

## Worried Pt. 1

Chase stared at Lexi for several moments. How can she not think the link is Noah? Noah HAD to be the leak. I asked her why she thought it wasn't Noah. She grabbed the soap and seemed to be in thought. She might be trying to drive me insane. I needed an answer. We both got clean, but Lexi remained silent. She threw me a towel and we both dried off. She picked up my hoodie. I was ridiculously happy she loved it so much. Lexi started to leave the bathroom and she casually threw in that the demons were trying to kill her now. I linked Matt, "Lexi is saying the demons were trying to kill her. I thought Kevin said she got hit in the shoulder and lung! I thought they were trying to wound her so they could take her!" I growled out loud asking her to clarify. I linked Matt, "POISON IN THE BULLETS! THERE WAS POISON IN THE DAMN BULLETS!" Matt linked, "I'd ask if you were serious, but Ted is on the phone with Heath. He's liling him in. Ted's to be armed at all times and on alert." Lexi started to panic about the possibility of Kevin or Kincade being hurt. Both were ne. I assured her of that. No one got hurt besides her, and several demons. I linked Matt, "Who's on cleanup?" Matt linked, "Several warriors. You know your dad knows now." I said, "He thinks he knows." Matt linked, "Sure, Chase. He thinks. Your rage and general disposition didn't conrm it for anyone. No.... this is all ne. Alpha Conners didn't keep men away from our border for any reason whatsoever." I ignored him. Lexi said she was leading the demons away from my men.

I said, "Lexi was leading the demons away from my two best warriors. WHO ARE THERE TO PROTECT HER!" Matt said, "Can you nd a little chill... somewhere. She is ne.... now." I growled, "POISON BULLETS!" Matt linked, "Fairy healing princess." I asked Lexi why she didn't come to me. I literally locked up when she reminded me, I was at my pack where Susie was. I didn't know what to say. I didn't want Susie anywhere near danger, but I didn't want Lexi to face danger alone. I would've been right by her side ghting, right where I wanted to be. I would've ripped apart the demon that had shot her. Instead Alpha Conners and his pack did. Lexi also pointed out she ran to Haley because she needed to be healed. I couldn't argue that point. I couldn't have healed her, and I didn't know if our doctors here would've known she'd been poisoned until it was too late. I shuttered at that thought. The demons were trying to kill her. She was my reason for everything now. She couldn't die. Not before I could bring her to my side. We were supposed to be forever. I hadn't begun to have enough time with her. I asked if Heath was still going to send her out on Halloween. Surely, he wouldn't. Lexi nodded saying she was going. WAS HER BROTHER OUT OF HIS MIND?! I asked her to take Kevin and Kincade again. Not that taking them would be much help if she ran away from them, but they could link me. They could track her scent. I linked Matt, "Is Ted still on the phone with Heath?" Matt said, "Yes." I linked back, "Would you do me a favor and have him ask if he's OUT OF HIS MIND! Lexi is still going out on missions." Matt sighed, "Joy. I see that going well for us all."

Lexi seemed relieved that Kevin and Kincade would be with me. Something seemed to occur to her. When Alfred's name crossed her lips fury rose within me. He wanted her. She was mine. Bolt was growling furiously. I tackled her on the bed. I could see her surprise. I kissed her with everything in me. Bolt desperately wanted to mark her. f\*\*k it...I did too. I was going to be biting my arm again tonight. Bolt whined, "Please Chase.... other people think she's available she's not... I need her to be marked as mine. I could KILL Alfred for trying to take her then." I said, "We can't." Bolt whimpered but doubled his efforts. Lexi was already soaking wet. Bolt growled, "Mate is perfect and ours. Only ours." I agreed with him. She came screaming my name. No other man's name was going to cross her lips but mine. No one else could have her ever again. Not Noah, and not Alfred. Lexi Scott was MINE! I jpped her onto all fours. I didn't know if I was going to be able to stop. The need to claim her was so strong. I was ghting with bolt as I buried my canines into my own arm again. Bolt was not happy. Lexi looked over her shoulder, and said she was mine. Only mine. Damn right! Her words were what I needed to calm down though. I pounded into her as I came. I couldn't stop. I was a fountain all of the sudden. When I was nally done, I slowly pulled out of her. Lexi turned and sat down. She asked if she did something. I snorted. She'd done nothing Alfred had riled me up. Which he'd have done intentionally because he smelled me on her. He'd also nd her incredibly sexy because she was. I growled along with bolt. I was ghting the urge to go hunt him down and kick his ass. So what that he'd been an explosion? He needed an Alpha ass kicking to go along with it.

Lexi teased me saying she already had her wolf. Damn f\*\*\*\*g straight she did. I'd tear any other wolf apart who tried to move in on my girl. Lexi told me not to sharpen my knives just yet. Knives? I would just shift into Bolt and kick Alfred's ass. He shouldn't have said anything to her in the rst place because he smelled me on her. Lexi defending him was pushing my buttons again. She didn't understand though. She didn't know he could smell me all over her. It didn't matter that we weren't advertising that we were mates. No she wasn't marked, but he should've respected that I was clearly with her. Lexi asked if Alfred didn't like me. Alfred and I generally speaking, got along. He respected me when I stepped up to marry Sophia. Now, he probably didn't like me as much because Sophia was always upset because of me. Technically though, that was her fault not mine. She was the one who was wrong here, but as her Beta Alfred would be on her side. Lexi shoved that aside and said it didn't matter because she didn't want to date Alfred. She did mention wanting to go out with me. I smiled and told her I'd originally thought I could take her out tonight. Sadly, we got pulled into the disaster that was dinner. Lexi was curious how I would manage us going on a date when we were being covert. Owning lots of things had its perks. I wanted time with just her. We couldn't do Halloween but maybe it would settle Bolt. Then we could get through Beta Dylan's wedding. Probably not, but I'd get a date in with my sweetheart. I remembered I needed to tell her about our getaway. I was about to tell her where we were going, but I wanted to surprise her.

Lexi seemed excited but told me she had to be back by Christmas Eve. I did too. She seemed to realize she was going to miss Emmaline and Alpha Lyons wedding. I was trying to wrap my mind around her having another mission. I asked if Kincade and Kevin could go with her. I was stunned when she said they could. Relief hit my system so hard. I linked Kevin and Kincade, "Christmas Eve Lexi has a mission you are going to shadow her on." Kincade said, "Bless you Alpha and the Luna. We will miss our grandparents harping on us about nding our mate. On another note I'm not happy with the Luna for running away from us." I linked, "You can talk to her about it later. Bring a new car over with you in the morning." Both linked, "Yes, Alpha." I couldn't stop my smile. We had a getaway planned, a date, and my men would be with her on a mission. On our getaway I'd have her all to myself and I'd be able to take her out without fear of running into anyone. No hiding. Just being with my mate how I was meant to be. Lexi told me if Derrick was Sally's mate he'd be surprised when she got back because she was intending to embrace their connection. Seems she talked to the Hood's goddess. Who told her Lexi and Sally's dream of her murder would come true if she didn't. The HELL it would. Regardless of whether or not Sally was Derrick's mate; I wouldn't let Noah get to her. I wasn't surprised their goddess showed Sally the path to lead her to accepting her mate. Derrick was completely convinced Sally was his. I knew Derrick wanted a litter of pups. So it wouldn't surprise me if Sally turned out to be his if they had at least six pups.

I took a deep breath and told Lexi to call the thorn in my side that was her brother. He was really worried about her. Thank god he'd already seen her because I'd ght him if he wanted her to meet him somewhere right now. I already wanted to kill him because he was sending her out on missions when people were trying to kill her. Of course he was looking into Noah not being the leak now. Covering his bases. I had doubts but being rejected by his string.... he could be going mad. It just made sense that the leak was Noah, and I WANTED it to be Noah. There was a tiny part of me that knew it was now likely it wasn't him. I wasn't ready to acknowledge that yet. I wanted to blame him for all of this. Lexi apologized for dropping bodies in my territory. She could drop them in the main yard of the pack as long as she was still standing; I could care less. Plus I had people cleaning it up. It was ne. I pulled her back to me. The smell of her blood when I got there was all around again. That moment when Kincade told me she was shot.... My blood ran cold. Lexi told me she was ne at the same time Derrick linked me, "Sophia DEMANDS to speak to you." I answered, "Tell her I DEMAND an annulment. When she has those papers for me, I'll speak to her." Derrick groaned, "Come on Chase! You are killing me. She growled at me. He's very shouty tonight." I said, "I'm quivering. Tell her to f\*\*k off. I'm busy. If she has our signed annulment papers, I'll speak to her; if not, then I'll be available tomorrow. I'm not leaving Lexi, Derrick. It's simply not happening." Derrick said, "When Sally's back you OWE me big time." I said, "Fine."

Lexi told me I could take my call. f\*\*k no. I was not leaving her that was not happening on any level right now. Bolt and I needed to be near her. Plus this s\*\*t did not happen when we were together. I was considering becoming her permanent shadow. I teased her about the craziness she kept facing. She said she could handle it. She could and she did. I'd just prefer to be by her side. I could've stopped her from being shot. I could've tackled her, and she wouldn't have gotten hit. Lexi teased me saying I had things to do. I had to talk to the damn Hood. I could've put off her brother. He was apologizing to me. Maybe I should've just gone with her and made him wait. Lexi said Kincade and Kevin were talking to Alfred when she came outside. Hearing his name come across her lips again was infuriating. Sophia really could f\*\*k off. She didn't want to talk to me right now. Lexi teased me some more saying women had to irt with me. I didn't think Lexi would handle that any better than me since she sent a waitress away for smiling at me. I backed her into the wall cornering her like my prey. She was going to be my prey tonight. I wasn't going to let her sleep. I wanted my smell all over her again. Bolt said, "You could nd some inner peace if we'd just MARK HER!" I closed him out. He was right, but we couldn't do it. Lexi laughed and that set me off. All my possessiveness from before came back with a vengeance invading my blood. She was mine! Only mine! Lexi got into just as much as I did. We went at it well into the morning. Lexi nally broke apart from me needing to shower. I almost pulled her back to bed, but she darted away using her speed. I could've kept her here all day. Then I'd know she was safe.

I walked in the shower and took her once more. When we got out, she looked around her room. I did too. She said she was going to buy new furniture. That wasn't necessary. I'd pick her out some new things and have them delivered. I'd even have it all in here before she got home. Lexi said no, and before I could argue with her about me getting her new things; she surprised me. Her hang up was wanting to watch me move things around without my shirt on. I was onboard with everything about this plan. I took her hand and we walked outside. I almost laughed. Kevin and Kincade actually glared at Lexi. Lexi seemed surprised there was a car waiting. She asked if I was sure about giving her another car. She could wreck every car I owned as long as she was ne. I'd buy a car dealership or ve. Material things were replaceable, the thing that wasn't was her. She asked what was up with Kevin and Kincade. I laughed. She really didn't get it. I linked both Kevin and Kincade, "Don't be too hard on her." They linked back, "We have ground rules. If she agrees we will drop the faces." I nodded. I told Lexi Ted would be late again today. She wanted to know why, but I couldn't tell her. When she teased me saying she'd eventually get to know our pack secrets. She wanted to know if there was a secret handshake. I'd make one up for her if she wanted. We could have a secret handshake. She said that would make it ocial.

I couldn't stop myself. I traced my ngers over her marking spot. My mark would look beautiful there, and then it would all be ocial. One swift move, and she was mine. Really truly unarguably mine. I closed my eyes and made myself step away from her. God this was so damn hard. I wanted a time machine. I wanted to go back and kick stupid, naive, idealist eighteen-year-old me's ass. She said I proved I was her by f\*\*\*\*g her all night into the morning. That's not ocially thought. My mark right there would be ocial. I wished her luck with Kevin and kincade. They were erce warriors who took their jobs seriously. She said I could help her with them. I could. I could make them cut it out. They needed to work this out though together. She needed to understand Kevin and Kincade were tough warriors. The rub was Lexi was their Luna. They needed to navigate this one without me. She said she was protecting them. I bit my lip. That wasn't going to cut it with Kincade and Kevin. I gave them a job. Protect their future Luna. They were going to follow my orders no matter what. Lexi pleaded with me pointing out that she needed Haley. That was a better argument. Kincade and Kevin didn't have healing powers. I wished her luck again and took off. I was smiling as I pulled on shorts outside my house. Ted came out with a tray of food. He looked back inside with a glare, then he looked at me. "Is this working?" Ted linked me. I linked back, "Yes. Good job Ted." Ted spat, "Your wife. Is here." I growled, "Why?" Ted said, "She's a raging b\*\*\*\*h? I don't know." I laughed, "Did you call her that?" Ted said, "I called her that among other things. She's no TeleTed fan, but I'm not her fan either. I don't care if she's mother f\*\*\*\*g Teresa. I hate her. Which has put Matt on edge. I'd say sorry, but I'm not." I said, "Don't worry about it. Wyatt will smell her on you." Ted smiled, "I know. I thought it would get him to open up some more. I will not tell him the specifics of what happened." I said, "Probably for the best."

I walked inside and my dad was waiting. I said, "Can't talk dad. Apparently, I have wife problems this morning." My dad huffed, "Alright. After." I said, "Maybe." My dad nodded and walked away. I walked into my oce. The tension was so sick. Sophia rounded on me, "WHAT THE HELL CHASE?! My Beta is involved in an EXPLOSION. In My territory where your men are LEAVING your Beta male's partner and you can't even answer your phone or talk to me. You LEFT the scene as if you were on re. Your howls were echoing across both our territories. Seriously? Is she that good in bed? Alfred told me she smelled like you." I growled, "And yet Alfred tried to take her out on a date." Alfred smirked, "She's not marked. What do you care if your girlfriend nds me charming? She's not your mate." Derrick said, "Oh boy..." Matt snorted. I slammed Alfred into the wall. Sophia screamed, "CHASE!" I picked Alfred up and took him out of my oce. My dad was sitting there with Nadine in the living room when I threw Alfred threw the sliding glass doors. Sophia screamed. I walked outside and said, "Alfred. Hear me VERY clearly. Stay. AWAY. from her. Are we clear?" Alfred stared at me in shock. I picked him up and threw him back inside. Sophia was glaring at me. I ignored her. "Alfred. I asked you if we were clear." Alfred said, "As mud. The f\*\*k is your problem?" I said, "I have no problem so long as you stop talking about her, and you don't go near her." Alfred said, "I'll do what I want." I growled and Sophia got in my face. "ENOUGH!" I said, "Tell your Beta to agree with me, or I'll kick his ass Alpha. If that means I have to go through you.... Well then... I will." My dad choked on his drink. Sophia stared at me in shock. "Over some girl?! Are you kidding? Never mind you clearly aren't. Alfred. This girl has enough going on. I don't care about how good she is in bed to get Chase this pissed off. Stay away from her lest you get blown up and shot at again." Alfred said, "Fine. She is hot though." I growled then punched him in the face.

Sophia pushed me. Oh really? I pushed her back. My dad stood and grabbed Sophia's arm. He said, "Why don't you take this back to your oce Chase? I'll.... call the repairman for the sliding glass doors.... again." Sophia startled, "Again?" I said, "My sliding glass doors are one of your concern. Inside my oce or go home." Sophia scoffed and walked into my oce. Alfred glared at me. I said, "Picking a ght with an Alpha is stupid Beta Alfred." Alfred rolled his eyes, "I wasn't... whatever ne." Sophia said, "I'd prefer if your ne squeeze stayed out of my territory." I said, "So would I. She has a P.O Box there, and it's a free country. Terribly sorry someone tried to kill her, and it's inconvenienced you." Sophia said, "What.... They were after her? I thought...." She trailed off, "I didn't think they were after her." I said, "They only chased her, bombed my car, and shot her. Obviously, I can see where you thought this was about you." Sophia looked at Alfred. "We've had some things happening lately. I just thought this was one of them. Alfred said your new girl whatever she is was fast. I thought she was just running away. I wanted her to stay out for her own safety." I said, "Do you need help?" Sophia said, "I'm handling it." I nodded. "My offer stands." Sophia said, "I'm glad she's ok Chase. You seem.... Crazy but happy. Your Beta Male hated me at rst sight." I said, "Yes, He told me that. I caught him outside. He does have his reasons." She frowned, "I seem to be offending people left and right these days. People used to like me." I said, "Channel your inner Alpha then Sophia. That girl we all long to see is in there." Sophia nodded and they left.

My dad came in seconds later, "Why isn't Lexi here with you Chase?" I said, "Did I not make it clear you weren't to discuss her or be near her? I do believe the exact words were to leave her alone. You said last night you'd said your last words about us." My dad said, "Son, she's obviously your mate. Why didn't you just tell me? I know I made a complete ass of myself with her, and I'll x that. I feel terrible. I shouldn't have done it, even if she wasn't your mate, but that I did that to my future daughter in law.... I'm so sorry Chase." I said, "I didn't say she was my mate." My dad looked at Matt who said nothing. Then he looked at Derrick. My dad sighed, "It all makes sense now Chase. You don't have to say it. Everyone was worried about you then slowly it was just me. First Cameron, then Reagan were like 'oh it's ne. He's ne.' After we were ALL worried, we needed an intervention or the office's ne. Then Derrick, then EVERETT ISAAC is saying it's ne. Nadine is saying I'm blind to what's in front of my damn face. That woman is always right. You were a wreck about Lexi, Chase. Your brother had to tackle you to keep you from her. When she wasn't even where you were trying to go. I have been that way in my life, and it was about your mother and Nadine. I don't know what this is about, but I'm glad she is ok. You need to bring her home." I said, "You still can't go near her, and I'm not conrming anything you just said." My dad snorted, "I don't need you to. I can't believe it honestly. The craziest part of this is that I didn't see it before last night." With that he left.

Matt said, "I told you. Flashing neon sign Chase. You basically had one above your head last night." I growled, "Do you have anything else to say?" Ted came in, "Oh darn... the wicked wife on our border is gone." I laughed, "Did you get anything new?" Ted said, "He practically raped my shirt to smell her. He wasn't as chatty. I hope tomorrow to have better progress." Matt studied him, "That is a different shirt Ted. That is MY shirt." Ted smiled. I grabbed it and put it on under my shirt. I gave Wyatt the Sophia smelling shirt. He held it like it was the most precious possession on the planet. It was moderately creepy. I need to get to work. Don't forget Date night tonight wolf of mine. We are going back to Haley's Alpha's dance club. I'm really excited" He kissed Matt and left. We got to work. I handled disputes and ignored the looks between my Beta and Gamma for several hours. I looked at the time, "I need to go pick out new furniture. I'll leave you two to exchange weird looks but not saying anything. Matt said, "I told Ted to look at Lexi's neck today. He said Lexi isn't marked." I said, "She's not. I told you the plan." Matt said, "How the hell did you manage that after what happened last night?" I said, "I bit my own arm. Through the rst time, and I'm sure it won't be the last." Matt said, "You threw Beta Alfred through the door over talking to her." I said, "You think if she was marked, I would've had a nicer reaction? I would've killed him. It's because she's not marked that he's not dead." Derrick said, "That bodes well." I said, "I'm going to get going." They watched me leave. I sighed. It was getting really hard not to mark Lexi. I could do this though. I had restraint