

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter 69

Maddix POV

George and Phoenix come rushing in after killing Jackson's accomplices. I linked Phoenix begging him to get Riley out of there. No matter what I did, Jackson was not moving away from her. George shifted again into his wolf, Denver.

He sent me a mind link asking if I was able to use my destruction power like I had during the battle that day.

I told him that I couldn't, because Jackson was of a higher rank. It would be no use. Franz spoke to me and said.

"There is another power I can use, but it could be of dire consequences to you and me, Maddix. I have the power of poison. That is part of the reason it is so dangerous for us to try and turn our mate into one of us. All we would need to do would be to get our fangs into him. It would have to be near his neck or stomach. Anywhere there is a major vein. The hardest part would be to keep him held down to release enough of the poison," he said.

He went on to explain that the reason it is dangerous to us was biting into Jackson's wolf, and causing him to bleed would cause his blood to enter our system. Therefore, causing the poison to also enter. If we ingest too much, we will have basically committed suicide.

As Jackson and I continued to stare each other down, I linked George and told him to have one of my dads bring my mother. We were doing this, but I needed a healer close by. My mom was one of the strongest I knew. He informed me shortly after that she was already on her way with my dad, Loki and the doctor. I should have known.

I started to taunt Jackson, swiping at him with my claws hoping he would move far enough from my mate for Phoenix to get to her. After toying with him and making sure he was good and aggravated. I faked being tired.

Knowing that if he thought I had tired myself out, he would make a move.

Sure enough, he was just as predictable as I thought. He started to stalk me like prey. When Franz saw that Phoenix had Riley, and was rushing her out the door, he made his move. He lunged at Jackson, and sank his fangs into his shoulder, just beside his neck.

Jackson started to thrash about, and try and kick Franz off.

Franz was too strong for him. While Franz released the poison into a profusely bleeding Jackson, he put out an aura that caused any wolf near us to cower. Including Jackson.

I begged Franz to stop because I could feel us burning inside. We were taking in too much of the poisoned blood. It was almost as if the poison was making Franz feral.

“Franz, stop my son!” I heard a voice in my head exclaim.

Franz glanced up, fangs still in Jackson, and saw Ruby. He instantly released and stepped back, and collapsed to the ground. He instantly shifted back to my form, and I could feel myself dying. The last thing I remember before everything went dark was telling my mom to help Riley.

The darkness was the darkest I had ever experienced. I wasn't fully dead, but somewhere in between. I could hear Franz whimpering, and a soft female voice speaking to him. “My sweet boy, I warned you how dangerous this power was for you to use. All of your lifetimes it has never been necessary. I never thought there would be a time you would need to. You were correct in using it now.” she whispered.

“Who's there?” I called out. “Mom? Riley? Where am I?” | said. The ethereal woman picked up Franz, and brought him near me and laid him down. “You are in the in between, not yet dead, but closely approaching the end. I am here to give you a choice,” she said.

“Who are you to give me a choice? A choice of what?” | asked. She smiled and rubbed my hair. She stared down at Franz, and then looked at me. “Dear Maddix, I am Selene, the moon goddess. I am giving you a choice, and it is an important one. You see, tonight you will not die. You have a son to meet. However, Franz will pass on so that he can be reborn. You made a request not long ago, about your friend Jack's wolf, Dakota. I would be willing to pass on Dakota to your son. He is a good strong wolf. However, I would also be willing to allow Dakota to live on with you, Maddix.

Franz took on too much of his own poison, causing him to basically cause himself to die. He will be reborn, and will stay in your family. I will gift him to your son, Sterling. If you chose to still want Dakota for your son, then you would be left without a wolf, and Franz would have to wait for another one of the Young family heirs,” she explained, and she stood up.

“The choice is yours, my child. It needs to be made quickly though, your son is about to arrive in the world, she continued. I looked at Franz, and he was still holding on. I asked him if he would like to be with Sterling, and he blinked his eyes. I took that as a yes, and looked at the moon goddess.

“I will accept Dakota, as long as Franz is guaranteed to Sterling. If this is the only way we can have them both in our family still, I accept.” I told her. She bowed her head, and a light surrounded Franz. Then he was gone. I started to cry, and she came down on her knees beside me. A light red wolf that I recognized came up beside her. The only

difference was he was bigger, and his eyes were a brighter blue like mine. He nuzzled his nose into my neck, and I rubbed his head.

“You remember me? I sure do remember you,” I asked. He nodded his head, and I asked if he was OK with being my counterpart. He again nodded his head. He laid beside me and licked my face. Another bright light came and enveloped Dakota and me. My eyes started to open, and my mom and Alette were standing over me with their hands holding my arms tightly. They were healing me, or should I say healed me.

“Mom? Lette?” I whispered. Their eyes flew open, and my mom nearly crawled on top of me crying her eyes out.

“You’re alive!” she cried. I told her she was hurting me, and I looked around the room. We were no longer in the cabin, but back in the Spirit Mountain Pack Hospital.

“Riley? Is she alright? Has she had our baby?” I asked. My mom and sister glanced at each other, and then looked at me. Alette took my hand and said, “Yes, she had him. He is a strong boy, Maddix. He is in the NICU right now. Just for observation. He is doing really well, but with him being early, it’s just a precaution.” That told me about my son, but nothing about my wife.

“What about my wife, his mother, Alette?” I started to panic.

Mom told me to calm down, that Riley was fine. The birth just took a lot out of her. They ended up having to do a C-section because she was knocked out for the first part, and when she came to, he was way too big for her to push out.

“She is resting, Maddix. There is one more thing, and I hope its alright with you in the long run. Riley was perfectly fine with the decision,” she started to say. I told her to spit it out, and could feel my anxiety rising. “She had to be given blood because of her blood loss. Your dads were a match, so Loki gave her some of his. There is a chance, of the wolf gene in his blood turning her,” she finished.

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Riley POV

The contractions are getting closer, and I can tell that this time they are the real deal. The asshole is forcing me to eat, but the pain is so bad that I just want to throw up. I asked him if I could go to the bathroom, and he had Shaggy take me. I learned his name was Ronnie, and their other partner in crime was Monty.

Maddix had linked me right before I was able to go, and told me that they were close. Just waiting for reinforcements. He asked how many were with me, and I quickly replied that there were 3. Once in the bathroom, I was able to quickly link him to let him know about the contractions. I wasn't given much time before Shaggy started to pound on the door. I flushed the toilet and washed my hands. I sneered at him as I exited the bathroom, and he jerked me by my elbow.

"Sit your ass back down and finish eating. I can't have you getting sick because your pup is hungry," Jackson barked. I did as he said, and picked at what was left on the plate.

I pushed the chair back and doubled over in pain. I let out a loud painful moan, and Shaggy was right there by my side in a flash. "Are you alright?" He asked? I shook my head no, while breathing through the contraction. As it passed, and I sat back up, I felt my water break.

"Did you just f**vcking piss yourself, girl?" Jackson bellowed The pain had returned and I couldn't answer. One of the other men answered for me. "I don't think that is piss, Jackson. I think she's having that kid right now." Jackson started to pace and cuss up a storm. It's not like I could control what was happening to me.

In a fit of rage, Jackson picked up the small kitchen table and threw it across the room. He was in my face screaming at me that I had ruined his plans. The other two started to throw ideas at him about how to get me help, and he refused them all.

He told them both that they were going to deliver my child, and they adamantly refused. I was on my own with this. I started to yell at Jackson. I told him that this baby was coming, whether they liked it or not, and that they were going to have to drop me somewhere or get a doctor for me.

I explained that he was a big baby, and if I didn't have someone help me through this, I was going to die and so would my son. Then he had nothing to barter with. I guess speaking up pissed him off because he punched me in the face, and I was knocked out.

I would sporadically come to, but would end up passing back out. I don't know if it was from him hitting me, or from the pain of the labor.

Each time, I could hear fighting in the room. The growls coming from both wolves inside the cabin were terrifying, but so were the ones coming from outside. When you are the only human in a small building on a secluded mountain, and you are surrounded by werewolves trying to kill each other, you are given two options.

1. Play like your dead or asleep.

or

2. Run like hell.

The only option I had going for me was option 1.

I heard Phoenix and George rush into the building, and could hear the two wolves, one I knew was Franz, moving around one another looking for a chance to attack.

Like the i*diot he was, Jackson's wolf attacked first and Franz sunk his teeth into him. Jackson tried to fight him off, and as Phoenix carried me out of the cabin towards a car, I could see Franz fall to the ground.

"Phoenix? Go help him!" I cried. I then saw Melian and Loki enter the cabin, and a doctor climbed into the car with me and Phoenix. The car sped off, and I had no clue what was happening to my mate and his wolf.

I passed back out, and woke up in the hospital. "Riley, I am nurse Ursula. I am prepping you for a C-Section. You haven't been able to push and baby boy is so big he is stuck. Plus, he is very early. The quicker we can get him out, the better off both of you will be," she said. She had such a friendly demeanor, and all I could do was nod.

I was semi-awake as they cut me open to take my son from my womb, and the second I heard his cries, I started to cry.

His father was missing this, and honestly, I wasn't sure if he was even alive. Alette was with me by this time, and I was thankful she was. I was so afraid of everything right now, and she was the closest person I had to Maddix.

The doctor pulled Alette aside, and the look on her face as he spoke worried me. She came back to me with a small smile on her face and said, "Riley, sweetie. You have lost a lot of blood and are going to need a transfusion. We can all have our blood tested to see if any of us are a match, but there is one problem. We all carry the werewolf gene, and there is a possibility that any of us who are of higher rank are a match could pass that gene on to you. That means, once the gene is passed on through blood, if Selene sees fit, she could send you a wolf, and you would be one of us.

It's a big decision, and with Maddix fighting for his life down the hall, that decision is all yours," she said.

I tried to take in everything she said, but I started to feel woozy. I assumed it was from all the blood loss, and I knew I needed to make that decision quickly. I nodded my head, and told her I would do it. She hugged me, and went to have her blood checked along with the others in the family.

It wasn't long before Alette and Loki came back in with the doctor, but it concerned me that Loki was in a wheelchair.

"Great news, sis. Dad is a strong match. He has given some blood already to get things started, and after he eats something he will give more. Daddy Liam is giving blood to help

clean out the poison in Maddix's blood. You both have to fight to live, that gorgeous little man needs you both," she said.

I reached out my hand to Loki and thanked him. He told me not to thank him, because he would do it for any of his kids. He just repeated what Alette said about me fighting to live. He mentioned Sterling, and I started to shed tears. I hadn't even gotten to see him. I heard him cry, that was it.

They took me into another room for the transfusion, and I was so exhausted I fell asleep. The procedure took about two hours, and when the nurse woke me up, she told me that Maddix was awake. However, I can't see him yet. My heart was broken. I couldn't see or hold my son, and now I can't see my husband yet.

I asked if I could go back to my room, and she said that I needed to remain in the current room I was in for a little longer. It was just in case I needed more blood. I felt defeated, so I asked for another blanket and went back to sleep. If rest is what I needed to see my family, I was going to rest. I just knew I couldn't wait much longer.

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MADDIX POV

Once I finally rested and got food in my stomach, the doctor told me I could finally see my mate. Dakota, was now pacing in my head, because it would be his first time meeting her. Well, in this type of capacity, anyway. I didn't regret my decision to accept Dakota, it was my honor.

However, I can't say that I didn't miss Franz.

Knowing he was now with my son made it easier though.

There was a knock on my hospital room door, and it slowly opened. Coming through it was the most gorgeous woman being pushed in a wheelchair. Once she saw me, tears started to leave her eyes.

"You're awake," she whispered. I nodded my head and reached out for her. I scooted over on the bed to make room for her, and when the nurse got her close enough, I pulled her into it with me. She winced in pain, and I apologized for hurting her. She shook her head and laid it upon my chest. Updated by Jobnib.com

"Have you seen him yet?" she whispered. This time it was me shaking my head. "No, I wanted to wait for you. I didn't think it would be fair for me to see him before you. So I've waited," I told her. We laid on my bed for just a while.

Talking about everything that had happened. I asked her how she would feel if she got a wolf because of my dad's blood.

"I haven't really thought about it. I just knew I needed to stay alive for you and Sterling. I think his blood has done more than help me stay alive though," she stated. She lifted her gown and pointed to her incision. "Look. It's healing pretty rapidly. I shouldn't have been able to heal like that, and your mom or sister didn't try to heal it either," she said

It was truly crazy how healed it was. From what I understand, an incision like that takes humans weeks, if not months, to heal. "We should find out shortly before the next full moon, if Selene has blessed you. Honestly, I want you to know that it still doesn't matter to me if you have a wolf or not. I do need to discuss something with you though. It's kind of important," I told her.

I started to explain to her my experience with the Moon Goddess. I told her about how Franz had ingested too much of the poison we used to kill Jackson, and the choice I was given. I told her about Dakota, and how Franz will be reborn in Sterling, and how Sterling will end up one of the most powerful wolves in history.

She listened to me intently before speaking, and I could tell by the look on her face she had some big questions. "Will Franz remember being part of you before he became a part of Sterling?" she asked. I explained that I wasn't certain, but I believe he would still remember being part of our family, because of Ruby. She seemed to accept that answer before asking another, and this one I definitely had no answer to.

"If Franz recognized me as his mate when he was with you, how would he see me now he is part of our son? Does Dakota recognize me as his mate?" she asked.

I pulled her close and kissed her head. I allowed Dakota to come forward, and he spoke to her himself. "Hello, little mate. I am Dakota. To answer your question about whether I recognize you as my mate, the answer is yes. When I swapped humans with Franz, everything that he recognized as his, transferred to me. The only thing I didn't receive were his powers. Those will remain with him for our son. It is a confusing situation to those who aren't familiar with our way of life, but you will learn. You are going to have to," he explained.

He then receded to the back of my mind, and the two of us were left with more questions. We could wait for those answers for another time, because all we wanted right now was to see our son.

I buzzed the nurse, and asked if we could be taken to see our boy, and she said she would check to make sure it was alright. Before long, two other nurses came in with wheelchairs, and helped us both into them.

We were pushed into an elevator, and the younger of the two nurses pushed the button for the NICU floor. I could hear Riley's heart thumping wildly, and told her to try and calm

down. Sterling would be more sensitive to her emotions than I would be, and right now she was causing my heart to race as well. She only nodded, and kept her eyes forward.

Reaching the door to his room, we could see a light purple glow coming from under the door. The nurse explained to us that he was hooked up to monitors, and was under a light called a Bili Light. He was a little jaundiced, and it would help get rid of that. She said she would turn it off while we were there. That way we could hold him.

When the door opened, I heard Riley gasp. Her hands went to her mouth, and she started to cry. Looking at him in his bassinet, he looked so big in comparison to other babies.

The nurse helped Riley and me into the reclining rocking chairs, and then placed Sterling in his mother's arms.

He fussed for only a moment until Riley adjusted him onto her bare chest. The skin to skin contact instantly calmed him down. "Hello big boy, I'm your momma, she whispered. She kissed him tenderly on the head, and laid her cheek against his forehead. She was completely in her element. A place of bliss where no one existed except the two of them. I felt a jealous pang, but quickly shook it away. It had to be hard for her to carry him that long, and then not even get to see him for another whole day after birthing him.

I gave her time with him, and just sat back and admired what I saw. I saw a mother who was madly in love with her son. Loved him as only his mother could. I couldn't help to wonder if my real mother felt this way when I was born.

However, I quickly shook that thought away. The mother I have now is my biological aunt, but she has never treated me as if I were just her nephew she was raising. I was always loved as if she had given birth to me, and that was more than I could ever want or need.

Riley lifted her head and asked me if I wanted a turn. I eagerly nodded my head and told her yes. She passed my son to me, and I laid him on my lap with my hands under his head. To me, he looked like his mother, but with a head full of curly brown hair. I had curls growing up, but I have always been blonde. I guess with Riley's dark hair, the genetics combined and gave him something in between.

As I looked over him, I noticed a small silver patch in his hair shaped like a crescent moon. I pointed it out to Riley, and asked her what she thought it was. Neither of us could figure it out and assumed it was a birthmark. It was something I would talk to Grandma or Luke about.

Speaking of Gran, she isn't doing well, according to Luke.

She has been very weak lately. Maybe it was a blessing Sterling was born a little early. If he went full term, he may not have gotten to meet his wonderful great-great grandma.

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Melian POV

I'm a freaking grandma. I can't believe it. I am over the moon and so in love with this little boy. When Maddix explained everything to us, I wasn't quite sure how to feel.

Franz is a part of Ruby, and has been for many years. It felt different when he was with my son, but now that he is with Sterling, Ruby says Franz will be stronger.

Maddix is a strong Alpha, and now that he has Dakota, his aura feels stronger, but in a different way. Jack was very intelligent, and I always got the feeling that his wolf was also extremely smart. We will see in the long run how this works out, but I have faith in our Moon Goddess, and I know she knows what she is doing.

Grandmother is coming today with Luke, Marion and Ginger. She goes nowhere without Luke or Ginger anymore.

Auntie Marion was explaining how grandma had grown very weak as of late. Walking takes its toll on her quickly, and she hasn't had much of an appetite.

Luke has been having her drink a special tea to help keep her nourishment intake up, and Ginger fixes her a special soup or vegetable meal every day. They know that she won't refuse them if they ask her to eat or drink it, so as of now, they have been her caretakers.

"Mom?" Maddix called out. I was brought out of my thoughts by his voice, and waved him in. "Hey honey, how are you today?" I asked him. He looked troubled, and I knew that this was going to be a hard conversation. "Mom, can we talk, and you be completely honest with me?" he asked.

I patted the seat next to me, and he sat down. "Of course, Maddix. I can feel it's something serious, so how about we lock the door, so we continue to have our privacy. I will let your dads know so that they don't flip out," I told him. He nodded and walked over to lock the door.

He quickly came back and sat with me. He turned sideways and kind of lounged back onto the couch, getting comfortable. He took a deep sigh, and said, "I have questions about when I was born and up until the time my biological parents passed. These won't be easy questions for me to ask, so please bare with me."

I pulled my blanket across my lap, and grabbed my cup of tea. "You can ask me anything, and I will do my best to answer. You have to remember, I wasn't around you much until

you were over a year old, and when I was able to before then, my brother kept a close eye on me with you,” I told him. He nodded in understanding and started with his questions.

“Did either of my parents truly love me? I mean really love me. Like a parent should love a child. I watch Riley with Sterling, and it’s like he was always meant to be in her arms. She is very protective over him, and I could never see her letting him go, or putting herself in situations where she could lose him. I don’t understand how they could have put themselves in the situation they did if they truly loved me,” He said.

When he said he had difficult questions, he wasn’t kidding.

“Maddix, I want to believe that somewhere deep down, your bio dad had the ability to love another person unconditionally and fully. However, that wasn’t the person I knew. Not in the end, and not for a long time before then.

All I knew and experienced from him was evil and cruelty for most of my life. There are very few good memories from before my mother passed away, and well, afterward there are none,” I started to explain.

He moved closer to me and held my hand. He was such a good boy, and has become an amazing man. We did something right where all of our kids are concerned, even when we thought we didn’t. I cleared my throat, and started to explain more.

“As far as your birth mother, when she first found out she was mated to Eric, she seemed like a completely different person. She was sweet and kind, and she loved him wholeheartedly. She would have done anything for him.

When she got pregnant with you, she was elated. So excited, especially when they found out you were a boy.

After a while, I noticed things changed within her. She was withdrawn, angry, and wanted to keep her distance from Eric as much as possible. He had been cheating on her throughout their whole relationship. After you were born, she became very reclusive. When I was around her, she would say the most awful things to me, and I always thought it was to appease Eric. I learned later that she would help him come up with ways to abuse me. However, she did seem to adore you,” I said.

“Although I can’t fully say yes or no on the aspect of whether they truly loved you or not, I will say this, I believe with all my heart she loved you the best she knew how. I think the misguided decisions she made were greatly influenced by your biological dad. I wish I had better answers for you on this, son,” I finished. I knew in my heart my answers weren’t good enough, but I told him that I knew of one person who could answer them much better. His uncle, Jason, and I encouraged him to talk to him.

I could tell he was disappointed, but unfortunately, I gave him the answers the best I could. What he asked next broke my heart, but I definitely had the answer for him.

“Mom, do you regret becoming my mom instead of being just my aunt?” he asked. I leaned forward and cupped his face and quickly replied.

“Maddix, light of my world, I have zero regrets. None. If I had to do it over and over again, I would still make that same choice. You were destined to be mine. Do you hear me? Your dads and I never hesitated when we had to make the decision to either let Jason and Rebecca raise you, or take you in as our own. Liam had built a bond with you before your parents’ death. He would always say that he wished you were his, and eventually, you were. You have always been Loki’s best buddy, and your siblings have never thought of you as their cousin. Always their brother.

Never doubt your place among us, son. You are and always will be a Young,” I replied.

He leaned into me and I wrapped my arms around him. We sat in silence and only spoke when he had another question pop up. It was probably over an hour before I got the link letting me know grandma was here, and we both walked down to greet her.

Luke and Ginger helped her from the car, and Luke helped keep her steady up the steps. My heart shattered seeing her frail state, and I could feel Maddix’s roller coaster of emotion. I gripped his arm tightly, and he placed his hand on mine. Grandma gave us both a disapproving look and stopped walking.

“You both look as if I have already left this world to be with the goddess. How about you two sour pusses suck it up and enjoy me while I’m here, and take me to where I can give lots of love to my beautiful new grandson,” she said.

She pushed past us and continued to the common room.

We both looked at each other and started to laugh. Even close to her end, grandma Gretchen was still full of life.

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Maddix POV

This week has been so crazy, between the situation with Riley and her having the baby, and grandma’s situation, I totally forgot that I was supposed to leave with my dad, Liam and brother Phoenix for Northern Sun in the morning. can’t back out now, it’s important to both my dad and brother.

Sterling is still in the NICU, and Riley was discharged this morning. However, she just asked me to bring her some clean clothes and her toiletries, so she could shower. She refused to leave the hospital until he was released, but I did get her to agree to leave him

long enough to eat and get some rest. She won't be any good to either of them if she doesn't.

I had just finished up some work I needed to get caught up on, when River called me. I answered his call just to find out that he wanted to know if I was with our dads. I told him that I wasn't and asked how he was settling in at Spirit Mountain.

He explained that he was settling in fine, but he was having a hard time dealing with the fact that he had to give up his position as Blood Moon's pack curator and archivist. He had studied hard to learn all there was to know about werewolf history, and the history of all the packs near us.

He was still studying to learn more about packs around the world, but being a Gamma's mate was a little more of a challenge than he thought it would be.

I asked him if he had talked to Damian about possibly taking on the same responsibility there as he would have had here, and he told me he hadn't. He said that Damian had been extremely busy trying to smooth over things with surrounding packs that had pledged their allegiance to his father. They weren't happy with the fact he was now Alpha, and that his father's 'business' dealings were no longer a thing in Spirit Mountain. Their sources of income would strictly be shipping of commodities, and of actual items, not people. Everything his dad had a hand in was now null and void.

The same holds true for alliances. As of right now, the only alliances that Spirit Mountain had were those with Blood Moon and Starry Moon. One was in the works with Northern Sun, but we all still had concerns about Alpha Kernshaw. We just knew nothing about him, and he was in no way giving us any information about him without feeling like we were prying.

Ending the call with River, I decided to go find Phoenix and get the details about tomorrow before heading over to the hospital.

At Phoenix's house, Lindy informed me that he had just left for the hospital. He had a client coming in, and it was urgent they see him. I thanked her for the information, and she asked if it was alright to go see the baby. I encouraged her to because I wanted her to realize she was family, not just my brother's mate.

I texted Phoenix and told him that I was going to be in Sterling's room at the hospital, and once he was done with his client, for him to come find me. All I got was a thumbs up, and I shook my head.

Walking down the hallway towards my son's room, I was overwhelmed by the scent of lavender and rain. It was my mates scent, so I knew she was in his room. I poked my head in, and she was once again cradling him in her arms, and singing to him. I quietly closed the door, and sat in one of the recliners.

She started to hum, and then abruptly stopped. “Are you just going to sit there and watch us like a creeper, or are you going to come over with us?” she laughed. I took the hint and moved over to the chair next to her.

“I didn’t want to disturb you. I love hearing you sing to him.

Your voice is amazing, babe,” I told her. She simply blushed, and shook her head.

I asked if she had eaten, and she said my mom had brought her a Cobb salad with her favorite poppyseed dressing, and some fresh bread. She also brought her a large tumbler of iced sweet tea. I was thankful my mom had done that for her, and decided I needed to remind Riley about tomorrow.

“Baby? I just wanted to remind you that I promised to go with Phoenix and my dads to Northern Sun tomorrow. I won’t be staying the whole time. Just long enough for the meeting with Lark,” I told her. She just smiled and said she remembered, and that her and the baby would be just fine.

Phoenix knocked on the door, and went inside the room. He immediately stooped down to look at his nephew, and noticed his white mark in his hair. “Mads, I saw the white mark in his hair last time, but I didn’t realize it was shaped like a crescent moon. Has it always looked like that?” he asked. I nodded my head, and said that I was hoping grandma or Luke could maybe figure out why it was like that. The only problem is getting grandma to the hospital.

Phoenix called Luke and told him he was bringing a wheelchair to the pack house to pick up grandma. He wanted Luke to come along, because it was something he needed to see also, and Luke said they would be ready.

It wasn’t too long before the door of Sterling’s room opened and my grandma was wheeled in. She slapped my brother’s hand, and told him to stop. She stood and walked over to his bassinet. “Do you feel it?” she asked. We all looked at one another and shook our heads.

“This boy is going to be the strongest Alpha we have ever seen. No disrespect to you, Maddix, my boy, but your son, he is a chosen one. He is the first male tribrid born in many, many moons. The birthmark on his head, the one shaped like a crescent moon with a star, is the mark of not only Selene, but also Eris. The goddess of the Fae,” she said.

She picked up my son from his bassinet and carried him over to the rocker that Riley was sitting in. Riley stood up, and helped grandma sit comfortably. “Maddix, from what your mother has told me, you no longer are a vessel for Franz?” she asked. I shook my head and explained the whole situation to her. “Hmm,” was all she said.

She called for Luke, and she reached for his hand. Once their hands were clasped together, she had him hold one of Sterling's little hands. They both closed their eyes, and a soft glow surrounded my son. A smile crossed my grandma's face, and she nodded to Luke.

"Gran? What was that all about?" I asked. She handed the baby to Luke, and let him sit in the rocker. She took my hand and led me to the sofa that was close by, and then called for Phoenix.

"Boys, there is something I need to explain to you both. I wish River was here also, but you can pass this on to him and your sisters. This isn't going to be easy for you to hear, and when I spoke to your mother, she had a hard time with this news. Thankfully, your dads will be with her, and your other siblings mates will be there for them. Riley, come sit with us please," she said.

I had a feeling I knew what was coming, but she still hadn't answered my question. I didn't want to persist in her answering, but her and Luke passed something to my boy, and I had the right to know.

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter

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Gretchen POV

For the past several months, I have been fading. I feel like my time on this earth is quickly coming to an end. Marion, Luke and Ginger have tried their best to keep me going with herbals and special meals, but my soul has done many things in this lifetime, and is tired. I am ready to join the Goddess Eris, and prepare for my rebirth for when she sees fit for it to happen.

I'm going to Blood Moon today to meet my great-great-great grandson, Sterling. I'm not sure his parents, or my granddaughter, Melian are ready to hear about this precious boy. They are concerned about a birthmark of sorts in his hair, but when Mel explained what it looked like, I already knew exactly what it meant. I just hope they are ready for what it is.

When Luke and Ginger picked me up, I was already tired. I slept on the way to Blood Moon, and it helped me keep up the energy I needed for the day. I had spoken to Luke after I found out about the birthmark, and he understood what was to happen. He agreed with me that it needed to happen, I just hope Maddix and Riley didn't get upset.

When we pulled up to the house, and got out of the car, I could already see the mournful stares coming from my grandchildren. I was still here. I wasn't dead yet. I was a little frustrated that they were already looking at me as if I were. I got snarky with them both, and pushed my way past them. I walked straight to my favorite chair in the common room, and plopped in it. I kicked my feet up and draped a blanket over my lap.

I had told Maddix I wanted to see my new grandson, and he left to get the baby ready for my visit. I asked my granddaughter if she could call her mates in, I needed to speak to her. She nodded her head and her eyes glazed over. It wasn't long before my favorite twins entered the room.

Both Liam and Loki have become very special to me, and they knew it. They both bent over and gave me a kiss on the forehead, and took their places next to Melian.

“Now that the three of you are together, there is something I need to tell you all. This isn't going to be easy for me to say, but it's something you have to hear. It's just reality of life.

This trip, will be my last. Not only to Blood Moon, but anywhere for that matter. The only journey I will be going on is back to the Goddess Eris to prepare my soul to move on to another vessel. I just want you all to know that I have been blessed to be part of all of your lives and your journeys. My soul may leave this body, but it will be back again and within our family. I don't know when, but it will.

It's how things work in our world. Before I go, I will pass on something to little Sterling. Mel, he is the first tribrid male born in many, many moons. He will be very powerful, and he will be sought out. I am releasing my protector spirit into him. It will help keep him hidden until Franz comes into play. He will receive Franz earlier than normal wolves.

Probably close to the age of 13, and that is when the real danger will show its head. Promise me you will be there for him. All of you,” I explained.

Just as I thought she would, Melian crumbled. Loki and Liam comforted her the best they could, but they were also quite distraught with the news. The three of them nodded their heads and said it was a given that they would protect him. He was their grandson. Little did they know just how much protection this little boy was going to need.

Phoenix arrived with a wheelchair, and insisted that I ride along instead of walk. I wasn't going to argue with my strong doctor of a grandson, and allowed him to push me to the hospital. The closer the three of us got to the babies room, the more I felt his power.

We went through the door, and I slapped Phoenix's hand to make him stop pushing. I wanted to walk to him, he was the chosen one, and deserved that respect. “Do feel it?” I asked, and I knew they all thought I was nuts. Maybe I was to a point, but this time, I was completely sane.

They all shook their heads, and I decided to enlighten them on what I knew. I explained it all to them. Everything from him being the chosen one, to what the birthmark meant.

What I failed to mention to them was about the transference of my protector spirit.

Picking up my new grandson, my heart started to flutter.

The love I felt for him surpassed everything and everyone. I never felt love like this before. I rocked him for a moment as I said a little prayer to Eris and Selene. I felt that it was necessary, and was hoping to feel some kind of sign of their approval. As I said the prayer in my mind, little Sterling smiled, and I took that as my sign.

I reached out for Luke's hand, and once our hands were clasped together, Luke held the little one's hand. The transference didn't take long, and once it was completed, I knew Maddix was going to have questions, and he definitely did.

He asked what happened, and I knew he wanted the answers immediately, unfortunately for him, he would have to wait a minute.

I sat him and Phoenix down, and called for Riley. Once she was with us, I explained about my leaving this world just as I did to Mel and the twins. Riley was visibly upset, as was Phoenix. Maddix however, showed no emotion at all, but his words said exactly how he felt.

"Gran, I..we can't lose you. This world won't be the same without you, and I don't know how this family will survive this world without you in it. Whenever any of us need good, sound advice we come to you. I love you, gran. My heart is already missing you," he whispered.

I pulled him into a side hug, and he laid his head on my shoulder. "It will be fine my boy. I'm proud of you. The man you became after a rough start in life is commendable.

Same for you Phoenix. All of you boys are fighters.

Stronger than you allow yourself to believe, and I have no doubts that you will continue to do great things. Raise good, strong children. I love all of you so much," I told them.

Once everyone calmed down, I took Riley and Maddix's hands and explained what I did with Sterling. Riley understood more so than Maddix, but he took it better than I thought he would. It would take him time to adjust to not only fatherhood but being a father to the next powerful Alpha. He would be more powerful than the King himself.

Riley had promised she would go home to get rest, and to eat some dinner. We all went together, leaving Sterling to get some rest as well. Maddix had 4 of his best warriors posted at Sterlings room, and more at the entrances to the NICU. What I had told him scared him, and I knew it would. I just didn't want to keep anything from him. Especially with my expiration date coming soon.

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter

Alette POV

My time with my little niece, Willow is coming to an end today. I have enjoyed keeping her for my brother and sister-in-law while they have been with Sterling in the hospital. He got to go home this morning, and Maddix called to see if we would go ahead and bring Willow home.

I reluctantly agreed.

Damian came into our room to inform me that everything was loaded, and we could leave as soon as I was ready. I think he has gotten attached to her as well, because he is sad she is going home.

Putting on my shoes and jacket, I asked Damian if we had to wait much longer before trying for pups of our own, and he gave me a smirk and said, "Baby, I have a feeling we will be starting a family sooner than later." I wanted to press more into what he meant, but he was busy walking out our door with Willow in hand.

Grabbing my purse I followed out the door behind them, closing it behind me. We ran into Buck and Micah who were just returning from the pack OB/GYN clinic, and Micah informed me that it's any day now. They know the gender, but are being super tight lipped about it. They want it to be a 'surprise. Damian told Buck that we would be back in the morning, and Buck agreed to hold down the Silver Drops fort.

Damian put Willow in her carseat, and I hopped into the passenger seat. As we pulled out of the gates, I couldn't take it anymore. "Babe, what did you mean with the comment you made earlier about starting a family sooner than later?" I asked. He chuckled at me, and replied, "Alette, not everything has a hidden meaning, or underlying tone.

However, in this case, I won't tell you if it did or didn't. It's something you will have to find out for yourself. I'm not going to be the one to spoil this one."

Again, being cryptic. I hated when he did this, but I guess he had his reasons.

I turned on the radio, and sang softly along with the song that was playing. I had my head leaned back against the seat with my eyes closed. Suddenly, Alaska was on high alert. "Alette, we are being followed. Ask Damian if he feels it too. I tried to speak with Zion, but he isn't responding," she said.

"Damian, is something wrong with Zion?" I asked. He shook his head and said not that he was aware, that he had been silent but nothing felt off. I explained what Alaska had said, and he tried to communicate with Zion. He said that Zion was fine, that nothing came through for him from my wolf, but Damian said he had heard some static come through his ears earlier. Maybe it was just a failed link from Alaska to Zion.

Zion told Damian that he also felt someone was following us, but not in human form. Damian heard more static ringing in his ears, and then he grabbed his head in pain.

His hands released the steering wheel, and I grabbed it so that we wouldn't lose control. I took the wheel and steered us to the side of the road, and Damian opened his door and fell out.

He laid on the side of the road holding his head, begging for the ringing to stop. I got out and ran around the car to be next to him, and when he opened his eyes they were black. "Help me, Lette!" he cried. His voice was more husky than usual, and I realized it was Zion and not Damian begging for help.

I helped him up from the road and back into the car, and I got in the drivers seat. We weren't too far from Blood Moon, and I linked my brother Phoenix and told him what was happening. He told me to bring Damian straight to the hospital, and that he would have Maddix, mom and Luke meet us there.

Maddix would take Willow, while mom and Luke would help us with Damian. With mom being there, I knew my dads weren't going to be far behind.

Security didn't stop us at the gates, and I drove as fast as I could. Damian had passed out, and was looking extremely pale.

True to his word, Phoenix was waiting outside with a gurney. Maddix and Phoenix loaded him on it, and Phoenix rushed him in. Maddix took our car, with Willow still in her carseat, and told us he would be back shortly. He gave me a hug, and took off towards the pack house.

I ran inside the hospital, and the receptionist pointed me in the right direction. However, when I got close to where they took my mate, my aunt Roxy was there to stop me from rushing in.

"Lettie, I need you to stay out here for just a little bit. Please.

Let the doc and Phoenix work on him to find out what is going on before you rush in and your anxiety floods him.

"Alright?" she asked. I slowly nodded my head, and my eyes never left the door.

My cousin, Luke came up behind me and put his hands on my shoulders. A vision flooded my mind and my hands went straight to my mouth as I let out a loud gasp. I turned to look at my cousin, and then back at Roxy.

"Roxy, have Phoenix check his blood. It should have traces of silver in it. Someone has been poisoning his food at Spirit Mountain," I told her. She quickly ran off through the door she was keeping me out of, and it would be a while before she came back out.

“I’m sorry, Alette. I felt it as soon as they pushed him past me. Someone is trying to poison him and his wolf. Its a male who works in the kitchen, but his name isn’t clear. It starts with a T. He was loyal to Alpha Lawrence and thinks Damian isn’t worthy to run the pack. I don’t feel it in you, but I do think you need to get checked out. Blood and all. I am picking something else up, but only bloodwork will confirm my suspicions,” Luke stated.

“Something wrong with me?” I asked. He nodded his head and just replied with, “Get the bloodwork done ASAP.” These men with their cryptic notions today are about to drive me mad.

Roxy finally returned to us, and confirmed what I saw and Luke said. Someone had been putting silver in Damian’s food. I told her that Luke had filled me in through a vision, then told me what he saw as well. There were 3 males in the kitchen that started with the letter T. The two that had been there from the time of Alpha Lawrence were Trey and Tamlon. The blurred figure in the vision was shaped more: like Tamlon than Trey.

I told Roxy that Luke is pressing for a blood test from me.

He said I needed to be checked as well, but not for silver. I explained I had no clue what he was talking about, but asked if she could ask the doc or Phoenix to order a complete lab panel for me. She said she would tell them, and to meet her at the lab.

As mom and I walked towards the lab, I called Buck.

“Bucky, we have a problem. Damian has been being slipped small amounts of silver in his meals. We haven’t been going to the dining hall, and ordering individual meals. So, it wouldn’t have been hard to do. It’s either Trey or Tamion, and I would bet a million to one that it’s Tamion,” I told him.

Only two words left his mouth. “Holy f*vck!”

Alpha Maddix: A Brother’s Promise Chapter 76

Maddix POV

Lette got my daughter home safely, and given the circumstances of what was going on, she did a great job.

My sister has went from being a spontaneous wild child to being totally responsible and cautious young woman. What she went through changed her drastically. She is more cautious of trusting people now, and she thinks before she acts.

After meeting her at the pack hospital, I took Willow to the house and my Aunt Marion took her inside. I filled everyone in on what had happened, and Riley encouraged me to go be with my sister. I kissed her deeply, and thanked her for understanding. Grandma asked if I wanted her to come with me, and I told her that she should stay and rest up.

She patted my hand, and told me to be careful. Something told me that she would be at that hospital before long.

Grandma loved Damian.

Mom was with Alette in the lab getting my sister's blood drawn when I arrived. Luke filled me in on the situation, and I asked if the doctor or Phoenix had been out yet. He shook his head no, and I linked Phoenix to let him know I was there if he needed me.

Close to an hour later, Phoenix came to the waiting room.

"Where is Alette?" he asked. A small voice came from behind him and said, "Right here. How is he? Please be honest," she asked.

He walked to her and pulled her into a hug. "If you want honesty, Alette, I will give it to you. He is struggling sis. We think Zion is overworking himself fighting off the silver poisoning. It's making Damian extremely weak, and unable to stay awake for long. We have been able to speak to him off and on, but briefly. We aren't sure if this has been gradual, or just dosed with his meal this morning. Then again, it could have been gradual and the person got impatient and just gave a heavy dose of silver today.

Unless we speak to the person who did this, we will never know. We are doing everything we can, as quickly as we can," he said.

I heard her whimper, and let out a shuttered breath. "Can I see him?" she asked. He nodded his head and told her he needed to speak with her about something else before she went in though.

"I received your blood labs. Thankfully, there was no silver traces in your blood. However, we did find something sis.

You are pregnant, Alette, I heard him say. A smile spread across my face, and I was beyond happy for my little sister.

She was going to be an amazing momma. However, the look on her face made me unsure of how she felt about it.

"Pregnant?" she asked as she sat down. Phoenix nodded his head and smiled softly at her. "Yes, pregnant." he said.

She started to cry, and our mom dropped to her knees beside her and took my sisters hands into her own. "You, sweet girl, are going to be an amazing mother. I feel it in my bones. Damian is going to be a fantastic father. There is nothing to be sad or worried about." she said trying to calm Alette.

"Mom, there is a lot to be worried about. Someone in our pack is trying to kill this little ones father. Who's to say they don't try and harm them or me while carrying them to get to Damian? I'm scared mom," Alette cried.

That is when I decided to step in. "Lette, Damian will pull through this. We both know this. He has an amazingly strong wolf, and he is a stronger man than most give him credit for. He has become like a brother to me, and I will do whatever it takes to keep him safe. I promise you," I told her.

She seemed to accept what I said, and stood up to go in to see her mate.

"Alette?" Phoenix called for her. She turned around and he said, "Talk to him. Even while he is asleep. Touch him the whole time you are there. The bond you two have will help him more than any medicine or procedures we can do.

Encourage Zion to let down his wall so that Alaska can speak to him. Tell him about the baby. Give him something positive to think about to give him a reason to fight harder.

That is how we get Damian and Zion better."

With a nod of the head, she took my mom's arm and they went into the hospital room to see my brother-in-law.

I know she was having a hard time with this, and it wasn't because Damian was in that bed. It was more so the fact that someone in her pack was trying to hurt him. He had done great things for the pack, and its people since taking over. They thought they had gotten rid of all of the ones who still held more loyalty to Lawrence than Damian.

I was determined to help Buck and the others figure out who, and I knew the perfect person to help.

I pulled out my phone, and called my cousin Ginger. "Hey Ging, it's Maddix. I have a huge favor to ask bf you. You can say no, but I am praying you won't," I told her.

Apparently I peaked her interest because the words from her mouth were, "OK? Go on."

"Would you be willing to go to Spirit Mountain under a guise of helping River with a project? However, It will be more of a hunt for a killer, or someone who failed at attempting to kill someone." I explained. As soon as I finished what I was saying, she blurted out, "When can I leave?" Ginger had the human lie detector gift also.

I think most of the women in my family did, but she could usually pick up whether someone was lying almost immediately. The only others like that were mom and gran.

They both had their hands full right now.

I told her that I would get with River and figure out what kind of project he could pull off to get Ginger there without it seeming suspicious that a Fae/Witch hybrid being there.

He said just say she was visiting him, they are family after all, but I thought given the circumstances, there should be a different reason.

We came up with the guise of her helping him organize their library, and bringing books to donate. He wanted to make sure there was a section for all supernatural beings, and her bringing books about Fae and Witch history was perfect. I had informed River who we thought were the two suspects, and he said he knew of Tamlon but not the other.

I called her back and told her what the plan was. I instructed her to go to our library and have Chris give her the box of books that he had already gathered to send to River. From there, she would go ahead and head to Spirit Mountain. This has to work.

I then called Buck and informed him of the plan. He was totally onboard, and before hanging up he asked me something that threw me for a loop.

“Maddix, as you know, Micah is about to have our baby at any time now. You have done a lot to help my girl, and I will forever be grateful for that. Her and I have spoken about it and we would love for you to be her godfather, that is if you will take the job. Will you?” he asked. Her? Did I just find out the gender before anyone else? Even Alette?

“Of course I will. Did you say her?” I asked. All I got was a hearty laugh, and a yes. He then changed the subject to ask about Damian. That was just how Buck is. Cared too much, but played it off like he didn’t. That is what I like most about him.

Alpha Maddix: A Brother’s Promise Chapter

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Damian POV

Last thing I could clearly remember was listening to my mate sing softly to the song, ‘I don’t think about you’ by Kelly Clarkson that was playing on the radio! I could listen to hear her sing forever. She had an amazing voice. I couldn’t wait for her to sing to our pups that were already growing in her belly.

I had smelled the change in her scent a couple of days ago, but I wanted her to discover it on her own. I just felt it would be more special that way. When she started to question me

about kids, I almost blurted it out, but I didn't. I just spoke in circles in hopes that she might get suspicious and investigate it for herself.

There are definitely more than one, but I couldn't decipher how many. It makes sense with her being a triplet.

All morning Zion has been strangely silent. He would whimper now and again, but was mostly silent. When Alette questioned if I could feel someone following us, and asked about Zion, it was only then I started to understand that something wasn't right. Zion said he felt another wolf following us, but wasn't sure how far away they were or even who it was.

Zion suddenly started to go wild, like a feral wolf stuck in a small cage. He started to take over, and howl in pain. It was the worst pain I had ever felt, even more than my first shift.

It felt like fire was coursing through my veins. The sound of static radiating through my ears with intermittent squeals of piercing ringing.

I released the steering wheel and grabbed my head. I could feel myself screaming in pain, and my mate grabbed the steering wheel moving the car to safety. I flung the door open and fell to the ground. I was still writhing in pain. I could hear Willow crying, and my mate panicking, but I couldn't do anything about it.

I felt Alette's arms wrap under mine and she did her best to drag me back into the car. It took all the strength I could muster to help her, but somehow I was able to get into the back seat with Willow.

"Stay with me, my love" I heard her cry. She peeled out the tires onto the road and flew towards Blood Moon. Through her sobs she pleaded to the moon goddess to keep me alive.

Willow was still crying as I placed my hand on her little leg, and hoped it would calm her. I wasn't sure how with my own emotions all over the place, but I tried.

It was after that point that everything became hazy and even more chaotic. The burning in my veins combined with the ringing in my ears became overwhelming. I eventually passed out, and briefly opened my eyes to see Phoenix and Maddix's faces. They were moving me from the car to what I think was a gurney.

I heard Phoenix's voice telling me that I was going to be alright, to stay awake. I just couldn't keep my eyes open very long to do as he asked. Zion was still fighting whatever it was that was going on with us, and it caused me to be overly weak. I felt like I was going to vomit, so I turned my head and tried to lift myself up.

I didn't have the strength and released my stomach onto the small gurney and on myself. I heard Zion tell me to keep vomiting, but my stomach was empty. Whatever it was that was causing this, was taking its toll on me.

Phoenix pushed me into a room, and the ER doc was right in behind him. They drew blood, and I heard the doctor ask if I had a history of any illness. Phoenix said he wasn't sure, and he sent aunt Roxy out to talk to Mel.

Even though I was in the room, and I was the one being worked on, it felt like I was floating above everyone and everything. Watching what was going on from above them, but I couldn't see and only hear what was going on. There would be random times I would be able to lift my eyes, and they would try to talk to me, but words barely came out.

A nurse had rushed in with test results, and I heard my brother-in-law groan. "Damn it! It's silver poisoning!" he exclaimed.

"Doc, traces are minimal, so I am assuming that someone has been poisoning his food or drink," Phoenix continued.

Poisoned? Who the hell in my pack would want me dead? I didn't understand. We had exiled anyone who still had allegiance to my dad, or so we thought.

I passed back out and fell into a deep darkness. I was so unsure of everything anymore, my world was spiraling out of control.

I felt myself being pulled back by the sweet voice of my mate. She was praying to the goddess to bring me back. I could feel the warmth of someone trying to heal me, but it wasn't her. She prayed for whoever was healing me to have help from Selene herself.

"Moon Goddess, I pray for your help. Help my mother heal my mate. He has to come back to us, me and our pup need him. Please don't take him or Zion when our lives are just beginning together. Goddess, I beg you, please let him come back to us," she cried. She found out she was pregnant, but she only said pup. There is definitely more than one.

I tried to open my eyes, but the bright lights were blinding.

"Alette, baby?" | whispered. I heard her strangled breath gasp, and she brought her face to mine. "My love, I'm here.

We are here. You're going to be a daddy. You have to fight and wake up completely, my love. Please, fight for us," she sobbed.

I opened my eyes and there before me were the most beautiful amber orbs with tiny green flecks in them. "I'm not going anywhere where you are not, baby. You are stuck with me until the day we both die together old and grey," I told her while trying to smile.

She climbed up into the bed with me, not caring about the wires I was hooked up to, and held me as close as she could. She accidentally set off one of my alarms, and her brothers and the doctor came flying in to check on me.

What they saw was definitely not what they were expecting.

The doctor fixed the alarm and asked my mate if she could allow him to exam me. She nodded her head and blushed as she crawled off of the bed. The doctor withdrew more blood to check to see if I still had traces of the silver in my blood. He explained that there wasn't much to begin with, but enough to poison Zion sending him into a frenzy.

He did his examination, and as soon as he stepped away, Alette was right back next to me. Zion had calmed down, and was resting, so I took the time to relax to regroup my strength. "Did you hear me say you were going to be a daddy?" she asked. I nodded my head, and whispered,

"There isn't just one, baby. I can smell more than one, but not sure how many more."

She looked up at me and her mouth fell open. "You're sure?" she asked. I nodded my head and she laid her head back on my chest. We laid in silence for a while and eventually I heard her say something. "Alaska says there are 2. We are having twins, babe. Twins."

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter 78

MADDIX POV

Ginger has been at Spirit Mountain for three days. She has visited the kitchen every morning using the excuse that she has a special diet, and to make sure it's followed, she prefers to cook her own food. So far, she hasn't ran into this Tomlan character. She met Trey, and casually asked about Damian. She made it seem like she was trying to start gossip.

She made mention that she 'heard' that Damian was poisoned by one of his staff, and when Trey replied to her that he wasn't sure what was going on, he was being truthful. She did mention that he had said that he hoped the Alpha made a full recovery, and that too was truthful.

Hopefully today she will encounter Tomlan. She reminded me that she needed to be back in Ruby Meadows in a few days to meet with my cousin, Trinity. Her and her husband have been trying to conceive, but she is having issues. Updated by Jobnib.com

She's hoping a fertility tea and spell from Ginger will do the trick.

I asked her to try her nonchalant approach at questioning people with others in the kitchen, and she said she would. It was nearly lunch time today when she called me with an update.

“Mads, I think we are dealing with more than just this Tomlan person. There is a prep woman who works in the kitchen, and she has a deep hatred for Damian. I thought I would strike up conversation like I did with Trey, and when I mentioned that I was glad the Alpha was recovering, she started to spew profanities and how she wished he would have died. She said that he has lied to everyone, and tricked the former Alpha into the challenge. I asked her if she knew how he got sick, she said that she didn’t, but wish someone would have used more silver and just killed him.

Maddix, I never mentioned him ingesting silver, she explained.

I asked if she got her name, and she said the woman’s name was Ingrid. I told her I would call her back, and made a trip up to Alette’s room to speak with her and Damian.

When I walked in, I found my sister playing with Willow and feeding Sterling a bottle. Riley was lying on her couch sleeping. I knew she had been tired, and I have just been so preoccupied that I have neglected helping her. I needed to fix that. They are my children too.

Damian was relaxing in the recliner watching the Trailblazers basketball game. He was still on ‘bed rest, but he said the recliner is close enough during the day.

I sat on the floor with Willow, and thanked Alette for watching them so my mate could rest. She told me she was happy to, and that she was going to need all the experience she could get now that she was pregnant. I explained that I needed to talk to them about the investigation Ginger was doing, and when I mentioned the name Ingrid, Damian tensed up.

“I never thought about her. Honestly, I forgot she was even still around. She was one of my dad’s play things when he was mad at my stepmother. Her and Lance were also close at one point in time. She was definitely in love with dad, and hated anyone he hated. It would make sense, more so than Tomlan. The only thing he has against me was that I was better than him on the wrestling team in high school.

As far as I know, that is,” he said.

He called Buck, and told him to apprehend Ingrid, but to place her somewhere by herself. Buck told him he was on it, and that he hoped that Damian and Alette would be home soon. Damian returned the sentiment, and disconnected the call.

My phone rang less than five minutes later, and Ginger about blew out my eardrums. “MADDIX! | met Tomlan! It was definitely him and Ingrid. They are mates, and she has it out for Damian. He came in during dinner prep, and I was preparing my veggies for

dinner, and I heard him tell her that they failed. He said that the silver had to be too diluted or it would have killed Damian,” she exclaimed.

Apparently, Damian had heard her because he was right back on the phone with Buck. He was demanding that both were detained and he told Buck to let one of their best warriors, Gavin, interrogate them. According to Damian, this Gavin guy liked to get creative with his persuasion tactics.

He had Alette summon Phoenix, because he said they needed to leave. Too much was happening under their noses, and being at Blood Moon wasn't helping solve anything. Once my brother showed up, he reluctantly agreed that it would be alright as long as Alette drove. He said he would email Damian's chart to the pack doctor in Spirit Mountain. I could tell Alette was sad to be leaving, but she also knew that as his mate, it was her place.

She may not have been official Luna yet by title, but she still took care of all Luna duties. They are scheduling her ceremony soon, because in her words, “I don't want to look like a pregnant heffer in a huge moo moo gown during my ceremony”. My sister always so elegant with her words.

I gently woke Riley to let her know that they needed to leave, and she started to get emotional. She loved having my sister here, and she was going to miss her. I wasn't sure which were more confusing though, the pregnancy emotions or the post pregnancy emotions. Either way, my mate was going to miss Alette.

After the girls hugged for about the millionth time, Damian insisted they had to go. I helped them take their things to their car, and loaded it for them. Before they drove away, Damian told me that I was free to visit anytime. I asked him if we could come stay a day or two this weekend, and he said he would be super happy if we would. That would give the girls more time together.

The question was, did I really want to leave before grandma went back to Ruby Meadows? I decided to visit grandma, and Marion said she was resting. She slept more and more as the days went by, and I knew it wouldn't be long.

As I was about to leave, I heard her call my name, and I went into her room. “You doing alright my boy?” she asked I nodded my head, and told her Alette and Damian had just left. She seemed to be sad they left without saying goodbye, but I told her it was sort of last minute and an emergency. She nodded her head, and patted the bed.

I sat down and told her about Alette carrying more than one baby, and she said that mom had told her. She let out a giggle and said, “Your sister thinks it's just twins, but there is one more.” I looked at her confused and told her that Alette's wolf, Alaska confirmed only two, and she reminded me that so did Ruby when mom was carrying the girls.

Then they found Asteria later in the pregnancy. I had forgotten all about the story of how they discovered Asteria, but gran was right.

I kissed my grandma on the forehead, and started to leave.

“Maddix, one more thing honey. I think we will be heading back to Ruby Meadows on Saturday. These beds are nice, but I prefer my mattress,” she said. I had to laugh at her sassy attitude, because she was the sassiest I knew.