in his eyes, and she gasped. “Oh my gosh! You two are pregnant too?!”

Brian laughed and shook his head. “No, I am just teasing you.”

“I want to develop more of my skills first. I have learned from Ciana and have mastered her healing skill. I am working on my shadow skills right now. If it wasn’t for the help of the other dragon kings, I’m not sure if I would ever have this opportunity. The shadow dragons were not exactly keen on helping me at first.” Bella felt Brian bump into her playfully.

“Not to brag but you are kind of mated to a big deal.” Brian flashed her a bright smile.

The door in front of them opened up and Rhea poked her head out. “Jin! Freya! We need you two.” Her face looked a bit flustered as she looked over the room.

“Is everything okay?” Wyatt asked as he watched Freya hurry into the room. Jin handed off baby Beryl to Jason and then hurried after her.

“It is happening too fast. We were not expecting the labor to proceed so quickly. We just need another set of hands in there. Don’t worry. They are all okay. Actually, I think Derek and Harley are the ones who need help.” Rhea giggled as she closed the door behind her.

Alexis made her way over to Jason and reached her hands out. “I’ll hold her. She is my little sister.” She wrapped her hands around the baby and curled her in her arms.

She swayed her side to side as Aken made his way over to her.

“You will be such a wonderful mother one day.” Aken smiled down at Alexis who grinned up at him. “No... no. I’ll break her.” He held his hands up, but Alexis eased the baby into his arms.

“You aren’t going to break her.” Alexis giggled as Aken stood there all stiff. He was frozen as the baby turned into his chest. His eyes were wide as he looked up at Alexis helplessly.

“She made a noise. I think I hurt her.” Aken listened to Levi laughing behind him.

“You are doing just fine. Relax.” Levi patted Aken on the back as he quietly chuckled.

“I’ve never... held a baby before.” Aken admitted quietly. He looked down at the sleeping baby’s face and felt his shoulder relax. He imagined what it would be like to hold his own child. This was something he

never dreamed about before. He glanced up at Alexis whose eyes were shining back at him. They knew each other's thoughts and hearts. One day he would really hold his own child. "Alright better not press my luck." He shifted the baby towards Levi who naturally scooped the infant into his arms. Aken looked at how comfortable Levi was holding the baby. He didn't look tense at all.

"Don't worry Aken. You'll get the hang of it." Levi winked at him as Kelsie came over.

"I'll take her. She will need to eat soon." Kelsie watched as Levi nodded his head and handed her over the baby.

"Beryl is already loved so much and has so many people to look out for her." Terra said quietly as Jasper nodded his head beside her.

"Let's hope she chooses a different path in life this time." Jasper said quietly.

"There is no animosity coming from her body." Aba said as everyone looked at the

little boy. “I’m sure she has her memories or at least pieces of them even though she is in a baby’s body. I’m in a child body but mentally I am very much an adult.”

“Of course you are an adult. You are a big boy now. No more pull-ups for you.” Justice teased as Aba snorted and rolled his eyes.

“My point is that I don’t feel any ill will. And Harley didn’t feel it either. So either she is masking it, doesn’t have her memories, or she is content with this life.” Aba said thoughtfully.

“I guess time will tell.” Wyatt watched as Kelsie walked over to a chair and sat down with Beryl. It was hard to believe looking at the infant that she was the same girl who injected him with the blood curse many years ago.

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The sound of a little baby’s cry filled the air that was instantly followed by another

infant's scream. A tiny baby was wrapped in a cloth and handed over to Derek.

“The other one is ready to come out too.” Lilly said as she pulled on another set of gloves.

Jin rested a baby on Destiny's chest as Harley wrapped his arm around Destiny.

“Congratulations on your new baby boy.” Jin wiped her teary eyes as she looked down at her grandson.

“We have a baby boy.” Destiny smiled up at Harley who was glowing with pride.

“You were amazing my love.” Harley kissed Destiny's damp forehead and reached his finger out to his son's hands. Just then another baby's cry filled the room.

“This family really needs to do something about their timing when they have babies.” Jin giggled and stepped around to look at the other new arrivals.

Freya eased a little baby into Lucy's arms as Derek came over holding the other infant. He scooted beside Lucy and eased the other baby down so they were both together. A light glowed between the two infants as their hands touched. A white and dark light filled the room as the energies swirled together. Moving together perfectly as a yin and yang force.

Lilly and Rhea stared at the lights as they vanished. Lilly reached out and grabbed onto Rhea's hand and sighed with relief. A vision of the future rippled through them at that moment.

Alexis blinked her eyes and everything was dark. She blinked again and looked at two parallel worlds. It was like a split image. One world was lush and green. It was thriving with happiness and children's laughter. The other world was a void of

destruction and darkness. As if a plague had descended on to the world.

She was blinded by a bright light that was soon encompassed by a dark swirl. The two energies began to pulsate together even though they were separate. A bridge formed between the two worlds and that was when another light formed at the center. A sweet brilliant light that shine like the star.

Alexis felt like this light was looking at her. She couldn't see the face but the energy felt like it was familiar. As if she recognized it. It was like a power she had never felt before but it was so warm and gentle. The brilliant like connected the two energies together. It was like it was the gate between the two bridges.

The world merged into one and the luscious green land overtook the darkness. Alexis stood there staring at Elysium. It was now whole once again. In the distance she could see people walking out of the castle. She

could hear their cheerful voices and could almost see their faces...

Alexis blinked and it was all over. She felt wet tears stinging her face as she took in a staggering breath.

“Lex, are you alright?” Aken’s arms were cradled around her as the whole room had eyes on her. He closed his eyes as her vision flowed into him.

A moment later the door opened, and Rhea stepped out of the room. Her eyes met with her daughters as a small smile spread on her face. They had all seen the same vision. It was a dream of hope for the future. One possible scenario of a hopefully outcome.

“The babies have been born. Let’s give the families a few moments before they introduce us to them.” Rhea stepped out into Lee’s arms. Jin, Freya, and Lilly also walked out of the room.

Tyler wrapped his arms around Lilly and leaned his head down into hers. There was now a glimmer of hope for the future. When Elysium sealed itself away from the world it was supposed to be permanent. Now there was a chance to remerge the worlds together. Lucy's children had the ability to be connecting gateways. A bridge to bring the two worlds together. There was a sad reality in all of this though... While Elysium was separated from the world one of them would also be apart from everyone. One of them would have to stay behind.

"I can feel her... my princess." Aba looked up as he anxiously shifted between his two feet. He felt Tristan's hand land on his shoulder, and he glanced up at him.

"Your life will never be the same after this. This is a bond that is greater than the mate bond." Tristan squeezed his shoulder with a smile on his face as he looked up.

Destiny and Harley made their way out first. Harley looked up at everyone with a proud grin as he tilted the baby up for them to see.

“We would like to introduce you to our son, Blake.” Harley said proudly unable to stop from smiling.

“Congratulations! He is perfect.” Lilly leaned into Tyler as she looked over her family.

Cody elbowed Jason and Wyatt. “You two are officially grandpas.”

Wyatt squeezed his arm around Freya and looked up as Lucy walked out holding one baby and Derek the other.

Lucy looked over at Aba and motioned for him to come over. “I only picked one guardian, but both are princesses of Elysium. Which one is your charge?”

Aba stared at the two infants curiously.

“Both but not both.” He pointed at the infant in Lucy’s arms. “This one is more my

charge... and this one is just for now..." He looked over at the other baby in confusion.

"This is Elena." Lucy titled the baby in her arms up for everyone to see. "And that is Lenore." She said motioning over to the sleeping infant in Derek's arms. "What does that mean?" Lucy looked up at her grandmother.

"It means Lenore's true guardian is still out there... somewhere. So, for now, Aba is charged with both of them. It took Rhea a couple years to find Micah. You'll just have to wait until you feel the pull to pick another guardian." Lilly looked up at Rhea who also nodded her head in agreement.

"Your parents are going to be so proud." Jasper stepped up to Derek and rested his hand on his shoulder. "You are a daddy. How do you feel?"

“Excited and terrified.” Derek chuckled and smiled over at Lucy. “Thank goodness we have a lot of help right now.”

“I thought only one of them was going to be a princess... I was certain that was because one of them was a boy. But we have two princesses...” Lucy sighed as she looked between her daughters. “They are a gift of hope for Elysium.”

“They are the bridge to join the world.” Alexis watched as Lucy nodded her head.

“They are the bridge... and your daughter is the key.” Rhea watched as her daughter’s mouth parted in shock.

Alexis looked up at Aken in mild shock. Of course. That was why the light felt so familiar. That was Alexis’ daughter. That brilliant warm light was her and Aken’s daughter. It would be her daughter’s job to merge the worlds together while Lucy’s

daughter's were the beacons that would keep them connected.

“I vote in our next life it isn't our family's job to save the world.” Justice chuckled as he made his way over to look at his nephew.

“Our family deserves a break. Isn't that right little guy?”

“After all of this is over there will be peace. We just have a lot more to go through before we can get to it.” Lilly looked over her family and reached her hand out. A gentle light twinkled in her fingers and embraced the room with its warmth. “Our family is meant to transcend boundaries. We are always connected through our energy. Even those who are gone will never really be gone.” She smiled as her mother's energy swirled through the room embracing everyone in her warmth. Fairy magic was different than other magic. It had a life of its own. A powerful mysterious existence that created a world of its own. And when a fairy died, they

didn't truly end. They just existed in another realm. One that was warm and full of light. Where they could become the source of energy for the fairy royals. A never-ending cycle of life.

Lilly was right. Their family was meant to transcend boundaries... even death.

One year later...

Alexis laid on the ground outside nestled in wild purple flowers. She could hear the sound of Micah's baby crying from their home. She smiled and lifted a flower up to her nose to smell it.

"Beautiful." Aken smiled as he knelt down beside her in the grass. His arm slid around her waist as he lifted her up to his chest. He leaned his head down and began to leave soft kisses on her neck. "Sounds like Micah has his hands full." He chuckled as another loud baby cry ripped through the air. He looked

down at Alexis and furrowed his brows. “Is everything okay? I can’t feel you right now. Are you blocking me?”

Alexis stared out in the distance quietly. “Do you ever think everything is too quiet right now? I feel like we are all waiting for destruction to happen, but we have no idea when to expect it.”

“Bad things always come and go, Lex. We can’t focus on that. We have to focus on what brings us joy and live our lives to the fullest. No matter what happens I can promise that nothing will ever happen to you.”

Alexis leaned her head back. “What about our child?” She asked as she removed the mental block.

Aken started to say something and then paused. He quickly spun her around in his arms. “Are you... are we? We are? We really are?” He felt like he couldn’t form a coherent

sentence as he stared at her in shock. They had been trying to conceive ever since the vision she had last year.

“We are going to have a baby.”

Aken looked down at her and couldn't help but smile wide. “I am so happy.” He leaned down and began to kiss her over and over again. His heart beat faster in his chest. He never thought he would ever have a family of his own. A family with Alexis. He was ready for this.

Aken leaned his head down and kissed her stomach. “I love you both so much...” He whispered as he rested his cheek on her belly.

“I feel like we have waited for a lifetime for this moment. And now we are actually having a baby.” Alexis felt Aken lift her up in his arms. He cradled her in his chest and pressed his lips against hers.

“I love you so much.”

“I love you too.” Alexis smiled as he pressed his lips into hers again.

Aken spun her around in his arms and laughed in pure joy. “I am going to be a father. We are going to be a family.” He continued to kiss her passionately. As if he would never be able to stop his lips from pressing against hers.

“We need to tell everyone.” He shifted her body and lifted her up in his arms. He flung her over his shoulder and took off running towards the house.

“Aken!” Alexis screamed out as she threw her head back laughing.

He got to be her protector...

He got to be her mate...

And now he got to be the father of their child.

“Thank you for everything.” Alexis whispered up to him.

“No... thank you my love. I don’t think I have ever felt so alive.” Aken pulled her body down from his shoulder and back into his chest. He kissed her forehead and then her nose softly. He ran up the path and kicked open the door to their home.

Aken grinned widely as he shouted into the room, “WE ARE HAVING A BABY!”

Taming Her Beastly Mate Bonus Chapter

Tristan walked down the long corridors of the castle in Elysium. As he rounded a corner, he heard Caleb’s voice call to him.

“Tristan!” Caleb yelled, making the man stop in his tracks. “A few of us are going on a night hunt. Are you game for joining us?”

“Maybe another night. I have company tonight.” Tristan raised his brows as Caleb nodded his head in understanding.

“You really should think about settling down instead of bedding random women.”

“It isn’t your concern how I keep my bed warm,” Tristan watched as Caleb lifted up his hands in surrender.

“True enough. You do you. Have fun doing the bear wrestle... thing.” Caleb chuckled as he turned, walking away, leaving Tristan alone.

Tristan smiled as he made his way back to his room. He has always vocally told everyone how he would never take a mate. Traditionally, guardians didn’t take mates, but this has changed recently with the next generation. He had always lightly joked that he was fine with the way it was. And told those around him that he was by no means a monk.

This led them to infer he slept around... but that wasn’t the case. With a small smile on

his face, he pushed open the door to his room.

“I was wondering if you were ever going to come to bed.” A sultry voice cooed to him. He looked at the beautiful brunette with emerald, green eyes and saw her full breasts under her nightgown, the fabric hiked up to reveal the smooth skin of her thighs under the silk. Her hair fell over her black negligee, obscuring part of her flesh and highlighting the curves of her hips and breast.

“My legs couldn’t get me here fast enough. You know this is my favorite part of the day... feasting on your flesh.” Tristan eyed the temptress as his large frame moved towards her. “Caleb stopped and asked me if I wanted to go on a night hunt with the guys.” He watched as her green eyes searched his.

“What did you tell them?”

Tristan chuckled as he reached out to touch her exposed skin. He slowly traced his fingers over her bare skin, smiling as he felt her respond to him. “Don’t worry, love... I alluded that I have company. They still think I entertain multiple women. What they don’t know is you are the only woman who I hold in my arms at night.” He felt her body shift slightly away from him and a frown formed on his lips. “Cass...” He cooed to her.

“I’m sorry, Tristan. I know we’ve been together for decades now, but I’m afraid of the pressure if they know...”

“Cass... I’m not going to change the rules on you. We were both very clear with each other how we felt about mates when we first met. I won’t pressure you, but I am ready to embrace whatever this is... only if you ever are.”

Cassie stood up from the bed and walked across the room. She inhaled a slow breath as she tried to still the stirring memories of

the past. It was decades ago now... but sometimes it seemed like it was only yesterday...

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Cassie walked through town; a gold pocket watch clutched tightly in her hands. The precious metal was cold in her fingers, and the glossy finish was so bright it seemed to glow. She paused occasionally and admired it in the sunlight, as if she had stumbled onto something new and wonderful. The intricate engraving, with the sun in the center and each star linked by a swirl of lines, seemed to move under the light of the afternoon sun. The smile on Cassie's face grew as she thought about her mate, Greg.

Greg could be quiet and reserved at times. He wasn't always big on showing his affection, but they were mates. She was certain he cared for her deeply as she did for him. A couple of years ago, he was caught stealing gems from dark elves. The

punishment was potentially lethal, especially for a werewolf. Cassie was an elf of light, but still kin to the dark elves and she could not bear to see her mate suffer a punishment beyond endurance. With courage fueled by love, she offered herself as reparation, a sacrifice she was certain would be rewarded with a lighter sentence.

The dark elves lashed out without mercy, slicing through her womb with cruel precision. She remembered how she screamed in agony as her uterus was removed, a permanent punishment to her and Greg alike. The sorrow and anger spilled down her cheeks while Greg kept a steely expression on his face. She was sure this was a painful loss for him as well. Not only was she injured, but she could never give him the son he desperately wanted.

She tightly grasped the watch as she blinked up at the sun. The sun's rays were welcoming, and she took a deep breath. She

had long come to terms with her inability to have children, but she wasn't sure if Greg ever had. She had brought up adopting before, but he had refused her flat out. He said if he could not have his own children, he didn't want any at all. That was the last he ever spoke about children. She assumed he decided not to dwell on what couldn't happen.

Cassie walked down the shopping district to order a special chain for the watch. She heard a laugh in the distance from a voice she would have recognized anywhere. But what was Greg doing in town? He was supposed to be out on patrol for a few days. This is why she planned to come to town for a couple of days to shop for his birthday. Her head swiveled in the direction and her feet moved on their own towards the sound of his voice. In just a few moments, she was standing outside of an establishment with the words 'Madrid Jewelers' written in elegant gold lettering above the door.

She furrowed her brows in confusion and then stepped inside the dark brown wooden door. Cassie's heart dropped to her stomach as she looked at the far end of the room.

Greg was standing at the far end of the room with a woman wrapped in his arms. He was smiling down at the woman as he held out a ring.

Cassie's lips parted as she recognized the woman. It was Elouise. She had left the pack seven months ago, though no one knew why. Though, judging by her pregnant stomach, she looked to be about seven months along.

"Patrol sure has changed." Cassie's voice was laced with ice as the couple turned to look at her with shocked eyes.

Elouise looked at her with a sympathetic face and shook her head. "This isn't how I wanted for you to find out, Cassie. I would have told you sooner, but... Greg said he wanted to handle it."

Cassie glanced at Greg, her heart constricting as she observed the stone-like hardness that had taken over his face, a look that seemed like it would never disappear.

“What did you expect, Cassie?” Greg’s voice was terse and seemed agitated. At least that was some emotion. “You think this was easy for me, Cassie?”

Cassie’s lips pursed, her own anger growing. “I expect my mate to be loyal, Greg. I expected the love I had for you to be reciprocated by you. What we had just wasn’t enough for you?”

“You could never give me what I really wanted, Cassie, she could. And she did.” Greg said as he pulled Elouise closer to his side.

“I’m sorry, Cassie. You know I always had feelings for him... I know this was cruel and selfish of me. I won’t deny that. I won’t ask

for your forgiveness.” Elouise said, lowering her gaze from Cassie.

“I saved your life, Greg. I couldn’t give you what you wanted? That was because I sacrificed that for you!” Cassie’s voice was growing louder, but she hardly noticed.

“I didn’t ask you to,” Greg said simply, not even blinking.

“You would have been killed. What mate wouldn’t sacrifice themselves for the one they love?!” Cassie snapped, shaking her head. How could she have been such an i***t? She gave up a big part of herself for him. She lost the ability to have children for him.

A cruel smirk reached Greg’s lips as he looked at Cassie. “Did you ever hear me say thank you? I never would have asked you to do that. Did you ever think that I wanted to get caught? Imagine being the beta of a werewolf pack and mated to an elf. I wasn’t

given a werewolf as my mate. I couldn't stand it. Ready for some truth? I wanted to get caught that day. You were with me... I honestly thought that if a fight broke out they would end up killing you. Instead, you willingly offered yourself up as a sacrifice. I couldn't have planned it any better. Only to my disappointment, it wasn't life-threatening. However, now that you can't have children, the pack will pity my situation. Having pups is part of life. They won't look down on me for leaving you. Sorry Cassie... but I need you to move out so Elouise can move to where she belongs. And we can raise our pup in our pack."

Cassie squeezed her hands into fists. Her knuckles were white with tension. That bastard used her. He never cared about her. She had gone through that horrible ordeal for nothing. She heard the sound of the door opening behind her, but she was too blinded by rage to care.

“You think that I should just walk away? Should I crumble on the floor crying because you used me and cheated on me? i***t. What elitism is this? Since when does a werewolf become higher than an elf? You were embarrassed being mated to me?! I am a high light elf. If anything, I downgraded to accept you. I can’t have children now because of you. Do you think you are stronger than me?” Cassie growled as light glowed in her hand. “You will be dead before you can even touch me.”

Elouise jumped in front of Greg and began sobbing, placing her hand over her stomach. “Please don’t, Cassie. I’m so sorry. I know he has wronged you. I’m sorry for my part in this as well. But please... don’t take my child’s father away from him.”

Cassie closed her eyes, reigning in her anger. Elouise was protecting him much like she had that day. Another woman letting emotional stupidity rule them. Without a

word, she turned and stepped towards the door. She paused and spoke quietly, “I won’t be returning. I don’t want anything. Burn my stuff for all I care.” With that she left the shop. She left town and dove deep into the wilderness. She didn’t need anyone. She didn’t need to be around people. And she certainly didn’t ever want a mate again...

“Cass.” Tristan’s hot breath sizzled against her neck as his lips tenderly brushed over her soft skin. She leaned back in his embrace and inhaled his steady scent. She had met Tristan a few months after her mate abandoned her. She had just found out that Elouise had given birth to a son. She was aimlessly wandering through the forest when she ended up in the territory of the Diamond Pack.

Tristan had found her there in the clearing, her deep green eyes and light brown hair illuminated by the moonlight. Her cheeks

were flushed, not from the cold night air but from the heated argument she'd had with herself. In a heated exchange, she spilled everything to Tristan. She let out all of her pain and anger. Then in a startling move his lips were burning hers. It was a fiery exchange between the two of them that soon turned into an unbridled passion.

Cassie had left early the next morning while he was sound asleep. She felt a little sad, thinking she would never see him again. Shortly after that, she overheard that Greg had been attacked by a werebear and it left him with an injury that would never allow him to have any more children.

She remembered how she charged back to the Diamond Pack. Tristan seemed to have been waiting for her under the moonlight. He admitted to castrating Greg and said the world was a better place for it. She was livid with him since that wasn't his business. They both argued and, once again, they

ended up in each other's arms. There was an undeniable, passionate chemistry between them.

After that, they began to randomly hook up a few times a month. Then, after he moved to Elysium, she also made her home there. Since then, there was rarely a night they didn't spend together.

“You are a very strong woman. It was your strength that I first fell in love with. It made me feel things I always swore I wouldn't.” He turned her body around so that she was now facing him. “I'm happy being whomever you need me to be. If you are ever ready for a public relationship, I will also be ready for that too. I just want you to be happy.”

“What about you, Trist? I want you to be happy too.” She felt the rumble from his chest as he lifted her in the air. Her legs wrapped around him as he led her to his bed.

“Good. Because this is what I need to be happy. I don’t give a da.mn about labels. I don’t care if everyone knows or no one. I just want you...this.” His voice grew husky as his hands gripped her bottom.

“Yes, this.” She nodded as her fingertips trailed across his bare chest. She pressed her lips against his and kissed him. His tongue swept across her mouth and danced with hers. She shivered as the warmth from his skin seeped into her.

Tristan’s lips moved down her neck and across her collar bone. He growled as he threw her on the bed. Her eyes watched as he took off his pants. He was a tall man with a broad, muscular body. His brown hair was perfectly cut, his eyes a deep blue. He was a very handsome man with a mysterious aura about him. Even though he could be intimidating, ever since their first night together, he had always treated her as if she was precious. Something she was afraid to

believe in for years. But now, as he gazed down at her, she knew that Tristan was the one man she could be with.

He was fine with her never being able to have kids. In fact, he said it was better for him since he was a guardian. His priority would always be the royal fairy family, but he said he realized that he still had time for himself too.

“You make me happy, Cass. I love you.” He placed his knee on the bed as he climbed on top of her.

“I want you, Trist.” Her hands reached up to dig into his rich brown hair pulling him down to her lips. “I love you too.” She whispered out before his lips crashed upon hers.

Labels didn't matter. What mattered was what was real. It may have taken her a long time to get there, but the important thing was that she did. She loved Tristan and

trying to deny her attachment to him wouldn't save her from feeling pain. She couldn't fake her feelings out. They didn't have to be called anything but just be what they were. Finally... she was ready. Ready to no longer walk in the shadows. Ready to let everyone know she belonged to him and him to her.

The moonlight streamed through the window, hovering over their silhouettes as they danced the dance of passion. As they lay there in euphoric exhaustion, Tristan wrapped his arms around her, keeping her close to his chest.

Cassie laid her head upon him, and with a content smile resting on her lips, she thought about how unimportant the events of the past were compared to the pleasure of being in his arms. She never thought she would fall in love again, but when Tristan held her after a long day, when he whispered soft words of love into her ear, and when

they danced together under the stars, she knew she had found happiness again.

“Trist?” Cassie whispered.

“Mmm?” Tristan hummed tiredly.

“Tomorrow...” She whispered as she drew lazy circles on his chest. “Tomorrow... I’ll walk out with you for breakfast. I think we have kept us secret long enough.” She felt him roll slightly and now his body was hovering over hers.

“Are you sure?” He asked and she nodded her head. “You know what this means?” She shook her head with a small smile on her face. “This means I no longer have to wait for the cover of darkness to feast upon your flesh.”

“You have duties.”

“Tyler covers Lilly during the day too. And now I’ll also be covering you.” He leaned his head down and passionately kissed her lips.

Love wasn't always pretty. Sometimes it was messy and unconventional. But real love wouldn't abandon you. And real love was always worth fighting for.

The End.