

Chapter 91 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

LIAM POV

Mel's craving for vinegar kind of took me by surprise. I have been around pregnant women before, but never heard of a vinegar craving. Not going to lie, it almost turned my stomach. Her covering her food with vinegar, and Loki with the nasty hot sauce was too much. I tried to ignore the smells and just savor the delicious food in front of me. The Omega's started to clear away the dishes, and we were too caught up in conversation with Rory and Luke, along with his family. I was a fan of the mating of Rory and Luke. He is super calm and encouraging, and it totally balanced with her constant insecurities. You could tell they were deeply in love, and that is all you could ever ask for when your family is concerned. As I was talking to Marion and Paolo about the plans for the mill, I noticed Mel walking out of the dining hall with Gretchen. My curiosity had peaked, but I would let them have their privacy. I knew Gretchen wasn't a threat, and would protect her if needed. For an old lady, she was stronger than most young ones. If I had to be honest, she even scared me a little. "Alpha?" I heard Marion call. I snapped out of my thoughts, and apologized for being distracted. She flashed a smile and assured me it was OK. I asked her to repeat herself, and she said, "Would you be opposed to the building of a school where we could teach our children our craft? Your pack members who wish to learn would also be welcome. It would be at no cost to you, and would just basically be an add-on to the mill housing." I looked at Loki, who just cocked his eyebrows like he wasn't opposed to the situation. "I don't mind. I think it would be a good thing since we are adding your coven to our territory. It would be beneficial and show the unity between the witches and wolves isn't such a taboo situation. It's the funding that concerns me. Our pack is doing well, but we would still need to crunch some numbers to make sure that it's doable, since we already have a couple of builds in the process. " She said she understood and that she would schedule a meeting at a later date to discuss it further. We still had other things that were more pressing to deal with.

I started to get anxious when Mel and Gretchen hadn't returned, and I nudged Loki. "I'm going to go check on Mel and Gretchen, are you coming?" He didn't answer, but just stood up and followed me out. They were sitting in the garden talking and I overheard Gretchen asking Mel some questions about the situation with our pups and Callum. I was slightly offended that she would pull Mel away from us to discuss the ritual with Callum without us. Loki was obviously upset, because he brushed past me and went to where they were sitting. "Grandma Gretchen, I don't mean any disrespect, but you should have included us in any conversations regarding the demon alpha." Loki stated. Gretchen ran her hands over her lap, and without hesitation responded to Loki. "In all due respect, Alpha Loki, this conversation didn't concern you or your brother. I know how you both feel, and for this ritual to work, I needed to understand your Luna's

feelings and points of view on the situation. You would have been included if I needed to know your thoughts, but you both have made them perfectly clear. I apologize if I overstepped boundaries, but in the same way, you both need to understand that there are rules to what we do. If there are any hesitations or doubts involved, the ritual can go haywire. Everyone, and I do mean everyone, has to be on the same page." She explained.

I guess neither of us had fully grasped the reality of it all. We were just worried about our mate and pups. When it all boils down, we have to trust in Ruby, Gretchen and ourselves. I took in a deep breath and released it. I looked at both of the women and said, "Fine, let's do it. I'm sure Loki will agree. We need to do what's best and finish this. Mel, if you trust that Ruby can do this, so do we. We trust and love you both. Gretchen, I have put a lot of faith in you and your family, and I will continue to do so. However, I need to ask a favor. If it can even be done, but would it be possible to put a protection barrier around Ruby and Mel to protect our pups during the ritual? Just as an added reassurance?" My nerves were all over the place, but I knew this was the right thing to do. Gretchen took one of my hands and one of Loki's hands and held on to them. She looked at us with a serious but compassionate look and replied, "Alphas, unfortunately there cannot be any type of blockers. What I can do is place Ruby in a circle of salt and herbs to keep Mammon out. Like you, I want everyone to come out unscathed. Alpha Liam, you are the one I worry about. Mammon has already gotten into your head, and it is going to take a lot of strong will to keep him out this time. Especially since he will be fighting for his vessel not to die. Are you sure you can handle this? There is no shame if you can't, we will just have to find someone else closely bonded to the Luna to help your brother." Her words hit me like a brick wall. Here all this time I was stressing over my wife and children, that I hadn't fully processed my part in it all. I was determined to do it, no matter the cost. "I'm doing it, Gretchen. There is no one else I would trust to not only help my brother, but to protect my wife, children and pack. Please have some faith in me."

Best Of Both Worlds

Chapter 92 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

MELIAN POV

After last night's discussion with Gretchen and my mates, I am ready for a semi-relaxed day. Unfortunately, today won't be all relaxation, because later this evening we have to start preparations for tomorrow night. The moon will be full and Gretchen says that will be the best time to perform the ritual. So, today, I will concentrate on being relaxed as much as possible. I get to have an ultrasound today with Dr. Flores and my mates are going to join me. Hopefully, we will be able to tell the genders this time. I decided to sit in the kitchen today and have my breakfast. I wanted time alone, and the dining hall was very crowded. The council had arrived

this morning, and Loki and Liam wanted to meet with them prior to our doctor's appointment. So, I had breakfast by myself. Eating my toast and eggs, I felt like someone was watching me. I looked around the room and didn't see anyone, so I figured I was just being paranoid. I continued to eat, but the feeling never left. Once I finished, I put my plate in the sink. I grabbed my jacket and went out to the garden to enjoy the cool air. "Ruby, do you feel that too? I can't shake the feeling we are being watched." She didn't respond right away, and I started to worry. "Ruby?" I called for her again. "Sorry, Melian. I was trying to sense where the feeling was coming from. I feel it too, but can't decipher where or who it is. Maybe we should go back inside." I had to agree with her because the feeling was getting stronger the longer I was outside.

Pulling my jacket closer around me, I stood up to walk back into the packhouse. My head turned towards the forest, and I heard a low growl. I started to pick up my pace towards the house, and a man stepped out of the forest. "Luna, I need to speak to you," he called out. His voice was low, and his tone was spiteful. I stopped where I was and told him not to come any closer, that he could speak to me from where he was. He placed his hands on his hips and cocked his head. "I know the Royal Council is here, and I know what you are. If you follow through with this execution tonight to destroy Mammon and Callum, I will reveal to the council the truth." he threatened. I went to ask who he was and why he thought it was any of his business, and he turned and ran back into the forest. I saw Timmy not far away and yelled for him to check the forest. He glanced at me and saw that I was shaken, and took off into the forest, taking the guards that were with him. I linked Liam and told him what had happened, and he told me to come straight to their office.

I nearly ran through the packhouse to get to the safety of the twins' office, and didn't even bother to knock before entering. "Iris, forgive my intrusion, but we really need to talk." I apologized. She patted the seat next to her on the couch and I sat with her. I apologized to everyone, but also explained that what I had to say was important. "Iris, the day I found out about my pregnancy, I also had a breakthrough with my memories with my mother. I remember her telling me about our family and what I was. I remember so much more, but the most important part was that I was born a Fae/Wolf hybrid. I'm sorry we haven't said anything before now, but I wanted to do this face to face." I explained. "Well, isn't this a doozy of some information. It makes no difference to the council what you are, Luna. We cannot control who the goddess fates us with, and nor would we want to. You are a rarity, but it just gives us the opportunity to learn more about your lineage. Fae are a fairly unknown species in our world, and the secrecy about them is held tightly. Do you know how it affects your wolf or does it affect your wolf?" She replied. I didn't know how much she knew about Gretchen, so I looked to my mates to explain that part. "Well, as I was explaining to you, Iris, we have moved a small coven of witches onto the territory. They are my cousin Rory's mate's family. The grandmother's name is Gretchen and she has explained to us a little about how her Fae and Wolf work together. Ruby, Mel's wolf, holds the Fae magic that Mel possesses. Mel can learn to control her powers outside of using them through Ruby, but they are more powerful when used through her wolf." Liam explained to Iris. She rubbed my back and told me she understood, and that it was fine. She encouraged me to learn to use my magic myself, so that I wasn't always reliant on Ruby. Especially when I was further along in my pregnancy. Eventually, it would get to the point that I couldn't shift, and couldn't depend on Ruby to protect us. Timmy had linked Loki, letting him know they had caught the man, and had

taken him to the cells. Which gave me a sense of relief. It was close to time for my appointment, and the twins ended their meeting until later.

Roxy met us in the lobby and walked us back to Dr. Flores office. "Luna, Alphas, it's good to see you all. Are we ready to see those little bundles of joy?" We all smiled, and the twins helped me up onto the bed. Just as he did before, Dr. Flores placed a paper sheet on my lap and tucked it into the top of my pants. He squirted the cold gel on my stomach and started to move the wand around. I could hear my pups' heartbeats echo through the room, and the excitement just from that made my mates smile from ear to ear. He moved the wand some more, and then said, "Here they are, and it looks like we can see the genders. Do you want to know?" I looked at my mates and before I could even answer, Loki blurted out that we did. We all laughed at his excitement and Dr. Flores let us know the genders. "Well, looks as if you are about to be girl dads, alphas." Loki gave out a whoop and Liam looked as if he was ready to pass out. "Liam are you OK, baby?" I asked. He slowly nodded his head and whispered, "I'm going to be a dad to girls. Goddess help us."

Practice makes perfect

Chapter 93 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

Loki POV

I was on cloud nine after finding out what our pups' genders were. I was going to have little girls, daddy's girls. I still felt like shit for being selfish in being curious about whether I was the one who actually got our mate pregnant or not. It wasn't fair to Liam for me to think that way, but wouldn't anyone want to know for sure? I quickly shoved that curiosity away because, at the end of the day, it truly didn't matter. We were both their daddies, and nothing would change that. Leaving the hospital, Mel mentioned she was hungry and wanted a good pizza. Liam and I both knew exactly what she was hinting at, so we walked down the street to Coffee & Thyme. Hazel eagerly greeted us, and sat us at our normal table. Liam and I ordered our usual coffee order, and Mel ordered an apple macha smoothie. As far as food, I ordered a BLT with extra bacon and tomato with some kettle chips. Liam had his normal turkey club with potato salad, and Mel ordered her a flatbread pizza with pesto sauce, onion, arugala, hot peppers and balsamic vinegar. While we waited for our food, we just had simple conversations, and I had to think about what we should name our babies. "Guys, what do you think of the names Fiona and Fallon for the babies? At least for their first names, but if we did both first and middle, we could do Fiona Adelina and Fallon Hopper. Adelina was our mother's name, and Hopper was the name of Nick's Wolf. It could be used for a boy or girl," I asked. Liam liked both full names, but Melian remained silent. "You don't like them babe?" I asked her. She smiled and shook her head and said, "No, it's not that at all. I love them. All of it. I was just hoping to add my mother's name

somewhere. Would it be too weird for them not to have matching letter names? I know you both do, but I really want her in there somewhere." I fully understood, and again felt like an ass for not considering she would want her mother's name in tribute somehow. So I put my brain back to work. "How about Adelina Rose and Alette Lily? The same first letters are kind of important to Liam and I," I asked. She thought for a minute, and looked at us both with an expression that I couldn't quite read. "I love it," she said. "Really? That's great! It's a perfect combination of the people who meant the most to us," I replied. Her face twisted in confusion, more than likely she wasn't aware of where Alette came from, so Liam filled her in. "Alette was our dad's mother's name, baby." Her mouth formed an OH and she nodded her head. "Definitely perfect then," she expressed just in time for our food to arrive.

We quickly finished our meals and rushed to the training fields. I wasn't happy about Mel being out in the cold like this, but since she would be in wolf form, I knew she would be warmer than normal. Lucky me, was nominated as the guinea pig for Ruby's exploration inside someone's mind. I wasn't afraid, per say, but I was definitely nervous. Luke sat a chair in the middle of the training field and had me sit in it. Mel had gone into the forest to shift out of sight of other people's eyes, and when she emerged Luke led Ruby about 40 feet away from where I was sitting. Gretchen stood by her side and instructed me to close my eyes and create a scenario in my mind where I was hiding from Ruby. Kind of like hide and seek. The idea was for Ruby to enter my mind, and search for me. I imagined myself in a dense forest that contained lots of caves and cliffs. I had run deep inside the forest to a cave and covered myself with mud. I shimmied into a rock that had a huge crack in it. Big enough to fit just me, and I waited. I could hear Gretchen's voice enter my mind and help keep me aware of what was going on. It was as if she was right there with me. "Alpha Loki, before Ruby enters, you need to slow your heart rate. You need to stay calm, your body is reacting as if you were truly running. If you don't slow your heart rate, she will find you easily. Mammon will not make it easy for her," she said. I took a few deep breaths and concentrated on slowing my heart rate. Once it was at a normal pace, if not maybe a tad slower, she informed me she was going to help ease Ruby inside my mind. I stood as still as I could, and stood in a meditative state to keep my heart at an even keel. I could hear the thumping of Ruby's paws on the ground, and the slight noises she would make as she would sniff the air and ground. I could hear her near the cave, but hoped the mud would mask my scent enough to throw her off just a bit. Zeus was going haywire, and I told him to calm down before he gave us away. He said she was trying to link him, but he wasn't replying.

She had passed the cave numerous times, and I could sense her frustration. Gretchen told me to hold strong, that she would find me. She just had to believe she would. Ruby had made another pass past the cave, but this time she turned around and walked inside. She nudged the rock I was standing in, and started to growl. Suddenly she let out a loud howl and stuck her paw inside the crack. She had found me. I gave a laugh and stepped out with my hands raised. "You found me Ruby. Good girl! I knew you could do it." I praised her. As I was petting her soft fur, she disappeared, and I was brought back to reality. I opened my eyes and I could tell Ruby was distraught. I shifted to Zeus and went to comfort her. As soon as I shifted, Ruby's voice entered my head. "I failed, I took too long and you all would have been dead if this was in the cells." She whimpered. I reassured her that she wouldn't fail in the cells. My hiding was intentional, and finding Mammon wouldn't be hard because he wasn't really hiding from anyone. He was more or less inviting us in. It was just her job to keep him distracted. "Ruby, you and Mel are one unit.

Together you can do this because you are the strongest combination I have ever met. You add us to the mix and we will be unstoppable. Let's practice a few more times, and get some rest. Tomorrow we exorcise the demon."

Discoveries

Chapter 94 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

LIAM POV

It's the full moon, and time to rid our pack of not only Callum, but also the demon Mammon. Surprisingly, I'm not nervous. More focused than anything. I will not fail this time, and I'm determined to do my part. Mel has been fatigued all day, so we have let her rest, only waking her to eat. Regardless of the task at hand, she is still carrying our daughters in her belly. Rocko has been communicating with Ruby, and he says she is ready and that she feels strong and focused. Ruby is definitely one of a kind. She is strong when Melian can't be, and she is comforting when Mel needs her most. She is everything a wolf counterpart should be, and more. Loki and I were helping with patrols, and Luke came along with us to put protection barriers around the pack. The last thing we needed tonight were rogues who are still dedicated to Callum to attack while we are trying to end this nightmare. We were at the furthest point of our boundaries when Luke stopped. "Alphas? There is a wolf's presence about 30 feet into the forest. I don't sense any ill will from him. He seems to be moving closer," he warned. I asked our guards on the patrol with us to stay vigilant and be ready for anything.

Just as Luke said, a man emerged from the forest and it looked as if he had been beaten. "Stop where you are or my guards will attack. State your name and your reason for being on our territory." I demanded. He raised his hands in defense and stated, "I mean no harm, nor do I want any trouble. My name is Leif Rosewater. I am the uncle of your mate, Melian. Her mother was my sister. I'm here to help you defeat the demon." Loki and I glanced at each other and then at Luke. One of Luke's gifts was the ability to detect deception. Luke shook his head and said, "He's being truthful." Today was not the day for surprise relatives to just show up. We have too much on our plates already. I asked Loki what he thought, and he said that before we allowed him any further into the pack, that we needed answers to the questions we were all thinking. I agreed and asked Leif if he would mind answering some questions with his nephew Jason present. He quickly agreed, and I called Jason and asked him to get to our location immediately. I hated to interrupt his meeting with Iris, but it was necessary, and I knew she would understand once we explained.

Jason arrived within 15 minutes, and the shock in his face was unexplainable. "Uncle Leif? Wha..How? I saw dad kill you." He stammered. He ran and embraced his uncle and both men

sobbed. He pulled away from his uncle, and started asking many questions. "I don't understand, how are you alive? He...he made us watch as he killed you and uncle Jorma. I...I'm so confused." Jason cried. Leif held onto his nephew's elbow, and they sat on the ground. He motioned for us to join them, and said he would answer whatever questions we needed, but he needed to explain to Jason the events of the past 8 years. He started at the beginning, the night that Leif and his twin brother Jorma ended up in a fight with Jason's dad, David. Apparently, they had shown up at David's door, demanding to see their sisters' children. David had kept them from their mother's brothers since she passed away and they were desperate to see them. They refused to leave until they at least saw that the kids were alright, and it angered David. He agreed to take them outside so that they could see them. One by one, David led the boys outside. When Jorma questioned where Melian was, David told them that she wasn't available to be seen by them. In all reality, he didn't want them to see how malnourished and beaten down she was. Jorma started to demand that he take her outside so that they could verify she was alive, and it angered David more. He pulled out a pistol and shot them both in front of all 5 of their nephews. Jason was 16 at the time, and remembered the utter shock of watching his uncles 'die'. He also remembered his dad forcing his brothers Thomas and Eric to help get rid of their bodies. Leif explained that the boys only placed them in the forest just outside of the Mystic Shadows borders, and didn't bother to check to see if they were actually dead.

"After they dumped our bodies, we were unconscious for awhile. We had both lost a lot of blood, but as much as it hurt, we managed to help each other and try to find help. We came upon an old hunting cabin that didn't look like it had been used in years, and Jorma attempted to help our wolves heal us. His Fae magic is the gift of healing. He was able to heal me to the point the wound sealed and stopped bleeding, and my wolf finished the rest. However, the bullet that hit me went straight through me, and his bullet was lodged in his back muscle and he couldn't heal himself until the bullet was removed. Things in the cabin weren't very sanitary, but I was able to build a fire, and sterilize a knife and spoon that I found. It was beyond primitive, but it did the job. I was able to remove the bullet out of his back and his wolf used their magic to heal him also. We have been hiding out ever since. Patiently waiting for the day we could reunite with our niece and nephews. I have seen what happened to the majority of them, and my heart still weeps for how they turned out and what they turned out to be. I was on my way here to see you, alphas, to seek refuge for Jorma and myself, and to offer our services to help rid your lives of the demon alpha and Mammon." he finished. I was having a hard time believing what I was hearing, but Jason confirmed everything he said other than the healing part, since he wasn't present. He was stunned to know they were also hybrids, and started to question himself. Leif smiled at his nephew, and confirmed that although he was also a hybrid by blood, his wolf carried no Fae magic. The only one of his brothers who did was Todd, and he refused to embrace it.

"Leif, we trust Jason whole heartedly, but we have to be cautious. We would like for you to meet with your niece and our friend Luke's grandmother before we can truly come to a solid decision. I hope you understand. Also, where is your brother now?"、

Coincidences

Chapter 95 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

JASON POV

When Liam called me and asked me to join them on the patrol route, I was confused but agreed to do it. I definitely wasn't expecting what I walked up on. I thought for sure I was seeing a ghost, but I couldn't have been. There in the flesh was my mother's brother, Leif. I thought my eyes were deceiving me, because I had seen with my own two eyes when my father shot him and his twin brother Jorma. "Uncle Leif? Wha..How? I saw dad kill you." I couldn't contain myself and ran to him to embrace him. Both of us started to sob and we crumbled to the ground. Other than my sister, my uncles were all I had left of my mom. The only good parts about me come from them. Once we were able to control our emotions, Leif asked Liam and Loki to join us on the ground. He started to explain everything that had happened. From the second they were shot, up until that very moment. I still couldn't wrap my head around why they stayed hidden for so long, but once he explained that they couldn't until my father was out of the picture, I understood. After he had finished explaining, Liam asked him where Jorma was. He was hesitant to answer at first, but he finally told us.

"Alpha's, I understand your hesitancy. My brother is close by, just outside your borders. We have a camp there, and it hasn't been the safest for us. We have always been short distances from our sisters' children. Far enough not to be detected, but close enough to keep an eye on them. It still saddens me that we were so close, and still couldn't prevent what happened to our niece." he confessed. Loki stiffened at his words about Mel's attack, and instantly questioned Leif about it. "If you were so close that you knew about the attack, why didn't you stop it? They nearly killed her!" he snarled. Leif's face fell and he admitted that night they were in town getting supplies, and didn't know anything about it until later, when we were already at Blood Moon. He explained the only reason he even knew where any of us were was because of the Royal Council invading the Mystic Shadows pack. He even admitted that they had snuck into our old cell house to confront my dad, but there were too many guards near him, so they left. Loki was legitimately upset about them never revealing themselves before the attack, and trying to save Mel. I had to explain to Loki that no matter what they tried, they would never have succeeded in that attempt. Even when she was at school, she was being watched by either my brothers or people in her grade so that my father had tabs on her. He started to calm down, and apologized to Leif. Liam had been silent, and when he is silent you know he is in deep thought. "Liam, Loki, I know you both are leery considering everything that has happened, and what is about to happen. My uncles are good people, and if they say they can help us with Mammon, I believe them." I said. Luke agreed with me about them being good and only wanting to help, and I thanked him for verifying what I said. Liam finally broke his silence, and I could see the look of conflict still on his face, but he finally said, "Fine. If you say you can help us, you must go get your brother. Jason and my Beta will go with you. When you get back, I would like you both to meet with Luke's

grandmother, Gretchen. If she agrees with her grandson, we would be happy to have you help us. I'm not only looking out for my wife and pack, but Jason too. Just like Melian, he doesn't need anymore heartbreak and turmoil caused by family. Is that understood?" Leif nodded his head, and thanked Liam and Loki. We waited for Rico to arrive, and the three of us went back into the forest from where Leif came from.

Just as Leif said, they had a camp set up just outside of Blood Moon territory. "Jorma, come out, it's me." Leif called. Jorma crawled out of their tent and stood to face us. "Jason?" he whispered. I nodded my head and the large man enveloped me in the most comforting hug that I have had in years. "It's me uncle," I replied. He cupped my face just staring at me. "You look so much like your mother. You have her eyes." He said. After we had our moment, Leif filled Jorma in on everything that had transpired. Jorma thanked me, and they started to tear down their camp. You could tell he was nervous about meeting with my brothers-in-law, but Leif explained that it had been quite some time since they had been around those with authority. Rico made sure to inform them about how Loki and Liam were as people, and not just how they were as alphas. This seemed to help Jorma relax, and we made our way back to the pack. Rico had linked the alphas to let them know we were almost at the packhouse, and they asked us to meet them in their office. Mel was at Nick's Place helping Grace, and it would be the perfect place to meet. They also asked Luke and Gretchen to join us, and they were there waiting for us when we got there.

I knocked on the door, and Loki told us to go in. Leif and Jorma were very nervous, but seemed to relax as Gretchen approached them. "Welcome, Rosewood brothers. It's good to see you again. It's been many years." she greeted them. "Wait, grandma, you know them?" Luke asked. "Oh yes, our paths crossed several years ago when I was traveling to Seattle to see your aunt Agnes. They helped me when I was threatened by a rogue during my journey. I didn't expect to ever see them both again, but I'm thankful they are here." she replied. She hugged them both, and led them to the couch where she was sitting before we came in. The three of them were lost in their own little world, talking about when they met. Apparently, they escorted Gretchen as far as they could to her destination to make sure she was safe, and she held a great fondness for them. She eventually turned to the alphas and said, "Alphas, I believe we found the security we needed to keep you both from worrying so much about your mate."

Reassurance

Chapter 96 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

LOKI POV

Once Rico, Jason and Leif left to retrieve his twin, the rest of us went back towards the packhouse. I had a burning question that needed answering, and I hoped Liam and I were on the

same page with it. "Liam, when do we tell Mel about this?" I asked. "Not until they get back and meet with Gretchen. No offense Luke, I trust in your abilities and I value what you say. However, your grandmother hasn't let us down yet, and I really want her opinion as well," he answered. Luke chuckled and said he took no offense, and that he would take his grandmother's word over anyone's as well. I, on the other hand, didn't agree with Liam. I thought our wife should know immediately. I hated keeping secrets from her, no matter what it was. I learned my lesson when I didn't tell her about Lisa as quickly as I should have. Liam said it technically wasn't a secret, because she would be told. It was more of a security thing because of what they had gone through with others who said they had Melian's best interest at heart. With that logic, I couldn't argue.

We stopped by the group home to see our mate before going to our office. I wanted to make sure she had eaten and was feeling alright. Opening the door, I could hear Maddix's laughter. It warmed my heart, and eased my soul even for just the little time I was there. Him and Mel were on the floor playing. She was tickling him and blowing raspberries on his belly, causing him to erupt with laughter. The more he laughed, the more she laughed. When we fully entered the room, his eyes landed on Liam and I. "Daddy" he squealed and ran into my arms. My eyes flashed at Liam, who stood with a smile on his face. "Did you hear that?" I whispered to him. He nodded his head and started to rub the little boy's head. Maddix reached for Liam, also calling him daddy, and I swear I saw Liam tear up. "He knows who his daddies are," Mel said. "But....He..." I started to stammer. She shook her head and said, "Even though Eric was his biological dad, he rarely saw him. Maddix was probably the one thing that Eric truly loved, but it didn't change anything about him. He still lived his life, and left Jenna to raise Maddix alone most of the time. You two are the closest things to a true dad that he has ever had, and he knows this." The way she explained it made sense, and I was blessed to be this little guy's daddy. Unfortunately, our visit was short-lived as Rico had linked us, letting us know they were on their way back, and we told Mel we had work to take care of. She told us that her and Maddix were going to go take a nap, and would see us at dinner. We gave them both kisses and left for our meeting.

Liam called Gretchen and Luke, and they both agreed to also meet us for the meeting. By the time we got to the office, they were already waiting for us. Walking in, we all took our seats and made small talk. Gretchen was unusually quiet, but we didn't pay much attention to it. We were speaking to Luke about his and Rory's ceremony coming when a knock rattled the door. "It's open," I called out, and the 4 men walked in. I heard a small gasp leave Gretchen's mouth, and she stood up and walked over to Mel's uncles. "Welcome, Rosewood brothers. It's good to see you again. It's been many years." she greeted them. We all watched in shock as she led them to the couch. She explained how she knew the brothers, and that they were good people. What shocked us all the most was when she informed us that they were basically the extra puzzle pieces that were needed for tonight's events. Liam moved closer to Gretchen and the brothers, and sat in front of them. "How? How would they be able to help keep her safe?" He questioned them. Jorma spoke up and said, "We can enter his mind with her. Though, as males, we don't have the same type of strength that the female Fae do, we are able to carry the same traits. We can enter minds just as Melian can." Liam nodded his head, and asked me to call Grace to see if she could keep an eye on Maddix. Rico spoke up and said they would watch him, and that he would personally ask Mel to come join the meeting. I thanked him, and he went to fetch our

mate. Gretchen held onto both uncles' hands and said, "I know you are both leery and afraid. You have every reason to be. I ask you to trust me once again, alphas. When I first met the Rosewood twins, they spoke daily of their sister and her children. Little did I know that we would all meet again with those same children they spoke of." she laughed. "There isn't an evil bone in their bodies, not even towards the man who ruined their niece and nephews and shot them. No hate, just pity. They are sad that the others perished under their fathers' rule, but they wouldn't change the decisions that were forced upon both of you in regards to the boys and David's actions." She grabbed onto Liam's hand and looked right at me. Almost as if she was staring into my soul. I gave her a curt nod, showing her I understood. Liam shook both of the twins' hands and said, "I trust in Gretchen. She has not only become a valued friend and confidant, but she has become like a grandmother to us all. We will allow you to help, but you will need to practice with our mate to make sure it can be done. We can't and won't go into this blindly. Also, you are both going to come as a shock to her. She thinks all she has left family wise is Jason and her niece and nephews. You will have to be patient with her, and it's up to you both to earn her trust." Just as he finished his sentence, Melian walked into the door. One look at the men sitting on the couch, and she slumped to the floor in tears.

Let Them Help

Chapter 97 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

MELIAN POV

I was feeding Maddix his dinner when Rico came in and told me that my mates needed me in their office. He was being very cryptic and it started to worry me. All I wanted was to spend as much time with Maddix as I could before tonight. The more time I spent with him, the less I saw him as my nephew and more as my son. It was clear he already recognized Liam and Loki as his daddies, and that warmed my heart. It only proved that after all the crap and negativity that surrounded my dad and brothers, including his father, the little ones weren't yet affected by it all. Rico said he would take over feeding my boy, and I left to see why I was being summoned. A million things were running through my head, but I just kept telling myself that it was just to go over final preparations for tonight. I could hear voices from inside, and knew it was more than just my mates and Gretchen. When I opened the door and made my way in, I froze in place. Two faces I hadn't seen since I was 5 years old were sitting in my mate's office. Two faces I had hoped would save me, but was told were dead, were sitting in front of me. My hand clasped my mouth as I gave a loud sob and I slumped to the floor. I kept repeating 'How?' over and over. My mates were on the ground trying to comfort me, but it was no use. Nothing they said or did could calm my palpating heart, or dry my steadily flowing tears.

My two uncles finally moved to where I was sitting and kneeled down in front of me. "It's OK little bird, we are here now," Jorma whispered to me as he reached his hand out towards me. "I'm sorry it took us so long, but we are here now. We will never leave you again." Leif apologized. Jason also kneeled down with them, and tried to soothe my racing mind. "Let them explain, sis, they tried to save you. Dad prohibited that from happening, but they did try. I was there." My head snapped towards Jason, and my eyes pleading for him to tell me what he meant. "What do you mean you were there, Jason? When was this?" I questioned. He let out a sigh and held my hand. "It was a little over 8 years ago. I had just turned 16, so you would have been around 10 years old. It was about the time dad would padlock you in your room after dinner. Our uncles showed up to see us, and demanded to see you too. Dad refused and told them that you were busy or something like that. When they persisted, dad pulled out his pistol and shot them both. Thomas and Eric took them into the forest and left them there to die. That's when dad started telling us that no one in mom's family would ever come to us again, especially you. However, as you can see, they survived. They have been watching over us for years, but couldn't approach and reveal they were still alive because of what dad would do." Jason explained. It wasn't their fault.

My mind was swirling with memories of my mom and her brothers laughing at the table playing cards. Seeing them only brought back more memories of her. My uncles were always around and were always happy to see us kids. If they were allowed to see us, maybe things would be different. All these years, I thought after she died, they abandoned us. Now knowing it wasn't true, broke my heart even more. I pulled my knees to my chest and rested my chin on my knees. I had so many questions, but wasn't sure which one to ask first. So, I started with the one that bothered me the most. "If you were watching us all those years, why didn't you try to find a way to let us know? We weren't always around dad, and did you know what was happening to me? I asked. The sadness in their eyes as they answered showed me they were being genuine when Leif answered, "Little Bird, we have tried, but your dad had eyes everywhere. Alpha Scott and your dad were so close that if we even had the thought of trying to access you children, we would have been busted, and would definitely have been killed on the spot. The closest we were able to come to showing you we were there was the last day you were at school and you hid in the forest in the tree stump. We almost revealed ourselves, and the bell at the school rang and you ran off. We were unaware of what you were enduring at home, until after you were already here at Blood Moon and the council invaded Mystic Shadows. We immediately made our way here, and once your dad and brothers were executed, we decided to reveal ourselves. Especially after we overheard patrols talking about the demon Alpha. We are here to help and try to reconnect with you and your brother." I concentrated on his words, and my eyes bounced between him and my brother. I wanted to trust their words, but I was afraid. Loki was the one to give me some sort of sense of courage when he explained their connection to Gretchen and Luke. He told me how they both had seen their intentions, and Gretchen even knew the twin uncles. That they had helped her when she was being threatened by a rogue, and helped her to her destination, many miles away, to make sure she was safe. My eyes met Gretchen's and she gave a slight nod and smile, as only she could do to reassure someone. I pressed my lips together and closed my eyes. I held my hand out to Leif and he took my hand. The all too familiar feeling of how loving my uncles were came flooding back. When I opened my eyes back up, I looked at everyone around the room. "OK, tell me how they can help. I need them to."

Chapter 98 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

MELIAN POV

After agreeing to allow my uncles to help us defeat Mammon, Gretchen reminded us that we only had a few hours until we were to face the demon alpha. My mates insisted on me eating before practicing with my uncles, so we all went to get cleaned up and would meet at the dining hall for dinner. Jason took the uncles to his cabin first so that they could clean up and get a fresh pair of clothes. I needed to go to our room to freshen up and wanted to talk to my mates in private. I stretched out on our bed, and laid silent while they were busy cleaning up. "Liam, do you think I am wrong to trust them? I haven't seen them in a very long time. I don't know them anymore. I just know who they were back then." I asked. Liam cleared his throat and replied, "What does your gut tell you? What did Ruby say?" I huffed at his reply because that wasn't the answer I expected. "I asked for YOUR opinion, not my guts." I replied in a snarky manner. "However, my gut says they are good, and Ruby is over the moon they have found us. I just can't get over my trust issues though. Goddess knows my judge of character, for the most part, has sucked balls." I continued. My statement must have caught Loki off guard because I heard him yell 'What the fuck!' from the closet and start to laugh. He walked from the closet and plopped down beside me, "Listen, woman, you're a great judge of character. It's your kind heart that gets in the way sometimes. You want to believe that people can still be good, even when they have shown you time and time again they are shit. That doesn't make you defective. It makes you amazing. That is why you are the perfect Luna. So, quit doubting your choices, and questioning the decision to allow your uncles to help. They are helping, end of story." Loki said bluntly. I nodded my head and kissed his lips. "When did you get smart?" I asked. Liam started to cackle this time, and the look on Loki's face was priceless. "You can't be serious right now. I've always been smart. I just pick and choose my smartness." He retorted and stuck his tongue out at me. I started to belly laugh with Liam and it was times like these that made me appreciate my mates.

Once dressed, we went to the dining hall. It was buffet style tonight, and we all lined up to fix our plates. There were dishes from all over the world on the buffet tables, and I think I put at least something from each tray on my plate. As we were walking to our table, Jason and my uncles walked in with Rebecca and the kids. They were thin, but didn't look as if they had been starving. Probably surviving on what their wolves would hunt and kill. They both had long blonde hair that came to the middle of their backs. Leif had shaved his scraggly beard into a neat goatee, and Jorma had shaved all the face from his hair. They both had the same sparkling green eyes that me and my mom had, and you could see the years of sadness weighing heavy inside them. Jason led them through the food line, and Liam noticed they barely put anything on their plates. He stood to go tell them they were welcome to as much as they wanted or needed, but

Rebecca beat him to it. I heard Jorma tell her that they didn't want to impose or take advantage, and that is when Liam stepped in. "Leif, Jorma, you are both family. You are all welcome to whatever we have available here at Blood Moon. You do not have to hesitate about anything. If you need anything at all, just let Loki, Jason or myself know. You can even go to Mel or our Beta Rico." he told them. The demeanor on both of my uncles' faces softened. Instead of holding a look of worry, they now held one of relief. They started to load more food on their plates, and came to sit at our table with us. We noticed they prayed to the goddess before starting to eat, and it caused Rebecca to smile. She had always done the same thing for as long as I had known her. Leif must have felt us watching because when he lifted his head he smiled and said, "We always thank the goddess for the blessings in our life. Especially things like food. When you are on your own and not sure where your next meal is coming from, you are thankful to her for providing when she can. This time we have a lot more to be thankful for and we wanted to make sure she knows how grateful we are." He reached for my hand and I gave it to him. He squeezed and thanked me for taking them in, and allowing them to be part of our lives. They both keep calling me little bird, and I didn't know why. So I decided to ask.

"Uncles, you both keep calling me Little Bird. I don't understand why. Was it a nickname when I was little? I don't ever remember being called that." I asked. Jorma chuckled, and almost choked on his food. "No, No..you wouldn't remember that. We gave it to you as we were watching you from afar. I think you might have been close to the age of 13, and you were working in your backyard doing chores, I assumed. You found a nest of baby birds who appeared to be abandoned by their mother. So you went digging for worms, and found a stick to grind them up for the chicks to eat. When you tried to get the babies to eat the worms from the stick, the mother returned and chased you around the yard. Ever since, we have called you little bird." He explained. My mouth fell open, and I gasped and then giggled. "I can't believe you saw that. I always hoped no one did, because that momma bird scared me so badly. I was crying and screaming so hard, and I remember when I went into the house and tried to tell Constance about it, she scolded me for tracking mud and leaves into the house. She then sent me back outside to finish raking leaves. I kept looking over my shoulder for that bird to return." It felt strange to share memories with people that you didn't realize were there to begin with, but it was also comforting.

Gretchen, Luke and their family finally came in and joined us, and we started to go over the plans for tonight. Rory was going to watch Maddix for us, and Roxy would be outside of the cell house in case of any injury. She had recruited a few nurses from the hospital to help. Everyone had been put on a lockdown curfew tonight and needed to be safely in their rooms or homes by 10pm. Rebecca, Rory, and Grace would all be at the group home with the kids in a safe room. It was probably overkill, but we wanted to be safe than sorry. After we ate, Gretchen, Luke, my uncles, Loki and I walked towards the training fields. My heart was beating out of my chest. I nearly failed the first time because it took too long for me to find Loki. Let's hope this isn't the case again. Once again, Luke sat Loki a good distance from us. Gretchen had him close his eyes and recreate a different scenario from the last time. Once he was deep in his trance, she instructed the three of us to join hands and squeeze when we were ready to enter Loki's mind. I felt both of my uncles squeeze my hand and I asked Ruby if she was ready. She confirmed she was and I squeezed theirs in return. As quickly as we entered, my uncles were instantly able to

sniff out Loki. However, Loki had created a distraction in his scenario, and I was able to track it down as fast as the uncles found Loki.

"Good job, Mel." Gretchen praised. "I asked Loki to intentionally create a diversion. Almost like a trick, because Mammon will not play fair and will create all kinds of chaos to avoid being distracted himself. I think with the three of you together, this will be a piece of cake," she explained. I spoke up and let her know that I was still concerned about Liam entering the cell with Callum and Mammon. She embraced me in a hug and whispered in my ear, "He will be fine my dear. I will make sure of it. Your alpha is determined and focused now. He has more than one reason to live this time. Don't fret over his safety. He will be victorious."

Alpha Lost

Chapter 99 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

LIAM POV

While the others were doing a practice run with Leif and Jorma, I decided to go to Nick's Place and hang out with my sister, Grace, Rory and the kids. I sat reading books to Maddix, and then we played with some building blocks. He started to get sleepy so Rory brought him his sippy cup, and he crawled up into my lap. He played with my beard as he drifted off to dreamland, and I felt a tear escape my eye. "You alright over there big brother?" Rebecca asked. I nodded my head and told her everything was perfect. "It's amazing watching you and Loki with him. To be honest, I never pictured either of you as fathers growing up. You were both all work and training and very little play. It's good though, you all came together when you really needed one another," she continued. She wasn't wrong. We had waited forever for our mate, and when we found her we also found other pieces of our life we had been missing. Now everything is coming together, and we can't be happier. I looked at my watch and it said it was 9:40pm. I told the girls to get ready to take the kids downstairs to the safe room, and I held my son close for just a few more minutes. Rory came and took him from me, and reassured me she would protect him at all cost. I hugged my cousin, and thanked her. I did the same with Grace and my sister and all three women told me to keep their mates safe, and I left for the cell house.

With my hands in my pockets, I walked with my head towards the ground. "Alpha Liam, please wait." I heard from behind me. I turned to see who it was, and I saw Christopher running towards me. "What's up Chris, everything good?" I asked. He nodded his head, and handed me a book. He told me to open it to a certain page, and when I did I was shocked. On the page was a picture of a wolf who looked a lot like Ruby. Under the description it read, 'Goddess Wolf'. She was the wolf that inhabited the Goddess as she walked the earth. She had the ability to adjust to the magic and traits of the human to whom she was fated, and in this case, she was able to consume

and use all of Melian's Fae magic. All of it. I closed the book and asked Christopher if I could keep the book for just a while so that I could show Gretchen and Mel, and he agreed. I told him to either lock up inside the library or in his cabin and not to come out until morning. He said he was on his way there when he saw me, and would continue to his destination. I thanked him and moved quicker towards the cell house. Marion and Pablo were there already with Ginger, and I asked why they were there. They should have been on lockdown with everyone else. Pablo informed me that they would be helping outside the cell house while we worked inside. They were going to hold a protective barrier around the cell house as added security. I shook their hands and thanked them and made my way inside. The others were already there waiting for me, and I pulled Mel and Gretchen to the side. I showed them the book that Chris had given me, and a smile spread across Gretchen's face. "I knew it! I had suspicion, but this confirms it all for me. Luna, you are more special than we thought." She explained. Mel read through the book about the Goddess Wolf, and I could tell she was conversing with Ruby. She smiled and said Ruby confirmed that the book was true, and she was part of the Goddess herself at one time. She said Ruby would like to concentrate on the task at hand at the moment, and the explanation could come later. We agreed with her, and joined the others.

Gretchen went over everything that would happen. She asked me if she could put somewhat of a spell on me to where it would make me unable to hear anything spoken to me verbally, and create a block to where Mammon couldn't break through my mind. I know they are all worried about me because of what happened before, but I believed I could fight it this time. To ease their minds, I agreed to the block only. I don't think I could handle not being able to hear at all. Mel begged me to reconsider, but in the end she respected my decision. Once we all knew our roles and our timing of action, we moved down the hallway to Callum's cell. It had been some time since we had been down here, and he had trashed the cell to where all he had was a bunch of rubble in a pile. He looked worse this time, and I almost felt sorry for the former alpha. Gretchen tried to reach Callum himself, but Mammon had completely overtaken his vessel. The grim realization showed on her face. Without allowing her eyes to leave him, she said, "It's now or never. His strength is growing and there is nothing left of Callum. The alpha demon, Mammon, dies tonight or we all will perish under his control. The spell that is on his cell is weakening, so we must act quickly!" she said. The uncles were on each side of Mel, and Jorma made sure she knew that she wasn't alone, and Leif assured her they wouldn't fail if they worked together. "No fear, worry or doubt about going into the alpha's mind, the little bird, the demon will feed off of it." he warned. She shook her head violently and exclaimed, "I don't fear him! I have full confidence in all of us, including you, Liam. I love all of you and we will not fail!" My head snapped at her, surprised that she knew I was still slightly hesitant. "I love you too, baby!" I told her, and Liam repeated those words to her too. We moved to the spot where Gretchen instructed us and her and Luke moved to the center of the glass of the cell. They joined hands and started to chant in a foreign language. I saw the trio of my mate and her uncles clasp hands in a tight grip, and then go into a trance. A bright pink glow surrounded them as they fell deeper into their sedated state, and Gretchen started to explain what was happening as Luke continued to chant. Gretchen demanded Loki, Jason and myself to get into position, so we did. The glow grew brighter, and when I turned to check on my mate, there stood Ruby surrounded by two identical silver wolves. Their paws still connected. Ruby carried a royal aura about her, and the twin uncles' aura nearly caused even Loki and I to submit. All of a sudden, we heard Gretchen yell, "NOW ALPHAS! ENTER NOW!"

Chapter 100 - Their Bullied and Broken Mate

LOKI POV

I was hyper-focused on Gretchen's words, and trying not to let the pink hue in the room distract me so much that I almost missed the fact that Jason and I started to enter and Liam hesitated. "Liam, NOW!" I yelled to him. He broke his gaze from our mate and ran to catch up with us. It was originally only supposed to be Liam and I, but my gut told me to fight for Jason to be in there as well. It was just as important to him as it was to us. We tried to surround what was once Callum Star, and keep him blocked between us and the glass of the cell. He was screaming profanities and hatred towards us, especially Liam. He was trying to manipulate Liam's thoughts again, but he was unaware of the block that was put up by Gretchen. Liam, however, was playing it off as if Mammon was actually getting to him. Before Liam flashed me a look that only I would understand, I thought the block wasn't working. The creature would try and taunt us like he was going to attack, but would back off at the last second and laugh maniacally. I told both Liam and Jason to stay alert, because I had a feeling the demon alpha was about to attack to try and get to the door to escape. I noticed Jason glanced out the glass to check on his family, and that is when Callum lunged for Jason. I ran and kicked the demon's vessel and he hit the glass with a hard thud and slumped to the ground. He quickly recovered and came towards me. I shifted and jumped towards him, knocking him to the ground. Liam and Jason jumped on him to pin him to the ground, and I stayed in my wolf form. Liam told me that as soon as Gretchen gave the word, Zeus would finish off the demon alpha. Zeus nodded to my brother, and turned his head to watch our mate and the others. Gretchen had her hand in the air, and was patiently watching Mel and her uncles. Suddenly, Leif's wolf, Jester, opened his eyes and they were glowing a bright blue. He was followed by Jorma's wolf, Lennon, and his eyes glowed a bright red. This signified that they had found Mammon. Patiently we waited for Ruby to open her eyes, and she kept letting out small whimpers. Minutes after her uncles, Ruby finally opened her eyes and they were glowing the brightest purple I had ever seen. The trio of hybrid wolves let out the most menacing growls I had ever heard, even as an alpha. Gretchen closed her eyes, and Luke started to chant again. The demon's vessel started to thrash about, and scream the most horrendous sounds. Gretchen dropped her hands and screamed, "DEMON MAMMON, YOU HOLD NO POWER HERE NOW! BE GONE YOU GASTLY CREATURE! FÁG AN Soitheach SEO!!!!" Mammon's voice was screeching through the room and Gretchen looked at me and nodded her head. Jason and Liam held up Callum's body and, with one swift movement, I ripped his head from his body! I threw the head towards the door, and Rico picked it up, wrapped it in a cloth, and ran it outside to throw it in the burn pit. Marion, Pablo and Ginger started to chant over the fire and it started to burn in a rage. You could smell the stench of death

inside the cell house. Luke had joined them, and the four chanted words in Gaelic until the fire had burned the head to ashes.

Once, the head was burned, the body was thrown into the fire as well. The uncles and Mel had collapsed as they came out of their trance, and had shifted back to their human forms. We covered them each with a blanket, and Roxy and her crew rushed in to check their vitals. All of them were fine, but Roxy couldn't find both the heartbeats of our pups. Liam started to panic, and Roxy tried to calm him down. Gretchen tells Roxy, Jason and myself to get the trio to the hospital to be fully examined, specifically Melian. We carried them to the pack hospital and the orderlies and Dr. Flores took them all into rooms. I noticed Roxy taking an ultrasound machine into Melian's room, and I nervously paced the waiting room. I couldn't take it anymore, and started towards Mel's room. I stopped dead in my tracks when I heard the best sound I could have heard all day. The heartbeats of my babies. There were definitely more than two, and I assumed one was Mel's until Roxy called me in. I refused to go in until Liam arrived, and thankfully it wasn't long before he showed up. I asked if he was OK, and he said that he was fine now thanks to Gretchen.

Roxy led us into Melian's room, and sat us both near the ultrasound machine. "Boys, there is something I need you to see. It will make the end of this crazy day so worth it," she said. She started to move the wand around Mel's belly and she showed us again Baby A, and Baby B and how their heartbeats were strong. Then she moved the wand again to kind of nudge Baby B a little bit, and there was Baby C. She was a little smaller than her sisters, but she was still there. "How did she get missed Roxy? I don't understand," I asked. Liam hadn't moved his eyes from the screen, and his jaw was really close to meeting the floor. "Sometimes, when one is smaller than the others, they get hidden, so to speak. Their heartbeats aren't as strong at first, so it could also be hard to detect. Three girls, and they all look very healthy." Roxy explained. "Three girls? Who has three girls?" We heard Mel's sweet voice ask. She was awake and had overheard part of our conversation. I moved out of the way of the screen and Roxy pointed to each of our babies, and then explained the situation again to our mate. Mel started to cry, and repeated the words '3 girls' several times. She rolled to her side and stared at both Liam and I and expressed that she was excited about the news, but needed to know how we felt. Liam was the first to tell her how he felt, and that he was overwhelmed, but happy. I told her I felt the same. We could have 20 girls, and it wouldn't make a difference to me. She was relieved that we felt that way, and couldn't wait to tell everyone the news. However, her mood turned glum for a moment. She cuddled into my shoulder and held Liam's hand and said, "I almost failed out of fear."