

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter 89

Adelina POV

Being in the bunker with my sisters was not a comfortable situation for me. I was the only one to blame for the situation though. I hate myself for allowing Miles to manipulate me so badly, especially when it comes to my sisters.

Since moving to Northern Sun, I knew what was going on with Simon and Asteria, but I never stepped in. I should have. However, whenever I mentioned it to Miles, I was ordered to stay out of it. I was told it was none of my business because it was between Simon and Asteria. If I pushed the topic and asked Miles to step in, Miles would hit me.

It was like that up until I started having issues during the beginning of the pregnancy. After that, Miles would join Simon on his little outings. Just like Asteria, I felt it the second Miles started being unfaithful to our bond. I loved my mate, and didn't want to raise my pups without their father, but after leaving Spirit Mountain, I started to contemplate even going back to Northern Sun.

I knew what was about to happen, and I knew that Asteria would tell them everything, and she did.

Now, here I am, sitting in a bunker with my sisters who both have reason to hate me. I know I need to talk to them, but fear is taking over. I go and sit next to Riley who is feeding my nephew, and I ask if she needs help with Willow. She nodded her head and thanked me for the offering, and I picked up my niece and Riley handed me her bottle.

As I fed Willow, I slightly rocked her back and forth. I hummed a song that I had remembered my mom humming to us when we were little, and mom's ears perked up. "I remember that," she said. "I used to hum it to you kids when you were little," she whispered.

I nodded my head and told her that I remembered. "It was my favorite thing when we were small. Especially when we weren't feeling well," I told her. I knew this was the perfect opportunity to apologize to my mom for saying the hurtful things that I said.

"Mom, I..," I started to say. She put her hand on my leg and shook her head. "I know you are. I knew there was more to the story than what we were being told. Yes, I was hurt, but after speaking with Ruby, I understood more. I'm just glad you are here now," she said.

She then pointed to my sisters and said, They are who you need to apologize to. Especially, Asteria. You allowed her to be hurt, even though you were experiencing things with your own mate. She fought Simon and spoke up to Miles about what was happening

to you, and received more punishment from her mate. It breaks my heart that you felt you couldn't do the same."

She was right, I had to fix this. I handed her Willow, and I went and sat on the chair by Asteria.

"Asteria, I just wanted to say I'm so sorry," I said as the tears started to fall. "I couldn't do anything because of Miles, and when I got pregnant, I was even more terrified to stand up to him or Simon. I hated that I couldn't protect you, and every time you were hurt, I felt it," I started.

Alette spoke up and told us both that she could feel our pain as well, and I guess I shouldn't have been surprised.

She said that she hated that neither Asteria nor I felt we could reach out to her for help. "I would've come for you immediately. I would have helped you both through the rejections. Just like I will now. Whether it be by rejection or death, we are going to help you both through this," Alette said.

Just like that, the three of us were back as one unit.

Fighting for each other instead of against each other.

As we sat and talked and cleared the air, I noticed Asteria had gotten extremely quiet. "Sis, are you alright?" I asked.

She adamantly shook her head no, and said the pain was getting intense. She said she could feel Simon's fear, and the pain he was going through. Mom came to where we were and said that the three of us needed to hold hands to help channel the intensity of the pain that Asteria was feeling. "Asteria, honey. I have a feeling it is about to get really bad. More than likely, Maddix has the upper hand and Simon's death is imminent. I'm not going to lie, sweetie, but from what I have heard and understand, the death of a mate hurts worse than rejection," mom explained

Asteria expressed how she didn't care if he died, because he wasn't a kind person. He wasn't who he portrayed himself to be, and that his wolf was not like Simon. "Slade is a kind wolf, and obediently obeys his human vessel.

Maybe death will set Slade free. I know it will set me free," she whispered.

Not long after she made that comment, Asteria let out a shrill scream and grabbed her chest. She slid to the floor and pulled her knees into her chest. "MOM! Oh, my goddess mom! It hurts so badly!" she cried. Mom yelled at Alette and me to hold onto her, making sure our skin touched. We did as we were told, and I wrapped my arms around hers, and Alette grabbed her legs and started to rub them.

The screaming continued until Asteria ended up passing out. Celeste and Lindy helped get Asteria onto a couch, and placed a blanket over her. Alette and I took turns rubbing her bare legs, making sure at least one of us had skin to skin contact at all times.

Mom had started to pace the room, and I knew she was getting restless. She could feel the pain my dads were experiencing, as well as my brothers. "I can't take this anymore!" she exclaimed. She ran to the false panel door, and punched in a code. The door flew open and she ran out.

Out of fear and concern, Alette took off after her. I wanted to chase after them, but in my condition, there was no way I could. Besides, who was going to help Alette?

After a while, I decided to peek my head out of the door to see if I could see anything. I could see outside the doors, and there stood Miles and, surprisingly, George. What was happening? Miles had Alette by her hair, and George had a knife to mom's throat.

I snuck back inside the bunker and explained what was happening to the others. I asked Riley, Celeste and Lindy to watch over Asteria and I walked back out of the room. At this time, I could see my brothers and family pleading for them to let mom and Alette go. Henry even begged George to think about what he was doing. To where George didn't even acknowledge his brother.

I listened to the exchange of words, and quietly walked out of the library door. Henry made one more attempt to reason with his brother, and Miles took a claw and stabbed Alette in the stomach. All I could think of was my sister's pups, and that he had killed them.

I could feel Ariel, my wolf, coming forward, and she moved us behind Miles. The last thing I remember was her driving my hand through the back of his chest and ripping out his heart. As he fell to the ground next to my sister, my vision finally focused on my brother, Maddix. I couldn't due to the shock of what I had done. I remember calling out to my brother, and the my world went black.

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MADDIX POV

Watching Miles fall to the ground, and Adelina standing behind him with his heart in his hands, I wasn't sure what to do. I wanted to run to her, but there was also the situation where George had my mom.

We grew up with George, and mom was like a second mother to him. I went to yell at one of the warriors to grab George and get my mom, but Henry had beat them to it. He had

approached George, and simply took my mom out of his arms. Something was off, and I think Henry sensed it as much as I did. This was so out of character for George, and there had to be more to the story.

I knew I wouldn't give George any leeway in this situation, but I was willing to hear him out. Only after I made sure my family was alright.

"Maddix," I heard Adelina gasp, and she started to fall to the ground. One of the warriors caught her, and I had him carry her to the hospital. Damian trailed behind us with Alette in his arms, and I could feel the worry exuding from him. He hurried past us, and I told him that she was going to be alright, to keep faith. He just shook his head and kept running.

We had killed all but 25 of Northern Sun's warriors, and those 25 surrendered to Blood Moon. We didn't have quite enough space to facilitate them all, so Jason was going to take the majority. Updated by Jobnib.com

I was able to speak to four of the warriors, and they were lead to believe that we were holding their Luna captive. It was expressed that if they had known the information was false, they might have fought against Miles instead of with him. They respected my sisters, and those I spoke to, would rather follow their rule than the men who had just died any day.

Though they still pledged their loyalties to my sisters, it didn't change the fact that they were still prisoners of war. I couldn't just release them, not without full investigation.

Plus, I wasn't sure what to do with Northern Sun at the moment. Not until I talked to Adelina. Technically, since she took Miles' life, she is now their Alpha.

I was in the hospital waiting room when my dad, Loki, walked in with Asteria in his arms. Liam and mom trailed behind him and both of my dads looked worse for the wear.

I ordered them both to get looked at and they agreed.

With most of my family in the hospital, I knew I had to step out to fill in Buck and River on what happened here today. I took out my phone and walked outside to call them.

River answered immediately, and I fully filled him in on the day's events. At the time, it didn't seem as if a lot of time had passed, but now that it was over, I realized it was very dark outside. I glanced at the time on my phone, and it said it was a little after 11pm, and I wondered if I should wait until tomorrow.

I started to put my phone away, and Damian came up behind me. "I have already talked to Buck, he is going to talk to River and Caleb about what happened," he said as he offered me a cigarette. I took one from the pack, and had to snicker. That was one more thing Damian and I had in common. We never smoked unless we were in a crisis.

Damian said it was better than getting hammered drunk to calm his nerves, and he didn't feel like s**t afterward. I had to agree with that logic.

He went on to explain to me that Alette and the babies would be fine. Miles' claw didn't go deep enough to puncture anything, and in his opinion, he didn't think Miles intended on killing Alette or the pups.

None of us will ever understand what happened to Miles or Simon to make them think that attacking us was a smart idea. They had to have known it wouldn't go well, yet they did it anyway. It's a shame really, because if they had remained the people they portrayed themselves to be, they could have been great leaders.

Damian and I finished our smokes, and went back to the hospital. We were met by Phoenix, who asked if he could speak to us both. We followed him into a room, and he shut the door behind him. "Maddix, it's about George. I think instead of housing him in the cells, he should be put in the security wing of the mental health hospital. I don't think he is in his right mind," he said.

Thad honestly felt the same way, but didn't want to make a decision until I had talked to George myself. Thankfully, my brother beat me to it. The betrayal I was feeling would more than likely cloud my judgment. I agreed with Phoenix and gave the go ahead for them to move George to the psychiatric facility. I knew he would be in good hands, and I would put extra security on the floor he was on.

When we arrived back in the waiting room, mom was standing there waiting for us. All of my sisters were now awake, and Adelina was asking for me. Damian went to be with his mate, and I asked Phoenix to go be with Asteria.

Mom left to be with my dads, and I slowly walked into Addie's room.

"Maddix," she said as she sobbed. "I killed someone. I killed him. I'm sorry," she began to apologize. "Whoa, Addie, never apologize for what you did. I promise you if it were the other way around, he wouldn't apologize at all. You did nothing wrong," I told her. I sat next to her and wrapped my arms around her shoulders. I pulled her into me, and gently rocked her. She continued to sob, and I let her. If comforting my sister was what she needed, then that's what I was going to do.

Addie ended up crying herself to sleep, and I left her to go ask the nurse if I could get an extra bed brought in.

Someone was going to have to be with her and Asteria during their stay, because being alone after experiencing the loss of your mates wasn't ideal.

I linked Riley, and told her that I was going to take the first shift of staying with Addie. She said they were fine, and that it was good I was the first to stay. She told me that she

would relieve me in the morning after she got the kids fed and to the daycare, and I told her she didn't have to.

However, she insisted.

I went to the cafeteria to get some food, and mom was sitting alone at one of the tables drinking a cup of coffee. I noticed she was crying, and I sat with her. "Mom?" | called to her, and she looked up at me with tear-soaked cheeks.

"I'm alright, Mads. Just aftermath tears, that's all," She giggled. I took her hands in mine and told her I understood.

We sat and talked for about half an hour before she said she needed to go back to my dad's room before they came hobbling to find her. I just laughed and shook my head. I could see them searching the halls looking for her, bare butts hanging out the backs of their gowns. My dad's were a hot mess, and my mom was their ringleader.

I grabbed my food, snacks and drinks for the night, and snuck back into Addie's room. "I'm not asleep," she whispered. I placed my food down, and went to check on her. "I'm alright now, Maddix. I need your help with something though," she said.

I told her that I would help her with whatever I could, and hoped that I could fulfill that promise. I told her to ask away, and she then said,

"I want to take over Northern Sun. I want to be their Alpha. I want Asteria to remain Beta, and I want to ask Ginger to come on as my Gamma. Is that possible?" she asked. I didn't see why not, because Riley was a witch and Luna in our pack. I told her I would have to check with Declan and the council about Ginger, but I would help her with fulfilling her wish to be the Alpha.

"Maddix, one more thing. They don't deserve to be sent back to the Northern Sun pack for proper burial. Bury them as traitors!"

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Maddix POV

Addie slept soundly through the night. I was thankful for that because she needed it so desperately. She had gone through something extremely traumatic, and with her being pregnant with multiple pups, it had to have taken a big toll on her.

I wanted to talk to her more about her decision to take over as Northern Sun Alpha. I wanted to make sure she wasn't just doing it out of obligation and that she truly wanted

the title. I wanted her to get some food in her belly, and rest as much as possible before bringing it up.

She was still asleep when Riley came in, and I made sure my mate was quiet as she came in. “Shhh, let her sleep a little longer,” I said. Riley climbed in the extra bed with me, and it felt amazing having her in my arms. “Has she slept soundly?” Riley asked. I nodded my head and told her she had. “Good, she is going to need all the rest she can get.

Maddix? Maybe we can talk her into staying here with us?

She is going to need help with the babies, and I know I would love having her here,” Riley whispered.

I began to tell her what Adelina had said last night, and I heard my sister mumble, I’m awake guys. I’m just still resting my eyes.”

Riley giggled and replied, “Well then, you heard what I asked your brother.” Adelina opened one of her eyes and looked over at us. “Yes, I heard. I take it he hasn’t told you what we talked about last night,” Addie replied. Riley sat up and looked down at me and shook her head.

“I was just about to. However, I wanted to talk to you about your decision before making it public,” I told her. I filled Riley in on the conversation that Addie and I had, and Riley’s face turned to one of worry.

“Just say what’s on your mind, Riley. We are family, and you can say what you feel. I promise not to get upset,” Addie said to my mate.

Riley took a deep breath, and a tear escaped her eye.

“Addie, I know you want what’s best for the Northern Sun pack, and I believe wholeheartedly that you could lead them to become a strong pack. However, right now, do you truly think you are in any condition to run a pack? You have already had complications in your pregnancy, and the stress of running a pack might make things worse for you.

Then you lost your mate, and that alone can do crazy things to your mind and body. I have no question about your ability to run the pack, you would be a badass female Alpha. I just worry about you is all,” Riley explained.

Addie tried to get up off her bed, but remembered she was hindered by monitors. She asked Riley to come sit with her, and I moved a chair close to Adelina’s bed to join the conversation.

“I appreciate your concern, I really do. To be honest, I am concerned as well. However, I think this is my calling. I think the goddess put me in the Northern Sun pack for a reason.

I had never thought about being anything but Luna when I met Miles, and when I left and had Phoenix come get me, I never planned on returning to that pack. When I pulled his heart out, I didn't feel normal pain like you should when you lose your mate. Yes, the pain was there, and it still is, but it's more of an empty feeling than pain. Ariel has told me that my babies, all five of them, are thriving and will be born strong," she began to explain.

Addie hooked her arm in Riley's and finished her explanation, "That is really all I can hope for where they are concerned. When I woke up after blacking out last night, I had some sort of epiphany. The first thing I thought of was my babies, and after realizing that they were fine, my thoughts shifted to the Northern Sun pack, and how they have been given such a shitty deal for so long. Everyone I have met there aside from Miles, Simon and their families, are super kind and hard-working. They only want to be in a pack that is fairly lead, and a good place to live. One where they can raise their families without worrying about the higher ranks hurting them, selling them or worse. I want to be that hope for them. I know I can be. So, big brother, before you try and talk me out of it, save your breath. I'm doing this, and I'm going to need your help," she finished.

After she finished her explanation, I understood more of where she was coming from. I felt bad for doubting her motives and her ability to make the right decision about her life at that time. Adelina had always been the strongest of the three, in both mind and strength, and I should have had more faith in her.

Riley assured her we would be with her every step of the way, and we would enlist as much help as we could to make sure that not only the pack was taken care of, but her needs as well. I told her that we needed to fill our mom and our dads in, as well as the rest of the family. I had to call in the council due to the circumstances, and we would be able to talk to them about Ginger while they were here for our meeting.

Addie said that she had already asked Ginger to come see her, but said Asteria hadn't answered any of her links. I found that odd, so I told her I would go check on her. I left her in the hands of Riley, and made my way to our sister's room.

I knocked lightly, and heard no answer. I cracked the door and poked my head in. "Asteria?" I called out. The room was darkened, and I fully stepped in. I called her name again, and this time I heard a small voice come from the bathroom. "I'm in here, Maddix," she said. "Are you alright?" I asked. I heard her sobbing softly, and I asked if I could come in. I heard her say yes, and I opened the door.

She was sitting on the floor wrapped in a blanket. The light was off, and I asked her why she was hiding in the bathroom. She told me she was afraid, and that Simon came to her in a dream and told her that he would make sure she paid for his death. I pulled her up off the floor and carried her to her bed

"Sis, it was just a dream. He can't come back and hurt you.

Dead is dead, and trust me, he is definitely dead,” I said as I hung my head. Taking a life was never easy, and this time was no different. It was probably harder knowing the pain it caused my little sister. Even though she didn’t want to be with him, that bond doesn’t discriminate when it comes to the pain of losing your fated mate. If he hadn’t marked her, it wouldn’t have been so bad.

I noticed her mark was starting to fade, and I pointed it out to her. She walked over to the mirror to see for herself, and I heard her gasp. “It’s happening really quick,” she said. I smiled at her and said, “It sure is, and that’s a good thing.

Once it’s fully gone, you will start to feel much better. I promise.”

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Asteria POV

2 WEEKS LATER

Maddix was right; things started to feel better and got better once Simon’s mark had faded away. The nightmares stopped, and I barely thought of him anymore.

Adelina had approached me about being her Beta at

Northern Sun. I had to decline. I wasn’t sure when I would be able to return there, and I knew I wouldn’t be able to live there again. She was disappointed, but she also understood. She didn’t want me to do anything that would make me unhappy. She at least got Ginger to be her Gamma, only after Elder Declan of the council approved it.

Addie, herself, knew that she couldn’t return to the pack house the way it was, so she had decided to have some remodeling done. The bedroom her and Miles shared was now a meeting room, and she converted the top floor into an apartment for her and the babies. The renovations will be done next week, and she will be going back there to live.

I had a long talk with Phoenix, and we agreed that I should seek counseling. I am meeting with Peter on Wednesday, and I’m fairly excited about it. Phoenix said if it weren’t a conflict of interest, he would counsel me himself. Even though my brother is easy to talk to, and a great listener, I don’t think that I could be fully transparent with him. Plus, he is leaving next week with Addie. Updated by jobnib.com

Phoenix has agreed to be the next Beta of Northern Sun under the condition that he can still help out at the pack hospital. He doesn’t want to fully give up his career as a doctor and psychologist. He says it’s important to have someone with the kind of knowledge he

holds. We all just kind of laugh when he says that, but all of us also know how valuable of an asset he is.

Maddix went with Adelina last week to check on the status of the renovation, and ended up meeting some warriors who wanted to come to Blood Moon to train. After some careful thought, he agreed and they would be arriving any day. From what I was told, there will also be new warriors from Jason and Damian's packs joining them.

So much is changing, but I guess that is life. It changes all the time. It's how we adapt that makes the difference. That was something Grandma Gretchen had said to me when I was younger, and it stuck with me. Now, it makes more sense than it did back then.

I am on my way to Coffee & Thyme to have lunch with my mom. We were so thankful that Hazel rebuilt after the fire, and opened back up. She still makes the best coffee in town, and my mom's favorite flatbread pizza sounds so good.

Mom and my dads are also leaving with Addie. They want to be there to help her adjust and for when the babies arrive. Anything to lessen her stress load is a good thing.

Mom was already there when I arrived, and I hoped she hadn't ordered yet. "Hey mom, how long have you been waiting?" I asked. She said she hadn't been there long and was getting ready to order. She asked me if the veggie flatbread was good and, of course, I said yes. It's what I had hoped she wanted. She placed our order, and stared at me for a moment.

"Mom? You're freaking me out. Why are you staring?" I asked with a nervous laugh. She just smiled and asked, "Is it a crime to admire my beautiful daughter?" I shook my head and told her no, but still it was weird.

"Honey, can I ask you something very personal?" she asked.

There it was, she wanted a heart-to-heart. I told her she could ask me anything, and she proceeded to ask. "I have spoken to Alette, and with Adelina, and I wanted to ask you as well. Ruby has been very nervous lately. She said that one of my girls is about to receive their full magical abilities. She also said that it won't be gradual but all together, and it could be dangerous for whichever one of you it is. My concern is, if history proves correctly, whichever of you girls receives it, and your wolf will be even more powerful than Ruby and me. It will be a lot to handle.

Have you felt...different lately?" she asked.

"Different how?" I asked. She shook her head and said, "I'm not sure, honestly. I know when we started to receive ours, I felt a vibration and warmth with each power that came to us. My body would literally hum with energy until I had fully received and used whichever power it was. Now, I only vibrate when I use them. Especially the foresight and

deception detector. With healing and instant death, my body gets extremely warm, and it feels like electrical currents filling my body,” she explained.

I shook my head and told her I hadn’t had any of those feelings, but I have been having more moments of overwhelming calm. Especially when I was overwhelmed.

It’s as if my body and mind wouldn’t allow me to overstimulate. She asked me to hold out my hands and laid hers flat on mine.

She jerked her hands away, and gasped. “Asteria, are you sure you haven’t been having any weird sensations other than calm?” she asked with worry in her voice.

Again, I shook my head and told her not that I had noticed. I was starting to get concerned, and I questioned her about why her tone had changed. “Asteria, when I was pregnant with you girls, your great-grandmother told me that one of you would be one of the most powerful Fae/Witch hybrids to exist. If you added the werewolf element to it, it would make you unstoppable. I kept that information to myself, because I knew it would bring dangers to whichever one of you possessed that power. I honestly didn’t think it would come to fruition, not until Ruby started to worry recently,” she explained.

Our food came, and she changed the topic of discussion while we ate. I couldn’t help but replay what she said in my head, and it suddenly hit me. Gran had also told me what she told mom. She had also said to me on many occasions that there would come a time when I would need to spend a great deal of time at Ruby Meadows working with Luke and aunt Marion.

She never explained why, but I wonder if it was because of this revelation. “Mom, do you remember when Gran used to say that I would need to spend time at Ruby Meadows with Luke and Marion?” I asked.

She stopped mid-chew and nodded her head. “She used to say that, didn’t she?” she asked. “Asteria, after we eat, let’s go pay a visit to Marion. She is still here staying with Ginger until she leaves for Northern Sun,” she said. I agreed and we quietly finished our lunch.

Mom waved at Hazel as we exited the bistro, and she held my hand as we walked. I could feel her distress through the energy in her hands, and I whispered, “Calm down mom. It will be alright.”

She stopped in her tracks and looked me in the eyes. “How did you know I was distressed? I had it masked. It’s something I always do so that your fathers aren’t worrywarts,” she asked.

“I can feel it through the energy in your hands” I said. Her face lit up, and we started to walk faster. We walked so fast that I think we made it to the old mill where the witch camp still resided when they were at Blood Moon visiting.

No sooner as mom got through the door, she yelled for my aunt. “Marion! I think it’s time! I’m almost 10000% sure it’s Asteria!”

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Melian POV

ONE WEEK LATER

I had always hoped that grandmother would be around when the chosen one of the triplets would gain her powers.

I barely understand my own still, and here I am having to be the one to help my daughter through receiving hers.

Thankfully, I still have Marion and Luke to help me.

Last week at lunch, when I realized it was Asteria, I took her straight to Marion and Ginger.

I probably looked like a mad woman when I entered the Old Mill, but to be honest, that’s how I felt. I knew this was going to be life-changing for my daughter, and it brought out a little fear in me that I had been harboring for a while.

Not even my mates know the extent of my fear of my daughters receiving their powers.

When my girls were born, my grandmother Gretchen spent a lot of time with me. She said she felt a strong presence of Fae Magic surrounding my girls, and she was sure it was coming from Asteria. She always said Adelina held a strong wolf, and Alette would be a good combination of the Wolf and the Fae world. It seemed as if she was right.

Since that day, we have visited Marion daily. During all of our talks, Marion holds Asteria’s hand to see if she can sense anything coming forward. For the first 3 days, she only felt extreme warmth and each day since, a slight electrical current. She said it felt like pins and needles poking her from Asteria’s hand

“Mel, she is strong like mom said she would be. I think you are right though. I think it would be best if she came to Ruby Meadows with Luke and me. I know you want to be with Addie right now, but I think that maybe on the weekends it would be wise if you came to Ruby Meadows as well. You haven’t truly learned your own potential either,”

Marion stated.

agreed with her. I have been putting it off for a reason.

You would think that after all I had been through as a child and teenager that nothing would scare me. This scares me.

Being able to yield a power that could, if not used correctly, could not only kill someone, but yourself, is a scary thing.

What if I f****d up? What if things went awry and someone else got hurt because of me? I don't know if I could live with myself if that happened.

"I will do that, Marion. It's time I got past my own fear of my own powers. I think learning together with Asteria will be useful, plus it gives her and I another reason to bond more," I told her.

It is no secret that I have had a hard time over the years bonding with my daughters. It's not that I don't love them more than anything, but I have always been afraid of getting too close. Liam says that he thinks it's a slight resentment that they got to grow up as normal little girls, where I didn't.

Loki thinks that it's a solid fear of getting too close to anyone other than my mates. That doesn't make sense though, because I have a very strong bond with all the boys.

I think they are both wrong. No, I know they are both wrong.

I know why. I feel inferior to my girls. I'm afraid of how they view me because of my past, when, in reality, they don't even care about it. All my children know my story. I wanted to make sure of it. I wanted to make sure they heard it from me, and not someone in the pack. Especially in school.

When they teach pack history in schools now, the story of the tribrid Luna and the demon alpha is now in the curriculum.

It's not that I am ashamed, because I'm not. What happened to me wasn't my fault. What happened to my mother wasn't my fault. Even though they all deserved their sentences, what happened to my father and brothers, including Maddix, Riley and Regina's parents, that was all me. I could have pleaded to save their lives and kept them jailed, but why? They did unspeakable and unfathomable things to me, and deserved everything they got. Maddix agrees with me.

Asteria and I ended our visit with Marion and Ginger so that I could get my things together. I have asked Asteria to ride along with us, but she refuses. She isn't ready to return there just yet. She did, however, ask me to grab a few of the things she needed from her room. I agreed to get them, and she wrapped her arm around my waist as we walked

“Mom?” she called to me. I looked over at her, and she said,

“I’m OK. I want you to know that. I’m OK with Simon being dead, and I’m OK with all of this power stuff. In a small way, I’m excited about this adventure. As far as moving to Ruby Meadows, I’m alright with that too. I have always loved it there, and if I’m being truthful, I feel more at home there than I have ever felt anywhere.”

That revelation sent a little shock to my soul. “Really?” | asked. She nodded her head, and her face almost had a guilty look on it. “Sweetie, that is great. There is no reason to feel badly for feeling that way. Just because the former pack that stood there holds incredibly bad memories for me, doesn’t mean that the new place does. Ruby Meadows is special to me too. If it didn’t, we would have sold the land and bought something else for Gran and the family to live on,” I assured her.

“Thanks mom. I’m really looking forward to doing all of this with you,” she said. I pulled her close and kissed her temple.

“Me, too, baby, me too,” I told her, and I meant it.

Once we got back to the pack house, we were greeted by my mates. Loki put his arm around me and Liam held his daughter’s hand as we walked to the dining hall to join our family.

While eating dinner, I noticed my daughter-in-law, Riley, picking at her food. I took her hand in mine, and she looked at me teary-eyed. “What’s wrong, sweetheart?” I asked her.

She sat her fork down and turned to face me. “I’m just going to miss everyone. When you are here, it’s like a taste of home here with me. I’ll be honest with you: I’m completely jealous of you all spending so much time at Ruby Meadows. I’m terribly homesick, and I don’t know how to deal with it,” she said.

That got Maddix’s attention, and he joined our conversation. “Baby, I have no problem with you going to Ruby Meadows whenever you want. Sure, I will miss you, but I would never keep you from visiting,” he said. She knew he was right, but I felt like there was more that she wanted.

“Yes, please come on the weekends when I am there. I would love that so much,” I told her. She just gave a small smile and said she would be there. I know it wasn’t exactly what she wanted, but it was a start to help her feel better. I know what it is to feel homesick, and to know that you are expected to live somewhere you aren’t comfortable with.

After that brief conversation with Riley, I sent a link to my son. “Maddix, she is depressed and homesick. It’s more than likely postpartum and will pass. However, keep an eye on her. It may not be, and it’s not fair to make her be somewhere where she is miserable,” I told him.

What he said shook me to my core. I never expected my son to be so selfish, and for a brief second, I heard Eric's voice in place of his. I knew he didn't mean it the way it came out, but I couldn't help the way I felt.

"Mom, I understand your concern. However, she is my mate and Luna. She took an oath to not only me but to this pack.

She is going to have to live with it, or reject me. I can't always cater to everyone's needs like that, and I can't abandon our pack to move to Ruby Meadows."

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter

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Riley POV

I can't say that I'm not jealous of Asteria, because I am. I haven't told Maddix, but the thought of visiting Ruby Meadows more has been on my mind. Since Gretchen left, I have felt a strong pull to go back to the place I called home before moving to Blood Moon.

Don't get me wrong, I love living here. However, it doesn't feel like home most of the time. Not unless some of the people from Ruby Meadows are visiting. That doesn't happen very often unless it's winter. That's when the men from Ruby Meadows come and hunt for game like elk or deer. They bring their families and stay at the Old Mill, and that's usually when I get a lot of quality time with the people I love at Ruby Meadows.

With everything that has happened since taking over as Alpha and Luna, I haven't asked to go to my former home. I felt like it was selfish to ask when I was needed here.

Being Luna isn't easy for me. I know that most of the men in the pack look down on me because I don't have a wolf. I asked Maddix about turning me, but he said it was too dangerous at the time. I was freshly pregnant with Sterling, and he said it could've killed him. However, I'm not pregnant anymore, and I still want it. I want to be his full equal. Not just his equal in title.

Mother Mel called me out during dinner, and I had to confess how I was feeling. She would know if I lied, so there was no point in trying. She told me that I should join her and Asteria on the weekends, and I knew that I could as long as Maddix wasn't away from the pack, so I agreed. It would do me and the kids good to be in a different environment sometimes. I just hoped my mate didn't fight me about it.

Since the attack and challenge, he has been...different. He is moody, and slightly short with everyone. He was really upset when Damian and Alette went back home, and when the contractors told Addie that they were finished, and she could move, it got worse.

Phoenix tried to explain that it was just Maddix's way of worrying. He has always been overprotective of his sisters, and being away from him hasn't been easy. Especially, with all the events that have happened to them. Phoenix said that Maddix feels guilty because he wasn't there to protect them. There was no way for him to know what would happen, and it wasn't his fault. However, he has to come to the realization himself.

He hasn't spoken to me since dinner, and honestly, I'm alright with it. What he said shocked and upset me. I am not his possession, and the way he spoke to his mother was uncalled-for. Yes, I took an oath. I vowed to be faithful, loving and loyal to him and this pack. I meant every single word. However, I can't help needing a sense of familiarity and home sometimes.

For him to even suggest that I reject him is what hurts the most. I have gone above and beyond to prove my love for him. I adore him, and want to be with him. I went without him when he was gone searching for Alette, while I was pregnant. I spent many days alone because he was seriously busy with pack business. I have put my life in danger for him and his family on more than one occasion, and I would do it again. When does the table turn? When is it my turn to be a priority for my own mate?

After he spoke up at dinner, I abruptly left. I left the babies for him to tend to, and I took off running towards the lake. I needed to think, and being around him wasn't good for either of us right then.

I ran as hard as I could, and fell to my knees sobbing. I begged the goddess' for answers, to which none came.

This was something I had to figure out on my own, and I hoped I would make the right decisions.

I lay on the grass next to the lake and watched the clouds move through the sky. I found myself having a conversation with Gretchen, but knew she wouldn't reply. I missed her so much. I truly believe that Maddix wouldn't be acting this way if she was still with us. She would have knocked some sense into him.

The sun had set as I started back towards the pack house.

It smelled like rain, so I picked up speed. I heard a twig snap behind me, and when I turned I saw Henry. "Henry!

You scared me," I exclaimed. He quickly apologized and said he had yelled at me. I must have been too deep in thought to hear him. "Maddix sent me to find you. He wants to speak to you in his office. He said he linked you, but it went ignored," he said.

I s*it. I must have put up a block without realizing it.

I told Henry that I would go straight there, and he walked with me. “Riley, Luna, don’t take it personally with the things he says right now. With everything that has happened, he hasn’t processed any of it. He pushes everything that bothers him emotionally into the back of his mind, and thinks it will go away. It won’t. He just needs to realize that on his own time,” he said.

I just nodded my head and continued to walk towards my mates office. Henry left me at the front door, and I walked up the stairs. The weird energy in the pack house was almost smothering. I knocked gently on the door, and Maddix called for me to come in. I opened the door and as I walked in, I noticed that Elder Declan was sitting in one of the chairs. What was going on?

“Come in, babe. Have a seat. Elder Declan wants to speak to us both about something. He said he couldn’t tell me what it was until you were present,” he said. His tone was almost cold.

“Yes, Yes. Please, come sit, Luna. This is more for you than it is Maddix,” Elder Declan said.

I took my seat next to him, and asked what the council could have for me that would be so important.

“Luna, Alpha, I have some news from the King that could be detrimental to the Luna remaining the Luna. It will also affect Ginger, being Adelina’s Beta, but I will deal with Adelina in that situation. As you know, Prince Jakob has been sworn in as the new king upon his father’s passing.

Our new king and his mate are not as understanding as his father and mother. They are about to instill a new law stating that no other species of supernatural may be of higher rank in a pack without possessing a wolf also. I felt it was important to let you know as soon as possible, considering the Luna is a Fae/Witch hybrid without a wolf,” he explained.

I could see the anger coming over Maddix. Before he had the chance to react, I spoke up. “Then change me. Give me a wolf. I want this. I have always wanted this, but it was always the wrong time when it was brought up. I love my mate and this pack, and want to do whatever it takes to keep both. If giving me a wolf is one of those stipulations, then so be it,” I said.

“NO!” Maddix yelled. “My mate is already sworn in with the Luna Oath. I would NOT put her through that pain, and risk losing her. I can’t,” he bellowed as tears streamed down his eyes.

There it was, he was afraid of losing me. Whether to Ruby Meadows, or to possible death if he gave me too much of his venom to turn me. Losing me was not an option for him, and I finally understood his torment.

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter 95

Maddix POV

I know my mood lately has been s*it. I can't control it though, and if I can't figure it out, I will lose everything I love most.

I know what the problems causing the mood swings are, and Henry likes to point it out all the time. However, it's not Henry's choice of how to deal with everything. It's mine.

I have felt like a failure in so many ways over the past months, and it's eating away at me. I failed in saving Alette in time before that fat piece of s*it did horrible things to her. I have failed as a mate and father by not being present enough. I have failed as an Alpha by allowing us to be attacked. I failed as a grandson to my gran by not listening to her advice. I feel like an all around failure, and it's pissing me off. I don't know how to change my way of thinking.

If I continue to think like this, I will continue to fail in my eyes. I had to change it, and what I had said out loud at dinner was not the best way to change things. Riley had every right to storm off, and I deserved the ass-chewing! got from my mom and dads.

My mother said something to me that really opened my eyes, and even though I wanted to be, I couldn't be angry at her for it. After I said what I said, she got into my face and said, "I worked hard to raise you to not be like Eric. I will be damned if you start to act like him now! I will NEVER allow it."

When she finished what she had to say, she too stormed off away from me. Loki stopped before following her and told me that I needed to fix things. I nodded my head, but couldn't look him in the eye. Ashamed of myself, I retired to my office, leaving my children to be cared for by my family.

Sitting at my desk, my mother's words kept swirling through my head. I took the bottle of whiskey out of my desk drawer and removed the cap. Pouring the warm liquid down my throat, I couldn't contain my anger any longer. I hurled the bottle across the room, watching it smash against the wall. "f*ck!" | screamed.

Henry burst through the door, and instantly took in the sight before him. "Maddix? What the hell, man?" he questioned. I only shook my head and asked him to sit with me. Henry was a smart man, and I valued his advice as much as I did my brother Pheonix or my gran.

"Henry? Can I get your honest opinion? Not as my friend, not as family, but as my Beta/Gamma?" I asked. He told me he would answer me honestly, even if it was a hard truth. I knew he meant it, so I asked what I needed to know.

“Am I a good Alpha?” I asked.

He sat back in the chair and crossed his legs. He raked his hands over his face and said, “Maddix, because I love you like a brother, I am going to be as delicately honest as I can be. Are you a good Alpha? Yes, you are. However, you have the potential to be a phenomenal Alpha. The only thing stopping you is you. You doubt yourself too much, and that isn’t a good thing. When you doubt yourself, you make stupid choices. Just like what you said at dinner. I know you didn’t mean it the way it came out, but I have also known you since you were like 2 years old. Riley, she doesn’t fully understand how your mind works. She is still learning,” he started to explain.

“Look, bro, if it were me, I would make things right with my mate before anyone else. Your mom, she will get over it.

She was angry, and saw something, someone, in your demeanor that brought back harsh memories for her. After you make things right with Riley, then approach your mom.

It will give her time to cool off, and we all know what an angry Mel looks like,” he laughed.

He was right. It was time to lay my chips on the table with my mate, and maybe with her help I could work through the feelings I was having about myself. Henry and I continued our conversation, and he gave me some more advice that I would definitely consider. I received a link from Asteria informing me that Elder Declan was here. I asked her to send him up, and when he arrived, he looked stressed out.

“Elder Declan, it’s good to see you,” I said as I stood to shake his hand. He took my hand in his and gave it a hearty shake. “I hope you feel this way after I relay the information I am about to tell you,” he said. He then asked if I could call my mate to the office, that it pertained mostly

to her, and I tried to link her. I was met with a block, and I then asked Henry if he could find her. He said he would, and left to find my mate.

We made small talk, but Declan was mostly silent.

Whatever he had to say to the two of us was serious, and it was bothering him greatly.

Riley finally arrived, and I asked her to have a seat next to Declan. I could see the worry on her face, and I could tell she was still upset with me. Once she had sat down, Declan went on to explain the reason for his visit. He reminded me that there was a new king, and I’m glad he did, because I had forgotten. I was supposed to be at the coronation, but it was during the time Alette was missing.

What he said next sent a rage through me like I had never experienced before. He basically said, that in order for Riley to remain my Luna, I had to turn her to and give her

a wolf. I had been avoiding this whole situation with my mate all together already. I was afraid to do this for her. Just a drop of too much of my venom would kill her, not enough, it would make her terribly ill until the venom was out of her body, and she wouldn't get a wolf. It was too dangerous and unpredictable.

I protested, but Riley, she was all for me changing her. I knew she would be. She was willing to risk everything to be able to stay with me. I instantly felt guilty for denying her.

Guilty for not listening to what she wanted and needed.

That instant feeling of failure as a mate started looming again.

I felt the tears running down my face before I realized I was crying. Crying in front of an elder. I bet that gave him a great impression.

“Alpha, I understand your concern. I do, but unfortunately, once this law is put into effect, there will be no choice.

Anyone going against it will be stripped of their title and their pack. Packs will be disbanded. In this case, it wouldn't only affect Blood Moon. It would affect Ruby Meadow's as well, since it is owned by your family and considered part of the Blood Moon pack,” he explained

He was right. Disobeying a royal law was considered a treasonous act against the monarchy. f*ck! I immediately turned to Riley and asked her the hardest question I had ever asked her.

“Baby, do you understand the risks? If I don't give you enough, you will only get very sick until the venom wears off, and we can't try again until the following full moon. If I give you too much, I WILL kill you. I'm terrified of either outcome,” | stated.

She came around my desk, and sat on my lap. She cupped my face and looked me deep in the eyes and said, “Dakota will help guide you, as will I. You just have to listen without fear. We can do this together, Maddix. Together we will do this.”

I finally agreed against my better judgment, but I knew she was set on it. I couldn't lose her, and if this is what it took to ensure that she wouldn't be forced away from me by some law, then that is what we would do.

“Declan, the next full moon is in a week. Let the king know that my mate will be changed and given a wolf.”

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter 96

Alette POV

Man, can't anything just be easy going with my family? I just got off the phone with my sister-in-law Riley, and she told me about what Elder Declan threw at them last night. I guess one positive that comes from it is that she will finally get her way about being turned.

Then there is the issue with my sister Asteria. Always thought she would be the one to receive the plethora of powers. I was always the one who hoped it wasn't me. I knew it wouldn't be Adelina. Her wolf was and is way too strong. Mom and Gran never really sensed much magic in her, and with me, the magic is there, but nothing prominent.

I just hope she is mentally strong enough to handle what she is about to receive.

Adelina, Ginger, Phoenix and the rest of my family are moving back to Northern Sun today. I know Maddix is sad they are going, but they have to get on with their lives. Riley told me about the situation with Ginger also, and hopefully they can work around it with her somehow. I know Ginger is super excited about her new role, and I would hate to see that taken from her.

Addie has decided to rename the pack, but she hasn't fully told anyone what she has decided. She will announce it at her swearing in ceremony as Alpha, and I can't wait to hear what she chose.

When we returned from Blood Moon, Buck was at the pack house to meet us. He looked exhausted, and maybe a little stressed, but overall he looked happy. "It looks like fatherhood suits you big guy," I laughed. He nodded his head and said Micah and Aisling were doing amazingly, and he loved being a dad.

River and Caleb soon joined us with two little ones following behind. It was the two children that were found in the woods the day of my Luna ceremony. They were all cleaned up, and the little girl seemed to be smitten with my little brother. "River, seems they have taken a liking to you.

At least the little girl," I commented.

"Her name is Abigail. She is 4 and her brother is Adam, who is 5. We haven't been able to get him to speak though.

Abigail here, speaks up a storm, however. It may be broken, but for the most part we understand what she says," he explained.

I sat on my knees in the middle of the foyer, and tried to talk to them. "Hi Abigail and Adam. My name is Alette, but you can call me Lette. I'm the Luna here at Spirit Mountain.

It's so nice to meet you," I said softly.

Abigail hid behind River, but Adam walked over to me and stuck out his hand. "It's fine to meet you too, Miss Luna" he said. The jaws of Caleb and River hit the floor when the little boy spoke to me so freely.

As I was having a conversation with Adam, Abigail came from behind River, and sat beside me. She put her little hand on mine, and leaned her head on my arm. My heart melted, and Damian couldn't help but smile at us.

"You have a gift for kids, babe," he said. I just nodded and carried on with talking to Adam. I learned that they were born rogue, and that the father killed their mother in hopes of being able to use the kids as a bargaining tool to get accepted in a pack. Adam said that once he killed their mother, another wolf had come and chased their father off, but the wolf never came back. Neither did their father.

I learned that Adam was very smart. Probably smarter than a 5-year-old should be. Abigail was smart, but her speech was slightly staggered and not clear. River was correct though, when he said that you could still figure out what she was saying.

"Lette, we were taking the kids to the dining hall for lunch, do you and Damian want to join us?" Caleb asked. I shook my head and told him we had eaten on the way home. I just wanted to go up to our room and take a nice, hot shower.

River and Caleb left with the kids, but not before telling Damian that they would like to meet with him after they got the kids fed. Damian agreed and told Caleb to link him when they were ready. He then took my hand and led me to our room.

As I went into our closet and grabbed some clean clothes, Damian started my shower. I laid the clothes on our bed, and moved my way into the bathroom. I wrapped my arms around my mate, and just held him. I thanked the goddess right then for giving me such an amazing mate.

"What are you thinking, my love?" he asked. I told him what I had just done, and he started to blush. "I'm not that amazing, babe," he said. "I just do my best." I kissed his chest and told him his best was perfect, and he bent over and captured my lips.

He deepened the kiss and I could feel sparks forming between my legs. "I can smell you, babe." he growled. I bit my bottom lip and whispered, "Good, what are you going to do about it?"

He let out another low growl, and proceeded to lift me by my ass and sit me on the sink counter. He slowly moved from kissing my lips to kissing down my face, to my jaw, to my neck and finally stopping at my breasts. He took one of my n*pples into his mouth, nipping at it with his teeth. I let out a small moan, and he nipped it again.

He moved his hand between my legs and inserted his fingers inside me as he still suckled my n*pple. He started to move his fingers in and out of my wet box, and it felt amazing. I

moaned in approval, and he spread my legs further apart. “My goddess babe, you smell delicious,” he said as he finally tasted my juices.

“YES! Oh f*ck yes, Damian,” I moaned. The way his tongue danced around my bud felt heavenly, and nearly brought me to an immediate climax. I held back because I didn’t want him to stop. I held onto his hair and pulled his head closer to my p*ssy. I wanted to feel him eat me like he was starved to death.

He took his teeth and slightly bit my bud as his fingers were still pumping me feverishly. When he did that, I couldn’t hold back any longer. “f*ck! Damian! I’m going to cum!” I moaned. “Yes, baby, cum all over my face,” he demanded.

When I released my orgasm, he kept his tongue on my clit, making sure I went hard all over his face. My whole body shook with the intensity of the orgasm, and after he had lapped up every drop of my juices, he stood up and slid his hard c*ck inside of me.

“f*ck, Lette you feel so amazing. This p*ssy was made for me!” he moaned. All I could do was moan in response and beg him to f*ck me harder. I wanted him deep and hard within me. I could feel his c*ck swelling inside me telling me he was about to come, and I wrapped my legs around him. “Holy f*ck little mate,” he said as he captured my n*pple between his teeth again. His movements became hard and fast, and I was so close.

“I’m close Damian, harder, please,” I begged. He took his thumb and started to massage my sensitive bud as he f*cked me relentlessly. “Yes! I’m coming babe! f*ck!” | moaned loudly as I went all over his hardness. I could feel him release inside me, and he then slumped over with his head on my chest.

“I needed that baby, my goddess, did I ever need that,” he said. I kissed his lips and told him so did I. I then slid off the counter and pulled him into the shower with me. It was good to be home.

Alpha Maddix: A Brother’s Promise Chapter

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Damian POV

After our shower, Alette and I both had things to deal with.

As much as I would have loved to have stayed in bed with her the rest of the evening, I had promised to meet with River and Caleb. I would have put it off until tomorrow if they hadn’t stressed that it was important, and I didn’t want to keep them waiting.

agreed to meet them in their suite instead of my office since they have been taking care of Adam and Abigail. It was close to bedtime, and I didn’t want to disrupt any schedules that

had been put into place. I knocked on their door, and a sweet little angel-faced girl answered. “Good evening, Abigail. Is Caleb or River available?” I asked her.

She just smiled and opened the door for me to come in.

Caleb ran towards the door and apologized to me for her greeting me instead of one of them. I laughed at his nervousness, but understood how he felt it looked. I told him it was fine, and that he didn’t need to be nervous with me. I was still his friend first and foremost.

He started to relax, and River came in to greet me. He had finished tucking in Adam, and Caleb was still struggling with Abigail. I decided to lend a hand, and stooped down to speak to the little girl. “You know, Abigail, your old Alpha here really needs to speak to Caleb and River. Plus, it’s way past your bedtime. How about you being a good girl, and let Caleb tuck you in?” I asked. I flashed her a sweet smile, and she promised she would be good

She hugged my neck, and ran off with Caleb trailing behind her. River invited me into their living room area, and told me I could sit wherever I wanted to. I chose to sit in Caleb’s recliner, just because I wanted to see him sweat a little more out of amusement. There was another knock on the door, and River excused himself to answer it.

When he returned, he had Buck in tow. “Fancy meeting you here big guy,” I chuckled. He plopped down on my lap and wrapped his arms around my neck. “It must be pretty important if they are summoning us both, handsome.” he joked. After climbing off my lap, he sat in River’s recliner beside me.

River nervously sat on the sofa, and stared at his hands.

When Caleb finally decided to join us, he wasn’t expecting to see both Buck and me claiming their prized chairs. “Oh, uh, OK. You’re both here now. Good,” he said nervously. He looked at River, and his mate took his hand. “Damian, Buck, we brought you both here tonight because we have made a huge and important decision in our lives. Um, Caleb and I have been caring for Adam and Abigail since they were found, and seeing that their mother has passed away, and their father has abandoned them, we would like to adopt them. That is, if you both approve the adoption, River explained.

Personally, I was all for it. If they were up to the task of fatherhood, who was I to stop them? However, Buck looked a little more cautious than I did. “Are you sure you are BOTH ready for something like fatherhood?” Buck asked.

“Caleb, you are slightly older than River, and River, you are barely an adult yourself. Do you truly believe you are ready to care for not one but two small children?” He asked again.

I saw River’s demeanor change, and he glared at Buck.

“Buck, listen, I completely get what you are saying.

However, your concerns are valid, and I assure you I have thought this through. Caleb and I have grown attached to both of them. They have become attached to us as well.

We really want this, or we wouldn't have come to both of you for approval,” River stated.

Buck's jaw dropped and he glanced over at me. I shook my head at my Beta and said, “Well then, seems that you both have thought this through, and if the kids want to be with you, I approve. So does Buck. Right?” I asked. Buck just nodded his head and said that he approved as well. He was just making sure the young men knew what they were getting into.

“I understand we will be scrutinized, and the kids may or may not be teased for having two dads. We wanted to be parents at some point in our lives, and this just feels right.

We appreciate the concern, and we love you both for it.

Thank you for approving this, and we want you both to be godparents,” Caleb explained.

Buck left the recliner and walked over to Caleb. He pulled his cousin up and gave him a bear hug. “Welcome to parenthood punk! You are going to be a great dad!” he exclaimed. I joined in on the love fest and hugged my brother-in-law. “I'm an uncle and a goddad. How cool is that?” I asked.

We all had a shot of bourbon to celebrate, and for the next hour went over all the details of the adoption.

Unfortunately, even though their father had technically abandoned them, we still had to run an ad in the local newspaper for 30 days. Even if he saw the ad and tried to claim him, it would have to go through court. In our world, that meant being in front of the Royal Council.

Declan, the head elder, was close to River's family and that would fare well for him. However, even if they weren't close, it would more than likely still rule in River and Caleb's favor.

Wolves are very protective of children, and their father abandoning them in the woods with their dead mother was as bad as committing treason. Even if they were considered rogues.

Buck said he would place the ad in the newspaper of the closest town to us in the morning, and until the 30 days were up, Caleb and River were to document everything. No matter if it was something as little as purchasing a chocolate bar from the local store. All receipts were to be kept, and eventually, we would have to interview the children on

video to hear their side of what happened to them. It sucked to have to be this way, but to ensure them being able to keep the kids, it was necessary protocol.

I bid them all farewell, and went to my office. I had a deadline on a few contracts that I needed to go over, and I also needed to deal with a nasty situation regarding my father's businesses. I had given one of my father's shipping ventures to my brother Lance, but once he was found to be a traitor and his life was ended, I had to make a decision to put it back in the packs name.

It has been brought to my attention that the people I entrusted to run this particular company are possibly working with someone to traffic young girls again. I have only told Maddix about this situation because I know how my Beta is, and I can't have him going full force after these people without a solid plan. Buck reacts, then deals with the consequences. I can't allow that.

If word gets out, it implicates the pack since the pack owns the company. I need to enlist someone to go in undercover and find out for sure if this is happening.

I sent a text to Maddix to see if he was awake, and thankfully he was. I dialed his number, and he quickly answered. I explained to him my idea, and he agreed that it would be best to find out first before reacting. I asked if he knew of anyone we could completely trust, and he said he had the perfect person in mind. The man was a rogue, but was working to be accepted into Blood Moon. He wasn't a rogue by choice but by circumstance, and had been living with the witches in Ruby Meadows.

His name was Donavon, and he was a large burly man.

Maddix swore I had met him once or twice at Ruby Meadows, but even with the picture, I couldn't place him. He would fit in perfectly on the docks.

Maddix and I made arrangements to meet at Ruby Meadows on Friday to speak with Donavon. If all goes well, this will be figured out quickly, and the company back in order. Once it is, I believe I will give it to Caleb and River as secondary income to help with the kids.

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter 98

Maddix POV

Riley and I decided that we would do the turning ritual at Ruby Meadows. It was a place that held a special meaning for her, and where she felt most comfortable. I still held a feeling of reluctance about wanting to do this, but if it was necessary and what she wanted, then I would do it.

I wasn't sure how much would change in our world with the new king and his prejudices, but I knew that I wanted to avoid being on his radar at all costs. He is already changing so many things that his father would never have allowed, and I'm not going to lie, it instilled a fear in me that I had never felt before.

First he made it to where no non-wolf higher ranks, and then, from what I heard, it was made to where an Omega could no longer live in the castle. They were assigned to run down shacks on the edge of the royal pack border. A lot of the Omega men abandoned the royal pack, and decided to become rogues. For which the king had them hunted and killed. I felt we were in the age of a tyrant and not a true king.

I was finally sitting down to relax and watch the game when my phone went off. I noticed it was a text from Damian, and instead of texting I told him he could call if he wanted. It wasn't seconds later that my phone rang.

"Hey Maddix, sorry to bother you so late, but I need help," he said. He explained the situation at one of his docks, and asked if I knew of anyone. I had someone in mind, and it would be a good way for him to prove his loyalty to me, the pack and our allies.

"I do know of someone, and he would blend in pretty well with the others. He's a large guy with a long, scruffy beard.

You would mistake him for a logger if you didn't know better. His name is Donavon Cole. I believe you met him a few times at Ruby Meadows when you went with me," I told him. I sent him a picture that I had on my phone, and he replied that he couldn't recall if he had or not.

"Donavon was made a rogue against his wishes. The Alpha of his old pack died by poisoning. It couldn't be determined who actually did it, so they pinned it on Donavon. The head warrior of his former pack vouched for him, and eventually got Declan to realize that Donavon couldn't have done what he was accused of. So the Luna widow agreed to just banish him instead of allowing the council to kill him.

Declan asked if he could sleep somewhere in Ruby Meadows territory, and my dad's allowed it. He's been living there ever since. Hasn't even remotely been a problem, and everyone there adores him. Loki thinks I need to test his complete loyalty before making him a full resident of Blood Moon, so this would serve a double purpose," I explained.

Damian agreed to allow Donavon to take on the task, and promised to pay him for the job as well. I thanked him, and asked if he and Alette could meet us at Ruby Meadows on Friday. He said they would be there, and that Alette would be excited about going. No matter where we are in life, Ruby Meadows holds a special place for us kids. It's just going to be different without gran there.

When we hung up the phone, I sent a text to Donavon.

Me: Hey, D. Riley and I will be at Ruby Meadows on Friday afternoon. Could we meet up? I have a proposition for you.

My brother-in-law, Damian, will be with me.

I clicked send, and honestly didn't expect to hear back from him so quickly.

Donavon: Sure thing. I'm not in trouble, am I? lol

Me: No way, man. It's a solid offer for you. I will let Damian fill you in more. See you then.

Donavon: That's good. I look forward to it.

After our short conversation, I plugged my phone in to charge and put it on silent. Riley and the babies were sleeping, and I wanted to finish watching the game before I went to bed.

As much as I tried to enjoy the game, my mind kept wandering to Riley's wolf ritual. I have heard so many negative things that I think I was letting it get to me. I kept trying to tell myself that other people's experiences can't be compared to our own. It was then that I was thankful to now have Dakota.

As much as I loved Franz, and I missed him terribly, sometimes, he was impulsive and didn't always listen.

Dakota was more patient and treated me as if we were a team and not two separate entities. I prayed that when Sterling got older and Franz came forward, that the wolf would treat my son with the respect he should. Sterling would definitely be raised to respect his wolf.

"Dakota?" I called to him. "I'm here," he replied.

"I'm going to need you on the same page with me during this ritual. I can't lose her, I just can't," I plead with him.

"Maddix, we will not lose our mate. The goddess has assured me that she will help me control the frenzy that could cause me to go too far. She has also already introduced me to the wolf she has chosen for our mate.

However, I can't tell you about her yet. It will work out, just as our mate has said, he stated

It brought a little calmness to my worried mind, and I started to think about my mom. I still hadn't approached her to apologize, and she had already left with Adelina and the

others. I knew her and my dads were more than likely in bed, so I messaged Phoenix to check on her.

Me: You awake bro?

Phoenix: Yea, trying to get settled. It feels weird being back here.

Me: I'm sure there's going to be an adjustment. You were so young that I'm surprised you even remember.

Phoenix: Since being back, I've remembered more than I care to. What's up with you? You're up late.

Me: Was watching the game I recorded earlier. Couldn't sleep. This whole thing with Riley has done my head in. I think I've worked it out though. How's mom? Still mad?

Phoenix: You worry too much. You always have. Your worry will cause you to make mistakes. Remember that. Mom, well, she's mom. Overly bossy, and even more hovering. I don't think she was ever mad, Maddix. I think you just triggered her. It had been a long time since she had thought of those people.

He was right. I knew he was. "Those people" were my parents and uncles. Even though they were cruel as hell, it didn't change who they were. I have always tried to make sure not to be like "those people", but they were my DNA. I may be wired and raised differently, but it had to be inevitable that their attitudes would come out in me. Right?

Just another thing I had to think about. Maybe, just maybe, I should talk to Peter as well. My family was going to end up making the kind therapist a very wealthy man.

I decided to go to bed and cuddle my wife. However, when I got to our room, I had to figure out a way to maneuver myself into our bed. Riley was on her side of the bed, and between her side and my side was my sweet baby boy and his slightly older sister. Adopting Willow has never been a regret, just like accepting my mate has never been a regret.

These two beautiful girls have only enhanced my life. I'll be damned if a "King" separates us.