

Chapter 161 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

MADDIX POV

Coffee & Thyme is a total loss. The infant's room and Henry and Celeste's rooms are burned at Nick's place. The office building that housed the offices of the Royal Council, vital statistics, and housing placement, is a complete loss. I am thankful that mom thought having all the documents that were housed in that building were scanned onto a hard drive for situations just like this. I'm just thankful that no one was seriously hurt. Most things in life can be replaced, but people can't. Hazel is due in my office tomorrow, and we have already gotten word from the council they are going to offer her a hefty grant to rebuild. Her bakery, thankfully, wasn't involved in the fire, so they would at least have some other income coming in, other than Tim's warrior wage.

Nick's place won't be hard to fix, but Celeste is upset about losing some of her mother's belongings. Most of their belongings were still in storage, but she had brought in a few items. One of those things was her mother's wedding dress. She was in the process of altering it for their official wedding, and it was ruined. I felt bad for her, but Riley said she was going to help her try and figure something out to where maybe they could use a little of the lace from the dress. It may be slightly charred, but the girls are creative. I have faith in them both.

I have been trying to figure out how to identify who set the fire, attacked Hazel, Tim and Celeste, and if it was also Willow's biological father. The cameras at Coffee & Thyme were burned, along with any footage. The cameras at the office building weren't working at the time, and the cameras at the pack house didn't catch anything. That left the library and the abuse shelter. I picked up my phone and called Chris. "Hey, Chris. This is Alpha Maddix. I have a quick question for you. Do your security cameras possibly face the buildings involved in the fire?" I asked. He was silent for a moment, and then replied, "I believe so, Alpha. If you like, I can copy its recordings from the past couple of days for you."

I gave out a sigh of relief and told him that would be fabulous. He said it would take a couple of hours, and he would bring it in when it was done. I thanked him profusely and hung up the phone. Next, I called Jace, he is head of security at the abuse shelter. "Jace, Alpha Maddix here. I need the past few days of security footage from the cameras at the shelter. Are you able to email those to me, or will they need backed up on a flashdrive?" I asked. He started to stammer, and I asked him if there was an issue. He promised it wasn't and that he would send it via email. We disconnected the call, and I waited for his email. His hesitation was concerning to me, but it could have just been because it was me who requested it, instead of George.

I called the kitchen to have them send a few sandwiches and some potato salad up to my office for lunch, and patiently waited for the email from Jace. It was taking a lot longer than I had anticipated, and I messaged Henry to check on Jace. Something didn't feel right to me. It didn't take long for Henry to get back with me, and it wasn't good news. "Maddix, stay calm please. When I got there, Jace was nowhere to be found, and the whole security system was destroyed. However, I was able to get the chip out of the crushed recording system. I'm on my way over with it now." he stated.

My face started to burn with fury. Did Jace do that? If not, he knew who did. I told Henry I would order him some lunch too, and we would go through the footage together. He disconnected the call, and I placed an order for him as well. I walked to the small bar in my office and poured myself a glass of whiskey. I drank it all in one gulp, and slammed the glass back on the counter. I stepped out on the balcony to get some fresh air, and in the distance I saw Micah's boyfriend, Scott and Jace speaking. I linked Timmy's second in command, Ryan, and asked him to grab another warrior and apprehend the two sneaky men. I told him to put them both in the cells, and to make sure they weren't near each other. I will be going to speak to them later.

Henry finally arrived, just as our food had. He gave me the sd card, and I inserted it into my laptop. I placed it at a faster speed so that the footage would kind of speed through. About 15 minutes in, Henry yells, "Maddix, Stop! Look. There are 2 figures right there and one of them has something on fire. Watch." Sure enough, there were two males, and one of them was holding a lit torch. The other was carrying what looked to be a baseball bat.

They entered Coffee & Thyme and were in there for a short amount of time. They both ran out of the establishment a short time before there was a small explosion. That must have been when the alarms sounded. The explosion is what caused the offices and Nick's Place to catch fire. When the men ran out of the bistro, they ran straight into the children's home. They must have encountered Henry and his mate, because they weren't in there long at all. Henry said he remembered the explosion, and then the scramble to try to get Celeste awake and out of the house. He said the last thing he remembered was covering his face with a handkerchief to stop the smoke inhalation, and then the next thing he knew, he was waking up in the hospital. He said he didn't even see who hit them. I zoomed in to see if I could get a glimpse of the faces as they ran out of the bistro, and there, plain as day, were Jace and Scott. I looked at Henry and said, "Call George, have him and Ryan meet us at the cell house. Time to confront the trash."

Truth and Consequences

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MADDIX POV

Walking through the cell house, the only sounds that could be heard was the clacking of my shoes on the tiled floor. I was a man on a mission, and I was focused on getting answers. I started to roll up my sleeves as I was making my way to the holding unit, and my eyes never roamed anywhere but straight ahead. The smell of the cell house always made me sick to my stomach.

We kept everything spotless, yet it still had the slight metallic smell of blood permeating the air. Even through the bleach. I was walking so fast that Henry and Ryan had a hard time keeping up with me, but they held their own in keeping up. I walked into the guard room and grabbed the keys from their desk. No one spoke to me, only watching me with every move I made. I knew my aura was intense at the moment, but I had no intention of pulling it back.

Standing in front of Jace's cell, I held out my hand for the photos of him and Scott that I had printed out. I held one up against the glass without saying a word, and Jace's face went white. "Alpha, I...I can explain. Please, just allow me to tell you why. I had no choice," he begged. My glare pierced through him, and all I said was, "Speak." He fell to his knees and started to babble. "Alpha, it was Scott's idea. He is your daughter's father, and he was about to run away from his responsibility. He said that if you found out he was your daughter's biological father and that he had raped Micah, you would kill him. Hazel hadn't paid him for the work he had just completed at the bistro, so he went in to confront her. She said he would have to wait for her funds to hit her account the following Friday, and he flipped. He attacked her, and then torched her bistro. I know what I have done is treason, but he threatened my mother's life if I didn't cooperate. My mom is really weak from my father's passing, and she wouldn't have been able to fight back. I had to save her life," he sobbed.

I didn't feel sorry for him. He could have come to me and I would have helped. I am not like my fathers or my mother when it comes to those who make the choice to betray their pack. Betraying the pack is just like betraying their alpha. I take it personal.

I asked him why he attacked Henry and his mate, and he said he didn't. He said that it was also Scott who attacked my Gamma. I felt as if he was being honest, but his punishment would still be the same. We have guidelines for different types of crimes, and specific punishments for those crimes. Treason, arson, and assault were serious charges. He was just as guilty as Scott just by being present. Luke would be here in the morning for the pack meeting.

Even though I have found out who caused the fires, I had other questions that needed answering. There had to be others who knew I was searching for my daughter's birth father. Yet, everyone I asked told me they had no clue who it could be. It was obvious to me that this Scott was bad news. He was there when my sister was dosed with Wolfsbane, and if we hadn't found the witch, and she had admitted to adding Wolfsbane to that potion, could he have done something to her? Jace just said he raped Micah. I need to have Alette talk to her. She is in Seattle with Lette, and hiding. That tells me something bad has happened.

"Jace, I appreciate you being truthful. However, you know that I have an open-door policy, and you could have come to me at any second to tell me what Scott was up to. You also know that I

have a zero-tolerance policy. I am not like my dads and give second chances in serious situations. You will be sentenced for your crime accordingly, but you will tell my cousin, Luke, the same thing you told me today in the morning. If he senses deception, I will bypass all guidelines and sentence you to death. Keep that in mind," I told him. I knew I was being overly ruthless, but three people could have died in the fire. Two businesses were destroyed, years of pack information were destroyed because of greed and selfishness. He nodded his head in understanding and I turned on my heel and walked away. Next stop, Scott's cell.

"Scotty, Scotty, Scotty.... You have been a very bad boy, haven't you? Care to explain this?!?" I yelled as I slammed the picture against the glass of his cell. He smirked at me, and said "You can't prove that it is me, that could be anyone." I shook my head and ran my hand through my hair. I started to chuckle and said, "I had a feeling you would say that. So, I took the liberty of zooming in and printing that out as well. Is this better?" He took a closer look at the picture, and he knew he was screwed. You could see the cogs of his brain working overtime, and again, he started to smirk. "What about it? She should have given me my cash," he said.

I punched the glass and fully released my aura. Everyone around me fell to their knees and bared their necks to me. "WHAT ABOUT IT?!?!?! YOU HAVE GOT TO BE FUCKING KIDDING ME, RIGHT? YOU NEARLY KILLED 3 PEOPLE. YOU CAUSED MAJOR DAMAGE TO 2 PACK FACILITIES, AND YOU'RE STANDING IN FRONT OF ME BEING FLIPPANT ABOUT WHAT YOU DID?!?!?! DO YOU HAVE A DEATH WISH, SCOTT?!?" I roared. My wolf, Franz, was begging to come out, but I knew if I allowed that, people would be hurt. Franz even scared me when he was angry. Scott's eyes went wide with fear, and he started to apologize.

He begged for mercy, and I replied to his pleas. "You will get zero mercy from me. You showed no mercy to Hazel, Henry or Celeste when you assaulted them, and caused them to lose precious things when you started that fire. You showed Micah no mercy when you raped her. Did you?" Shock washed over his face when I revealed I knew about what he did to his supposed girlfriend. I hardened my stare, and he cowered before me. "You will be tested tomorrow for deception. I hope you aren't as stupid as I think you are, and try to lie," I said coldly.

I left him to think about his wrong doings, and I walked back to my office. I needed to be alone, and eventually call my sister. I wanted the truth from her and Micah, and I was going to get it.

Confronting my Follower

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Alette POV

It's been close to two weeks since Micah showed up at my place. She is terrified of going home, and has finally told me everything about her and Scott. I know I need to talk to Maddix, but Micah has asked me to wait just a few more days. I started school last Monday, and I have been so busy with studies and cheer practice that I honestly haven't had much time to spend with her. I feel bad, but all she really does is sit out on the porch swing and read, or sleep. When I bring anything up about the baby, she shuts down on me, so I have learned to stop asking. I have a late class tonight, so I left her a note letting her know.

I received a text not long ago from her telling me that she was going to go to the park before it got dark, and that if I made it home before her there would be dinner in the fridge. Thinking of the park, reminded me of that Josh guy. I hadn't seen him since, but had seen the car that seemed to follow me parked in the student parking lot a few times. I wondered if he attended classes here.

This late class was an economics class that Maddix insisted that I take. He said that it would benefit the pack if I chose to work for the pack. I think he wanted me to take it so that I could teach him about it. I didn't mind teaching him. Anything to help my big brother. My phone dinged, and I picked it up to check it. It was a text from Maddix, and it said to call him ASAP. This couldn't be good. I had a feeling I knew what it was about, and if it was what I thought, I needed to be home and with Micah. I shot him a quick text letting him know my class was almost over, and I would call as soon as I got home. He sent me a thumbs up, and I put my phone back in my bag.

The class drug on for another thirty minutes before we were dismissed, and I hurried out the door in hopes of catching a ride with Ashley. Unfortunately, she was already gone, so I started the short walk home. About 2 blocks from our townhouse, I noticed the same car following me. This was getting old real quick, so I stopped on the sidewalk and let it come closer. I threw my hands up and yelled, "If you are going to fucking follow me, at least show your face!" The car stopped in front of me and the window rolled down. In the driver's seat was Joshua Connor. "No need to yell, beautiful. I was just making sure you made it home. It's dark out, and you never know what creeps are roaming around here," he said. I cocked my hip and crossed my arms. Did he really think he was that smooth?

"Well, Josh, nothing screams creeper like slowly following a young girl in a car that you can't see into. Especially when it's happened multiple times. Don't think I haven't noticed," I recanted. He started to chuckle and leaned his head against the headrest of his seat. "Well, Miss Alette Young, next time I will just ask if you need a ride. How's that? Less creepy?" he asked. I squinted my eyes at him, trying to figure out if he was being a smartass or not, and I finally replied. "Yes, it would be less creepy, and a lot more appreciative." I waved at him and finished the walk to my house. He didn't follow me, and I was thankful. Being bold wasn't my forte, and I didn't have the energy to keep it up.

Micah was just approaching the townhouse as I walked up the sidewalk. She looked as if she had been crying, and I just wrapped my arm around her and led her into the house. We went up to my room, and I plopped on my bed. I patted the spot beside me, and she came and sat with me. "Micah, I have to call Maddix. I have a feeling I know what it's about, and I have to be honest

with him. I can't lie to Mads. He calls me out everytime. It's like a sixth sense to him or something. You can trust him 100000000% sweetie. I promise you. You and I can't keep avoiding him and running from the situation," I told her.

She nodded her head, and started to cry again. "I'm afraid Maddix will make me face Scott. I can't. The sheer thought of it sends a terror through my body that I didn't think possible," she cried. I gave her a slight smile and said, "Listen, Maddix won't make you do anything you aren't comfortable with, but if he doesn't know what's going on, he can't help. What Scott did to you, is a horrible thing. No girl should ever have to go through that trauma. Trust him. You can. He's one of the best people I know." She finally agreed, and I took my phone from my bag and called my brother.

"Hey Lettie. Hold on one second. I'm going to go into my office for privacy," he said. If he was going for privacy, I was certain he already knew what was going on. I heard his door shut, and then he sat at his desk. He put me on speaker, and I did the same. Everyone in the house already knew, so it was alright if anyone heard. I was just thankful Pheonix had left a week ago. "OK, is Micah with you?" he asked. I told him she was and that he was on speaker. "OK good. So, girls, we have a situation here. It's time for you both to be honest and come clean with me. Micah, why did you run away to Seattle, and why didn't you even tell your mother why? I don't have time for games, because what I am dealing with is pretty serious," he stated. I quickly replied and asked, "Mads, what is going on back home?" He was silent a moment, and then said, "I will explain after you both tell me what's going on with Micah. The whole story, Lette."

Micah's Decision

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Alette POV

I started to explain everything to Maddix. Everything from the second Micah got here, what was going on with her, and why she was so afraid to go home. Micah told my brother about the continuous rape and abuse that Scott did, and how she would need to surrender the child to Nick's place when it was born. I could hear the hurt and anger in my brother's voice when he finally spoke. I definitely wasn't prepared for what he revealed.

"Lette, Micah, Nick's place isn't an option right now. It may be by the time the child comes, but as of right now, it's being renovated due to an arson. Coffee & Thyme was a total loss, and so was the pack vital statistics offices. Henry, Celeste and Hazel were attacked 'and left to die in the fire. We have caught the arsonists, and one of them told me already about Micah's rape." Maddix said. I was in shock, and quickly replied, "Arsonists? So there is more than one? How would

they have known what happened to Micah?" I heard him sigh, and he said, "It was Scott and Jace Combs that started the fire. Jace tried to stop him, but Scott was hell-bent on revenge. There's more though, Lette. Scott is Willow's biological father. He had raped her birth mother, and the day she gave birth, he had beaten her pretty badly. Dosed her with Wolfsbane in hopes of causing not only her to die, but the baby too." I could hear the absolute fury in his voice, and I wished I was home to comfort my brother.

He went on to tell me that it was safe for Micah to come home, and that he would make sure she was protected. I knew my brother and Riley would do everything they could to make sure she was safe. "Micah, would you be against moving to Starry Moon until after the baby is born? My uncle Jason and Aunt Rebecca would be more than happy to take you in, and your mother could also go if you wanted. They have a prime medical facility, and a great mother's home. They also have a top of the line children's home that could take in the child once it's born. It is totally up to you, but even if you stay here in Blood Moon, you will still be safe. Due to the nature of his crimes, I have no choice than to sentence Scott to death. Jace will get a long jail sentence, but I cannot and will not show mercy to a treasonous rapist," he asked. Micah agreed to come home, but only after Scott's execution. She didn't feel safe there as long as he was alive.

We disconnected the call, and Micah was eerily silent. I shook her knee, and took my finger to lift her chin. "No sad eyes. You are too gorgeous to allow those baby blues to be sad. I told you Maddix would take care of things, didn't I? I asked. She gave me the first genuine smile she had given in days. Hell, weeks at this point. Her belly was starting to show a little pooch, and I noticed her rubbing it more frequently. She says she can't raise it, but part of me thinks she will change her mind once the pup is born. Part of me wanted to beg her to go to Starry Moon, but in the end it was her choice.

We spent the rest of the night talking and laughing, just like when we were in school. I told her about Joshua, and how I thought he had a thing for me. It only made sense, at least in my head, because of following me and stuff. She warned me to be careful, because she thought following me and watching me from a distance was weird, but she knew I wasn't the type to back down from something that intrigued me.

Before we realized it, the clock on my phone said 3:45am. I had class at 10am, so I told her we had better try and sleep. I shut off the lights, and crawled in my bed next to her. I thought she had fallen asleep when I heard her say, "Lettie, thank you for being the best friend in the whole world. I don't think I could have gotten through all of this without you." I snuggled in close to her, and told her I would always be beside her. She was one of my closest and best friends, and I wouldn't let her go through hard times alone.

My alarm started blaring way before I was ready to get up. I begrudgingly turned it off and crawled out of my bed. I tried to be as quiet as I could, so not to wake up Micah. Maddix said he was carrying out the execution immediately, and that meant she would be leaving me sooner rather than later. I had a short class schedule today, and I planned on taking Micah shopping before she left. Thankfully, she had a car, and we wouldn't have to take an uber.

I threw on a comfy outfit of dark green leggings, an oversize white tshirt, and my black old school Vans shoes. I threw my hair up in a messy bun, and grabbed a bagel and bottle of OJ as I rushed out the door. I was definitely going to have to talk to Maddix about supplying us girls with a couple of cars. Walking down the street towards the school, I saw a familiar car parked at the end of it. Josh was leaning against it like he was waiting for someone. I slowed my pace, because something felt off, but I was probably being paranoid. As I got closer, his big smile spread across his handsomely chiseled face.

"Hey there beautiful. Want a ride to class?" he asked. I shook my head and told him that I preferred to walk this morning due to being so tired. I was hoping the brisk walk would help wake me up by getting my blood pumping. "I have something that will help with your exhaustion and give you a little pep if you'd like," he stated. I looked at him with a confused expression, and he started to laugh. "What are you talking about?" I asked. He got a bottle out of his car and took a pill out of it. He placed it in his hand and extended it to me. "It's just Aderall. It's for people with ADHD. If you don't have ADHD, it gives the opposite effect. It works like speed. It will help you stay awake and focused," he answered. I refused the pill, but he made sure to let me know that it was still offered if I decided I needed it.

Approval

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Maddix POV

I felt a much better understanding after speaking with Alette and Micah. How horrible for her to have experienced that kind of trauma the whole time she was with that piece of shit. It was late, and I wanted to spend some much-needed time with my wife before heading to bed.

Unfortunately, that wasn't in the cards. By the time I was able to enter our room, she was fast asleep.

I decided to shower, and read a little bit before crawling into bed with her. I wasn't sure I would be able to sleep much anyway, and I didn't want to disrupt her sleep. I texted Phoenix in hopes he would be awake. Was hoping to talk him into counseling Micah once she returned. She and I had made arrangements for her to return at the end of the weekend, and I only had 3 more days to take care of Scott and carry out his sentence.

Luckily for him, I still had to wait for the call from Iris or Declan, whichever called first. Iris was on the verge of retiring from the Royal Council, and Declan was taking her place. Iris held a special place in my family, even one of my sisters carried her name as their middle name. She

helped my parents through some pretty disturbing times in the past. She was well respected, and very loved here in Blood Moon.

It wasn't long before I received a text back from my older brother.

Phoenix: Why are you still up?

Me: Was on a phone call with Lettie. I need a favor. I'm sorry.

Phoenix: A favor? Is everything alright with Alette?

Me: Yes, she is perfectly fine, it's her friend Micah.

Phoenix: Micah? Which one is she again?

Me: LOL she is the one that was at the beach with her when she was dosed not long ago.

Phoenix: Oh, OK. What's the favor Mads? You never ask for favors.

Me: Well, Micah is pregnant. The pregnancy was the end result of multiple rapes at the hands of her boyfriend, Scott. He is the one who started the fire, and attacked Henry, Celeste and Hazel. It turns out he is also Willow's biological father. Micah ran away after the last rape, and when she found out she was pregnant. According to her, he was extremely abusive, and there was no time during their relationship that the sex was consensual.

Phoenix: Damn. That is awful. Did he not realize that abuse of another wolf, especially rape, holds serious consequences? Now he has arson over his head too. What a dumbass.

Me: Agreed. Here is the favor. She is going to need counseling. A lot of it, I'm afraid. She is afraid of everything right now. She isn't keeping the pup. She wants to surrender it to the pack for adoption options. I even offered to work it out with Uncle Jason for her to stay there, but she would rather be at her home. She will be back on Sunday. I have to carry out Scott's punishment before she gets here. I promised Lette. Would you be willing to counsel her? You are the best I know, and the most patient person I know. She knows that Alette trusts you completely, and I recommend you to her also. Please say you will bro.

A long pause, but I could tell he was typing.

Phoenix: I don't do much on the counseling end of things anymore, but I would be willing to take on her case. I can't promise results without her being fully open, but I will do my best. Have you contacted the Royal Council yet about his punishment?

Me: Yes, I'm just waiting for the return call. I told them it was urgent, so hopefully I will hear back by morning. Thank you for doing this, Nix. You are truly the best! I'll talk to you in the morning. I'm going to try and sleep.

Phoenix: No need to thank me, I'm glad to help. Night bro.

After my conversation with my brother, I placed my coffee mug on the sink, and placed my book on the table. I crawled in my bed and snuggled up to my gorgeous wife, and within minutes I was fast asleep. It felt like I had just closed my eyes when I heard Willow crying. I opened my eyes to see my mate comforting her while making a bottle. I climbed out of bed, and took our daughter out of her arms, and she continued getting the bottle ready.

I sat on the recliner, and kicked the foot rest out, and took the bottle from Riley. I started to feed Willow, and closed my eyes while she ate. When I picked her up to burp her, she got kind of fussy but finally calmed down once I started to pat her back. Once she burped, she fell fast asleep. I closed my eyes and fell asleep with her.

I had no idea what time it was when the ringer on my phone went off, but when it did, it startled me awake. Thankfully, Willow had been taken from me and placed back in her bed, because I would have felt terrible if I had awoken her. "Hello? Alpha Maddix speaking." I answered. "Alpha Maddix? This is Elder Declan, I'm returning your call." he replied. "Yes, yes. Thank you for returning my call so quickly. I kind of briefed you a little in my message, but I need to have permission granted to carry out a sentence of death. I am sure Iris passed along the information of our fire situation. The culprit also attacked my gamma and his mate, as well as my head warrior's mate. I also discovered that he was responsible for the rape of several female pack members, two of those resulting in pregnancy. One of those pregnancies ended in death of the mother," I explained.

Elder Declan gasped at the other end of the phone, and asked me to please hold. He needed to explain to Iris the full situation. It wasn't long before he returned to the call. "Alpha, by all means carry out the sentence at your convenience. I will send approval by carrier this afternoon. Please let us know once it is finished," he said. I thanked him and disconnected the call. I messaged George and Henry, and asked them to meet me at the cell house.

I then messaged Timmy and asked him to be there as well. I needed those I trusted most with me when I carried this out, because I needed to make sure that someone stopped me once Scott was dead. Franz wanted to shred him to pieces until there was nothing left of him, but the counsel would frown upon that. Even though he was sentenced to death, we still had to allow his family to give him a proper send off.

Mystery Mate

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Alette POV

Micah goes home today. I am kind of sad about it to be honest. I have loved having her here. It was like I was still at home. I guess I was going to have to deal with it eventually, but I promised her to go home on the weekends to visit her. She feels terribly alone and fearful right now, and it was going to be awhile before she was alright again.

I cooked a big breakfast for us all, and I hoped it was edible. I'm not the greatest cook in the world, but I still wanted to do something special. I called everyone down to eat, and of course Adelina had to be a smart ass about me cooking. "Wait. YOU cooked?" she asked. I nodded my head and she shook hers. Asteria smacked her shoulder and told her to stop being a jerk and stepped up to be the first to make a plate. She took a bite of her pancakes and eggs and gave her approval. I thanked her, and the rest made their plates as well. I sipped on the cup of coffee I had made and nibbled on some toast.

My nerves had my belly turning, so I decided to play it safe. After breakfast, my sisters and I loaded Micah's car with things she had accumulated while she was staying with us. We said goodbye and Micah drove down the street. As I watched as she drove away, and noticed once again an all too familiar car parked half a block away. Did he live that close? Surely not.

I started to walk towards the car, and as I got closer, Joshua got out. "Caught me again, I see." he smirked. "Why are you watching my house, Josh? It's weird. I barely know you," I demanded to know. Apparently, my Alpha aura seeped out, because he took a step back. However, he didn't cower. "Whoa tiger," he exclaimed with his hands raised in surrender. "I haven't been out here long, I was just hoping to speak to you. I keep forgetting to ask for your number, so this is the only way I can reach you." he explained. I kind of felt like an asshole, because he was right. I never thought of offering it to him either.

"What do you want to speak to me about?" I asked. "Well, there is a party next Saturday, and I was hoping you would go with me. As a friend, not a date. Unless you want it to be a date," he said. I squinted my eyes at him, and he seemed to be genuine. "Fine, on one condition," I said. He cocked his brow in curiosity, and I finished explaining. "My sisters and roommates are also invited. I don't know you that well, and I would feel safest this way." He agreed to those terms, and I gave him my number. As I walked back to the house, I felt guilt wash over me. Micah literally just left, and I was already breaking my promise. Hopefully, she will understand.

"Who the hell was that guy, and why did you go alone to approach him?" Adelina asked. "Yea, Lettie, Maddix would freak if he knew," Asteria added. I shook my head and started to leave the living room. "STOP! We deserve answers, Lette," Adelina yelled. I spun on my heel and placed my hands on my hips. "FINE! His name is Joshua. I met him at the park when we first moved here. I have met with him a couple of other times in passing, and today he wanted to ask us to a party he is throwing next Saturday," I yelled back. "A party?" Asteria asked. I nodded my head, and she started jumping up and down. "You did tell him we were going, right?" she asked. I nodded my head again, and kept my stare at Adelina. "I don't know, sis. If Maddix finds out, we will be made to go home and do online courses. I don't know if I want to risk it," she finally stated. "We are going Addie. Maddix won't find out. Especially since Daddy said we could have

freedom for a while. We don't have much of that time left before the guards are put back on us, so let's enjoy it. OK?" I said. She reluctantly nodded her head, and I sent a text to Josh to let him know we were in. I needed to do some studying before class tomorrow, so I went to my room to study.

A few hours later, Josh messaged me back.

Josh: Fantastic. The more, the merrier. Do I need to arrange rides for you ladies?

Me: No, my brother is sending cars for us to use, so we aren't walking everywhere.

Josh: Cool deal. Can't wait to see you. By the way, I will mellow out with the following you. I can understand how you feel about it. I didn't mean to creep you out.

Me: Oh.... I didn't mean to seem like I was scolding you. Yes, it's creepy, but not in the way I probably took it or made it seem. We are good.

Josh: Sweet! Thanks. I will send you the address later tomorrow if that is OK. We haven't fully decided which house to have the party at.

Me: Sounds awesome, thanks again for the invite. I need to get back to my studies, so I will talk later...k?

Josh: Hell yea, talk soon. G-nite

I plugged my phone back into the charger, and proceeded with finishing my studies. I have a test tomorrow in calculus, and I am terrified I'm going to fail. That isn't an option. Maddix and my dads have made it perfectly clear that if we get failing grades, it's that we go back home. I hate that they are so strict sometimes, but I guess it's not going to change until we find our mates. Then I even wonder if it will change.

I put away my books and went to my closet. I picked out an outfit for tomorrow and laid it across my desk. I decided to get a snack before bed, and made my way to the kitchen. As I was making my PB&J, I heard my sister Adelina on the phone with who I presumed to be one of my brothers. "No, he's not from our pack. He is from Northern Sun. I just met him yesterday, Brother dearest. He is also a student, and also wants to finish his schooling. No, he understands how important finishing school is for me. You will meet him soon enough. It's Miles, not Mike. I'm not sure Mads. They haven't been around him, but Asteria smelled him on me and didn't have a reaction. I suppose we have different mates, but I guess we will find out tomorrow. He is coming here to study and dinner with me. OK, I will let you know. Night Maddix," she said.

Adelina found her mate, but she's not sure if we will share him. I always assumed we would, since we are identical, but maybe the Goddess has something else in mind for us.

Too Busy

Chapter 167 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

RILEY POV

It feels as if I see less and less of my mate these days. He is so busy, and as much as his parents tried to leave things as organized as possible, he is so OCD and had to rearrange it all to suit him. I guess that's normal, but it has taken up a lot of time. I have been overseeing the re-prints of the files lost in the fire, and between that and Willow, I barely have time to eat, let alone anything else. Maddix was already gone when Willow and I woke up this morning, and after I got us ready I left him a note on the bathroom mirror. He would come back to shower after training and I wanted to make sure he saw it.

"Dinner. Tonight. Just us. Phones off. It's been too long. Love you, R"

Sweet and to the point. Hopefully, he didn't put up a fight, because with the mood I was in, I would have fought tooth and nail to get our time alone. I dropped Willow off with her nanny, and went to my office. My office wasn't as big as my mates, but I liked it. He let me redecorate, because Melian and I definitely didn't share the same taste. She was into very bright colors, and a lot of pink.

I liked soothing earth tones, and darker accents. I painted the walls a beautiful shade of forest green, with cream accents. My desk was changed from light oak, to a dark cherry wood. I had a sofa brought in that was medium gray, and it had dark green and beige throw pillows. It has a matching set of chairs, and a cherry wood coffee table to complete the look. There is a candle centerpiece with a floral wreath containing cream-colored lilies, dark red roses and dark greenery. It feels homey to me, and inviting for anyone that comes in.

Right now it's hard to really enjoy it from all the banker's boxes of files. I am close to the end of it, or so I thought. When I pulled out my laptop to finish the printing, I noticed a sub-file in an untitled folder. I clicked on the sub-file and a whole new list was pulled up. "What the hell is this?" I asked myself. Other than Mel, Rebecca and Jason, I didn't recognize anyone else on the list. Wait...is this? It is. It's the pack list from Mel's old pack, Mystic Shadows. Why would we have their pack list? When the council disbanded them, all of that should have gone to the council headquarters.

I picked up my phone, and called Iris. "Hello, Iris?" I asked. "Yes, this is Iris. Whom am I speaking to?" she asked. "Oh, I'm sorry. This is Luna Riley Young, of Blood Moon. I'm sorry to bother you, but I found something today on my laptop that is used for my Luna duties, and I'm a little confused by it. It is from the chip that was saved from the archive fire. It appears to be the vital statistics files for Mystic Shadows. The only names I recognize on the list are Melian, Jason

and Rebecca. Pack Alpha was Scott Thomas, and Pack Beta was David Carter," I explained. I hear her sigh, and she says, "Oh dear, I'm not sure how those got on any file or chip at Blood Moon. I was under the impression those were destroyed. Could you please back those files up on another flash drive, and set them aside for me in a safe place? Then delete the files from the chip? Most of the people listed as the pack are now gone, but some are still living and are divided between Blood Moon and Starry Moon. The rest are rogues. I apologize for those being anywhere in Blood Moon. I'm thankful you found them and not Melian. The people listed weren't very kind to her, I'm afraid." I assure her I would take care of it, but the mystery behind those on the list raised my curiosity.

It was close to dinner, and I prayed to the goddess that Maddix respected my request. I called the kitchen and ordered our dinner to be sent to our room. I know how much my mate loves honey glazed salmon, roasted veggies and baked potatoes. So I ordered that for him, with an extra piece of salmon. I ordered the smothered chicken and pasta, broccoli and crispy brussel sprouts. I had them add a bottle of Merlot, and two pieces of double chocolate cake.

Arriving at our room, it was empty. I went into the bathroom to see if he had gotten my note, and he had. Where was he then? Going back into our room, I plopped on the sofa and wondered why he wasn't there like I asked. I started to call him, and that's when our door burst open. "I'm sorry, I know I'm late. I promise it was something important I had to finish though. I'm all yours now." he yelled. I sat up and stared at him blankly. "What was so important that it couldn't wait. I know dinner isn't here yet, but I needed this time with you Maddix." I said coldly.

His demeanor fully shifted, and I felt an anger come from him that I hadn't felt before. "Babe, I know we haven't had much time, but I am also a new Alpha. I have many, many duties to care for. You knew this when you accepted your Luna position and became my wife. I am not avoiding you, and it angers me that you feel that I am. I am spread pretty thin, but I always try to make time for you and Willow. I may have not been present much lately, until late, but I have had some pretty heavy things to deal with. Did you know we have young she-wolves in our pack being abused and raped by a group of young men? Did you know that I had to execute one of them today? He raped Alette's friend, Micah, and he raped Willow's birth mother. Our daughter is a product of rape, Riley. I have been trying to organize something where we can investigate what is happening here. I have been on the phone most of the day with the Royal Council, Jason and other surrounding packs to see if it's an issue there too. I'm sorry I was 5 fucking minutes late for our dinner date, but sometimes serious matters are going to make me late." he said. His anger started to disappear, but I could still feel his anxiety. I got off the sofa and lost my attitude.

I sat beside my mate and started to rub his back. He lifted his head from his hands and looked up at me. His crystal blue eyes always seemed to pierce my soul, and I instantly melted into his gaze. "I'm sorry you are dealing with hard stuff like this, Maddix. We are supposed to be a team. You should have told me. I don't know what is going on unless I see it or someone informs me of it, and no one ever informed me of the rape situation. Especially where our daughter was concerned. I'm not weak, I can handle it. Let me help, please," I begged him. He shook his head, and said, "I don't know how deep this goes. I don't know if it was just him, or a whole group. I don't know if it's just happening here at Blood Moon. Until I find out more, I would rather you stay far away from this. I'm sorry, I just can't risk something happening to you. I was almost

ready to even make my sisters come home until I figured this out, but apparently, Adelina found what appeared to just be her mate. The other two hadn't been around him, but Asteria could smell him on Addie. Addie said Asteria had just mentioned she smelled a male wolf on her clothes. She didn't react as if he was also her mate. She said that need be, she could have him stay with them. His father is the current Alpha of Northern Sun, Phoenix's birth mom's pack." he explained. I understood where he was coming from, but it didn't make it sting any less. It made me feel like he thought I couldn't protect myself or help him. I knew that wasn't what he was saying, but it still felt that way. "Wait, wouldn't that make Phoenix and this guy related?" I asked. Maddix shook his head, and explained that Phoenix's granddad was a Beta. The Alpha that was in charge back then had long retired, and the Alpha in charge now had challenged the former Alpha's kid, and won. So it wasn't possible for them to be related. I let out a sigh of relief, and was thankful that at least one good thing is coming from this shit storm.

Left out and Anxious

Chapter 168 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

ALETTE POV

It's finally the weekend. School has kicked my ass this week. I am ready to let loose and party a little bit. It's been too long. I think the last time I actually let loose and had a good time was that day at the beach. Sure, it didn't turn out that great in the end, but it was fun while it lasted. Growing up an Alpha's daughter with older brothers isn't the most fun thing in the world, and sometimes feels suffocating.

My sisters are alright with it, because let's face it, their interests are boring. To me at least. Me, I am far from OK with it. This weekend is the last chance for unguarded fun before dad's deal ends. I should have pushed for longer, but I knew it wasn't going to happen. Me, Jamie, Ashley and Mary are in my room getting ready for the party.

Asteria is in the shower, and Addie is downstairs being an asshole. She isn't going with us, because she doesn't feel right going now that she has found her mate. Asteria and I met him a couple of days ago, and he is definitely not mine or Asteria's mate. Addie gets this one all her own. In my eyes, he is not attractive, and he smells weird. He seems nice enough though. As long as he is good to my sister, that is all that matters. He needs to realize that the three of us have a unique bond, and Asteria and I will know if she isn't happy or being mistreated. Asteria may be the most meek of the three of us, but she is deadly when pissed.

I yelled for Asteria to hurry. I promised Josh that we would be there close to 9pm. I wasn't sure how far a drive it would be, and it was already 7:45pm. She clumsily ran out of the bathroom and

said she would be ready in 30 minutes. I sat in front of Ashley, and she curled my long hair into beautiful waves. I finished applying my make-up and went into my closet to pick up something to wear.

I wasn't sure about the setting, so I settled for a pair of black ripped skinny jeans, and a black and gray oversize sweater. I slipped on a pair of my favorite boots, and grabbed a jacket just in case. I decided on my small black cross body bag, and a pair of silver hoop earrings. The look was kind of edgy, but it was my favorite outfit. I wanted to feel like me for a change.

Right on time, Asteria popped back into my room. She had on a dark red maxi dress with long sleeves and a scooped neck. Her makeup was natural, and her long dark hair was pulled up into a high ponytail. Her black flats and simple gold jewelry finished the look off. The look screamed comfort and simplicity. Just like Asteria.

Once we were all ready, it was 8:30pm. We piled into the SUV that Maddix had sent, and I jumped into the passenger seat. Ashley was nominated as designated driver, and the rest took their places in the back. I input the address into the GPS system, and we sped out of the driveway. Since I was in the passenger seat, I connected my phone to the bluetooth. I went to my favorite playlist, and hit play. Sober by TOOL, blared through the speakers. TOOL was Asteria's favorite band, and she sang at the top of her lungs to the song. I loved hearing her sing, because she was amazing at it. I was more talented in the dancing department, and Adelina was a naturally talented fighter.

Just a little after 9pm, we pulled down the dirt road leading to a giant cabin in the forest. My wolf, Alaska, was on edge and I couldn't understand why. Asteria leaned forward and said that her wolf, Akira, was also pacing and whining. I could tell she was really nervous and told her it was going to be fine. She nodded her head and when we got out of the car she stood close to me. Walking in the cabin, we noticed there were a lot more guys than there were girls, and the girls that were in attendance weren't too friendly. They didn't even try making eye contact with us, and honestly, most looked like they were already blitzed. If they were, I wondered how long or what they had been drinking.

As a wolf, it took a lot to get us to the point of being blitzed. I looked around for a familiar face, but there was none to be found. A young guy with shaggy blonde hair approached us and asked who we were looking for. I told him Josh's name, and a smirk spread across his face. "Ah, the fresh meat," he said, and I suddenly felt uneasy. What did he mean by that? Fresh meat.

Asteria's eyes started to dart around the room, before I saw her nose start to sniff the air. Oh no...

"Mate. Alette, my mate, is here. He smells of burning wood and pumpkin pie. Can you smell it?" she says. I shook my head and started to help her try and find him. It definitely didn't take too long. A tall, ginger-haired guy following Josh stopped in his tracks when he came out of the kitchen. His and Asteria's eyes met, and it was all over. She didn't hold back like she normally would, and she ran and jumped into his arms. His lips crashed on hers and her legs tightened around his waist.

Guess it's just me and the others tonight. I turned to look at my friends, and they were gone. Already mingling with the other guests there. So, I guess it was just me, and.... Josh. "Hey beautiful. I am so glad you girls made it. Looks like your sister found her mate. He is the Beta of Northern Sun's kid. So, future Beta. I thought you and your sisters would share a mate since you're triplets," he said. I shook my head and replied, "No, it doesn't always work like that. It's rare, but sometimes the Goddess has other plans."

He gave that sexy smirk of his and wrapped his arm around me. "Good, I was hoping to have you to myself tonight," he said. My wolf suddenly started to panic, and I asked her what was wrong with her. "I don't know, something just doesn't feel right. I get very bad vibes from this place, and him," she said. I assured her I would be careful, and I had my mace in my bag if I needed it.

I sent a quick text to Addie and Maddix to let them know Asteria had found her mate. When I told Maddix who it was, the only reply I got was, "Fuck. Just Great." I tried to find out why he said that, but I got no reply. Addie was excited because it meant her and Asteria would be together at Northern Sun. Where did that leave me?

Wanting To Know

Chapter 169 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Maddix POV

Just great. Two of my three sisters have found their mate within a month of being at college. The only one who hasn't is Alette, and as wild as she can get, it makes me nervous. I don't know how to feel about both girls being mated to higher ranks of Northern Sun. I know the new Alpha, but not that well. He seems to be a much better Alpha than previous, but for some reason I am unsettled about my sisters being there. It's probably just the brother in me and the distance they will be from me. I called my dad, Loki, after getting the message from Lette, and he wasn't happy. Liam and mom, on the other hand, were over the moon.

Riley and I haven't been getting along, because we don't see eye to eye about me not allowing her to help me with this rape investigation. I just want her to be safe. In my opinion, putting a she-wolf, regardless of who she is, in the line of fire of a rape and abuse investigation is like taunting a rabid animal. It's not something I am willing to risk, and I wish she would see my point of view on it. If something happened to her, it would destroy me.

I am having dinner with her again tonight, as a date. I am taking her to our favorite restaurant in town. She loves their prime rib pasta and sour dough bread. She doesn't know we are going there yet, but I hope she is surprised. We haven't been since before our swearing-in ceremony.

She comes down the stairs looking gorgeous. She is dressed in a chocolate brown dress that hugs her voluptuous curves, and comes just below the knee. She looks good enough to eat. "Damn girl. You look amazing. Thank Goddess you are mine," I told her before capturing her lips with mine. "Are you ready?" I asked. She nods her head, and I help her put on her wrap.

I held her hand and walked her to the car. I decided to hire a driver so that I could focus on just her tonight. Even when we disagree, she still deserves the world. The car pulls up in front of "Papa's Italian Bistro, and I hear her gasp. "Maddix, it's my favorite place." she squeals. I gave a little chuckle, and pulled her close. She grabs my face and plants a deep kiss on my lips. "Thank you baby. I have been wanting to come here for a while," she said. I told her she didn't have to thank me, and helped her out of the car. It was chilly out tonight, so I pulled her close.

That is one thing about the pacific northwest. You could sweat to death during the day, but freeze your butt off at night when the sun set.

Violet, papa's granddaughter, greeted us as we walked in. She lived just outside our pack with Papa. They were wolves, but Violet's mate was human. He could have moved into the pack with them, but she didn't want to do that. So, they moved into the cottages that lined parts of our border to still be close. "Mr. and Mrs Young, so good to see you," she greeted us. She refrained from using the terms Alpha and Luna because we were in human territory. "It's good to see you too, Violet," Riley replied. I asked if our normal table was available, and Violet nodded.

She led us to the secluded table where we had always sat. She took our drink order, and I glanced at the menu. I already knew what my mate would order, but I found it humorous when she glanced at the menu anyway. When Violet came back to deliver our drinks and take our order, I let Riley order first. As she is still looking at the menu, twisting her mouth like she was thinking, she says, "I will have the prime rib pasta with extra sauce, a mini loaf of your sourdough bread with a side of fresh butter, and a side of steamed asparagus." Called it. She surprised me with the asparagus, but everything else I already knew. I ordered a 20 oz ribeye cooked rare, with roasted carrots and the roasted summer squash. As she was about to walk away, I asked her to add a house salad with extra ranch dressing. I guess we both are a little extra tonight.

Our food came quickly, and we chatted as we ate. "Maddix?" Riley asked. "Hmm? Is your food OK, baby?" I asked. Her eyes widened, and she replied, "Oh, of course. It's amazing. I just have a question for you." I looked at her and encouraged her to say what was on her mind. She cleared her throat and said, "Well, what would you say if I asked you to tell me what you know about your mom and uncle Jason's family from Mystic Shadows?" My whole body went numb.

It must have shown on my face because she started to change the subject. "Never mind, I didn't know it was such a touchy thing. Forget I ever mentioned it." she said. She placed her hand on mine and gave me a slight hint of a smile. "It's alright, Riley. I will tell you, but not here. We are having such a great time, and this story will only break your heart and disgust you. I will tell you though, alright?" I said. She seemed alright with that answer, and we continued to enjoy our evening. I was hoping this would never come up.

She knew the story of Mystic Shadows, but not the story of the monstrous Carter's and their superiors. She also knew that my mom was technically my aunt, and had adopted me with the twin alphas. She didn't know why though, other than my parents died. I hope it didn't change how she looked at me after I told her. I was nothing like Eric or Jenna, but recently, I noticed my temper getting out of control. Just like Eric's used to from what I was told.

Damian

Chapter 170 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Alette POV

I try and stay with Ashley and Jamie at this party, but Ashley can't get her tongue out of the handsome football player's mouth, and Jamie has an attitude because she is ready to leave. I leave Jamie to her misery and try and find a bathroom, and after being pointed in the right direction, I wait in line. I hear raised voices, and turn my head to see where they are coming from. I hope it isn't any of my friends causing problems, and thankfully, it wasn't them.

It is a tall redhead arguing with Josh and another guy. "I want my cut, Josh! I can't keep supplying you girls, and none of them get paid. It's a messed-up situation not only for me, but for you too," She screams. The guy with Josh notices people staring and whispers something in his ear. Josh nods and pulls out his wallet. He hands the girl a wad of bills, and she turns and leaves. He sees me staring, and starts to walk towards me.

The bathroom door opens and it's my turn. I hurriedly went in and shut the door. Turning the lock, I slid down the door. I don't know what that was, but I didn't need to hear his lame excuses either. I didn't want to hold up the line, so I did my business and wash my hands. I take one last look in the mirror, and walk out of the only quiet place I have found in the past 2 hours.

As soon as I walked out, I was met with a rock hard chest. "Sorry, I wasn't paying attention to where I was going," I apologized. A finger slides under my chin, and tilts my head up. I was looking into his most gorgeous eyes, and his scent knocked me off my feet. I didn't know what to say. He kisses my neck and whispers in my ear, "Mate." I take a step back, and I must have been pale. The look of concern on his face was obvious. "Hey, are you OK?" he asked. I slowly nod my head, and then everything goes black.

I don't know how long I had been out, but when I woke, I was in a room I had never seen before. Jamie is lying on the bed with me, and is reading a book. Mary and Ashley had left, and Asteria had left with her mate. "Where are we?" I asked Jamie. She turned to me and replied, "Lette,

you're awake! Thank Goddess. Can we get out of here now?" I crinkled my nose, and asked again. "Jamie. Where in the hell are we?"

It must have dawned on her that she didn't answer because she immediately said, "We are still at the house where the party was. Once you blacked out, everyone but Josh, Avery and your mate, Damian, were made to leave. This is Damian's house." So my mate's name is Damian. "Lette, again I ask you, can we go home?" I nodded my head, and she helped me out of bed.

I turned to her and asked, "Did Ashley and Mary take the SUV?" She nodded her head, and said we would have to call an Uber. I shook my head and told her that I would just see if one of them could take us. If we called an Uber, the charge would show on our spending statements. I didn't want Maddix to find out that we had been left here.

I followed the sound of voices, and ended up in the kitchen. The guys were cleaning up, and when he saw me, Damien was immediately by my side. I couldn't help to notice the irritated look that Josh shot the guy he had been with earlier. It was like he was pissed I had found my mate. "Um, I'm sorry to bother you guys, but could Jamie and I get a ride home? Our friends took my SUV when they left," I asked.

I heard my mate give a low growl, and Josh stepped up and said he was heading home anyway and would give us a lift. Something didn't feel right about his tone and the way he was acting, so I thanked him before turning to Damian and asking him if he could instead. Josh's body went rigid, and his nostrils flared. "Really, Alette, I don't mind. It's on my way," he stated.

Just as I was about to answer, Damian spoke. "Josh, I think it would be more appropriate for me to take her, don't you think? She is my mate after all." Josh backed down, and agreed. Jamie and I grab our things, and meet Damian at the door. As we are about to walk out, Josh calls my name. "Alette? Can I speak to you for a minute? Please?" he asks.

I excused myself and walked over to him. "What's up?" I asked. His eyes dart between Damian and I, and he finally turns me to where my mate can't see his face. "Look, I know you and Damian are mates. I get it, but I hope that doesn't stop us from being friends. Nothing more," he says. I gave him a small smile and smacked his arm. "Of course we can be friends. Someone has to keep you in line," I told him. He started to laugh, and he pulled me in for a hug. I pull out of it quickly, so that my mate doesn't come undone. Surprisingly, he didn't. He just gave Josh a stern look, and led Jamie and me out the door.

"What was all that about?" Damian asked as we enter his car. "Nothing really. He was afraid our friendship would end now that I found you," I explained. I start to go further into detail when my phone starts to ring. Asteria's name flashed on the screen. Great. "Hello?" I answered. "Alette!! Where the hell are you?" she yelled. "I'm on my way home. Ashley and Mary took my car, so my....mate is bringing me home." I said. "Your wha.." she started to speak. I disconnected the call, and buckled my seat belt. Damian and Jamie were extremely quiet as we drove to our place. When we pulled into the driveway, Jamie dashed out and into the house. Everyone inside had their faces in the windows. So much for privacy.

"Thank you for taking care of me tonight. I'm sorry I reacted the way I did," I apologized. He took his hand and cupped my cheek. He slowly took his face towards mine before finally slamming his mouth on mine. The kiss was warm and intense. It was the most hungry kiss I had ever experienced.

When he pulled away, I felt myself craving more. More of his kiss, more of his scent of spiced apple cider. He laid his forehead against mine and said, "I don't want you to associate with Josh, Alette. I'm sorry. He isn't who you think he is. Just promise me, never find yourself alone with him if he is ever near you. I only held the party at my place tonight because my little brother Lance is Josh's best friend as well as our cousin. My wolf, Zion, said that we needed to let it happen, and I trusted him. I'm happy I did."

I was taken back by what he said about Josh, but decided we would talk about it more the next time I saw him. "When will I see you again?" I asked him. He smiled and told me that he didn't have to leave, if that's what I wanted. I wanted him to stay, but at the same time, I needed to be alone to think. "Can we do a rain check tonight? I know I am going to be bombarded with questions and lectures when I walk in, and I don't want my sisters interrogating you immediately. I can cook us dinner tomorrow, if you would like that," I suggested. He reluctantly agreed, and kissed me again.

He got out of the car and went around to open my door. He held out his hand to help me, and for the first time tonight, I was able to see the color of his eyes. The bright green was a bright contrast to his pale skin and dark hair. "Goodnight, Alette. I will call you when I make it home, alright?" he said. I laughed and told him to hand me his phone. I put my number in it and told him he couldn't if he didn't have my number. Embarrassed, he agreed, and gave me one last kiss.

I watched him as he entered his car and pulled away. Man, I definitely didn't expect all of this tonight, but I was thankful that I wasn't the only one of my sisters without a mate.