

Chapter 61 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Melian POV

After I mated with the twins, I fell fast asleep. When I woke up, they weren't lying next to me anymore, and the bed was cold. That meant they had been gone awhile. Did telling them I loved them run them off? Maybe they weren't ready for that yet. It's how I feel though. I thought they wanted me to express how I am feeling. I guess I will just have to see how they act when I see them. I roll off the bed, and go to the bathroom. I had left my phone in my pants pocket and wanted to see if they had left me a message.

I realized the time, and didn't realize I had slept as long as I did. It was dinner time, and more than likely that's where the twins were. I put on some clothes and walked down to the dining hall, and sure enough, there sat my mates talking to Rico's sister Monica and her friends. A pang of jealousy shot through my body, and I started to turn and leave when Liam called my name. I had to stop and put on my fake smile and walk over towards them.

"Hey," I said, and Liam gave me a strange look. He linked me for the first time and it threw me off guard. "OK? What's wrong?" he asked. "Nothing is wrong, what makes you think something's wrong?" I replied. He furrowed his brows and stood up from the table. He asked me to come with him into the foyer, and I followed him out. As soon as we were in the clear, he asked again, "What is wrong? Don't tell me it's nothing because it's all over your face." I crossed my arms over my chest and cocked my hip. "What's wrong? Well, I wake up to find you both gone. No message or notes telling me where you went, and then I came down to see you both sitting at the dinner table with a group of girls. You didn't even bother waking me up to let me know it was time for dinner. You both got what you wanted out of me, and now what? I'm thrown away like trash?" I yelled through tears.

I didn't realize my voice was raised until Loki emerged from the dining hall with Monica hot on his tail. "What the fuck are you both yelling about? We could hear you inside the dining hall." he asked. Liam explained the topic of our conversation, and Loki laughed. He literally laughed at me. It was then Monica spoke up, "Melian, nothing was going on. It started with them asking about my brother and we just all started talking and joking around. It's really no big deal."

No big deal? Is this bitch really being condescending to me? "First off, Monica, that is your name right? It's Luna. You don't know me enough to use fewer formalities. Second, it's a big deal when MY mates don't bother to wake me up to eat with them, but yet they can find plenty of time to strike up a conversation with a table full of unmated she-wolves. So please, take your

blase attitude about how I should feel back to your table of thirsty bitch friends." I exclaimed. I was fuming mad at this point, and as much as I wanted to melt into my mate's arms, I turned on my heel without saying a word and marched back up to our bedroom. I slammed the door and locked it. I didn't want to speak to them right now, and I was beyond hurt.

I heard the doorknob try to turn, and then Liam called my name. "Mel, open up, it wasn't what you thought it was. Do you honestly think we would betray you like that?" he asked. I ignored his question and went into the bathroom. I filled the tub for a hot bath filled with orchid and black currant bath oil, and climbed in. I just wanted to tune them out and forget what I saw. I had to have Ruby put up a link block, because they were both wrecking my brain, pleading with me to open the door.

"Ruby, am I overreacting?" I asked her. She whimpered a little, and told me that she wanted to agree with me, but she also felt I needed to hear them out. Knowing she was right, I finished my bath, and climbed out of the tub. I grabbed one of Liam's fluffy robes and wrapped it around me. It was huge on me, but I didn't care. I pulled my pink and lavender hair up in a messy bun and went and opened the bedroom door.

I still didn't speak to them, and walked over to the bed. I turned on the TV and started flipping through the channels. This must have upset Loki because he went over and unplugged the TV, and then plopped on the bed. "Enough is enough babe, you need to hear us out before overreacting and flipping out like you are." he stated. I stared at him coldly, and asked, "Hear you out? What is there to hear out? I gave myself to you both after feeling like I would never be able to. I told you both how I felt. I told your sorry asses that I loved you, and you left without saying a word. Then I find you with a table full of unmated hoebags. Now you tell me I'm overreacting and flipping out. Fuck you Loki!"

Liam stepped in before Loki and I said things we were going to regret. "Both of you stop it! This is all a big misunderstanding and, Mel, I need you to listen to us right now. Monica was truthful when she said that the conversation started when we asked about Rico. We sat down at her table and listened to what she had to say. Her friends sat down and started to talk to us about things going on in the pack, and that is when you walked in. We are alphas Mel. We have to listen to the pack members when they start to voice their concern. We left to go get food and bring it back up here and eat with you. We wanted to continue our time alone with you, and just stay in for the night. That's why there were no notes or messages. We love you too, you know? You fell asleep before we could respond." He explained.

I felt like a total jerk, and I didn't know how to apologize for acting like an idiot.

Unexpected Find

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LOKI POV

I hated that Mel felt jealous, but I also hated that it was us who made her feel that way. I just kept making things worse by not knowing what to say to make it better, because everything that came out of my mouth made it sound like I was making fun of her. Yet I wasn't. She didn't see it that way though. Liam was able to smooth things over, and explain better than I ever could. Once he let it out that we both loved her too, the look on her face fell. It went from frustration and anger to sadness with those four words. Was she not happy about that?

"Mel, does it make you sad that we love you?" I asked her. Her head snapped towards me with a look of confusion and she said, "Why would that make me sad? I'm thankful to have you both love me back. What makes me sad is that you both probably think I'm some F5 clinger jealous psychopath. I am so sorry I overreacted." F5 clinger? What the hell was that? "Neither of us think you are a jealous psychopath. Nor do we think you are an F5 clinger, whatever that is. What we do think is you are still struggling to trust us fully, and that's OK. If the shoe was on the other foot, we probably would just have attacked and asked questions later. So, no apologies needed. Just keep in your mind that you are it for us. Mate bond or no mate bond, we love you whole heartedly and unconditionally. No one else could or would ever take your place. Understood?" I replied to her.

She let out a belly laugh and it caught both of us off guard. Why was she laughing? "I'm sorry to laugh, but I thought everyone had heard the term F5 clinger. It's a quote from the movie Wedding Crashers. It basically means that someone is obsessed with someone, or a very insecure and needy person in a relationship. I mean, I am obsessed with you both, and super needy, but I wouldn't classify myself as a clinger." she explained. At that point, I had an AH HA moment and had to chuckle myself. Liam snickered and shook his head, and pulled Mel into his lap. He kissed his mark on her neck and she let out a small moan. I interceded and said, "NO! She has to eat before we do anything else." She groaned and gave me puppy dog eyes, and I stood my ground. No food, no sex.

She fell over onto the bed pouting like I had just taken her favorite toy away from her. I knew dinner was still being served, so I pulled her off the bed and we walked down to the dining hall. "Oh My Goddess! Do I smell Italian food?" she asked. Liam nodded his head and explained that we have Italian food twice a week because it is our favorite. Lots of pasta and pizza. We loved a variety of foods, including Indian and Thai, but Italian was our top favorite. Liam must have linked the cook, because our table was already filled with food, and plates were set ready to be filled. We went to sit down, and Mel excused herself. She walked over to Monica's table and apologized for being rude. Monica also apologized, and said she understood and that she probably would have done the same thing. They hugged each other and Mel came back to us. "I feel much better now, let's eat." she smirked.

She filled her plate with every pasta dish available, and a slice of veggie pizza. She took half a loaf of fresh garlic bread all to herself, and growled at me when I went to tear a piece off of it. Our girl was serious about her food. The serving-Omega came to get our drink order, and Mel

asked for a pitcher of Coca-Cola and a glass of ice. I chose sweet tea, and Liam chose ice water. I think he drinks his weight in water every day. As we finished up our dinner, Mel asked if we could let our wolves out for a run afterwards. I didn't see a problem with that, and neither did Liam. So, we decided to move out to the back of the packhouse and shift for our run.

All of us stripped out of our clothes, and quickly shifted. I will never get over how amazingly beautiful Ruby is. How unique. The fact that her ears match Mel's hair, the way the rest of her fur shimmers, and the sparkling green eyes that captivated your very soul when you looked into them. Zeus went to nuzzle her neck and Ruby took off running. She wanted to play, and that is what we would do. Rocko caught on before Zeus and started after her, and we followed. Ruby was fast, and when I say fast I mean twice as fast as Rocko and Zeus.

We finally caught up with her at the wildflower clearing, and she sat down on her hind legs. Her nose went up, sniffing the air around us, and she started to growl. She linked us both, telling us that she had picked up the scent of another wolf, and that she recognized it. She recognized it as someone from her old pack, but wasn't sure who it was. She ran towards the scent without fear, and we followed behind her. As the scent got closer, Ruby slowed down.

She let out a whimper, and suddenly stopped. Cowering before us was an older gentleman, who looked to have been beaten and was slowly healing. Liam and I morphed back into our human form and I went to a box by a tree that held clothes for situations like that. I threw Liam a pair of shorts, and put a pair on myself. I grabbed a tshirt that looked like it would be long enough to cover Mel, and blocked her from the eyes of the man. She shifted back and pulled the tshirt over her head. She moved through us and ran straight to the man, who we now knew was her former principal, Mr. Daniels.

Trustworthy

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MELIAN POV

It felt amazing to let Ruby out to run. She had so much pent-up energy, that if I didn't let her out soon, she probably would have forced the shift. Running through the forest, I saw a clearing nearby and ran straight towards it. Stepping out of the forest into the clearing, I was in awe. Fall wildflowers were everywhere. Everything from golden rod flowers to coneflowers. It was breathtaking. As I was breathing in the smell, I caught a familiar scent. I didn't know who exactly it was, but I knew it was someone from Mystic Shadows.

I gave a low growl and set off in the direction it was coming from. It wasn't too far into the forest on the other side of the clearing, and it didn't take me long to discover who it was. To say I was shocked was the understatement of the year. The twins shifted before I did, and brought me a shirt to cover myself. Once I was covered, I pushed through the twins and approached my former principal, Mr. Daniels. "Mr. Daniels? Wha...what are you doing out here in the forest? You do realize you are trespassing on Blood Moon territory, right?" He looked as if he had been severely beaten, and he struggled to talk. Loki asked me if he was ever cruel towards me, and I explained to the twins that he was a good person.

Once he found out what I had been going through, he tried to help me, but unfortunately he found out the day I almost died. Liam knelt down beside him, and checked him over. Whoever had done this to him, wanted him dead. The twins lifted him up and helped him walk back to the packhouse. We were going to make sure he ate something before we took him to the hospital. He was dehydrated, so Liam got him a cold bottle of water, and Loki made him a sandwich. The pain in his eyes shook me to my core. "Mr. Daniels? How are you feeling now?" I asked him.

He slightly nodded his head and tried to smile, but tears started to fall instead. "I'm sorry Melian, Alphas, I wasn't trying to trespass. I woke up in your forest not long before you found me. Last thing I remember was being questioned in Dark Star. They were asking me all sorts of questions about you and your family, Melian. After the council raided and disbanded the pack, I had no where to go, so I went to the closest pack to see if I could take refuge. Maybe become a member of that pack. I didn't know Dark Star was worse than Mystic Shadows, they put on a great front that would state otherwise to those visiting. I was there for a little over a week before I ran into Ms. Montana. Apparently, she is mated to Alpha Callum. After her and I spoke, 2 guards came to my room and dragged me out. They took me into a little shed and questioned me for 2 days. I told them all I knew, but for some reason they thought I knew more about you. When I couldn't tell them anymore, the guards beat me near death. I don't even know how long ago that was, or how long I was out. Couldn't have been more than a day, but I'm not sure. If you don't want me on your land, I will gladly go, but I would like to stay and help where I can." He explained.

Loki quickly answered him, "Of course sir, you are welcome here. As would anyone else from Mystic Shadows that needed refuge. However, if they still held loyalty to Scott Thomas or any of the Carters, they would be banished as rogues. We can't allow anyone who thinks it's OK to hurt, rape, abuse, or torture any other pack member into our pack. We don't tolerate that kind of behavior. We rule strictly, but also fairly. We feel everyone has a place here, and we respect all those who live here. We demand respect in return though, and that includes our mate and your Luna."

Mr. Daniels reached out to shake Loki's hand and said, "Thank you Alpha. I appreciate your honesty, and please call me Ryder. I promise I just want to live a peaceful and productive life. When I found out the wrong doings happening to Melian, I was appalled. I wanted to take her away from there immediately. I tried to help her, but she didn't want me to be in any trouble. The only thing I could do was to make sure she got medical help before leaving that day. I thought her brother Jason had run off with her until I heard the news, and I started preparing my escape from that dreadful place. Then the Royal Council came in and we were told to leave with just our

personal documents, and anything we could carry. We weren't allowed to take our vehicles or anything like that. The Royal Council had seized that kind of stuff and we were basically left with nothing."

I placed my hand on his shoulder and told him how thankful I was for him that day, and that he was definitely welcomed here in Blood Moon. I finally got him to agree to get cleaned up and allow our pack doctor to check him out. We showed him to a spare room in the packhouse, and Liam called Dr. Flores. He agreed to come here to check out Mr. Daniels, and we told him we would be waiting in the common room for him. Liam cleared his throat, and looked like he needed to ask me something, but was hesitant.

"Liam, are you alright?" I asked him. He started messing with his long curls and admitted to me that he was worried about Mr. Daniels. "I don't know Mel. I mean, I'm OK, perhaps, but something is nagging at me about your principal. Is he truly trustworthy? You know him, we don't. If you fully trust him, that is what we will go by. Please understand though, I will definitely have eyes on him for awhile," he said. Just as he finished his last sentence, Mr. Daniels walked in and said, "I wouldn't want it any other way, Alpha. I would be leery too. I promise you, however, that I am not the threat you think I am."

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Clearing Things Up

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LIAM POV

"Tell me Ryder, what kind of threat do I think you are? I was just asking if you were trustworthy. I will have to speak to the head of the Royal Council and inform her that you are here. You know how much they like to be thorough." I stated to the man and his snarky assumptions. Something in the way he said he wasn't the threat I thought he was, caused Rocko to become very unsettled. I would be lying if I said I didn't feel something was off as well.

"Of course, I completely understand, Alpha. You obviously have doubts about my motives, but like I have already explained, I just want to live a peaceful life without any troubles." he recanted. I took Mel's hand in mine, and motioned to Loki that I was ready to head upstairs to our room for the night. I wanted to talk to them more without random ears listening in. I also wanted to call Iris in private. I wanted to nip the whole story he told about how the council treated those who wanted to supposedly find a new home in the bud. Nothing he told us made

sense to me, and I wouldn't be able to rest until I cleared my mind a bit. "Goodnight Ryder, we are going to retire for the night. Sleep well." I said as we made our exit.

I had that feeling you get when you know danger is right in front of you, but you can't quite place the reason why it's dangerous, and I'd be damned if I wasn't going to find out this man's endgame. Melian waved goodbye to him, and we ventured up to our room. Mel went straight to the bathroom to do her nightly routine before bedtime, and Loki walked over to our stocked mini fridge and grabbed him and I a bottle of water. He threw mine to me and then went into our closet to change. He emerged before Melian, and gave me a serious look before asking, "You seriously don't trust the old guy, do you?" I shook my head and replied, "Hell no! Something about him gives me the creeps. I'm going to call Iris right now to get her side of the Mystic Shadows drama he said happened." Loki plopped on the bed and waited for me to dial. I placed the call on speaker phone and Iris answered rather quickly.

"Hello, this is Iris Becker," she answered. "Hello, Iris. This is Alpha Liam Young of Blood Moon. Are you busy? We had someone show up from Mystic Shadows that has close ties to Melian, and how he showed up and his story are questionable." I explained. "Who and what is the situation? I can tell you our side of things dealing with the investigation and disbandment, and have evidence that will back it up. You know I always document everything, no matter how big or how small," She replied.

"The who is, Mr. Ryder Daniels. He was Melian's school principal, and he was supposedly clueless about her plight until the day of her last attack. This situation is what I'm struggling with. I don't understand how he can be the head of a small high school and be completely blind to things so heinous happening to one of their students? Then he tells us that when the council came in to disband the pack they were told they could only grab their important documents and anything of necessity they could carry. That the council seized their homes and vehicles. Those who didn't want to relocate here or weren't imprisoned were basically told to screw off and fend for themselves as rogues. He said he ended up at Dark Star, and was beaten and tortured for information about Mel and her family, as well as us. Something just seemed off to me, and it's not setting well with my wolf either." I told her.

She let out a gasp and a slight chuckle. "Whoa, that was a lot more than what I was expecting. We didn't even find a Mr. Ryder Daniels when we were interviewing the pack members. His house was already empty, and there was no vehicle there. His neighbor said he left almost 2 weeks prior to us coming in. They said that he didn't tell anyone, just packed up in the middle of the night and left. How explained it isn't how we work, Alpha Liam. We would rather place someone who is an innocent pack member in another suiting pack, rather than suit them going rogue. We have never and will never 'seize' personal property unless it is suspected of being obtained illegally. What need do we have for their belongings? It seems that you have a right to be leery of this Mr. Daniels. I would keep an eye on him, and not allow Melian to be alone while he is there. You can also banish him from your pack as well if you so choose, but I would want to see what he is up to and who he is working for if it were me." She said.

We disconnected the call and I had to agree with her, and Loki did as well. I knew Mel felt she could trust him completely, but as badly as I hated to say it, she didn't have the greatest track

record with judging people. I wanted her to start to train as soon as possible, but first we needed to induct her, Jason and the others into the pack and give her the official title of our Luna. I have already spoken to Loki and we agreed that we would do that tomorrow. Rebecca had already gotten Mel's dress for us, and we were going to surprise her when we talked tonight. She had finally emerged from the bathroom and crawled up into our bed between Loki and I. She snuggled under the blankets and asked if we were up to watch some true crime documentaries. I nodded my head but explained we needed to talk first. She looked at both of us with confusion and asked what was wrong.

"Nothing is wrong my love, we just have a surprise for you. Tomorrow, we are having our Luna and induction ceremony." I quickly explained. Her eyes lit up and she squealed with delight. "So, this means tomorrow I become like your wife, right?" Loki replied and said that was exactly what it was like, and she jumped up and down on the bed. "I can't wait to become Mrs. Liam and Loki Young. No more Carter surname to hate, and a new adventure for all of us. By the way, you want to explain to me your attitude towards Mr. Daniels?" her attitude suddenly changed as if it were switched by a light switch. Here it goes.....

Secret Friends

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Loki POV

Man, things keep getting weirder and more strange daily. The more we find out about things in Mel's past, and the more we find out about the people running and living in Mystic Shadows, the more I feel driven to drink. There is so much craziness. This new wackadoo Mr. Daniels, Liam doesn't trust him at all. To me he seems harmless, but then again, a bee seems harmless too until it stings someone that's allergic. I think he is shady and not being fully truthful, but at the same time, I don't think he is dangerous. Liam thinks the opposite. He says too much out of his mouth doesn't add up, and he had called The head of the Royal Council to check out his story of them just banishing innocents and taking their belongings. I have never known the council to do things of this nature, and Liam doesn't either, so something is still not adding up.

Tomorrow we will figure out what this guys' deal is. Right now I just want to be close to my mate. Liam and Mel have been asleep for hours, and I can't seem to find just a couple of minutes' sleep. I decide to get up and go out and let Zeus run. Maybe that will help. I strolled out onto the porch and started down the steps. I thought I was hearing things because I had heard voices on the side of the house. It was 4am, and everyone but the guards on duty were usually asleep by now. I quietly walked to just the edge of the house to see what I could hear, and if I recognized the voices.

"I thought you would never get here. It was getting hard to have conversations with these assholes. The whiny drivel is a constant with these people. Poor Mel this and Poor Melain that. It's freaking exhausting, Ryder." a woman said. Who knows Ryder here, and what is her deal with my wife? I listened for a little bit longer, to see what else was said before I revealed myself. "Come on babe, I did my best to get here sooner. I wasn't expecting the council to show up so soon. I would have come for you there, but by the time I talked my brother, Callum, into allowing you to come to Dark Star, you had already been brought here. We have to keep things quiet while we are here. Callum wants us to prove our loyalty by gathering information about their plans on whether they are going to attack the Dark Star, and if they aren't, he wants to know their weaknesses so he can attack them." I heard Ryder explain to the female.

My curiosity was killing me and I had to see who she was, because it was obviously someone closer to Melian than we realized. I started to jog around the side of the house, and pretended to just stumble upon them as I was returning from a run. It was as good an excuse as any. The female jumped as she realized it was me, "Oh, Alpha, I didn't hear you approaching us. My apologies," she said.

My blood was boiling, and I knew my judgement was correct on this bitch, just as I knew Liam's judgment was correct on this Ryder Daniels bastard. My face was stone cold, and I replied to her, "No, I should be apologizing. I didn't realize anyone else was out outside at 4am. Jenna, I wasn't aware you knew Mr. Daniels, and don't you have a child you should be with? I understand we have offered you a nanny, but to take advantage would be inappropriate, don't you think?"

Her eyes grew as wide as saucers, and she started to stammer her words before Ryder interrupted. "Jenna was a fellow pack member and we have spoken quite a few times. Do you not communicate and create friendships in your pack Alpha? I wasn't aware that I needed permission."

I could feel the rage rising in me, and before he said something that would release that rage upon him, I ordered them to get back into the packhouse and to their rooms. I also informed them that they were to meet Liam and I in our office at noon. If they didn't show, they would be immediately banished, and Jenna would leave the child behind. He was Mel's nephew, and he would always be protected. I waited until they were inside and started to make my way back inside. Letting Zeus out right now wasn't the best idea. There were things that I needed to talk to Liam about. He should be waking up soon, and hopefully him and I could sneak away to speak before Mel wakes up.

I opened the door to our room as quietly as I could, and when I went inside I was met with confused green eyes. "Where were you?" she whispered. I crawled back in bed and pulled her to me, and explained where I was. I didn't tell her about running into her principal and sister-in-law, but told her I couldn't sleep and attempted to go for a run, but got distracted. It wasn't exactly a lie, but it wasn't the full truth either. Seems there are several things that I have withheld from her since we met, and I hated myself for it. Liam's snoring became comical to us and we would giggle every time he did it. Without any kind of thought about it, I rolled over and kissed her. I held her close and whispered in her ear. "Melian, before we go through with the Luna ceremony and member induction, you and I really need to talk. You may not want me anymore after you

hear what I have to say, but all I ask is, before you make a judgement, you hear me completely out.

She sat up and in a low tone said, "Liam, you are scaring me. Can we go somewhere and talk now? I don't want to wake Liam up if I get pissed off." I nodded and climbed off the bed. I took her by the hand and led her to my old room. She stood there with her arms crossed, and gave me a look that said I had better start talking.

I asked her to sit, and I sat across from her. "Look, Mel, you know how much I love you and I never want to hurt you. There are things that you should know about my past, and what I have discovered before you decided to become my Luna and my wife. You also know that I wasn't a virgin when we met, but I haven't been with many women. About a year before we met, I slept with Lisa. She was friends with my cousin and one day we were all hanging out, partying, and it just happened. I have been trying to keep my distance from her since, but she would hunt me down when she came to visit Rory. I regretted it as soon as it happened. I had no idea who she was to you when we found you. I swear it. She tried to come onto me the day after you got here, but I shot her down. That was it. I swear. Next, you asked where I was tonight, and I wasn't lying to you. I just omitted an important detail. I hate keeping secrets from you so I am just going to tell you. As I was getting ready to shift and let Zeus run, I heard voices. I followed the sound of them and listened before letting myself be known. It was Ryder Daniels and your sister-in-law, Jenna. She was bitching at him for not getting here sooner, and the way it sounded, they were both in cahoots with the Dark Star. Ryder is Callum's brother." I confessed.

She sat there staring at me like she was just meeting me for the first time. Her stare was blank, but with a hint of hurt in her eyes. "Loki, I can't hold your past against you from before you met me, but dammit, you should have told me before now. Not hours before, we were to be untied as Alpha and Luna, husband and wife. I'm not going to reject you for keeping secrets from me, but just know I am not happy about finding this out. Knowing you slept with someone so heinous as Lisa, before me, really hurts. So, Liam was right to suspect Mr. Daniels wasn't honest. I say we play his game and see what exactly he reports back to Callum. Maybe play a little cat and mouse with Dark Star." She said.

I could hear the anger in her voice, and I wasn't going to argue with her about it.

What A Wicked Web We Weave

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*Melian POV

I had woken up needing to use the restroom, but noticed only one of my mates was in bed with me. Loki wasn't there. Where would he be at this ungodly hour of the morning? His side of the bed was cold so I knew he had been gone awhile. I went and did my business, and crawled back into bed. I covered myself up but didn't lie down. It wasn't long after the door opened and Loki walked in. He was surprised to see me awake. "Where were you?" I asked him.

He sighed and slid into bed with me. He said he had to go for a run to clear his head, but the strange thing is, he didn't smell like he had been out for a run. Why was he making things up? I knew it had to be something serious bothering him, or he wouldn't be hiding things. "Loki, you are scaring me. Can we go somewhere more private so that we don't piss Liam off by waking him up?" I asked. He grabbed my hand and led me out of our room and into the hall.

He sped down the hallway dragging me along with him. He then pulled me into his old room. I could see the worry in his eyes as he sat me down. He sat in front of me and took my hands, and explained that he had something he needed to tell me before we were further bonded together as Alpha and Luna, husband and wife. He explained how Lisa was a long-time friend of his cousin, and that things had happened between them before he met me. He said it wasn't a relationship in any sense, but more of just a couple of random hookups. I wasn't necessarily mad, but disgusted. Disgusted that he was just now telling me all of this instead of being upfront with me when he found out what kind of person she was and her part in my abuse.

I couldn't be mad, it was before me. However, I was entitled to be upset at him keeping secrets from me. He and Liam preached at me constantly to be honest no matter how bad it is, and here he is keeping secrets. To make matters worse, he says he has more to tell me. That he wasn't going to tell me until he got more answers, but that he might as well just tell me. He tells me that Liam is justified in his gut feelings about Mr. Daniels, but tells me there is another person involved. He paused a moment as he gathered the courage to tell me, and I yelled at him to just spill it out. I'm tired of people walking on eggshells thinking I am going to breakdown with the littlest information.

"Stop fucking beating around the bush, Loki. Just say who and what it is!" He looked up at me with his gorgeous amber-brown eyes and replied, "It's Jenna. Ryder is Callum's brother, and I'm not sure what is between him and Jenna. I caught them talking and they are both definitely working with Dark Star. I told them to meet me and Liam in our office this morning. We will get answers, Mel. I promise you." I was shocked, and I was pissed! I can't believe I allowed myself to get close to her. I should really have known. I mean, after all, she was Michael's mate. No better than Madison. My family tainted everyone they came in contact with. I question every single day why the Goddess placed me in that fucked up family. I guess I had started to stare off into space deep in thought, because Loki touched my knee and brought me back to reality. "Please say something Mel. I'm truly sorry." he whispered.

"Loki, I can't hold your past against you from before you met me, but dammit, you should have told me before now. Not hours before, we were to be untied as Alpha and Luna, husband and wife. I'm not going to reject you for keeping secrets from me, but just know I am not happy about finding this out. Knowing you slept with someone so heinous as Lisa, before me, really hurts. So, Liam was right to suspect Mr. Daniels wasn't honest. I say we play his game and see

what exactly he reports back to Callum. Maybe play a little cat and mouse with Dark Star." I said.

I couldn't contain the anger in my voice, and continued my thought. "As for Jenna, trusting her is on me. I should have known better. Maddix is not to be harmed in any way because of this bullshit. OK? It honestly sounded to me like she was having an affair with Mr. Daniels. Why else would he try to help her escape to the Dark Star? I knew she wasn't happy with my brother, and I don't blame her, but this is a whole new level of dumbfuckery. I have an idea though.

I say hear them out, and give them a 'warning'. Tell them they are on a probation period of sorts. We tap their rooms, and the phone lines, and we put a couple of our best warriors on their tails to watch them. Is there a way to trace and track their cell phones? Also, we wait to induct them into the pack. Tonight, let it just be myself, Jason and Rebecca. Obviously, the kids, but tell them until you find more out about them, they will wait. Hence, 'probationary period'. I may not know much about things, or how to run a pack, but this is common sense. When all you have to do in life is read, you learn a thing or two about how to get back at people." I had to laugh at the last part, even just to break the tension between us.

He leaned in and kissed my cheek and said, "Babe, thank you. I was for sure you would hate me. I promise no more secrets. No matter what." I warned him that there better not be, and told him we needed to get back to Liam before he woke up. Once we got back to our room, it was too late. Liam was up and in the shower. Thankfully, Loki will explain it to Liam. I for one, was going back to bed.

A Little Regret A Little Too Late

Chapter 67 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

JENNA POV

What the hell am I still doing here? It's obvious mine and Ryder's involvement with Callum has been discovered. Loki isn't stupid, from what I can tell, and he is also the twin I wouldn't want to piss off. I believe we have done just that. He seemed calm, but it could have all been an act. When Ryder dropped me at my door, he told me to remain calm and not to worry. How the hell can he even think that would be an option? I mean, for all I know, when we go to that office later, the twins could kill us next. What would happen to my son? When everything started with Ryder, I knew I was playing a dangerous game.

Yet, it wasn't as dangerous as living a life with Eric Carter. I knew if I didn't get out of that situation soon, I would be dead. If not by Eric himself, it would be one of his brothers. Everyone

was most fearful of Eric, and I understood why. Thomas, however, was the one I feared the most. He was quiet, but always had his eyes on you. He would snap at the slightest of things, and children weren't excluded from his wrath. All I can say right now is good riddance to all of those monsters.

The sad part about all of this is, I don't want to hurt Melian. Sure, I get tired of hearing about how sad her story is and I can't really stand anyone else here, but the target is the twins, and unfortunately, she's an innocent bystander in all of this. Ryder feels the same way, but his hatred for the twins and their family stems from way back. He won't tell me what it is, but it's festered in him for years. I want to talk to Mel about it all, but how do you approach someone and be like 'Hey, I don't want to hurt you, but supposedly your mates and their family are evil bastards who deserve to die, according to my lover and his brother.'? You just don't. So in all of this, the goal is to make sure she doesn't get burned in the process. Not going to happen though.

They are fated mates. They hurt, she hurts. When Eric was killed, the pain was intense. I thought I was losing myself, no matter how much I hated him. I think it was the hatred that helped me get through it quickly. The love I feel for Ryder I'm sure also contributed. I went into Maddix's room and he was sitting in his crib with his favorite stuffed animal. It's a little turtle that was given to him by Rebecca when he was born. She has called him turtle since the first time she laid eyes on him, and the two of them have a special bond. I truly wish I could have taken a different route, but when I fell in love with Ryder, my path was chosen. I just hope that it doesn't cost me my son. I picked my boy up and carried him into the living area.

I changed him and sat him on the floor to play while I fixed his breakfast. My mind kept drifting off to thoughts of just taking him and running, but I knew it was too dangerous. Callum would track us down and kill us both. Not to mention Ryder would be crushed. There was a knock at the door and the nanny let herself in. I greeted her, and told her about the meeting I had this morning with the Alphas. She said it was fine, because she had planned a play date with Trinity and they would be outside playing. I told her to make sure that she bundled both kids up because the air was chilly in the morning now, and she promised she would. I kissed my son on top of his head, and left to go to Ryder's room. Half way down the hall I ran into Melian. "Hey Mel, how are you feeling?" I asked her. Something about her aura felt off, but she replied that she felt great. She was heading down to eat, and then go for a run. I found it odd she was alone, but shrugged it off. Ryder was waiting for me outside his door, and I asked if he had seen Mel. He nodded his head and said that they had been talking briefly and that she had just left. He took my hand and led me to the Alpha's office. My heart was beating out of my chest, and was nervous about what Loki did or didn't hear. Ryder knocked on the door and the alphas yelled 'Enter' in unison. We walked into the office and Loki motioned us to sit without even looking up at us. This can't be good.

"Sit down, please. I explained to my brother about our by chance meeting last night. However, there is one thing I couldn't explain fully, and that is why you both were out there whispering in the dark at 4am. I heard the conversation, and it had me a little confused, but this is your chance to explain everything....in detail. Leave nothing out! We will know if you are lying." Loki said in a cold tone.

Ryder and I glanced at each other and he spoke up. "Alpha's, you deserve to know the truth. Before everything happened at Mystic Shadows with the Council, Jenna and I had started having an affair. She was miserable with her mate, and wanted to escape and reject him and the pack. I left ahead of time to make arrangements with my brother for us to live there, and by the time I got back to get her, everything and everyone was gone at Mystic Shadows. I admit, I lied about how I left the pack. I was afraid that I would be imprisoned for abandoning my pack when it was in trouble."

Loki looked at him with narrowed eyes and leaned forward on the desk. "So, you are telling me that you went to visit your brother, in your car that you said the council seized, to make arrangements with your brother for you to take someone else's mate and make a run for it. Is that correct?" he asked. "Ye...yes Alpha Loki. You are correct." Ryder replied. Loki plopped back into his chair and kicked his feet onto the desk and looked at his brother. "Hear that Liam? What do you think? Is he telling the truth?"

Liam only smirked while pulling his hair up into a bun. "To be honest brother, I think it is the biggest crock of shit I have heard in a long time. I think ol' Ryder here is a lying coward. Tell me Ryder, who is your brother and what pack were you planning on taking dear Jenna here to?" Liam scoffed. Ryder's anxiety was becoming evident as he started to stammer over his words. I couldn't take it anymore and blurted it out. "His brother is Callum Star. Daniels is just an alias for him. His brother is Alpha Callum Star of the Dark Star pack." I quickly gasped and covered my mouth. Ryder's head instantly dropped because he knew I had just completely ratted us out. Both alphas were now kicked back in their chairs with their feet on the desk.

The demeanor of their faces and auras quickly changed, and we were super fucked. Liam sat forward and slammed his fist on the desk. He looked at us with hatred in his eyes, and said, "Here is what's going to happen. You are going to play along with Callum. You are going to give him whatever information we give you to give him. If you refuse, or plot another way to get information over to him, I will kill you myself. Are we understood? There is no negation to these terms. I also want your cell phone. The only communication you will have with him will be through recorded landlines. You will have a guard with you at all times! Oh.....stay away from our wife!" We handed our phones to Loki because Liam had stormed out before we could answer. I definitely regret my decisions.

Let Them Go

Chapter 68 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

LIAM POV

Can I wake up one day without a bunch of bullshit? Truthfully, I need a vacation. Tonight is our Luna ceremony and we will induct her, Jason and Rebecca and the kids into the pack. We were also going to induct Jenna and Ryder, but things have definitely changed. As an alpha, I have to hear their side of things, and can't just go by what I hear, even if it's from my brother. I promise you though, one wrong word and I will kill them where they stand and clean up later.

On top of this news, he lets me know that he came clean with Mel about his little trysts with Lisa. She seems to be handling that news alright, but knowing her she is wanting to rip his balls off. Other than having a conversation about her plans for the day, I haven't really talked to her much about the situation. She wanted to let Ruby out for awhile, and I was cool with it as long as she took someone with her. I linked Timmy to see if he could send one of our best out with her, and he said to send her to him when she was ready. He would go with her himself. I was relieved by that because, honestly, there was no one better to protect her.

I thanked him and disconnected the link. Mel said she was going for breakfast and I told her to go straight to Timmy when she was ready to let Ruby loose. Loki and I both kissed her goodbye and went straight to our office. We were working on pack paperwork when Jenna and Ryder decided to show up. We called them in and both put on a pissed off front. The only thing is, it was definitely not a front. Once they entered, Loki commanded them to sit. I hadn't heard him use his alpha tone in a long time, and it kind of scared me a little bit. I internally chuckled and let Loki start. He made sure they understood they were going to tell the truth, and if they didn't, they would be dead. Ryder started to explain, but I guess his mistress got a little impatient. Not only did she out him as Ryder Star, Callum's brother, but she also told us whatever else we wanted to know. She sang like a little songbird. I told them that they were to turn their cell phones in, and would be guarded at all times. Then I walked out. Now that I am away from them, knowing my mate is out running in the woods, I wish I could have thrown them in the cells.

House arrest is about all we have right now since the explosion, but our construction crew were working around the clock to get the cell house rebuilt. I went out to the garden to just sit by the fountain for awhile. I always think better when I'm out here. The running water in the fountain would soon be turned off with the winter months coming, and I wanted to enjoy it while I could. I lay on one of the benches and the sound of the water soothed my thoughts. That is until I caught the sight of movement outside of the corner of my eye. I sat up to see if I could catch it again, and sure enough, there they were, Ryder and Jenna sneaking into the woods. They either had mountain-sized balls or were just purely stupid. I'm going with stupid.

I followed them from a distance. We were about a mile in the dense forest before I heard them talking. "Dammit Jenna! I told you not to speak to them unless they asked you questions, and then you played dumb. You couldn't do that one simple thing for me, could you? I have got to get news to Callum somehow about the ceremony tonight. I have no way of doing that now. FUCK!" he screamed at her. She slightly cowered and said, "Stop yelling at me! I'm sorry, I panicked. Why can't we make a run for it now? No one is watching us, or they would have already stopped us from coming this far. Think about it."

This tramp was as dumb as she looked. Definitely gave blondes a bad name. I could see the wheels in Ryder's brain turning, and he asked about her son. Would she willingly walk away and

leave him? Surely she didn't think we would let her waltz back in there to get him. She paused for a moment and got choked up. "I...I don't want to leave him Ryder, but we can't stay here. If they find out what we have already told Callum, they will not hesitate to kill us. My anxiety is killing me, and when I get anxious I can't stop what comes out of my mouth. This isn't a choice for me anymore, and I know she won't let anything happen to her nephew. It's the twins he wants. He needs to leave the rest alive. He just has to...." she trailed off.

Ryder started to pace and he finally agreed to her plan. He was pissed because he had let his brother beat him near death for the ruse, and now just a day later he was going back without anything of value. I debated whether or not I would let them go, but after getting a link from Timmy that my girl was home safely and getting ready for the ceremony, I decided to let them go. Let them report back to Callum, because after we got the ceremony out of the way, we were heading to Dark Star. They were as good as dead when they returned there empty handed, and Callum and Lisa's time was up, and we were the collectors of their flesh. Once they left, I turned and went back to the packhouse. I needed to clean myself up and I was ready to just not think about what was to come for a little while.

I linked Loki and told him to meet me in my old room, that we had a change of events that I needed to tell him. 3 hours until our ceremony, and I couldn't wait.

Showtime

Chapter 69 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Melian POV

Have you ever had a day where you feel like something bad is about to happen? Today is supposed to be a good day, but for some reason it feels like there's a dark cloud hanging over us. I don't like it. After the eventful morning, I prayed for an uneventful and joyous night. The goddess has to give us some happiness somewhere, right?

After I ate my breakfast, I did as I was told so that I could let Ruby out. I found Timmy and he told me to go behind the barracks and strip and shift. He went around and picked up my clothes and placed them on the steps of the barracks and he did the same. His wolf was huge, he was very light brown. Almost blonde, and was more muscular than most wolves. He nodded that he was ready and we took off into the woods. He followed me for awhile, and then I followed him.

He knew the area better than I did, and I didn't want to lead us somewhere I shouldn't. He took me past a stream that had the most beautiful waterfall, and I needed to make a mental note of it so that I could have the twins bring me here. I heard Tim yip at me signaling he needed to go

back. I guess I had him out here longer than I should, and he needed to get back for training. Once we were back and we shifted and put our clothes back on. I thanked him for his time, and jogged back to the packhouse. I needed to shower and get ready for tonight. Rebecca and Jenna were supposed to help me get ready, but I don't want Jenna anywhere near me right now. I fell for her bullshit and I was angry at myself for it. I don't know what went on in their meeting, but right now, as long as I could steer clear of Mr. Daniels and Jenna, I was good.

I quickly showered and called Rebecca to let her know whenever she wanted to come over I was ready. I sat on our bed and turned on the TV. I turned on my favorite show, *The Walking Dead*, and started to put lotion all over my body. Doing simple girly things like this was weird to me, but I really enjoyed it. I heard a soft knock on the door and a little voice behind it yelling "Auntie Melly," and I quickly jumped up to open it. "My Trinity girl!!" I yelled as I picked her up and swung her around.

Her laughter filled the air and it filled my heart with joy. "Are you ready to be a pretty princess, Trinity?" I asked her and she started jumping up and down, screaming yes. Rebecca and I laughed until our ribs hurt. Aunt Roxy and Grace came in shortly after and aunt Roxy in her jovial way said, "What's all this ruckus? Did I hear mention of a princess joining us today?" Trinity flashed her big beautiful smile and replied, "Yes, I princess". The laughter eased the gloomy feeling and I was thankful Grace decided to join us. She hadn't left her house much since Nick's passing, and it was good to see her out. I excused myself from the group and went into my closet. I needed a little space to breathe for a moment. I stood there staring at my dress, and kept telling myself I was going to look amazing. I had never worn anything this glamorous before. It was a beautiful amber color, with gold beading. It had thin straps and the back hung low. It had a crystal piece that draped across the back connecting to the straps, and the crystals matched the dress. I must have been in the closet longer than I thought because Grace came to find me.

"Luna?" She whispered. I jumped at her calling me and we both laughed. "Grace, you don't have to call me Luna. You are family, and I hate formalities. I'm still and always will be just Mel." I reached out to her and took her into a hug. She relaxed in my arms and thanked me for being so kind to her. I wouldn't have it any other way. She helped me bring my dress, undergarments and shoes into the main bedroom, and she sat me down on the bench at the end of the bed. "Let's get you all dolled up," she said.

She started with my hair, curling it into long curls. She then started to pin the curls up into a faux hawk, with just a few strands hanging down. Rebecca had to step out for a moment, saying Jason needed her, and would be right back. Grace finished my hair by adding some amber crystals to my pink and lavender curls. It looked gorgeous. She said the faux hawk would match Loki's wild personality, and the softness of the make-up would match Liam's. The whole outfit combined together would bring us all three as one. It was nice having someone think of sentimental things like that, because my mind was so chaotic, there is no way I would have thought of anything like that.

As Grace was applying my make-up, Roxy came and sat next to me. She placed her hand on my knee and said, "You are good for my nephews, Melian. The change in them since you arrived has been life-changing for them. For all of us." I took a deep breath and started to feel glum. "Roxy, I

fear sometimes that their lives have changed for the worse since I showed up. They love me and won't say so, but I have brought nothing but trouble for them, for the pack. I don't want it to be that way." I replied to her.

Grace suddenly stopped applying my make-up and kneeled before me. "You stop that right now, Melian Carter. You have brought happiness back to those men. Do you hear me? I have never in my time of knowing them known Loki Young to laugh as much as he has, let alone actually care lovingly for someone. Liam was always cheerful, but never went out of his way to make sure anyone else felt happy. He does that for you, and they both love you unconditionally. Troubles are temporary, Love is forever!" she pleaded. Rebecca had returned and she looked as if she was going to be sick. "What's wrong Becca?" I asked. She came and took my hand and told me not to worry, that everything was alright. The only problem was Ryder and Jenna had run from the pack, and the biggest thing about it was she abandoned Maddix.

I was shocked, but not fearful. I was shocked because she left Maddix without a second thought. It's OK, he was safe here with us. After I put my dress on, and looked at the other women and Trinity, I made a comment on how gorgeous they all looked. We were all about to hug when one of the Omegas knocked on the door. "Luna, the alphas say it's time." she said.

It's...time. The butterflies started swirling in my belly, and Roxy and Rebecca helped me out of the bedroom. The heels I was wearing were higher than I had ever worn, but I was determined to walk as elegantly as I could. We got to the top of the stairs and started to descend, and standing at the bottom looking gorgeous in their matching black tuxedos with amber-colored ties were my mates. Liam looking sweet with his crazy long curly hair and beautifully long beard, and Loki looking wild and crazy with his short dark hair slicked back and his face tattoos on full display.

I was blessed with Gods for mates, and I was never letting them go.

Party Crashers

Chapter 70 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Loki POV

My goddess, she looks beautiful. My heart was jumping out of my chest and Zeus was losing his mind as she walked down those stairs. The dress Rebecca picked out looks phenomenal on her body. Our pack colors are black and amber, and even with her odd colored hair, the color suits her. As she came to the bottom, she laced her arms in ours and we walked to the banquet hall as one unit. As we entered, the pack rose to their feet, and stayed that way until we reached the

stage. Elder Declan was available to perform the ceremony and he took center stage to start the proceedings.

We would first induct Jason, Rebecca and the kids, and then induct Mel at the same time as her taking her vow as Luna. I knew she was worried because of everything going on, but the house had extra security and the pack borders were heavily guarded. I know Rebecca had to have relayed the message about Liam letting Jenna and Ryder leave the pack, and I understood why he did. They didn't really know anything about the goings on internally, but they knew enough about Mel that I'm sure she was worried. She didn't show it at all. She stood graceful and stoic as she listened to the elder. She stood proud as her brother and our sister said their vows to the pack and became full members. She stood and watched lovingly as her niece and nephews were welcomed and dedicated to the pack, and finally, she stood and watched Liam and I lovingly as we participated in the ceremonies.

The goddess knew exactly what she was doing when she mated us with someone like Melian. She has flipped our world upside down and sideways, but she has made us better men because of it. Caring and loving someone else other than yourself changes your whole perspective on what living really is, and I was excited to start our lives together as husbands and wife. I had always worried about sharing a mate with my twin, but now, I couldn't imagine it being any other way.

Elder Declan called Melian forward, and she gracefully moved across the stage. She stood in the center of Liam and myself and we intertwined our fingers. We surrounded an alter that contained candles, herbs, the pack athame and a chalice with just a small amount of wine. Elder Declan picked up the athame and held it above the candle flame. He started to recite the ceremonial script and raised the athame in the air. "Today we bring forth Melian Carter to be blessed and dedicated to the Alpha's and The Blood Moon pack as Luna. The Goddess has found her worthy to be fated to both Alpha Liam and Alpha Loki, and we shall respect and cherish that choice. Melian Carter, do you swear to uphold your duty as Luna to not only the Alphas of The Blood Moon pack, but also the pack members who are now part of your care?" he asked.

She smiled widely and nodded her head. "I vow to care for not only my Alphas, but also every pack member of The Blood Moon pack. I will treat them with all the respect I can muster. I will be honored to serve beside my Alphas as they see fit," Melian answered. Declan took the athame and sliced Mel's palm. She slightly hissed as the blade slid across her skin, and she let the blood drop into the chalice. He then turned to Liam and I and said, "Alphas Liam and Loki Young, do you accept the vows placed before you by your fated mate, Melian Carter? Do you also vow to stand by and protect your Luna with your lives just as she would do for you? Do you approve of her decision to act as pack mother to your pack? Do you choose Melian as not only your Luna but also your wife, and allow her to carry your last name?" There was no question about our answer, and we both answered in unison, "We do and we will." Declan then cut the opposite palms than what we used for the inductions, and we allowed our blood to drop into the chalice and mix with Mel's. He lifted the cup and spoke a few words in Gaelic, and then handed the cup to Melian first.

She sipped out of the chalice and then handed it to Liam. Who in turn handed it to me. Once we had all taken our drinks, we united the hands that had just been sliced and combined our blood

together. As soon as we did, we felt the snap of us all becoming one. We also noticed Mel became a little disoriented when the snap of her bond with the pack fell into place. "Whoa!" she exclaimed. "I wasn't expecting that to be so intense." she laughed. Liam and I chuckled and I pulled her in for a kiss, and Liam kissed her after. Declan announced her officially to the pack as their Luna.

"Families of the Blood Moon pack, I now introduce to you your Luna, Melian Young. The crowd erupted into cheers and applause as she waved to them and smiled. She looked out into the crowd and looked as if she had seen a ghost. In the back of the room stood Callum and Lisa, along with a badly beaten Ryder and Jenna. He had just a few warriors with him, but I had a feeling there were more stationed elsewhere. "How the fuck did they get in here?" I linked to Timmy. He didn't respond. As he noticed us scrambling to find out what was going on, Callum started to clap. "Congratulations Luna. Alphas, I suggest if you don't want to have all hell break loose, you escort us to your office for a little....chat."

Liam and I were fuming, and fighting to keep our wolves under control. Melian, however, still stood as stoic as she had been the whole ceremony. She raised her hand for everyone to calm down and then placed her hands on our shoulders. "It's fine, let's hear them out. They are obviously idiots to barge in here like this, so the least we could do is hear them out." she said. Her eyes never left Lisa, and her voice was calm. Almost too calm.