

# Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter

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\*MADDIX POV\*

I don't know what the hell I expected in regard to the "King" arriving. This kid has already left a bad taste in my mouth, and I am not about to bow down and kiss his feet.

His arrogance exuded from him as he approached the four of us. Riley must have felt my frustration, because she gently squeezed my hand. "Good afternoon, King Jakob. To what do we owe the pleasure?" I greeted him.

I extended my hand to shake his, and if looks could have killed, I would be dead where I stood. He refused to shake my hand and instead made a snarky comment about how

"you bow to a king, not shake his hands like a commoner".

Is this asshole f\*vcking serious?

Riley coughed to clear her throat and curtsied to him. To not start anything too soon, I gave a slight bow and signaled to Henry and Gunner to do the same.

I would play nice until it was time not to.

"OK, now that is out of the way, Alpha Maddix Young, do you care to introduce me to the people with you?" he asked.

I turned to them and introduced them one by one. When I introduced Gunner as my new Beta, Jakob looked at me with disgust.

"You chose a mere warrior as your Beta?" he asked. Before I could answer, Riley spoke up. "Your highness, Gunner, is more than just a mere warrior. He has been at the top of his game as a warrior, and comes from one of the area's most prominent families. He is actually of Alpha blood," she explained

Jakob scoffed and replied, "Of Alpha blood, but chose the life of a warrior before being appointed Beta? Is that out of choice or was there some other underlying reason?" He was starting to make my blood boil, but thankfully, Gunner was able to keep a calm demeanor.

"Your highness, I understand your concern. My parents were killed by rogues many years ago. I was raised here at Blood Moon by my uncle and aunt. Yes, my mother was the Alpha of my former pack, but the day her and my dad died, it was taken over by the "Rogue king" and I was left to die with the others. However, I found my mother's cell phone and

called for help. I ended up with my aunt and uncle, as I explained. I could have easily gone back and challenged him for my pack back, but I like it here far more,” Gunner explained.

“Plus, my aunt and uncle need me here to care for them now. It’s the least I owe them for raising me,” he finished.

After that, there was nothing Jakob could say. He chose Blood Moon, and now Blood Moon chooses him.

It was very close to dinner time, so I asked the king if he would like to join us in the private dining room. He gladly accepted, and Riley excused herself to make arrangements in the kitchen.

I wanted to keep today as casual as possible, because tomorrow, it would be all business. The king was here for a reason, and I had a feeling I knew what it was. He was more than likely checking to make sure that my mate had a wolf. He never specified how she got her wolf, but that to continue as Luna, she had to have one.

I hoped he wouldn’t make a big deal out of the fact my dad gave her his blood to save her, because, technically, that was a law that his grandfather had instilled many years ago. His father chose not to enforce it because he was a strong supporter of the fact that all life is important, no matter the species.

The times I had met Dezmond Michaels, he had been a very strong-minded man, but also had a soft spot for all species of life. His own mate was not a wolf when they first found one another. Before she fell pregnant with Jakob, Dezmond had performed the ritual and given her a wolf by her request. Rhea was a true queen and Luna, and I knew that this woman with Jakob would never come close to the queen his mother was.

We sat in the common room chatting, and I offered to show them to their rooms, so they could get freshened up before dinner. The queen said that would be lovely, and I led them out towards the stairs and up to the second floor.

The second floor was usually designated for visiting Alphas and family who needed a place to stay while visiting. The side they would be staying on was where my parents lived while they were home. Riley had their personal belongings moved to the guest suite that was being renovated so that nothing would happen to them.

When the queen walked in, she was pleased with the accommodation. However, Jakob was not. Honestly, I wasn’t surprised, because he was used to a particular way of living. He expected the Alphas of the packs he visited to give up their living quarters, as they were normally nicer than the rest of the pack houses.

He was in for a rude awakening here, because Riley and I’s living quarters were the same as the rest of the suites in the house. The only difference was our bathrooms and living room areas were slightly larger, and we had two extra rooms on our floor.

“Alpha Maddix, I am not trying to be a pain in the ass, but I would like to request a different room,” he expressed. “This room is far too small for my liking,” he said. The queen spoke up and put him in his place. “Jakob, this is perfectly fine. It’s not like we will be here longer than a day or two.

Stop being a snob,” she stated.

“I apologize to you for my husband’s behavior, the room is fine. I think it’s beautiful and has a great energy to it. He will be fine once he’s eaten and settled in for the night.

Traveling makes him unbearable sometimes,” she laughed.

I also made it clear to them both that all the rooms here are the same. We like to keep it homey instead of being overly decorated with expensive things that no one uses. It’s all about practicality.

I excused myself from their presence and told them that dinner would be waiting for us in 45 minutes. I gave their guard directions to the private dining room, and he thanked me. I took my leave, and went to find my Beta and Gamma.

Luckily, I didn’t have to work too hard to find them. They were both in my office with Riley.

After the door shut to my office, I yelled in release. “f\*ck THIS GUY!” I screamed. “I seriously think this son of a b\*itch is testing me, and he is about to see me fail miserably with it,” I stated.

“Calm down, boss. He is definitely testing all of us. What he said about me settling as a warrior struck a nerve, but I couldn’t let him see me sweat,” Gunner said. “It’s obvious to me that he likes to get under people’s skin to demean them, and you are getting flustered and playing into his hands,” he continued.

Damn it, he was right, but people who belittle and try to control others just to feel better about themselves, are my biggest pet peeves. No one, no matter the title, is better than the person you are standing next to. That is how I was raised, and I firmly believe that.

“Thanks, Gunner. You are definitely right, brother. So, about the Beta position, interested?” I asked. His large smile spread across his face, and I could just hear his smart-ass reaction before he even spoke.

“But of course I am, I get a hefty chunk of a pay raise, right?” he laughed. I nodded and told him I would arrange it. He lifted his hand for a high-five, and said, “Then I am your man, Alpha.”

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\*Riley POV\*

We gathered for dinner in the private dining room. Everyone who needed to be there was patiently waiting for the king and his queen to arrive, but as I should have guessed, they were late.

Maddix was about to send one of the Omegas to notify them we were waiting, and they casually strolled in. "Sorry we are late, my husband was too busy complaining to pay attention to the time," the queen stated.

I plastered on a fake smile, and told them it was quite alright, and we stood as they took their seats. Formalities be damned, we were going to get through this one way or another. Fake it until you make it, I guess.

I signaled for the food to be brought in, and the kitchen Omegas had everything placed in front of us pretty quickly.

The chef included pork and beef roasts, baked chicken breasts, ribs, steaks, fish with the heads still on, multiple salads and sides, and more bread than we could probably eat in a week.

The king seemed pleased with what was laid out before him and, without waiting, instructed his assistant to fix his and his wife's plates. Maddix snickered under his breath and linked me with a snarky joke. "Must be nice to be served like a 2-year-old," he said.

I tried to keep a straight face, but I was slowly losing that battle. I swatted his leg, and his laughter escaped into a loud chuckle.

"Did I miss something?" Jakob asked. Maddix shook his head and said, "No, I apologize your highness. The look on my wife's face at the sight of the fish heads struck me funny, that's all."

It wasn't long before Henry and Gunner had joined in on his laughter, and I was near certain that the royals thought we were insane. I cleared my throat, and let them know that I had never seen cooked fish with the heads still attached, and that my facial expressions always reveal what I don't speak out loud.

The queen got a little chuckle out of that, but Jakob still looked annoyed. Someone desperately needed to remove the stick from his ass.

“Alpha, I know we agreed to keep things light and casual tonight. However, I find it necessary to inquire into the situation regarding your Luna. I have come to learn that she is no longer just a mere witch. She has received a wolf, am I correct?” he asked.

“Yes, she has. When she gave birth to our son a month ago, she needed a blood transfusion. My dads were a match, and able to give her blood. My dad, Loki, was the one who donated what she needed. He passed the gene to her, and right before this past full moon, her wolf came to her. She shifted the night the moon was at it’s fullest,” Maddix explained.

“Your highness, I take my role as Luna very seriously. No matter what, I would have gone through with the ritual if I hadn’t received Ivy the way I did. No one is trying to pull one on you, and after dinner, if you require proof, I will shift to show you. I also mean no disrespect to you, but I think that it is unjust for you to require someone who wasn’t born a wolf to be turned just to hold a rank. Even if they are mated to a higher-ranked wolf. The moon goddess pairs those who compliment one another to be together forever, and who are any of us, regardless of title, to judge the choices she makes? The moon goddess doesn’t make mistakes, your highness,” I stated. I had enough of the off comments, and the snooty attitudes. I wasn’t biting my tongue anymore, and I knew my mate wouldn’t hold it against me.

Jakob’s face stiffened mid-bite, and I could see the fury in his eyes. He spit his food into a napkin, and faced my mate. “Alpha Maddix, I suggest you silence your mate. Her half-c\*\*\*\*d comments are unwelcome and unwarranted.

How dare she question my decisions? What I say and how I rule is not for her to question, just obey. Am I clear?” he bellowed. He was pissed, and I knew why. I had struck a nerve, and now it was a waiting game to see just how much.

“With respect to my wife and mate, I will not be doing that today, Jakob. She is right, even if we have royal blood coursing through our veins, it’s not our place to change what the goddess has put in place. No offense, but I fear her more than I do you,” Maddix explained as he put another bite of steak in his mouth.

I could see he found humor in the aggravation of this poor excuse for a king, but the king did not see much humor in our honesty.

“Alpha, don’t forget who you are speaking to. I could wipe this pack and that land you also own that houses witches, off the map. I would then take your land and let you experience life as a rogue, if you weren’t killed first,” Jakob sneered.

Maddix calmly placed his fork on the table, and sat back in his chair. He wiped his mouth with his napkin, and placed his hands on his knees. The fire that burned in his baby blue eyes would torch the whole house if they could. After staring at the king for a while, he leaned forward and placed his elbows on the table.

“Listen, Jakob Michaels, King Jakob, whatever the hell you are demanding people call you now, I will NOT tolerate anyone, including you, to come into my home, my pack, and dictate what my people can say or how they should act. I will not allow you or anyone else to come here and tell my people or myself that unless their mate is a wolf, they cannot be a part of our world. Yes, you may be over us all, but we here, still abide by ancient laws. The way it should be. We will honor all laws, except that one. So, if you feel the need to punish us for that one law, then do it. If not, I ask that you take your leave in the morning because we will have nothing else to discuss,” Maddix spat.

My mate then stood and left the dining room, leaving Gunner, Henry, and me to handle any negative reaction from the king and his wife, and there was definitely something to handle.

It was the queen who spoke out, and the sharpness in her voice could have cut glass. “Luna, if this is how your husband conducts his affairs, then maybe he isn’t up to par to be an Alpha. I personally have heard great things about THE Alpha Maddix Young of Blood Moon and Ruby Meadows. However, his actions today leave me questioning his greatness. All I see is an unworthy bastard child of a rapist and a w\*\*\*e trying to play Alpha,” she taunted.

I was having a hard time holding Ivy in, and the more she spoke, the harder it became. When she called him a bastard of a rapist and a waite, I snapped. Ivy immediately took over and jumped on the table, growling in the queen’s face.

Gunner and Henry were at my side, quickly apologizing for my actions. f\*ck that! I didn’t need to give anyone an apology. He was my mate, and no one was going to disrespect him this way.

I heard Maddix call my name from the doorway. I knew he was pissed not only at them, but now me, so I backed away and jumped off the table. I hid behind him to shift back, and Henry handed me a blanket. I felt bad for causing more trouble, but Ivy said that it was necessary to show them who they were messing with. Maddix demanded I explain myself, so I did. I knew he would flip his s\*it, but I wasn’t expecting him to say what he did.

“Look here, you piece of s\*it! Yes, I may be the biological son of a rapist, and maybe my birth mom was a w\*\*\*e, I don’t know. However, you will hold your tongue about either one of them in my presence. I didn’t know my birth parents.

I am not them or like them, and I would appreciate it if you remembered that. I am the son of the Great Twin Alphas, L’oki, and Liam Young, and the powerful Luna Melian Carter-Young, and THAT you can comment on. I was raised to show respect to ALL species, not just the ones I’m dictated to respect by some undeserving p\*\*\*s-looking man who wants to play like he knows how to be a ruler!”

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\*Gunner POV\*

I had never seen Maddix or Riley so pissed off before. This tiny little man, calling himself the king, waltzed into Blood Moon expecting everyone to bow to him and cower before him. Apparently, he had never met people from Blood Moon before. Our leaders had always told us to stand our ground if we felt it was just to do so.

King or not, our Alpha wasn't taking his s\*it, and this proved it. After Maddix put him in his place, the king and his entourage stormed out of the dining room. They didn't even go back to their rooms, they loaded into their cars and left. Leaving all they had brought with them behind.

Riley instructed Henry and I to take Maddix to his office, and said she would meet us there. She felt to blame in this situation, but in my eyes, she was in the right. I would have done the same, and would hope that if I had a mate she would stand by me like Riley does Maddix.

"I want to apologize to you guys, I shouldn't have lost my cool like that," Riley stated. "Can you guys take Maddix and meet me in his office? I need to grab something and I will be there shortly," she continued. I was the new guy here, and I wasn't about to defy my Luna, not after seeing her pissed off.

My Alpha was abnormally quiet, and his aura was almost crippling. So much that Henry had to say something.

"Mads, your aura man. Can we tone it back a notch? It's just us, bro," he said. Maddix instantly apologized and relaxed a little.

"Sorry, I forgot to pull it back. I apologize for the outburst. I should have known he was up to some low blow s\*it, but I gave him too much benefit of the doubt. He has never been a decent person, too spoiled for his own good. I shouldn't have let him get to me," Maddix apologized

I was about to reply to him, but Riley came in bearing gifts of sweets and coffee for dessert. "I know it's not much of a reward, but I thought we could use something good to make us feel better," she said.

I was going to complain about being fed sweet pastries or coffee. I had a huge sweet tooth, and coffee was my lifeline. "Thank you, Luna, I appreciate this," I said. She insisted I call her Riley, not Luna, unless we were in a formal setting. It felt weird, but I would do as she asked.

Everything about today has been so surreal. I was in class with Timmy, helping teach the new trainees, and was pulled to Maddix's office to be offered the Beta position. Then, I didn't even make it to his office, and everything was settled through a link. Then dinner happened and now, here we are.

I went from being Assistant head warrior to Beta to being a new Beta in deep s\*it with the King and Queen. I say I have had a pretty eventful day.

"Maddix, you even apologizing to us is like apologizing to yourself for breathing. It isn't necessary. We are your right and left-hand men, and Riley is the other side of your soul.

We are a team, and if I'm being frank, I truly admire what you did where that little rat is concerned. He needed to be put in his place," I explained to my Alpha.

Riley snickered, and agreed with me. "You know, Gunner, you are going to get along splendidly with Spirit Mountain's Beta. You two are a lot alike," she giggled. Her comment caused Henry and Maddix both to laugh, and Maddix fully agreed.

I was curious now, but would have to wait until we left for Adelina's swearing in ceremony to find out. "Maddix? What day would I need to be ready for the trip to Northern Sun?" I asked.

He sat back and placed his hands over his face, "s\*it! I may have just f\*cked up Adelina's situation," he moaned. The three of us sat confused, and he finished explaining. "The pack name change has to be approved by the king, and then there is the situation of Ginger. I hope he doesn't take out his frustration with me on her, he finished.

"Babe, I don't think he would stoop that low, but you may need to warn Addie about what happened," Riley stated. He excused Henry and I, and I asked if it would be alright to stay at my place for the time being. I wasn't ready to move into the pack house, and I needed some time to adjust to all of this.

"Um, Alpha? Is it possible if I could stay at my place for now? I want to be close to my aunt and uncle, and I need to adjust to all the changes. Also, could I possibly get an advance on my pay to get some suitable clothes? | didn't need all the fancy threads when I was just a 'mere warrior" I said with a chuckle.

"Of course, man. Just keep your phone on and your link block down, just in case," he said. He then took out a wallet from his desk and handed it to me. "I'm supposed to wait until you are sworn in, but f\*ck it. This wallet is for the Beta of the pack. It contains all the credit cards and bank cards for the pack. You can spend what you need without the worry of paying back, but all receipts need to be given to Riley. Don't go overboard, but like I said, if you need clothes, food, whatever, you can use those cards. You will also have free use of the pack vehicles. Just sign it out with the guard on duty. s\*it, while I'm thinking of it, do you just want to do your swearing now?" he asked.



I was shocked. “Are you sure?” I asked. “I mean, if you are ready and have faith in me like that, then yeah, let’s do this,” I stated.

Maddix moved from his desk and towards the large bookshelf near his desk. He picked up a box and sat it on the coffee table near the sofa. He motioned for Riley and Henry to join us as witnesses, and removed a ceremonial dagger from the box.

He cleaned the blade with rubbing alcohol and had me sanitize my hands. He stood up straight and looked me in the eyes.

“Gunner, give me the palm of your hand,” Maddix said. I reached out my right hand, and he sliced my palm. He repeated the gesture with his own hand, and placed it against my cut. “This is a blood-bound oath. Once made, it is only severed by a mutual agreement between the two of us, or death. Do you understand?” he asked.

“Yes, Alpha. I understand and agree,” I replied. He closed his eyes and gave a slight nod, and continued.

“Good, Gunner, please repeat after me. I, Gunner Vincent, swear to uphold and protect the laws of the Blood Moon pack and its people. I swear to uphold the laws with integrity and honesty. I pledge my loyalty to my Alpha, Maddix Young and my Luna Riley Young, and any of their successors hereafter. On my honor, I will willingly lay down my life for the protection of my pack, and only by death will I falter.”

I repeated every word he said, and when I finished he declared me Beta of Blood Moon and Ruby Meadows. I felt the bond snap in place, and although I had access to link everyone in the pack, the connection became much more intense. The bond was so strong that I nearly lost my balance.

Riley told me to sit, but I chose to continue standing. My hand was still in Maddix’s when my wolf, Axi, came forward. He looked our Alpha dead in the eye and repeated part of what I had just pledged.

“To the death, Alpha. I will protect you, your lineage, and this pack with my life just as my human will. I promise you.”

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\*Maddix POV\*

ONE WEEK LATER

I had been expecting to hear from the council or the king himself, but surprisingly, there was no backlash. I had even spoken to Declan, and he said that the king mentioned my stubbornness and the beauty of my mate's wolf, but that was all. Maybe he respected me enough for speaking my mind and standing my ground, but whatever it was, I was thankful there were no repercussions.

I spoke with Addie a couple of days ago, and she said that he even approved her pack's name change. She said she had a surprise for me when I got there, and that it was something mom and our dads had already agreed on. I had no clue what she had in store, but I was eager to find out.

We were already on route to her inaugural ceremony, and I had already laughed more on this ride than I have in weeks.

Hell, probably months. Appointing Gunner as my Beta was definitely a wise choice. He fits in so well, and him and I are quickly getting closer.

He is in the very back seat behind the babies, and listening to him talk to them both has been comical. He was born to be a father. Hopefully, he finds his mate soon, and that can become a reality.

I know he has chosen not to leave Blood Moon very often, mainly because of his duties as a warrior and his worry about his aunt and uncle, but now, his position will put him in a situation where he will have to from time to time. I hope that it will lead him to his mate.

Sterling had started to get fussy, and without hesitation, my beta decided to softly sing 'Danny Boy' to him. He replaced Danny with Sterlings name, and after a short time, my little one was lulled to sleep.

"You have a way with kids, and you don't sing half badly either," Riley said to him. He thanked her and expressed how much he loved kids.

"I love kids, they are our future. It's our job to treat and raise them right. Make sure they grow up to be honest and kind people," he said.

"Gunner, you are going to make someone a great mate, I'm sure of it," she said.

We pulled into our destination, and no sooner as we parked the car, my mom and dad's were at the back doors getting the kids out. There was no 'Hello son', nothing. They just took my kids and disappeared.

I heard my sister laughing as she waddled out the door towards us. "They have been patiently pacing a path in the floor since you said you were on your way. Updated by Jobnib.com, visit us for more novels. Mom definitely doesn't like being away from those two. I don't know how she is going to handle it when she has all 10 grandkids in 4 different packs," Addie said.

I pulled my very pregnant baby sister in for a hug, and she started acting very strangely. "Maddix? Why do you smell like fresh baked bread? You never smell like bread," she said as she kept sniffing me.

Are you f\*vcking kidding me? I already knew what this meant, and I just prayed for the best.

My new Beta finally came around the SUV and placed our bags down beside us. I went to introduce him to Addie, and she froze.

"No....." she said, and hurriedly went back into the pack house. The look on Gunner's face was full of hurt, and I asked Riley to explain the situation to him. Gunner had only met my sisters a few times at events, but at that point, they were mated to others, and he wouldn't have recognized her as his mate.

I left him with Riley and rushed to Addie. She was in full-blown panic mode, and Ginger was trying her hardest to calm her down.

"Addie, calm down sweetie, its OK, I promise. He isn't like Miles, he is a genuinely good guy. He is also my new Beta, or do I say was?" I explained.

"Maddix, I'm terrified of history repeating itself. Plus, who the hell would accept me with me about to drop 5 babies who aren't theirs? I don't know if I can do this again," she cried.

We talked for at least another 45 minutes before Riley walked in with a very confused and conflicted Gunner. He looked between Addie and I, and I formally introduced them.

"Beta Gunner Vincent, this is my little sister, Alpha Adelina Young. As you can see, she is very pregnant, and very scared after what happened with her first mate. He was a very unkind man, and she was very afraid of history repeating itself. I have tried to reassure her that you are different, but I think only you can help her understand how true that is," I said.

Gunner straightened his back, and said that Riley had explained what kind of man he was, and that he remembered him from the attack. He wasn't aware that Miles was Addie's

mate, and had missed it when she killed him. He was on the far back border fighting off rogues.

To prove my point of what kind of man he is, he calmly approached where we were sitting and stooped down to her level.

“Adelina, I am not like most people in general. Man or woman. I would rather hurt myself than hurt someone I care for. I protect those I love fiercely, and I am unapologetic for it. I’m sorry you faced such things as you did with that guy, but I’m not him. Nor would I ever treat you like he did. I had been waiting for my mate for a very long time, but I gave up hope, but here you are. All I am asking is for a chance to get to know you, and if by the time we have to go, and you still don’t want me, I will accept your rejection with dignity. However, I would love to be able to call you mine, and raise your kids as my own if you want that too,” he gracefully said.

Mom had obviously been eavesdropping because just as he finished speaking to Addie, Mom yelled from the other room, “Adelina Rose, don’t torture yourself or that beautiful man. Give him a chance to prove himself for goddess sake!”

All of us couldn’t help but bust out laughing when she called Gunner a ‘beautiful man’. His face turned blood-red, but she had a point. Gunner was definitely a handsome dude.

Adelina took a deep breath and finally replied to what he said. “Look, I want to try. I don’t do anything half ass, ever.

So if we do this, it has to be all in. You just became Beta for my brother, and I don’t plan on giving up my Alpha position here. How is this going to work?” she asked.

Before he could reply, I cut in. “I will gladly release him of his Beta duties at Blood Moon if you accept him. However, I won’t let you reduce this big hunk of a man to a Luna. It has to be co-alpha. He is of Alpha blood. Female Alpha blood. I personally think that you both would be amazing leaders together,” I explained.

I hated that I was losing another Beta, but if it meant my sister and my friend’s happiness, then I would gladly reappoint someone else.

“Can I trust what he says, Riley?” Adelina asked my mate.

Riley nodded her head, and then told her how he lulled Sterling to sleep in the car. She explained how he stood up to the king with me, and how he even added to his vow as Beta.

“Adelina, I would never tell you someone was good if they weren’t. Gunner has been above and beyond for Blood Moon for a long time, and I have no doubt he would be good for you,” Riley stated.

“Good, I want this to work so badly. The bond feels different this time, and we haven’t even touched,” she whispered. Gunner took his hand and placed it on top of hers. She gasped at his touch, and he then cupped her face and asked, “How does it feel now?”

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\*Adelina POV\*

I couldn’t wait to see my family this weekend. It had been too long, and if we didn’t do this ceremony soon, I would be giving birth while reciting my oath. The other members of my family being here also gave my parents someone else to focus on. I love them to pieces, but they were driving me insane.

They mean well, but I can only be looked after for so long before I start feeling smothered. Thank the goddess for Ginger, because without her, I definitely would’ve snapped already.

“Addie, they are pulling through the gates,” my mom announced. I stood to put my shoes on, and decided to wait until my parents left their vehicle before venturing out.

With one swift swoop, they had surrounded the car, disengaged car seats and fled the scene like three thieves in the night. As I watched the scene unfold, my wolf, Ariel, was on edge. I figured it had to be the fact I was moving around more than I should be without assistance, but I wasn’t fully sure.

I was technically on bedrest until I had the babies, but a little walking was good for me according to my doctor. Just no strenuous activity.

Ginger took my arm, and helped me out the door. I waddled my way to my big brother and nearly threw myself in his arms. His scent was very off, and he smelled like fresh baked bread. It was only on his clothes though. “Maddix?

Why do you smell like fresh bread?” I asked.

He and Riley looked at me as if I was crazy, but I wasn’t. As I was trying to figure out his scent, someone dropped his bags next to him. The scent grew stronger, and when I saw the feet of a man, I knew where the scent was coming from.

“No...” I whispered as the panic set in. I couldn’t allow myself to fall for the mate bond again. Didn’t the goddess put me through enough the first time?

As bad as I felt about it, I turned and went back into the house as fast as I could. I made it as far as the foyer before I nearly collapsed.

I knew Maddix would follow me, and at this point I didn't care. Ginger was trying her best to calm me down, but it was my brother who finally talked me down.

He explained to me a little about my new mate, and how good of a person he was. I wanted to believe his words, but I had thought the same way about Miles. We all know how that turned out.

I took to heart what Maddix said, because I knew for fact that he wouldn't put me or my babies in danger. If he put himself out on a limb to vouch for the guy, maybe he wasn't so bad. When Riley came in and also confirmed what Maddix had said was true, my heart sank a little

more.

I had left this gorgeous specimen of a man standing in my dust. I had made a fool of myself in front of him, and I didn't know how to fix it.

My mate followed my sister-in-law inside the pack house, and when he heard the conversation, he took it upon himself to reassure me that he wasn't a bad guy. In fact, it turns out he was an honorable and good guy. I felt awful for judging him based on experience.

"I want to try, but I'm afraid," I told everyone. I also told them that the bond did feel different, and when he touched me, I knew I was a goner. His touch felt right, like his skin was made to touch mine, and only mine.

He mentioned that he would raise my pups as his own, but my fear was that he didn't mean it. I wish my trust issues weren't so bad, because I can't trust myself to believe his words. Riley insists he loves kids, and would make a great father, but there are 5, and that is a lot to ask anyone to take on.

"Adelina, there could be 20, and I would still accept and raise them. Your worries are valid. I am not trying to discredit them in any way, but I am saying that unless you try and accept my words, you will never truly know," he reassured me.

I tried so hard to focus on his words, but his striking features, his deep cocoa-brown eyes, made it hard. All I could do was focus on his full lips and think of how I would love to taste them. What was happening to me? Was I giving in?

"Alright," I whispered. "Yea?" he asked. I nodded my head, and pulled him closer to me. I leaned my forehead against his and whispered, "Yea, I want this." | brushed my lips against his, and he gently kissed me back.

"Thank you, I promise you will never regret this decision. I plan on making you happy for the rest of your life," he whispered back.

I heard my mom squeal from the other room, and should have known the eaves dropping would have continued. My mom is a master listener and has the sharpest hearing I have ever heard of.

Maddix asked if we would like some privacy, and Gunner shook his head. "This is a family weekend, bro. Let's have some family time," he laughed.

We went into the dining hall for lunch, and for once I was famished. My appetite had been so hit-and-miss since I had been back here, but for some reason, I actually wanted to eat.

My biggest craving was salty things. The more salt, the better. However, because of the complications, I had promised to limit my salt intake.

I grabbed a plate, and moved my way through the buffet. I loaded my plate with every kind of potato we had, some fresh greens that had been cooked with a chunk of salt pork, a couple of pieces of fried chicken, corn on the cob and 2 large dinner rolls.

As I sat to eat, I noticed Gunner had barely put anything on his plate. "Not hungry?" I asked. He looked uncomfortable, so I leaned in close to talk to him. "Sweetheart, eat as much as you want. I think it's sexy when a man has a healthy appetite," I explained. He seemed to be more at ease with that knowledge, and went back to the buffet. When he came back, he had 2 heaping plates of food.

"That's more like it," I winked. We didn't talk much while we ate, but afterward, while everyone ate dessert and had their coffees, we spoke more. He was quite funny, and when he relaxed a little, it was comforting.

The bond he has with Maddix makes me feel better about everything. If Maddix lets you into his circle, you must be something special.

We spent the rest of the day just enjoying each other's company. We talked about everything under the sun. We were sitting on the porch swing, and I had a couple burning questions I needed to ask, but fear had me stalling.

"Just ask," he said out of the blue. "What?" I replied. "Come on, I can tell something is bothering you," he said.

He was right, there was. I put on my brave pants, and just went for it.

"Will it bother you that I hold a higher rank? I mean, I agree with Maddix, I would rather you be my co-alpha than anything, but I would still be considered top dog so to speak. Will that bother you?" I asked.

He pulled my feet into his lap and started to rub them. "I wouldn't care if my only title was your mate and husband, and father of our babies. My mother was Alpha of our pack, and my dad never took a title. He was content being in the shadows. He helped her with

all the duties of the pack, and he contributed any way he could. As long as you are happy, that's all that matters to me. We are a team, no matter what," he replied.

I nodded my head, and let him know I appreciated his honesty. I asked the final question that had me worried, and it was the biggest of all.

"With the complications with my pregnancy, I'm on bedrest.

Well, supposed to be. I am due really soon. What I'm getting at is, until the babies are born, I can't engage in s\*x. I can't even be marked if there is a threat of raising my heartbeat.

Is this going to be an issue?"

He shook his head and told me we were on my timeline.

When it was the right time, it would happen. I honestly feel extremely lucky right now. That is until we stood up to go back inside.

"Addie, quit trying to find reasons to doubt me. I am in this for the long haul.

## **Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise Chapter 114**

\*Adelina POV\*

I started to follow Gunner when the most agonizing pain exploded through my stomach. "Gunner, Maddix, someone, please help!" I cried. In seconds, my mate, brother and my dads were by my side. "What's going on? Addie?" Gunner asked. His face was full of concern, and worry was pouring off of him.

"The babies, it's...the babies, I think I'm in labor." I struggled to say. "Oh goddess, this pain is worse than the break of the mate bond, Maddix" I cried. He knew the pain Asteria and I went through when Miles and Maddix died, and I wasn't lying when I told him this was worse.

Maddix and Gunner helped me to the sofa, but I wouldn't sit. "I'm soaked, I'm not ruining my new couch," I griped.

Maddix shook his head and replied, "You are seriously worried about a couch right now? Damn, Addie, I'll buy you 4 to replace this one," he laughed. I shot him a glare, and he knew I wasn't in a joking mood.



I tried to remember the breathing and all of that jazz, but when the pains came, there was no concentrating on anything but getting these little ones out of me.

I began to sob, and Riley was trying to comfort me the best she knew how, and I admitted that I was sad that my oath ceremony would have to wait now.

‘No, No it won’t,’ Elder Declan said from the door. ‘We can still do it, if you are up to it. It just won’t be in front of the pack for now. If that is alright with you. We have plenty of witnesses, but we also have the issue of your new mate, Addie,’ he explained.

I can’t believe I was even thinking of doing this now, but my biggest wish was to completely be Alpha before they arrived. ‘He isn’t an issue, Declan. He is my equal in every way, and I want him as my co-alpha. Today, and always.

My partner in everything we go through in life,’ I said while looking at Gunner.

‘Well, Beta Gunner, are you ready to now be Alpha?’ Declan joked. Gunner tried to joke along, but he wasn’t in the right frame of mind.

‘I’m ready to do whatever my mate wants me to do. She is right, we are partners in everything from today forward,’ he said.

My mom came running from the nursery, and put a halt on everything. ‘How about we get her into a hospital bed before you crazy people worry about oaths and vows. She is about to have 5 little babies cut from her, and you are all worried about duty. I can tell you all what to do with your duties,’ she yelled. Mom was so high-strung all the time, and it was sometimes a little too over the top.

‘I apologize, Luna. I meant no disrespect. I just know it’s a concern of Adelina’s, but yes, let’s get her to the hospital,’ Declan agreed.

Gunner picked me up and carried me into a guest room on the main floor. Riley quickly came in after, and helped me put on a dry dress and underwear. I will be forever thankful for that. I didn’t want to be a wet mess going to the hospital.

The pains were coming quicker, and Gunner didn’t hesitate to carry me out of the pack house and to the hospital. He said there wasn’t time to worry about who was going in what car, so we bypassed the whole situation. He was learning fast about how my family operated.

I was missing two people today, two very important people to me. Three if you count Luke, but I mostly missed my sisters. Alette and Damian were on their way, and would be here soon, but Asteria, she wasn’t coming. It broke my heart, but I understood. She still wasn’t ready.

“Mom, can you call Lette and Asteria and let them know about the change of plans?” I asked. She said she would do it right that moment, and she stopped in the lobby to do just that.

Gunner wouldn't let the nurse push me in a wheelchair, and carried me to the room they had set up for me. I could tell the nurse was intimidated, but I assured her he was harmless. Just protective.

Once I was settled, I told Declan and the others they could come in until the nurses came with the epidural. The monitors were alive with the sounds of my little one's heartbeats, and everyone who entered the room was entranced by them. Especially, Gunner.

He watched the monitors like a hawk. Fascinated by everything they did. Every time that the babies kick the monitors and cause them to thump, he would jump out of his skin. I knew he said he was in this for the long haul and wanted to be their father, but things had happened so rapidly that I didn't want him to get freaked out and change his mind.

“Gunner?” I called to him. His eyes never left the monitor, and he reached for his hand. “Yes, my love?” he replied.

“Can you look at me please?” I asked. He turned to look at me, and gently rubbed my hand. “Are you positive you are ready to be a father? Everything is happening so fast with us, and I'm scared it's going to be too much for you,” I explained.

Hurt filled his face, and he furrowed his brows. “Adelina, I have told you numerous times today that I want you. I want this, and I want the babies to be mine. When does life ever play out how we expect? I, for one, think this is better than anything I could've ever expected in my life. So, no more worries, alright?” he stated. He gently kissed my hand, and went back to look at the monitors.

The head nurse came in, and said that they would be taking me back to the surgery in about 10 minutes. My heart began to race, and I called for Declan.

“Declan, we need to do the oath ceremony now. Please. I was serious when I said I wanted the ceremony before my babies arrived. Gunner? Are you sure?” I asked. He nodded his head and said that he was ready to do it, and Declan began the ritual.

He sliced both Gunner and I's left palm, and he then sliced both of his own. With two alphas being sworn in, we would form a circle. He spoke the words we were to repeat in order for our oath to become bonded. As I repeated the words to Declan, I opened the link to my pack, so they could hear the words I was saying.

Once my turn was finished, I also linked the pack to let them know they would be getting a second alpha to lead beside me. I informed them I had found my second chance mate, and he wouldn't be beneath me, but beside me, and that he was to be respected just like I was.

I could tell when the bond snapped in place with Gunner, and I knew the pack was flooding him with welcoming him as alpha and my mate. Once he got his bearings, he bent over and kissed me deeper than he had all day.

The nurse and her assistants came in to take me to surgery and said I could have 3 people in with me. I knew Gunner was one, but I so wished my sisters were there to be number 2 and 3. I chose mom and Ginger, because if things went crazy, I had 2 powerful healers. Plus, mom would have my ass in a sling if she wasn't present.

The nurse put my bed in position to move, and we lead the way out the door with the others following. As we started down the hall, I heard two angelic voices telling us to wait.

It was my sisters, both of them.

"Please, wait! Addie, we're here," they yelled. I burst into tears because Asteria had made a sacrifice to her own peace to be here with me today. She thought it was just a swearing-in ceremony, but it ended up being so much more.

"You're here, both of you are really here," I whispered. The epidural they had given me was kicking in, and the mild sedative was taking its toll. "Mom, Ginger?" I called.

Without complaint, my mom said that it was only right that my sisters went in with me instead of them. I thanked her, and she hugged my neck tighter than she had ever done before. "You take your sisters, your mate, and get my grandkids out of there," she said.

The nurse pushed me faster down the hall, and the four of us disappeared into the surgery. This was really happening.

## Alpha Maddix: A Brother's Promise

### Epilogue

\*Maddix POV\*

1 year later

What a difference a year makes. So many changes, but all in the name of loyalty and family

Adelina's little ones turn 1 today, and they are celebrating here at Blood Moon. She recently found out she was pregnant again, and as of right now, there is only 1 heartbeat.

She ended up having 3 boys and 2 girls, and she swore that there was some mistake according to ultrasounds she had.

However, the proof says otherwise. She ended up naming the kids after all of us in some way. The boys were named:

Alexander Liam, Jackson Loki, Hunter Maddix. The girls:

Gretchen River, Lillian Melian.

All of them were given Gunner's last name, and they knew him as daddy. It was demanded that we would never mention Miles to them. He didn't deserve to have his memory move on with his children. They had the father they deserved, and that is how it would stay.

Riley and I have decided that we wouldn't go out of our way to have another baby, but if it happened we would be fine with it. She has come so far with her magic, and she still goes to Ruby Meadows to work with my mom, aunt and sister on weekends. It has made her calmer and more content with everything here.

She is an amazing Luna, and with us basically running both packs, it helps to also have her there.

Asteria, she also met her second chance mate about 4 months ago. However, they have taken things much slower than Gunner and Addie. Visit [Jobnib.com](http://Jobnib.com) for more novels. They have marked one another, but not yet mated. She would have met him sooner if Damian and I hadn't needed him to extend his position at a job we had him on. Donavon was a great guy, and helped our family when we really needed it.

With Donavon's help, we were able to figure out who was continuing the work that Lawrence had started. They were arrested, and the shipping port was required to be closed down. It didn't bother Damian that he had to move locations, but it weighed heavily on him on whether he should even continue to run out of Seattle or Portland.

Damian and Alette had a rocky point in their relationship not long after their little boys were born. Connor Lucas, Chase Leonidis, and Carver Lewis were born about 2 months after Adelina's children. Carver was definitely the smallest of the three and had some issues with his legs.

He didn't let anything hold him back, and was just as active as the other two. He was even the first one to pull himself up and take his first steps. I would never tell Alette or Damian, and I loved all my nieces and nephews the same, but something about Carver made him my absolute favorite. I knew from the second I held him that he had not only a strong wolf inside of him, but he also had strong magic.

Alette refused to get Carver the help he needed to fix his legs. She insisted that he would be fine, and he was perfect the way he was. This made Damian feel like she was neglecting his health. Carver needed surgery to correct the way his feet faced. If he didn't have the surgery, his first shift would be worse than any pain you could inflict on someone.

It took a lot of coaxing and convincing Alette that no one thought there was anything wrong with Carver, but we just wanted to help him from future suffering. When we finally got her to realize what we were thinking and saying, she agreed to allow the surgery.

She and Damian finally made up, and are stronger than ever.

Buck and Micah are doing well, and are a huge part of a lot of changes happening in Spirit Mountain. Micah has opened a home for young, unwed mothers, and it's open to any young girl, no matter her species, pack or rank. She doesn't want any young girl to go through what she did.

Buck is an amazing daddy to Aisling, and I'm pretty sure I have figured the little toddler out. I recognize her eyes, I have looked into them a million times since I was a child.

Gran chose Aisling. She chose to return as a wolf, and she always said that she would return as someone in or close to our family. Of course, she chose mine and Damian's goddaughter.

Phoenix and Lindy officially live at the former Northern Sun pack. Adelina, true to her word, renamed the pack Blood Hollow. Blood in honor of where she came from, and Hollow in honor of Hollow Hearth, the coven our great-grandmother Gretchen was born in. Mom loved the name, and it was definitely growing on me.

All four packs were now considered and deemed family land. Because we owned such a vast amount of land in the pacific northwest, it was decided by King Jakob that we would no longer be considered part of the Royal Jurisdiction. The decision was his, but that didn't make it right. He cut off all help, including from the royal council, and he actively started to try and turn other packs against US.

Thankfully, we had built a good reputation and had such good relationships with the packs he attempted to turn against us. His antics didn't work, and more and more packs started to rebel against his authority. It wouldn't be long before someone challenged him for his title.

Caleb and River not only adopted Adam and Abigail, but also adopted 3 more children from our uncle Jason's pack.

They were great dads, and the kids were completely spoiled. Not only by their dads, but all of their aunts, uncles and grandparents.

It was becoming a pattern of all the little ones in the family being spoiled rotten. However, they deserved it. They deserved everything their hearts desired, and as long as they were raised right, it wouldn't affect how they grew up.

Henry is still my Gamma, and him and Celeste had a little boy named Richard Jack, after his adopted dad and his fallen brother, Jack. He has bright red hair and is the sweetest little guy.

I waited almost 3 months before I chose a new Beta. I wanted to make sure a few things were in place before deciding on the right person. It only took about a 20-minute conversation before my dad, Liam, made the obvious choice. It was right in front of me the whole time, and because they would come as one unit, I didn't even think they would be open to it.

After my conversation with dad, I called my cousins Regina and Riley. They were adopted by Rico and Grace when my mom and dads adopted me. They are about 9 or 10 months younger than me, and live a very reclusive life.

They are incredibly smart, but can't get over the stigma of what our biological parents did.

I asked for a meeting with them, and they happily accepted.

To my surprise, they were already back home in the pack.

They have been attending school in California, and recently graduated from college. When they arrived, I laid out my proposal.

After reading over the details, they both eagerly accepted as long as they could both accept the position. I didn't have a problem with it, and once I made that known, we officially swore them in.

In two weeks, mom and my dads are leaving for another adventure with Uncle Rico and Aunt Grace. This time, however, they will be joined by uncle Jason and Aunt Rebecca. Joel is taking over as Alpha, and his parents are retiring with my parents. Good for them.

I have prayed many times to the moon goddess to watch over me and my family. Each time she has done just that.

She has made it to where we can all stay relatively close to one another, and has paved the way for us all to succeed.

She may have appointed me as protector of my family and my pack, but she has given me so much more than I could have ever asked for, and because of that, I can now sit back and just watch the journey my siblings and family choose to go on.

I will always be there if they ever need me, but for now, I think it's time to protect them from a distance and attend to my duties as Alpha of Blood Moon and Ruby Meadows, and husband and father to my wife and children.

This is the end of Alpha Maddix's story as the protector he promised to be. He definitely won't be absent from the other's stories, and we will learn more about little Sterling and Willow as well. I have started the girl's story in a stand-alone book that will also include Phoenix's story. It is called "Finding Their Way: The Children of Blood Moon." Always visit [Jobnib.com](http://Jobnib.com) for the continuation of the book.