

The Alpha Triplets And The Rogue

Chapter 231

Raven's POV

Oliver swallows awkwardly as I press my naked body against his. Neither one of us are sure what to do next. It is the first time for the both of us.

Standing on my tiptoes, I press my lips to his. Swiping my tongue along Oliver's bottom lip, he parts his lips slightly. Wanting to show him my need, I plunge my tongue into his mouth. I kiss him with an urgency I have never felt before. The kiss is clumsy as our tongues play against one another.

I can feel Oliver's erection growing against my stomach, and I remember what Elise had taught me. Reaching between us, I grab his c**k at the base and run my hand up and down his length.

Oliver gasps against my lips as I continue to stroke his c**k. He pulls away from the kiss and rests his forehead against mine. "Raven," he breathes out heavily.

"Focus on the pleasure," Leo says from the corner.

I look at Leo from the corner of my eyes and see him stroking his c**k while he watches Oliver and me.

"What do I do now?" I ask Leo, and he smirks.

"Oliver, get on the bed," Leo commands.

Oliver gives me an unsure look, but he obeys Leo's request. Oliver lays on the bed with his hands covering his c**k. I can tell he is uncomfortable.

"Suck his c**k, Little Bird," Leo says to me.

My eyes widen in both shock and fear. "I don't know how," I whimper. "What if I do it wrong?"

"You will do fine," Leo coaches me.

Straddling Oliver's legs, I grab the base of his c**k and stroke it a few times, trying to build up the courage to put it in my mouth. Leo has positioned himself behind me and is running his hands along my back. Grabbing the back of my neck, Leo pushes my head down toward Oliver's c**k.

Opening my mouth, I dart out my tongue and lick the tip of his c**k. The taste of his pre-come on my tongue ignites something within me. I want to know what Oliver tastes like. Opening my mouth, I take his c**k into my mouth. Leo presses me down onto Oliver's c**k until I gag, and then he releases his grip.

"Just like that," Leo tells me.

I bob my head up and down on Oliver's c**k, and he moans loudly. His moans fuel my desire to please him, and I take as much of him in my mouth as I can.

Suddenly, Leo spreads my a*s cheeks, and I pause. I look over my shoulder, and Leo is smiling at me.

"Trust me," Leo says and swipes his tongue along my slit.

"Leo," I squeal, and I can feel him chuckling against my core.

"Keep sucking his c**k," Leo directs me.

I swirl my tongue around the tip of Oliver's c**k, but I am finding it hard to concentrate on my task while Leo licks my p**y. With my mouth full of Oliver's c**k I moan loudly as pleasure builds in my core.

"Raven," Oliver groans, and his hips begin to thrust his c**k into my mouth.

"He is going to come in your mouth, Little Bird," Leo warns me.

I prepare myself for what will come next, but Oliver lifts my head off him and strokes his c**k. Oliver moans loudly, and ribbons of come cover my chest. Oliver's face blushes with embarrassment, but I am too wrapped up in my own pleasure to care.

Leo backs away from me and leaves me wanting more. "Get on your back," he tells me, and I quickly obey.

Lying on the bed beside Oliver, I can see his c**k is already growing again. Pressing my thighs together, I try to alleviate the pressure that has built in my core. Leo disappears into the bathroom and comes back with a warm rag. He gently wipes Oliver's come from my chest and tosses the rag on the floor.

"She is ready for you," Leo tells Oliver.

Oliver nods nervously, and he climbs on top of me. I eagerly spread my legs. While I am worried about the pain, the need to find my release is overpowering.

Positioning himself at my core, Oliver begins to gently push his way into me.

“Be gentle,” Leo instructs Oliver. “Move slowly.”

Oliver bites on his bottom lip as he eases his way into me. The feeling of him inside me is uncomfortable, and tears form in my eyes.

“I am hurting her,” Oliver says with panic in his voice.

“It will only hurt for a moment,” Leo explains to us both. “Don’t move and give her a chance to get used to your size,” Leo tells Oliver.

Oliver pauses within me, and I wiggle my hips back and forth, trying to get accustomed to his size. Soon, the pain begins to subside, and pleasure takes its place.

“Move with me,” I beg Oliver.

“I don’t want to hurt you,” Oliver says through gritted teeth.

“I can take it,” I tell him.

Leo leans over me and kisses me deeply. The tingles from both of my mates are driving me crazy. Leo breaks away from the kiss, squeezes my breast, and twists my n****e between his fingers.

My back arches off the bed, and Oliver thrusts himself deeply inside me. I cry out in both pain and pleasure.

“You are doing amazing,” Leo coaches me.

“I won’t last much longer,” Oliver growls. I know that he is trying to hold back.

“Mark him,” Leo tells me.

Leo moves out of the way, and Oliver lowers his body on top of mine, baring his neck to me. Running my tongue over his neck, and I feel my fangs elongating. My body knows exactly what to do. I sink my teeth into Oliver’s flesh. The taste of iron fills my mouth as I mark him.

The tether between us snaps into place, and it pushes me over the edge. I pull my canines from his neck as I am pushed over the edge. My toes curl as Oliver, and I find our release together.

Oliver’s arms are shaking as he tries to hold himself over me. Darting out my tongue, I seal the mark into place, and a series of emotions that are not mine hit me through the bond.

Oliver rolls off of me, and I wait for Leo to take his position between my legs, but he doesn't.

As if he can read my mind, Leo brushes my hair out of my face. "Not tonight, Leo says as he wipes me clean. "You need to rest."

"I want to mark you too," I pout.

"You will, Little Bird," Leo assures me. "But now you rest."

Letting out a rough sigh, I sit up in the bed. "I need to go to my fathers."

"Do you want me to come with you?" Leo asks.

I look to my left, and Oliver is already snoring loudly. "I would like that," I tell Leo with a smile. "You make me braver."

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Raven's POV

Leo squeezes my hand to give me confidence as I stand in front of my three fathers. I feel like a child again, standing in front of my fathers, waiting for my punishment. The only difference is it used to be Kieran by my side.

"Little Bird," Dad groans. "Do you have any idea what time it is?"

"And why do you smell different?" Papa growls.

Ignoring Papa's question, I decide' to jump right into the conversation.

"I looked into Harry's mind," I spit out.

"I thought he died before you could get to him?" Dad asks.

"Apparently," I pause and swallow hard. "I can read the minds of those that have died."

All three of my fathers look at me in shock. I practically feel the anger radiating off of them.

"Have you lost your f*****g mind," Papa screams at me. "Diving into the mind of a dead man. What if you couldn't have gotten out?"

None of my fathers have ever cussed at me before, and I am taken aback by Papa's harshness. "I don't think that is how it works," I say with tears forming in my eyes.

Dad smacks Papa on his shoulder and tells him to shut up. "What did you see?" Dad asks.

"I saw a meeting of the recusants," I say quietly.

"Who was there?" Father asks quickly.

Taking a deep breath, I try to steady my voice as I speak. "Elders Winter and Clark, Warren, the scarred woman, Harry, Elise, and..." I pause, choking back tears. "And Kieran."

"No," Father says with a shake of his head. "You must be mistaken.

Kieran would never turn against you or the rest of the family."

"I know what I saw," I retort. "Elise is his mate."

"You know," Dad interjects. "Erica did say that he has been acting strange lately."

"She said he has been going to some unknown meetings and neglecting the pack," Papa adds in.

My Father hops to his feet and storms toward me. "Show me the memory," he demands. "I refuse to believe Kieran has turned."

"I don't know how to show you the memory," I admit. "I am still by Papa's harshness. "I don't think that is how it works," I say with tears forming in my eyes.

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“I don’t know how to show you the memory,” I admit. “I am still learning how to use my powers.”

“Figure It out,” my father grumbles.

Tears spring from my eyes. I have never been on the receiving end of my father’s anger before. It was always Kieran who was in trouble.

Leo steps in front of me and pushes me back behind him. He growls in Father’s direction. “Step away from my mate.”

“She is my daughter,”

Father growls back at Leo. “Plus, she hasn’t even

marked you yet. Your bond is not complete.”

Leo roars so loudly that the glass in the pictures on the walls shatters.

I can see his claws protruding from his fingertips, and I know he is getting ready to shift and attack my father. I have to do something.

Resting my hand on Leo’s shoulder, I pull him back against my body. I wrap my arms around him and whisper in his ear. “You know the truth,” I tell him. “Don’t let my father get to you.”

Leo relaxes a little under my touch, but he still remains partially shifted.

Stepping in front of Leo, I step to my father. Reaching up, I press my fingers to his temples.

Focusing on the memory I pulled from Harry’s mind. I push it forward into my father’s mind. I make sure that he sees everything that I saw. My father struggles under my touch as if he doesn’t want to see anymore, but I refuse to release him from the memory.

Finally, when it is over, I let my arms drop down to my side. Tears are streaming down my face, and my father's face is full of anger.

"Just because he showed up at the end of the meeting doesn't mean that he is part of the resistance," my father says in disbelief.

"He is coming for my throne," I yell at my father for the first time in my life. "I am beginning to think that you are on his side."

"Don't be ridiculous," my father snorts. "I know who the rightful ruler of the packs is. But I must admit it would have been easier if Kieran had been the child of light."

Suddenly, a series of growls fills the room. Both Dad and Papa are growling in Father's direction. I try to take a step forward to place myself between my fathers, but Leo pulls me back. "This needs to happen," Leo whispers in my ear.

"No!" I shout, but no one is listening to me.

Papa tackles Father to the ground, and they roll around, each one trying to get the upper hand. Both of them are landing harsh blows on one another.

Their knuckles are becoming covered in the other one's blood.

Just when I think it is going to get worse, Dad yells, "Time!"

My papa slams my father to the ground one final time before climbing off him.

"I don't want to ever hear you say shit like that ever again," Papa snarls at Father.

"What the f**k was that?" Leo asks in confusion.

"A ten-second fight," Papa says as he wipes the blood from his chin.

"It is how we used to settle disagreements when we were younger," Dad smirks.

"I never meant for it to sound like I didn't believe in Raven," my Father tries to save himself. "I know she will be a magnificent Queen."

"That's beside the point," Papa points out. "One of us needs to go to Kieran and make sure that he is on the right path."

"I will go," my father says. "He will listen to me."

"You aren't going alone," Papa growls at him. "Not after the shit you just said. I will go with you."

“Then who will watch over Raven?” Father sighs.

“What am I? Chopped liver?” Dad grumbles. “Plus, she has her mates.”

“It is settled then,” Papa says as he glares at Father. “Ace and I will go back to the North Pack, and Bryce will stay behind with Raven.”

“Be careful,” I tell them.

“The recusants are becoming more bold with

each passing day. I wouldn’t put it past them to attack you as well.”

“We can handle ourselves, Little Bird,” my Papa says. “You just worry about getting people on your side.”

“How do I do that?” I wonder aloud.

“How about showing them your wolf,” Leo says. “That seemed to turn

Alpha Fernando pretty quickly.”

“That’s not a bad idea,” Dad says. “We can have a gathering at the next three packs, and Raven can shift into her wolf to prove that she was chosen by the Moon Goddess.”

“We should leave for the Crystal Lake Pack in the morning,” Leo says.

“There is nothing left for us here.”

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Raven’s POV.

The wheels of the plane touch down on the small airfield of the new Crystal Lake Pack. My stomach is turning with nerves, and I feel like I could vomit at any moment. I haven’t received a warm welcome from any of the packs I have visited, and I have no reason to believe this pack will be any different.

Leo is sleeping with his head on my lap, and Oliver is resting on my shoulder. As the plane bounces upon landing, Leo tightens his grip around my legs and nuzzles his head into my crotch. Oliver yawns loudly beside me as he lifts his head from my shoulder. He rubs his eyes sleepily and kisses me on the cheek.

“Are we there?” He asks.

“I think so,” I respond.

“What are the names of the Alpha and Beta of this pack?” Oliver asks.

“Alpha Blaire and Beta Sofia,” I say with a smile on my face. “They are the first women to run a pack. The Elders didn’t want to allow them pack status at first.”

Oliver shifts awkwardly in his seat. “What changed their minds?” Oliver asks curiously.

“They changed their minds because they needed to set an example for the upcoming Queen,” Leo mumbles from my lap. “Now, will you two stop talking? I am trying to sleep.”

Running my fingers through Leo’s dirty blonde hair, a loud purr rumbles in his chest. “We are at the Crystal Lake Pack,” I say as I ruffle his hair. “It is time for you to wake up.”

Leo groans uncomfortably as he gets up from my lap. “I was sleeping so well,” he pouts.

Oliver looks out of the window and gasps loudly. “Raven, you have got to see this.”

Leaning over Oliver, I look out of his window, and I am shocked at what I see. About a hundred Crystal Lake Pack members are standing by the airfield with signs waving in the air. All of the signs say, “Welcome Luna Queen!”

Tears fill my eyes as I step down from the plane. As soon as everyone sees me, they begin cheering and yelling. I have yet to receive such a warm welcome from any of the other packs.

As soon as my feet hit the ground, a beautiful redhead comes running in my direction. Without warning, she throws her arms around my neck and pulls me in for a giant bear hug. Leo growls at the woman, and she quickly takes a step back from me.

“I am sorry,” she apologizes. “I am just so excited to finally

meet the

Luna Queen. I am Alpha Blaire of the Crystal Lake Pack.”

Another woman with red hair comes to her side and nods politely. “I am Beta Sofia,” she says appropriately. “I apologize for my sister. She is a bit of a hugger.”

“You two are sisters!” I exclaim. “How wonderful that you get to run your pack together.”

“You obviously haven’t tried to run a pack with a sibling,” Alpha Blaire jokes.

I laugh along with her even though my heart is breaking inside. I would love nothing more than to run a pack with Kieran by my side.

Oliver finally reaches the bottom of the stairs, and Beta Sofia's whole demeanor changes. Oliver shuffles awkwardly on the spot, and I wonder what is going on. Perhaps they were not expecting me to bring guests along with me.

"These are my mates," I explain.

"This is Alpha Leo of the Blue Moon

Pack, and this is Alpha Oliver of the Historical Pack."

"Nice to see you are alive," Beta Sofia growls at Oliver.

She spins on her heels and storms off in the direction of the cars that are waiting on us. I look at my mates, and they couldn't have more different looks on their faces. Leo looks like he could burst with joy, but Oliver looks like

he wants to crawl into a hole and hide.

"What was that all about?" I ask Oliver, and his face heats with embarrassment.

"Nothing," he grumbles.

"It didn't look like nothing to me," Leo laughs. "I know a scorned lover when I see one."

"She wasn't my lover," Oliver snaps at Leo.

Alpha Blaire looks around at the now hushed crowd and butts into the conversation. "I don't think this is the place for this conversation," she says.

"Why don't we clear things up at the pack house?"

"I agree," I say.

Alpha Blaire leads us to the cars. There isn't enough room for my mates and myself to ride in one car together. We will have to split up. My gut tells me not to let Oliver ride with Beta Sofia, but he is already climbing into the back of her car.

Jealousy surges through my body. It feels like he chose her over me.

Tears prickle at the corners of my eyes as I climb into the back of Alpha Blaire's car. I expect Leo to climb in beside me, but he doesn't. Dad is the one who takes a seat beside me.

“We thought it best if Leo rode with Oliver,” Dad says to me.

I nod my head. I am afraid to talk for fear that I will begin to cry.

Keeping my eyes glued to my hands, I twist my fingers together and try to think about anything else.

Dad leans in close to me and whispers in my ear, “Everyone has a past.

You have to give him a chance to explain.”

I know he is right. Before my mates came along, I had Warren. We weren’t exactly lovers, but we had feelings for each other. Or, at least, I thought we did until I saw him in Harry’s memory.

“They weren’t lovers,” Alpha Blaire suddenly blurts out.

“Oh?” I respond.

“They were casually dating until he disappeared a few months ago,”

Alpha Blaire says. “Sofia has been worried sick.”

“So they were together?” I ask.

“In a way,” Alpha Blaire hesitates. “Neither had found their mate, and I think they were looking for a way to fill that void.”

“I see,” I say, choking back tears. “Does she love him?”

“That isn’t a question for me,” Alpha Blaire answers honestly. “You three will have to sit down together and have a discussion.”

“He is my mate,” I gasp. “What sort of conversation needs to be had?”

“You need to give them an opportunity to end things, Little Bird,” my dad says. “It is the right thing to do.”

I cross my arms over my chest and growl in frustration. I don’t say another word as we head to the pack house. I can see Alpha Blaire glancing at me in the rearview mirror with a concerned look on her face.

My father leans in and kisses my head. “You are stronger than this. If you can deal with Leo’s playboy ways, you can deal with this.”

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Kieran's POV

Elise's phone rings loudly on the bedside table. Groaning, I put my pillow over my head, trying to drown out the noise.

Untangling herself from my body, Elise grabs her phone. She gasps when she looks at the number on the screen.

"What is wrong?" She says as she

her voice catches my attention.

answers the phone. The concern in

There is a mumbled voice of another woman on the other end of the call. I can't make out what she is saying, but whatever it is has Elise worried.

"I understand," Elise says before biting down on her bottom lip. "I will leave at once."

Elise quickly hangs up the phone and hops out of bed. She throws her hair into a messy bun and begins to gather her things that are scattered around the room.

"What are you doing?" I yawn as I watch her flutter around the room.

"I have to leave," Elise says with panic in her voice.

"You are my mate,

," I growl at her. "You stay with me."

Tears begin to stream down Elise's face. "She told me you wouldn't let me leave."

"Who told you?" I ask.

"My mother," Elise cries. "I told you she is an oracle of sorts. If I don't leave right now, I will die."

"No one would dare to harm you in my presence," I laugh. "Now, come back to bed."

"Your fathers are coming," Elise tells me. "They know we are with the recusants."

“Impossible,” I say confidently. “I have been careful.”

“Not careful enough,” Elise says. “Your sister read Harry’s mind.”

“No,” I say as panic fills my chest. “Harry died before Raven could get to him. Our plant in the South Pack hospital made sure of it.”

“Apparently, she can read the minds of the dead,” Elise informs me.

“F**k,” I snarl. “Tam leaving with you.”

Elise shakes her head. “You have to stay behind and clear your name.”

“What is there to clear?” I shout at Elise. “If Raven has seen the truth, they will believe her.”

“You can change their minds,” Elise says.

“But not if I am

here. I have

done far too much damage.”

“You are my mate,” I plead with her. “Without you by my side

will

become weaker.”

“This isn’t meant to be forever.

Elise cups my face in her hands. “I will

come back to you when you take the throne.”

Elise places her lips on mine, and they are wet from her tears. I wrap my arms around her, trying to deepen the kiss. I want to remember the way the tingles of the mate bond feel before she is gone. But Elise pulls away.

“This isn’t goodbye,” she says sweetly. “Just, see you later.”

Pressing her lips to me one final time, Elise grabs her bag and heads for the window. She tosses her bag from the window and jumps out after it. Just like that, she is gone.

As soon as Elise hits the ground below, she shifts into her chocolate brown wolf and runs toward the woods. I don't have time to wallow in self-pity because as she disappears into the trees, there is a knock at my door.

"Go away," I yell. "I am sleeping."

But whoever is at the door doesn't take the hint, and they bang on it harder. "Open up," my father's voice booms through the door, and he sounds pissed.

Not wanting to look suspicious, I take my time getting to the door.

Swinging the door open, I look behind my father and see Papa glaring at me.

Dad isn't here. This is going to be considerably more difficult without Dad here to take my side. Whenever I was little and caused mischief, Dad would always be the one to bail me out. I am sure he would understand the predicament I am in.

My father storms into my room and looks under the bed, in the closet, and in the bathroom. "Where is the little bitch?" Father growls.

"I don't know what you are talking about?" I lie. I know he is looking for Elise.

"Your mother said you have been touting your mate all over the place,"

Papa says as he leans on my doorframe. "Where is she? We would like to meet her."

"She is gone," I say quietly. "She left this morning"

"Thank the Goddess," my mother's voice comes from behind Papa.

She wraps her arms around my papa and holds him close to her. I can already feel the pain of missing my mate through the bond, and she has only been gone for ten minutes.

"You should have rejected her the moment you found out she was your mate," my father growls. He isn't playing stupid like Papa.

"Why would I have rejected my mate?" I ask, pretending to be clueless.

"You damn well she is the one that pushed your sister down the stairs and almost paralyzed her. If it weren't for her mate, Leo, she would still be in that damn chair," my father growls at me.

"What?" My mother screeches, and I know I am in for it.

"Kieran! Did

you know?”

“Of course, I didn’t know mother lie. “I would never be with someone that would put Raven’s life in danger.’

“Then why are you meeting with the recusants,” Papa finally chimes in.

Mother’s face drops, and she looks at my papa in disbelief. “Chris, you can’t seriously be saying our son has been meeting with the recusants?”

“That is exactly what he is saying,”

my father snarls. “Raven has seen it.”

Mother unwraps her arms from around Papa and pushes him slightly.

“Why wasn’t I informed?” She demands to know.

“We only just found out,” my papa frowns at the loss of my mother’s touch.

“We came as soon as Raven told us,” my father adds in.

He grabs the back of my neck and guides me harshly out of my bedroom.

My mother refuses to look at me as we pass by, but my papa is glaring at me.

“You are going to tell us everything you know about the recusants and what they have planned for your sister,” Father hisses at me.

“I don’t know anything about the recusa-whatits,” I stammer.

“Then whe e have you been going to every night?” My mother asks as she places her hands on her hips.

“Gabbie’s,” I lie as my father tightens his grip on my neck. “I have been seeing Gabbie, and I didn’t want Elise to know.”

“Elise would have felt your betrayal through the bond,” my papa says.

“I didn’t care,” I lie. “I want Gabbie to be my Luna.”

“Well,” my father says. “We can sort this out easily. I will just invite Gabbie over for a little talk.”

The Alpha Triplets And The Rogue Chapter

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Oliver's POV.

I tried to delay getting off the plane for as long as I could. I had been so wrapped up in the joy of being marked by Raven I had forgotten all about Sofia being the Beta of the Crystal Lake Pack. If I could have hidden on the plane for the entire trip, I would have, but I knew I would have to face my past sooner or later.

As I stepped off the plane, Sofia's eyes met mine, and I saw them flicker to the healing mark on my neck. It is like a fire was ignited behind her eyes when she saw it. If there is anything I know about Sofia, it is her temper is as fiery as her red hair.

Now, I am sitting in the back of the car while Sofia drives recklessly down the road, weaving in and out of the traffic. Leo is sitting beside me with the most smug look on his face. I can tell he is pleased with how everything is going down, even though Leo and I had called a truce after Raven was pushed down the stairs.

"Beta Sofia, how do you know Oliver?" Leo asks, trying to hold back his laughter.

Sofia slams on the brakes in the middle of the road, and the cars behind us skid to a stop, barely missing us.

"Is this really where you want to have this

conversation?" Sofia growls.

Leo stops himself with his hands to keep from hitting the seat in front of him. He is stifling his laughter.

"We can discuss this later," I say diplomatically. "Leo, this is none of your business.

"I disagree," Leo says as Sofia continues to drive down the road. "We share a mate. I think this is my business."

Sofia glances at the two of us over her shoulder before putting her eyes back on the road. "There is nothing to tell," Sofia lies to Leo. "Oliver and I were just old friends."

"Were?" Leo asks. "Why are you two no longer friends?"

"Lies and deception," Sofia growls.

"I didn't lie," I try to defend myself. "I just stopped calling."

“Why would you stop calling a dear old friend?” Leo snickers.

“Stay out of this,” Sofia and I growl simultaneously.

I smack Leo with the back of my hand, hoping to shut him up. Leo raises his hands and leans back in the seat with a smirk.

“I was planning on calling,” I say to Sofia, trying to ignore Leo beside me.

5 +90 Points at most

“Is that so,” Sofia scoffs. “Were you ever planning on telling me you found your mate?”

I can hear the hurt in her voice

as she speaks. Our relationship must

have meant more to her than it did to me. The most we had ever done was kiss.

Finally, Sofia pulls up in front of a beautiful white house. There is a massive front porch that wraps around the side of the building, and a bright red door stands out brightly. Leo immediately hops out of the car and begins to stretch as if he had been sitting for a long period of time.

Leo peeks into the back window and gives me a wink before he heads to the front porch. Settling himself into a rocking chair, Leo rocks back and forth.

I know he is giving me time to work things out with Sofia.

Sofia sighs heavily as she turns in her seat to look at me. “Are you going to explain yourself?” She asks me.

“I am sorry,” I say to her. “I didn’t think you would have cared.”

“You didn’t think I would have cared?” Sofia yells. “We had been dating for a year, and then all of a sudden, you disappeared. I was so concerned for you.

If your Beta Nathaniel hadn’t explained where you were, I would have assumed you were dead.”

“I didn’t mean to make you concerned,” I try to console her. “I found my mate. What would you have had me do? Reject her?”

“I obviously didn’t expect you to reject her. You couldn’t have rejected her if you wanted to. She is the Luna Queen,” Sofia huffs. “But a simple phone call would have been nice.”

“I didn’t know what to say,” I admit. “It all happened so fast. I went to warn Raven about the oracle’s vision and found out that not only was she my mate, but that she also already had a mate.”

“What are you going to do?” Sofia asks me. “Are you really going to be with someone who already has a mate?”

“We have been marked and mated,” I try not to sound proud. “She belongs to me.”

“And what about Alpha Leo?” Sofia asks. “Does the Luna Queen not belong to him as well?”

“She does,” I respond. “She belongs to us both.”

Sofia shakes her head in disappointment.

“It is your life,” she says. “But

I would not be comfortable sharing my mate.”

“Sharing a mate isn’t for everyone,” Raven’s voice comes from outside the car. I have no idea how long she was there listening to our conversation.

Sofia’s face flushes with embarrassment as Raven gets into the back seat of the car with me.

“Luna Queen,” Sofia bows her head. “I am sorry if I offended you.”

“I am not offended,” Raven says sweetly. “I believe this conversation

would be better had with the three of us.”

“What about Leo?” Sofia asks in a snarky voice.

“He can join us as well,” Raven says with a fake smile plastered on her lips.

“That won’t be necessary,” Sofia grumbles. “I believe Oliver and I have cleared up everything.”

“Are you sure?” Raven says. “I can explain how having more than one mate works if you would like.”

I have never seen Raven act in such a way before. Her feelings are bombarding me through the mate bond. Jealousy and anger are the top two.

“Raven,” I say. “I am yours.”

“I know that,” Raven snaps back. “I just need to make sure she knows it too.”

“Luna Queen,” Sofia swallows hard. “I apologize for my comments about multiple mates.”

“I won’t be disrespected at this pack as well,” Raven says coldly.

“Of course not,” Sofia lowers her head. “I apologize, Luna Queen.”

“Very good,” Raven says as she exits the car.

I stare at Raven dumbfounded as she walks toward Leo on the porch.

“I heard she was shy and meek,” Sofia mumbles under her breath.

A smile creeps across my face, “Not anymore.”

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Raven’s POV

I step into the fancy restaurant with Leo on one side of me and Oliver on the other. They flank me like bodyguards, ready to pounce on any threat that may come our way. After being attacked at West and South Packs, my mates have decided that a regular bodyguard would not suffice.

Alpha Blaire spots us as soon as we walk in. She stands up in her glittery red dress and flags us down. There is a bright smile on her face as she yells over the crowd in the restaurant. Her sister, Beta Sofia, does not seem to be as excited to see us. Resting her elbows on the table, Sofia tries to hide behind her hands.

Murmurs fill the room as we make our way to the table in the back corner, and everyone turns to look at us. I can hear some of what the people are saying, and it makes my face blush. Leo and Oliver, on the other hand, are growling lightly at my sides.

Leo pulls out my seat and strategically places himself between myself and Sofia, leaving the only seat left at the table for Oliver between Alpha Blaire and me.

“I am so pleased you decided to meet us for dinner,” Alpha Blaire begins.

“It is nice to get out of the pack house every once in a while.”

“Thank you for inviting us,” I say politely, trying not to glance over at Sofia. Oliver is looking down at his hands, and I know that he, too, is trying to avoid Sofia’s harsh gaze. “You will forgive me if I do not eat,” I say quietly. “I have been poisoned once before.”

“I can assure you, Luna Queen, no one here wants to harm you,” Alpha Blaire says with certainty.

“While I can appreciate that,” I swallow hard. “I have also been lied to before.”

Oliver clears his throat awkwardly, and we all turn our attention to him.

“Raven, if I may,” he trips over his words. “I know the Crystal Lake Pack personally, and I can tell you no pack was more excited for the announcement that you were finally taking the throne.”

“It is true,” Alpha Blaire says excitedly. “Without your position, I would have never gotten my own pack. Being born an Alpha and a female is almost unheard of. You wouldn’t believe the tests that the Elder Council put me through trying to prove I am not actually an Alpha.”

“I can imagine,” I say as I sniff the water glass in front of me. “The Elder

Council has been my biggest obstacle to date.”

The water smells okay. There is no hint of wolfsbane or other poisons, so I tilt the glass to my lips before it is sipped away by Leo. Leo smells the water, just as I had, and then lifts the glass to his lips. We all wait on bated breath to see if the water was actually safe. After a few minutes, it is clear that Leo will be fine. I take my glass from him and take a drink.

Leaning into Leo, I whisper next to his ear,

“You don’t have to put your

life at risk for me.”

“I would put my life on the line for you every day, Little Bird,” he says sweetly.

Leo leans in and places a kiss on my cheek, and I blush at his show of affection in front of everyone. My eyes glance over to Sofia, and she has a disgusted look on her face. It is clear she is still displeased that I have two mates, and one of them is her ex.

Platters with massive amounts of food are brought out and set in the middle of the table. Alpha Blaire smiles at me before beginning to fill her plate.

“I heard of the poisoning,” she says. “I thought you would feel more comfortable if we all ate the same food.”

My stomach growls hungrily as I look at the platters of food. I haven’t been eating much lately because I have been unsure of who I can trust and who I cannot.

Leo and Oliver both look at me and shrug their shoulders before filling their plates. Leo places a few of my favorites on my plate and nudges me with his shoulder, but still, I hesitate. The trauma of being poisoned is hard to get past. Just like I cannot stop looking over my shoulder at the front door of the restaurant, I am sure a hunter will burst through the door at any moment to come after me.

Finally, Sofia sets her fork down on her plate, and it creates a loud clang.

She looks at Alpha Blaire and huffs loudly. “If she isn’t going to trust us, why are we even here.”

“I want to trust you,” I say quietly. “But you have to understand. I have spent more time in the hospital fighting for my life than touring the packs.”

“That is what we wanted to speak to you about,” Alpha Blaire says to me while shooting a deathly stare at her sister.

“Oh,” I say curiously.

“We believe there is a war coming,” Alpha Blaire tells me. “We want to offer you our warriors when the time comes.”

I choke on the bite of steak in my mouth. I grasp for my water and drink greedily to clear my throat. “What makes you think there will be a war?”

“It is well known that your brother wants your throne,” Alpha Blaire says quietly. “It has been rumored that he has been amassing an army.”

I have to fight back the tears in my eyes threatening to fall, but I am failing miserably. I wipe the tears from my cheeks and look at the women sitting across from me. Alpha Blaire is staring at me with concern, but Sofia appears to be more than pleased to see my distress.

“I don’t believe my brother would plan a war,” I say, but even I am doubting my words.

“We have proof,” Sofia chirps.

Oliver growls in her direction, and Sofia quickly wipes the smile off her face.

“What sort of proof do you have,” I swallow hard.

“We are lucky enough to have an oracle in our pack,” Alpha Blaire says.

I look between my mates, and they are waiting for me to answer. “I would like to meet this oracle,” I tell everyone.

“She is very choosy about who she meets with,” Sofia says.

“I am sure she will meet with me,” I snap at Sofia.

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Kieran’s POV

I pace the floor in front of the door, waiting for Gabbie to arrive.

We need to get our stories straight before she speaks to my fathers. I can only hope she is willing to lie for me. In the past, I wouldn’t have second-guessed if she would, but I haven’t spoken to her since I turned eighteen. It has been months. I don’t even know if she has found her mate or not.

I find myself becoming jealous at the thought of Gabbie being with someone else. I had always planned for her to be my mate and my Luna, but the truth is she doesn’t belong to me. I shouldn’t be jealous.

A soft, hesitant knock on the door alerts me to Gabbie’s arrival. I open the door just enough to slide my body out. She looks as beautiful as ever, but there is something different about her. Her skin is sun-kissed, and a spray of dark freckles have shown up across her nose. Her chocolate brown hair is pulled up into a messy bun. Unlike the last time that we met, she looks happy.

Her eyes widen slightly as she looks at me, and she rests her hand awkwardly against her neck. I rip her hand away from her neck and see a mate mark.

“What the f**k is this?” I growl angrily.

“I found my mate,” Gabbie says with a bit of a huff. “I heard that you also found yours.”

Gabbie tips my head from side to side, looking for a mark on my neck, and she frowns when she doesn’t find one.

“I haven’t been marked by my mate,” I grumble as I swat her hand away from my face.

“Why not?” Gabbie asks.

“Because she is an Omega,” I growl. “She is not worthy to be my Luna. You were meant to be my Luna.”

Gabbie’s eyes soften as she stares into mine. “I could never be your Luna,” she says quietly. “That is not the path the Moon Goddess has put before me.

“Who is your mate?” I ask.

“You don’t know him,” Gabbie responds quickly. “He is not a member of this pack.”

“How did you meet him then?” I cross my arms over my chest believing she is lying to me.

“I have been gone,” she says with tears glistening in her eyes. “But, of course, you didn’t notice. I came home just long enough to pack my things before I move to the Blue Moon Pack”

“When were you planning on telling me you are leaving?” I demand to know.

“Tonight, actually. I was already on my way over here to talk to you when Alpha Ace mind linked me to come to the pack house,” she tells me.

Then I remember the reason I came out here to meet her in the first place. “Gabbie,” I begin to plead with her. “I need you to do me a favor.”

Gabbie crosses her arms over her chest and taps her foot on the floor of the front porch. “Go on,” she says skeptically.

“I need you to tell my fathers I have been meeting with you in the evenings,” I tell her.

“What!?” Gabbie exclaims. “You want me to lie to one of my

Alpha’s? I cannot do that.”

“I need you to,” I beg. “My life depends on it.”

Gabbie’s eyes widen in shock. “What have you done?”

“That doesn’t matter,” I tell her.

“I need this one last favor.”

“I can’t,” she shakes her head as she backs away from me. “What if

Alpha Ace uses his Alpha command on me? You are asking me to risk my future for you. I won’t do it.”

“Does our past together mean nothing to you?” I try to guilt her.

“Our past together is just that, the past,” Gabbie says as she pushes past me to walk into the pack house.

Gabbie opens the door to the pack house, and I find Father and Papa standing just inside the entryway with their arms crossed over their chests. They have identical scowls on their faces. They had been listening to the whole conversation.

“Gabbie,” Father says to her sweetly. “Your loyalty to this pack is unwavering. You will be missed.”

“Thank you, Alpha,” she says as she bares her neck to my fathers in submission.

“You do not have to break your pack link if you do not wish,” Papa chimes in.

Gabbie’s face blushes deeply. “I do not think my mate would like that very much. He is the Beta of the Blue Moon Pack.”

“Beta Brent?” Father asks.

“Yes, Alpha,” Gabbie says formally.

“Their pack will be lucky to have you as their Beta Female,” Papa says.

“More than likely, she will be their Luna,” Father replies. “Leo cannot run a pack and sit at Raven’s side at the same time.”

Gabbie blushes deeply at the thought of being a Luna. I have always thought she was beautiful when she blushed, but this time, I just find – it annoying.

My mother comes into the entryway and hugs Gabbie warmly. “I

wish you all the luck,” she tells her. “You are free to leave.”

Gabbie doesn’t even look back as she walks out of the pack house.

It is like I never meant anything to her at all. My heart is broken. I denied my mate in hopes that Gabbie would be my Luna, and now I don’t have either of them.

I try to push past my fathers to walk up the stairs. I don t want to be around anyone right now, but my fathers refuse to move out of my way.

“Would you like to explain where you have been going if you haven’t been going to see Gabbie?” Papa says.

“You blatantly lied to us,” my mother says, choking back tears.

“I have been meeting with the recusants,” I admit loudly. “They believe I am the rightful ruler. Not Raven.”

My mother gasps before she storms up the stairs. Her emotions have filled the pack house, and the feeling of disappointment is suffocating.

“You are not the rightful ruler,” my father growls. “You know that.”

“What if the birthmark on Raven’s shoulder means nothing? What if I am the rightful ruler?” I question.

“I think it is time we take you to see your sister,” Papa growls.

“Maybe if you see her wolf, you will understand your place in this world.”

“So what if she is golden,” I grumble. “That means nothing.”

“It means everything,” Father growls.

He grabs me by the back of the neck and leads me up the stairs. He kicks in my bedroom door and shoves me into the room. “Pack your f*****g bags,” Father growls at me. “I am not letting you out of my sight.”

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Raven’s POV

The ride back to the Crystal Lake Pack house is silent. Leo is keeping his eyes on the road while Oliver sits in the back seat brooding. Whatever went on between him and Beta Sofia is still on his mind. I do not fear his betrayal of the mate bond. I know Oliver well enough to know that he would never do something like that. The traditions and customs of the werewolf community mean too much to him.

We pull up outside of the pack house, and Oliver immediately jumps out of the car and strips off his clothes.

“Where are you going?” I yell out after him, but he only grumbles something about needing a run in response.

I stand in the middle of the driveway with my shoulders slumped over as I watch him shift into his wolf and run into the woods surrounding the pack house.

Leo comes up behind me and wraps his arms around my waist, pulling me tightly into his chest. "He just needs some time to think," Leo tries to explain.

As I watch Oliver's wolf disappear under the canopy of the trees, I don't feel as comfortable about Oliver as I had a few moments ago. "Do you think he will reject me?" I whisper as I lean my head back against Leo's chest.

Leo chuckles lightly and kisses me on the top of my head. "He would never reject you," Leo tells me. "I am betting he has never been in the middle of two women before, and he is trying to sort out his feelings."

"He shouldn't have any more feelings for her," I say with a huff.

Spinning me around, I crash into Leo's chest, and electricity sparks between us. "He doesn't have feelings for her," Leo promises me. "Come on, I want to show you something."

Leo begins stripping off his clothes in the middle of the driveway, just as Oliver did. Standing in his boxers, he waits for me to do the same.

"Oh no," I laugh. "I am not stripping naked in the middle of the driveway."

"Then go around the corner," Leo smiles. "It will take too long to get to in our human forms."

I let out a sigh and stomp off to the side of the house. I pull my dress over my head and fold it neatly. I look up and see Leo's huge black wolf, Luca, staring at me. His tongue is hanging out of the side of his mouth as he stares at my bare body.

"Luca," I warn him playfully, and he sits back on his hind legs and whimpers.

I give him a little wink before I relinquish control over to Rose. Rose eagerly takes the reins, and I quickly shift into my beautiful golden wolf.

Rose spins around in a circle, trying to catch a glimpse of her golden tail. I will never tire of seeing myself in wolf form. The color of my coat is so unique, and I don't know how anyone could deny that I am the child of light.

Luca lets out a short yep to catch my attention, and Rose turns to look at him. 'He is a beautiful wolf,' Rose sighs as she examines her mate up and down.

'Both of our mates are beautiful,' I reply.

‘But we haven’t marked this one yet,’ she says seductively.

I realize she is right. We haven’t marked Leo yet. He has been so patient with us that it is only fair if we do it sooner rather than later.

‘Maybe when we get back from the run,’ Rose says as she takes off running after Luca.

Luca runs in the opposite direction of where Oliver’s wolf, Orion, went.

‘Where are we going?’ I ask through the mind link.

‘It is a surprise,’ Leo responds.

‘How do you know your way around this pack?’ I ask him curiously.

‘I have traveled to all the packs,’ Leo tells me. ‘I have an excellent memory.’

A little bit of jealousy flares at the thought of Leo being allowed to travel from pack to pack without a bunch of guards at his side. I can’t help but wonder what it would feel like to have that kind of freedom.

Rose follows Luca through the dense forest, weaving in and out of trees, not letting him get out of her sight. As we run, I marvel at the way his muscular wolf runs. He runs as if he is as light as a feather. His paws barely make a sound as they step on the forest floor. He must be an excellent hunter.

Rose, on the other hand, sounds like a horse galloping through the forest. She is fast but not as agile as Luca.

‘I haven’t had as much time to practice as Luca,’ Rose huffs in my mind. ‘You always keep me locked away.’

‘I know,’ I say, feeling guilty for my thoughts. ‘I promise to let you out more often.’

Rose huffs as she picks up the pace. She runs alongside Luca, playfully nipping at his neck as we run. Luca lets out an enthusiastic howl, skids to a stop, and then quickly turns to the left.

Trying to follow his movements, Rose attempts to skid to a stop, but she is all legs. Her legs get tangled up beneath her, and she tumbles to the ground. Sliding across the forest floor, she lets out a painful whimper as her fur is scraped off the side of her face.

Luca turns around immediately and rushes back to our side. Rose lays on the ground, panting heavily. The sore on her face is throbbing and stinging.

‘Are you okay?’ Leo asks through the link.

‘I think so,’ I respond as Rose gets back to her feet.

‘We are almost there,’ Leo says, and I can hear the sadness in his voice. ‘Do you want to turn around?’

‘No,’ I say. I am still curious about where Leo is taking me. ‘I will be okay to continue.’

Luca nudges Rose with his nose, gently licking the wound on the side of her face. Rose slowly gets to her feet and uses Luca’s massive form to steady herself. I can feel the aching in her body as we walk beside Luca. I know I will be sore in my human form as well.

‘I am sorry,’ Rose says sadly.

‘It is not your fault,’ I tell her. ‘You didn’t mean to fall.’

Rose suddenly freezes where she is standing. We have found a clearing in the forest, and a large lake sits in the middle. The water in the lake is so clear it appears to be a mirror. The sunlight shimmers on the water’s surface, and I stare through Rose’s eyes in awe of the beauty before me.

The sound of bones cracking breaks me out of my trance, and I look to see a naked Leo standing beside me.

“What do you think?” He asks as he moves closer to the lake.

Rose gives me back control, and I shift back into my human form. I was right. My whole body is sore from the fall. I lift my hand to my face and feel the raw skin beneath my fingertips.

“It is beautiful,” I say, trying to ignore the pain radiating through my body.

“They don’t call this the Crystal Lake Pack for nothing,” Leo says with a smile on his face. “Care for a swim?”

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Leo’s POV

Raven lowers her hand from her face, and I see the damage she suffered from the fall in the forest. She is still under the shadows of the tree canopy. She wraps her arm around her chest and twists her legs, trying to cover her most private parts.

I stroll over to her and tilt her head to the side. The skin on her cheek is broken and oozing blood. "Little Bird," I whisper in shock. "I didn't realize the fall was that bad. Let's turn around and get you some help."

"Don't be silly," Raven says, trying to be strong. "It is just an abrasion. I will survive."

I c**k my head to the side as I study her. Raven's body is shaking with pain. She squeals loudly as I scoop her into my arms and carry her back into the forest.

"Please," Raven giggles as she twists in my arms. "I don't want to go back. I want to see what you wanted to show me."

"You are injured," I grunt as I try not to lose my grip on her as she wiggles around.

Letting out a huff of protest, Raven wraps her arms around my neck. Chewing on her bottom lip, I can tell she is deep in thought. Just as I am about to ask her what she is thinking about, she presses her lips to mine. I stop walking and gasp at the feeling of her lips on mine. Raven doesn't miss the opportunity to slide her tongue into my mouth. Hesitantly, her tongue caresses mine.

A low purr erupts from my chest as she kisses me. She rarely takes charge of a s****l situation, and it is a major turn-on.

Holding onto her tightly, I let my tongue brush against hers, but I allow her to stay in charge. The scent of her arousal is peppering the forest, and my c**k springs to life.

Raven breaks away from the kiss. She is panting as her chest heaves up and down with desire. "I want you," she whispers.

"We are so far from the pack house," I practically whimper.

"Not there," she says with a sly look. "By the lake."

She doesn't have to ask me twice. I turn around with her in my arms and trek back to the crystal lake. As I break through the forest canopy, Raven wiggles out of my arms. Her feet touch the soft grass on the bank of the lake, and she laughs playfully. I reach out to pull her back toward me, but Raven takes off running toward the lake.

Her raven-colored hair is flowing beautifully behind her as she runs. She glances over her shoulder and flashes me a broad smile. Stopping just shy of the water's edge, Raven turns to me and beckons me forward with her finger. I watch as she steps back into the water. A shiver runs up her spine as she dips her feet into the cool water, but it doesn't stop her from going deeper.

My Little Bird wants to play. I smirk to myself as I think about how much I am going to enjoy this. Every fiber of my being wants to run to her, but I don't. I stalk my way toward

the lake, not taking my eyes off of Raven's. Her bright blue eyes twinkle with excitement the closer I get to her.

She stops in the water when she is about thigh-deep. Her arms sway back and forth beside her, letting her fingertips graze the water's surface. I stop at the water's edge and marvel at the beauty of my mate. I can't believe I ever took another woman to bed. I should have waited for her like Oliver did.

Luca huffs in my mind. 'It is time to show her what real love-making is.'

And I know that he is right. I am going to finally claim my mate on the banks of the beautiful lake. I don't care if it is still daylight outside. I don't care if someone catches us, and I don't believe she cares, either.

"Are you coming in?" She says in a seductive voice.

I dip my toes into the water and instantly reject asking her for a swim. The water is freezing, but I refuse to let a little bit of cold water stop me from getting to my mate.

I traipse through the water and find myself standing in front of Raven. She doesn't try to get away from me. She just stands there looking into my eyes. Wrapping my arm around her waist, I pull her through the water until her chest is flush with mine. I firmly palm one of her breasts, and she throws her head back and moans loudly.

"Leo," she whispers. "Please."

"Please, what?" I say as I lead her out of the water.

"I want to claim you," she whispers.

"I will be the one doing the claiming," I tell her.

Once we reach the bank of the lake, I lift Raven and gently lay her on the ground. She spreads her legs and allows me to settle between them. I trail my fingers over her skin, leaving the tingles of the mate bond in their wake. Starting at her knee, I run my fingers up the inside of her thigh, stopping just shy of her core. I can feel the heat pulsating off of her as she waits patiently for my touch.

Slowly, I let my fingers spread her folds, and I dip a finger into her core. I pump my finger in and out slowly, groaning at how tight she is. Even though she has already taken Oliver, I fear I may still hurt her. My finger comes out of her core, dripping with her juices, and I know she is ready for me.

"Please," she whimpers again.

I remove my finger from her core and line my member up with her opening. I swipe the tip of my c**k over her slit, and she arches her back off the soft grass beneath her. I press myself against her core, but Raven presses against me with her hands.

I pause, praying she hasn't changed her mind. Raven's eyes are wide with anticipation. "Be gentle," she begs, and I know she is worried I will hurt her as well.

Slowly, I ease myself into her core. "Goddess, you are tight," I groan as I press myself into her.

I pause, allowing Raven to adjust to my size. She raises her hips up and down as she stretches to accommodate my girth.

"More," she breathes out, and I thrust myself into her.

Raven calls out in either pain or pleasure; it is hard to tell, but she doesn't beg me to stop. I continue to move myself in and out of her gently, but Raven is clawing at my back, begging for more.

"I don't want to hurt you," I tell her, but Raven snakes her arm around my neck, pulling me closer.

She presses her lips to mine. This time, the kiss isn't tentative. It is hungry and desperate. I growl as she takes my bottom lip between her teeth and gives it a little tug. She begins to tighten around me, and I know that she is close to finding her release. I am no longer able to hold back, and it is clear that Raven doesn't want me to.

I thrust myself into her core, fast and harder. Her hips rise to meet each one of my movements. "Leo," she whimpers, her p***y clamps down on me.

"Come for me, Little Bird," I say as she quivers beneath me.

Raven calls out my name and tangles her fingers in my hair. She pulls my neck closer and sinks her canines into my flesh. The tether between us snaps into place, and I can feel all of her emotions through the bond. She swipes her tongue over my neck, and my release is close behind.

With one final thrust into her, I empty my seed within. "Now you are truly mine," I grunt into her ear as I come.

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Raven's POV

Our wolves walk back to the Crystal Lake Pack house side by side. Every time I glance at Luca, his wolf has his tongue hanging out of the side of his mouth as if there is a giant grin on his face.

‘Are you happy?’ I ask him through the mind link as we approach the pack house.

‘I have never been happier,’ he laughs in my mind. ‘This is all I have wanted since I laid eyes on you. Even before I knew you were my mate.’

As we walk through the trees, I see Oliver pacing back and forth in the driveway. His emotions hit me through the mate bond, and I can tell he is worried. Rose runs up to him and brushes her body against him, trying to ease his worry. Oliver runs his hands over my fur, but it doesn’t lessen the worry coming through the bond.

Hurrying to the side of the house where I left my dress, I shift back into my human form. Before I reach down to grab my dress, Oliver presses me against the wall of the house and roughly cups my breasts. He lowers his nose to my neck and inhales deeply.

“You marked him,” Oliver says with a low growl.

I am confused by his actions. It feels as if he is jealous, but I feel nothing but need through the mate bond. I pant heavily as Oliver’s hand roves over my body. Heat is pulling between my legs once again.

“I did,” I finally admit when I am able to find my voice.

Oliver presses his lips to mine and presses his tongue against mine. I part my lips slightly, and his tongue dives into my mouth, exploring every inch. This kiss isn’t hesitant or scared like I am accustomed to from him. It is hungry and full of need.

Oliver breaks away from the kiss and presses his forehead against mine. He gently runs his fingers over the raw wound on my cheek. “I could feel your pain and then arousal through the bond, and then I couldn’t find you,” he whispers. “I was worried and turned on at the same time.”

“I am sorry,” I giggle. “I didn’t know you could feel everything.”

“Don’t be sorry,” Oliver says.

Oliver bends down to kiss me again, and someone clears their throat from the corner of the house. Oliver growls as he turns to see Sofia standing watching us.

Doing his best to shield my naked body from Sofia’s gaze, Oliver snarls in her direction. “What do you want?”

I reach down and grab my dress, quickly pulling it over my head. I step out from behind Oliver and wait for Sofia to explain why she interrupted us.

"I spoke with the oracle," Sofia says, not taking her eyes off Oliver. "She is not willing to meet with you."

"Take me to her," I demand.

"She won't meet with you," Sofia says, moving her glare from Oliver to me.

"She will meet with her," Oliver snaps at Sofia. "Do as your Luna Queen commands you."

"It will be your funeral," Sofia grumbles as she turns her back to us.

"What did you say?" Oliver screams at Sofia.

Sofia spins on her heels and glares into his eyes. "It will be your funeral," she says louder.

Oliver lunges toward Sofia. He grabs her around the throat and slams her against the wall of the pack house. "Was that a threat?" He snarls next to her ear.

If Sofia is scared, she doesn't let him know. She holds her chin high and does not struggle against his hold. "It was not a threat," she manages to say. "It was a promise. The oracle is not forgiving."

"Is she a member of this pack?" I ask Sofia.

Sofia twists uncomfortably under Oliver's hold. "She is," Sofia gasps.

"Let her go," I tell Oliver, but he doesn't immediately obey.

"You will treat my mate with respect despite our past," Oliver says. "Do you understand?"

"I understand." Sofia's voice is raspy as she continues to fight for air.

Oliver releases Sofia, and she falls to her knees in front of him. He doesn't spare her a second glance before he walks back to me. I stand there stunned, staring at Sofia as she attempts to get back to her feet.

"I bet you didn't know your mate has a temper," Sofia says coldly as she looks at me.

I don't answer her, but she is right. I didn't know that Oliver had such a volatile temper. He had always been so calm and collected, but I don't want to give Sofia the satisfaction of knowing more about my mate than I do.

I smooth my hands down my dress and look Sofia in the eyes. “Where can I find this oracle?”

“I am telling you that she won’t speak to you?” Sofia hisses at me. “Why are you being so stubborn?”

“Because I don’t trust you,” I answer her honestly. “You clearly want my mate.”

Sofia scoffs loudly. “I do not want your mate.”

The sound of Leo’s laughter comes from the porch. I glance around Sofia to see him munching on an apple. He wipes the juice from his mouth with the back of his hand. “You definitely want Oliver,” he laughs, “but that is beside the point. Take us to the oracle.”

Sofia lets out a huff. “I am not going with you. I refuse to suffer her wrath.”

“Then tell us the way,” I say.

“She lives in the forest just on the other side of the Crystal Lake,” Sofia tells us. “There is no road that will take you there. You will have to go on foot.”

“I know the way,” Leo says as he tosses the apple core onto the ground.

Sofia rolls her eyes at his actions, picks up the apple core with two fingers, and carries it into the pack house without even looking back.

“I guess we are on our own,” I say, trying to lighten the mood.

“Don’t worry about it,” Oliver says. “I am sure we can handle one oracle by ourselves.”