

The Alpha Triplets And The Rogue

Chapter 171

Raven's POV

I walk into the dining room to find it tense. The room is clearly divided between Alpha Harry and his men and those that are traveling with me. I cannot help but wonder what sort of drama I missed while I was hiding upstairs.

There are two empty chairs at the table, one beside my grandfather and the other beside Alpha Leo. Whichever seat I do not take will leave the other open for Elise. Feelings of jealousy rise in my chest as I think about Elise sitting next to Leo, but I don't want to give him the wrong idea. So, I bury those feelings deep down and take the seat next to my grandfather.

Elise gives me a confused look and I gesture for her to sit beside Leo and her face turns several shades of red. As she sits down, Leo scoots his chair discreetly away from her and refuses to look in her direction. I let out a little sigh as the jealousy within me begins to subside.

"How nice of you to finally join us," Alpha Harry says with an annoyed look on his face.

Placing my napkin in my lap, I place the fake smile I have learned so well across my lips. "I do apologize for being so tardy. The trip was long last night and your beds are incredibly comfortable. I couldn't bring myself to get up."

Alpha Harry's Luna, Rachel, seems pleased with this explanation and places her hand on his arm to stop him from interrogating me any further. With a disgruntled look on his face, Alpha Harry continues to eat his breakfast without speaking another word to me.

Sitting in my own comfortable silence, I eat my breakfast while two conversations happen around me. On my left, I listen about how a Queen is not needed to look over the packs and certainly not one that was chosen because of a simple birthmark. On my right, I can hear my father grumbling to anyone that will listen about the consequences of disobeying the Moon Goddess.

Finally, Grandpa Aaron turns to me. "And just what is your opinion on the matter, Little Bird?"

His question takes me by surprise and I choke on the little bit of egg that I am chewing on. No one has asked me my opinion on the matter before. Taking a sip of the water I prepare to speak when my father interrupts me.

“Of course, Raven wants what the Moon Goddess has set before her,” my father says with a proud look on his face.

“Actually,” I say trying to hold my head high. “I can understand the hesitation of some of the packs. Change can be scary. But I think what some are failing to realize is that for the past eighteen years, the Elder Council has been doing the job that I will be doing. In fact,” I pause. I am not sure if I am ready to admit the plans that I have. “I thought it would be beneficial for all of us to keep the Elder Council intact.”

“What?” A chorus of voices asks from around the table. I look at Alpha Harry and he has an inquisitive look on his face.

I look at my grandfather and he has a huge smile spread across his face. “Every Queen needs advisors that represent the people that she is serving.”

“This is the first I am hearing that you are forming a court,” my father sounds wounded.

“I have had a lot of time to think over the past few years. Even though you don’t think I have been listening to both sides, I have. And both sides make good points. Plus, I am only eighteen. I don’t exactly know what I am doing. A court could help me make the right decisions while I learn along the way.” I try to keep my head held high but with everyone’s eyes on me, I cannot help but shrink down in my chair a little.

“If you will excuse me,” my father says as he throws his napkin on the table. He storms out of the dining room and I suddenly feel like my idea was stupid. Is it possible that I just embarrassed my father so badly that he would leave the room?

My face flushes and I look back down at my plate. Pushing my food around on my plate I have suddenly lost my appetite. I didn’t realize that my idea was so stupid. I thought that I was forming a plan that would please both sides. Peeking up from my plate I realize that everyone in the dining room is silent. It is as if no one wants to speak first.

Alpha Harry clears his throat and I turn my attention back to him. I try to keep the tears that are welling up in my eyes from falling as I look up from my plate.

“You are pretty smart for an eighteen-year-old,” Alpha Harry says with a smile on his face. “Perhaps having a Queen won’t be so bad after all. I know you are already familiar with our pack but I would like to show you around anyway.”

“You mean you don’t think my idea is stupid?” I whisper quietly.

“On the contrary,” Alpha Harry says with a smirk on his face. “The reason that many of the original packs are against a Queen is they are concerned that you are going to come in and make a lot of changes.”

“That is not something that I had planned on doing,” I admit. “I see no problem fixing problems that do not exist.”

“After hearing what you had to say today, I think that I can convince the other packs to back you as well,” Alpha Harry says with a smile on his face. “Now let me show you around my pack.”

I let out a sigh of relief as I look across the table. Leo has his head c****d to the side and is looking at me with great interest. It is almost as if he can read my thoughts and I begin to feel uncomfortable.

“I am going to change into something more comfortable if I am going to be touring the pack,” I say as I get up from my seat quickly.

As soon as I stand so does everyone else around the table. One by one they bare their necks to me and this time I am unable to hold back the tears that stream down my face. For the first time, I feel like I could actually be the Queen.

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Leo's POV

I watch Raven with a new sense of purpose as she speaks over breakfast. In the short time that I have known her I have only seen emotional responses from her. I never expected her to have a mind of her own and I don't think I am the only one at the table to be surprised. The way her father stormed off, it is clear that he doesn't appreciate her newfound courage.

I, on the other hand, found it extremely sexy. I only wish she had spoken more convincingly instead of hiding her face while she spoke. If she is going to be Queen then she will need to be brave.

‘That is something that we can help her with,’ Luca chimes in. ‘You are a strong leader.’

‘I think you are forgetting one thing,’ I tell Luca. ‘She hates me. She will not be willing to take any advice from me.’

‘You must make her see that you are more than how you acted previously. You are more than. Just a playboy that has a revolving door of women in and out of your bed,’ Luca says with a huff.

‘How am I supposed to do that?’ I muse.

‘Don’t leave her side. Cater to her every want and whim. Show her that she is the only woman for you,’ Luca says with a satisfied tone in his voice. He is dying to win over Raven. He wants his mate.

‘I am not that type of man,’ I growl at Luca. ‘I would rather be mate-less than grovel at her feet.’

Luca sighs heavily and retreats to the back of my mind. ‘Then we will lose her forever,’ he whines as he blocks me out.

As I finish the conversation with my wolf, I notice that everyone is finishing their breakfast and leaving the table. It is only Alpha Harry and I left at the table. He stares at me curiously for a moment before he places his elbows on the table and leans closer to me.

“So you are the mate of the Luna Queen?” He finally asks me.

“It would appear so,” I answer sarcastically.

“Let me offer you some advice,” Alpha Harry begins. “I was once young, hard-headed, and made stupid decisions. I don’t know what is going on between you and the Luna Queen but if I were you I would fix it.”

I stare at the older Alpha in shock, how did he pick up on the fact that there are issues between Raven and me? “Nothing is going on between us,” I say shortly.

“That is exactly the problem,” Alpha Harry chuckles. “You shouldn’t be able to keep your hands off of one another at this stage. She chose to sit next to her grandfather instead of you for Goddess sake.”

“And exactly what stage is that?” I scoff.

“The newly found mate stage.” Alpha Harry c***s his head to the side and stares at me like I am stupid. “When I found Luna Rachel, she was marked and mated within the day.”

I look at the man that is trying to give me advice. He might be the only person that is willing to help me win Raven over.

“Let’s say you made some mistakes before you realized that Luna Rachel was your mate, how would you have fixed it?” I ask Alpha Harry.

“What kind of mistakes?” Alpha Harry asks curiously.

“What if she tripped and you laughed at her?” I laugh uncomfortably.

Alpha Harry busts out laughing. "Let me get this straight. You knew she was the Luna Queen and you still laughed at her when she tripped. You are dumber than thought."

I low growl erupts from my chest as Alpha Harry continues to laugh at me. "Nevermind," I say as I push myself away from the table.

"Oh, don't get your panties in a bunch," Alpha Harry says with a smirk on his face. "Come with us on the tour of my pack. Perhaps you can pick up some pointers while we are out."

"Sure thing," I grumble as I walk out of the dining room.

I knew that when the Elder Council recognized my pack, I would be looked down upon by the original four packs. But I never thought I would have to deal with all of the pack Alphas within just a few weeks of one another. All of this because the Luna Queen is my mate. Just when I don't think my luck can get any worse, I hear arguing coming from Raven's room.

Planning to mind my own business, I walk past her room even though the door is wide open. Whatever is being said is none of my business. But that doesn't stop me from peeking into the room to see who the argument is between.

Somehow I am not shocked to see Alpha Ace standing over Raven scolding her like she is a child. Raven's head is held high while her father berates her but the unshed tears in her eyes do go unnoticed by me.

"I thought we talked about this," Alpha Ace fusses at her. "Any plans you have for your reign are to be discussed with your fathers and me before you start announcing them to the packs."

"But why?" Raven asks in a calm voice. "The Moon Goddess chose me. Not you three."

"Just because you are of age doesn't mean that you are mature enough to run the packs. We are just trying to make sure you don't make any mistakes." Alpha Ace crosses his arms over his chest and glares down at Raven.

"Kieran is eighteen and you don't have an issue passing him the pack," Raven matches her father's stance.

"It's different," Alpha Ace stumbles over his words. "Kieran is..."

"A male," I fill in the blank for Alpha Ace. Both he and Raven turn to look at me and Raven's face blushes bright red. "That is what you were going to say wasn't it?"

"Stay out of this," Alpha Ace growls at me.

“No,” I respond. “I don’t think I will. Raven is my mate and someone needs to stand up for her.”

“I can fight my own battles. Thank you very much,” Raven rolls her eyes in my direction.

“I have no doubt that you can but the point is you no longer have to,” I tell her, ignoring the fact that her father is still in the room.

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Raven’s POV

I look at Leo stunned. That is the nicest thing that he has said to me since we found out that we are mates. But that doesn’t change the fact that I don’t need anyone to fight my battles for me. If I am going to be Queen then I need to be able to fight for myself.

“While I appreciate the sentiment,” I say formally to Leo. “I can handle this situation by myself.”

I expect Leo to turn and leave my doorway, but he doesn’t. He walks into my room and stands beside me.

“Stay out of this, Little Alpha,” my father growls at him but Leo doesn’t waver. “It is none of your business.”

“When I find my mate on the verge of tears, I make it my business,” Leo growls back at my father.

Wiping the unshed tears from my eyes, I look up and see that both men are staring at me. Undoubtedly both of them are expecting me to take their side in his argument. While I appreciate Leo’s drive to come in and save me, I don’t want him to see me being spoken to like a child.

“Father,” I say quietly but sternly. “I need a moment alone with Alpha Leo.”

“Oh no,” my father says with a serious look on his face. “I am not leaving you alone with this scoundrel in a bedroom. It is hard to tell what will happen.”

“I think it is time that you realize your daughter isn’t a little girl anymore,” Leo snarls at my father. “If she wants to be alone with her mate then so be it.”

“If you think I am going to let my daughter be marked by the likes of you then you have another thing coming,” my father yells at Leo. “You aren’t good enough for her.”

“Then what was the point of bringing me along?” Leo screams back. “If I am not good enough for your daughter then who is?”

“No one will be good enough for Raven,” my father says with utmost certainty.

“Then why did you bring me along!” Leo pinches the bridge of his nose in frustration.

“It was a mistake,” my father growls. “You should go back to the Blue Moon Pack.”

“I am not leaving,” Leo says as he crosses his arms over his chest. “I have every right to be here. More so than you.”

Letting out a deep sigh, I walk away from the two men that are determined to decide my fate. Slipping into the closet I quietly shut the door, but it is clear that neither one of them has noticed that I am gone because I can still hear them arguing through the door.

Pulling on a pair of nice jeans, a flowy pink blouse, and my Converse shoes. I check my reflection in the mirror, making sure that I look both respectable and approachable. When I am satisfied with my look, I open the closet door to see my father and Leo still going at it. They are inches from each other’s faces screaming.

Holding my head high, I walk out of the bedroom and leave them to their fight. As I round the corner I see Elise waiting for me a little way down the hall. Her eyes are wide with fear as I approach her.

“Are you ready to go?” I ask Elise but she is frozen to the spot.

“Are you sure Leo will be okay in there with your father?” She asks quietly.

Cracking my head to the side, I glare at Elise. “I thought that you didn’t have feelings for Leo.”

“I don’t,” she trips over her words. “I just worry for him sometimes. He can be rash.”

“You know what, Elise,” I snarl at her. “Why don’t you stay behind and protect your precious Alpha?”

“Please,” Elise grabs the hem of my shirt and I shoot daggers in her direction. “I don’t have feelings for him.”

“We will see about that,” I say, pushing past her and making my way down the stairs.

Alpha Harry and his Beta Kent are waiting for me at the bottom of the stairs. I can tell they are straining their ears to hear what is being said upstairs.

“My father and my mate are having a discussion over who knows what is best for me,” I say through gritted teeth. “Now if you don’t mind, I would like to see the West pack.”

Alpha Harry has a sly grin on his face as he answers me. “Are you sure you would not like to wait for a chaperone? A young unmated she-wolf like yourself has a reputation to uphold.”

“Not you too,” I groan. “I think I am perfectly capable of going on a pack tour without a chaperone.”

Beta Kent has a giant smile spread across his face. He looks like his greatest dreams are about to come true. “Let’s get going he says as he claps his hands together.”

Nerves bubble up in my chest as I leave the West Pack house without a chaperone but maybe this is the lesson that my father and Leo need. I am an adult and can make decisions for myself.

Beta Kent opens the front door of the car that is waiting for us and I sit down inside. Alpha Harry takes the wheel and we speed off down the city streets of the West Pack.

Keeping my hands in my lap, I try to remember all of the etiquette training that I have had over the years. I keep my knees together, my back straight, and my head held high. Once again I keep a smile on my face as Alpha Harry points out all of the new infrastructure and growth that the West Pack has had since the last time that I came to visit.

Soon, the fake smile on my face turns into a genuine one as Alpha Harry and his Beta begin to c***k jokes with one another. Slowly, I let my guard down and begin to relax. I even c***k a few jokes with them.

“You know,” Alpha Harry says as he pulls into the new training center. “You aren’t at all what I expected.”

“What exactly did you expect?” I ask.

“I was expecting you to be uptight and spoiled,” Beta Kent chimes in from the back seat.

“Oh,” I laugh. “I am those things.”

Both of the men laugh hard as they get out of the car. Beta Kent rushes to open my door for me when he suddenly falls to the ground. Looking out my window I see him being pulled away by a wolf with matted fur and dull gray eyes. I hear snarling coming from all around me and the smell of rotting flesh is thick in the air. Rogues.

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Leo's POV

Alpha Ace and I are standing nose to nose. My chest is rising heavily up and down as I stare into Alpha Ace's eyes. We have run out of things to say to one another. Everything that we had to say to one another has been said. It is all out on the table.

Ace made it very clear that he and his brothers don't believe that I am good enough for Raven and I told him that he and his brothers could f**k off. His blue eyes are flickering between blue and black and I know that his wolf wants to attack me.

'Let him attack us,' Luca laughs inside my mind. 'He is an old man. We can take him.'

'We are not attacking her father,' I groan. 'I don't want this to escalate any further. We have already done enough damage.'

A loud siren blares through the pack house and it forces me to break eye contact with Alpha Ace. Looking around the room I realize that Raven is gone. Panic rises in my chest as I search each corner of the room. Rushing from Ace's side I check the closet and the bathroom. There is no sign of Raven anywhere.

"Where is Raven?" I ask turning to Alpha Ace.

"I am sure she just went downstairs," he says but I can smell his fear leaking into the air around us.

"What is the siren for?" I yell over the blaring sound.

"Rogues are on the territory," Ace says as his face pales.

"f**k," I growl as I run out of the room.

As I run down the hall I see Elise sitting on the floor of the hall with her hands held tightly over her ears. As I stand over her I realize that she should be with Raven. "Where is Raven?" I growl at her.

"She... she... left with the Alpha and the Beta," Elise stutters.

Alpha Ace runs to my side and looks down at Elise. "Did she take Warren with her?" He demands to know.

Elise shakes her head from side to side and I look at Alpha Ace. Fear is written all over his face and I feel sick to my stomach.

“She is out there alone? With rogues?” I mumble under my breath. “This is all my fault.”

“Damn right, it is your fault,” Alpha Ace says angrily.

“It is just as much your fault as it is mine,” I snap back at him.

Alpha Ace storms off down the hall and bangs on the door next to Raven’s. The door flies open and Warren is standing in the doorway in his boxers with a bottle of whiskey in his hand. He is drunk. I can smell the alcohol rolling off of him from here. Rearing back his hand, Alpha Ace punches Warren across his cheek. Warren stumbles back and I hear him hit the ground with a loud thud.

“f*****g useless,” Alpha Ace says as he stomps back down the hall. “Come on, Little Alpha,” he says to me. “We have got to find my Little Bird.”

I roll my eyes as he calls my mate his Little Bird. She is mine. She may be the Luna Queen but she belongs to me. But in the interest of finding my mate, I keep my mouth shut.

As I follow Alpha Ace down the stairs I see her grandfather trying to pull the front door open. Her grandfather looks back at Ace and me and tears are rolling down his face. “The doors lock when there is a rogue attack,” he tells us. “Only the Alpha knows the code.”

“Then ask him through the mind link,” Alpha Ace growls at his father-in-law.

“Don’t you think I have tried?” Her grandfather yells at us.

“This is bullshit,” I yell at them both.

I notice a large glass panel beside the door. It is just wide enough that I can fit through. I kick my foot at the glass panel and it shatters. Not caring if the glass shards cut my clothes or my skin, I clear the glass from the panel and step through.

As soon as I am on the porch of the pack house I shift into my massive black wolf. Luca shakes the glass out of his fur and takes off running through the West Pack streets. He runs through the streets seemingly knowing which direction to head in.

‘How do you know how to find her?’ I ask him.

‘I am following the scent of rogues,’ Luca tells me. ‘If they are here they are here for her.’

‘What makes you think they are here for Raven?’ I cannot keep the panic out of my voice but Luca is calm and collected.

‘Humans are so stupid,’ Luca sighs angrily in my mind. ‘Do you think it is mere coincidence that rogues attack the day that she is meant to go on a pack tour?’

I try not to think about the insult that my wolf just hurled in my direction. He is right. Why else would the rogues attack the West Pack? There is nothing here for them but the Luna Queen herself.

Luca is focusing so much of his strength on running that I fear he won’t have any left for the fight that is bound to happen. Looking through Luca’s eyes I see the large training center up ahead that Alpha Harry was bragging about all throughout breakfast. It would make sense that he would want to show Raven that they have the newest and best of everything.

There is a black car in the center of the parking lot that is surrounded by rogues. Their stench fills the air as they continually circle the car. Luca stops just shy of the parking lot so we can take in the situation in front of us and make a plan.

Alpha Harry’s warriors are picking the rogues off one by one but it would seem that there is an endless amount of them coming from the woods behind the training center. Whenever a warrior kills one another joins the group that is circling the car. I can see from here that the warriors are beginning to get tired.

‘What is the plan?’ Luca asks me as he flexes his claws into the ground beneath his paws.

‘Do you see what I see?’ I ask Luca. ‘Each time one is taken out another comes to replace it.’

‘What can we do about it?’ Luca asks as he licks his chops.

‘We need to kill them faster than they can replace them,’ I command Luca.

‘That isn’t much of a plan,’ Luca laughs. ‘But I will do anything to save our mate.’ Luca growls loudly before he charges into the fray.

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Leo’s POV

Luca throws himself into the fight, aiming for the wolves that are dirty with matted hair. This is the first time that we have fought against rogues instead of with them and it is awkward. I know this number of rogues wouldn’t have amassed together if they weren’t promised something important.

Guilt swarms in my head as Luca's teeth sink into the neck of the first rogue that we come across. He snaps his teeth down hard and I feel the rogue's neckbones crumble under his jaws. Shaking his head back and forth, Luca flings the rogue to the side. He licks his chops and I can feel power surging through his veins. The tangy taste of blood is fueling his rage.

The next one to come across my path is a small gray wolf with dull eyes. This wolf is barely half my size and it almost feels cruel to kill him. 'Maybe we leave this one,' I try to say to Luca but he has already pounced on the small wolf. His claws are digging into the chest of the small wolf as he pins him to the ground.

'You are weak,' Luca growls back at me as he slashes his claws across the rogue's muzzle sending a spray of blood across his face. 'We must protect our mate and these rogue wolves are standing in our way. Plus it was your plan to kill as many as possible.'

I know that Luca is right but it doesn't make this any easier. I never thought that fighting against rogues would stir up such emotions within me. We did grow up as rogues after all. For the first eighteen years of my life, I fought alongside these mangey mutts. At one point in my life, I would have called them brothers. Retreating to the back of my mind, I let Luca have full control.

Luca ignores my inner turmoil and continues to berate me as he takes down another wolf. 'These are not our brothers,' he snarls at me. 'Even when we were rogue we would have never gone after the Luna Queen. That wasn't our style.'

'Even if we were offered something that we couldn't refuse?' I retort. 'Like the promise to be part of a pack?'

'We both know we still would have turned down the offer,' Luca says with a huff.

Even through the conversation, he continues to kill each rogue that comes across his path. Slowly he makes his way to the black car in the middle of the parking lot. Only now the game has changed. The rogues have stopped circling the car and now have their eyes set on Luca. The rogue wolves run at him in a full sprint. There are too many and I know that I won't be able to take them all at once.

'f**k,' Luca growls as he leans back on his haunches and growls loudly at the rogues.

'One at a time,' I say to Luca. 'We just need to keep them occupied long enough so Raven can get to safety.'

'Is this this hill that we are willing to die on?' Luca says with a bit of a chuckle in his voice. 'Getting ourselves killed to save the Luna Queen?'

'You are the one that told me to make some grand gesture,' I laugh back, but I know that this could be the last moments of my life.

‘For such a grand training complex, Alpha Harry’s warriors sure do suck,’ Luca growls as the first rogue lunges for his throat.

The rogues begin to circle Luca. I watch from behind his eyes as the rogues pounce forward one at a time. They try to catch Luca off guard but he is an excellent fighter. We have worked together for years on how to seamlessly fight together as one. But something catches my eye in the distance and it pulls Luca’s attention away from the fight. A cloaked woman is standing on the edge of the forest watching the battle.

While we are distracted. One of the rogues lunges forward and sinks his teeth into Luca’s side. Luca snarls as the flesh is pulled from his body. Luca stumbles on his feet as his blood soaks through his fur.

‘We have to stay awake,’ I beg of Luca but I can feel his life force growing weaker.

He sways on his feet while rogue after rogue lunges forward. Luca can barely dodge the attacks. One of the rogues manages to grab Luca’s back leg and begins to pull us toward the forest. Luca’s claws scratch against the blood-soaked ground as he tries to keep us from being pulled into the forest.

‘Why aren’t they just killing us?’ Luca whines as he tries to free himself.

‘I don’t know,’ I respond quietly.

Spots begin to fill my vision and I know that this is the end, but at least I will die knowing that I did all that I could to protect my mate. Luca’s body goes limp and he disappears from my mind and I begin to shift back into my human form.

Just as my body is about to disappear into the forest a loud howl, alerts me and I look up to see more warriors joining the fight. The rogue that is pulling me into the forest lets go of my foot and disappears into the trees.

Grabbing ahold of the grass I pull my naked and bleeding body out into the open. Rolling over onto my back, I manage to lift my head enough to see the damage to my side. A huge chunk of my flesh is missing and I know that my wolf won’t be able to heal it on his own. I am in desperate need of medical attention.

Grabbing a fist full of the bloodied earth around me, I pack it into the wound on my side. Desperate to stop the bleeding any way that I can. I try to pull myself to my legs but I have lost too much blood. I don’t even have the energy to roll myself back to my stomach.

The sound of paws thundering all around me catches my attention. My eyelids flutter open as my head rolls lazily to the side. The rogues are finally retreating.

‘We did it,’ I whisper to Luca. ‘We kept her safe.’

The sound of someone running to my side and the fresh scent of roses encompasses me. “No, no, no,” a sweet voice says. “You can’t die you idiot.”

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Raven’s POV

The sound of claws scratching against metal keep me on alert the whole time. There was no use in trying to hide because they already know that I am in here. Tucking my legs close to my chest, I close my eyes and try to ignore the sounds of the battle that is taking place just outside. Muttering under my breath, I pray to the Moon Goddess to spare the lives of the warriors that are fighting on my behalf. I don’t deserve their loyalty. I only just became their Queen.

The fight seems to drag on forever with no reprieve. The car rocks back and forth as the rogues try to claw their way through the metal to get to me.

Just as quickly as the fighting started it seems to come to an abrupt halt. Something else has gotten the attention of the rogues. They are no longer claws and pushing at the sides of the car. Not daring to open my eyes, I listen with the help of my wolf, Rose. The thunderous sound of paws against the pavement rush past the car.

Turning around in the seat, I squint against the midmorning sun to see what they are attacking. A large black wolf is standing tall in the middle of the rogues, fighting them off one by one. His green eyes are glowing brightly as he tries to take on the horde of rogues all by himself.

Rose is growing restless in my head. ‘We must help our mate,’ she howls as she tries to break free.

‘You mean that is Leo?’ I ask in awe as I watch him tear into the rogues one by one.

Rose doesn’t answer me, she just continues to claw at my mind, demanding that I let her out. Looking around I see that Alpha Harry’s warriors are standing around watching Leo take on all of the rogues alone. I try to open the car’s door so I can help Leo but they seem to be locked from the inside as well.

Banging my fists on the car’s windows I try to get the attention of the warriors. “You have to help him,” I scream. “You have to save him.”

Looking back to Leo I notice that a wolf is now dragging him through the parking lot leaving a heavy trail of blood in their wake.

“That i***t is going to die because he tried to save us on his own,” I mumble out loud.

Rose snarls in my head at my name-calling. She is trying to force the shift. I can keep her at bay but I am not sure for how much longer.

Crawling to the front of the car, I pull on those handles, and the doors magically open. “Thank the Goddess,” I yell loudly. The warriors immediately surround me, trying to protect me from the rogues once again.

“Don’t protect me!” I command the forces. “Save my mate!”

The warriors mumble among themselves, trying to resist my command. “My Queen,” one of them says through gritted teeth. “Our orders were to protect you.”

“And I am telling you to save my mate!” I scream. I can feel the power surging through my veins as I command Alpha Harry’s warriors to help Leo. It is the first time that I have used my Luna Queen Aura and it is overwhelming.

Without hesitation, the warriors run off in the direction of the rogues. This show of force is enough to make the rogues retreat on their own.

I let out a short sigh as I look around for Leo but he is nowhere to be seen. My eyes land on the thick trail of blood that leads toward the forest line. I take off running in the same direction. I can only pray that I am not too late.

Laying in a puddle of blood in mud is the huddled remains of my mate. From this distance, I cannot see if he is moving or not. Not caring that I am running into danger I rush to Leo’s side.

“No, no, no. You can’t die you idiot.” I say as I rip the sleeves from my blouse and hold it to his gaping wound, but it isn’t enough. Pulling my shirt over my head, I don’t care that I am exposing myself to whoever is looking. Pressing my shirt to his wound I try to stem the bleeding.

Leo’s head rolls lazily to the side and he struggles to open his eyes. “You are really beautiful,” he says in no more than a whisper.

“Now isn’t the time for your playboy moves,” I say through my tears.

His head rolls back to the other side and his breathing becomes shallow. “No,” I shout at him. Gently I turn his head so he is looking back at me, and I gently pat his cheeks. “You have to stay awake, Leo. Look at me! You have to stay awake. What do you want to talk about?”

Leo’s eyes flutter open and he smiles weakly at me. “I want to talk about how beautiful you are.” His voice is hoarse and fading away.

“Okay,” I say sadly. “We can talk about whatever you want. You just have to say awake.”

“I am sorry that I laughed at you when you tripped,” he says before coughing up some blood. “I should have never done that.”

“It is okay,” I say as I rub the blood and mud from his face. “I trip a lot. I am not very graceful.”

“Queens don’t have to be graceful,” Leo sputters again on blood. “They have to be fair and just.”

His breathing is becoming more labored as he tries to talk to me. “Shh,” I coo. “You don’t have to talk anymore. Just promise me that you will stay awake.”

Leo gives me a weak nod and his eyes roll back in his head. “No!” I cry as I continue to apply pressure to his wound. “I didn’t even get a chance to know you. Stay with me.”

Only this time Leo doesn’t respond. His breathing becomes shallow and each breath seems further away from the last.

‘He is dying,’ I say to Rose but she is curled up in the back of my mind whimpering.

Suddenly, a pair of strong arms pull me away from Leo. I look up to see my father standing above me. “I won’t let him die,” I say as I fight to get back to Leo’s side. “He is my mate. He was made just for me.”

But my father holds me tightly while a group of emergency workers surround Leo and carefully place him on a gurney. “I am so sorry, Little Bird,” my father says with a saddened expression on his face. He pulls off his shirt and offers it to me.

“Don’t pretend to care now,” I yell back at him as I pull his shirt over my head. “He was the only one fighting for me out there. He is the only one that is near death. Where were you?”

“Raven, that is not fair,” my father says sternly. “You left without telling us.”

“And yet Leo is the only one that made it to my side,” I scream back at my father. “You miss judged him. I miss judged him and now his life is on the line.”

The Alpha Triplets And The Rogue Chapter 177

Raven’s POV

Anger is brewing in my stomach as I watch the ambulance pull away with my mate inside. Where was everyone else during the fight? Why was Leo fighting alone? These are questions that I need to know the answers to.

Spinning around on my heels, I search through the crowd that has gathered for Alpha Harry and his Beta. My anger turns to rage as I see Alpha Harry and Beta Kent sitting on the curb drinking water and laughing with one another. My fists ball up at my sides and I storm over to them.

“Explain yourself,” I demand of Alpha Harry.

He looks at me with a stunned look on his face and then cracks a smile. “What is wrong, Little Bird?” He uses my nickname and it makes my blood boil.

“You cannot call me that,” I tell him sternly. “Explain to me why your men stood on the sidelines and watched Alpha Leo be mauled.”

“Their orders were to protect you and you alone,” the smile falls from Alpha Harry’s face as he speaks. He literally doesn’t see that he has done anything wrong.

I am so shocked that I can’t find the words to speak. I feel my father’s hands on my shoulders once again and I shrug them off angrily. “You were willing to let the Alpha of another pack die?”

“You are only upset because he is your mate,” Alpha Harry chuckles. “Honestly, I think that we did you a favor.”

The more Alpha Harry talks the more angry I get. Rose is growling in my mind. “This isn’t about Alpha Leo being my mate!” I screech. “This is about your willingness to let someone else die. I don’t care if he was an Omega. Every life is worth saving.”

Alpha Harry looks past me to my father. “Can you believe this?” He asks my father. “I had my men protecting her life and she is berating me over some two-bit Alpha.”

I look from Alpha Harry to my father and pray that he can only make the right decision. “Actually,” he begins slowly. “I agree with Raven. How could you just sit back and let Alpha Leo be attacked?”

“It almost feels like you were behind this attack,” I butt in. “I know how outspoken you have been about not wanting a Queen.”

“You cannot be serious,” Alpha Harry’s voice is high-pitched and awkward. “I would never employ rogues. If I wanted you gone, Luna Queen, you would already be gone.”

“I will take that as a threat,” I say coldly, “and the Elder Council will be informed.”

“Do you really think that you can win a fight against me just because the Elder Council is in your pocket?” Harry stands and glares down at me.

My father snarls angrily at Alpha Harry’s threatening stance. “Step away from my daughter,” my father warns Alpha Harry.

“Do you plan on challenging me, Old Man?” Alpha Harry laughs.

“If I have to,” my father retorts. “I will do whatever it takes to protect my family.”

The seriousness of my father’s tone and the scowl on his face makes Alpha Harry take a step away from me. “A challenge is not necessary,” Alpha Harry says with a fearful look on his face. “I will not make a choice like this one again. I can assure you.”

“It is too late,” I shake my head in disgust. “Your lack of caring for another person is appalling. I will still be contacting the Elder Council.”

“Why don’t you just make the decision on your own, Luna Queen?” The sarcasm in Alpha Harry’s voice isn’t missed by me.

Holding my shoulders back, I look Alpha Harry in the eyes. “I already told you that I was keeping the Elder Council intact and I am a woman of my word. I will hold a meeting with them in order to decide the fate of the West Pack and your position in it.”

Turning away from Alpha Harry, I begin to walk away but before I can take more than a few steps the sound of snarling catches my attention and I turn around to see Alpha Harry barreling toward me. My father tackles Alpha Harry to the ground and they come skidding to a stop at my feet. My father pins Alpha Harry’s arms behind his back and holds his claws to his neck.

Turning his head to the side, Alpha Harry spits in my direction. “I won’t let a little b***h like you take my position,” he screams as he struggles against my father’s hold.

“Give me some cuffs,” my father yells out to one of the warriors and several warriors rush forward to help my father cuff their Alpha.

Using silver cuffs, my father pins Alpha Harry’s arms behind his back. He hoists Alpha Harry to his feet and looks at me with a nervous look on his face.

“Raven,” my father says seriously. “You have got to make a decision.”

I know what my father means. I have to decide whether to strip him of his title or not. This isn’t a decision that I wanted to make on my own. I wanted the Elder Council to back me up, but this decision cannot wait. I cannot let him keep his title and risk him using his Alpha Command on his warriors to set him free.

“Alpha Harry,” I begin trying to sound confident. “I, the Luna Queen of the North American Packs, strip you of your title and claim to the West Pack. Place him in the dungeons.”

Harry drops to his knees as his tether to the pack snaps. He is now a rogue. The look in his eyes as he stares at me is murderous and I feel sick to my stomach. I wanted my first act as Luna Queen to be something positive, not striping an Alpha of his title.

“I will kill you,” Harry screams at me as he is drug away. “You will never be my Queen.”

Bile rises in my throat as I realize that I am just creating more enemies, but I do not have time to dwell on that now.

Turning back to Beta Kent, I look him up and down. He is still sitting on the sidewalk with his mouth opened in shock as he watches his former Alpha being drug to the dungeons.

Clearing my throat awkwardly, Beta Kent turns his head and looks at me with fear in his eyes. “Give me your hand,” I command him and he scrambles to his feet.

Holding out his hand to me I delve into his mind. Closing my eyes I flick through his memories, looking for any indication that he was in on this attack with Harry. As I shamelessly flip through his mind, I realize that his conscience is clear.

“Congratulations,” I say as I open my eyes and smile at Kent. “You are the new Alpha of the West Pack.”

The Alpha Triplets And The Rogue Chapter 178

Raven’s POV

After Harry tried to attack me, the crowd that had gathered after the battle began to disperse. Family members of the warriors pushed through the crowd looking for their loved ones. Luckily for them, there were no casualties from the West Pack. A few of the warriors were minorly injured but most everyone was okay. While I am happy for them, my mind constantly wanders back to Leo and I wonder how he is doing.

Standing in the middle of the parking lot, I help Alpha Kent direct people with what to do next. I feel like it is the very least that I can do. Cars have been damaged and need to be towed. Bodies of dead rogues litter the parking lot and the field behind the training center.

Alpha Kent is standing with his hands on his head, looking around like a lost child. Walking up to his side, I stand next to him quietly, waiting for him to speak. “I don’t know

what to do,” he says as he chokes on his words. I can see the tears welling up in his eyes. “I didn’t know what he had planned. You have to believe me.”

I think back to the memories that I saw in Kent’s mind and I offer him a small smile. “I believe you,” I tell him and Kent lets out a sigh of relief.

“What do I do now?” He asks me as tears fall down his cheeks.

I don’t mean to laugh at his pain but a giggle escapes my lips and Kent looks at me in shock. “I am sorry for laughing,” I begin. “But I barely know what I am doing. I don’t know what to tell you to do.”

Alpha Kent begins to laugh as well. “I suppose you should get to the hospital. Your mate will need you by his side.”

I c**k my head to the side in confusion. “What do you mean?”

“He will heal faster with you by his side,” Alpha Kent says softly. “The mate bond is a powerful thing.”

“I owe him my life,” I sigh. “I guess I should sit with him to help him heal.”

“I will give you a ride,” my father says from behind me.

I want to retort with a smartass remark about why would he care enough to give me a ride, but I am too tired. It has been a taxing day and I don’t have the strength for any more arguments. But apparently, the Moon Goddess has other plans for me.

As my father and I are walking to the car, Luna Rachel’s car comes rushing down the road. Before we can reach our car, Luna Rachel cuts us off and hits my father with the front of her car. Jumping onto the hood of her car, Father manages to keep from being injured. As I stare at Rachel in disbelief through the windshield she glares at me in anger. She must have figured out that her mate is in the dungeons.

Luna Rachel swings her car door open before her car is even fully stopped. “What have you done?” She screams at me as she rounds the front of the car.

Jumping off the hood of the car, my father blocks Luna Rachel from coming toward me. Raising her hand she slaps my father across his cheek but it doesn’t sway my father one way or the other. “You don’t have a right to approach the Luna Queen while you are in such a state,” my father says formally.

“Do you know what she has done?!” Luna Rachel screeches at my father. “Why is my mate in the dungeons? Why did I feel his tether to the pack snap? What right do you have to come in here and make all of these changes?”

Another crowd is beginning to gather around us and I know that I cannot hide behind my father. If I continue to hide behind him it will make me look weak and I don't want to be viewed as weak any longer. I step out from behind my father and look Luna Rachel in the eyes.

"Tell me, Luna Rachel, did you know what your mate had planned?" I stand tall as I ask her the question.

"My mate didn't have anything planned," Luna Rachel scoffs. "It is not his fault that you publicly decided to go on this pack tour. It is not his fault that your father, your mate, and your bodyguard all decided to leave you alone this morning."

Her words sting because she is partially right. It wasn't his fault that I chose to leave the pack house alone this morning. "You are right," I tell her. "He didn't control any of those things but he did leave another Alpha to die by rogues on pack territory. When I confronted his actions he tried to attack me when my back was turned and then threatened to kill me. I am his Queen. Do you not believe that they are punishable crimes?"

Luna Rachel does not answer me right away, she just stares at me in disbelief. She turns to the crowd that is now surrounding us. "We knew this would happen," she yells out to the crowd. "We have been warning you for years and here is the proof right in front of us. This 'Luna Queen' has been in the pack for one day and has already stripped your Alpha of his title. What will be next? Will she break apart the West Pack?"

I am shocked. She is trying to incite a riot against me. I open my mouth to speak but words don't come out. I look around at the crowd and they are looking to me to speak, but I don't know what to say. I don't know how to soothe the worries that they have.

"Don't be ridiculous Rachel," Alpha Kent's voice booms from behind the crowd. Everyone turns and gives him a hopeful look, but Luna Rachel has a scowl on her face. "Everything else aside, he tried to attack her, while her back was turned. Everyone that was here saw it. He deserved what he got."

Luna Rachel scoffs loudly, "You are only saying that because you got his title. Who is with me?" She yells loudly but I can hear the panic in her voice. "Let's take her down now!"

I look around at the crowd and I can see my father doing the same. We will have to fight our way out if they decide to attack. But no one seems to be with Luna Rachel. Slowly, everyone in the crowd turns and leaves. Leaving only Rachel standing in front of me. Tears of anger are rolling down her cheeks as she glowers at me.

"The rogues may not have been enough to take you down but the true Luna Queen will," she says cryptically as she gets back into her car and drives away.

The Alpha Triplets And The Rogue Chapter 179

Raven's POV

The drive to the hospital is silent between my father and I. I want to ask him so many questions but I don't know where to begin. But most of all I want to ask him to not come into the hospital with me. I want to see Leo on my own.

"What do you think Rachel meant by the true Luna Queen?" I mumble aloud more to myself than to my father.

"I don't know but I have trackers out looking for her," Father tells me. "If she believes there is someone else that is worthy of your position then she is a danger to you."

"What if there is someone out there that is more worthy of my position?" I ask as I look down at my hands. My fingers twist together as I speak.

"You were chosen by the Moon Goddess herself," my father says softly. "I know that I have been doubting you lately and I am sorry for that. You are more than capable of being the Queen the packs need and deserve."

My father pulls up to the outside of the hospital and I look over at him. I am not sure what to say. That is the nicest thing that he has said to me since we started this tour.

Since I am unable to find my words, I unbuckle my seat belt and give my father a hug as tears stream down my face.

My father chuckles as he wraps his arms around me. "You are welcome, Little Bird," he says softly. "Now go check on that mate of yours but don't leave the hospital alone. It isn't safe."

"You aren't coming in?" I ask.

"No," Father sighs. "I think this is something that you need to do on your own."

Letting out a breath I didn't realize I was holding, I thank my father again before getting out of the car.

As I walk into the hospital I see a long line of people waiting at the front desk. Perhaps more were injured during the battle than I realized. Guilt swarms in my chest as I think about all of these people's loved ones being injured because of me.

Stepping to the back of the line, I keep my eyes glued to the ground and try to keep my face hidden. Luckily no one recognizes me and if they do they don't speak to me. The line moves slowly as people give names and ask for room numbers. The lady at the front desk looks overwhelmed and frazzled when I finally approach the desk.

"Name," she says without looking up from the computer in front of her, but I am not sure whose name she wants. Mine or Leo's.

"Name," she says again louder this time as she looks up from her computer. When she sees me standing in front of her her mouth drops open.

Clearing my throat awkwardly, I offer her a smile. "I am Raven," my voice is shaky, "and I am looking for my... my... Alpha Leo of the Blue Moon Pack. He was brought here by ambulance earlier."

The woman behind the desk quickly shuts her mouth. "I apologize, Your Highness, I didn't realize that you were waiting in line all this time." She speaks much louder than necessary and people stop to stare.

"Please call me Raven," I say as I look around. Everyone in the waiting room is looking in my direction. "And I don't mind waiting in line like everyone else. I am sure everyone is just as eager to find their loved ones as I am."

I quickly clamp my mouth shut when I realize what I had just said. I referred to Leo as a loved one. I suppose I do care for him. The mate bond makes sure of that. But I am almost positive that I do not love him.

"Of course," the woman behind the desk says as she types away on the computer. "It looks as though Alpha Leo has just gotten out of surgery and is in recovery. We normally only let family members and mates back in the recovery area though."

Once again I look around the room to see how many people are looking at me. Every eye in the waiting room is on me. "I would not want you to make an exception just for me," I say loudly before I lean in a little closer over the counter. "But he is my mate."

"Well, that makes all the difference," the woman behind the desk says cheerfully. "I will call someone to take you back immediately."

"Thank you," I say and I turn to the waiting area and all eyes are still on me.

Walking slowly over to the chairs I realize that they are all taken. So I stand quietly in the corner to wait for my name to be called. Several people get up to offer me their seats but I politely decline. I don't mind standing after I was stuck in the car for what felt like hours today.

Suddenly, the front doors to the hospital slide open and a pretty brunette comes running in sobbing. She runs straight to the desk, not caring that there is a line of people waiting. I groan when the woman turns her head slightly and I realize that it is Elise.

Elise slams her hands down on the counter and demands to be taken back to Alpha Leo immediately claiming to be his mate. My face heats with embarrassment as I realize that she is making me look like a liar.

Slowly, I approach the desk and catch the tail end of their conversation. "I am sorry ma'am," the woman at the desk says sympathetically. "But someone has already shown up claiming to be his mate."

"And just who is that!" Elise squeals.

I step to the counter and offer the woman an apologetic smile. "That would be me, Elise," I say with my head held high. "Now if you wouldn't mind stepping to the side with me so we can discuss this situation in private."

Elise emotions are written all over her face as she looks at me. Shock, anger, and embarrassment flash through her eyes. It is clear that this is the last place that she expected to see me.

Holding my shoulders back, I do not look to my left or my right. I can already hear the murmurs of gossip coming from those people around me. All of them are wondering who is Alpha Leo's real mate. Elise or me.

Elise follows me to a far corner with her head held down. Before I have a chance to speak, Elise grabs my hand. "Please forgive me," she pleads with me. "I didn't think you would be here and I didn't want him to wake up alone."

"Do you realize how this makes me look?" I say through gritted teeth. "I am either a liar in the eyes of these people or they believe I let my mate have a mistress. You told me that you no longer had feelings for him."

"I didn't, I don't," Elise tries to save herself. "I just didn't want him to be alone."

"I have already stripped one person of their title today, Elise. Don't make me make it two," I growl in her direction.

Just then a large orderly taps me on the shoulder. "Luna Queen," he says seriously. "Is everything okay here?"

"Everything is fine," I say with a fake smile on my lips. "My well-meaning assistant was just leaving."

The orderly looks from Elise back to me and shakes his head. "You can come with me now, Alpha Leo is beginning to wake up. He is asking for you."

I look back at Elise and I can see that her heart is broken hearing that Leo is asking for me. Without another word, she storms out of the hospital and I already know that she will cause me more trouble than she is worth. But not wanting to cause more of a scene than I already have I turn to the orderly and let him lead me in the direction of my mate.

The Alpha Triplets And The Rogue Chapter 180

Raven's POV

The walk back to recovery seems endless. I try to memorize the turns that we take so I can find my way back out. First, we take a left and then another left and then a right. After a while, I lose track of the turns that we have taken. I don't understand why every hospital has to be a maze.

Finally, we come to a set of double doors that are labeled recovery. The orderly stops in his tracks before using his badge to open the door. He shuffles awkwardly on his feet as he looks at me.

"This probably isn't my place but I have to warn you," he tells me. "Alpha Leo is in rough shape. It may be hard for you to see him like this."

"I can handle it," I say trying to sound confident but even I can hear the nervousness in my voice.

Using his badge to open the door, the orderly gestures for me to follow him inside the recovery area. Steadying my breath as I walk through the doors, I try to remain calm.

"I need to see her!" A loud voice screams through the recovery room. "I need to see Raven."

I turn and look at the orderly in confusion. "I thought you said Alpha Leo was in rough shape?"

"That doesn't mean that he hasn't been screaming for you since he woke up from surgery," the orderly smiles awkwardly at me. "At first we thought he was delusional when he said that you were his mate."

"Unfortunately, he is telling the truth," I groan as I follow the sounds of my mate demanding to see me.

The orderly pulls back a curtain and I see Leo fighting with a male nurse who is trying to strap him to the bed. I watch the situation in shock. Leo balls his fist at his side before he swings at the nurse and I gasp aloud. The nurse barely dodges the hit. Even in his weakened state, Leo is strong. His skin is beginning to regain its color, it no longer has the grayish hue that it did while I sat next to him on the battlefield. Bruises and deep cuts cover his normally handsome face making him look more rugged.

“Alpha,” the male nurse tries to plead with him. “You are going to tear your stitches if you don’t calm down.”

“I don’t care,” Leo screams. “I need to know that Raven is okay. I need to know that I saved her.”

My heart melts at his words. I didn’t expect him to care so much about me. Walking forward, I place my hand on the nurse’s shoulder and he quietly takes a step back. Taking his place at Leo’s side, I brush my hand across his forehead and a rush of sparks flow between us.

The sparks startle me and I quickly remove my hand from his face. I was told that there is a certain electricity that you feel between yourself and your mate when you find them, but I thought that it was metaphorical. I didn’t realize that I would actually feel sparks between us.

The rush of electricity seems to calm Leo down and he stops thrashing around. His green eyes open wide as he realizes that it is me standing beside him. Seemly out of nowhere, he finds the strength to sit up.

“You are okay,” he whispers as he grabs my hand and holds it to his cheek. The sparks flow between us and a feeling of ease washes over me.

“I am okay,” I say quietly as I try to pull my hand away from his cheek but he refuses to let go. “Thanks to you, but you are badly hurt for trying to protect me all on your own. That wasn’t the brightest thing to do.”

“I had to save you,” Leo says quietly. “Alpha Harry’s warriors weren’t fighting fast enough.”

I bite down hard on my lip. There is a reason that Harry’s men weren’t fighting fast enough, they weren’t really trying to save me.

“We can talk about this later,” I tell Leo, not wanting to upset him more than he already is. “How are you feeling?”

“Much better now that you are by my side,” Leo says with a weak smile.

Blush rushes across my cheeks at his words and I have to admit that he is a smooth talker, even in his weakened state. “Now is not the time to hit on me,” I joke.

“I think it is the perfect time,” Leo smiles as he tries to reposition himself on the bed. “You can’t be mean to me because I am injured.”

“That’s what you think,” I laugh. “Just because you risked your life for me doesn’t mean that I have to forgive you.”

Leo smiles at me brightly as he holds onto my hand. “I think that is exactly what it means.”

Finally, I pull my hand out of his grasp and Leo pushes his full bottom lip out in a pout. “As I said, we can talk about this later,” I say as try not to focus on his full lips.

Before I realize what is happening, I am fantasizing about what it would feel like to have his lips pressed against my own. If we kissed would it be soft and sweet or full of desperation and hunger? Shaking the thoughts from my mind, I try to focus back on the situation at hand.

“What are you thinking about, Little Bird?” Leo says huskily and a strange feeling stirs in my core.

Pushing the feeling to the side, I focus back on the fact that Leo is injured. “I am thinking about postponing the rest of my tour until you are feeling better. I don’t want to leave you here alone.”

“Are you starting to care for me, Little Bird?” Leo smirks.

“That is neither here nor there,” I avoid the question because honestly, I don’t know the answer to the question.

“I think it matters,” Leo says as he tries to get out of the bed, but he immediately winces in pain.

Pushing his hands to his side, I lift his hospital gown to finally look at the damage that the rogues caused. I was not at all prepared for what I saw. A huge chunk of flesh is missing from his side. I realize that we are going to be here a lot longer than I expected. Leo isn’t leaving the hospital any time soon.