

And Then There Were Four by Lilith Carrie

Chapter 111: Sound of Battle

Hale.

After Talon had called upon the pack and explained ev erything going on, the three of us stood as a united front, let ting our warriors know the battle was coming – the war was coming-and with it, death, but we had to fight for what we loved.

All the warriors agreed, and they knew what was expected of them. They had been trained for this their entire life, and now that it was here, they would not back down.

We separated the women and the children who were not part of the battle and prepared them for the underground bunkers that would keep them safe while war raged above them.

We knew what was expected. We knew exactly what we needed to do.

The only thing was actually executing the plan.

So, after hours of preparing for the worst and hoping for the best, the bunkers were ready, and those who would use them knew if the howl was sounded, to go straight there. Hopefully, we wouldn't need them, but that was wishful think ing on my part.

As the sun sank below the sky, we sat waiting at the bor ders, all three of us, with our warriors, ready for whatever was to come.

If it was actually coming.

Part of me still thought Talon was over-exaggerating, but the other part of me, deep down, had a feeling he wasn't. I felt he was right, and because of that, I stood waiting.

The only problem was when we faced the roars of hun dreds of wolves approaching our borders, we realized that though we had the power and equal numbers... the council wasn't alone.

Richard's pack and two other small leaders had joined them.

This was a battle we weren't prepared for after all, and as I watched the vicious snarls of ravaging wolves approach us closer, we shifted, preparing for battle. I didn't understand why my Lycan refused to come forth at the moment.

But in the back of my head, he whispered, “not yet...”

The clashing of bodies and the scent of blood filled the air as their wolves clashed with our own. Somewhere in the mix of things, I was separated from my brothers. Their bodies were lost in the wave of wolves that battled around me.”

One by one, I tore through the wolves who came at me. Breaking one wolf’s neck and then tore through the throat of another. There was no way I would allow this pack to fall at the hands of our enemies, and from what I could tell, every one from my pack felt the same way.

‘Hale!’ James cried through the mind link. ‘Wolves just headed towards the house!

I could sense his panic through our link, and looking to

wards the house, I saw the enemy wolves running there. Dread filled me, and before I could move toward them, I was surrounded by three more wolves and unable to run to their aid.

‘We have to protect them!’ I called out to anyone who was able to hear me. ‘We have to protect the Luna.’

However, it didn’t seem like anyone could do anything, and instead, I prayed she had made it to the panic room safely with the children.

“She has awakened,” the Lycan inside me said. “The time is coming.”

Ivy.

I felt a pit of sorrow within the darkness that told me to wake up.

It was a feeling I couldn’t shake, but the screams and howls of despair came through into the darkness. The sounds shook me from my slumber, and laying on the bed, I took a deep breath, trying to calm my currently racing mine.

That was until I heard it again. The screams of everybody around me. Screams that made blood run cold. Jolting from where I had laid within the comforts of my bed, I sat up, my eyes wide as the door to my room burst open.

Kara, the Valkyrie who had once visited me before in the sanctum of elders, stood before me with her mighty sword strapped to her back and her wings folded behind her. “You need to get up now. We have to get the children, and we have

to protect them.”

I was shocked to see her. I hadn't seen her in months, and yet here she was, just in time for chaos to consume the outside world. Jumping from the bed, I ran to the window. The fires outside the lands of our pack and the howls of wolves surrounded us.

The scene before me was unlike anything I had ever seen, yet it felt so familiar.

The elders were attacking, and I was left in the center. "I have to help them."

"No," Kara said firmly as she took two steps forward, striding closer as she grabbed me by my arm. "You cannot help them."

My mother and Priscilla quickly entered the door behind, stopping to look at Kara. My mother's eyes widened, never having seen a creature like that before, a soft gasp leaving her lips as the twins began to cry. Their cry was different, though. It was almost ear-piercing, and as I strode towards them, I picked them up to soothe them.

And as I did, the crying stopped.

It was odd... I had never seen them act the way they did, but looking down at them now, I knew their safety came first. No matter how much I wanted to go out there to help my mates.

"Please, you must tell me what is going on out there."

"Ivy, you already know who is here. They are here for you, and they are here for your children. The panic room that you

created, where is it?" Kara's question caught me off guard. She had never been inside this house that I knew of, so how would she know I had a panic room?

"How was it that you knew about this?"

She hesitated for a moment, staring at me with thinly met lips before crossing her arms over her chest, shaking her head. "I am your guardian, Ivy. I am your Valkyrie. It is my job to know these things. I would have assumed that you had already realized this."

Staring at her for about a second, I took a heavy breath. With my children in my arms, I made my way from the nursery to my room and pushed the button that moved a shelf from the wall sideways, revealing a large ten-foot by twelve-foot panic room.

The panic room had never been used before, but as soon as the children came and their fathers knew these troubles were coming, they made sure to have everything stocked: So that way, if anything happened, the twins would be safe. It was Talon's idea at first, and the brothers quickly agreed.

Talon was very paranoid. Very... paranoid.

However, we can see now that he had every reason to be.

Looking over at my mother, I gestured with my head for her to enter, and she did not say a single word as she nodded and moved with Priscilla into the panic room.

“I cannot stay in this room. You know that.”

My eyes cast over to Kara, whom I had been talking to, and as the stern gaze upon her face slowly started to melt,

she looked around, rolling her eyes as if she didn't want to allow me to do whatever it is that I felt that I had to.

“I have my orders to protect you. Now get in, and I will stand guard.”

I didn't want to do as she said. I didn't want to get in, but as my eyes gazed down at my children... I knew I had no other choice. Quietly, I walked forward and stepped inside, and as I did, she nodded her head at me, and I hit the red button.

The door to the panic room closed, and within it, the cameras that had been scattered throughout the house revealed the scene before me.

The chaos that would slowly consume us.

“You're doing the right thing,” my mother said softly as she took Pollux from my arms.

“Am I, though? My mates are out there, and I'm stuck in a panic room with my children, my mother and a Seer, instead of out there fighting for my pack. No offense, Priscilla.”

“None taken,” she replied with a wicked smile as she brushed off the jab I made.

My mother couldn't say anything. What was she to say? She wasn't one of us.

I didn't want to think the way I was, but I couldn't help it.

What kind of Luna did that make me? What kind of goddess did that make me?

The guilt that swirled and filled me was unlike anything I had ever felt before. I stood there watching the cameras, and

as I did, I watched the front doors blow open. The cracking of wood splinters shot across my foyer as a gasp left my lips.

“They just broke my fucking door,” I snarled, watching two wolves enter my home downstairs. Their massive forms caused more damage than I would have liked. It was

not long – lasting, though, as Kara appeared into view, slashing her sword through one of the wolves as if it was nothing and then stabbing the other.

Their mangled bodies dropped to the floor as I heard her snicker, shaking her head before stepping in front of the doorway. She was staying true to her word. Guarding the house and protecting us was top priority, but I couldn't allow her to do this alone.

It wasn't right, and she was only one person. From the looks of it, hundreds of wolves were out there, and my mates were somewhere in the mix. "I have to get out there."

I could feel their pain and anger through our bond. It was fueling a fire deep inside me that wanted to escape. A fire that wanted to destroy everything I held dear.

"You can't do anything for them," my mother said as she laid her hand on my arm. "You're safer here with us."

Turning to face her once more, I shook my head in disbelief. "How can you say that?"

She seemed shocked and a little taken aback but pushing through it, she opened her mouth and surprised me. "They are fighting to protect you. You're not built for this kind of thing, Ivy. You're safer here, just like the rest of the women and children are in the bunker."

I wasn't built for this?

I was the fucking Luna of this pack!

"This is my birthright, mother. You may not understand that, but fate proclaimed me their leader. Fate proclaimed me to be what brings forth peace."

"What are you talking about?" she asked as her brows furrowed in confusion.

"It doesn't matter," I muttered, turning back to glance at the cameras. "There is more to this than you realize."

"Don't tell me it doesn't matter, Ivy. I am your mother."

I cringed at her words. Not because she said she was my mother, but because of the tone she was using. I loved her dearly, but her ignorance of how this world worked killed me. She had no idea what she was in, but she sure liked to think she did.

Just as I was about to say something, I watched three figures on the screen come into view, and as they did, my blood ran cold.

The elder Alokaye stood side by side with Allison. A woman who was supposed to be dead, and at her feet, kneeled a man I knew all too well.

It was Damian, and he was their prisoner.

Chapter 112: Sweet Sweet Destiny

Shock filled me.

He was here... but he was at the mercy of that cold-hearted bitch!

No one ever tells you what it feels like to watch the person you love to be tormented. To be held captive and forced into the will of another. No one tells you how much your heart can shatter from just one look.

He was out there... at their mercy, and here I was behind cold walls.

It wasn't fair to think he was going through this alone out there, and I was stuck here. For weeks I had been worried about it. Wondering where he was and if he was okay.

Shit, if he was even alive.

He even was forced to miss the birth of his children because of them.

As if a damn broke, I lost all clarity for a moment. Priscilla's mumbled words went unheard as I slowly turned to them and held out a sleeping Castor, who was still in my arms. "Take her."

Priscilla didn't hesitate to take the child, and as she did, she nodded at me in understanding. She knew already what I was going to do, and she also knew there was no stopping me.

I had promised to tear them apart if they hurt Damian, and that offer still stood. Killing Allison, though... well, was going to be for pure pleasure.

I couldn't wait to watch her blood run from my lips as I tore out her throat.

I could feel the purring satisfaction of the darkness under my skin as I thought of the various ways to make that woman suffer. To make her blood run upon the pack's ground as a river with no end.

I would kill anyone who hurt my mates, and there would be no way to stop me.

"Ivy, what are you doing?" Mother cried with a panicked look in her eyes as she watched me step closer to the door.

I didn't bother to answer her, though.

There was no point when she already told me what she thought.

With my children taken care of, glanced towards the cameras once more to see Kara taking care of another set of wolves who had surrounded her. They wouldn't get off easy. None of them would.

Pushing the button on the wall, the door opened, and a panicked cry from my mother escaped her lips. "Ivy! What are you doing?! Get back in here. Have you lost your mind?"

"I'm going to do what I was created for."

"You can't do anything!"

1055 "You would do well to remember who I am," I said with a

snarl as I glanced briefly over my shoulder at her. "You will stay with Priscilla to protect the children. Do you understand?"

She stared at me in shock as I turned to face her. There was nothing else to say, and deciding not to give her a chance to find a reason to argue, I hit the trigger outside the panic room and watched the door close with my children and mother inside.

They would be safe, and that was what was important. Even if the wolves found out they were inside, there was no way to get into the room. Priscilla knew what was at stake, and she would lock the door from the other side to ensure that no one could open in from where I stood.

My heart ached to know that anything could happen, and this might be the last time I saw them, but I wasn't going to let that stop me. My people needed me, my mates needed me, and there was no way that I was going to let them down.

There was no way I would allow my children to grow up in a world where they were subjected to punishment by a council who sought to control us all. We deserved to be free, and we would be when I was done with them.

With a heavy breath, I put my feelings aside and walked towards my bedroom door and out into the hallway. The only thing on my mind now was my mates.

And Damian, to be more specific.

It was the only thought on my mind as I moved down the hallway in my pajamas, my feet hitting the top of the stairs as I stared at the scene below me. The wolves were massive. More massive than I had ever remembered them being, and

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as Kara fought with them, her eyes met mine.

“What are you doing?!” she yelled as she tossed a wolf over her shoulder and thrust her sword within it. “Get back now!”

“No,” I replied firmly. “I’m needed out there, and I will not sit idly by. The children are safe.”

She didn’t have time to argue with me, and as one wolf slipped by her and bounded right for me, she seemed concerned. However, that concern was slowly drained away when she watched me grab the wolf by its head, prying its jaws apart as I slowly ripped him into two pieces. His blood sprayed over me and the surrounding walls.

It didn’t bother me, though; from the look in her eyes, she could see that.

Kara had misjudged me and my capabilities.

“Protect my children,” I told her sternly. “Don’t worry about me... I can handle myself.”

She didn’t seem to know what to do, but with the wolves dead at her feet, she simply nodded her head and allowed me to pass. Nothing was up for discussion.

I would get back what belonged to me, even if it meant everyone died.

My mind seemed on overdrive as I moved from the front door out onto the yard in the front of the house. I wasn’t quite sure what I had expected, but it definitely wasn’t this.

Blood ran upon the grass, and mixed within it was fur. But

that wasn’t the most shocking thing. The most shocking thing was the dead wolves that littered the area shredded into pieces. Kara had taken her blade to them. She had ruthlessly executed anyone who tried to get near the home.

Those who were weak had gone first; from the connection, I could tell we hadn’t lost many. I was glad to have Kara. I knew, without a doubt, that she would keep my mother, Priscilla, and the children safe. She would ensure they would never be harmed while I ventured out into the war to protect what belonged to me.

Stepping over the mess, I made my way towards the top of the hill to see the war beneath me, and the sight I got wasn’t one I expected. Our wolves were fighting for everything they had, but off in the distance was Alokaye, and most importantly, there was Allison at his side.

The devil stood on the rock overlooking chaos, and every now and again, she would reach down to stroke Damian’s hair. Seeing her make such an intimate gesture towards my mate disgusted me.

He was mine... not hers. Yet, she still seemed to think she could win this.

She still thought she had a chance to come out on top.

With every step that I took, I found myself moving closer and closer to him, as if a shield was around my body, protecting me. The wolves diverted their attention to other means of the area, tearing apart each other as fur, blood, and howls of pain echoed and scattered around me. Like leaves blowing through the wind.

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Alokaye had no idea what he had done coming here. He

had no idea who he was honestly facing, but after everything they had done, I was happy to show him. I was happy to give a demonstration.

I would simply need a volunteer... like Allison.

They may have had numbers, but the wolves of my pack had my energy, my essence running through their veins and, with it, a power that could not be matched.

Talon and Hale's voices sounded off in the distance, but I did not pay them mind as I looked straight ahead, walking closer and closer to what it is I wanted. I knew what they would do if they got to me.

They would try to protect me. Try to save me... but that wasn't what I needed.

I needed to end this war, and doing so meant dealing with two people in front of me who had no reason to live after everything they had done to my family.

"Enough!" I bellowed, like a tidal wave of sound echoing far across the battlefield. Wolves near me whimpered, bowing their heads, looking at each other with confusion as I stared up at Alokaye. "You will leave my home now."

"You came," Alokaye said as he stared at me with a Cheshire smile that spoke of nothing evil running through his veins. He was excited to see me. This is exactly what they wanted. For me to be brought out into the open so they could try to kill me.

A sinister fit of laughter inside my mind echoed through the blackened abyss as I stared at Alokaye, shaking my head. "What is it you want?"

His brows lifted as he rubbed his hand over his chin with a smile. "You're so impatient. Do you not enjoy the gift that I brought for you? A little favor to show you how pleased I am with everything that you've been doing."

He had to be joking if he thought I would buy that. I didn't think for a second he wouldn't hesitate to kill me and then kill everybody else just to see some type of satisfaction.

I wouldn't be a fool, though. I wouldn't allow him to use

1. me.

I wouldn't allow him to provoke me in the way he wanted. My eyes cast towards Damian, who refused to look at me. He was but a broken version of his former self, and while the beast inside me wanted to run to him. Wanted to kill them all

-I couldn't.

Not yet, at least.

"It isn't that I'm impatient, but I have better things to do with my time." My reply made Allison scowl, but once again, Alokaye showed nothing but a smile.

"Time is an interesting thing, isn't it?" he chuckled. "I remember having all the time I needed once upon a time, but

then things changed. You... caused a lot of change."

I had no idea what he was talking about, but Allison looked up at the sky and grabbed Alokaye's arm before I could, "It's happening."

I wasn't sure what was happening, but panic started to set in as Alokaye shifted, pulling a blade from beneath his attire, and walked towards Damian. Everything seemed to happen in slow motion. His movements, my movements.

I couldn't process the scene before me, but when Damian's eyes met mine, it all suddenly rushed in. "I love you, Ivy," he mouthed as Alokaye brought the blade across Damian's throat, a rush of blood spraying out as something inside me completely broke.

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I wasn't sure what was louder at that moment. The screams ripped from my throat watching him, or the roars of three terrifying monsters ripped from their wolf forms at the brother that was just taken from them.

Chapter 113: Vengeance is Best Served Cold

James.

When Damian was killed, I felt like a piece of me had been ripped away. I wasn't sure how it had been possible, but my brother had been taken from me, and I let out a howl of despair into the air.

Ivy's scream shook all of us and not just the wolves of her pack but those of our enemies as well. I never heard anything like it before, but watching her drop to her knees next to Damian, crying, nearly killed me.

'They will all die for this.' Talon said through our link.

'Kill them all.' Hale replied with a snarl.

War had come for us, and regardless of the situation, we weren't going to let them get away with killing Damian. We weren't going to let them get away with anything.

Before I could step forward, a force surrounded me, holding me in place. I tried with all my might to move, but I could not. And suddenly, a shift was forced over me, turning me back into the human body I usually held.

'What's going on?!' I yelled through the link. 'Something made me shift back.'

'Me too.' Talon growled.

'It seems it has for all of us. Something is happening.' Hale replied.

He wasn't wrong. Something was happening.

A buzzing under my skin started to burn like fire, and a voice deep inside me spoke with it. 'It's almost time.'

What was almost time? Was this the beast Ivy freed?'

I tried to fight against what was happening but was unable. A force pushed against me, and the beast came forward snarling. Watching, I saw the wolves of our enemies stepping backward. Their ears lay back as they seemed to look at each other with confusion and uncertainty.

It was obvious I was something to fear. Something they shouldn't get involved with, and I would tear them apart with my new form.

My eyes cast towards where Ivy was, and watching, I saw the power building within her. She was magnificent, and though I couldn't hear what she was saying, the moment a roar sounded and the wolves started the battle once more, she shot a source of power toward the man in front of her with fury.

"Kill them all."

My beast growled before he threw himself at our enemies, slowly tearing them apart. His hunger for blood was a feeling I would never be able to forget.

Ivy.

When Damien died, chaos consumed my soul like nothing I had ever felt before. A scream ripped through me I wasn't

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sure belonged to me. As the tears streamed down my face, I fell to my knees before him.

The light from his eyes had slipped away, and with it, my heart.

"Why?" I cried out softly, trying to understand why someone would want to kill him. Trying to understand why they hated us so much. Just because we were different. "What have you done?"

The echoed howls of mourning from our pack members and Damian's brothers resonated through the air. The moment his heart stopped beating, we felt the snap of his bond, and with it, the snap of my mind.

"You had to be controlled, and with him gone, the circle is no longer complete."

The circle... that was what this was about?

My mate was killed because they thought it would cut the circle and diminish everything. They were fucking idiots. As my eyes snapped to him with hatred and anger in my gaze, I contemplated his words. "What do you mean, the circle is gone?"

"With his death, the portal shall forever be closed, and nothing you can do will open it." His words were riddles, and I was honestly over listening to riddles.

I had no idea what portal he was talking about or why this man would act the way he did, but as I tried to calm my racing mind, I attempted to push back the power, craving to break

free. "What portal?"

With a sly grin, the haze washed over him like a waterfall, washing away debris. He changed before my eyes, and as he came back into view, the man standing before me was not Alokaye.

Onyx eyes as black as night with midnight blue hair hung loosely down over his shoulders were the first things that caught my attention. The man before me stood with pale skin covered in black and green intricate tattoos.

Something about him was familiar, and his mischievous grin let me know he had expected this reaction. "The portal that I came from."

“Who are you, exactly? Because nothing about you is familiar.”

“Well, that’s a shame,” he replied with a smirk.

This was enjoyable for him. While I was here falling apart at the loss of my mate in front of me, he was relishing the destruction he caused. Standing to my feet slowly, I let the power within me build up. My heart raced, and my fists clenched so tight that my knuckles turned white. ;

I was going to kill him. “You have no idea who I am, do

you?”

Cocking an eyebrow, the corner of his lip twitched at my response. “You’re the goddess of Earth... or so they have proclaimed. But now the circle is broken, you will never reach that potential. The portal will never open, and I will rule over this realm. Everyone you love will die at my hands.”

With his words, a roar sounded, and the battle commenced again. Some of my warriors were caught off guard as

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more wolves pushed from the treeline. Richard included.

“That’s what you think,” I snarled as my eyes washed over black, releasing the power inside me. A power that had been slowly growing over time. Slowly leaking out and infecting the people around me.

Perhaps I was darkness... perhaps I was light.

At this moment, I didn’t care. The only thing I wanted was revenge for my fallen mate. Revenge for the man I lost and the men I loved.

With a swish of my hands, I thrust my hands in front of me and directed my power at him. It caught him off guard, and as it did, he tried to shield himself and failed. Step by step, I moved closer, watching him struggle under me before a hit from my side sent me spiraling through the air, hitting the ground with an intensity I hadn’t expected.

It was Allison. The stupid cunt had stopped me, and as I turned, I growled at her, watching as she stared at me, baring her teeth. Her golden wolf was ready to rip me apart, yet I welcomed it. “Oh, you fucked up.” I

She charged at me, and as she did, I slid past her, twisting and turning with every snap of her jaw. I wasn’t going to let her get me, and movement after movement, I pushed forward.

Bursting through the masses with her hot on my tail. I wasn't sure where the man had gone, but after I dealt with her, he was going to die as well.

Another hit to my side sent me flying to the ground, but as I turned on my knees, I stared at the salivating wolf with

golden eyes. "Are you ready to die?"

She let out something close to a snort, and as she did, she lunged, which was her biggest mistake. Grabbing her, I jumped onto her back, wrapping my arms around her neck, slowly crushing her windpipe as she tried desperately to throw me off her.

She fell to the ground with a pop and a yelp, and I stood staring down at her slowly shifting body. She lay there, eyes wide, gasping for air as she clawed at her throat.

"I told you I would kill you," I muttered with venom. "You have caused far too much damage to my family for me to allow you to go free. This time, I will make sure that you have no way to come back."

Thrusting my claws down towards her chest, I plunged my hand in deep, grabbing her heart. As I stared down at her, the look in her eyes fed the primal animal inside me. Bloodlust filled me, and her fear made a sadistic smile cross my lips right before I ripped her heart from her chest.

Allison was dead, and killing her caused a loud roar of anger to fill the air.

It was the man, and his glaring gaze stared at me with hatred.

"What did you do!" he yelled furiously as he jumped down from the rock he was standing on, stalking me. "She was my favorite."

"And Damian was one of mine," I snapped. "He was my mate, and you took him."

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"I am Loki, one of the gods of Asgard, and you will pay for your crimes."

So that was who he was. The Loki of Asgard, God of mischief.

Running at me, a staff appeared in his hand that he swung at me, causing me to jump back, avoiding getting hit. The man was powerful, but one thing he didn't realize was I was never alone.

Hit after hit, we went toe to toe until Hale and Talon grabbed him long enough for me. A hand of dark swirling matter grabbed him by the throat, pushing him to his knees.

"Frigga has been searching for you," The coldness of my voice caused him to narrow his eyes in response to what I said.

"That bitch can kiss my ass," he gasped as I held him in place.

A deafening crack of lightning sounded through the air, and as it did, a swirling mass of wind let through a glimpse of shimmering light in the air. Hale, Talon, and James howled in response to it, and as he did, the enemy wolves moved nervously before they retreated to where they had come from.

The battle was over for now, but the damage wasn't done.

Through the light, I watched the hazed figures of two people step forth, and with them, my breath was almost taken away. I wasn't sure what was going on, but looking at my mates, they knew. Even Loki seemed to know as fear radiated from him.

"Ivy," A soft voice said as I spotted Frigga stepping onto the grassy clearing.

"Frigga?" I replied with confusion. "What's going on?"

"We have come to bring Loki home," she smiled. "Your pain unleashed the power that was needed to drop the veil and open the portal. It allowed us to come through to take Lo

ki."

My pain... my pain dropped the veil.

As if someone turned on the faucet, my eyes filled with tears, slowly slipping down my face. "He's gone."

She shook her head with a sad smile. "Maybe not."

"What do you mean?" I asked quickly. "He's dead. You can't come back from death."

As I stared at Frigga, another large burly form stepped through the portal, and as he did, my mates dropped to their knees, bowing their heads before him as if a force made them submit. I wasn't sure who the man was, but I felt safe as I looked into his blue eyes.

"There is a way," he said as he stepped toward me.

"What-" I gasped, "who are you?"

"Forgive my manners, sweet child. I just have been so looking forward to meeting you. My name is Odin, and I am your father, Ivy."

Holy fucking shit.

Chapter 114: Bring Him Back

Staring up at the eyes of the man who stepped through the portal, my ears almost went deaf from what he had said. Not only did he

say he was Odin... as in the freaking God of Gods... but he was also my fucking dad.

“What are you talking about?” I was a chaotic mess, and as the tears flowed freely down my face, I tried to wrap my mind around what had happened. The war might have been over, but the problem was Damian was gone.

With him gone, it had all been for nothing.

My heart was absolutely broken.

“I mean exactly what I said, my daughter. I am your actual father, though the circumstances behind that are not as you would expect.”

“So you’re telling me that my father is actually a God and the man Zane, who had proclaimed to be my father, wasn’t?” I asked with confusion. There was no way this was possible, that I was the daughter of Odin.

He stared at me for a moment before Frigga nudged him, catching his attention. No words came from her mouth, but instead, she nodded to Damian and cocked an expectant brow.

“Of course, dear,” he replied under his breath before turning and making his way toward Damian.

I wasn’t quite sure what they were planning on doing, but Odin wasted no time in kneeling at Damian’s side, his eyes gazing over

the wound on Damian’s neck with concern. “Please, don’t take him from me.”

My words caused him to turn his gaze towards me with furrowed brows. “Your mate has not passed over into the land of the dead yet. His spirit still lingers here with us now. I can heal his wounds, but it is up to you and his brothers to bring him back.”

“Bring him back? We can do that?” James’s voice said in shock.

Turning my gaze behind me, I looked at my three mates, who had all shifted back. They stared with tears in their eyes, and hope on their faces. Never had I seen them this upset before, but Damian was their brother.

He was the person they had always looked up to.

“Yes, my children, you can bring your brother back. But it is also down to him if he wishes to return. He may be here in spirit among us, but his will is what will drive him to stay with you.”

Nothing but riddles floated in the air between us all. I wasn't quite sure whether we could make it happen, but if we had to, I would do whatever it took to bring him back to me.

“Heal him then. I will bring him back. I will do it even if it takes every ounce of me.”

A small smile crossed Odin's face as he nodded his head, bending down towards Damien's lifeless body. He waved his hand over the wound on Damien's neck, and instantly had healed. I was still in shock over how these gods and goddesses could work magic, but as soon as he was done, he turned his gaze back towards me.

“Loki will be taken care of for everything that he has done here. If it had not been for the strength of you and your mates, none of this

would have been possible, but I do ask one thing of you.”

“What is it? I will do anything to make sure that I have my mate back,” I replied with desperation.

“We will need to close this gate once more. That way, no one can come back through who isn't supposed to be here. It was done before, but it will need to be done again,” he replied as he looked at Frigga. “As much as we would love to be able to come and go... we cannot. It isn't safe for the human realm to mingle with our kind.”

I realized what he's saying. There was too much power in the realm of where they lived for the mortal realm to be able to withstand it. We had our own issues here, and while the Council members who had come here were now dead—we weren't safe.

There were now packs without Alpha's and wolves without mates.

Retaliation would more than likely come one day, and when it did, We would have to be ready. We would have to realize that standing together would be our only way to survive.

“I understand. As soon as you leave, I will close the portal and seal it from our world.”

Nodding his head, he turned back to the shimmering portal in the air. Loki had been cast back and was now their problem to bear. I, however, was left with nothing but kind words from Frigga before her and Odin, and those who had come with them disappeared from our sight.

Closing my eyes, I let my celestial orbs take in the shimmering portal, and with a wave of my hand, I closed and sealed it forever. Never again would their realm walk amongst ours. At least, not while I was alive.

Turning my eyes back toward Damian, a sob escaped my throat as I came closer and brushed the hair from his face. "My love, I know that you can hear me. Odin said that you were here with me in spirit, and I want you to know that I need you. We all do. It doesn't matter to me if you think that you're incomplete because in my eyes, you're not. You are everything to me."

"Ivy, if we're going to do this, we need to do it soon," Hale said softly as he knelt down at my side, staring at his brother, who lay lifeless on the ground.

I wasn't sure how I was supposed to bring him back, but somewhere deep inside me, I felt like there was an answer.

I felt like there was something that I could use to give him life.

"I'm not sure what's going to happen to us, but it could be painful. I just need you to bear with me... this is for Damian."

Each of them nodded in agreement. They were well aware of what was being asked of them. "To give life, I must take life. I must replace the mortality of four for the life of one."

Closing my eyes, I searched deep within myself. The darkness that had once been laying under my skin floated freely, and within that darkness, I found a speck of light.

Pulling the images of what our family had been before Damian had gone missing, I used it to pull the light towards me. How I felt about him, the love that I had for him and his brothers, I pulled every ounce of it forward and pushed it into Damian.

As my eyes flew open, I saw the swirling mass of blue and white auras coming from my mates and I. The essence of our being. The life force for which we were celestial.

The only life that we had to give Damian to bring him back was that of our immortality.

Our Celestial connections would save him... and bind him to use once more.

"I love you, Damian."

The more I pushed, the louder my screams of pain echoed from my throat. The pain was unlike anything I had ever felt before, and with one final, death-stricken scream, I shove the last of what I had straight at Damian watching his body glow with a light I had never seen before.

As the light brightened, darkness swirled around me. I wasn't sure if I was dying or if this was simply something else, but slowly slipped into the darkness. Watching Damian's body fade from my sight like the closing of a movie.

"Please, Damian... come back to me. I can't do this without you."

Hale.

Never once had seen such immense power as I did from Ivy. She had poured everything she had and pulled every ounce of power we had out of us and into her before pushing it, projecting it into Damian. It was like the life had been almost sucked out of me, and in a way, it had been.

Our Lycans had been stripped of us, and we were left as simple shifters.

Our wolves were now free in our minds, no longer hiding from the Lycan beasts that had always sat in the forefront. "What the fuck?"

As soon as Ivy collapsed, I watched Damien's eyes flutter open. A glimmer of hope radiated through me and through the link that I had with my brothers.

She had done it. Ivy had brought him back, but not without her own cost.

She laid on the ground, her hair no longer its white coloring, but had returned to the reddish brown she had before. I couldn't help but wonder if this meant she was human again, or perhaps was she something else?

"Damian?" I stammered quickly as I rushed to him. Talon and James right by my side as he coughed and sputtered trying to understand what was going on.

"What happened?" He croaked out.

"Dude." James choked out with a laugh. "You fucking died, man. Can we try not to do that again?"

The three of us laughed at James's comment, and though Damian had a hard time moving, he still laughed, which ended up causing him to wince in pain. "Perhaps you should relax, man," I said to him, shaking my head.

"Where's Ivy?" he said through a strained voice as he looked around, searching for her. My eyes lifted from his and turned toward where she was laying.

"It took everything out of her, but she isn't dead."

“I need her,” he said, trying to move, but Talon and James held him back.

“No, we need to get both of you back to the pack house. The wounded are being treated at the hospital.”

“Wounded. Did I miss the battle?” Damian smirked. “I was hoping to kill someone for messing up my hair.”

Talon laughed and reached over, messing Damian’s hair up further. “Yeah, man, you missed the fucking battle, that’s for sure. You should have seen Ivy. She kicked some serious ass out there.”

As James picked up Ivy in his arms, Talon and I helped Damien to his feet as we attempted to make our way back towards the pack house. It wasn’t as easy as it looked, but I will take on any difficulty life had to throw at me to make sure I had my brothers and Ivy by my side.

“Did she have the babies?” Damian asked softly. His eyes reached mine with guilt.

“She did, and wait till you see them. You have a lot to make up for.”

It would take a while for things to get back to normal, and I knew more than anything, but if that meant I still had to stay as alpha for the time being, then I was fine with that. I did not have a problem helping my brother out.

The only thing that mattered to me was that he was alive and Ivy was alive, and the twins were safe, which meant that our family could be whole again.

Our family could move past what had happened and try to rebuild our home.

Chapter 115: Sleeping Beauty

Damian.

I never really thought about what it would be like to die. However, the moment I faced it, the only thing I could think of was Ivy. Her beautiful blue eyes. Her long, enchanting hair. Not to mention how she trembled beneath my fingers when I took her, kissed her, and loved her.

The way she deserved to be loved.

That moment ran through my mind often. Plagued my dreams with nightmares as I tried to forget what had happened. I was alive now.

But, even though I was, it didn’t stop the nightmares from coming.

Two days ago, I opened my eyes. Two days ago, I breathed life into my lungs once more. Now that I was awake though, it forced me to face everything that happened, and the one thing that upset me the most was Ivy... my beautiful mate was unconscious.

From the looks of it, she didn't seem like she would wake up soon.

I felt bad that she was injured, but my brothers repeatedly reassured me that she knew what she was doing. That she wasn't dead, so that we simply had to give her time to wake back up.

I couldn't help but worry, though. What if she didn't wake up?

What if we lost her again because of me... because she saved me?

Slowly, they had filled me in with all the details of things I had

missed. Chaos that had happened. Things that happened to Ivy, and even the day she gave birth to our children. They helped me pick up all the missing pieces, so nothing was left out.

I was still broken, though.

To know I had missed out on the birth of my children killed me.

I would use this second chance at life to fix things that had happened to me previously. I would learn to forgive and forget and to love with unconditional devotion!

Because that was what a person with a second chance did.

Standing in the nursery, looking down at Pollux and Castor sleeping, I couldn't help but wonder what a future would have been like had I not been part of it. What they would have gone through had I not been here.

I knew they would have been taken care of and had my brothers, but still, I couldn't help but wonder what they would have missed out on without me here.

Ivy had made me whole again, and for that, I would be forever indebted to her

Turning my gaze away from the crib, I looked over to Ivy's bed, where she lay, sleeping peacefully. The soft pinks of her lips were so plump, so delicious. I wanted more than anything to kiss her, but in the end, I only wanted her to be awake.

For me, to hear her reprimanding me for some stupid shit I had done.

For her to tell me I'm being an asshole.

For her to put me in my place, that was all that I wanted.

I just wanted to have her back.

To know that she was OK.

My brothers and I hadn't always been good to her, especially me. Yet, time and time again, she forgave us though and tried to make our family whole. Time and time again, she put her life on the line to save us. But this would be the last time she needed to do that.

This would be the last time she ever had to put herself on the line for one of us, because it was our turn to protect her and to keep her safe.

"How are they doing?" Talon said, causing me to look over my shoulder at him. He walked from the open doorway of Ivy's room, through the passageway to the nursery, and smiled down at the twins.

"I still can't get over the fact that I've missed out on so much already."

"Dude, it's been like two weeks. You have plenty of time with them. Trust me, Pollux is one who likes to get up multiple times in the middle of the night. So you can have all of those shifts." Talon replied as he clasped a hand on my shoulder.

"I would take that a million times over if it meant being able to have my family whole."

He knew what I meant, and without having to say another word, he nodded his head in agreement before turning his glance over towards Ivy and slowly making his way to her bedside.

"I wish she would wake up and let us know she was okay," he said softly as he brushed his hand through her hair, rubbing his thumb against her cheek.

"She just needs time to heal."

Talon didn't waste a moment of time before looking over at me and shaking his head once more, laughing. "You're sounding like Hale. The only difference is he sounds like a broken record and you just sound like an echo."

"The only difference is I'm better looking," I replied, causing us both to laugh.

As much as I used to hate the comments Talon made, I was glad for them. I had missed this between us and was ready to make amends with it. I was ready to be the brother they needed.

~Six Months Later

I still wasn't sure what was going on. She still hadn't woken up, and it had been six months since the day of the war. Even though the world outside kept turning without her there, she laid upstairs in the bed, still fast asleep.

I was losing hope.

I was feeling like we would never get her back..

"She isn't dead," Priscilla said as she finished helping the doctor take Ivy's vitals. They two were just as concerned about her not having woken up, but Priscilla was ever the optimist in this.

"I don't understand why she's not waking up."

My comment caused her to glance over at where my brothers and I were standing. A small smile littered her face as she slowly stood. "It will be okay."

"Will it, though?" I snapped in frustration. It had been six months, and though we had been taking care of the twins, she had missed out on so much.

From their first time crawling to them eating solid foods. There was so much she had missed out on, and it killed me every day knowing she had.

We needed her back desperately.

We needed her to be here with us, because without her here, nothing in this world made sense.

"Just give her time, and she will wake up. Things like this can't be rushed. She used a lot of energy to bring you back, Damien. She exerted herself to limits we didn't think were possible. If she were dead, we would know, but her heart still beats very strong. It is her mind that is weak and her mind can take a long time to heal."

Priscilla was right, as usual, and as we all nodded in agreement, she stood and left with the doctor. I suppose for now we continue what we were doing."

Hale's comment caused me to turn and glare at him. I knew he was right, but it didn't mean that he had to point out the obvious. A lot of things had changed around the back since I had last been here before the war.

One of them being that, I left Hale in charge.

When I came back, he tried to get me to take back over being

Alpha, but in the end, I declined. He had done a far better job than I and honestly, I never wanted it.

I wanted none of it.

I took the position only because I was the oldest, and looking back, I shouldn't have. I should have given it to Hale back then because he was the only one out of the four of us who could do it with a level head.

And I was proud of him.

"You have a meeting today with our allies, correct?" I asked him as I turned from the room with my brothers and headed downstairs.

"You know, Damien, if you're going to constantly keep reminding me of the things that I need to do, you should have just stayed alpha."

"Look, you are the alpha. I was no good at it, and you have done wonderfully accept your position," I replied as I plopped down onto the sofa with a smirk on my lips.

"I have accepted my position, yet you keep trying to interfere in all of it. Why don't you find yourself a hobby then? I mean, you've never had free time in your life. Spend more time with the children. Go find something to do."

Something to do like that was even fucking possible. I hadn't actually had fun since I had been in school, and even then, I still had responsibilities.

"When Ivy is awake, I will then take free time. Until then, I will continue to help the three of you run this pack properly and I will spend more time with the children as I have been since the day! woke up." They knew I was serious, as I always was.

Yet, deep down in their bond, I could tell that they were unsure if I was actually okay. How was supposed to show them I was okay, considering everything that we had been through?

"Just give it time, Damien. Everything is going to work out." James' s words were comforting in a way. I knew he was right. In time, Ivy would wake up and everything would go back to normal.

But until that happened, I would simply have to patiently wait.

A knock at the front door drew all of our attention, and narrowing my brows, I looked at my brothers with confusion. We weren't

expecting anybody, and the doctor and Priscilla had left a while ago.

Standing to my feet, I walked towards the doors with my brothers behind me, and as I opened it, my eyes went wide with surprise.

Standing before me was none other than the Valkyrie that had once aided Ivy.

“Kara, isn’t it?” I asked, slightly confused, hoping I had gotten her name right.

“I am glad that you still remember me,” she said with a hint of amusement in her voice as she pushed past me and my brothers and entered the house.

“What are you doing here? Ivy isn’t awake yet.”

“Oh, I know she is, and I have waited six months patiently for her to

do so. However, it seems that things are slightly in limbo for the time being, so unfortunately, there’s something that I’m going to have to discuss with you guys and you will not be happy about it.”

Fuck, why does she always come with bad news.

Chapter 116: Odin’s Order

Damien.

The moment I saw Kara, I had an inkling suspicion she wasn’t here for pleasure. However, despite my uncertainties, I tried to remain positive. Perhaps she was simply down here from the realm to check in on Ivy, considering as far as I was told, she is Odin’s daughter.

How that is even possible, I still can’t comprehend, but then again, with as many crazy things that currently go down regularly, I try not to comprehend much.

Trying to understand how this all worked did nothing but give me migraines.

So the moment she walked in, and informed us we would not be happy about the news she had to share, my mind almost snapped.

Were we not able to have one moment where we weren’t stressed out or trying not to die?

“I don’t understand,” Hale replied, staring at Kara with confusion. “What could you possibly have to tell us that would make us unhappy?”

“A lot actually,” she hummed.

“Will you just tell us what the fuck you want?” Talon snapped.

“Calm yourself. I’m far older than you are. You stand no chance against me.”

“What are you talking about?” James asked, looking completely confused. I felt the same as he did. How was just going to come in here, and act like this and not tell us what it is she wanted?

“Why don’t we go into the living room and sit down and take a seat? Because what I have to tell you will not go over well.” Kara finally sighed, gesturing towards the living room.

Why is it anytime anybody came to give you bad news, they typically started the conversation off like that?

I didn’t understand these people, and though I have been a dick most of my life, I still tried my hardest to be more forthcoming when I was giving information.

Unlike people, obviously like Kara, who beat around the bush and then drop everything at all at once. Always riddles with these people.

As the five of us moved into the living room, taking our seats, Kara stood in the doorway. Her wings folded back behind her, with a concerned gaze within her eyes as she stared at the four of us.

“Are you going to leave us in suspense, or are you going to get on with it?” I asked her, watching as her eyes finally landed on me.

“It’s about your children.”

“What about my children?” I replied, feeling the bond between my brothers and I perk with attention. We would protect our children with our lives.

So when someone came talking about our pups, we were ready to go to battle no matter the situation. We would protect them with our lives.

“Well, right to the point, of course,” she sighed. “The day your children were born, a new prophecy was born, and with it a future that only they can paint. It has made the gods consider the terms of the agreements we once had about keeping the portal closed.”

“You can’t be serious,” Talon laughed. “The portal is to remain sealed so nothing can pass. Ivy made sure of that, before giving her immortality, along with ours, to bring Damian back.”

I couldn't help but notice how Talon talked about what they did for me. He hadn't been himself since that day, and I was fairly sure it had something to do with his Lycan being taken away from him. Something he never wanted to talk about.

"We understand the situation between the five of you, but unfortunately, that doesn't matter," Kara replied. "Things have changed."

"Changed?!" Talon growled, standing to his feet. "She has been out since the day it happened six months ago, Kara!"

Her eyes narrowed at Talon, and as they did, I watched Hale stand and walk towards his brother, who all but relaxed at what he said. It only took a moment, and Talon stormed from the room, disappearing from sight. The sound of the back door slamming shut echoed through the house, to which Kara rolled her eyes.

"You mortals are all so temperamental."

"Again, Kara, please get to the point I replied, pinching the bridge of my nose in annoyance.

"As I was saying," she sighed heavily. "Your children aren't normal. They belong to the realm of the gods with the powers they possess and will grow into one day. This is the concern Odin has about his grandchildren."

I was too stunned at what she was saying to speak, but Hale was not.

Turning to face her, I watched him cock a brow with his jaw clenched in anger. "No. I don't care what Odin wants, but that will not happen."

As Kara's eyes turned towards him, she raised her own brow and laughed. "You have no say in that, Hale. It's what is being demanded."

I had no clue what the hell they were talking about, but the more they talked in code, the more I felt aggravated by it all. "Do either of you care to explain what the fuck is going on? Because I'm tired of this bullshit."

Both Hale and Kara turned their attention toward me. Kara's face seemed to look disgusted because I wasn't keeping up with the current conversation, whereas Hale simply sighed in a frustrated manner and started pacing around the room.

"What she's trying to say in not so many words is that she feels the twins would do better in an environment where they could travel back and forth between our realms.

Taking a moment to let what Hale said sink in, I contemplated the idea of them traveling back and forth between realms as they got older. It honestly wouldn't be the worst thing for them and if they had the abilities their mother did, then there was a lot that they could learn.

"I don't see what's wrong with them traveling back and forth. Oden's their grandfather, after all, and they have a family there with Frigga and Kara. It would be beneficial if they have these powers to learn from people who can help. Of course, when they're older, that is."

My reply seemed to shock Hale, but the look on Kara's face spoke of something else. She was amused by what was going on, but said nothing to voice this.

"You both seem to miss exactly what I'm talking about. Your initial assumption was close to being accurate however, I wasn't talking about them traveling back and forth."

"Well, do you care to explain, then?" I asked, gesturing for her to continue, considering she had wasted the last thirty minutes of our time standing here, speaking in riddles and beating around the bush.

"She wants to take them," James's voice piped up from the silence that consumed where he had been sitting the entire time. He had remained quiet, watching the three of us go back and forth, observing what was happening.

But the moment he said that, my heart all stopped.

"At least one of you is perceptive," Kara muttered as she crossed her arms over her chest and leaned against the wall.

"Take them? You're not taking the twins. That is absolutely ridiculous and completely out of the question."

"Hale, you don't really have a say in this. Odin has demanded that they be brought to us. They don't belong in this world. They are celestials... you all are not. Even Ivy isn't considered part of our world anymore. She may have the blood of a celestial running through her veins, but that is it," Kara replied.

I couldn't wrap my hand around it. Kara actually thought she could come in here and take my children and Odin... he was willing to do this to his daughter?

What kind of father would do that regardless if the children were special?

I couldn't let it happen. I had to stop her from destroying us.

"I don't give a fuck what Odin says. We are not allowing you to take our children. They're babies, and their mother is unconscious upstairs. How would you feel if you woke up to see that your children were gone?" I snapped at her.

I couldn't believe she had actually come here under the assumption we were just going to hand over our children and let her take them from us, never able to see them again.

"It isn't up to you. I don't understand what you're not getting. I'm here to collect your children, and the four of you cannot stop me from doing so."

Kara was issuing a challenge.

One that I will face head on if I had to.

I may have just woken up, but there was no way I would allow this woman to come in here and tell me she was taking my children away.

Children I had only gotten a few months to spend time with. Children who Ivy, *my mate*, hadn't even properly been able to spend time with because of her current situation.

God knows what will happen when she wakes up and sees that so much time has passed.

"Look, there has to be something, some type of agreement that we can come up with. Something that Odin will make an exception for. Give us time. At least let us spend the first eighteen years of their

life with them, and then by that point, when they're adults, if they need to go there, then so be it."

My response made her hesitate, her fingers running over her jawline as she seemed to ponder over what I had said. "That might possibly work. From what the prophecy says, the children won't come into their powers properly until they turn eighteen."

"Talk to him then. See what he says. See if he would make this deal with us. Give us until they turn eighteen." I was all but begging her to agree, and after a moment of silence, she nodded.

"Very well. I will be back in a few days with my answer. Until then, you may continue to have your brief family reunion, and hopefully, Ivy will join you soon."

I felt a sense of relief was over me the moment Kara turned and made her way from our home. We were safe for now, and hopefully, Odin would agree to what I asked. Give us time... that was all that I wanted.

"Was she fucking serious?" Hale said softly as he stared out the window.

“It doesn’t matter right now. At least she’s gone.”

Turning my attention to my brothers, they stood staring at me.

“What the fuck did you just do?” James whispered.

“What? I just made sure she didn’t take our kids.”

“Yeah for now!” he screamed at me, jumping to his feet with his fists clenched at his sides. “How the fuck could you offer that and without Ivy even being awake!”

“We don’t even know if she will ever wake up!” I snapped back as I

moved from where I was sitting toward the stairs. I had nothing else to say to them. In the end, I was doing what I had to, to make sure that I didn’t lose my children.

If he agreed, it would give us eighteen years to try to find a way out of the deal. To try to change their minds so that our children didn’t have to go

Kara hadn’t been lying when she said we couldn’t stop her.

If she had really wanted to take them, she wouldn’t have come to speak with us in the first place. She would have taken them when we were sleeping, and we wouldn’t have been able to stop it.

Deep down, I think her coming to speak with us was her way of saying she didn’t agree with Odin. She hoped we could give her something Odin would end up agreeing to. It was just a shame she couldn’t come out and say that to begin with.

Yet, knowing this, I couldn’t stop thinking about what James said.

I had made the offer while Ivy wasn’t even present, and I could only hope she wouldn’t hate me when she woke up. I didn’t want to start things off wrong again.

Chapter 117: Leaving the Void

Ivy.

A swirling light wrapped around me. A feeling that made me feel as if I was floating. All of the pain I had once felt completely slipped away from me, and I was left unsure of where I was, but I knew I had a purpose, and that purpose was to get back to wherever I was supposed to be.

If only I knew exactly where that was.

Looking around through the white space around me, I searched for anything that could help me remember exactly what had happened. I knew I had to get back to somebody very important.

The only problem was I didn't know how I was supposed to do that.

Glancing around, I freed myself from the weightlessness of my situation. My feet hit the floor of the white void with ease. There was no telling in which direction I was to go in order to get out of this place, but I knew I had to go somewhere.

A figure walked toward me from the distance. A woman with long brown hair seemed to fall down her back in waves. Her blue eyes stared at me with amusement before she stopped mere feet from where I stood.

There was no way she was from the same time as me considering that instead of normal clothing, she wore furs and linen, her appearance almost medieval, causing my confusion to fold in even more.

"Who are you?" I asked slowly, hoping she could understand me.

"I'm not stupid, if that's what you think," she chuckled as she crossed her arms over her chest. "My name is Anna."

Now I felt completely stupid. Of course, she wasn't... nevermind.

"Do you know where I am?"

"You don't know where you are?" she replied, cracking a smile. "That isn't good, is it?"

Rolling my eyes, I groaned. "Look, if you're here to piss me off, please don't. I have had a long day... or well. God, I don't even know. Regardless, I have to get out of here."

"I know you do. That's why I'm here."

Was she being serious? She was here to help me, and instead, she was doing nothing but confusing me. "Well, what are you waiting for, then?"

"For you to decide to be polite for one," she laughed. "Never did I think I would get this honor, but circumstances aren't always what we expect them to be now, are they?"

I didn't have the slightest clue what she was referring to, but with annoyance filling me, I pushed it aside, praying she would attempt to help me other than how she was currently acting. "Look, I'm sorry. We started off wrong."

"Fair enough, Ivy." She smirked as she walked past me, heading into the white void, as if she had a destination in mind.

“Wait! Where are you going?!” | called out as I ran along after her.

“It isn’t easy getting back, but it is definitely something that you need to do.”

She was talking as if she knew where I came from. As if she knew me. “How did you know my name?” I asked, hoping she would give me a real answer.

Instead of answering right away, she stopped in the middle of the void and turned to me, raising a brow. “Because you gave birth to me. Don’t you think I would know my own mother?”

Mother?!

This woman must be on something. I wasn’t her mother.

“I think you have me mixed up with someone else,” I laughed, shaking my head. “It’s obvious that you can’t help me. I do hope you’re searching,”

“He was right when he said you talked a lot,” she chuckled. “Regardless, you are my mother. Just not in this form of me.”

“What do you mean, not this form of you,”

It suddenly dawned on me the possibility of what she was saying. Stranger things had happened to me every day, and one thing! knew for sure is that if it was weird, it was probably true.

“Castor?” I whispered, watching as Anna’s eyes lit up.

“Yes, sweet darling Castor is the new version of me.”

This couldn’t possibly be happening. There was no way my child was to have a nearly identical fate to me. There was no way... wait. How can I suddenly remember them, and just a little while ago, I couldn’t fucking remember anything?!

“My memories,”

“Yeah, they are coming back, aren’t they? It happens sometimes. You really got hurt in that battle, and though Castor doesn’t understand everything because she is a baby. I do.” Her words caught me by surprise. How was it she knew?

With so many questions, my head hurt as I tried to grasp what she was saying.

What was I honestly going to do in my current situation?

She knew a way out, and I needed her help. There was no way! was going to do this on my own, and the last thing I wanted to do was stay here longer.

“OK, show me what you need to show me...”

The woman who called herself Anna stared at me, her blue eyes twinkling with nothing but amusement because of my current situation. It often reminded me of how James or even Hale would look at me, as if they knew I was being silly, and I would end up finding out the results of my actions later on.

“Before you go, there are some things that we need to discuss.” She caught me completely off guard as I was preparing for her to just magically wave her hands or something and shimmer me back to where I was supposed to be.

But no, of course, that wouldn't be the fucking case.

“Okay then,” I said in a very dramatic tone as I waited patiently for her to explain. “What else it is that I needed to know?”

Hesitating for a moment as if she didn't like my response, she seemed to ponder over what I said, “You're irritated by me.”

groaned. “Now I am.”

You would think she would listen to her mother. Maybe I can make her.

“You can't,” she replied, crossing her arms over her chest with a smug smile. “I'm far older than you regardless if you are the mother to the person who I belong inside.”

Holy shit, had she just read my mind?

Like... she can actually read my mind! What the fuck is going on?

“Yes, I can read your mind now. Will you please stop swearing so much? It's not ladylike.” Anna complained as she rolled her eyes, walking another twenty feet before stopping again.

“I'm sorry. I just wasn't expecting all of this, ya know? God, this is so aggravating that I honestly can't remember anything.”

“Honestly, it's probably better that you don't.” She gave me a pointed look as she glanced over her shoulder at me.

“No one died, right? Like no one that I care about, anyway.”

Groaning in protest, she let out a heavy breath and pinched the bridge of her nose. “No, they didn’t.”

“Well, that’s good then,” I said with a sigh of relief. “So what exactly is it you wanna tell me before you shimmer me back to wherever I came from?”

Taking a deep breath, she paused for a slight moment, as if collecting her thoughts. “Technically, you’re not going anywhere. You’re simply waking up.”

“Waking up?”

“Yes... your body never left property. You have been asleep for a very long time, but now it’s time for you to wake up.”

“Oh, okay then. Well, let’s get to it.”

“You’re so impatient,” she groaned again. “Look... before you go, you need to know that not everything is as it was. Things have changed... people have changed. Your absence cause small havoc to rip through your family, and in the future it may cause problems. There is one person who will fight against you at every turn, but you mustn’t give up on them.”

Was she talking about the guys?

“You don’t have to worry about that. Me and the guys are going to finally be able to have the life that we always wanted.”

“I wasn’t referring to your mates,” she sneered, rolling her eyes dramatically.

“OK then, who are you talking about?”

“I’m talking about Castor. Things will never be the same. You’ve missed out on a lot already, and even though she’s still young, you’re going to face challenges between her and her brother. They’re not like the others, nor will they ever be like those who will come in the future.” I didn’t understand for one second what she was talking about.

My children weren’t different. They were normal and happy... thinking about them made my heart hurt, wondering how much time I had missed out on their lives,

“No matter how different Castor and Pollux are, they are my children. I will never, ever, under any circumstance, turn my back on them. I’m their mother.” I had to make her see reason.

She stared at me for a moment, her eyes boring into mine, as if she was trying to judge my sincerity. However, considering the fact she could read my mind, she should have been able to tell I was being sincere.

“You have no clue what awaits you in the future, not to mention the deal that has been made. You have to hold your part of the bargain. Even if it wasn’t a deal that you particularly made yourself.”

Now she was talking about deals.

Last time I checked, I had made no deals, and God forbid if my mates had made some kind of proclamation while I had been away. I couldn’t believe they would do something to upset me like that. They were the men who swore to protect me and the children.

Perhaps Anna simply hit her own head and has lost her mind.

“Okay, I promise. I will fulfill whatever end of the bargain I made or that someone else made for me, even though, of course, there isn’t anything like that,” I said with little enthusiasm as I gestured to her to continue with getting me the fuck out of here.

A smile crept across her face as she nodded her head and then waved her hand, opening a door in the middle of a white void that didn’t even exist.

It was literally like the white void had opened itself and become a door.

I was astonished.

I could not fucking believe it.

This entire time, there had been a magic door somewhere there,

and maybe I could have just waved my hand and open it.

“Remember your promise, if you do not follow through, Castor’s life will never be her own. She needs that end of the bargain in order to survive.”

Stepping forward, I stopped for a moment and glanced back at Anna. Her words lingered in the air as I watched her concern gaze watch me leave. “I will protect her with my life. Anything she needs, she will have.” “Good,” she replied softly. “Because one day what she needs will break your heart

Chapter 118: Returning Home

~~ One year since the fall~~

James.

One year.

It had been one year since the fall of the war, and Ivy still was not with us. My heart longed to see her again, and every day I passed where she slept on the bed, I contemplated if we would ever get her back, if the gods would ever release her from the prison she was in.

That was right. I blamed them.

They allowed her to do this, and they could have helped her out of this, regardless of what anybody said. Her mind needed rest, yes, but a fucking year.

Something was wrong, and she needed help.

What killed me the most was that I couldn't help her.

Standing in the kitchen, I grabbed the rest of the towels from the basket I had washed and slowly folded them. It was time for the twins' bath, and even though Hale had just come down and said they were perfectly content in the crib, staring at Ivy, I couldn't help but feel slightly jealous they seemed to know something we didn't.

"I don't know why you're always such a pessimist, James. You used to be so happy all the time," Talon growled with irritation at my latest comment.

"You're not treating them right on the training field, and you know it. The war has been over. You have to give those men a break every now and again."

"Last time I checked, you weren't in charge of training anymore. You were playing Daddy because you didn't want to get a nanny," Talon snapped, causing anger to soar through me.

"Go fuck yourself, Talon. Those are our children. How dare you fucking say something like that?"

"Yeah, I know they are. But you know what... we each have to have time for ourselves, too. You're literally up there fucking killing yourself day and night, and even at night when they're sleeping, you don't sleep because the only thing you do is sit in the chair and watch them and watch Ivy as if you're hoping she'll actually fucking wake up. She isn't coming back, James! We should have laid her to rest already!"

Talon, suggesting Ivy was dead, pissed me off more than anything. I knew he was only lashing out because he was angry, because he was hurt. He prayed in the beginning to the goddess all the time to bring her back and cried at her bedside.

But day after day after day, he was let down because she still wasn't back

I could feel his pain through the bond. A pain I wish I could end for him. But Talon was the most messed up out of all of us.

At least he was until Damian woke up again.

Casting my gaze towards the small sitting room that led off of the kitchen, I watched Damian sit in the chair, his eyes staring out the window exactly the same as it was every day.

We were on our own now.

Ivy's mother had returned to her pack and mate months ago, mourning the loss of a child who wasn't dead. Kate had gotten pregnant, and now with the new baby around, she was back home with her mate being a mother.

Everything was continuing on as if Ivy wasn't lying upstairs, missing out on life.

Knowing that upset me, because she deserved to be here.

"I'm going to go ahead and get the twins in the bath. We promised movie night tonight, and we're going to keep that. It's what Ivy would have wanted. Now, if you don't mind, please finish setting it

up."

Talon sighed, nodding his head. The conversation was over, and as I headed up the stairs, I couldn't help but think something about today was different.

Something about today that would change everything.

I just wish I knew what the fuck it was.

**** * * * * *

Ivy.

Panic flurried through me as I felt myself gasping for air. I had to escape break free of the water holding me back. My mind trying to break through the surface of raging waves that pounded against me.

That is until I found the right moment and jolted my way to freedom. My eyes opened wide as I sat up, gasping and sputtering for air. A sense of joy and wonder filling me as I took in the

surrounding room. Through the dim lighting of the room, I took in the fresh flowers and the smell of fresh cut grass that lingered through the air.

Someone had obviously been airing out the room often.

It wasn't until I cast my eyes to the right that I saw Castor's celestial orbs staring back at me with an excited expression. Her tiny hands clapped together frantically as she looked behind her to the dark-haired boy with pitch-black eyes.

Pollux.

Both of my twins were standing there staring at me, but they weren't the same small babies I had left behind when I went to save Damian. Instead, they looked well over a year old, and realized that my heart hurt.

"Oh, my sweet babies."

I tried to move to get up from the bed, but unfortunately, my legs refused to cooperate. My time laid in bed caused the muscle mass in my body to weaken. It didn't matter though, because I was determined to find a way.

As I stared back at my children, I saw Castor look towards the bedroom door and get excited again before she turned to her brother, who seemed to be indifferent to the situation.

"Okay, you two... whose ready for a bath-"

James stepped into the room with a stack of towels in his hand, and as his eyes latched onto mine, he froze in his step. The only sound was Castor laughing and clapping her hands at the reaction before her. "Hey, James."

"You're awake," he mumbled as he glanced from the twins to me, and then back to the twins. "How

"Do you really wanna know how, or are you going to give me a kiss?"

He didn't waste a second before he was across the room, pulling me into his arms, pressing his lips to mine in a slow, deep, passionate kiss. To me, it was only yesterday I had kissed him, but to them... it had been much longer.

Pulling away, I smiled softly, wincing at the pain in my side. "How long have I been out?"

"It's been a year, Ivy," he whispered his eyes falling to my lap as he seemed to try and hold back the tears. "No one thought you would wake up... but I didn't give up. I couldn't."

Running my hand over the side of his cheek, I kissed him again with a smile.

"Well, why don't I surprise the others?"

Furrowing his brow, he smiled at me. "What do you mean?"

"Hand me my children, and I will show you," I laughed.

"Oh, shit... sorry, sweetie," he said, jumping to his feet and striding towards the twins. They were both eager at this point to get out, and were trying their hardest to escape him as he approached the bed.

As their sweet faces came closer, they crawled onto the bed. Their arms wrapped around me as they snuggled into my chest, laying their heads against my breasts. They had missed me just as much as I missed them, and as the tears streamed down my cheeks, I

thought of the others.

'I'm home.' I said through the link, causing James to smile.

It didn't take but a second before I heard the thundering footsteps of the men racing up the stairs, heading down the hallway straight for me. My door burst open as Talon, Hale and Damian stood before me.

The twins had smiles upon their faces that brightened my own, and as they rushed to me, kissing the side of my head while they held me, I couldn't stop staring at Damian.

The last time I had seen him, he died in front of me.

Loki had slit his throat, and his body laid lifeless upon the ground. A sob left my throat as my red-rimmed eyes, filled with more tears, stared at him. "You're alive."

Never once had I really ever seen Damian show so much emotion as he did in those two seconds after my words left his lips. He nodded his head in silence as he approached me. Almost as if he was waiting for me to disappear again.

"Ivy," he whispered. "I'm so sorry."

"For what?" I laughed through my tears. "It wasn't your fault."

"All of this is my fault. I should have done things differently from the beginning, but for so long, I kept you at arm's length and didn't realize what I had until it was too late."

Looking to Hale and Talon, they moved over so I could get to Damian. He came close, sitting on the edge of the bed so I could wrap my arms around him the best I could with the twins still stuck to me. "You don't have to apologize to me. I'm your mate forever

and always. I love you, no matter what."

It was a touching moment for us, and having them all back made my heart swell with happiness. The time ticked on as the men told me about everything that had happened since I was asleep, including the twins' first birthday I wasn't present for.

"We didn't do anything big for them, James said softly. "Maybe we can, now that you're awake."

The guys all looked at each other in approval before looking at me. I smiled as my eyes drifted down to my now sleeping twins on my chest. "I think that's a great idea. But maybe in a week or so, once I have regained my strength."

"Of course, Ivy. Why don't we celebrate it during the upcoming festival?"

"Festival?" I asked Hale. "What festival?"

"The lunar festival to celebrate the gods," Talon replied with a sneer. He wasn't too happy about the festival, but as soon as I laid a soft hand on his arm, he seemed to calm under my touch.

"None of this was their fault," I said to each of them. "We mustn't hold grudges."

"That's easy for you to say, Ivy," he replied with hurt in his voice. "We watched you basically wither away over the past year and wondering if that was the day you were going to stop breathing. It killed us."

My heart hurt for them, but I could understand what they meant.

I, myself, hurt because of all the time I had missed with them, but now I was awake, and that was all that mattered. "Everything will

be okay now. I just need to get my strength back."

Nodding, they all agreed, even Talon, who was reluctant.

I wanted everything to be perfect, and I wanted to pack to know was still here for them. I was still their Luna, and would protect them no matter what.

"The festival is then. Let's let the pack welcome back their Luna."

Chapter 119: Park Time Memories

Damian.

The moment I walked into the room and saw Ivy awake, I was blown away. I didn't think it would ever be possible, and I had slowly started to lose hope, but the moment I heard her voice through my mind, I knew it couldn't be real.

How many times had I actually contemplated hearing her?

More than I can count, that's for sure.

For a moment I thought I was losing my mind, but when Talon and Hale took off running up the stairs, I knew it must have been real and the possibility had made my heart soar.

I thanked the gods for bringing her back to me, but I just prayed it would be forever this time. I couldn't survive losing her again.

A few days had passed since then, and with every moment she was awake, I slowly found myself going better and better. I didn't feel hollow and empty anymore. I didn't feel like I was the reason she was gone.

Instead, we spent every moment together as if nothing had ever happened.

As if the war and everything else had only been a dream.

Sitting in the living room with Ivy and the twins, I watched her sit on the floor as the twins handed her various toys. I had

waited so long to see this, and now that I could, I wanted to hold the memory forever.

The twins had their mother's back, and from the looks in their eyes, they were happy.

She was the love of my life, and hated it took me so long to realize. But now she was back, and I was going to make sure she showed her just how much she meant to me. Just how much she meant to this family.

There was no way in hell I was ever walking away from her again. I would never keep a secret from her again. Those days were long over.

I'd learned my lesson just as my brothers had learned theirs.

"How are you feeling today?" Hale said to Ivy as he stepped into the living room.

"I'm feeling better than I was before. My strength is almost back completely, but I will admit it will take some time before I run laps around you guys."

Her comment caused both Hale and I to laugh. The twins glanced up at the two of us with curiosity before slowly going back to their toys. "They're happy that you're home."

She glanced at me for a moment before looking back at the twins; her smile brightening knowing what I said was true. "I'm happy that I'm home as well. I have already missed out so much."

"We have plenty of time to make new memories," Hale replied, causing her smile to fall slightly as she nodded her head.

"I know, but still, I missed out on so much already. Some of those memories are ones that I should have been part of that I will never get back."

I knew full well what she was referring to. She'd missed the first time the twins had crawled, eating solid foods, those very first steps that they took. She wanted those memories but would never have because of what had happened.

Regardless, though, she didn't hold a grudge because of it. She accepted what was and moved forward with what would be. Ivy was by far one of the strongest women I have ever met in my entire life, and I was lucky to call her mine.

"I was thinking maybe today we can take the children outside, take them to the play in the park. They've been going there and playing with the other children for the past few months."

As Ivy stared at the children for a few more minutes, her eyes connected with mine again, and she slowly nodded her head. The pack knew she was awake again. They knew the moment she awoke, how strong the bond with her had grown.

The problem was we had kept everybody at bay for the time being, wanting to make sure she was ready to see everyone before they tried to force themselves upon her, eager to win her favor once again.

"I would really like that. It's been a while since I've seen

everyone. Of course, I was pregnant at the time, but if the children have been going there, then I want that to continue. It's about them, not me," she replied cheerfully.

"That's settled then. I'll go ahead and tell James to pack their bags and we can head out here in just a bit." Standing to my

feet, I moved from the room to give Ivy time alone and drug Hale with me, who looked confused why I made him follow.

"What?" he asked as soon as we were out of the room.

"Because she deserves time alone with them. Instead of one of us always hovering."

Nodding his head, he sighed as he followed me to find James. I was excited about the prospect of being able to show her off to the pack again, being able to get her outdoors out into the fresh air with the children, and for her to see the progress we've made over the past year within the pack.

One of the things I, myself, took head on was an idea she had given when she first came here. The night we had dinner with her father and Allison.

She wanted us to create a library for the children, a place where they can study, where pack kids could be tutored and get them excited about learning, but to also get them excited about who they are.

Surprisingly enough, we never had a library in our pack, which Thad never really considered being an issue until I started researching what other packs did and noticed a library was actually very common within packs.

Which, of course, made me feel like a complete idiot.

Ivy was going to be excited. I knew she would.

The new building finished only just over a month ago and was filled with so many unique books. Not to mention we had requested books from the citadel and they had been more

than happy to give them to us to educate younger pack members.

There was no fight anymore with the council as they had replaced their entire staff at a majority rule of the packs, so with the new council instilled, changes could be made. However, it didn't stop us from worrying to an extent.

There were still rogue players around we had to be careful about.

Ones that weren't happy with the changes we made, and the damage we caused.

The moment I had told James Ivy wanted to go out towards the play group with the children, there was a burst of excitement across his face as he started rambling on about packing a picnic and making sure we took the blanket, making sure Ivy had enough water, making sure the twins had their snacks.

It was literally one thing after another as Hale and I stood stunned by the way James was acting. "Dude, calm down," Hale laughed.

"Hale's right. You're acting crazy right now."

It didn't matter what we said, he just kept mumbling as he went around taking care of things. I wasn't sure what his damn issue was, but it was probably best we stayed out of his way.

By the time we actually left the house and made our way towards the park, Ivy was laughing hysterically as she watched James and Talon try to carry the items James packed

while managing one twin. Talon had Castor, who smiled happily, but Pollux was a handful and that boy didn't want to be held.

"Is it always like this?" Ivy asked, looking up at me with a smile.

"Not exactly. James went way overboard today compared to how we normally go to the park. I'm sure that's just because he is trying to impress you."

"Go fuck yourself, Damian," James snapped, having heard what I said. "One can never be too prepared."

His comment caused a commotion of laughter to spill from us as we approached the usual shade tree the twins loved to sit under. The low-hanging branches would one day be a place! had no doubt the twins would climb, and as James sat everything down, he left Talon and Hale in charge of the twins.

They were excited and unwilling to listen to anything being said.

Then again, they were the only one so who could blame them.

"Pollux, no!" Hale shouted as Pollux tried to scamper off near the swings, almost getting taken out completely by another kid who couldn't stop if they tried. Hale reaching Pollux just in time to snatch him out of the way, but to end up getting kicked in the back by the little kid who looked as if he wanted to cry.

"Oh, poor guy. It wasn't his fault," Ivy said softly. "Hale, leave that baby alone. He didn't mean too."

Hale turned to look at Ivy in disbelief, but she narrowed her eyes and shook her head instead. "It's okay, sweetie. Don't let that big bad Alpha worry you. Go play with your friends."

The way she took charge and made that little boy feel better as he wiped his tears away was amazing. It was another Luna quality about her I loved.

"Good job," I said, smiling sweetly at her as I pulled her towards me on the blanket.

"Well, it wasn't the kid's fault. Hale should have been watching Pollux better."

"Pollux is fast," I chimed in laughing, to which she hesitated and gave me a confused face.

"Yeah, how is that? They are one.. they shouldn't be moving like that so quickly."

Shrugging my shoulders, I looked to James and Talon, who held Castor. We had wondered the same thing ourselves many times, but we didn't have the answers. Even Priscilla

didn't and just chalked it up to their good genes.

"Who knows? Every kid grows at their own pace, Ivy."

Nodding her head, she sighed with a content smile. "I suppose... oh, I was going to ask.. what's this festival I keep hearing about? I want details."

James' smile grew as he went into a rant about the festival and all the party details he had, even down to the damn bonfire I was completely against. Ivy seemed intrigued though, and even threw in a few suggestions of things to do

with the younger kids.

"I say we celebrate the festival, and our family. We can do something big. Maybe have Kate and my mom fly in?"

"If that's what you want, then you will have it," Talon replied quickly, stealing the words straight from my mouth.

It wasn't going to be exactly easy sharing her between us all, but the more and more we spent time together, the easier it became. I just hoped it would last this way forever.

There was no telling what would happen when I told her about Kara's visit.

I just wanted to wait a bit for her to recover completely before telling her everything, because I had a feeling she would not take it very well.

Chapter 120: Sexual Reunions

Ivy.

Almost two weeks had passed since I had woken up, and I was excited with the preparations for today's bonfire. Over the past two weeks, I had taken slow steps toward getting my

strength back, and spending as much time with my children as possible. Tonight, though, was going to be a huge step for me. I'd be putting myself back out into the light of society.

The event was massive, from what James was explaining. He had even called Kate and my mother, ushering them to come up for the celebration. To come up, and celebrate

the twins', and our family. Of course, there was no way either of them would pass that up.

So, although the twins' birthday had already happened, we were still going to do something small. Something that I could be part of made me excited, considering I had already missed out on so much.

Not to mention James wanted to give the pack an event to show that we wanted them involved in our children's lives. All of it was rather magical in a way, but completely overlooked in the moment as I found myself more entertained watching James run around his room, freaking out over preparations.

"James, will you calm down? You're literally freaking out over nothing. Everything is set up and perfect. I don't know why you're overreacting."

This was the third time this morning I had told James to calm down. He literally was making a fuss over everything, and I wasn't sure why.

"Ivy, my stress levels are literally through the roof right now. How the fuck am I supposed to calm down when everything is so chaotic at the moment?" he replied with furrowed brows and a dramatic expression.

"Uh, because you're overreacting, I said, breaking out into a fit of laughter. "Do you have an OCD outbreak every time we plan something?"

James turned to me with a shocked expression, his mouth wide and his eyes glaring. It took everything in me not to laugh, but before he could say anything, Hale stepped into the room with his hands in his front pockets, leaning against the door frame.

"I see that James is in one of his moods again."

"Fuck off, Hale," James snapped with irritation. "You can't make this shit look half as good.|"

"Is that right?" He hummed as his eyes slid to me. "Entertainment for the day, then?"

"Something like that?" I laughed. "Did you need something?"

"I hoped that I might be able to steal you for a moment."

The smirk that quickly lined his face made me think it could have been sexual in nature, and considering I hadn't had a rendezvous with them in the sheets since I had awoken, there was no way I was going to pass up the opportunity.

Standing from the chair I was sitting in, playfully bit on my lips as I fluttered my eyelashes, sauntering towards him. "Sounds like something fun."

"Not exactly," he laughed, shaking his head. "I was just hoping that you might be able to step into my office with me."

Of course, it wasn't what I thought.

With a heavy sigh, I kept the smile on my face, and gestured for him to lead the way. I may not have been getting laid, but spending time with any of my mates was something I would not pass up.

Following him down the stairs towards his office, I took in the beautiful array of flowers that had been placed around the home in preparation of the day's festivities. People were up to their elbows in early morning preparations, and knowing the pack came together like this was something that touched me.

Team work makes the dream work and all that jazz.

As soon as I stepped into the office, he closed the door behind us and made his way over to his desk. My eyes lingered on every curve of his muscles through his tight black t-shirt, down toward the rock hard cock I knew wanted to play with in his pants.

"So what was so important to pull me away from watching James act crazy?"

"That was funny, wasn't it?" He chuckled to himself.

"It was, but seriously... what's wrong?"

Letting out a heavy sigh, he placed his hand on his chin and

thought for a moment. "As you know, Damian has refused to take back over his Alpha and has requested I take over permanently. But part of me just thinks Damien is scared to be the Alpha again. Even though I'm doing it, it was his title to hold, not mine."

Since I had been awake, I had learned everything that had happened, and this had been one of them. It was obvious Hale was unsure of being the Alpha and wanted Damian to take it back, but something about Damian was different now.

I couldn't blame him, though. He fucking died.

"You told Damian you don't want to be Alpha?" I asked him, watching him nod his head.

"Yeah, I have, but he just keeps assuring me I can do it."

“Well, it isn’t like you’re doing it alone, Hale. Yeah, you’re technically the Alpha of the pack.” He said, using my fingers to make air quotations. “But at the same time, you and your brothers each run a distinct division of this pack.”

“I know. I just feel like I’m out of place. It wasn’t a position I was elected to, or I inherited. This is Damian’s right. Not mine.”

“I know, but he sees something in you, just like I do. Someone who was made to be the man he can’t be for us,” I replied as I slowly walked behind the desk until my legs were standing between his own. “I have faith in you.”

Resting his hands on my hips, he pulled me closer. “I just don’t want to let anybody down.”

“You won’t let anyone down, Hale.” I bent over, pushing him

back in his chair. “You’re too amazing for that.”

“You’re too good for me, you know that. You’re honestly too good for any of us.”

“I don’t know about that, but if you’re looking for a way to repay me, I might have an idea.” My words seemed to trigger something in him. His eyes slightly darkened as he cocked a brow.

“What would that be?”

“I don’t know. Maybe dinner? Flowers...” My words were cut off as he quickly lifted me up and placed me on his desk as a giggle escaped me. “What are you doing?”

“You said dinner, but I was thinking about breakfast. I’m ravenous.”

“Oh, are you now? Why don’t you show me how ravenous you are?” I replied as he quickly pushed me back onto the desk. His lips hovered over my own before gently kissing me as his hands slid my dress up to my waist.

“Are you sure that you’re ready to have that kind of fun again?”

Grabbing the back of his neck, I bit playfully on his bottom lip with a smile that earned me a growl of approval. “If I wasn’t, I wouldn’t have made the comment I did. Now why don’t you

get down there and show me how hungry you are?”

Hale’s eyes widened a little as his smile grew. Without wasting another moment, he dove between my legs, ripping the cotton panties I had been wearing and latched his mouth

onto my core like the hungry wolf he was.

My back arched in pleasure as I moaned for him. "Oh, fuck... yes, right there... oh my god, Hale."

The more I moaned, the faster his tongue intruded into my core and his lips sucked on my clit. I didn't know how long! would last, but the office door opened quickly, and looking upside down, I watched Talon walk into the office with a smile on his face, before locking the door behind him.

"Looks like I'm missing all the fun.

Glancing down at Hale, I watched him raise his eyes to his brother as a wicked grin crossed his lips. "I don't think she has tasted you in a while, brother. Why don't you enjoy her mouth while I enjoy her pussy?"

"Sounds like a plan to me."

The way they talked about me as if I wasn't there and my body was their possession turned me on like nothing else. I watched with anticipation, my mouth salivating as Talon slowly undid his pants and let his fat, thick cock flop out into his hand as he stepped closer to my mouth.

"Do you want this, Ivy?"

"Yes... please." | gasped as Hale made me arch, even more, a soft moan escaping at the same time Talon shoved his cock into my mouth.

"Open that throat up and let me fuck that pretty little face of yours."

I didn't bother to argue. God knows I wanted every fucking inch of both of them.

With every stroke of Hales's tongue, I felt myself coming closer, but the way Talon's cock was shoved down my throat, I couldn't help but scream against him as Hale sucked on my clit one more time, tipping me over the edge. .

It was at this point his mouth removed from me, and I felt the thick head of his cock line up against my tight cunt, pushing softly until he thrust his full length inside me making my gag and scream on Talons dick as he stilled letting me adjust to his size.

"Are you okay?" Talon asked, brushing the hair from my face as I slowly nodded. "We're going to fuck you like you deserve. Are you sure you can handle this?"

"Yes-" I mumbled just before they both thrust into me like never had been. The sensation of Hales's cock against my g spot was just as amazing as the way Talon moaned every time I took inch by inch of his cock into my throat.

I wasn't sure how long I could hold out before cumming again, but it didn't take long as I screamed out in pleasure, only to have Talon finally free himself inside my throat. Soaking up the cum, I swallowed it, polishing him clean as he watched with a smile on his face.

"Fuck, you're amazing." He kissed me.

"My turn to finish," Hale growled before pulling me forward, so I was bent in half. His cock hammering into me like a piston.

"I want to swallow you, too," I whimpered against him as he held me close, unrelenting in his venture to make me cum.

"You want to take my cock in your pretty little mouth too?"

"Yes," I moaned as my eyes rolled into the back of my head, about to cum for the third time in one morning.

As the wave of orgasm split through me, he pulled out of my tight cunt and pushed me to my knees. My mouth opened and my tongue out, I lapped up every drop of cum that he spray into my mouth. His hand holding my head back as he aimed, making sure not to miss a single drop.

"Fucking hell, Ivy," Hale whispered as he looked at his brother. "I don't know about you, but I have wanted that for so long."

"Damn right," Talon replied with a smirk, fully dressed back in his clothing. "I say we do it again later tonight."

Adjusting myself, I wiped my face with a smile and fixed my dress, my eyes gazing down towards my shredded panties. "I'm fine with that, but if you keep tearing my underwear, you're taking me shopping."

"Just don't wear any?" Talon replied, looking for at Hale with a shrug.

"We have children now," I laughed, rolling my eyes as I headed for the door. "Enough fun for one morning. I'm going to take a shower. You boys need to finish helping James."

"Not a fucking chance!" Talon yelled as I left the office laughing.

It was moments like this I cherished the most. Loving how normal my life was slowly becoming. Nothing could ruin the

moments I had with my mates, and I was excited about the many more that would come.