

Nova POV:

“Of course Luna” the same man replies.

“And your names men.?” I ask as they begin leading me towards the back of the pack house.

“My name is Jack, and this is Donald” he replies. “In there we have the kitchen” he gestures as he walks past.

Seeing them hurry to continue, I pause and push the door open. Seeing one older lady by a large fridge, I walk over slowly. “Good morning” I say softly making her startle suddenly.

“Sorry” I whisper. “I didn’t mean to scare you, I’m Luna Nova of the Midnight Sky Pack, we are visiting with the Alpha King. I’m just having a tour of the pack house and thought I’d introduce myself.”

Looking at her as she turns to face me, I see the tired lines on her face as well as her eyes that look haunted, her hair limp and dull as it falls down her back in a simple ponytail.

“Good morning Luna” she rasps as she slowly moves closer to me.

“You having a busy morning preparing for the pack?” I ask with a chuckle as I glance behind me to see Jack and Donald both stood in the doorway with their arms crossed intimidatingly.

With a nervous laugh she nods her head, her eyes flitting to the men before she looks back down at the floor. “Its always busy when you work In the kitchen” she whispers.

“Of course” I murmur realising her unease at speaking with me “Well I best leave you to get on, it was a pleasure meeting you. I’m sorry I didn’t catch your name?”

“Francesca” she says softly as her eyes look up at me briefly.

“Francesca” I repeat quietly. “Take care.”

With a small nod, she turns quickly and continues with the work she was busying herself with before I interrupted her.

Looking around the kitchen, I take in the spotless sides and empty sink, the hob burning with a couple of pans but that’s all. With raised brows I look at the men who avoid my gaze, “move on men” I order loudly as they both jump back into action upon hearing my sharp tone.

They proceed to show me the rest of the downstairs of the pack house, introducing me to a couple of omegas on the way who are all quiet yet polite in their passing conversations. Walking upstairs, I note the door leading to the offices is locked along with the corridor opposite.

“These are only for ones in ranked positions” Donald explains gruffly. “We don’t have clearance.”

“Of course” I murmur as I study the two men walking in front of me. “Could I see your nursery?”

Seeing the nervous look pass between them, I speak again.

“It wasn’t really a request” I snap releasing my aura slightly, not giving them any chance to argue as they submit to me.

“This way” Jack mutters, leading me back downstairs and out of a side door. Looking to my right, I see the others stood to one side in silence while the Beta stands watching them. Seeing Jax look up at me, I offer him a small smile as I link him. “Not everyone is here, only one cook in the kitchen, the place was spotless and looked like it wasn’t used much at all. A lot of upstairs is locked and these men don’t have clearance, I’m on my way too the nursery now.”

“Ok, look after yourself” he replies with quiet concern.

“I always do, perhaps ask about their warriors” I tell him as I give him a little wave.

“It’s this building here” Donald tells me as we reach a large grey block building with dark doors leading inside. Seeing a few women walking down the road along with their pups, I smile at the men as I walk past them and in to the reception. Looking through the doors leading to the different rooms, I see a few pups already here, but instead of being met with the joyous sound of their tinkling laughs, see them sat quietly. Many are playing in silence, while some are simply sat staring out the window looking into the dark forest in front of them.

Hearing the doors open, I turn and see a young woman and her two pups enter. Meeting my gaze, her eyes widen in surprise before she looks at Jack and Donald nervously.

“Good morning” I chime trying to sound friendly and relaxed, despite my rising anger. Introducing myself to them, the lady smiles slightly as I drop down in front of her pups.

“And who do we have here?” I ask softly.

Seeing them glance at their mum, she speaks up, “I’m Mathilda, and these are my pups Jonas and Evie.”

Sending them a reassuring smile, I reach out and bop their noses slightly. “Well you two are absolutely adorable” I wink as Evie giggles quietly. “Are you excited for nursery today?”

With that question, their smiles falter slightly before Jonas steels his face and clears his throat, “we are Luna. I’m going to see my friend Tobias.”

“Oh that sounds wonderful, well I hope you both have a great day and you enjoy seeing Tobias. Friends are amazing aren’t they. Be

good for your mum” I giggle as they smile sheepishly up at her.

Standing slowly so as to not scare them, I smile warmly at the mother who suddenly has tears in her eyes. “Are you alright?” I ask quietly.

Her smile falters slightly before she nods and replies, “yes, I’m still getting used to leaving my pups. Mother jitters and all.”

Chuckling at her, her shoulders relax slightly as she once again glances at the men with me.

“Don’t react” | link her quietly as she bends down to kiss her children, pausing slightly at my mind link, she soon continues with her goodbyes. “Are you safe here?”

“For now..yes” she replies nervously as she avoids looking at me.

“Are the pups?” I ask next.

“Yes, they will be fine” she replies, her answer more confident this time as the pups hang up their bags.

“Not everybody is here are they?” I ask her.

“I can't say” she replies, her voice wobbly through the link. “I physically can't say.”

“You're under an Alpha command” I note as her mouth thins slightly.

“Well it's been lovely seeing you all, you pups enjoy today” I say out loud in a soft reassuring voice.

“And you Luna, safe travels” Mathilda replies quietly.

“If you need help. I'm from the Midnight Sky Pack, you can contact me at any time” I link her as I smile and with a small wave walk back outside.

Breathing in the fresh air as I step out, my face immediately darkens now I'm no longer

in the company of other pack members. “Is there anywhere else you’d like to go Luna?” Donald reluctantly asks.

“I think I’ve seen enough” I reply coldly as I storm over to my anxiously waiting mate

I take Jaxs outstretched hand and welcome his warmth as he holds me close, aware of the fact he can feel my sadness and anger I’m experiencing because of our bond.

“What did you find?” Alex links me as we stand in silence.

“Lack of pack members is evident, I met some omegas who were quiet yet polite. They seemed nervous around me as did the lady from the kitchen, she was reluctant to speak and commented that its always busy in the kitchen, but all evidence points to the contrary. I also went to the pack nursery, there were quite a few pups there but they weren’t happy...no laughter” i tell him quietly.

“Ok” he growls as he turns to speak to Elder Martin, gesturing for them to walk away to converse quietly.

Looking round Jax, I see Wilson watching them with concern etched across his face while Axton stands looking lost in thought. After a few moments, Alex and Martin return, both of their faces looking grave as they walk up to Beta Wilson.

“As you know, we are holding an emergency Alpha meeting tomorrow, are you able to reach Alpha Bruno?” Martin asks calmly.

“He will contact me if necessary” Wilson says in a low growl.

“So that’s a no” Jax snaps at him.

“No..I cannot reach him” Wilson says as his angry glare turns to Jax.

“Well then I expect you to be there instead” Alex says, interrupting the two mens stare off. “It is a meeting that concerns all packs

and therefore I am requesting you be the representative.”

“I can’t leave the pack” Wilson says, his voice sounding concerned.

“In this case, I can assure you that you can” Alex snaps, not happy with Wilson’s resistance. “It’s a direct order from your Alpha King and Council, Beta, so I suggest you be there.”

Blowing out a long breath, Wilson grinds his teeth together as he mulls over his response. “Fine” he huffs, “I will be there.”

“Good, on that note we will take our leave. Thank you for having us today” Alex says politely as he begins to walk back towards our vehicles. “Oh and Wilson...if your Alpha does contact you, I have a message for him. Tell him, his lies will catch up with him eventually...not all dreams are worth it, after all the higher you climb, the harder you can fall.”

Jax POV:

“We will stop in about 25 minutes, as soon as we are at the nearby town. Lets reconvene there before we go our separate ways. I have a vehicle of 5 warriors coming to meet Alpha Axton so he is not travelling back by himself” Alex tells us all.

“I can look after myself” Axton growls as he paces beside us.

“I know” Alex says calmly. “But I wouldn’t be doing my job as Alpha King if I didn’t consider the risks, after everything that has happened I think travelling with others is a good idea.”

“You’re right” Axton sighs as he pauses his pacing and runs a hand through his short hair. “Thank you.”

With a nod, Alex stands up and with a firm rap of his knuckles on our car bonnet, he turns while saying “follow us, stay close.”

Jumping in the vehicle, I’m once again hit by a strong wave of Novas sadness as she stares back at the eerily quiet pack grounds. “Come here love” | whisper holding my arms out as we take our seats. “That was tough huh?”

“Yes” she says with a shaky breath. “But those pups....oh Jax it was heartbreaking” she cries as she finally succumbs to tears.

“What happened?” Axton asks in concern as he begins to follow Alexs vehicle.

“They were all in their play rooms, just playing...silently.

There were no tears, no happiness, no laughter, nothing.

They were broken shells, and they’re only pups” she sobs. “I spoke to a young mum, Mathilda, and her two pups. I asked if they

were excited for nursery and they hesitated, then the eldest, a young boy stepped up and said he was excited to see his friend. He knew he had to answer and not give anything away that would suggest they weren't looking forward to it. It was so sad.”

“Poor pups” | say quietly as I feel my stomach clench at the thought of sad pups. “It was vastly different to when I last visited, even as I drove up last time, you couldn't miss the wolves running through the trees keeping watch as I approached. There used to be pack members littered about everywhere, but we barely saw any.”

“It's clear Bruno has been lying to his Beta” Axton growls as he jogs his knee anxiously.

“He definitely is” Nova whispers. “It's weird, when I read Wilson's emotions I could sense jealousy.”

“Jealousy?” I repeat as I try to think over the way he handled himself.

“Yes” she sighs. “But for the life of me I cant think why he would have felt that, it’s frustrating feeling peoples emotions but not always knowing the reason behind them feeling that sort of way.”

“It’s more than what we knew before though Nova” I tell her with pride clear in my voice. “You handled yourself brilliantly there, as always.”

“You have to say that” she chuckles quietly.

“But I mean it” I say nudging her lightly as she offers me a small smile. With a little sigh, I turn to see Axton glance at me in the mirror. “How are you holding up?” I ask him, referring to the potential bomb that was dropped on him.

“I’m in two minds, I was angry at first and most likely a bit defensive. I don’t want to think I’m related to that fucker” he admits slowly. “But then I realised Bruno has lied so much, to his own pack. Who knows if its

even true or he's just trying to f**k with me.”

“Is there anyone you can speak to about it?”
I ask him.

“My mother” he replies quietly. “I’ll speak to her once I’m back, I’m not leaving that to simmer.”

“That’s a good idea” Nova comments. “Just remember to hear her out Axton, don’t react just listen.”

Tensing as I feel like he may take offense to Nova reminding him, I’m pleasantly surprised when he chuckles instead.

“Already planning on Luca being with me don’t worry.”

Relaxing I chuckle as well, stopping when I see them both look at me curiously. “Sorry, I forget you know each other so well. It’s quite amusing to see you deal with one another like that.”

“Does it make you feel uncomfortable?” Axton asks hesitantly. “Because I don’t mean for that at all.”

“No” I reply quickly shaking my head. “Its natural, you spent years together and you weren’t just chosen mates you began as friends. Trust me, I know its nothing more than that, Nova is all mine.” I say with a wink causing my mate to blush a rosy pink while Axton laughs for the first time in a while.

“I don’t need to be reminded man, but I’m glad” Axton grins.

“Both Luca and Nova are extremely good at reading me, I struggled when I was younger with my anger. I reacted without taking a minute to think it over, trust me it has gotten much better over the years. But I know Nova means no harm by her comments, she’s just helping” he shrugs.

“Sorry love” I murmur to Nova as she simply waves me off.

“Its fine honestly, you’re pretty good at not being a jealous ass” she winks.

“Because I trust you,” I reply simply.

“Guardian Wolves never betray their mates, once bonded that’s us for life. Also our unique bond gives me no sense of doubt when it comes to Ki and Nova” Zeus tells me happily. “Even when Ki is being quiet on me.”

Hearing that I pause as confusion hits me, “Ki is being quiet on you?”

“Yeah, she says she’s tired. I thought maybe coming into her true powers drained her and then losing Drake etc may be the reason. I’m here when she needs me, and Nova also promised us a run later” he replies casually.

“Did she now?” I ask in amusement. “Well what she says goes I suppose.”

“Exactly” Zeus replies smugly.

Seeing Alex indicate to pull into a small rest spot, we pull in slowly behind him. “Axton, whatever happens.. we know you’re nothing like Bruno” I tell him as we go to climb out.

Seeing his shoulder relax as his head drops slightly, he offers me a grateful smile, “that means a lot, thank you..both of you.”

“Now lets see what’s next, hopefully Ophelia has heard something about Mila” I tell them, moving the subject back to my main reason to worry.

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Nova POV:

“Well.” Alex starts with an unreadable expression on his face. “That was not what I expected.”

“What did you expect?” Jax asks with a frown.

“A false sense of calm among them, a pack believing they were strong and not in the wrong, one that looked up to their alpha. If anything I expected more aggression” Alex states.

“Did you ask about the warriors?” I ask them.

“Yes” Jax replies. “They said they were busy running training camps in other parts of the territory, and then they have border patrols running as normal. But nothing struck me as normal during that visit.”

“Why didn’t we push more?” Axton growls.

“Because, Bruno is clearly playing a bigger game. His Beta definitely didn’t know the complete truth, and when we asked if he was safe he didn’t answer. Doesn’t that strike you as a pack that is simply following orders with no understanding?” Alex explains to Axton with raised brows.

Also, if we push too far we don't know how it could affect Mila. I know you're anxious to get her back, but we don't want to risk her more in the process."

"True" he says quietly as he looks deep in thought.

"What do you think is happening?" He asks Alex after a moment.

"My best guess..he's been slowly moving the pack over the last few months. The majority of warriors were definitely not there. I mean that pack is incredibly hostile normally and thier warrior presence would be sensed as soon as you've passed over their territory lines. My visits never go smoothly there, but then again Bruno has always been there so that will be why. I need to speak to Rebecca, I'm going to contact her home pack and speak to her father" Alex tells us.

"That was a pack that is suffering greatly, noone was happy" I interject quietly.

“That is what I’m going to address at the Alpha meeting”

Alex nods. “I want Wilson there so he is aware of the severity of the level of my concern I have for the pack members.’

“Were they scared?” Jax asks me next.

“Yes they were, definitely. But I’ve been thinking as well, they seemed lost... like they’ve been forgotten” I murmur. “I should have asked more but with Jack and Donald there noone was forthcoming with their opinions and I didn’t want to make them too uncomfortable.”

“I spoke with Ophelia” Alex says, swiftly moving on as all our eyes snap to look at him.

“Why didn’t you start with that?” Jax asks in disbelief.

“Because my mind was on how fvcked up this all is” Alex snaps at him. “None of this is

normal, none of it is a typical response is it? Yes Bruno taking Mila could have been seen in its own right as a fvcked up but relatively expected thing to occur considering what he like. But alongside his attitude to us, his lack of physical presence in his own pack and the lies...its fvcked up!”

With a heavy sigh Jax nods his head in acceptance as he purses his lips. “It makes sense” he says quietly. “But what did Ophelia have to say?”

“That there is a lot of movement near the Dark Moon Pack that borders the Red Sun Pack, Rebecca’s home pack.

Coincidentally the Alpha of the Dark Moon Pack is her cousin” Alex says coldly. “I believe she has more involvement in this than we thought, or perhaps her father does. Now what we need to figure out is if it is Bruno’s doing or theirs. They’re normally good at staying under the radar, they’re successful but not enough for everyone to

watch them, they don't get involved in too much pack drama and there are very little rumours about them that do the rounds."

"So do you think Mila will be there?" Axton asks hopefully.

"No" Alex replies slowly. "Ophelia also caught wind of some private building taking place in neutral territory deep in the heart of the Oxferks area. About 50 miles north of Red Sun Pack. Some travelling wolves have mentioned it over the last few months when they stopped in a local diner where one of Ophelia's sources work. It's a good place to pick up or over hear random facts."

"And you think this is something to do with Mila?" Axton asks in confusion.

"I have a good feeling about it yes" Alex agrees. "Now, I know what you're going to say. Lets go there now, but... have a plan in place already. Or actually Ophelia does, I'm asking you to wait until the end of tomorrow

once we have got the Alpha meeting finished with.”

“Why?” Axton growls, “I need to find my mate.”

“I know” Alex says calmly as he steps closer to Axton. “But we need to ensure that we don’t risk tomorrow. It is of the utmost importance that we see as many Alphas there as possible, especially of the southern territories. If Mila is there and we are able to extract her before the meeting, it could ruin everything. We dont know if Mila has learnt anything since being away from us, if she had for example heard names of those involved then I would imagine once they’ve learnt she has escaped, they would not come. It may even speed up whatever is going on that we aren’t aware of. We ve seen it before with Novas grandfather, taking the time to gain information can be valuable.”

“I HATE this” Axton growls.

“Look, for now, please trust in your Luna Queen when she says she has a plan” Alex says seriously, his eye full of confidence for his mate. “Alpha Axton, I need you to speak to your mother. Find out if its true you’re related to Bruno so we can nip the shock or the lies in the bud early...yes?”

With a deep sigh, Axton nods as his face hardens. “I hope I’m not” he mutters moodily. “I’m going to speak to her once I get back, that way I can fill you in tomorrow.”

“Good” Alex replies in relief. “Keep an open mind.”

“I’ve been warned already” Axton mutters rolling his eyes. “I am an Alpha you know.”

“We are aware, but you have been through a lot. I’m surprised you’re not reacting more extreme to be honest” Nova tells him quietly.

“And I know you haven’t been able to rest much, its easy to react in anger when you’re tired” Alex adds on.

“Trust me, our Alpha King would know” Jax mutters under his breath as Axton smirks slightly before replying.

“What good is that going to do” he says quietly. “doesn’t get me any closer to Mila.”

“Good you’re using your head” Martin says in approval from where he has been quietly watching. “Your warriors are arriving Alpha Axton. If you need to call anyone after speaking to your mother then do so, but I’m sure your Beta will be just the person you need. Let us head back to the Midnight Sky pack before I go on to the council buildings, we will see you tomorrow anyway.”

“Yes Elder” Axton replies with a bow of his head.

“Tomorrow it is, if you hear anything...”

“Then I will contact you immediately” Alex finishes quietly for him. “Drive safe.”

With a silent wave, Axton jumps into his car by a door that one of his warriors has open for him, and the cars move away slowly.

“Lets go back then” | say quietly, my voice sombre as the memories of the children’s downcast faces come to mind.

“Yes lets” Alex says eagerly, rubbing his hands together in anticipation.

“Do I want to ask?” Jax asks with a quiet huff as he eyes

Alex curiously.

“Its time to discuss what you need to do Jax” he says with a wide smirk. “After all your path to becoming the next Alpha King starts tomorrow.”

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Mila POV:

Waking with a start, I sit bolt upright in my bed as it takes a moment for my eyes to focus. Looking around the room, still swathed in darkness, I stand up from the bed and stumble to the high window. Pulling back the curtains I shriek when my eyes immediately meet a pair of dark brown ones staring in.

“GET AWAY” I yell in a panic as I rush to close the curtains again to the low grumble of the mans laughter following.

Tip-toeing to the bedroom door, I peer round and cock my head listening closely. Not hearing anyone else within the cabin, I take a deep inhale and once that confirms I’m alone, I pad through to the kitchen making sure not to look out of the small window I pass on the way.

Opening the fridge, I see it fully stocked and pause momentarily taking it all in. Inside the shelves are full to burst with all different kinds of meat, fresh fruit and vegetables and

plenty of dairy foods. Looking at the amount of food in there, I realise Bruno doesn't plan for me to be moving elsewhere anytime soon, even with the typically large appetite I have due to being a wolf, the amount of food in there will easily last me the week.

Sighing, I begin pulling everything I'd need for a large omelette out before making a coffee and beginning cooking. Knowing I had no idea what was to come, I needed to make sure I kept healthy and strong, especially for Alia. I will never allow Bruno to weaken us again.

Halfway through breakfast, my sharp senses pick up on muffled voices nearing the cabin. Pausing, so I can listen closely, I close my eyes and focus.

“Meeting tomorrow afternoon...”

...surprise them..”

“She will be here by this evening and we can proceed then.” this I can tell is Bruno's voice,

hearing him near the cabin, my eyes fly open and I quickly pick up my cutlery continuing to eat. Looking down, I study my omelette as I methodically cut it and take small bites.

Racking my brain as I try to think of what meeting it may be, I come up blank.

Realising it most likely has something to do with Bruno's plans, I decide to not question him and see if I can hear anything else of worth during my time here. With the mention of a woman coming, my body goes cold at the assumption it will be Rebecca. Remembering the malicious smirks she would direct towards me, and the way her eyes brightened whenever she saw me in pain I growl lightly just as the front door swings open.

“And what's got you so angry at this time of morning?” Bruno asks in amusement as he sits down in the chair opposite me.

“Wouldn’t you like to know” I reply back snarkily for him only to chuckle, his eyes bright with intrigue.

“I see you’ve made yourself at home” he comments as he takes in what little food I have left on my plate.

Shrugging, I don’t grace him with a reply, instead I continue to eat until my plate is empty. Once finished, I lean back as take a sip of my coffee, looking across at Bruno where I sense a more positive energy surrounding him today.

“May I get some fresh air today?” | ask as my gaze moves to the beams of morning sunlight filtering through the trees above. “I cant be cooped up like this constantly Bruno.”

“Ooo I like it when you say my name” he smirks making me simply roll my eyes in response. “Yes, I will accompany you for a walk this afternoon, we can walk around

here and if you wish to eat outside I can join you.”

Pausing as that wasn't exactly what I had in mind, I quickly weigh up my options. Going outside was necessary, for my well being but also so I can take more details of where I am currently being held. In my dazed state of arrival yesterday, I hadn't taken in anything bar the fact we were in a clearing in a forest. “Ok” I quietly reply.

“You want to do both?” He asks in slight surprise.

“Wolves need fresh air, of course I want to be outside. Don't take it as I want to be in your company” I reply coldly.

“That's more like the Mila I know” he chuckles. “Tomorrow I have something important to discuss with you, I require your cooperation in something important” he starts as I look at him curiously.

“Or else?” I ask slowly.

“I think you know” he grins as he cracks his knuckles.

“And theres the Bruno I know” I sneer back at him.

“The one and only” he smirks. “I have some guests arriving later today, they will be wanting to see you so make sure youre presentable. I’ll have some clothes brought to you after dinner. Is there anything you need as I will be busy until this afternoon?”

“Nothing that I think you will agree to so...no” I huff as I cross my arms angrily, my heart aching as the thought of mate lingers in my mind. “Am I allowed to train?”

“Train” he laughs. “Why would you feel the urge to train Mila? You have your yoga equipment, if you wish to do some this morning then I am more than happy to ask Harry to oversee you for a short 30minutes.”

“Is this your way of buttering me up to try ensure I cooperate?” I ask him bluntly.

“Yes” he admits immediately, “like I said Mila I don’t wish to hurt you if it can be helped. Just take what I’m offering for now, it will be a lot easier on the both of us. trust me.”

“But I don’t Bruno, I have absolutely no reason to trust you” I scoff. “Is Harry the one who was peeping in my bedroom window this morning?”

“Excuse me?” He bellows as his eyes jump to meet mine.

“You heard me, I opened my curtains and was met with some brown eyes, I knew they weren’t yours” I mutter.

“That bastard” he growls before slamming his fist on the table and storming out the cabin, the door slamming shut behind him as his good mood evaporates.

“As polite as ever” I grumble while taking my dirty plate to the sink and rinsing everything clean. Sighing I pour myself a

glass of apple juice and then take a seat on the sofa, thinking through what Bruno had said. Suddenly there is a loud roar from outside and I shoot up off the sofa, recognising it as belonging to Bruno. Yet this time, his anger didn't seem to be directed towards me.

Running to the window in the bedroom, I pull the curtains open and gasp in surprise as I see Bruno's slamming the man I assume to be Harry into the ground, where blood is pouring from a large gash on his chest while his eyes roll back as he passes out.

“You do not EVER touch Mila, don't forget why we are here.

She CANNOT come to harm” Bruno seethes as he turns his furious glare on the men who are gathering around him. “If I see your hungry eyes on her I will not hesitate to do worse than I have today with Harry, all of you may consider this your warning!”

Spinning slowly, his blood splattered face looks to me, his brown eyes taking in my surprise. Taking a shaky step back, I feel the bed hit the back of my legs and I sit down in shock, staring at the wall below the high window where I can no longer see my ex mate.

“I just need to stay alive and out of harms way as long as possible” I mutter to myself. “I can do this.”

“We can do this Mila” I hear Alia murmur quietly to me.

“You’re back” I breathe in relief as tears fall down my face.

“I am” she says confidently. “Its time to show that man, he is no longer our Alpha.”

[The Blessed Ones – A Blessing Or A Curse? Chapter 25](#)

Nova POV:

“Luna” Laurence says with a bow as he greets us on return.

“How are you?”

“Tired,” I chuckle, “but I’ll be fine.”

“You look tired” he says quietly before frowning and backtracking. “I mean. don’t, you don’t.”

“Laurence” I chuckle. “I do, and I don’t mind you stating the obvious. At least you didn’t say I looked awful” I wink as we walk inside.

“You said my mate looks awful?” Jax growls as he appears by my side.

“NO!” Laurence shouts, his eyes wide with panic. “All I said was she looks tired.”

“Bad thing to say to a she-wolf Laurence” Jax snaps as I look at him in shock.

“Jax! He didn’t insult me, I’m the one that said I was tired and he agreed. My goodness,” I exclaim. “I made a joke saying at least he didn’t say I looked awful!”

“Oh” Jax says looking sheepish.

“Protective ass” Laurence mutters as Jax growls lunging for him playfully before we all erupt into quiet laughter.

“Anyway” Laurence starts as reach the office door. “I’ve filed all our daily reports, I’ve checked in on the wounded who are still hospitalised and I’m pleased to say that in the next 48 hours all will be returning home. The funerals for the fallen are going to be held tonight, I couldn’t leave it any longer and all families have agreed it is time for the burning to mark the end of mourning. Everybody will be meeting outside at 8pm, the families all wished to do it once darkness has fallen.”

“Thank you Laurence” Jax says with a sad smile. “I’m going to make personal visits this afternoon to all the families, I will also address the pack about what has happened with Mila. They deserve an explanation as to why I suddenly departed and will have to tomorrow also.

Was everybody ok with me not being here?”

“They were fine” Laurence says with a shrug. “Of course people wondered where you were, but both myself and our Luna Mother made it clear you would address the subject on your return and that it was an urgent matter.”

“And how is my ma?” Jax asks with worry across his handsome face.

With a small frown, Laurence sighs before replying. “On the surface, you would think she is perfectly normal. But I know for a fact she has been keeping herself extremely busy, I don’t think she has got much sleep recently. I saw her taking a walk in the garden at 2:30am, she looked sad.”

“Oh Amelia” I whisper as concern floods through me. “She’s lost her matebond and her daughter, I imagine she’s feeling a bit overwhelmed at the moment.”

“Naomi and Alice have been there with her, they’ve not broached the subject too much but they have helped her with work” Laurence explains quietly.

“The company will help” Jax says. “I’ll ask her to accompany me this afternoon, perhaps you get some rest Nova before this evenings burnings?”

“I think I might have to” I frown. “I’m sorry, I wanted to come with you and visit the families.”

“They will want their Luna rested and feeling well” he assures me gently. “You can see them tonight love.”

“If you’re sure” I whisper, guilt flooding through me.

Seeing Laurence flinch, Jax and I both raise our brows in question. Realising we noticed, he rubs the back of his neck before chuckling quietly.

“Mindlink from Naomi, I tell you. hormones are no joke” he grimaces.

“How are her and Alice?” I ask.

“Brilliant, pups are growing perfectly and Theo has been busy preparing our baby rooms while we have time” he smiles.

“Oh I can’t wait to see” I exclaim happily.

“So I see Elder Martin and our Alpha King are still here?”

Laurence asks.

“Yes” Jax replies. “Alex and Ophelia will be staying until tomorrow, we can all travel to the Alpha meeting together that way. Elder Martin will be travelling back tonight, I believe he’s just checking in with Sophie and organising for her to travel to the White Mountain Pack.”

“Can I just say. They have been extremely helpful and respectful while staying here”

Laurence comments. ” They’ve come to some training sessions and actually included a few new methods which we have never considered, they also were intrigued with our methods of training. They’ve also helped in the kitchens, and on border patrols.”

“They didn’t have to do that” Jax exclaims.

“They weren’t invasive Alpha, they were respectful and just offering their help. They did it before Sophie even suggested it”

Laurence shrugs. “They seem to be accustomed to being around other pack members more.”

“Well that’s a good thing” I smile. “I’ll have to find Sophie before she heads back. Is she any closer to shifting?”

“Her wolf said at the full moon, the power of the moon will help her shift” he excitedly tells us.

“Brilliant” I say in relief as another yawn escapes me.

“Go to bed love” Jax says with a little chuckle. “I’ll come wake you for dinner.”

“Thanks,” I whisper as I stand up and quickly drop a kiss on his forehead.

“Luna..I’ll walk with you. Give Alpha time to organise the things he has to do before tonight” Laurence smiles as he holds the door open for me.

“I feel like I could sleep for days” I chuckle as I stifle another yawn. “Sorry, it’s so rude of me.”

Waving me off he simple chuckles as we reach Jax and I”s room, “can I speak to you in private quickly?” He asks quietly as he glances around.

“Of course” I say looking at him in confusion as I open the door and gesture for him to go in. Walking in I lead us to the sofa and sit down with a sigh. “So what can I help you with?”

“So you know how i am the Beta” he says slowly as I simply nod at his statement.

“Since you and Jax’s true bond was completed during the fight, I’ve been more sympathetic to how you’re feeling.”

“Oh well that’s nice” I say with a giggle. “But you don’t need to worry about how I’m feeling.”

“No you misunderstood Luna” he says shaking his head.

Sympathetic as in I can sense your feelings, as if I’m linked to you in a way. I know it’s normal for myself and our Gammas to protect the Luna with our lives, we would do anything for you. But when you’re angry I can literally sense it, when you’re upset I can as well and when also when you’re happy. I can’t put the context behind the feelings don’t worry” he says with an awkward smile as I flush deeply.

“And this has only come on since the fight?”
I ask him slowly.

“Yes” he responds quietly. “It took me a while to figure out, but when you said you’re so tired it all makes sense. I’ve been feeling overwhelmingly tired, but I’m physically not, I know it’s not my own feeling and can separate it. I know Gammas are linked to the Luna normally, but when I asked Theo and Flo they both said they weren’t, they just have a family bond with you.”

“Interesting” I muse.

“But that’s not exactly why I want to talk in private, but you must know I’m privileged to have that bond with our Luna” he says with a proud smile.

“So what is it you want to talk about?” I ask him again.

“I’ve also been feeling incredibly hungry alongside your tiredness” he says slowly.

“Sorry for my appetite?” I ask in confusion.

“No” he shakes his head as he flushes slightly. Sensing his nerves, I reach out my hand to grasp his.

“Laurence....what’s wrong? Just say it.” I say gently.

Taking a deep breath, he looks at me before speaking, “if Jax and you have spoken about this and decided to speak to me about it at a later date, then I apologise for asking.”

“Ok...” I say with a frown.

He smiles slightly before his next question makes me freeze in shock, “Luna....are you pregnant?”