

Epilogue

Elena

Six months later.

Life has become a chaotic whirlwind of laughter, tears, diapers, and midnight feedings. Sondra and Louise, our twin girls, are the newest additions to our growing family. Our once-quiet house is now filled with cooing, crying, and bickering between Kyan and Bane, who are now on the move and have turned into little terrors.

As I look around the house, getting ready to leave to go to the supernatural council, I can't help but feel a sense of pride and gratitude. Our family has grown so much in such a short time, and we're learning to adapt and love each other more with each passing day.

Axton has been incredible, taking his role as Alpha and father very seriously, which is a relief given the tumultuous world which our sons were born into. He's been present for every sleepless night, diaper change, and mealtime, juggling his duties as an Alpha and father effortlessly.

Our pack has also been an invaluable help, stepping in whenever Axton and I needed some time for ourselves or when we had to attend to our pack duties. The pack members have become like extended family, always willing to lend a hand and support us in any way possible. Surprisingly, all three packs have just about merged as one and get on well after everything that happened. For the first time, we all feel a sense of home within the city.

Kyan and Bane are adapting well to their new roles as big brothers. They adore their little sisters and can often be found playing with them or making them laugh. However, we have to watch them like hawks too, now that they're on the move. They're constantly getting into everything. It's heartwarming to see the bond forming between our children and to know that they will grow up surrounded by love and support.

Our days are now filled with laughter, love, and the occasional tantrum. We've learned to embrace the chaos and cherish every moment with our children. The sleepless nights and endless diaper changes are worth it when we see the smiles on our children's faces and feel the warmth of their love.

"Michelle and Eli are here." Axton sings out to me. They've come to watch the boys. Today we hope to put everything behind us finally, praying that the courts rule in our favor.

Giving the kids a quick kiss, I explain everything to Michelle, who rolls her eyes at me. "Go, I know how to make a damn bottle," she chuckles, waving me off. With one last glance at the kids, I reluctantly leave, following Axton out to the car.

It is the first time Axton and I have been away from our kids since the twins were born. Despite the importance of the council hearing, I can't help but feel a sense of urgency to return home. So, sitting in the supernatural council chambers, I find myself anxious to get back.

I know we're here to witness a historic moment in the werewolf communities. One that could potentially change the lives of many she-wolves. The women from my pack are awaiting the verdict for their exoneration after being accused of killing their abusive mates. If they aren't exonerated today, Axton will have to announce a punishment to the council, seeing as most packs handle pack business and crimes themselves, yet they still have to show proof of such crimes being punished.

Over the last couple of months, Axton has fought tirelessly to change the oppressive laws that prevent she-wolves from leaving their mates, even in the most dire of circumstances. The current laws have resulted in countless she-wolves suffering in silence, unable to escape their mates' torment.

As the council members file in, the room falls silent. All eyes are on them, and I sit up a little straighter. Axton and I exchange a hopeful glance, knowing that the outcome of this verdict could be a turning point for our kind.

The head council member clears his throat and begins to speak. "After careful consideration and thorough review of the evidence presented, we have unanimously decided. The accused pack members are hereby exonerated of all charges relating to the deaths of their mates." Marco then rises, reading out the names of every one of the women in the pack. It's not until the last name is read that I finally suck in a shaky breath. They are finally free, free to live without fear, free to live without having to glance over their shoulders wondering if the council is watching them.

The room erupts in gasps and murmurs. Still, the head council member continues. “Additionally, we recognize that the existing laws have long been a barrier for she-wolves seeking to escape abusive relationships. As a council, we have decided to remove these laws, effectively granting she-wolves the right to leave their mates in situations where their safety and well-being are compromised.”

A wave of relief washes over us, and I can’t help the smile that splits onto my face. This is a huge step towards a fairer society for all werewolves. “Furthermore, the supernatural court announces that the women of the Elysium Fortuna pack are hereby exonerated of their crimes.”

As we leave, Marco catches up with us. He was part of the deciding panel. “Thank you,” I tell him, and he shakes his head.

“No, they never should have been charged in the first place. It’s about time some laws are redefined and looked into. Hopefully, this is just the start of change,” he tells us.

“Are you--” Marco looks at Axton, who nods. Marco smiles while I watch their quiet exchange. “I’ll catch you later, Elena,” Marco tells us before heading inside the council courts again.

As we travel home, I notice that Axton seems anxious as we are nearing the city. Axton is tapping his fingers against the steering wheel, and his gaze is constantly shifting from the road to me. His face is lit up with anticipation, and his posture is tense, as if he can’t wait to get home. He’s clearly excited about getting home, but there’s also a hint of nervousness that he’s trying to conceal.

“Are you okay?” I ask him.

“Yes, I’m excited to get home.” My eyes narrow slightly while I wonder what is wrong with him.

“What?” he asks with a playful smile.

“You’ve been bouncing in your seat the entire way home,” he shrugs.

“I wanna get home to the kids,” he tells me, and I sigh. Yes, the kids have been on my mind all day too, and I can’t wait to finally be home, so I can take these darn heels off.

However, upon arriving home, I noticed cars lining the street.

“Axton, what’s going on?” I ask, and he smiles mysteriously. When he pulls up in the driveway, Axton leads me out to the backyard. Here, we find all of our packs celebrating the announcement that the laws have been changed, and the women have been exonerated.

The atmosphere of the party was one of joy and relief. Everyone is celebrating the announcement and knowing that their lives would be changed for the better. The backyard was a flurry of activity: people laughing and talking. A bounce house was set up for the kids, and now I understand Axton’s excitement to get home.

“When did you organize this?” I ask, glancing at Axton.

“I mind linked Eli to let him know the good news,” Axton tells me while I glance around. The grass was freshly mowed, and the trees were in bloom. Tables were set up around the yard perimeter, dotted with plates of delicious food and drinks. Music played in the background. Upon entering, we are surrounded by pack members, and we become separated from each other.

Yet as the night goes on, I know I have to get the boys to bed. The girls are safely tucked in their stroller, which Axton has been pushing around with him possessively, so he can use them as an excuse to escape as he pleases.

Looking around, I spot Michelle grabbing them off the bounce house with Eli and Luke. I am about to go over and help when Axton calls for everyone’s attention from the back porch. Stopping, I turn to look at him, and then he waves for me to come to him. I point to the boys, and he rolls his eyes, rushing down the steps to retrieve me. He covers my eyes.

“What are you doing?” I chuckle.

“Keeping the one promise no one else did,” Axton whispers, leading me up the stairs. My brows pinch, wondering what he means as I stumble up the steps, only for Axton to keep a strong grip on me.

When he turns me around to face everyone, he removes his hands. I gasp, seeing Axton on his knees before me, along with all three packs. Axton bears his neck and pledges to me, naming me the Alpha of their pack. “I, Axton Levin, Alpha of the Nightfall pack, hereby step down as Alpha and name Elena Bardot as the new Alpha of our new pack, Elysium Fortuna pack. I pledge to serve her and the pack according to her directions and help her lead our pack to a bright and prosperous future. I swear to always honor, protect, and obey her and to love and honor her as our Alpha.” The

packs pledge their loyalty to me as their newly appointed Alpha, declaring me the Alpha of the Elysium Fortuna pack after Axton.

Overwhelmed with emotion, tears welled in my eyes. Axton rises and gently wipes them away. "I told you I don't want to be your Alpha. Only your mate," he whispers.

"You didn't have to give up our pack," I murmur.

"For you, I'd give up the world," he tells me before leaning down and kissing me briefly. Axton wraps his arms around me, and I see Michelle moving toward us, Bane over her shoulder, and Kyan tucked under her arm like a football. I chuckle, watching her wrangle the boys when Luke comes racing up the steps toward us. "Alpha," he smirks and I mess his hair.

"So, what's next?" I chuckle when Kyan escapes Michelle's grip, making her chase after him.

"You marry me," Axton whispers. I gasp, peering at him over my shoulder. Axton smiles, his eyes twinkling with joy as he gazes at me. "I will be honored to be Lupha of the Elysium Fortuna Pack, but only if you become Mrs. Elena Louise Levin. Will you marry me?" Luke then holds up a small velvet box, passing it to Axton, and he pops it open. He presses his lips to the side of my neck.

"So, Alpha, what's it going to be?" he murmurs. A smile splits onto my face as I hold my hand up for him. "Yes..." I breathe.