

Chapter 51 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Loki POV

All of our duties for the Royal Council have been carried out, except for three. Unfortunately, those three are on hold until we find their family members that slipped passed the Council. As long as the majority is finished, I can wait for the rest. I desperately need time with my mate, and rest. Liam had already called and spoken with Alpha Callum from Dark Star, and to say that the man was rude and flippant would be the nicest thing mentioned about him.

Even after Liam described the state that Melian was in when she came to Blood Moon, Callum kept his attitude. You would think if someone told you that another pack had crossed the line and took advantage of their pack members by abusing them and treating them like shit would piss you off. As an alpha, we are supposed to protect our pack, and if necessary, members of other packs who are being mistreated. Callum basically said it wasn't his problem, and we could fuck off. What goes on in our pack doesn't concern him, and what goes on in his, is none of our business.

After dinner, Mel and I went and sat on the porch swing. We talked about how excited she was to possibly get her casts off tomorrow, and the first thing she wanted to do was shift and go for a run. She felt shafted on her first shift because her broken bones restricted her from running. She was anxious to get out and feel what it felt like to go exploring in her wolf form. She mentioned over and over how much Ruby needed to 'stretch her legs' and wanted to do so with Rocko and Zeus. As we were talking, she suddenly stopped. "Loki, when will we do the Luna ceremony? I have already accepted and marked you both, and you both have accepted and marked me. I know things are crazy right now, but I think we should have it. I also think we need to do the welcoming ceremonies for Jason, Rebecca and Jenna. As well as any other Mystic Shadows member who are ready to pledge loyalty to Blood Moon as their new home. Sooner the better," she stated. It took me off guard, but I wasn't opposed to it.

I knew we needed to talk to Liam about it, but he wouldn't object either. To do it now would make sense since Elder Iris was still here. 'Let's get it done babe. Liam and I will get everything ready and we will do it tomorrow. Sounds good?' I asked. She nodded her head and leaned in for a kiss. My lips met hers and I deepened the kiss. Her tongue begged for entry and I let her in. Our tongues danced together in perfect unison, and it was the first time that I had felt her emotions through just a kiss. I loved her so much, and she was mine. Liam came out to join us, and sat on the other side of Mel. I informed him about her wishes and he was more than happy to

make it happen. We all started to yawn, and decided to head up to our room to get ready for bed. Tomorrow is another long day, and we wanted to make sure she was well rested.

BANG!BANG!BANG! "Alphas!!! Wake up!! We are being attacked!!" I was startled out of my sleep by Jason pounding on the door and yelling we were under attack. FUCK! I shook Liam until he was finally awake and told him what was going on. I could hear screaming outside the house and I hurried to get dressed. "MEL! YOU HAVE TO WAKE UP!" I called to her. She started to stir, but Liam just scooped her up out of bed. We didn't have time to waste and needed to get her to safety.

We opened the door and Jason, Rebecca and the kids were standing outside waiting for us. Running down the hallway to the safety bunker, Rebecca slipped on something and fell. Jason bent over to pick her up and she realized she had slipped on someone's blood. She started to panic but Jason kept her running. Mel was fully awake now and was confused by what was going on. Liam told her he would let Rebecca explain once she was inside and safe. She started to fight to get down, saying she wasn't staying in the bunker. She wanted to stay with us, and wouldn't listen to reason. Liam forced her into the bunker with the guards and shut the door. Setting the locks, he turned to me and said, "She may be mad now, but she will realize it was for the best." I was shocked that he made her do something against her will. I know it was for her safety, but forcing her was only going to make things worse for him when she got out of there. Liam took off running and Jason and I followed.

Outside, it was utter chaos. There were bodies everywhere and buildings were burning. It was hard to see who was who through the smoke. We finally found Nick and he told us that Rico had taken a group of warriors and were heading towards the cell house. I told him to stay there and help keep anyone from entering the house. The three of us shifted and ran towards the cell house, and once we arrived we found the guards posted outside dead. Their throats had been ripped out, and their bodies laid lifeless in a pool of blood. Inside it wasn't any better. The three of us ripped apart anyone we came across that wasn't part of our pack, and when we got to the end of the hallway where Scott and Lisa were being held, there stood the three we were looking for with 2 other gentlemen. "Ah, Alpha Liam, Alpha Loki, I am Alpha Callum Star. I have come for my new pack member's family, and my mate," he stated.

I spoke up and said, "Who do you think you are waltzing in here attacking us and thinking you can just take our prisoners. You are out of your fucking mind! As far as our 'mate', I don't know which one you are referring to, but you are welcome to join them in a cell." The youngest of the boys stepped forward and shifted. I assume this is Alpha Scott's son. As he jumps for the attack, I extend my claws and grab him by the throat. Sinking my claws in deeper, I shake him until I have blood dripping from my hand. I heard his neck snap, and I dropped him to the ground. Extending my fangs, and ready to shift, I looked at the rest standing before me. "If you are ready to dance, strike up the band, mother fuckers! I'm done playing!"

Ultimatums

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Liam POV

"If you are ready to dance, strike up the band, mother fuckers! I'm done playing!" I heard Loki say. He was as fed up as I was, and I was just as ready. "Alpha Callum, you are outnumbered here, will you really risk your life for people who don't even concern you? What are you hoping to even gain from being so arrogant and stupid?" I asked.

"The lot of you have done pushed my brother over the edge, and as you can see, his wolf, Zeus, is ready to join us and destroy you. It's taking everything Loki has to hold him at bay so he doesn't finish this shift. If he shifts, I shift, then my brother-in-law shifts, as well as my higher-ranked men, and then you are all completely fucked. Surrender now, and live. Allow us to shift and kiss your ass goodbye. What will it be?" I continued. His breathing was rapid and heavy. His nostrils flared and the tips of his ears were blood red from anger. Jed and Kyle looked at each other before looking at their uncle for guidance.

Jason tried to play on Jed's emotions and addressed him. "Jed, I know you are angry at me right now, and think I'm a traitor. That isn't the case. I chose to save my sister, and if you would have seen her after dad, Eric and your mate were done with her this last time, I think you would even have walked away from Todd. If you knew his past, not only with Melly, but others, including me, you would walk away. You are a major prick, don't get me wrong, but you aren't as sadistic and evil as my brother. You were mated to him by fate, not choice. You can make a choice now, and walk away from him and maybe live, or you can stand by him and die beside him. Life is full of choices, it's whether you make the right one that makes the difference between life or death." Jed spit at Jason and called him a traitor and a liar. Jason took it with a grain of salt and did the honorable thing. He told Jed he respected his decision, even if it was one of the dumbest he could have ever made.

He then came and stood between myself and Rico. Kyle then did something that surprised us, "Alphas, Jason, I want to see my sister. If we are to die, then that is the least you can do for us." I started to laugh as the words came out of his mouth. Was this kid for real? Did he take us as fools? So naive and egotistical, with a hint of dumbassery. "No, Kyle, no. That isn't happening. You did get one thing right though, you are both dying today. You can speak to one another in the afterlife. Wherever that may take you, but not here. So, as Loki said, we are tired of playing around with whatever fucked up games you all seem to be playing. It's surrender or die. There are no other choices. You have until the count of 3 to decide. I watched as they all became tense and started to question one another. Rico started the countdown.

3.....2.....*BOOM!!!*

Before Rico could get to 1, an explosion happened right in front of us. It knocked us to the ground, and filled the room with smoke. "LOKI? RICO? JASON?" I hollered out. I tried to see what was going on around me, and could see some movement. I wasn't sure who it was, but I tried to make my way to them. After about 6 steps, someone grabbed my ankle. It was Jed, Todd's mate. "Help me, I'm trapped. Something is on my leg. I think it's broke," he cried. I left him lying there in his tears and pain as I pushed forward trying to find my people. I had no intention of helping him or any of his other associates if they were injured.

Once I found who I was searching for, I would be the one to kill them. I heard coughing and my name being called. I rushed to the area it was coming from and saw Jason lying under some rubble. "You OK, Jason? Can you move?" I asked. He said he felt like a ton of bricks was on his chest, and I knew he wasn't seriously injured if he was making jokes. I helped get off the rock that was lying on him and helped him up. He had a slight limp, but said it was from a cut he obtained when the rocks knocked him down. We both started to look for the others and came upon Kyle's body. He was definitely dead. That left Uncle Georgie and Alpha Callum.

Jason yelled that he had found Loki and Rico, and that Loki was fine. Rico, however, was unconscious. He was bleeding from his head, and trapped as well by a fallen iron rack. Loki and I removed the rack, and Loki threw him over his shoulder. He took off running with him and I knew he was taking him to the hospital. Jason and I moved through the cell house looking for George and Callum, and came upon open cell doors. Callum had killed Todd and Scott, and taken Lisa. Was Lisa the mate he was referring to? It was possible. I mean, we had killed Thomas, her first mate. Maybe the goddess gave her another for some sick and twisted reason. As much respect I had for her, I was really questioning her sanity at the moment.

Jason and I decided to get out of the cell house and try to locate them, but when we came outside, the scene we walked upon was gruesome. Bodies littered the ground in puddles of blood. Body parts were scattered in the mud. Fires everywhere and warriors from the opposing pack were on their knees with their hands bound.

Standing in front of them proudly was Ruby, Melian's wolf. Her white fur was stained red with blood. Along with the shock of what we were seeing came another emotion. Heartbreak, because at Ruby's feet laid the lifeless body of our Gamma, Nick. Ruby growled at anyone who dared to come near him. Jason and I slowly approached her and when her eyes met mine she laid down and placed her head on his chest. Nick was Mel's friend, her protector when we weren't around, and now he was gone. I fell on my knees in front of her and started to weep. Jason took a cape off of one of our warriors and held it up for Ruby to shift back to Melian, and wrapped it around her. She ran into my arms and we both laid on the ground mourning our friend.

Ruby's First Fight

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Melian POV

I can't believe I was thrown into this room against my will. I get it, I'm all casted up and in a wheelchair, but that doesn't mean I am helpless. I am beyond pissed and I'm sure I'm being irrational, but I'm about to become Luna, and I'm sitting in a fucking bunker doing nothing. I have already ticked off Rebecca, and I'm sure Jenna will be next, but I can't control it. Ruby is stressed and is talking about forcing a shift. I have got to get out of this room. "Mel! Stop pacing in that chair! I'm already a nervous wreck and you are making it worse. The babies are sensing the tension and you acting like a mad woman!" Rebecca barked. My nephew, Maddix, started to reach for me, and Jenna sat him in my lap. Maddix was such a sweet boy, and just being around him made everyone feel better. He just had this aura about him that calmed even the angriest person. He cuddled up in my lap and played with his little toy, and I started to calm down, and started a conversation with Jenna. Eric had always made sure that I had very limited contact with Jenna, and she only knew what my family had told her.

"You know, Mel, you aren't as weak as Eric made you seem. You aren't ignorant either. I'm sorry I judged you by what he told me. I was blinded to how he really was when we first found each other. I thought the goddess had sent me the man of my dreams, and after our mating ceremony and we marked each other, he became the nightmare I wanted to escape. When I got pregnant with Maddix, I barely saw him. He was either 'out with the guys' or with his dad and brothers doing goddess knows what to you. After I had Maddix, he beat me so badly one night because I confronted him about his 'boys nights'. I knew he was out sleeping with other women. I felt it through the bond, and he thought he could get away with it. It was that night that he admitted he screwed anything and everything that would let him. He also told me about how the guys in your family enjoyed abusing and torturing you. I had been planning a way out ever since. I had to pretend everything was hunky dory, but it was far from that. Every dime I could get my hands on I would hide away. About a week before....you know....*sigh*...he found my stash. If I hadn't had Maddix in my arms, he probably would have killed me right there. He told me that Maddix was the only one keeping me alive, because he needed his mother. I think Maddix is the only person Eric ever truly loved. I'm sorry that I didn't try and help you when I found out what him and your dad had planned, but I couldn't." Jenna cried as she explained.

It took a moment for me to let everything she said sink in, and when it did, I held her hand. "Jenna, I don't blame you. You never got the chance to know me, and when you were around at family functions, I had to pretend everything was this perfect fairytale family. I was instructed not to divulge too much personal information and to only speak when spoken to, and was watched like a hawk by not only my stepmother, but staff. Once everyone left, I would be thrown back into my room and they would dare to leave. Once the boys graduated, school was the only

place I could find peace from them, but walked into the shit storm named Lisa. Then we all know what happened before Jason saved me and brought me here.

It's the past, and they are no longer a threat to me or you. Hell to anyone anymore. I hope that we can build the relationship we should have always had. You have no family, and all I have is what is here. Plus, I think Rebecca would also love another girl in the mix." I said to her. She smiled and gave a slight nod.

As we chatted, Ruby started to get very anxious. "Zeus is angry. We need to go to them. They need us," she kept repeating. I looked at Jenna, as I handed the now sleeping Maddix to her, "I need your help. I have to get out of here. Ruby is about to force a shift because Zeus and Loki are extremely angry and Loki is about to lose control. Please help me Jen." She stood up and walked over to Rebecca. She whispered into her ear and they both practically ran back to me.

"Mel, you can't let Ruby shift. Your leg and arm are still in casts," Rebecca pleaded. "Becca, I don't think I can stop her. She is persistent and I haven't learned how to keep her under control. She's also much stronger than I am," I explained. Fur started to sprout on my skin, and my snout started to elongate. I looked at my sister-in-laws with fear in my eyes and Rebecca ran to the guards and demanded they let me out before I fully shifted and scared the kids. They wanted to argue until Jenna rolled me up to them and they could see exactly what was happening. "OPEN THE FUCKING DOOR!" I commanded.

The guards instantly submitted, revealing their necks and apologized. They both fought to get the door open and Rebecca pushed me out onto the porch. She stayed with me until I was fully shifted. The casts on my arm and legs were shredded during the transformation. I started to run towards the chaos without any issues. It was as if I never had broken bones. I saw Nick in the distance fighting with the Royal guards and our warriors. He was struggling with 4 enemy wolves, and I made a split decision to go help. I had no clue how to fight in a war like this, but I wasn't going to let him fight alone.

Ruby and Hopper, Nick's wolf, fought through wolf after wolf. Hopper would get the best of them and toss them to Ruby to finish off. They worked great as a team, but something went wrong. Terribly wrong. As Ruby was finishing off a large gray wolf, Nick was attacked by 3 very large wolves. By the time Ruby was able to fight them off, Nick laid lifeless on the ground.

A chunk of his throat had been bitten off and he had bled to death almost instantly. Ruby released an agonizing howl at the loss of her good friend, and her mate's cousin. Her howl attracted the attention of Blood Moon warriors and those who could come running to her aid were by her side in seconds. Timmy had shifted back to his human form and ran to Nick.

He also let out an agonizing scream and picked up the Gamma and carried him to the steps of the pack house. He gently laid him at the bottom and shifted back into his wolf, Garrett. Garrett fought next to Ruby and the warriors and after a short time, they stood victorious. Ruby walked to her friend, and stood over his lifeless body, guarding Nick until her mates arrived to find out that he was gone. When she finally saw Liam, she fought back her emotions until she saw him break. Jason brought her a covering and she shifted back into her human form. She ran to hug

him and they both collapsed. "I'm sorry, I tried..." was all she could muster to say. He held her tight and they laid on the ground crying in pain about their loss.

Loss

Chapter 54 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Loki POV

After the explosion, Zeus controlled everything I did. I had to carry Rico to the hospital in full run mode, and after I knew he was in safe hands, I took off to try and locate Callum, Lisa and George. I probably, in hind sight, should have called for reinforcements to go with me, but I had tunnel vision. To find the trio before they leave the Blood Moon borders.

I ran back to the cell house and went around to the back. I saw the back security door was open and there were tracks going into the woods. There were some guards searching along the edge and I called for them to follow me. I shifted to Zeus, and sniffed out the scent of blood. I ran in the direction it was coming from and came upon a mutilated body. From the scent of the body, I knew it wasn't one of our pack members. Upon investigation, we discovered that it was Uncle George. Why would Callum kill his Beta? Things were getting weirder, and I had to get back to Liam to let him know the situation.

We knew where Callum would go, and we would go after him. I told the guards who came with me to clean up the body, and put it in the hospital morgue. I wanted Dr. Flores to look it over to see if there was anything odd. I know I was probably overthinking, but I wanted to be thorough too. I shifted back to Zeus and ran to the pack house. I wasn't expecting to see what I stumbled upon.

Liam and Mel lay over Nick's lifeless body. I shifted back to my human form and approached them to make sure my eyes weren't deceiving me. "Ni...Nick? Is he...?" I asked with tears forming in my eyes. Liam stood up and grabbed me in a tight hug, and just kept sobbing and repeating, "He's gone Lok!" I fell to my knees and let the tears flow. My body was shaking from grief and I growled at anyone who came near me. Nick was not only my cousin, but my best friend. He understood me almost better than my twin, and I could tell him anything. Who would I confide in now? Who would be there to calm me when I was raging?

Nick was that person for me, and I don't think he knew exactly how much I appreciated him for it. Melian walked over to me and got down on her knees in front of me. She cupped my face with her hands and made me look at her. She was also crying, and she whispered, "My love, you aren't alone. You never will be. I know you loved Nick, and he loved you too. He will be with

you always, and when you are feeling alone and missing your best friend, I want you to think about the time you had together. No one can take your memories from you, and together we can find a way to keep them alive." I grabbed her and pulled her to me.

Her words were like music to my ears, and even though my heart hurt, I knew she was right. "Thank you," I said into her hair. I noticed it had started raining, and I released my mate so that I could stand. "Thank you, but I need to get him out of the rain. I will take him to the Morgue to be prepared for his send off. It will be done with honor, and after the rain has stopped. We will send him back to the moon goddess with dignity." I stated, and bent over to pick up my best friend. I carried another person I cared about to the hospital, but this time it was to the morgue, not the ER. I laid him on the gurney and wheeled him down the hall. I was numb, and all I wanted was for him to open his eyes and tell me it was a prank. I knew that wasn't going to happen, but I wished it anyway.

Once in the morgue, the smell of embalming fluid filled my nose, and I almost wretched. I pulled a chair next to his gurney, and just sobbed while I talked to him. I could feel his spirit around me, I just wished over and over it would re-enter his body. "I'm sorry I wasn't there for you bro. If I were fighting by your side, instead of dealing with bullshit in the cells, you would still be here with me. Who is going to laugh at my lame ass attempt to be funny now? I love you man, I always will." I laid my head on the gurney and held his cold hand. "Goddess, please take care of my friend. Watch over us while we mourn his death, and please guide us to victory over battle to avenge him." I prayed to the moon goddess.

I heard the door to the morgue open, and footsteps coming my way. "Loki?" a sweet voice called out. Through swollen, red eyes, I turned to my mate and brother. "We just wanted to check on you, and say our goodbyes as well. Can we join you?" I nodded my head and pulled her onto my lap. Liam pulled up a chair beside us and we all joined hands.

I still had one of my hands holding onto Nick's, and Liam placed his on top of mine. "Bro, Nick's death will not go unavenged. I promise you. Mel did everything she could to save him." he said. My head snapped at her and yelled, "What the hell? What do you mean she did everything she could to save him? Why was she even out of the bunker? Are you telling me that my best friend died because my mate couldn't take an order to stay put?" I was angry. I knew I was being irrational, but those were the thoughts filling my head. I pushed her off my lap and started to pace around the room.

I noticed she no longer had her casts on her body, and I demanded answers. She spoke up and said, "Ruby couldn't stay still. She felt your pain and took over for the most part. She knew you were hurt, and started to force a shift. I wasn't able to stop her and if I hadn't gotten out of the house and that bunker when I did, I don't know what she would have done. I have small nieces and nephews there I had to protect, and I had an injured mate I needed to get to. When I got outside, I was surrounded and Nick came to my rescue. He would fight them until they were near death and I finished them off. We worked as a team, but if you want to blame me for his death, fine. I can't stop you. He did die trying to save me, like the amazing friend and Gamma he was." After she spoke, she took off running out of the room. I felt like shit for blaming her, and I didn't know how to fix it right now.

Chapter 55 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Callum POV

The explosion went off without a hitch, and hopefully it took care of what it was intended to do. It was mainly just for a distraction, but if it injured or killed the Alphas, then even better. Once the chaos pursued, I rushed down the hallway trying to sniff out my mate. I knew they were here, it was just a matter of finding them. Finally, coming to the door with no window, the smell of tangerines and sage overwhelmed me. I ripped off the door, and stood face to face with a short blonde with big blue eyes.

She jumped into my arms, begging me to save her, and I put her down instantly. I took a step back, and she retreated onto her cot. "You don't want me? I know you are my second chance mate, but if you don't want me, just kill me please." She begged. "I'm not going to reject you, I was just looking at you. Who put those branding marks on your body?" I demanded her to answer. "It was Jason Carter. He said the letter M would remind me of the horrible things I did to his sister, Melian.

They branded all of us who were imprisoned because of her. Her brother, Thomas, my first mate, looked much worse. They killed him in the end. Until you showed up, I thought I was next. So, before they find us and kill us all, can we just get out of here? We can discuss all of this later. Please?!" she cried. My heart broke for her, but the rage I felt made me want to turn around and finish those bastards off. I still didn't understand why they protected this girl like she was a china doll, and I still don't see how a little bullying justifies sentencing someone to death. It's not like she was anyone important.

I picked her back up and decided to carry her. She was nearly naked and had no shoes on her feet. I could barely sense her wolf, so I knew she had been being dosed with wolfsbane. That meant no shifting for her. As I exited my mate's cell, I told George to move his ass so we could get out of there before they found us, and I noticed he had a large gash in his neck. "You OK to continue? I don't have time to wait for you if your wound is going to slow you down, my friend." I asked him. He nodded his head and told me to lead the way, and we rushed until we found a door. My mate told me that it was an exit she had escaped from before, and it was always unlocked. It opened into an area that was at the edge of the forest, and we dashed into trees before we could be seen. After running for close to 15 minutes, George started to move slower. I screamed at him to hurry and he fell to his knees.

He was bleeding out, and I decided to put him out of his misery. George was one of my oldest friends, and I wouldn't allow him to suffer. I knew it would destroy his mate and kids, but he was going to die either way. I just couldn't let it happen at the hands of the alpha twins. I placed my mate down on her feet and went to speak with my Beta. "George? You are bleeding out, my friend, and you won't be able to move much further." He closed his eyes and whispered, "Do it Callum. End this for me. I would rather it was you." Taking a deep breath, I extended my claws and ripped my friend apart. It was probably overkill, but it was better to make it quick and instant than to just finish slicing his throat and letting him die slowly. I heard voices in the distance and could sense one of the alpha twin's aura getting closer. I told my mate I was going to shift and for her to climb on my back and hold tight.

We were getting the hell off Blood Moon's territory as quickly as possible. Thankfully, she was obedient and did what she was told, and as quickly as she could. Once she was secured on my back, I took off running. When I put a lot of distance between us and the alpha twin, I slowed my pace. We were close to where we left our cars before the attack, and I wasn't going to fully slow down until we reached them. Hopefully, some of my pack warriors made it back to them as well.

Most of the cars were still where we left them, and it meant that some of my men got away. They were instructed to return to Dark Star, and await my order for further instructions. I put my mate down, and grabbed a pair of sweatpants for me, and a t-shirt for her. She climbed into the passenger seat and strapped herself in. When I got into the car, she was taking deep breaths with my shirt over her nose. "What are you doing?" I asked her. She gave a slight laugh and said she wanted to see what I smelled like without the hint of blood and sweat. "You smell like chocolate and raspberries, it's mouth watering." she smirked. "I probably smell horrible to you," she stated and I had to let out a laugh. "You are seriously laughing and talking to me about smells? We are running for our lives at the moment. Are you always this blase when things are serious?" I asked.

She shrugged her shoulders and replied, "If I were still locked in that little box of a room I would probably be more panicked. However, I am not and I am safe in the car with my mate on our way to Goddess knows where. So I'm just trying to lighten the mood." Her way of thinking made sense I guess, but I didn't feel like I could be as calm and cool until we were further away. I tried to make small talk while looking in my mirrors cautiously. I learned more about why she was locked up, what her favorite food was, her favorite color and music. Just some of the basics. I also learned that her favorite dessert was chocolate cake with raspberry filling. How convenient. When we finally reached Dark Star, and the car stopped, I turned to look at her. "We are home. Let's get you inside to get fed and washed up. I also want the pack doctor to look you over. By the way, you smell like tangerines and sage. Those smells are also my favorites."

I gave her a slight wink and got out of the car.

Guilt

Chapter 56 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Melian POV

TRIGGER WARNING....TALKS OF SUICIDE

My heart is shattered right now. How could Loki blame me for Nick dying? Yes, he was helping me, and I will forever have that guilt, but it was not my fault. He was outnumbered. When I left the hospital, I had no clue where to go. I just knew I had to get out of there. I didn't want to go to the pack house, they would find me there and I needed to be alone. I ran to the training fields hoping that no one would be there. I had seen an old willow tree close to there the day that I went to the cell house. It was beautiful and the branches were long. I could hide out there for awhile and collect my thoughts. I needed a straight head when they finally found me, because if I didn't, I would crumble at their anger.

The events of the day replayed in my mind. Loki was right, I should have stayed put. I should have talked Ruby down, but instead I acted with Ruby instead of using common sense. I just wish I could go back in time and change everything. Make better decisions. Maybe when I was younger, and had followed through with wanting to end myself, none of this would have ever happened. My mates wouldn't have had to deal with all my bullshit drama, and their cousin would still be alive. They could have been much happier with a second chance mate. Tears were streaming down my face, and the thoughts of following through this time were heavy. I leaned my head against the tree and closed my eyes. I let the tears continue to flow and tried to keep reminding myself that it wasn't the time for a pity party or stupid decisions. Loki is just hurt right now, he didn't mean what he said. Did he? Ugh....my head is such a mess. I let out a blood-curdleing scream to let out frustration and then heard someone yell my name. I opened my eyes and saw Jason running towards me. Shit! I gave away my location.

"Melly, what's wrong? Are you hurt? Why are you screaming? The twins have been looking everywhere for you," he said worryingly. "I thought you had been taken, and Mel, I can't lose you. If something happened to you after everything, I would lose myself." He muttered. I stared at him blankly for a moment, and cocked my head. "Jason, would you really? That sounds a bit....dramatic. I am honestly starting to feel like being born was a mistake. Everyone, including you, would have been better off without me existing." I said honestly.

He scoffed at me and said, "Now who's being dramatic?" He sat next to me and held my hand. "Mel, how is it that the two of us have made it through all the bullshit we have endured in our lives? I wish I would have wized up sooner than a few years ago. Maybe together we could have changed the outcome of our present. You know, Rebecca never wanted to move to Mystic Shadows. She wanted me to come here, but I insisted on staying near my 'family'." My head

snapped to look at him. My eyes furrowed and I replied, "Please tell me you are joking. Why would you insist on forcing your amazing mate to be surrounded by psychopaths? You had to know that's what they truly were, Jason."

He bowed his head and said, "I couldn't leave you alone with them. I hadn't fully come around, but I had started seeing things differently awhile before I met Rebecca. It took her to help me see clearly, and that's when I fully came around. Mel, if I had left you there and moved here, it would have gotten much worse for you. You would have more than likely been killed." The realization and truth of his words hit me like bricks. It's true, if the only person who tried to help me even just a little bit had left, I would have died a long time ago. I was thankful the goddess and Rebecca decided to help Jason see his wrongs and try to make them right. He has a good heart, his judgement and thinking were just fucked up because of dad's brainwashing.

We sat and talked for awhile longer about how I was feeling. I was starting to get cold and hungry, and agreed to go to the pack house with him to eat and put on warmer clothes. He gave me some good advice about where the twins were concerned, and I would just give Loki space. Liam too if he needed it. I didn't like it, but I would respect it. He helped me up and we started to walk to the house. Jenna was sitting on the porch when we got there and she ran to me and embraced me. "Melian! Do not ever scare us like that again! Until this is completely over, you can't run off like that! Please....just don't!" she reprimanded me.

I could feel her worry, and I felt awful. She had just lost her mate, not that it was truly a loss, but I understood her feeling of being alone, and worried about those she cared for. Her emotions were crazy and even though she was alright with Eric dying, her heart was still broken because of the bond break. "I'm sorry Jenna. I wasn't trying to worry anyone, I just needed some time alone to think. I'm fine. I promise." I apologized. She hooked her arm to mine and led me into the house. Walking up the steps to my room, I saw my mates at the top waiting for me. The look of agony and worry all over their gorgeous faces. I stood there looking at them, and lowered my gaze. "I'm sorry," was all I could get out, and I walked around them and went straight to our room.

I gathered some warm clothes and went into the bathroom to take a shower. I closed and locked the door, and turned on the water. Once it was the right temperature, I climbed in and let the hot water fall over me. I started to sob and slid to the shower floor. I felt like I was losing everything just when I had found it. All because I didn't listen.

Preparing For Tomorrow

Chapter 57 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Liam POV

As soon as she left, Loki knew he fucked up. I probably should have run after her, but I couldn't leave my brother in the state he was in. "Go after her. I know I fucked up, but I can't move right now. Not until Roxy gets here at least. I don't want him to be alone," Loki stated. I placed my hand on his shoulder and told him I would wait with him until she came. We sat in silence, and I sent a mind link to Roxy to see where she was. She said she had just finished a birth and as soon as she cleaned up she would be down. I thanked her, and picked up my phone and texted Jason. I need to make them official members so that I can just link him and Rebecca.

Me: Hey bro, have you seen your sister?

Jason: No, last I saw her was with you guys.

Me: Would you care to look around for her? Loki and I will head out as soon as Roxy gets to the morgue. He doesn't want to leave Nick alone.

Jason: Understand. Yeah, I'll head out now and see if I can find her.

Me: Thanks man.

I placed my phone back in my pocket and walked over to the cabinet by the sinks. If I had to wait, I was going to make myself useful. I grabbed a washcloth and got it wet. I went back to Nick's body and started to wash the blood off of his face. It was a shame he died so young. He had just found his mate, Grace, not long ago and was beyond happy. Grace was a good girl, and loved Nick so much. She was his world, and was hoping to start a family soon. Elder Iris is with her now, and we will go see her in the morning. The door opened and Roxy slowly walked into the room and she was sobbing. It was as if she was finally letting herself feel her emotions about her only son dying. When it all happened, she was in the middle of delivering a baby. She had to remain strong, but now that she is here with his body, she has let herself feel the loss. She rubbed his face and talked to him softly. Her body started to shake with grief and Loki and I surrounded our aunt and gave her what comfort we could. Roxy always felt guilty for not raising Nick like a mother should. My parents took Nick in when he was very young. Maybe 6 years old. Roxy's mate, and Nicks' father, Ulrich, was abusive towards her and she feared he would start to be abusive to Nick. During a fight one night, Roxy took out a gun and shot him 5 times. Thankfully, the Royal Council realized it was self-defense, and she had a light sentence, but she never regained custody of Nick. She went to med school to be a nurse at first, but then fell in love with the thought of being an OB/GYN. Now she is our pack MIDWIFE/OB/GYN, and a damn good one. When my parents passed away, she was there for all of us. Now it was our turn to be there for her.

Dr. Flores came in and did his examination on Nick's body. He brought over a bowl of hot soapy water and a few washclothes. He and Roxy finish cleaning Nick's body. They finished preparing him for his send off and dressed him in a white mourning gown. Because it wouldn't be until the next day, Dr. Flores wheeled his gurney into a cooling freezer so that he wouldn't start to rot. We walked a now calm Roxy to her room, and she said she was going to go stay with Grace tonight.

We gave her hugs and told her we would see her in the morning. We turned to walk towards the stairs to go find our mate when we saw her walking up the stairs towards us.

She stopped in front of us and lowered her gaze. She whispered that she was sorry and walked around us towards our room. "Should we follow her?" Loki asked. I nodded my head and we turned to follow her. By the time we got into the room, she had locked herself in the bathroom. We heard the shower running, but also could hear her sobbing. I knocked on the door, but she didn't answer. I told Loki I was going to go get us food for dinner, and that it would be best if we all just stayed in our room the rest of the night. He agreed, and I left to take care of the task at hand. The cook was in the process of putting the leftovers from dinner away and I asked her if she could make up a bunch of sandwiches from the left over chicken and roast beef. I also asked for a veggie tray to dress the sandwiches, and a few bags of chips. As she gathered the ingredients, I took out a chocolate cake that was intended for dinner tomorrow, but she said she could make another. It took myself and the cook to carry everything up to our room. I had the food, she had the drinks. Hopefully, this will cheer our mate up. We walked in to see Mel sitting on Loki's lap, they were just holding one another. "Food anyone?" I called out. I managed to get a smile from both of them, and Mel started to apologize again. I put my hand up and said, "No more apologies. You aren't to blame, and Loki knows that. Tomorrow we mourn Nick, and then we move on. We remember and honor him daily, and that is how he will live on. Agreed?" They both nodded and we climbed further onto the bed. We each made our sandwiches and Mel turned on the TV. "No true crime or murder shows tonight, deal?" Loki said. She nodded her head and turned on Roseanne reruns. We silently ate our dinner, and watched the cheesy sitcom. That's what we needed, because tomorrow was going to be a whole different story.

Settling In The Dark

Chapter 58 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Lisa POV

Dark Star was a huge contrast to Mystic Shadows and Blood Moon. It was a large pack, but you rarely saw anyone at the pack house. Usually the pack house was the hub of the pack. Everyone came to eat and socialize in the common rooms, but here that wasn't a thing. Callum had been busy since we got back last night, and I had done a little exploring. I think I will like it here, but I'm still on edge. I'm not sure why he felt it was smart to come here knowing that the twins would be coming after us. This is the first place they will come to look for us. I'm not going to question him though. He may be my mate, but in my opinion, he seems more ruthless than the Carters.

Listening to him speak to his Gamma on the phone earlier sent chills down my spine. Describing what he wanted to do to the twins and Blood Moon was brutal. I know I have a sick mind, but what he described, I wouldn't have thought of in a million years. I hated the twin's mate, but even after all they did to me, I still had a soft spot for Loki. I can't help but wonder what that little bitch would think if she knew the things we did to and with each other. I have to laugh at the thought of her reaction. Maybe I will tell her, that is if I ever get the chance. I decided to go into the common room and watch some TV when I heard Callum call my name.

I turned to see him on the stairs and he motioned for me to come join him. I followed him back upstairs, and we went into his office. The smell of his scent was super strong in here, so I knew he had been there awhile. His office walls were painted a dark green with dark cherry wood moulding. The walls were adorned with pictures of his family, shelves with lots of candles and various wolf art. His furniture matched the decor and color scheme of the room. It felt homey, but intimidating at the same time. I plopped down on one of the chairs by his desk and he sat in his chair behind it.

"Lisa, I wanted to speak with you about some things, and I need you to be honest. Like more than honest. Before we speak about it though, I want to assure you that I could give two shits about your past misgivings. I don't care what you did to whoever you did it to, and whatever the reason the twins felt the need to imprison you for, it doesn't matter to me. What does matter is where you and I go forward. I do not and will not tolerate lies and sneakiness. Nor will I tolerate manipulation. I am a fair but strict Alpha, and I am also a loving and caring man. If I love you, then you will know it and feel it. I believe whole heartedly in the mate bond, but I am also not ignorant enough to know that the mate bond is all there is to a lasting relationship. My point is this, I have no reason not to accept you as my mate. We are on a clean slate. Let's keep it clean. No matter what happens or what you do, always be honest with me, because I literally have no issues ripping you apart. Mate or not, marked or not. Do we have an understanding?" He stated.

I gave him a smile, and told him I understood and that we would have no problems. I asked him what else he wanted to speak to me about and he sat forward in his seat so that we were eye to eye, and then said, "I want to know what you know about the twins. I also need some background from you about yourself. I just need details about some things. Nothing too harsh. Let's just say it's getting to know more about each other." A smile spread across his face and my heart started to race. He is gorgeous. His long, curly, dark brown hair was pulled up into a manbun, which allowed me to see his stormy grey eyes better.

His chiseled features and big perfect smile made my insides stir with butterflies. Even without the mate bond, I could easily fall in love with this man. I sat up in my seat and gave him a lustful stare, and started answering his questions. Everything from what I knew about the twins to everything I had ever done wrong in my life. I told him about my family, and that I had no idea where my parents were after they were banished from Mytic Shadows during its fall. I told him about the few times I had been with Loki, and even told him about my plot to kill Melian when we were in high school. I even told him the one thing I never wanted anyone to know, but he needed to know. I thought I would die with this secret, but then he found me.

"So, what's the big secret? You can tell me anything, Lisa. We will deal with whatever it is, and move on from it." he asked. It was now or never, so I guess I had to choose now. "I'm pregnant with my first mate's baby. I'm not that far along, but before she left me after being given wolfsbane, she told me about the child. I don't want to keep it. It wasn't conceived in love, but something more sinister that I can't bring myself to say the words about." I explained. I could see the anger in his eyes, and his body stiffen. He stared at me blankly for what felt like forever, but when he went to reply his body relaxed. Closing his eyes, he asked, "Is this all? No other surprises? You are sure you want to terminate the pregnancy?" I started to cry and promised there was nothing else, and there wasn't. I also assured him that I did not want the baby, and that I definitely wanted to terminate the pregnancy.

He thanked me for being honest, and asked me if Thomas had raped me. I nodded my head and asked him not to make me talk about it. He agreed, and leaned in towards me. His lips gently met mine. He leaned his forehead against mine, and whispered, "Mine!" and I repeated those words to him. Together, we were going to be a force to be reckoned with.

Saying Goodbye

Chapter 59 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Loki POV

Today we will send off a great man. I'm not ready to say goodbye, but unfortunately, it's in the moon goddess' hands now. I was straightening my tie in the mirror when I heard a soft knock on our door. I yelled for whoever it was to come in and the door opened. "Loki?" Grace said. "I'm sorry to bother you beforehand, and I know its inappropriate to come to your bedroom, but I don't want to walk out there alone. Can I go with you, Liam and Melian? Please?" she asked. I waved her in further, and I placed my hands on her shoulders. Her eyes were swollen from crying, and her nose was red.

"Grace, you are family, of course you can. We are here to support you in all of this. He was your mate, and he loved you very much. You won't go through any of this alone," I told her. She thanked me and told me she would wait in the hall for us. As she walked out, Liam and Mel came out of the closet from getting dressed. "What was that all about?" Liam asked. I explained how Grace was feeling, and they both agreed with me that it was best if she stayed with us today. I got a text from Timmy saying the pyre was ready, and the pack was already gathering. I told Liam and Mel and we left our room to head outside. Grace stood up as we walked out and Mel went to her to show comfort. She wrapped her arm around Grace's shoulders and walked with her outside. We followed behind, so as not to intrude on their conversation. I've always known that Mel would make a great Luna, but she's also a great friend.

We approached the pyre that already had Nick's body laid upon it. Elder Iris was already in place to perform the sending off ceremony, and Liam, Mel, Grace, Roxy and I took our places beside her. The only person missing was Rico, and he was still in the hospital unconscious. We couldn't wait for him to wake up, and I hoped he wouldn't be too angry at us. I knew he would understand though. Liam and I held on to Mel's hands, and when Iris started to speak, I gave hers a little squeeze. She squeezed back and flashed me a small reassuring smile.

"Nicolas Frederic Martinez, Gamma of Blood Moon pack. Son, cousin, brother and mate. Lost his life defending his Luna and his pack in an attack yesterday afternoon. Nick was loved beyond measure, and he was respected and honored by all who knew him. The job of a Gamma is one of a protector, and he took that job and title seriously. I had the pleasure of spending time with Nick during our investigation recently, and he was kind, professional and most of all loyal. He was funny in his own dry way, and when he spoke of the pack and his Alpha cousins, he beamed with pride.

His mother, Roxy, told me a story of when Nick found his mate. She said that he had never been one to come to her for advice when it came to girls, because he was embarrassed. However, when he met his mate, Grace, he was over the moon. He didn't want to scare her off, so he went to his mom for advice on how to be calm around her. Knowing Nick's hyper and anxious nature, she said she looked at him and said, "Just be yourself, she will love you no matter how much you bounce off the walls." She said he contemplated what she said, and hugged her tightly and said "Thanks, mom." It was the first time in a long time that he had given her such a gesture, and it was also the first time he had called her mom in a long while.

Their relationship changed for the better after that. Everyone I have spoken to since his passing has said the same thing. He will be beyond missed and things wouldn't be the same without him. His infectious laughter that lifted the mood of the room, especially when he laughed with his cousin and alpha, Loki, is now silent. We send you, dear Nicolas, back to the Moon Goddess. May your spirit be with us and guide your pack in the right direction. Suaimhneas Síoraí, our dear friend."

After Iris finished her speech, Timmy, Liam and I stepped up with our torches lit. I placed my hand on my best friend and said a little prayer for the goddess to watch over him. I raised my torch in the air, and yelled "Beidh grá agam duit go brách!" I then threw my torch onto the pyre, and Liam and Timmy followed suit. It instantly went up in flames, and I was frozen in place.

I couldn't take my eyes off the flames as they burned his body to ashes. I finally turned and walked away, and sat in the grass not far from the burning structure. Melian brought a blanket and wrapped it around me. She was taking Grace back to her cottage, and was going to stay with her awhile. She kissed me on the head and left with Grace. Liam plopped down next to me and handed me a flask full of whiskey and I took a swig. "A drink for you, a drink for me, and a drink for our fallen brother in eternity," he said as he took his swig and then tossed the flask on the fire. He put his arm around me and gave me a strong hug. "Brother, today we mourn, tomorrow we plan. They will pay for this, I promise in Nick's name, they will pay." Liam stated. I could hear the anger and pain in his voice. I just gave him a reassuring look and nodded my head.

It was starting to get dark, and we had been sitting out there for hours. His body was definitely ash now, and I had an idea. I needed to act fast because it was starting to rain. I went into the barracks and grabbed a tin cup. I ran back to the smoldering pile and scooped some of Nick's ashes into the cup. Liam looked at me oddly and I just smiled. "I am going to have gifts made for those who loved him most, and they will include his ashes," I explained. He patted my back and said, "Sounds like a plan. We need to get some food and rest. We have a long road ahead of us starting tomorrow."

A Big Surprise

Chapter 60 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Melian POV

Warning...Sexual Content

They are still sitting out there, in the rain, in the cold. I wanted so badly to march out there and demand them to come in before they catch the death of a cold, but they would probably just laugh at my short little self giving orders to them. Rebecca said to just wait it out, they would be in soon, and she was right.

Not even 20 minutes later, they came walking in. They were soaked to the bone, and the blanket that I left Loki was just as wet. They started up the stairs, and then stopped to look at me as if I should have already been walking up with them. We got upstairs, and I led them into the bathroom and started a hot shower. I started to strip off their wet clothes and Liam stopped me. "You don't have to do that," he said. I looked at him and started undressing him again. "I know, I want to. I want you. I want both of you," I whispered.

He took his hand and cupped my face and replied, "Baby, we want you too, but are you sure you are ready for this?" I nodded and gave a sly smile before answering him. "Liam, I have never been more sure of anything in my life. Am I scared of the whole sex thing? A little, but I feel safe with you both. I know you would never hurt me on purpose, and I want this, please." His lips met mine, and our tongues danced in tune with each other. Loki came up behind me and placed his hands on my hips.

He started to kiss the nape of my neck and whispered in my ear, "Babe, you are right. We would never hurt you, and we definitely want this with you. Give us a safe word. If, at any time, you want us to stop, you just repeat that word. Understood?" I nodded my head and said the word 'red'. I don't know why that was the word that came to mind, but I guess it made sense. Kind of like a 'Code Red Warning.' We all started to take off our clothes and Loki pulled me into the

shower. Liam following closely behind us. Our make-out session had turned into some heavy petting and I would be lying if I said I didn't enjoy the way they touched me. "Tell us what you want babe," Loki said. I turned to face him and kissed his lips, and then went down on my knees.

Both of them were rock hard and waiting to be pleased. I started to stroke them with each hand, and then took Loki into my mouth. I heard him hiss and his knees started to buckle before he caught himself. "Holy Shit, that feels amazing babe." he said as he ran his hand through my hair and started to guide my head back and forth on his hard member. The whole time, I was stroking Liam at the same rhythm my mouth took Loki. I stopped sucking Loki, and turned to take Liam in my mouth, and started to stroke Loki. I took turns with them until Liam lifted me up, and sat me on the bench in the shower.

He guided me to lay down, and he started to kiss his way down my belly and eventually landed in between my thighs. The sensations that were flooding my body were almost overwhelming. He started to lick my thighs, and ran his tongue over my folds. He looked up at me and when our eyes met he snuck his tongue in between my folds and started to assault my clit with it. I moaned out loud and it caused him to bury his face deeper into my flower. I looked over at my Loki and he was pleasuring himself while watching Liam. I licked my lips and he moved closer to my face. He lowered himself into my mouth and I started to suck on him like I was starving and this was my only way to satisfy the hunger. I suddenly felt Liam insert a finger inside me and pump it back and forth.

I gave a deep moan and the vibration on his penis caused Loki to shutter. "Shit babe, you keep moaning on my cock like that and I am going to be unloading down your throat quicker than I want to," he moaned. This caused Liam to move his finger and tongue faster, causing me to moan hard and my climax was building fast. "Cum for me my love, all over my face," Liam said seductively before inserting a second finger. I knew I was about to explode, and I started moving my head faster on Loki's cock. A third finger entered and I released my orgasm and came all over Liam's face, just as he asked. Shortly after, I felt the thick, warm, salty liquid enter my throat. I swallowed every drop of Loki's seed, and once I had devoured every drop, he moved away from my face. He turned off the shower, and Liam picked me up from the bench and took me to our bed.

We didn't care that we were soaking wet, all we cared was that we were about to be together in every way possible. Loki started at my feet and kissed his way up my body until he met my lips, and he was centered at my entrance. He whispered, "Remember our safe word babe," I nodded my head, and my eyes met his as he entered me. I slightly tensed up and he stopped. I shook my head and told him to keep going, and took him into a deep kiss. My legs wrapped around his torso, urging him to continue. "Faster, Loki. Please go faster." I begged. Liam was on his knees next to my head, rubbing his and over my breasts.

I took his dick in my hand and started to stroke him. I wasn't ready for them both at the same time, but I did want both of them tonight. Loki pumped into me hard and fast, and I was loving every second of it. The tingles running through my whole body brought me quickly to another climax. Loki emptied his seed into me and collapsed next to me. I looked at Liam and told him I

wanted him inside of me right that second. He wasn't going to argue with me, and he turned me over onto my stomach on top of Loki and entered my pussy from behind.

"Yes! Liam Oh My Goddess YES!" I cried out. I knew why I was afraid of going all the way with them, but this was better than I could have imagined. There was a difference between wanting it and being forced, and wanting it with someone you loved was bliss. Liam and I both climaxed together, and after he emptied his seed into me, he kissed me more passionately than he ever had. We were all exhausted and just laid there trying to catch our breath. I placed an arm over each of them and whispered, "I love you both so much!"