

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter 99

RILEY POV

It's finally Friday, and we are going to Ruby Meadows. The full moon is in two days, and we want to find the perfect spot for the ritual.

Maddix is still nervous, but even though I continue to reassure him that it will be fine, he is still being a worry wart. Hell, his own wolf had told him to stop worrying.

I've just come to understand that it's part of his nature. For so many years, he has felt the weight of the world on his shoulders. He has explained on numerous occasions that the day he found out he would be the next Alpha was the day that he aged 10 years mentally. He said that was also the day that he never felt in the present, but always worried about the future. Whether it was his future or the packs, it never left the back of his mind.

I got up early, and made sure everything was packed. I let the babies and Maddix sleep, and just enjoyed the time in the quiet. I probably ended up over packing, but truth be told, I wasn't sure how long we would be there.

I stood staring at the bags and started checking off my to-do list in my head. Clothes for everyone, check. Extra clothes and diapers for the kids, check. Blankets for the kids, check. Baby food and extra formula, check.

Even with everything checked off, I still felt like I was forgetting something. I started to wander around the room trying to remember what I was forgetting, and then it dawned on me. I was forgetting to pack our electronics.

Chargers for both phones, the iPad and laptops. I quickly gathered the items and called for one of the Omega's to help load them into our SUV.

After the car was loaded, I went back to our room to wake Maddix. I wanted us to have a good breakfast before we left, and if he slept in we would be in a rush and miss breakfast all together.

"Wake up sleepy head. We need to leave shortly, and I want you to be able to get ready and eat without rushing," I told him. He pulled me down next to him, and I let out a squeal.

"Let's just sleep a little longer, and miss breakfast. We can grab a doughnut or something," he said in a deep raspy voice. I'm not going to lie, that voice turned me on, and it wasn't a detail that went unnoticed. "Or, we can not sleep and have some fun, I can smell your arousal babe," he growled.

As much as I wanted to, I was still focused on the schedule I had created in my mind. He started to kiss my neck where he had marked me, I became putty in his hands. I might as well kiss our schedule goodbye.

His hands started to wander down my body, and the sparks that ignited between his hands and my skin left me weak and wanting more. "Maddix," I whispered.

"Tell me what you need, my love," he replied. I tried to speak, but the words wouldn't come out. The only sound I was able to make was a small moan as his fingers went in between my folds to rub my now sensitive bud. "Tell me, baby, I want to hear you say it, he moaned.

"I want you, Maddix. I want you inside me," I finally said. I started to move my hips to the rhythm of his fingers, and I quickly found my climax. It had been so long since we had been intimate, that it didn't take me long. However, me coming so quickly must have excited my mate, because in seconds he was between my legs and lined up at my entrance.

Before he could push inside me, I stopped him. I flipped over onto my knees, and he bent over and bit my ass. "I want you deep inside me, please!" I moaned. His eyes flashed black, and I knew he was fighting Dakota. Me, being on my knees, must have excited his wolf as much as it excited him.

With one hard thrust, my mate was inside me and started to pump in and out with quickness. It felt so amazing, and he had me screaming his name. "f*ck me, Maddix! Harder!" I screamed. He asked me if I wanted him to f*ck my ass, and I begged for it. I wanted it more than anything, and my mate was all too eager to oblige.

He left the bed and retrieved the bottle of lube from the dresser drawer. Squirting it on his hand and fingers, he started to prime my anus. Inserting his fingers to make sure I was good for him to enter without too much pain.

"Are you ready, baby?" he asked. I nodded my head, and he slowly started to insert his hard c*ck into my ass. The sharp pain as he entered quickly dispersed, and I was left with nothing but an amazing sensation. It felt amazing, and I begged for more.

"Babe, your ass is so tight, I'm not going to last long, he moaned as he slowed his movements. He reached around and started to massage my sensitive bud again, causing me to move back and forth. I wanted to feel him move faster inside me, and him fingering me only made my needs worse.

I could feel him swelling inside me, and I knew he was about to release. I begged for him to f*ck me harder, and his thrust became almost brutal. With the pain was so much pleasure, and when he released his seed into my anus, I squirted my juices all over him and our bed.

After we both finished our orgasms, I fell to my stomach on the bed. Maddix rolled over beside me and his hand started to wander between my legs again. “Babe, we don’t have time,” I said. He moaned and gave me a pouty face. “I just want to get you off one more time, please,” he begged. I couldn’t resist that face, and I gave him access to me once again.

This time he buried his face between my legs and ate my p*ssy as if he were starving. I didn’t want him to stop, but I couldn’t hold my orgasm. I came on his face, and he lapped up my juices as I did. Even though I had gotten off that one more time, he didn’t stop.

Maddix finally had his fill after another round, and honestly, I was thankful. Being that overstimulated down there had caused a little rawness, and it was becoming painful.

After lying in our bed talking about our plans for the day, we finally got up and took a quick shower. We were already running more than an hour late, and I knew breakfast was out of the question.

I called the kitchen and asked the chef if they could make me some sandwiches with the leftover bacon, smoked sausages and eggs from breakfast. She asked how many, and I told her to just use what they had left. They wouldn’t go to waste, not with Maddix eating.

I got dressed and told Maddix that I was going to check on the kids and the nanny. She would be coming along so that the kids would have someone to watch over them while we were away performing the ritual. We completely trusted Sarah, and I couldn’t imagine anyone else up for the job.

When I got to the nursery, I was taken aback by someone who was sitting on a rocker holding my daughter. “Hello, Riley, or should I say Luna?” she said. My anxiety must have alerted Maddix because he came running in.

“Hello, Aunt Ursula. I would suggest you put my daughter back in her crib and then tell me why the f*ck you are here!” I spat.

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Maddix POV

If I could wake up to what just happened between Riley and me every day, I would be a lot less stressed out. I love that she knows what she likes and isn’t afraid to ask or demand me for it.

After we finished, we took a shower, and she got out way before me. She said she was going to check on the kids, but it wasn't long before her anxiety was radiating through my body.

I ran out of the shower and just threw on a robe, and honestly, I think it was hers and not mine. I didn't care, I just wanted to get to her. I bolted out of our room and took off down the hallway. When I entered the nursery, my mate was fuming and a strange woman was sitting on one of the rockers, and holding my daughter.

"I don't know who the hell you are lady, but I suggest you do as my mate said," I demanded. She did as I said, but chuckled the whole time. "Wow, niece, you and the oh so hot Alpha are really sensitive, aren't you? I mean no harm," she laughed.

"Riley, who is this crazy b*itch?" I asked. Riley instructed me to sit down, and we both sat on the sofa facing the woman.

"Maddix, this is my aunt Ursula. She was my father's sister.

However, she was banished from Ruby Meadows by Luke and Gretchen. She isn't a very kind person. She is the reason I was orphaned by my parents, and she is the reason my aunt Naomi is the way she is," she explained

Riley's aunt, Naomi, still lives at Ruby Meadows. However, she was mute. She hadn't spoken since Riley was around. Riley has never explained to me what happened, and when she mentions Naomi's condition, she never says the word "mute".

Naomi doesn't stray far from her cottage near

the forest edge at Ruby Meadows, and I am assuming that Ursula is part to blame for that.

"Alpha hottie, would you be a dear and get this old lady a bottle of water, please?" the aunt asked. I scoffed at her and told her that I would do no such thing. She was an unwanted visitor here, and I wasn't about to make her stay comfortable. I wanted answers and then she needed to leave.

She frowned at me, and glared at Riley. "Fine, you want to know why I am here, I will tell you," she spat. "I need a place to stay. I have been kicked out of just about everywhere I have tried to settle. Most might have been my fault, but others were not," she said.

"It doesn't have to be on your pack territory, but I need help getting set up somewhere safe," she continued. Riley burst out laughing and told her she had a lot of nerve to be asking her for anything. "You are a joke, you know that auntie? A complete utter joke! YOU and you alone killed my parents, and took Naomi's voice. You left her for dead.

Fortunately, Marion found her and healed her the best she could. So, technically, the joke is you. I mean, on you," she shouted.

Riley's anger came out loudly, and she wanted to make sure that Ursula understood that she wouldn't get one over on her. Unfortunately, her yelling woke the babies, and as soon as Ursula made one move towards their crib, Riley was on top of her.

I called out in the hall for some help separating the two women, and ordered the guard to take Ursula to the pack border. She was no longer welcomed on Blood Moon's property, and if she tried, she would be met with instant death.

I asked Sarah to keep an eye on the babies, and I carried my sobbing mate back to our room. "I'm sorry I lost control," she wept. I held her close and rubbed her hair. "Don't ever apologize for protecting our children. I don't care who or what you are protecting them from. Never apologize. Do you hear me?" I asked. She nodded her head and left my lap.

She marched into the bathroom and splashed her face with cold water. She brushed her hair and composed herself.

When she came out, she leaned against our bedpost and asked if I was ready to leave. She didn't want to postpone our trip any longer, and she needed to warn Naomi that Ursula was back in the area after all of this time.

I told her I just needed to get dressed, especially since I was still in her mint green bathrobe, and then I would be ready.

She bent over to kiss me, and left me to get dressed.

I went into the closet and threw on a pair of ripped-up jeans and my favorite Aerosmith t-shirt. They have been my favorite band since I was a kid. Loki and I would jam out to them while training, and they were his favorite too. I slipped on my Justin Boots and grabbed my denim jacket. The weather was still relatively warm, but living so close to the coast, we had days when the breeze could carry a chill.

When I walked into the nursery, Riley was feeding Sterling.

She looked a lot calmer than she had been earlier, and I was thankful for it. "What do you need me to do?" I asked.

She pointed to a bottle and diaper sitting on the dresser and asked me to change and feed Willow. This was going to be a new experience.

I picked up my daughter, and carried her to the changing table. Riley already had her diaper, wipes, and clothes ready for me, and started to get my daughter's needs taken care of. I had changed Sterling's diaper before, so I wasn't unaware of how to change one. I had just avoided it with Willow. To me, little girls were delicate, and I was afraid I would hurt her.

Riley sat silently watching me tend to our daughter, snickering occasionally. “What’s so funny?” | asked. She said that it was cute how I was handling Willow like she was a delicate piece of fine china, and that I didn’t have to be so soft with her. “She won’t break by you changing her, Maddix. I promise you,” she laughed.

I waved her off, and eventually my sweet little girl had a clean bottom, a full belly, was dressed in a soft pink frilly outfit, and was getting lots of cuddles from her daddy. I think I did pretty good, and I had fun doing it.

Sarah came to take Willow from me, and I told her I would carry her. I was enjoying this time with my daughter, and I grabbed her blanket and stuffie. Willow and I made our way out of the nursery, and Riley eventually came trailing behind before splitting off to go to the kitchen.

Sarah had Sterling, and between the two of us, we were able to load up the kids while we waited for their mother. It wasn’t long before my mate came running out of the house with a basket of food and drinks for the ride. I had totally forgotten we hadn’t eaten yet, and my stomach was fully reminding me when I smelled the delicacy in the basket.

“Leftover sandwiches from breakfast,” she stated.

As we started to drive away from the pack house, I received a link from the guards who removed Urusla from the nursery. “Alpha, we dropped the witch off about 5 miles from the border, he informed me. I thanked him and closed the link. I decided to take the back entrance out of the pack to avoid any accidental crossing with the aunt. My mate had enough drama this morning, and I was going to avoid any other at all cost.

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Alette POV

Damian surprised me this morning with the news we were leaving for Ruby Meadows. I wish he had given me time to prepare for the trip, but he said he had it all covered. I was so excited that I almost forgot about my doctor’s appointment with Dr. Campbell.

I quickly showered, and got ready to go. After getting dressed, I walked downstairs to the dining hall. I grabbed an egg and cheese croissant off of the buffet, and ate it on my walk to the clinic. The sun felt amazing today, and just the feel of it on my skin gave me a weird energy.

I walked into the baby clinic at the hospital, and greeted Myrtle the receptionist. “Good morning, Ms. Myrtle. How are you today?” I asked. She gave me a big smile and said, “I’m well, Luna. Thank you for asking. Dr. Campbell will be right out for you.”

I took a seat in the waiting room, and picked up one of the baby magazines. I started flipping through the pages, and fell upon a page of baby food recipes. I asked Myrtle if it would be alright if I took the magazine with me, and she said I was more than welcome to any of the magazines that were lying around. I wasn't that great of a cook, but I wanted to try the recipes. Fresh baby food sounds so much better than that nasty jarred stuff.

Dr. Campbell finally came out to retrieve me, and apologized for the delay. "Sorry, Luna. I didn't mean to keep you waiting. With my assistant on maternity leave herself, it's just me," he said. I told him it was no worry, and that I would speak to Damian about getting some temporary help until Agnes returned.

The pack had numerous pregnant she wolves at the moment, and he wouldn't be able to manage alone.

I sat back on the examining table, and lifted my dress to give him access to my stomach. He placed a sheet on my lap and pulled out a measuring tape. After taking measurements, he got a concerned look on his face. "Luna, do you care if we do another ultrasound? The measurements are larger than you should be for as far along as you are," he asked.

I told him it was fine, and he left to get the machine. I linked Damian to tell him what was going on, and he asked me to hold off until he could get to me. When the doctor came back in, I relayed Damian's message. He smiled and said it was fine, and we would wait. I told him that if he needed to see another patient while we waited, it was fine to do so.

After hooking the machine up, he left to go check on the young lady next door. She was due at any time, and was in for one of her final checkups. I couldn't wait to get to that point, because I knew the day I could see and touch my babies would be the best day of my life.

Damian finally arrived, and we nervously waited for Dr. Campbell to return. "Did he say it was bad?" Damian asked.

I shook my head and told him that he was just concerned because I was measuring larger than I should. He nodded in understanding, but I could see worry all over my mate's face. He must have rushed out of the house after his shower because his long curly hair laid in wet ringlets down his back.

I loved it when his hair was down, and it wasn't often that he let it hang. "Babe, since we don't technically have any business dealings today, will you leave your hair down?"

Please? For me?" I asked. A bashful smile spread across his face, and he agreed to leave it. I thanked him, and pulled him down for a kiss.

It was at that moment that Dr. Campbell walked in. "Alpha, its good to see you. There isn't anything to worry about, her measurements are just a little large. No need to worry," he said.

He once again squirted a glob of the sticky cold gel on my stomach, and when the wand hit my stomach, the sound of my babies' heartbeats became music to my ears. "Luna, look here. You have some very healthy babies. They are growing quickly, and we may have to keep a closer eye on you. I think it's best if you come in every two weeks instead of every 4. I would just rather be safe than sorry," he said.

I couldn't help but just stare at the screen. They may just be gray images to some, but to me, they were the most amazing images I had ever seen. "Doc, are we able to see the gender yet?" I asked. He informed me that he would see if he could spot it, and started to move the wand again.

"Hmmm, well, it's pretty obvious what they are. Would you like to know?" he asked. I looked at Damian and he gave a slight nod. I nodded my head as well, and with a huge smile we learned who our little ones would be. "All three babies are the same gender. Congratulations Alpha and Luna, you are about to be parents to three very healthy little boys," he revealed.

I thought Damian was literally going to jump for joy, and I started to cry. Happy tears, of course. "Boys?" I whispered.

"Are you happy?" I asked Damian. He said he couldn't be any happier than he already was. He had hoped for at least one boy, and now he was getting three.

I cleaned myself off, and Dr. Campbell handed me a sheet of images from the ultrasound. He told me to schedule my next appointment for 2 weeks, and left to go tend to other patients.

Damian and I walked hand in hand out of the clinic, neither of us really said anything as we walked. Once we got closer to the pack house, I asked Damian to keep it secret for now.

I wanted everyone we loved to find out at the same time, and I figured the perfect time would be at our baby shower BBQ we had planned. Luckily, he agreed.

Instead of going inside, I climbed into the SUV. Damian had to run inside and grab something and let Buck know we were heading out. I kept staring at the pictures, and was startled when Micah said my name. "s*it, Mic. You startled me," I laughed.

She started to giggle but quickly apologized. She handed me a blanket, and said she had made it especially for me.

She said it was made of something special, and when I got to looking at it, I started to weep. It was made from the material of my grandma's favorite dress. It was the dress she was wearing when she passed away. I pulled the blanket to my cheek, and it was still as soft as I remembered the dress being.

“Thank you so much Micah. I don’t know how to ever repay you for this,” I cried. She reached through the window and grabbed my hand and said, “Lette, you never have to repay me for doing things for you. You have been my best friend for as long as I can remember. I love you so much, and I should be the one thanking you.”

I knew what she was referring to, and if it were me that led her to Buck, then so be it. I can’t take credit though, that was all the moon goddess’ work.

Damian finally returned to the car, and I said goodbye to my best friend. We were running late, so Damian drove a little faster than normal. I cuddled into the blanket and continued to stare at my boys. What would their personalities be? I wanted their names to fit their personalities, but I also had an idea of what names wanted to include.

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MADDIX POV

We finally made it to Ruby Meadows, and decided to go into the coffee shop and grab some drinks while we waited for Damian and Alette. I guess we weren’t the only ones who were late.

We got our coffees and went to sit outside at one of the bistro-style tables. The weather was beautiful, and it felt amazing to sit in the sunshine and just enjoy it. It’s been far too long since I have taken a moment just to enjoy simple things like the sun, and I was going to soak it in as much as I could today.

One good thing about being at Ruby Meadows is the chance to people watch. I have learned so much about people and their demeanors just by sitting and watching people here. Everyone is so unique and has their own quirks that make them tick.

Gran and I used to sit on the bench outside the bakery on Saturday mornings and “observe,” as Gran called it, while we ate our doughnuts or muffin. If someone was acting suspicious, she would nudge me and say, “Maddix, pay attention. You are going to be the great Alpha of Blood Moon, and will need to make sure you can pick up on people’s energies. You can tell everything by the way a person unconsciously reacts to their surroundings. If a person seems like they are acting shady, then they probably are. Always trust your gut, my boy.”

I take that advice with me everywhere I go, and apply it at all times. I’m not going to say my gut is always right, because it obviously isn’t. Take Miles and Simon, for example. They both definitely went under my radar.

“Hey big brother,” I heard in the distance. Looking up, I saw my baby sister and her husband coming towards us. “Hey sister. You are looking rather radiant today,” I commented.

She definitely looked more healthy than I had seen her be in a long time.

“Thanks, I think pregnancy is doing me good. However, your nephews are wrecking havoc on your sister’s bladder,” she said as she excused herself to go to the restroom.

“Damian? Coffee?” she asked.

He nodded and reminded her that she could only have a decaf. She wrinkled her nose and said she was more in the mood for some of Lyla, the shop owner’s freshly juiced apple and white grape juice with a splash of raspberry syrup. To me, it didn’t sound good, but all the ladies in my family swear by it.

When Lette came back to join us, she had a whole tray full of goodies. She handed Damian his milk with coffee, as she called it, and a strawberry scone. She had her juice and a plethora of fruit, butter and a few fresh buttermilk biscuits. She started to dig in, and the three of us couldn’t take our eyes off of her.

“What?” she asked with a mouth full of biscuit. I shook my head, and just said that it was good to see her. Alette hadn’t been herself since before the abduction, and this was the closest I had seen to the old Alette since she was rescued.

It felt good.

“Lettie, I’m meeting with Luke, Marion and Paolo in about an hour by the pond. Would you like to join us?” Riley asked. She asked if the babies were tagging along, and Riley had to inform her that they would more than likely stay at the pack house. Alette agreed to go anyway, but was bummed she wouldn’t get any baby and auntie time that afternoon.

Damian and I needed to leave soon to meet Donavon, and we excused ourselves from our mates. Alette promised she would help Riley with the babies, and they would meet us for dinner.

My phone went off as we were walking away. I looked at my screen and the name read that of my uncle Rico. “Hey, Rico. Everything alright?” I answered.

“Yea, yea. Things are fine. I’ve been trying to reach your Aunt Marion, but she isn’t picking up. It’s about the twins. If you see her, could you have her give me or Grace a call please?” he asked. I assured him I would make sure she got the message, and I disconnected the call.

I wasn't far away from the girls, so I told Damian to wait as I jogged back to have Riley pass on the message. I kissed my wife again before turning to go back to Damian, and we continued to our destination.

Walking to Donavon's cottage was on a path I played on a lot as a kid. It had the best climbing trees, and in the spring the honeysuckle bushes that littered the edge of the forest smelled heavenly. Today, all I could smell was the rich scent of forest moss and wet earth. It had rained the night before, and it just had a comforting clean smell.

"Look what the cat dragged in," | heard a loud voice bellow.

As I looked up, Donavon was standing on his porch. "Hey big guy! How the hell are ya?" I hollered back. "Oh, you know, alive and kickin'. So, tell me about this offer I supposedly can't refuse, gentlemen," he said. Straight and to the point.

I reintroduced him and Damian, and just as I had said, Donavon pointed out that they had met before. He invited us in, and the three of us sat at his kitchen table.

"D, I'm going to get right to the point. We need your help, we need someone to go undercover at one of Damian's shipping ports. Damian suspects that there is more human trafficking going on through this port. Damian thought he had it taken care of, but apparently it didn't stick. He came to me for help, and you were the first person I thought of," I explained.

"Donavon, if you do this, I am prepared to pay you very well.

Not only a regular wage, but a large bonus at the end. I basically need to find out if there is human trafficking moving through my port, and if it is, who is leading the organization of it. That's all. I will make sure you have a nice place to stay, a car to drive and anything you will need will be covered," Damian said as he laid the offer on the table.

Donavon stood up and walked over to a shelf in his living room, grabbed his tobacco pipe and walked out onto the porch. The two of us got up to follow him, and he stood against his porch post and lit his pipe. "So, if I do this, will it be a step forward towards me becoming an official member of Blood Moon?" he asked.

I had a feeling this was coming, and I answered him honestly. "D, you are already a member. The only thing that hasn't happened is the formalities. However, yes, this will help the trust in order to speed up the formalities. If I didn't trust you, I would have run you off the land here when I took over. You know that I'm stricter than my dads ever were when it comes to the packs," I said.

He took a long hit off of his pipe, and inhaled the smoke.

The smell of the sweet cherry tobacco permeated the air, and I, for one, enjoyed it. "I'll do it. On one condition.

Maddix, I need reassurance that if things go south there, I won't get pinned for anything. To find out the heart of everything, I have to go deep undercover." he said.

Damian answered for me, but I agreed with what he said. "I promise you. We will have your back no matter what happens. We just can't let what happened to Alette happen to anyone else. Thank you, Donavon. This is going to make a world of difference."

We spoke for a short time longer, and told Donavon we would return to finish details before we left for home at the end of the weekend. We took our leave and headed to the center of town to the dining hall to eat dinner. Donavon waved us off, and yelled at Damian.

"Don't worry Alpha, we will kick some pervert ass and stop this s*it! I guarantee we will!"

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Chapter 103

Maddix POV

After dinner, Riley and I decided to take a walk and find the perfect place for the ritual. Tomorrow night was the night, and it needed to be perfect.

We were walking in silence, and I bumped her shoulder with mine. "What's on your mind?" I asked. She stopped dead in her tracks and said, "Just trying to process some weird things that have been happening today. Don't think I'm crazy, but I have been hearing a tiny voice talking to me since we got here."

"A tiny voice? What is it saying?" I asked. She tried to describe what it sounded like, and that it even told her a name. She said it was as if she was developing a whole other personality. She finally admitted that it made her feel strange, and that she felt like she was losing her mind.

I haven't given her any venom, so she should not have any wolf genes in her system for her to receive a wolf. I told her we would figure it out, and I asked Dakota if he could

sense anything. However, I was met with silence. That told me he knew what was going on, but we had to figure it out ourselves.

She went on to explain more, and said that she had a very restless feeling inside her. It felt as if her inner spirit was pacing. The more she explained, the more confused I got.

To me, it sounded like her mind and body were getting ready for her first shift, but that is impossible.

I decided to call mom, and get her opinion. “Hey mom, sorry to bother you. I know you are probably busy up there, but there is something confusing going on with Riley. Posted by Jobnib.com, visit us for more novels. She said she has been hearing a tiny voice since we got to Ruby Meadows. She said it talked to her, even told her a name.

She said that it feels like her inner spirit is pacing back and forth because of pent-up energy,” I started explaining.

“Go on, what else?” she asked. “Honestly, if I didn’t know better, I would say she was about to have her first shift, but that’s impossible. I haven’t given her any of my venom,” I explained.

Mom started to giggle and said, “You have both already forgotten? That was quick. Maddix, Loki gave her some of his blood after she had Sterling. I warned you both that this could happen. She has gotten her wolf son, she IS getting ready for her first shift. There isn’t a need to do the ritual now. Hasn’t she had any other signs before now?” she asked.

I couldn’t believe we let that slip our minds. Mom did warn us about this, and honestly, I wouldn’t complain if it happened this way. She told me to go see Luke, and he could confirm whether her DNA make-up had changed. I thanked her for her help, and apologized for forgetting. I had thanked my dad over and over, but now I had a whole other reason to thank him.

I sat next to Riley on the blanket she had spread out, and I pulled her close. “Well, the good thing is, you are definitely not crazy. The bad thing is, we forgot about dad giving you his blood after you had Sterling. He passed his wolf gene to you through his blood. We don’t have to perform the ritual. However, you will experience your first shift instead. That little voice is your wolf, I explained.

Her head snapped towards me and I could see the fear in her eyes. “That’s right! I remember that now. I can’t believe I forgot about something that important. Holy s*it!” she exclaimed. “So, I guess I need to prepare for that now. I already know it’s going to hurt like hell, but do you think if I mixed a spell in the form of a tea to help the pain, it would hurt the shift?” she asked.

I didn't think it would, but to make sure, we went to speak to Marion. At my aunt and uncle's cottage I heard the sweet giggles of my little girl. My aunt went to our place and kidnapped our kids. I wasn't upset about it, because I knew they were safe, but I was still going to have to remind them that they still needed to let us know when they got them.

"Hey guys, I see you swiped our babies from the nanny," I said with a chuckle. Marion's face had turned blood-red, and she started to apologize. I let her know that she didn't have to apologize. Next time, let us know before she does it, so we won't panic. She said she understood and then asked why we were there.

"Well, we need to speak with Luke. Is he around?" I asked.

She said he was in the basement working on some herbal tinctures for the upcoming fall allergy season to put in their shop. She proceeded to yell down at him, and he came up smelling like a bouquet of roses.

"Well, don't you smell pretty?" I teased. He pretended to be offended, but said he would rather smell like a rose than a sweaty armpit any day.

I explained why I needed to speak to him, and he asked Riley and me to join him downstairs. Marion shooed us away so that she could get more baby time, and we didn't hesitate to listen.

"Have a seat Riley, let me take a look, Luke said as he sat Riley under a bright lamp. He stooped down to her level, and started deep in her eyes. He took his right hand, and placed it on her forehead, and his left hand went over her heart.

"Four spirits, one heartbeat," he gasped. "Riley, you contain the spirit of your human self, your Fae self, your witch self, and you now possess a wolf spirit. A tribrid, as most don't count your human vessel in the mix of spirits. Your assumptions are correct, instead of preparing for a ritual, we need to get you ready to shift," Luke stated.

"Do you think a tincture to ease the pain would affect the shift?" she asked. Luke said he couldn't fully answer that as he didn't have a wolf to shift into to test that possibility.

He called my mom this time, and asked her opinion. After they disconnected the call, he turned to us and said, "Mel said as long as no silver or wolfsbane were involved in the tincture, you should be fine."

I could tell that was a relief to her, and if it made her more comfortable, I was there to support whatever she did to take the edge off. Luke promised he would make a safe concoction, and Riley and I rejoined my aunt in the living room.

"Aunt Marion? How would you feel about possibly keeping the kids tomorrow night? Riley has received her wolf, and instead of the turning ritual, we will have to be ready for her shift. I don't want to worry about the kids while this is going on. I would rather they were

with family as much as possible. Plus, it gives you time to spend with them,” | asked. She was overwhelmed with happiness and immediately said yes.

We thanked her and Luke for all their help, and took the kids back to our place. I wouldn't technically call this a pack house, but it's the place the higher ranks from Blood Moon stayed when they were at Ruby Meadows. After the bath and feeding, Riley tucked the babies in for the night.

“Are you ready for this?” | asked her. She quickly nodded her head and reminded me that she's wanted this since she found out we were mated.

“I'm more than ready. I can't wait to be honest,” she whispered as she cuddled into me.

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RILEY POV

Only a few more hours until Maddix and I retreat into the forest for my first shift. I chose the meadow in the middle of the forests surrounding Ruby Meadows for two reasons.

The first is that it is secluded, and the second is because it holds a special place in my heart.

The meadow and the pond were the two main places.

Gretchen would train me. We spent many hours there while I was studying, and I find myself wishing she was here for this next adventure there.

My mate and his sister have had me sitting in a hot bath off and on all day, and apparently before we head out, I will have to soak again. I've been told that it will help my muscles during the shift, but the tincture Luke made me will do the same thing. I am definitely protesting the next soak. My skin is pruned, and it feels weird.

I have spent a lot of time with my kids today, and should probably be getting them ready to go stay with Marion and Paolo. I know Maddix's aunt is beyond excited to keep them, and I know they will be in safe hands.

As I laid across our bed, someone started pounding on the bedroom door. Before I could answer, Alette rushed in.

“Riley? Is Maddix here with you?” she asked. I shook my head no, and she asked if I knew where to find him. I told her he was getting a basket of food from the kitchen for our situation later, and she hugged me and rushed right back out.

“That was weird,” I whispered. Then again, Alette was getting back to the old Alette, so it truly wasn’t that weird. It did leave me rather curious about what she was up to though.

“Are they all this way?” The voice in my head asked. I felt crazy responding to it, but I did anyway. “No, well, maybe.

They are all sort of high-strung in their own ways, but they mean no harm by it,” I said out loud.

I found myself wanting to ask what I presumed was my wolf, different questions. Since we were alone, I took that opportunity. “I’m sorry, but what did you say your name was again?” I started off.

“My name is Ivy,” she responded. “Ivy, that’s beautiful,” I whispered. “So, you are definitely my wolf? I’m not losing my mind?” I asked. I heard her giggle, and she replied, “Yes, Riley. I am your wolf, and I am grateful and excited to meet you later. I promise all I can to take the brunt of the pain, but I can’t promise that it will be painless. I’m sorry.”

I told her not to worry, that I understood. We carried on with our conversation until Maddix walked in, and she told me she needed to rest. She wanted to make sure she had plenty of energy to help move the shift along as quickly as she could.

I explained to Maddix what had just happened, and told him the name she had told me. He laid on the bed with me, and tried to explain his shift to me. He said that the first shift with Franz had been extremely painful because Maddix let fear take over and fought the process slightly.

He explained that for the first 5 or 6 times he shifted with Franz, he would get crippling anxiety before it happened.

He said it got to the point that he would mention wanting to shift, and then Franz would just shift at a random time to keep him from becoming anxious.

He then went on to say that when he let Franz go, and received Dakota, the first shift with Dakota wasn’t so bad.

He knew what to expect, and his body was used to it by then. The only thing that was different was that the shifting to Dakota happened more quickly. Dakota was slightly smaller than Franz, but still large.

When he described the size difference between the two wolves, it made me wonder how big or small Ivy would be.

She hadn’t spoken to me since Maddix came in, and I didn’t want to disturb her. So, I would just have to wait and find out.

“Babe? We should probably head out. Especially if we are walking there instead of taking the ATV’s,” he said. I moaned and rolled over, but I knew he was right. It was time to get up and head to our planned destination.

He reached out his hand and when I put mine in his, he pulled me from the bed. As we made our way outside, I remembered that Alette had been looking for him.

“Did Alette find you earlier?” I asked. He said she had, and that she only wanted to make sure that we had planned on having a doctor or healer placed somewhere near where we would be. It was a ‘just in case precaution, so that if something was to go wrong, we would be covered.

“We have one, right?” I asked. He nodded his head and said that Luke would be camped not far from us, but far enough away for us to have complete privacy. I was thankful he asked Luke, because I trust him completely.

I haven’t really thought of anything negative that could have come from tonight. So, I was thankful that he had. He handed me a thermos of hot water, and a sachet of tea. It was the tea that helped calm my stomach when I was pregnant with Sterling, and I questioned why he grabbed that one in particular.

“When the girls shifted, all three of them became incredibly nauseous. I know how sensitive your stomach is, so I wanted to make sure you were covered,” he explained. I flashed him a smile, and thanked him for being so considerate. A sentiment that I quickly wanted to take back after he handed me the tincture.

I took off the lid to smell it, and the smell alone turned my stomach. “My goddess, what the hell did Luke put in this? It smells like dog farts,” I laughed. He put the bottle to his nose, and started to gag.

“No offense babe, but I am so glad it’s you drinking the dog fart potion instead of me,” he laughed.

We continued to laugh as we walked hand in hand through the woods, and it didn’t seem like it took long to get to the spot. The sun was starting to set, and a slight fog hung over the wildflowers in the meadow.

“This is probably the most beautiful place to do this. It’s seriously my favorite place, I whispered. Maddix wrapped his arms around me, and said, “I’m sorry we haven’t been getting back here as much as you would like. I promise that will change.” He kissed my temple and then finished spreading out the blanket we had brought along.

I started walking through the field and picked a few wildflowers and some long blades of grass. After gathering my desired items, I sat on the blanket next to my mate and began weaving them into a floral crown. I had planned on keeping them dry, and keeping them for Willow, but Maddix took the crown from my hands and laid it on my head.

“A beautiful crown for a gorgeous queen,” he said. I stuck out my tongue at him, and he pulled me down to lay with him. “I just want to hold you a while, is that OK?” he asked. I nodded my head and cuddled close to him. The warmth of his body and the rhythm of his heartbeat soon lulled me to sleep.

Suddenly, one of the most agonizing pains shot through my body. I sat up and released an ear-piercing scream, and Maddix was by my side to coach me through the process.

He put the tincture bottle to my lips, and helped me drink it.

The pain started to ease for a moment, but as soon as my limbs began to stretch, the tincture went to waste. There was no easing this pain, and I had to just accept that.

“Maddix, help!” I cried.

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MADDIX POV

We had dozed off while waiting for the moon to be at its fullest. The only thing that woke me was the sound of Riley’s shrill screams. I started to panic because we had missed the time to administer the tincture.

I grabbed the bottle, and helped my mate swallow its contents. I was by her side trying to help her muscles loosen by massaging the tensest parts of her. Her shoulders, hips and face were going to carry the most pain, and I would do whatever I could to help her.

She started to relax a little, and her screams were now loud moans. However, it didn’t last long, and as her limbs started to extend and contort, the pain in her eyes and voice let me know that the tincture was a failure.

“Riley, listen to my voice. I need you to breathe sweetie. I need you to focus on your breathing. Every time the pain comes, try and breathe through it. Trust me, it helps. Listen to your wolf, she will guide you through this,” I instructed. I wasn’t sure if my words were sinking in, but I had to try to help somehow.

She was now on all fours with her head resting on the ground. Her back was arched, and her eyes had glazed over. It was a sign that her wolf was communicating with her. Suddenly, her body started to jerk. She was fighting the shift.

“Riley, you are fighting her. Relax my love. Let Ivy finish the shift. Concentrate on her voice, I can tell she is speaking with you. You got this babe, you just have to give in and let her finish the process,” I whispered in her ear.

She must have heard me, because she took a deep guttural breath, and when she released it her body relaxed. I had to take a step back to give Ivy room to finish the process, and as I watched my bride turn into one of the most beautiful wolves I had ever seen, tears left my eyes.

I know what you are thinking, I'm an Alpha who has probably seen many shifts in his life, but nothing prepared me for this. Once Ivy completed the shift for both her and Riley, she sat on her hind legs staring at me. She wasn't overly large, but for a new she-wolf, she was magnificent. It had to be the fact that it was my dad who passed the gene onto her, because she sort of favored my dad's Wolf, Zeus.

Zeus was one of the strongest wolves I had ever encountered, and he had an aura about him that only my dad, Liam's wolf, could compare with. He was a large dark brown wolf with a caramel patch on his right eye, with striking amber-colored eyes.

Ivy was just the opposite color wise. She had a soft caramel colored coat with a dark brown patch that came from her ear all the way to her snout. Her regular chocolate brown eyes had lightened to a soft light cocoa color.

I slowly approached her, and she nestled her head against my stomach. I started to rub her ears, and once Dakota was ready, I took a step back and shifted.

Dakota and Ivy took their time getting familiar with one another, and without warning, Ivy took off running towards the pond. Dakota quickly followed, and they just enjoyed their time playing, chasing, and getting to know each other.

I could feel his love for Ivy already. It was as strong for her as my love is for Riley.

When Dakota told me that the goddess had picked out the perfect wolf for my mate, I wasn't sure what he meant. Now that I see it, and feel it with him, I know he was right.

The two wolves started to tire, and Ivy lead us back to the blanket. They lay together, snuggling, when Dakota informed me that Ivy was tired, and Riley wanted to shift back.

I quickly shifted back to my human form, and stooped down in front of Ivy. "Ivy, I need you to instruct Riley how to shift back to her human form, please," I told her. She shook her head, and Dakota relayed that Ivy had overly exhausted herself, and couldn't. I had him tell her that she had to give Riley control so that I could communicate clearly with her to help, and I could see her shift into the back of Riley's mind.

"Riley, listen honey. To shift back, I need you to concentrate on your human form. Then I want you to imagine you shifting from your wolf, into your human form," I informed her. It took a few minutes before I could see it starting to work. I could tell she was afraid, and I had to keep talking to her, reassuring her the pain wasn't bad going from wolf to human, but once she understood, she was back to herself in no time.

“Maddix! I did it!” she squealed. She jumped into my arms and wrapped her legs around my waist. “Can I mark you now?” she asked

“Just like that? No fun stuff building up to it?” | joked. She slapped me on my shoulder and threatened that if I left out the “fun stuff” I would sleep alone for a month. I had to laugh at her feisty attitude, but also wanted her to rest a little before doing anything strenuous.

“Fine,” she whined and stuck out her bottom lip to pout.

“Don’t fine me young lady, it’s for the sake of your wolf.

Who is gorgeous, by the way. She is tired, and needs to rest a little bit. Do you want to stick to the plan and sleep out here, or would you rather head back to the house?” I asked.

She thought for a moment, and looked up to the sky. The moon shone fully above us, without a cloud in the sky. “Can we stay out here? I mean, we already have a pseudo-camp set up, and we can start a small fire to keep the chill off.

You brought food, and it’s so peaceful. Please?” she asked.

“I would sleep on a bed of lava rocks if it made you happy.

Of course, we can stay here until morning,” I told her. She crashed her lips onto mine, and her tongue danced across my lips begging for entrance. I spread my lips and allowed her in. The more passionate the kiss became, the more my need for her deepened.

I gently laid her on the blanket and my hand started to caress her curves. I could feel the goosebumps forming on her skin, and it felt like I was discovering her for the first time.

“I love you so much, Riley,” I whispered to her. She rolled me over on to my back, and she straddled on top of me. “I love you too, Maddix. So very much,” she replied. She looked like an angel sitting on me. The way her hair and skin glistened in the moonlight had me captivated

I knew at this point that there would be no waiting for Ivy to rest. The longer she teased me by grinding herself on my groin, I wasn’t going to be able to stop myself from entering her sweet spot.

“Riley, you are driving me crazy baby,” I moaned. She smiled a devilish grin, and bent down close to my ear and said,

“Good, I want you to take me.” That was it, those few words were all I needed to roll back on top of her, and slide my hard c*ck into her wetness.

“Yes! Maddix! You feel so good!” she squealed. Her claws dug into my back, until I was close to my climax. The bucking of her hips was causing me to go quickly, and I told her I was about to release, and she pulled me closer to her. She started to kiss and suck on my neck. Finding her marking spot, she extended her fangs and sunk them into my neck.

“F*ck!” I moaned as the pain and pleasure intermingled, and my seed shot deep inside her. Tears of love and joy filled my eyes, and the bond that I knew we had before had grown ten times more intense than it ever was.

“So, this is how it’s supposed to feel,” She whispered. I nodded in reply and to lighten the moment and said, “It is. A crazy feeling, isn’t it? Now, can we go home and f*ck in a real bed?”

She started to cackle uncontrollably, and then stood at her feet. She started to walk away, and then turned and said,

“Race you!” The laughter continued until I saw her shift into wolf form and start running towards our house.

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RILEY POV

We spent the rest of the night enjoying the peace and quiet of each other’s company. There was no need for words, no need for mindless conversation, just the feel of each other’s bodies.

I thought he would be salty by losing the race home, but something told me he lagged behind on purpose. The feeling of running in wolf form was exhilarating. It felt so freeing. I thought that would feel strange, but it didn’t at all.

It was like a second nature I never knew I had.

Marion had texted me earlier that the babies had been good, and that her and a couple of ladies were going to take them to the park this morning. I thanked her again for watching them and said that we would be able to get them close to lunchtime. She was happy she got to spend more time with them, and said she would see us later.

A knock on our door made it to where I had to crawl out of bed to answer. I had a feeling who it was, and when I opened it, there stood Damian. Called it.

“Sorry to bother you guys, but is Maddix available?” he asked. I nodded my head and invited him in. “He’s still in bed, but only pretending to be asleep,” I laughed as I went to make my mate get up.

After summoning Maddix, I went into our little kitchen to make coffee. Neither my mate nor myself are functional without at least two cups first thing in the morning. “Coffee, Damian?” I called from the kitchen. He said he would take one with 3 sugars and a lot of creamers, and I just took the additions in for him to add. Alette had said many times that he was picky about his coffee, and I, for one, didn’t want to mess it up.

Maddix finally joined him, and I was about to head back to our room to give them privacy. Maddix stopped me, and said I didn’t have to leave, that as Luna of the pack, I should probably start sitting in on meetings. I complied and sat in the spare recliner that the guys didn’t sit in.

I sat quietly drinking my coffee listening to the two of them discuss the situation at the shipping port. I knew Maddix had sent someone to spy for Damian, but wasn’t aware it was Donavon.

“I’m sorry to interrupt, but did you say you sent Donavon?” I asked. Maddix nodded his head and explained that he thought Donavon would be perfect. I had to agree, but it seemed odd to me that Maddix would put that much trust in him. Not that he didn’t deserve that trust, but everyone had been so hesitant about fully trusting him, it just surprised me.

“I think he was a good choice, he is straight up and a hard worker. You won’t only get information, but a hard worker out of the deal, Damian,” I stated. He nodded his head, and said he felt good about the situation.

Donavon starts work at the port tomorrow, and he was leaving today with one of Damian’s female warriors.

Maddix and Damian wanted to make an appearance as if he had taken the job to help support his family. The warrior, Layla, had a young daughter. Her mate had been killed in the battle at Spirit Mountain, and was still in mourning.

I worried about her taking on a job like this so quickly, but Damian said that he talked it over with her thoroughly, and she was adamant about taking the job. He explained that she wanted time away from the pack to mourn without constant reminders, and this solution helped make sure she wouldn’t lose pay while being away. A win, win situation for both.

They finished their meeting, and I told Maddix we needed to go get the babies. We had one more day here at Ruby Meadows, and I wanted to make it a family day.

Instead of having lunch in the dining hall, I packed a picnic for the 4 of us. Of course, the babies would feast on a meal of formula and sunshine, but for daddy and I, I packed sandwiches, macaroni salad, fresh fruit salad, and an array of crackers and cheeses. I grabbed a few bottles of water and sodas, and slid them in the basket as well.

“Maddix? Are you ready?” I asked. He yelled that he was coming, and I slipped my shoes on. “Yea, let’s go. Sorry it took so long,” He apologized. I shook my head and told him it was fine, and to grab the basket as he came out.

Finally arriving at Marion’s, the kids were napping. We sat and talked with them a while, and out of the blue, Marion mentioned that Ginger had found her mate at Northern Sun. I was so excited for her, and the first question I had was, “Is he a wolf?”

Marion said that he was indeed a wolf, and was the current head pack doctor. He hadn’t been in the pack long, as he had transferred from a pack in Oklahoma right before Miles and Simon took over.

His name was William Proctor, and he was only a few years older than Ginger. From what has been relayed to Marion by others in the family, he is head over heels for her. Not the pretending kind of love that both of my sister-in-laws went through.

I was thankful for that, she deserved happiness as much as the rest of us. “So, do you think he will turn her?” I asked out of the blue. I hoped I wasn’t out of place for even asking, but I was as worried about her losing her position as I was that I would lose mine.

Not that title and position were everything, but to me, it held importance because I felt a part of something. All of my life I have felt alone and invisible. Unimportant, so to speak. The day I accepted the Luna position, I felt I had a purpose. Ginger and I had spoken before she left for her new duties, and she felt the same way.

She had always thought she was destined to be nothing but a medicine woman or healer for Ruby Meadows. When this opportunity came for her, she was more than happy to take the position.

I heard my little man start to stir, and I got up to go get him.

I sat and admired my little boy for a moment and picked him up. “Hey there my little guy, did you miss momma?”

“Momma missed you and your sister so much,” I cooed. It felt so good holding him in my arms.

Out of all of my duties that I have, being a mother was my favorite. Both of my kids would always know their mother’s love, and my pack and husband would always have the love and support of the best Luna I could be.

Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter 107

Asteria POV

I was going to wait until next weekend to move to Ruby Meadows, but since Maddix and Riley were there with the kids, and Alette was also there, I decided that today would be a good day.

Maddix wanted me to stay in the main house while I was living there, but I wanted something more private.

Something closer to Aunt Marion and Luke. There was a 2-bedroom cottage near theirs, and I think that's where I wanted to reside. I wanted to check it out first, but for some reason, that place is just calling my name.

Ever since finding out that I was the "chosen one" for all of these powers, I have had trouble sleeping. Hopefully, once I'm settled in, I can get some needed rest before next weekend when my training starts.

I wondered if I should call my brother and sister to let them know I was coming today instead of next weekend, but I figured I would just surprise them. With my loaded down Land Rover, I turned into the gated lane that took you back into Ruby Meadows.

The guards instantly recognized me, and allowed me to go through. I hoped they didn't spoil my surprise, but if they did, I couldn't fault them for alerting my brother that someone had just entered the territory.

As I drove through the pack, I couldn't help to wonder why it looked like when my mom was younger. Uncle Jason and mom say all the time how much it's changed. I know a lot of the buildings were torn down after they disbanded their old pack. New ones were built, and the old pack was now just a horrible distant nightmare.

I pulled in front of the main house, and Riley was on the porch with the babies. I put the car in park and jumped out.

"There's my little monkey butt," I called out to Willow. I loved this little girl so much. If I were ever in a bad mood, or feeling depressed, 5 minutes with my niece changes my whole mood.

"Asteria? What are you doing here?" Riley asked cheerfully.

“Well, I decided to move here, today,” I answered. “I was hoping you and Maddix could help me choose a cottage to stay in. I don’t want to stay in this big house by myself,” I then explained.

“Does Maddix know?” She asked. I shook my head no, but told her that we should probably let him know.

I picked up and carried Willow for her, and she led me to the guest house in the back where Alette and Damian stay when they visit.

She knocked twice and walked in. My brother and brother-in-law sat there in a set of recliners, playing video games.

Complete with online headsets to talk to “the crazy online people”.

“Guess who’s here?” Riley hollered out. Alette’s head popped up from the couch she was lying on, and she let out a squeal. She hurried to me and jumped into my arms, nearly knocking us both down.

“Oh my goddess, I missed you sissy,” Alette cried as she started to kiss my face. We both started laughing and I put her down. Maddix asked why I was there, and I explained to the three of them what I had just said to Riley.

My brother’s face turned sad, but he tried his best to put on a happy, brave face. Alette told them to keep playing their game, that us girls would figure it out. However, Riley told Maddix he was on baby duty. Sterling was asleep, so Maddix snuggled him in on his lap while the little one slept.

It was sweet seeing my big brother enjoy being a dad.

I picked Willow back up, and the four of us ladies started the trek to where my aunt lived. Alette couldn’t understand why I wanted to be so close to where our aunt, uncle and Luke lived, but she didn’t have to understand.

Yes, I wanted privacy, but to be honest, I was afraid of being too far from someone I knew cared what happened to me. I was still healing from the mental damage that Simon put me through, and until I was comfortable being fully alone, then having someone close by, just in case, made me feel better.

We looked at the first 2 cottages we went to in the area I wanted to be in, but neither of them felt right. The first one was too close to the kids’ school, and the other had, um, a weird odor. It was so bad that we opened the door, and quickly shut it again. Riley said she would definitely put that one on the maintenance list.

Walking past aunt Marions, I noticed Luke and Paolo on the porch. We all waved to them, and I told Luke that I would come see him tomorrow. He waved back and nodded his head

in acknowledgment. I felt sorry for my cousin. His mate Rory had decided she wanted to attend another two semesters at college to finish her nursing degree.

Her decision came after she had miscarried their little one.

She was only about 5 weeks along, but it hurt her deeply.

Luke tried to fight her leaving for school, and wanted her to do online courses. Marion, however, was able to talk Luke into letting her go. Rory needed space, and honestly, I think Luke did too.

Luke goes to Seattle from Monday to Wednesday, and now, every other weekend. The plan when I moved here was that Marion and some of the more advanced witches would train me through the week, and Luke and mom would train me on the weekends. However, it's changed slightly.

Now, Marion will train me on Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

Luke will train me the rest of the time he is here. He and Marion will switch weekends and mom will join in on the training. I demanded to have at least one day to myself without any kind of training, and I chose Sundays.

I went to another few cottages, and when I passed one that sat back a little way from the others, my wolf, Akira, started acting strangely

“What about that one?” I asked. Riley shook her head and said that it was occupied. She explained that the person who lived there was actually in Seattle doing a job for Maddix and Damian. I slowly nodded my head and kept walking to the next one.

was curious as to why Akira was reacting this way over a cottage, but she was being tight-lipped.

I wanted to look in the one next to the one I had asked about, and when I walked in, it felt like home. “This is it,” I whispered. I made my way through the cottage, touching the walls, the trim, the counters, and the mantel. Everything felt right. It was a little bigger than I wanted, but I could live with it. It gave me an office, and a place where I could have guests, plus a large master bedroom with a private bath.

I went out the backdoor to observe my surroundings, and even with the tall fence, I could still see the house that had triggered Akira.

This cottage had to have housed a small family at one time, because it had an above ground pool in the back, as well as a jungle gym. It was perfect for family time when they visited.

“This is definitely it,” I repeated to Riley. She clapped and Alette’s face dropped. “What’s wrong, sis?” I asked. She said that nothing was necessarily wrong, but she hoped I would be safe all the way out here. It was still close to my family, but far enough to have my peace.

“Alette, I promise you that I will be safe out here. Maddix already said before I even moved here that if I chose not to stay in the main house, he would hook up security measures wherever I chose. I chose this one, and nothing is going to change my mind.”

Alpha Maddix: A Brother’s Promise Chapter 108

Maddix POV

2 Weeks later

Riley has had her wolf for about two weeks now, and she is loving it. We go for daily runs through the woods near the pack house, and each time we go a little further.

Adventuring as her wolf has become one of her favorite things to do. She said in wolf form, it’s easier for her to sniff out herbs and other things she needs for her magical things. Whatever makes her happy, I’m all for it.

Three days ago, I received information that the new king will be visiting us sometime this week. I don’t look forward to meeting with him, because frankly, I’m going to have a hard time holding my tongue. Since he has taken the throne, he has changed so much in our world, that most Alphas are afraid to even breathe.

I go on as I always have, and if he has a problem with what I’m doing, he can come to me. He’s in for a rude awakening though if he thinks I will cower to him. I mentioned that fact to my dads not long ago, and they both said that they were proud of me for standing my ground.

My dads would never have allowed the king or anyone to come into Blood Moon or Ruby Meadows and start dictating how they should lead, and neither will I.

Before they arrived, I needed to get my affairs in order concerning the position of Beta and Gamma. George had planned on stepping down, but after his stunt with Miles and Simon, I had to force that resignation. He is still in the psychiatric unit at Northern Sun, and from what the reports are, he is getting better every day.

Phoenix has made it his mission to make sure George gets better. His breakdown caused him to make piss poor decisions, and because of that, I’m not sure if the bond between him and I will ever be the same.

I called his brother, Henry, to my office, because I wanted to get his opinion. Henry does one hell of a job in either position, but I'm sure he doesn't want to hold both. It's a lot of work, and takes a lot of time from his wife. With Celeste recently finding out she was expecting, I didn't want to ruffle her feathers.

After a short knock, Henry let himself in with two coffees in hand. "I brought you nourishment, but you are going to have to settle with the butter pecan creamer. They were out of your regular hazelnut," he joked.

"I'll take what I can get," I said and thanked him profusely for the coffee. I felt like I had been running on fumes, and caffeine was my best friend at the moment.

"So, what did you want to meet with me about?" he asked. I took a few sips of my coffee, and got right to the point.

"Well, you know the king is coming sometime this week, right?" I asked. He nodded his head, and I continued my explanation.

"I need to get the house in order. Which means, I need to know what position you want to actually be in. Do you want the Beta position, or would you rather remain Gamma?" I asked.

Without hesitation, he sat back and crossed his legs and said he would prefer to remain Gamma. "No disrespect, Maddix, but you put a lot on your Beta. I understand why it had to be that way in the beginning, but when things started to get better and less crazy, you continued to put a lot of your own duties to the pack on George," he stated.

I knew he was right, and I felt horrible about that. A huge part of me blamed myself for George's breakdown, and I also knew that Henry did a little bit too. I would find a way to make that situation right, but for now, I had to concentrate on what was in front of me.

"I know, man, and I feel like an asshole about it. I don't want to repeat that lesson either. I'm just at a total loss about whom to appoint, though," I sighed.

"What about Gunner?" Henry mentioned. "He has been a huge part of the pack since he turned 18. He has been Timmy's right hand for the past 2 years, and he is fiercely protective of this pack and Ruby Meadows," he reasoned.

Gunner would be an amazing replacement, but I know first hand how dedicated he is as a warrior. It wouldn't hurt to ask, and I thanked Henry for the suggestion, and asked him to call Gunner to the office. As he was contacting Gunner, I received a link from Bailey. She worked in the guard shack where all visitors had to check in, and she informed me that the King and his entourage had arrived. Great.

I thanked her, and told her that I would meet them downstairs. I linked Riley asking if their accommodations were ready, and she said that she had the whole left side of the

second floor prepared for them. It's customary for the King and Queen to stay on the Alpha floor, but I protected my privacy, and I was refusing to allow even the king to disrupt it.

I asked her to meet me in the foyer but had her leave the kids with Sarah. Until I got a feel of this man, my kids didn't need to be in his presence.

I slid on my suit jacket, and took a huge gulp of my coffee.

I looked at my gamma, and he said that he sort of told Gunner what was going on, but there wouldn't be enough time for him to change and even pretend to stand in.

I linked Gunner myself, and asked him how he was dressed at the moment, and he told me he was in a pair of slacks and a button-down dress shirt. I gave him a quick rundown of what Henry and I discussed, and asked if he was game.

He said he would be, but would like to know more about it all.

I told him I would explain more later, but needed him at the pack house immediately to put on an already established front. He said he would be there as quickly as he could, but he didn't have a jacket with him. I told him I had an extra, and honestly, I hoped it even fit him.

Gunner was close to 6'6" and was built like a brick s*it house. His arms and chest were enormous. He had dark skin, and all the features that a Native American holds. He kept his long dark hair in braids, which made his chiseled jawline stand out. He hadn't found his mate yet, but the person that he ends up mated with will be very lucky.

Thankfully, he arrived before the king's car pulled up, and I gave him the jacket. Just as I feared, the arms were too tight. Henry handed him a tie, and I quickly tied it for him. If he couldn't be in a jacket, at least the tie would help out some.

"Just play it by ear, and I will try to take the brunt of all the questions. We will get through this as one unit. I promise you," I told them.

Finally, Riley made it downstairs. She was dressed in a black pencil skirt, a soft light green button-up blouse, and a pair of black pumps. She had pulled her hair into a low bun, and she looked amazing.

"We got this,"

she whispered. I took her hand in mine, and the four of us went out onto the porch.