

I frowned, "That's very sad. What happened to Alpha Raven's mate?" Heath shrugged, "What usually kills wolves. A rogue attack. The mother protected the daughter, as most mother would." I nodded. That was true. Heath said, "Alpha Raven was in a meeting. He made tracks to them, but he was moments too late. He's lost it." I said, "Then why not leak it that he's helping Alpha Hammond. He'd be taken out." Heath shrugged, "If it comes to it; I will. I just think his son will be a good leader." I said, "Eric is a fair man. He could give the pack to the son." Heath said, "Yes, should the son lay down arms and not ght for his father. Crazy or not, the man is his father. Alpha Raven's day is fast approaching. The son will be out of the way if everything I think comes to pass. He won't be there to ght that battle, and he will take his rightful place among his pack. If I'm wrong, then I'm wrong." I said, "But you don't think that you are." Heath smiled, "I am not often completely wrong Lexi." I said, "Oh I know." We ate the rest of our dinner in silence. Once we'd nished, I said, "Couldn't you leak to Sophia about her siblings. I think she deserves to know. It must suck to think you are an island when you're not. I would hate it if I didn't know about you, Heath." Heath sighed, "I'll think about it." I smiled, "You always do the best thing Heath." Heath looked away, "Not always. I'm trying though Lexi. You and me. We promised. I'll always put you before me, Lex." I frowned, "Well don't do that!" Heath smiled, "You're my little sister. I failed you when I gave you space. I should've known all along what Noah did to you, but I buried my head in the sand. It won't happen again." I asked, "You can't know everything Heath. You have NEVER failed me. You are my rock. Speaking of people failing... Have you found out anything about our family?" Heath sighed, "I'm hitting roadblocks. Someone really didn't want us to know if we started looking. The amount of roadblocks tells me there is something to nd though." Tears lled my eyes, "So they really are out there, and they don't want to know us?"

Heath said, "Their loss, and they WILL know that when I track them down. I won't do that without you though. We see them together, and we get answers together." I smiled, "Agreed. It was nice having dinner. We should make it at least a monthly thing." Heath smiled, "My door is open, but I'll take a monthly dinner with you Lex." I gave him a hug and took off running. I left the shroud and crossed into Chase's territory. I heard a ght going on. My heart stopped. Was Chase ok? I heard a grunt of pain. Oh god. I screamed, "NATHAN!" I ran. Noah's brother was ghting someone. I took out two people ghting Nathan. Out of the corner of my eye I saw something that made my heart stop. A black wolf was down. My heart started pounding in my ears. Tears lled my eyes. Not Chase.... Goddess please.... not Chase! I took everyone remaining out by myself in a rage. I turned to Nathan who was breathing heavily. I said, "Are you alright?" He nodded, "The old man found my hiding spot. He was questioning me when we got jumped by witches and rogues." My heart stopped, "Old man?" Nathan nodded, "Called for someone named Isaac he said, but they got caught by rogues too. I tried... I was running the whole territory all night. I swear. I tried to keep them safe." I said, "Nathan this isn't your fault. Get back to the shroud. I'll handle the cleanup." Nathan said, "The old man's a good ghter. He didn't get hit with anything but spells. Still took down six rogues while he was whining in pain. He only went down as you showed up." I nodded. Nathan took off.

I turned to look at the wolf. I knew exactly who it was. "Frank... don't you dare be dead." Frank shifted back into human form. He tried to laugh, but it came out wheezing. He whispered, "The Black Arrow knows my name huh? I guess you would with TeleTed being kidnapped and in our pack. You saved him." I checked Frank over ignoring him. He said, "I didn't take a hit. Just the spell of pain. My wolf says we will be ne." I said, "You don't have a choice. You have to be ne." Frank said, "My son might respect me again if I died saving the pack." I said, "You shut up. You have three kids who need you. Everyone needs their dad. Especially when their dad is a good man like you. A particular little girl comes to mind. Her mother does too. Don't go dying for respect. EARN it back without dying." Frank managed to nod. I ran to the tree line and grabbed him some clothes. He put his own shorts on, and I had to help him with the shirt. "I can't smell you, but my wife will be in ts over this." I snorted, "She won't be able to smell me on you. I don't have a smell right now." Frank laughed but it turned into a cough, "Of course you don't. My wolf said you seemed frightened when you saw me. Did you think I would hurt you? No... that doesn't make sense. I was down." I said, "I was worried. We were trying to protect multiple areas from attack tonight. We did not want any werewolf casualties." That was true. I couldn't tell him I'd thought he could've been Chase. My heart was still not beating normally. Frank said, "Do you know Lexi Scott?" I stiffened, "Yes."

Frank said, "My son is worried about her. Do you know if she's alright?" I said, "Let's focus on you." Frank said, "No... she's...important to my son. I need to know if you know her status. She had a mission tonight, and you said your people were all over the area." I said, "She's ne." Frank looked relieved, "That's good. Chase will be worried about her until he sees her again." I said, "I think your son may be more worried about you. Can your mate feel your pain?" Frank nodded slowly. I hoisted Frank up to his feet. He collapsed. I sighed. He said, "Leave me here. Isaac will nd me. His family just nished off the rogues they encountered. Well his daughter and son are with him." Oh good Matt was coming. He couldn't smell me, but we needed to move. "Do you have a hospital on site?" I knew the answer. I'd seen it today. Frank said, "Of course. All packs do. It's west of us." I nodded and hoisted him up. Frank was startled, "God. Seriously? I'm just racking up the amount of your people that hoist me effortlessly. I'm starting to get a complex." I laughed, "We are quite strong." Frank snorted, "I noticed. Your voice modulator deal is something." I smiled, "Thanks. I'll pass along my compliments to the hood." Frank snorted, "He's no fan of mine." I said, "You know him?" Frank said, "He punched me in the face once." I laughed, "When did he do that?" Frank said, "A while back. He wasn't happy with me." I snorted, "He's not one for being subtle. If all he did was punch you then he's probably over it." Frank coughed, "God.... witches' spells hurt." I sighed. I wished I could call Haley. I just didn't know what she was doing. I didn't want to distract her, and Frank was going to be ne. I told him, "I'd call the fairy princess but..." Frank said, "NO! We haven't heard from Chase yet. There was going to be a ght tonight that she was in. They need her. I'm ne. I need my son to have her with him." I nodded, "Ok." I took off running.

I walked inside the hospital. The halls were empty. SERIOUSLY? I yelled, "I need some help over here!" Doctors poured into the hall. One yelled, "That's... former Alpha Frank! Oh god! The Alpha will have our heads! Is he alright? We have search parties out looking. The Beta's family couldn't nd him." I said, "I found him. He's been hit with a spell. I found no other injuries." I set Frank down gently on a bed they wheeled out. Frank fussed, "I'm ne!" The doors burst open and Nadine ran in. Tears streamed down her face. She threw herself on the bed and Frank. "YOU! YOU!" She sobbed and yelled at him. "DON'T DO THAT TO ME!" Frank rubbed her back, "I'm ne Nadine." She swatted him, "You did not feel FINE! In fact you still don't. What's wrong with him?" The doctor nodded to me, "According to the Black Arrow he took on some spells. We don't see any other injuries. We will give him something for the pain." Nadine gasped when she saw me. She jumped off Frank and hugged me tight. "Thank you, Black Arrow." I said, "Call me BA." Ted ran through the doors. Gaping when he saw me. He nally spoke, "I linked Matt that Former Alpha Frank is here." Frank said, "Oh for god's sake. Just call me Frank, Ted." Ted said, "BA." I nodded to him, "TeleTed." He winked at me, "Busy night?" I said, "So very busy.... Is everyone else alright here?" Ted would know who I was asking about. Before he could respond Frank asked, "My sons? Reagan? Are they alright?" Ted said, "Matt linked me that they are all ne. Chase is on his way home now." I said, "I'll leave you all to it." I whispered to Ted knowing they could hear me, "I'll run the territory to make sure the borders are clear. I'll send you a text when I know." Ted nodded and I took off.

I ran Haley's border last giving Chase time to get through. I found two more rogues and killed them. I pulled out my burner phone and texted Ted.

Me: Two more rogues East end killed

Ted: Got it BA

I was about to put my phone away when I saw another text.

Chase: I need you Lexi. My dad got hurt tonight... I just need to see you. I need to see that you're alright.

I ran to my house. I put all my stuff away. I grabbed another one of Chase's hoodies off of the oor and threw on some yoga pants. I ran back to Chase's territory. I knew he'd be in the hospital. I ran inside. I frowned. I didn't know where they'd taken Frank. He was in the hall when I'd left. I walked to the front desk. "Do you know where...?" My question was cut off by Chase grabbing me from behind. He dragged me into an empty room. He broke down almost as soon as the door was shut. I rubbed his back, "Shh.... it's alright." He said, "I need you to thank whoever your people were that were here besides the black arrow tonight. Thank her too." I said, "Ok...." Chase said, "If they'd caught my dad out alone... there would've been too many with f****g witches and rogues for him to take on."

I said, "So he's alright?" Chase nodded, "Thanks to your people, he's ne! Foolish old man running a patrol by himself." I said, "Alpha tendencies. Oh and by the way I've been dying to say. Romeo, Romeo wherefore art thou Romeo?" He laughed. "Ted was in charge of my costume. It got shredded, but Haley snapped us all back into our clothes. I'm so glad you're alright." I smiled, "Me too. Except about you being alright. Did everything go ok tonight?" Chase snorted, "You were right. Haley is hard to guard. She just popped away. Alpha Hammond is dead, but some of his followers got away. No wolves or rogues but witches." I said, "I doubt they will be a problem." Seriously. I think Heath had it out for the coven. He probably had plans for them. I breathed Chase in. letting that small part of myself settle that though it could've been him down instead of his father. I couldn't stop my tears. Chase said, "Hey... I'm ne." I said, "When I heard there was a black wolf down...in your territory Chase..." Chase rubbed my tears away, "Lexi..." I said, "My heart stopped. Chase...you can't leave me." He rubbed my nose with him, "You're stuck with me. Come on. My dad said the Black Arrow told him you were ne, but he's refusing pain meds until it's conrmed." I said, "Your father is a strange man. Wanting me to stay away from you, refusing medication until he sees I'm ne. He's confusing." Chase laughed, "He is." He led me down the corridors to a very fancy room. I walked in and the relief on Frank's face was palpable. This is why my scent is concealed and my hair is blonde in the arrow out. People would be able to recognize me. A little scent concealer and hair color people don't put it together.

Frank spoke rst, "Thank god. Chase was worried." Nadine rolled her eyes, "Yes, Chase was the only one worried. You didn't pace the damn oor since she left this afternoon until you went for a run.... A run! YOU are in SUCH trouble." Frank smirked, "I did go for a run." Chase growled, "You don't patrol alone." Isaac said, "I'm a little put out here myself, Frank." Frank said, "I just wanted to clear my head and the border. How was I supposed to know there were hood members guarding us?" Ted said, "I come to mind. They were here to protect me." Frank said, "A fact I am now aware of." I laughed, "You are stubborn." Frank said, "Right down to my very marrow. I am glad you are alright. You take care of my son." I took Chase's hand, "You have my word. Now please... take some pain medication." Frank nodded and the doctor sighed in relief. Ted and I stepped out for a moment. He said, "Things are very interesting around here." I said, "Are they?" Ted nodded, "I love it. I wonder why the Black Arrow was around in this territory." I said, "Do you?" Ted said, "Oh I do. See Matt got word about A LOT of dead rogues on our border with some witches." I said, "Did he?" Ted nodded, "He did. Warriors swear the hood himself along with the black arrow picked them before they ran away when the ght was won. They lost them. Couldn't pick their scents back up." I shrugged, "Seems like they helped out." Ted said, "Seems like they knew it was coming." I said, "Maybe."

Chase came out and grabbed my hand. "He's asleep. Let's go back to your place." I nodded, "See you later Ted." Ted said, "Oh YES you will. We have private things to chat about." I laughed, "Oh Ted, Ted Ted." Ted said, "There is no Ted, Ted, Tedding. Ted and Lexi will be having themselves a chat!" I laughed, "Alright." Kevin and Kincade breathed a sigh of relief when they saw me. Chase said, "I've got her. She will need you again Monday." They both nodded and left. We walked slowly to my house. Chase spoke, "I got the news my father was hurt and overwhelmed by rogues once the ght was over at Alpha Lyon's home. They didn't want to tell me until they'd heard from me. No one knew where my dad was. We only had Nadine conrming he wasn't dead." I said, "You did call your brother, right?" Chase nodded, "He had to secure his own borders. He and Reagan will be over shortly." I frowned, "Did they take on an attack too?" Chase nodded, "Lexi members were there as well. Were you one of them?" I said, "It honestly wasn't me at Cameron's border." Chase nodded, "We thought they might be attacked so we sent them men. We did not think we would get attacked here." I said, "The hood member that was here was only a precaution. I don't think anyone thought they would come for you." Chase nodded. He growled and put me behind him. "Chase?" He said, "Don't move." I turned to see Matt's wolf and Kevin and Kincade running at us. They spread out around the area. They ran behind trees and shifted back, "Whoever it was is gone Chase." I said, "Whoever what was?" Chase said, "There's a strange scent here." I said, "They might just be passing through. None of Haley's booby traps were triggered." Chase said, "That's true." He grabbed a note and handed it to me. I looked at it. My name was written in beautiful calligraphy letters. I sighed, "Maybe I should get a neon sign that says Lexi Scott lives here." I opened the letter. I don't know what I was expecting, but what I read was not it.

Lexi,

This is not how I thought our rst interaction would go. You are in danger. More than you can. I cannot in good conscience not warn you of the dangers facing you. Stick with your wolf. You are in danger when you are separated. Heath is working hard, as are we. Stay vigilant, stay aware, and most importantly stay alive. Trust your circle and no one else. Some you think as condants are not that. Share sparingly the details of things. Be very careful Lexi. If you do not trust someone implicitly keep your mouth shut around them.

Do not die. I want to meet you formally one day. We are family after all.

I read the last line four times before I promptly passed out cold.