

And Then There Were Four by Lilith Carrie Chapter 124

Chapter 124: BOOK THREE

Gemini Twins in the Land of the Gods

Ivy.

Fifteen years...

Fifteen years since the war, and every day, I tried to atone for the shit I had done prior. I could play innocent and act like I hadn't done anything to cause it all, but I'd be fucking lying. Not only to those around me but also to myself.

The day Kara told me my children were to be sent to the land of the gods when they turned eighteen, I made a silent pact to prevent it. They were my children, Enter title...

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and I was determined to make sure their lives were their own.

Even if I wanted to strangle them on more than one occasion for their defiance, among other things. "Damn it, Pollux! Where are you?"

Storming through the house, I looked for the eldest of my six children and found, while gifted and the future of our pack, he never seemed to be where he was supposed to be.

"James, have you seen Pollux?" My words seemed to fall on deaf ears as James continued grading the papers before him. After all the hell we had gone through, he decided ten years ago to get into teaching, and he hadn't looked back.

Which honestly was shocking, considering he taught ninth-grade biology.

"James..." I repeated with a groan of frustration. "James!"

"Huh?" His eyes gazed up to meet mine with a clueless look. He had aged so much since I had first met him. Gray hairs now streaked his head, and with it wrinkles crested the corners of his eyes. "Sorry, sweetie. The end of the grading period is next week, and I have to get these done."

"I know, I know," I replied as I rolled my eyes and walked towards him. No matter how much he had changed physically, he was still the sweet man I once knew. He always thought of others before himself and took pride in his work.. "I just haven't seen Pollux since he came home from school, and he promised to take Dillon to practice."

"Practice?" James glanced down at his watch and furrowed his brows. "Babe, that started twenty minutes ago. Why didn't you tell me I would have taken him?"

Smiling, I shook my head, "It's okay. Talon was done with his rounds and offered. He was excited to take him this week.

You know how much he hates missing out on stuff."

With all the changes we had undergone, some were harder than others.

Damian had refused to take back his Alpha position, and in doing so, Hale took

over as the Alpha of the pack, allowing Damian to spend more time with the business aspects of our world. As for Talon, his obsession with security grew increasingly urgent with every child we had.

Running the training grounds and managing the borders. became his calling. One the entire pack was grateful for.

“I know. Let him enjoy it. Dillion’s twelve now. He isn’t going to be young forever.”

Nodding my head, I leaned down, kissing him gently. “I know. I’m glad that he has been coming around lately. When little Sylvia got hurt a few years ago, I never thought he would leave the borders.” Thinking about the memory of that day made my chest burn with anguish, but forcing the feeling away, I pushed my mind forward. “If only I can find your son.”

James chuckled, shrugging his shoulders. This was a usual thing for the twins. Now that they were about to be sixteen, they thought they could do whatever they wanted, and out of the two... Pollux wasn’t the worst.

No, he may have had his moments, but Cassie was very different from her brother.

“Why don’t you go ask Cassie where he went? She has her way of finding him,” James suggested, causing me to groan in irritation.

There was no way I would let her do something like that. The thought of her using her powers for any reason was out of the question. “James-”

“Don’t start, Ivy. You can’t make her stop being who she is. Just... ‘go ask.’”

James didn’t give me much chance to reply before quickly going back to the papers before him, and by that point, I was already regretting even asking Pollux to help with his brother. I should have just taken him myself and saved the headache of this entire conversation.

Taking a moment to think about what James suggested, I huffed with irritation before walking towards the staircase headed for Cassie’s room. There was no way I was going to ask her to use her powers to find her brother, but I could simply ask if she had seen him.

Her bright white door appeared before me. The acrylic painted green flames and intertwining vines upon her door were her own design. She was the most artistic person I knew, and many pieces of her original work hung not just around our home, but around the pack.

“Cassie...” Knocking on her door, I turned the knob and walked into her room. The white drapes bellowed from the window, blowing through the open window. The twinkling night sky glistened from the balcony where the moon shone upon the world.

It was just like her to leave it open all the time, claiming the fresh air helped to enhance her creative ability. Gazing around the room, I took in the clothes scattered about her unmade bed and littered dresser of makeup and jewelry.

"Cassie?" I called out again as I looked around for where she could be. The softness of her voice called me towards the open balcony doors.

"No, I'm coming, god. Just wait for me."

As soon as my hand pushed back the drape, she quickly hung up the phone and spun to look at me. Her dark brown hair hung in waves over her shoulders as the same celestial blue eyes I once held looked back at me. "Hey, Mom."

"Cassie, who were you on the phone with?" Raising a brow, I crossed my arms over my chest and sighed. She was up to something, and even though she thought she was smarter than me, she wasn't.

"Oh-just Melissa," she replied quickly as she pushed past me back into her bedroom. "She wants me to come over to her house tonight."

"She does, huh?" I smirked as I watched her move around her room. She seemed to think I was stupid regarding her acts of rebellion. There was no way she was simply going to stay at Melissa's house, especially during homecoming. There was definitely something else going on. "So, you're just going to go without asking permission?"

Shoving a few pieces of clothing into her backpack, she stopped with a sigh and looked over her shoulder at me. "I already asked daddy, he said it was okay."

"Oh, really... which daddy did you ask?"

With wide eyes and a disgusted look, she scoffed, "Why do you have to say it like that?"

"Because I want the truth," I replied with my hands on my hips as I stared at her.

"Cassie, do you think I'm stupid? Do you honestly think I don't know what you're doing?"

"Oh my god, mom!" she groaned. "I'm literally not doing anything. Just going to Melissa's and hanging out for the night since she is like, one of the very few friends I have. Or am I not supposed to have any friends?"

This was her usual MO. She would sit there and pretend she was disgusted with the mention of her doing something wrong and then try to backtrack to have me trust her.

The moment Cassie came into her powers almost three years ago, I thought the world was going to end. I didn't understand why she had to be difficult, but my mother told me all the time it was just a phase and she would grow out of it. I just wished that would happen sooner rather than later.

Anger surged through me at her tone. "You need to watch how you speak to me young lady."

She quickly realized that I wasn't going to put up with her tone, and with a sigh she crossed her arms over her chest. "I'm

sorry I just don't like how you act like this to me, but Pollux can do whatever he wants. It's not fair."

The soft pitter-patter of footsteps behind me in the hallway caught my attention, and as I turned, I spotted Raya walking down the hallway with a book in her hand. She was only a year younger than the twins, and while they had a particular way about them, Raya was more of a mother hen, making sure her younger siblings were staying in check at all times.

A child quite often capable of telling me exactly what I wanted to know. Glancing

back over at Cassie, I watched her eyes dart to where Raya had just walked by, and her face paled.

"Raya," I called out softly, stepping through the doorway into the hallway, watching as my dark brown-haired beauty turned to me with a confused glance.

"Yes, ma'am."

"Raya, do you know where Pollux went tonight? I can't seem to find him, and he was supposed to take Dillon to practice earlier," I said with a very nonchalant attitude as Raya shrugged her shoulders.

"The homecoming bonfire is tonight. All the kids are going. It's supposed to be seniors only, but you know how Pollux is. He plays on the football team, so he's kind of friends with all of them."

"Is that right? And what kind of stuff will be at these parties?"

I wasn't that old. I knew exactly what would be at these parties, but after I asked, I turned my gaze to Cassie, watching as fear crossed her eyes. She had been caught, and while I had hoped she would have told me the truth, she decided not to.

"Well, there's a lot of drinking and dancing and stuff, and sometimes the boys play pranks on each other, from what I've heard. I mean, Cassie should know more about it. Melissa is going tonight."

"You fucking bitch!" Cassie screamed as she stormed towards Raya, who quickly jumped backward. My arm reached out, snatching Cassie by the waist as she tried to attack her sister.

"Castor Alexandra, that is enough. If you think for one second I didn't know what was going on at these parties or that you thought you were actually going, you were sadly mistaken." I was seething in anger, and I had every right to be. She had lied to me, just like she had tried to lie so many times before, and I couldn't understand why she kept acting like this.

Pulling away from me, she stepped back, her eyes filled with tears as she clenched her fists at her side. "Why are you always ruining everything? I can't wait to get out of here. Maybe my grandfather will have a better time teaching me to be who I am in the other realm than you would ever be able to do for me. You're not a mother, you're a dictator."

Like a dagger to my heart, I broke slowly. Whenever we got into an argument, she would say things she didn't mean, but never had she said anything this hurtful to me. Before I could even speak, a voice sounded behind me.

"Cassie, apologize to your mother right now." The sound of the voice belonged to Damien, and from the cologne, I smelt, he wasn't alone. In fact, Hale was with him as well.

"I'm sorry, sweetie. I didn't mean to bother you both," I sighed, turning to face Damian and Hale. They had obviously been in the study down the hall, and while I was trying to get to the bottom of this, I didn't expect it to take the turn it

had.

“Ivy, why are you apologizing?” Hale chuckled as he pulled me close to him. “Let Damian handle her, and then when Talon gets home, we can fill him in.”

Over the years, it was clear that most of her traits came from Talon. Honestly, while we never actually tested who their fathers biologically were, we could tell a mix of Hale and Talon.

God knows Cassie had Talon’s temper.

“Dad, this isn’t fair.” She began to sob. “All I wanted to do was go to the party with everybody else. Why does Pollux get to do whatever he wants, and I don’t?”

“Perhaps because Pollux is honest about what he’s doing and doesn’t try to lie whenever he wants to do something. You were trying to be deceitful again, young lady. And speaking to your mother like that? It’s unacceptable.” Damian didn’t have to raise his voice at Cassie to get his point across.

In fact, he had never raised his voice to any of them.

The only one of my mates who ever got into it with anyone was Talon and Cassie. Both stubborn and hardheaded. Yet, they were very close and had a bond the rest of us would never understand. “So, what... I’m just supposed to stay here and do nothing? Everyone is going.”

“Well, you should have thought about that before you acted the way you did.” Damian sighed, shaking his head. “I’m sorry, Cassie, but you’re grounded. Give me your phone.”

“You can’t be serious!” she yelled through the tears running down her face.

“This is bullshit!”

“Castor, do not raise your voice at me again. Give me your phone, now,”

Damian calmly snapped with his hand held out, waiting for the device to be dropped within it.

Cassie hesitated for a moment, shaking her head before taking it from her back pocket and giving it to Damian. “I can’t wait to turn eighteen. Then I’ll finally be able to get out of here.”

Damian was used to Cassie saying ridiculous things, and as I watched him sigh with a slight chuckle he replied. “You say that now, Cassie... but one day, you’re going to miss this place. One day, it will be gone, and you will wish to have it back. In fact, you will give anything to be here again. Trust me, I know this firsthand.”

Chapter 125: Chaotic Mornings

-Two Years Later

Cassie.

“Girl, I’m so glad that these stupid-ass classes are almost done,” Melissa said with excitement through the other end of my phone. She and I had been friends for as long as I could remember, and though we had both been through some crazy shit, I was glad I had this girl as my best friend.

“Yeah, soon we will be on to bigger and better things.”

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“Don’t remind me,” she groaned as I continued holding up different shirts to my body in front of the long mirror in my room. “I won’t be able to make it without you.”

Without me? Confusion settled in before laughter escaped me at her dramatic tone. “What are you talking about? I’m not going anywhere but to college with you. Unless you plan on making it with some other girl. Which, I mean, I’m gonna need to know her name, so I know exactly who to fuck up later.”

“Oh, my god, stop,” she sighed. “You know what I’m talking about.”

I did know what she was referring to, but it wasn’t going to

happen. “Nope, I’m going with you, Melissa. Stop overcomplaining it.”

For the past few years, I had been excited with the notion I was going to escape my pack life to go to college with Melissa, not to mention how amazing my life had gone over the past two years-I had no intentions of doing anything my parents wanted me to do.

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I had gone from being a nobody who couldn’t control her shit, to having almost complete control in my eyes – as I stayed at the top of my class in all subjects preparing for an amazing life of full ride scholarships and future college parties.

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There was no way I was giving any of that up for anything.

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No matter what my parents had to say.

“Yeah, right? As much as I would love that, you can’t get out of your obligations. Remember what Priscilla said...”

Thinking about the woman made me roll my eyes. “She is old and crazy. She has no idea what she is talking about. Now stop complaining and get your ass ready. I’m leaving shortly, and I expect you to be there when I get to school.

“Fine, calm your tits, woman,” she said.”I’ll be there in thir

My friend was always the dramatic one out of the two of us, but without her, I wouldn’t be able to move through the day like I did. “Better. Don’t forget, it’s your turn to grab coffee.”

“Shit... well, better make it forty then. See you soon.”

“See ya.” Cracking a smile, I hung up the phone, shaking my head. So much had changed over the past few months, and thinking about how our last year of school was about to end, I couldn’t wait to move forward with my life.

“A week left, Cass...” I muttered to myself, finally happy with the black gothic look I sported. My deep purple and pink hair was a huge contrast against the black skinny jeans and tight black tank top I wore.

It may not have been a look my mother approved of, but it was definitely me.

Taking a deep breath, I tried to ignore the ever-growing voices hidden within the deepest depths of my mind. I had done well the last two years, learning control over my powers and many other things.

After everything that had happened between my mother and I two years ago, my father Talon changed up the punishments Pollux and I usually received and, in doing so, actually found what helped to ground me.

Fighting was the only thing I knew anymore, and while I trained with my brother and the warriors, I did it in secret. My mother didn't approve, just like the many other things she didn't approve of, but it was the one thing my father Talon stood beside adamantly.

"Cass, are you ready to go?" Pollux's voice called from my doorway, causing me to gaze at him from the long mirror I currently stood in front of.

"Yeah, I'll be there in a sec."

"Sure, whatever," he scoffed, flipping the long strands of black hair from his face before disappearing down the hall way. "Just don't take forever, otherwise, I fucking leaving you."

The sound of his voice trailing down the hallway toward my room caused me to roll my eyes. It was always the same with him anymore. The moment he got hurt playing football and was told he couldn't play anymore, he became a complete asshole.

Thank god daddy Damian was able to keep him busy pre paring to take over the pack from Hale one day. Otherwise, he may have taken out his anger on everyone else around him.

Grabbing my black leather jacket, I slid on my tennis shoes and snatched my backpack on the way out of my room. Never in my life did I find myself excited to go to school until I was so close to finishing. It was the best birthday present a girl could have, finishing school two days before you turned eighteen.

The moment my feet hit the floor at the bottom of the stairs, the chaos of my family consumed me. My younger sib lings ran around screaming and yelling at each other. My mother was busy making lunches in the kitchen while my fa ther, James, finished preparing breakfast.

It was a whirlwind of chaos, but I loved it.

It reminded me I was real sometimes, and within the chaos surrounding me, I felt nothing but love. Even if the majority of them got on my nerves half the time.

"Oh, Cassie." My mother smiled as she wiped her hands on a kitchen towel.

"Can you do me a huge favor on your way home today, please?"

Letting out a soft sigh, I pushed a smile onto my face. "Sure, what's up?"

"Can you just run by the pharmacy and pick up Tatum's medicine, please? It would be a huge help. He isn't having the best day today, and I don't want to take him out. Not to men tion everyone else is busy..."

Tatum was the youngest of my siblings at only nine, and unfortunately, last year was diagnosed with a rare condition. that quickly changed all of our lives. "Of course, Mom. No problem."

Tatum's eyes met mine as he rounded the corner into the kitchen, coughing. The dark swells under his eyes were a huge contrast to his pale white skin, and every time I saw him, I prayed I had the power to change his fate.

"Cassie." He smiled as he wrapped his arms around my waist. "Are you leaving for school?"

"Yeah, buddy. I'll be home a little early today, though, since it's only a half day.

Maybe when I get home, we can climb into my bed and watch a movie. Does that sound good to you?" I asked, watching his eyes light up with excitement.

"Yes. I can't wait! We can watch the new dinosaur movie that came out."

Tatum continued to ramble, making my mom smile behind tired eyes. "Alright, sweetie. Cassie has to get going, so why don't you go eat your breakfast daddy made, and then we can get you sorted for the day."

He didn't hesitate to do what he was told, which made my mother happy because out of all her children, he was the only one who never gave her any problems. Gazing around the room at everyone who was here, I tried to imagine what it would be like once I went off to college.

I wouldn't have the continued chaos anymore. I wouldn't have dad's amazing breakfasts or even mom's homemade lunches. The thought alone made me want to change my mind, but pursuing my dreams of becoming a doctor wasn't something I was willing to give up. Even if no one knew, that's

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what I wanted to do.

"Cass, come on, Jesus Christ!" Pollux yelled from the front door, causing me to cringe as I rolled my eyes.

"I'm coming. Calm down." My grumbled response seemed to make him simmer, and after grabbing a piece of toast from the counter, I quickly followed him out the front door towards his charcoal gray four-door truck, lifted too high for my liking.

"I'm seriously going to start leaving you if you keep this shit up in the morning, Cass."

The moment I closed the door and the truck started down the road, I was quickly on my phone, trying to ignore his lame ass music. "You know you won't leave me there, Pollux. I don't know why you constantly threaten it."

"Would you stop fucking calling me that?" he snapped. "It's just Lux. No one calls me Pollux, but you and mom."

Glancing at him from the corner of my eyes, I scoffed with a smirk. "It's your name."

"I fucking know that, Captain Obvious, but I can't stand it, so fucking call me Lux or don't talk to me. I don't understand what's so difficult about that."

One would have thought because we were twins, we were close, but the answer to that was absolutely not. We may have been similar in many ways, but being close wasn't something we had been in a very long time.

Since the day we got our powers, actually.

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"Whatever... Lux..." I replied sarcastically as I rolled my eyes and went back to scrolling through my phone. "Are you going to the party this weekend?"

"Yeah, don't I always," he sneered with irritation. "You're not going, though."

"Excuse me?" Laughter escaped me at his comment. Every time there was a party, he tried to ensure I couldn't go, and yet I always found my way there

despite his efforts. "You can't tell me what to do, Pollux."

Gripping the steering wheel, he turned his gaze towards me as anger seethed in his eyes. "Cass... I'm not telling you again."

Never had I been so excited to see school as I was during this argument between him and me. The last thing I wanted was Lux ruining my morning with another lecture just because he was the future Alpha of the pack.

As soon as the truck pulled into his parking space, his many groupies flocked to the vehicle, wanting to be the first ones to greet him. And quickly I was a ghost of a thought.

It was just how I liked it, though, and as my eyes landed on Melissa – with two cups of coffee-my excitement for school grew. "Have a fabulous day, brother dearest. Try not to catch something from these whores."

Stepping out of the truck, I ignored Lux's snappy come back as I beelined straight for Melissa. Leggings and a hoodie were her favorite and as I approached her messy bun, no makeup look, I couldn't help but smile. "Oh my god, you're a lifesaver right now."

Smirking, she shrugged her shoulders as she took a sip of her coffee. "I take it the morning drive was eventful?"

Eventful would be an understatement. "If you only knew."

Laughter fell between Melissa and me as we walked toward the towering brick building in front of us. The echoing sound of the school bell rang in the distance as the many voices

of students rushed to class past my ears.

This place had been hell to me for many years, and now that I was done with it, I couldn't help but think of how bitter sweet it really had been.

"Are you going to miss this place when we graduate?" Melissa asked, drawing me from the many thoughts which had been circulating through my mind.

"I don't know. I guess part of me will just because I made so many memories here."

"Yeah, I guess you're right," she muttered as we passed the double doors, making our way toward our lockers. "We should do something epic, though, before we go."

Glancing at her, an amused grin crossed my lips. "Epic? What do you have in mind?"

She shrugged her shoulders with a smile as we reached our lockers. "Well, for one, I think you should put Ashley in her place before the end of the year. That would definitely be the start of going out with a bang."

Ashley was the harlot who hung around my brother. The cheerleader type who was dead set on becoming the next Luna of our pack, even though she wasn't his mate. Some thing I was able to see the moment I met her.

In our world, you were able to find your mate when you turned eighteen, and even though none of us were eighteen, I had the gift of foresight, and she wasn't the girl I had seen my brother with.

"As much as I would love to do that, Melissa. She will be put in her place at our party. Lux will see she isn't his mate, and he will get rid of her."

"...and if he doesn't," she muttered, causing me to sigh.

“He will... he is the next Alpha, and my fathers have instilled the mate bond stuff into us since we were kids. I can't tell you how many times I heard the story of our my parents found each other.”

It was a story everyone in the pack loved to tell, but so cringe-worthy, I was perfectly fine never hearing it again.

“Yeah, well, right now, he doesn't look like he cares. The two of them are headed straight for you.” Turning to look over my shoulder, I noted what Melissa was talking about. Lux was

making his way towards me with Ashley at his side and considering the grim expression on his face and the ecstatic one on hers... something was up.

“Shit... and here I thought I'd enjoy my coffee in peace this morning.”

Pollux.

-Fifteen minutes earlier~

I didn't understand why my sister thought she could act however she wanted.

We were the future of the pack, and instead of growing up and doing what needed to be done, she continuously acted like a child. Watching her make her way towards her friend Melissa with her hot pink hair swinging behind her, I groaned.

She would be the death of me if I didn't get her under control.

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“Lux! Baby, I missed you!” Ashley's high pitch voice met my ears the moment I opened my truck door. The girl was gorgeous for sure, and in bed she got the job done, but other than that, she honestly had nothing going for her.

“Hey, Ashley,” I replied flatly, watching the disappointment on her face surface at my greeting. It didn't matter what she did, I couldn't get behind the overly affectionate shit she was into. It just wasn't me, and honestly, the last few weeks I had been second guessing why I even had her around in the first place.

Closing my truck door, her slender figure wrapped around my bicep, pulling me closer towards her. She wasn't the only one to come flocking towards me the moment I arrived at school, but she was the only one to cling to me like a child clinging to its mother.

Something I found to be rather annoying.

“So, I was thinking about the party and I thought maybe we can go shopping after school to pick out our matching outfits. It's going to be a very big night when the pack is introduced to their future Alpha and Luna together.”

“What?” I muttered, furrowing my gaze at her with confusion. “What are you talking about?”

Giving me a dumbfounded look, she shrugged her shoulders with a small laugh.

“Uh-us, being proclaimed the Luna and Alpha of the pack. Did you hit your head this morning or something?”

“No.” I sighed, moving towards the school. “Just don't get overexcited when there is a chance we may not be mates.”

Gripping my upper arm, she stopped me in my tracks and turned me to face her.

“How could you say something like that? Mate or not, we are going to be together. We are good together and you know it.”

Disgust filled me hearing what she said. Mates were a precious thing, and I would only be with my mate in the end. Sure, Ashley and I had hooked up many times. Shit, she wasn't the only girl I had hooked up with, but at the end of the day my Luna would only be my mate and I didn't care what Ashley or any of the others had to say about that. "Let's go. I don't want to be late for class."

With the nod of her head, we continued towards the large brick school building in front of us. Ashley and her friends talked about Cassie and my birthday party this weekend as if it was the highlight event of the year.

Which, in the past, it always had been. This year, however, felt much different.

There was something in the air that felt wrong, and the closer and closer it got to the big day, the more on edge I was with everything. Almost as if my wolf could feel something big was going to happen.

"I'm so excited. I wonder what Cassie is wearing this year." One of the girls giggled. "I'm sure something sexy for Lucas..."

Ashley quickly hushed the girl as they stifled their laughter, trying not to draw attention to themselves, but I had heard the words the girl spoke and my sister's and Lucas' name in the same sentence wasn't something I was happy about.

"What did you just say?" I asked, spinning around to face them.

"It's nothing, Lux. Just some silly little rumor," Ashley stammered, pushing a smile on her face. "Come on, we can't be late."

"Shut up, Ashley. I want to know what she said right now."

Ashley stepped back a bit, her eyes gazing around towards her friends as she bit her bottom lip. "Well, rumor has it that Cassie has been seeing Lucas Vega, and that they are... well, you know."

Lucas Vega was the area's notorious bad boy, and the only person I hated in this pack. His mother was the pack's librarian, and the two came to us about seven years ago after his mother was widowed. I didn't trust the punk ass kid as far as I could throw him, and everyone else typically stayed away from him.

Go figure my sister would be one of the ones who didn't.

"How do you know this?" I snapped at them, not caring Ashley was one of the people I was taking my anger out on.

"Seth saw Cassie talking to Lucas at the Hill party and told his sister Lauren, who you know is like my best friend-

"Damn it, Ashley, get to the point already."

Flinching at my tone, she quickly stumbled through her response. "Seth saw Cassie and Lucas disappear into the woods together, and when Cassie came out later, she was alone and fixing her clothing."

The stammered words spoken from Ashley set my blood on fire.

How could my sister act like this knowing what kind of people we were, and who he was?

Turning, I headed straight for Cassie's locker. If she thought she was going to act like a slut, she was sadly mistaken. because my sister wasn't going to whore herself out to the pack reject.

The moment I turned the corner and locked eyes on Cassie, who stood with her friend Melissa, I gritted my teeth, seething with anger. "Cassie!"

She spun around to face me, and as she did, her eyes widened. "Why do you look like someone pissed in your coffee this morning?"

"Are you fucking Lucas Vega?"

The question came out quickly as I all but yelled at her, causing her to choke on the coffee she was sipping. "What?!"

"You heard me, Cassie. Word has it you were seen fucking him at the last party."

The conversation was definitely meant for behind closed doors, and from the red tinge of her cheeks, I could see embarrassment growing inside her.

Classmates of ours began to linger around, whispering to each other as they stared at us, but I didn't care.

I wanted the truth, and I wanted it now.

"Are you kidding me right now?" she whispered loudly as she stepped closer.

"How dare you speak to me like that?"

"I have a right to know if my sister is whoring herself out to the pack. I'm the future Alpha, and I have to know my people even if it's someone who lives under my roof."

Sudden laughter escaped Cassie as she stood shaking her head at me. "Are you fucking serious right now? First of all, they aren't your people yet. Second of all, we live in our parents' house so I don't know what roof you think you fucking own. Lastly, how dare you act like this towards me? I am your sister..." she hesitated for a moment as her eyes shifted towards Ashley and her friends before glaring back at me. "...you seriously choose to listen to the gossip of your dumbass girlfriend and her crowd of pink barbies...pathetic. Get your shit together, Pollux."

The way she spoke to me in front of so many people caused collective gasps to filter through the air. Cassie had publicly embarrassed me for the last time, and if my parents weren't

going to do anything about her, then I would make it my job to do so.

As Cassie turned to walk away from me, I reached out and grabbed Cassie's shoulder, spinning her around to make sure she faced me. I was going to make her realize I wasn't someone she was going to cross, whether she was my sister or not. "You're going to listen to me."

Anger blew through her eyes as they slowly began to swirl with the celestial color I knew all too well. She wasn't one to mess with, and with these stupid fucking powers, she had been nothing but a problem.

She shouldn't have been as powerful as she was.

That was supposed to have been reserved for me.

"Pollux, you know exactly what happened the last time you tried me like this. So you can either get the fuck off of me and walk away, or you and I are going to have bigger problems than what your girlfriend said."

"You need to watch your tone, Castor. You will respect me, as I deserve to be respected." I hoped she would have bowed down like I had expected any other person to do, but instead, Cassie began to laugh in a maniacal way, making me hesitate.

Before the commotion could continue any further, a voice called out, stopping us

in our tracks. Our father, James, had exited a classroom somewhere nearby and was seen storming through the hallway straight for us.

Both mine and Cassie's eyes darted in the direction of where he was, and with his narrowed gaze and clenched fist, I knew we were in trouble.

"What is going on?" he demanded as Cassie quickly turned off the angry scowl she wore and put on the biggest puppy dog pout.

"Dad, I didn't do anything. I was just at my locker and Lux came over here storming up out of control, accusing me of being seen with this guy just because his girlfriend and her Barbie friends said that somebody had seen me with him at a party."

Everybody around was listening to the conversation. It was clear Cassie was being overdramatic to try and make me look bad. Looking around the hallway, he frowned at the other students. "Don't you all have class!"

He was pissed, and as the kids who lingered around quickly disappeared. He turned his gaze to me. "The two of you in my office, now."

Our father was a very calm and kosher man. However, when things got out of control or we misbehaved, he took it seriously. As soon as we turned down the hallway, the door to his room came into view.

"I don't know the truth behind what happened, and honestly, I don't care. The fact of the matter is I could feel your power, Cassie, from right down the hall to where I was, and that is not good for anybody," he said as he closed his office door.

"I'm sorry," she whispered, causing a smirk to cross my face.

I was glad to see Cassie getting what she deserved. Yet, when his gaze turned to me, it became even angrier. "I don't see what you think is so amusing, Pollux. You are the one that initiated this entire thing."

Standing straight with my mouth open, I shook my head. "No, I didn't. She started it by going off with Lucas at some damn party, trying to make herself look like a whore in front of the entire pack."

"Excuse me?! Did you just call your sister a fucking whore? Have you lost your goddamn mind? Do you know what Damian, or even Talon and your mother, would say, hearing you talk about your own sister like this?"

Guilt filled me. Mom was everything to me. She was beautiful and graceful.

Everything a boy could ever wish to have in a mother, she was the person I was the closest to out of all of them.

I knew my mother wouldn't have been pleased with how I treated Cassie today. Especially invoking her powers the way that I had. "There's no need to tell her what happened. I'm sorry."

I quickly bowed to the situation, not wanting to escalate it any further and as I apologized, Cassie turned her frown into a smile, shrugging her shoulders as she shook her head.

"Look, we will deal with this at home, but for right now, both of you get to fucking class and don't let me hear that any kind of situation happened again. Stay away from each other," James replied, pinching the bridge of his nose in

frustration.

“Wait, what?” Cassie said quickly. “He’s my ride home, though, and we have to stop at the pharmacy to get the medicine mom needed.”

“I’m not taking you anywhere,” I interjected, refusing to be in the same vehicle with her. “Looks like you better walk or ask your friend to take you.”

“That medication is for our little brother. Are you fucking kidding me?”

“Cassie, I will take you, sweetie. Just meet me here when you’re done with your last class. I needed to go by the store to grab a few things for dinner anyway,”

James sighed, causing her to nod her head, but then scowl at me.

“Fine.” There was no need for any other conversation to be had, and as we both exited our father’s office going our separate ways, I couldn’t help but wonder if I did fuck up in regards to this situation.

Sure, my sister pissed me off to no end, but thinking back on it now, I didn’t act like an Alpha. Instead, I acted like an asshole and the entire student body got to see me mistreating my sister over a rumor.

I wouldn’t allow her to be with someone like Lucas, but as soon as I was the Alpha, I was going to make sure she was paired with someone respectable.

There was no way in hell I would allow her to continue to be the loose cannon she was.

She needed a mate, and if she couldn’t find hers soon... well, I’d force her to mate with someone else. That way, they could keep her ass in line.

Chapter 127: Words of Wisdom

285 Vouchers

I couldn’t believe Pollux acted the way he did in front of everybody, making me look like a complete fool. Then to call me a whore! Who did he honestly think *he* was?

Rage bubbled through me as my blood boiled with anger over the entire situation. I wasn’t sure who my brother thought he was, speaking to me the way that he did but thankfully our father James had stepped in to stop the situation.

The moment Pollux grabbed me and forced me to stay to try and listen to him, I felt myself losing control and that was something I didn’t do often.

Walking into my English class, I spotted Melissa sitting in our usual spot, her eyes meeting mine slightly widened as the other students looked at me with curiosity. It wasn’t that I wanted people to fear me, but most people at this school did.

I simply just ignored it, because after I graduated I was out of this fucking place.

Moving towards the back of the classroom, I beelined straight for my seat. Melissa had a grin on her face spread ear to ear, and I could only imagine the questions she would end

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up throwing my way. It wasn't the first time she witnessed one of our dads pulling us off to the side to have a sit down, and I doubted it would be the last.

Plopping down at my desk, I pulled out my notebook and opened it to where we had left off with notes for the exam notes from the day before. Final exams were Friday, and then I would be free from this prison of a school with graduation the following week.

The one thing keeping me sane every single day I woke up was knowing I would be leaving this place soon, and Melissa and I would be starting over somewhere new.

"OK, class, now that our last participant finally decided to arrive, please go ahead and open your notebooks if you haven't so I can go over everything that you're going to need to study on for Friday's exam," Miss Abel said as she turned towards the board and began to write down various different things we were expected to take notes on.

She was an older woman, with graying brown hair and thick-framed glasses. She had been in the pack for as long as I can remember, and even though she was nice to everyone else, she, for some reason, couldn't stand me.

"How did it go?" Melissa whispered, causing me to look at her from the corner of my eye. "Was it bad?"

"Just as you would have expected," I replied with a sigh, trying to keep my tone down low so Miss Abel wouldn't hear

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us having a conversation while she was trying to teach class. That pissed her off more than anything.

Interrupting students with a bad attitude. Also known as me... She hated me.

"Did your dad ground you from the party this weekend? We had plans, Cass."

Scoffing with laughter, I shook my head in amusement. "It's my party. Why would they turn around and not let me go to my own birthday party?"

"True," she said, pointedly letting out a sign of relief. "I'd cry if that happened."

The gleam of the sun through the open window caught her just right at the moment, making her seem as if she were glowing. There was something about my friend I found

extremely attractive. From the soft brown waves of her hair to the dark charcoal colored gray of her eyes. She was beautiful, even though she didn't think she was.

Melissa wasn't just beautiful. She was extremely intelligent and though her flat chest, stick figured body gave her a lack of confidence she shouldn't have, I couldn't help but admire how increasingly lucky I was to have her by my side.

She had stuck by me through everything, and I was grateful. However, even though she was only my friend, every now

and again, I couldn't help but wonder what it would be like to taste those plump pink lips of hers and have her as more than just my friend.

"Are you listening to me?" she whispered, pulling me out of the daze I was in. I hadn't been listening. I had been thinking of the many things we could do together and in doing so, completely embarrassed myself.

The heat of my embarrassment was upon my cheeks as I pushed a smile on my face and shrugged my shoulders. "Sorry, I was just thinking about something. What did you say?"

Rolling her eyes, she smiled. "I was asking you if what they said about you and Lucas was true."

Lucas. I couldn't help but laugh to myself, thinking about what they said. Yes, it was true. I had been seen going into the woods with him, but as far as having sex with him, absolutely not. He had bet me I couldn't beat him in a race with my wolf, and of course, I proved him wrong.

After beating his ass in the race, I left him in the dust to wander his way back to the encampment, where I turned around and took his clothes. That way, he would only be able to maneuver back through the party either naked or in his shifted form.

Lucas was incredibly sexy and yeah, sometimes I felt the urge to want to do more with him, but that definitely wasn't going to happen anytime soon. I wasn't a virgin, but I also

wasn't looking. Unless you count on being interested in my

best friend.

I had too much to focus to worry about stuff like that.

"No, Melissa, don't you think I would have told you had I hooked up with Lucas? You know how I feel about that stuff.

I'm focusing on what's to come. I mean, we have a future we're

going to be entertaining once we get out of this place. I'm not looking to make a mistake."

The sound of Miss Abel clearing her voice loudly caught my attention, and glancing towards her, I noticed everybody in the class had turned and looked at me. "I'm sorry, ladies. Am I interrupting an important conversation? Because I could have sworn I was teaching you about the final exams, you had

this Friday. I'd prefer not to see you again after this year."

Ouch, that was unnecessary. "My apologies, Miss Abel. I

can assure you that Melissa and I will pass your exam because

we don't really want to see you anymore, either." My class mates turned into a fit of snickering, causing Miss Abel's face

to go red.

"Then you won't mind spending the rest of your afternoon in detention."

"Unfortunately, as lovely as that sounds, Miss Abel, my father James already has plans for me after school and, therefore, I won't be able to attend," I replied, trying to make it seem like there was no way she could keep me, but instead the

fucking woman went to the phone, picked it up and undoubtedly called my father.

After a few moments, she hung up the phone with a smile on her face, as the hatred of her poured into my heart. "Good news. Your father told me to tell you he'll pick up the medication for you so that you can stay here until four o'clock, when detention is over."

"Shit," I muttered, with irritation. She had couldn't be fucking serious.

As I turned my gaze back to Melissa, she quickly shut her mouth, shaking her head. There was no way in hell she was going to spend detention with me, even if she was my best friend. She had shit to do, and I knew it.

By the time class was done and I finally made my way from the hell of Miss Abel, I left class with Melissa at my side in search of a vending machine. I was stressed, and a cold soda was just the amount of caffeine I needed to get through my next class.

"I can't believe that you got detention. Do you just enjoy pissing her off?" Melissa asked while digging through her purse to pull out a piece of gum.

“She’s a cow,” I replied, rolling my eyes. “I could breathe the wrong way, and she would try to turn it into a reason to call my parents and put me into detention.”

next few days.

school.”

As our banter continued back and forth, I didn’t hear the approaching footsteps and laughter of Ashley, and her posse of irritating ass-kissers, but when I turned around, she stood there expectantly as if she had something to say.

“Can I help you?” I said flatly as I opened my soda and proceeded to drink from it. I only had ten minutes until my next class, and the last thing I wanted to do was entertain her.

With long blonde hair and makeup plastered onto her face, she was the spitting image of Barbie, simply missing her Malibu beach doll house. She may have been dating my brother and had been for years, but I knew that was only because

she suckered him in.

The girl was a nobody, and then over the summer in seventh grade, she blossomed or did something because she came back to school in eighth grade with boobs, a tiny waist,

and all sorts of other enhancements.

Then her attention was on my brother.

She stared at me for a moment, crossing her arms over her shoulders as she looked at her perfectly manicured nails. “I just wanted to remind you not to be an embarrassment this weekend. It may be your birthday too, but it’s about Lux and I. We will be announced as the New Luna and Alpha of the

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pack.”

Laughter erupted from my throat as I looked over at Melissa, who was laughing her ass off, too. I had to give it to Ashley, she was pretty damn confident and yet didn’t realize how ridiculous she sounded.

"You do realize that's not how that works, right? Lux has to go into training for a year without you because you're not allowed to go and even if he didn't have to do that, my parents aren't stepping down anytime soon. He could be in his thirties before he actually becomes the Alpha and I don't even know why you think you're going to be Luna. You're not even his mate."

"You don't know that!" she snapped, stomping her foot on the ground. "I am his!"

Her frustration was entertaining, and as I looked at her friends, I could see how confused they were over what I said. "Y'all didn't actually believe she was going to be Luna, did you? My brother can barely stand to be around her anymore."

I couldn't quite understand why she was delusional enough to think she was going to be the woman he spent his life with.

My brother and I fought like cats and dogs, but I knew my brother well enough to know he would never spend his life with a woman like Ashley. He wanted someone who would support and challenge him at times. Not some idiot who

thought herself a pampered princess.

Gasping with a faint heart expression, she stared at me with wide eyes. "How dare you speak to me like that? You have no right. My position with Lux gives me authority over you-

"I'm going to stop you right there," I sighed with a smile as I cut her off mid-speech. "You have no authority over me, and you need to learn that very quickly. If you can't see how uninterested my brother has been in you lately, that's your problem. I don't blame him for sleeping with you. Why go searching for something when you can easily pick up the phone and have it delivered..."

A look of utter shock and disbelief crossed her face as I pushed past her with Melissa. She was as speechless as the girls with her, but as I continued walking, she let out a scream of anger. "You will regret this!"

I didn't bother to turn around and look at her. Instead, I waved my hand in the air before giving her the middle finger as I kept walking away. "Whatever you have to tell yourself to make yourself feel better, Ashley. Keep up the good work. Maybe being easy will pay off for you someday."

Melissa grabbed my arm, laughing as we continued walking down the hall, leaving Ashley behind us to stew over my words of wisdom. I didn't care if she cried and complained to anyone or even plotted against me.

170 She wasn't my problem, and if she pissed me off enough,

she would simply meet a side of me that would haunt her dreams for the rest of her life.

Chapter 128: Lucas Vega

168 voucher:

The moment the last bell rang, I groaned. It was time to serve out my detention, and as much as I wanted to dip and go home, I knew I couldn't. I would just get lectured by my parents and then have to do it tomorrow anyways.

Grabbing my belongings and shoving them into my bag, I sighed as I stood to my feet, walking out of my last classroom. Miss Abel's class was downstairs, and the quicker I got there to serve out detention, the faster I could leave.

However, as soon as I got to the bottom of the stairs, I spotted Miss Abel with all of her belongings walking down the hall. Had she forgotten I had detention?

"Are we not doing this today, then?" I asked flatly, curious as to where she seemed to be going in such a good mood. Turning to face me, she smiled and shook her head.

"Oh, you are. I forgot to tell you, I actually have something to do after school, so you're going to be serving out detention in the library with Mr. Danton." Judging by the smug expression on her face, she knew full well I couldn't stand the gym

teacher.

Mr Danton was enough to make me want to claw her eyes, but instead, I turned away.

Fists clenched with my irritation at an all-time high, I fixed the bag on my shoulder and made my way towards the library. If I had to endure dealing with Mr. Danton, then so be it. At least in a few days, I would never have to see his smug face again.

The moment I got there, I instantly regretted everything! had said earlier to piss Miss Abel off because the only other fucking person in the library serving out detention was god damn Lucas Vega.

His dark, mesmerizing eyes met mine, and as they did, a sick, sadistic smirk crossed his lips. There was an air about him that screamed mysteriousness. He had black, spiky, clean cut hair and wore dark designer jeans and a black, tight fitted t shirt adorned with a black leather jacket. His look screamed walking sex machine.

"Interesting." His words pulled me back to the present, and as it did, I frowned.

Interesting? I didn't know what he found interesting about this, but as soon as Mr. Danton looked up from the desk he sat behind, a smile grew wide across his face.

“Well, well, well.” Mr. Danton laughed with amusement. “It’s nice to see you again, Cassie. Unfortunately, I wish it would have been on better terms.”

“Yeah, sure,” I replied flatly as I moved towards a table on the far side of the room. The farther away from Lucas, the bet

ter. As much as I had enjoyed making a fool of him that night, I

didn’t care to be around him. He was incredibly annoying, and

with Pollux acting like a dick about Lucas, I didn’t want to give

him more reason to be on my ass.

Placing down my bag and pulling out my books, I tried to dive into the school work my teachers decided I needed to complete before the end of the week. All of it I found pointless considering it was the end of the year, and with my perfect GPA, I wasn’t worried about failing.

Nevertheless, I dived into it trying to ignore the stare Lucas was sending from across the room. His dark eyes bore into my head as I tried to feverishly ignore it.

It wasn’t until Mr. Danton stood to his feet and moved

around from the desk. I finally looked up and away from my school work. “Alright, you two. I’m going to go take a break. Try not to get into trouble while I’m away.”

From what I had heard from other students, when Mr. Danton took a break, he was typically gone until detention was over. I contemplated skipping the rest of it and leaving to head home, but knowing my luck, I’d get caught.

The moment the door closed and Mr. Danton disappeared, Lucas appeared in front of me on the other side of the

table. “You and I need to have a little talk.”

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Glancing up at him, I laughed, shaking my head as I took my books and placed them back into my bag. If there was going to be an altercation, the last thing I wanted was for my shit to spread across the room in utter chaos.

“There’s nothing to discuss, Vega. Leave me alone.”

“No, no.” He laughed, causing me to grit my teeth with irritation. “You don’t get to do that. We have shit to discuss, and you’re not leaving here until we do.”

Leaning back in my chair with my arms crossed, I stared at him. There was no way he was going to dictate what was going to happen. "You're annoying, you know that, right?"

"I'm annoying?" He scoffed with a smile. "Says the girl who stole my clothes and made me walk naked through a party."

"You actually walked naked?" Laughter escaped me as I tried to visualize that event. It had obviously happened after I left that night, and even though Lucas irritated me, I was intrigued with the notion of seeing him naked.

"Hey, stop eye fucking me and pay attention," he snapped, causing me to roll my eyes.

"Keep dreaming. You stand no chance with me, Vega. I'd never fuck you, regardless of what people seem to want to think about what we did at that party."

"Yes, the party..." He echoed as he paced the area with a smile on his face. "So, it occurred to me that night we have something more in common than just being the outcast ass holes of the pack."

Outcast? Who the hell said I was an outcast?

"I'm not-"

Holding his hand up, he cut me off, causing me to stare at him with my lips parted in disgust. "I wasn't finished, Cassie."

"I don't care if we're finished or not. Don't ever cut me off like that again."

"Or what?" he scoffed. "What are you honestly going to do besides sit there and get pissy like you always do?"

"Careful, or you might get hurt. I'm not someone you want to anger."

Usually the threat worked on people, but for some reason with Lucas Vega, he did not give a shit about what I was saying. Instead, he laughed and leaned over the table. "If you think that *you* can intimidate me, you're wrong, cupcake. Nothing about who you are scares me."

Shock was the only thing I felt as I stared at him, dumbfounded, trying to process the fact he wasn't scared of me. Everyone was scared of me. There was no way he wasn't. That

just didn't make sense. "What?"

Policopters

“Cat got your tongue, Cassie?” He laughed. “You heard what I said. You’re nothing but entitled and hiding behind who your parents are.”

Standing to my feet, I slammed my hands down upon the table staring at him. “Don’t make me fucking hurt you, Vega. Stay away from me, and don’t speak. This is your last warning.”

I didn’t wait for him to respond as I grabbed my bag and threw it over my shoulder. I was done with detention for the day, for the rest of my life... I wasn’t doing this shit with him or anyone else for that matter.

If Mr. Danton didn’t like it to fucking bad.

As I moved across the room, Lucas quickly sped in front of me, blocking my way out. I wasn’t sure what his problem was or why he was doing this, but it was getting on my last fucking nerve. “Would you get the fuck out of my way?”

“No,” he said flatly, crossing his arms over his chest. “Not until we talk properly.”

“Oh, my god. Seriously? We have nothing to fucking talk about.”

It was enough to have to be stuck here with him, but having him trying to keep me hostage because he wanted to

speak with me was icing on the cake. No matter how much I tried to show him I didn’t want anything to do with him, he was resilient in his efforts to make me talk to him.

Sagging his shoulders, he smirked. “Are you done?”

Groaning loudly in frustration, I shoved him back, watching as he stumbled laughing while I pushed past him to grab the handle of the library door, exiting into the hallway. I didn’t care about Lucas nor did I care that he was currently following me down the hallway as I pushed through the double doors

and welcomed the cool air.

I didn’t have a car considering the Alpha, my father Hale, took my car after my late night joy rides over a month ago. But I was never opposed to walking, and so when he took it, that’s what I started doing. I walked or would simply catch a ride

with Lux.

Which, of course, had come to an end after our fight this morning.

“Where are you going?” Lucas called from behind me as I made my way through the field near the school towards the treeline. It was a fifteen minute drive from my house to the school, and walking would take close to an hour.

However, shifting into my wolf would take a lot less longer.

“Dude, are you going to just ignore me?” he called again as I got closer to the shadows within the trees, a welcoming sight as I sat my bag down and slowly stripped.

“That was the plan,” I sighed as I slid off my shirt and stuffed it into my backpack before slowly unbuttoning my jeans. I didn’t understand why he was so persistent, and why he continued to follow me when neither of us even liked each other.

“So you’re just going to shift and run home? I have a vehicle. I can take you.”

Glancing over my shoulder at him, I scoffed with a smile. “Yeah, and run the risk of my brother tripping out again. No thanks.”

“You’re worried about what he thinks? I didn’t peg you for being one of those kinds of girls.”

Sliding my pants completely down, I picked them up and shoved them into my bag as well before turning around to face him. His eyes instinctively scanned down my body, and as those sultry eyes took me in, I couldn’t help but feel attracted to him in the moment. The sensation running through me quickly shut down when I realized he was Lucas Vega and I wasn’t interested.

“There is a lot about me that you don’t know, Vega.”

Vouchers

Stepping closer to me, my heart quickened with every step he took. It wasn’t until he was a foot in front of me I felt completely bare to him, not just in physical presence but also mentally. Never had anyone made me feel this way, and Lucas Vega was the last person I would ever have expected to make me feel the way I did.

For some reason, no matter how much I tried to resist the dark gaze he gave me, and the way his close proximity set my body on fire, I couldn’t. I was conflicted beyond all rationality, wanting a man I couldn’t actually have.

“I’d like to know more...” he whispered, reaching up to brush a strand of hair from my face. “If you’d let me.”

There were many ways this moment could have gone, but there was no way I was going to give in to the urges we both had. “There’s no point in getting to know me.”

Letting the turn come over me, he jumped back from where I stood until the fur of my wolf broke through me, and my enormous beast stood before him. My black coat was pur er than most, and with my celestial eyes still on display, I was an intimidating sight to behold.

“Gorgeous.” He smirked as I huffed in displeasure, picking up my backpack in my mouth before turning and darting off into the forest.

If Lucas Vega thought flattery would allow him to get close to me, he was sadly mistaken.

There was nothing like running through the forest to clear one’s mind. Yet, as my home came into view through the clearing of the forest, I couldn’t help but wonder why Lucas Vega suddenly had taken such an interest in me. The way he made me feel caused my heart to race with anticipation.

I shouldn’t feel like this, and I definitely shouldn’t be so worked up.

It was ridiculous.

As soon as I approached the treeline, I let the change come back over me. The breaking and shifting of my bones caused me to moan softly as I finally took my last step back into my human form. Growing up, no one ever expected we would have been able to shift into wolves simply because our mother hadn’t been able to.

At least not like a normal shifter.

Yet, we took after our fathers... the Lycan and shifter genes running through our veins.

Searching through my backpack, I pulled out my clothes and quickly put them on. I didn’t bother messing with my shoes as I stepped from the treeline, slugging my backpack over my shoulder as my bare feet touched the soft texture of the grass below.

The sun had begun to set in the horizon and with its disappearance, shadows circulated over the land, highlighting the lighting within my home through the windows.

To think, in just over a week, I would be on my way towards the coast to start my new life with Melissa. Away from the troubles this pack has brought me since the day I came into my powers. No longer would I have people staring at me like I was odd.

Instead, I would blend in and have a normal life.

“Cassie, is that you?” My mother’s voice called out as I closed the door behind me.

“Yeah, sorry I’m late. I had to stay after school.”

Her slim body came into view and her long, dark silvering hair pulled up into a bun on her head, she frowned while drying her hands with a tea towel. "Yes, your father told me. Go get changed, Cassie. Talon and Hale are waiting in the study for you."

Shit. Throwing my head back, I groaned inwardly, letting out a heavy sigh before nodding and heading up the stairs towards my bedroom. I already knew the lecture awaiting me, but thankfully, knowing how my parents were, I would be able to take a quick shower and change before going to face the wrath of the Sølvmåne twins.

As soon as I stepped from the shower, completely refreshed and feeling like myself again, I threw on a pair of shorts and a t-shirt before heading towards the study. I was prepared for

the lecture that was to come, but as soon as I knocked on the door and entered, I was shocked to see the concerned looks on their faces instead of angry scowls.

"Cassie, take a seat sweetie," Hale said as he gestured towards the sofa. My eyes scanned the room, taking in the disarray of books and papers littering the area as I made myself comfortable on the gray microfiber sofa near the fire.

"What's going on?" Play innocent and stupid, and maybe they will buy it.

Talon frowned at me, shaking his head. "We heard about today, Cassie."

"That wasn't entirely my fault-"

Hale gave me a stern look, causing me to stop talking. Out of all my parental figures, these two were the only ones I refused to argue with. Just because the connection with them was different from everyone else, and, honestly, I knew the truth.

Hale and Talon were mine and Pollux's fathers.

In some weird kind of way, I tried not to think too much about

1. it.

"Cassie, you can't keep acting the way you have been. You and Lux are the future leaders of this pack, and the fighting and arguing doesn't help. You can't work against each other, you have to work with each other," Hale said softly as he stood from where he sat and moved to sit next to me.

Tears brimmed my eyes at his words. I hated disappointing them, but at the same time, I hated Pollux treated me the way

he did. "I'm sorry, but Pollux treats me like shit, so I give it right back to him. I can't let them see me weak."

“Weak? Cassie, you’re not weak.”

Talon wasn’t pleased with my reference to being weak. He was one of the strongest men in the pack, and being a warrior and protector was everything to him. He had trained me himself, and so me being seen as weak was a reflection on him.

“Everyone seems to think that I am. Either that or they are terrified of me. They always have been, and now, with Pollux flipping his wig on me about some bullshit, they think I’m a whore too.”

Anger flashed through both of my father’s eyes as low growls of disapproval echoed from their throats. “What are you talking about?” Hale asked.

“James didn’t tell you?” A scoff left my throat as I cast my eyes down. “Pollux’ stupid girlfriend told him I supposedly was messing around with Lucas Vega, which isn’t true and so he confronted me in the hallway at school and called me a whore, accusing me of sleeping around. That’s what started the whole fight.”

I wasn’t seeking pity from my dads, but what I did want was for Pollux to receive punishment if I was going to get it. He was just as much at fault as I was, and snitches get stitches, be damned... I wasn’t going to be the only one serving punishment a week before school ends.

Talon stood to his feet, pacing the room as he rubbed the back of his neck. He was who I was really worried about,

because anytime some boy had approached me in the past, he was quick to make them forget I even existed.

“Cassie, I know that you’re going to be eighteen this weekend and with you getting older you’re going to be interested in boys and... Stuff...”

Was he really going to try and do the talk?

“Oh my god, dad, please, no. We don’t have to have this conversation.”

“Look, Cassie, it’s just as bad for us as it is for you-” Hale’s laughter cut Talon off as he stared between Hale and I, absolutely confused. “What’s so funny?”

“Talon ...” Hale said, taking a moment to catch his breath. “You’ re like two years too late.”

A shocked and horrified expression crossed Talon's face as it paled, his mouth dropping open. It hurt because I had known for so long he had seen me as his little princess and he didn't want that to change.

"Is this true, Cassie?" Talon whispered. "Why didn't you tell me?"

"Dad, none of that matters, and it isn't important right now. Look, school is almost over and I only have a week left and then I will be out of here and headed off to college."

Talon and Hale looked at each other in confusion at my response. I know the old tale about us having to go to the land of the gods, but that was just a silly story. There was no way my parents would subject me to something like that.

"Cassie, you're not going off to college. You know what's happening this weekend."

Hale gave me a concerned glance as the study door opened, and my mother walked in with a glass of wine in hand. "Oh, you guys are still talking?"

"Yeah, Cassie seems to think she is leaving for college..." Hale replied to my mother, who didn't look surprised by his statement and instead sipped on her wine.

"Ivy, why does Cassie think she is okay to go to college?" It was Talon's turn to ask my mother the question and as he did, she looked between them both and sighed, rolling her eyes.

"Oh, Jesus Christ, you two. She is intelligent and has her whole life ahead of her. The only thing Cassie wants is to have a normal life. We all know this, and if that's what she wants, then she can have it. Stop acting like it's a big deal."

Disbelief washed over me upon hearing her. Never once had I ever heard her speak up for what I want and yet, here she was basically telling my fathers what was going to happen whether they approved or not.

"Ivy, you know damn well that can't happen," Hale snapped at her, causing me to flinch as he stood to his feet. "There was an agreement, and both she and Pollux have to abide by it."

"I don't care, Hale. I'm not forcing them to go."

My mother was angry, and her words were firm. The only problem was I wasn't sure if I was hearing things correctly. The tale is true, and my parents really did agree for us to go?! I thought it was a joke or something... Hell; I don't know what I

thought, but to know my parents agreed was horrible.

“Wait, you’re telling me that you made a deal for me and Pollux to be sent away? Why would you do that? Don’t we get a say in this?!”

Shaking his head, Hale sighed. “No, sweetie, you don’t. There was nothing we could do about it, and honestly, they wanted to take you a long time ago, so we made it so they didn’t.”

This was absolute bullshit. The entire time, I thought it was a hoax. Something my parents told me so I would behave, and it was actually true. “That’s fucking great.”

“Cassie, language!” My mother snapped, glaring at me. “You don’t need to talk like that, and you’re both not going, so it doesn’t matter what happened.”

“Ivy, stop lying to her!” Talon roared in anger. “They are, and after today’s little stunt she pulled with her powers, she isn’t returning back to school. We have to be careful-”

“What?!” I exclaimed, jumping to my feet. “What do you mean I’m not going back to school?! I have only a few days left!”

All three of my parents looked between each other before glancing back at me. I didn’t understand what was going on, but I didn’t have a chance to say anything before Damian walked through the door and stared at me.

“You’re so loud we can hear you downstairs.”

“Dad, you are the one who always says schooling is important. You can’t let them do this.” I pleaded with Damian to agree with me, but instead he sighed, crossing his arms over his

chest and shook his head.

“No, Castor. You’re not going back. You will be allowed to see your friends on pack grounds if they come here to the house and to the party. However, you will not be returning back to campus. It’s too much of a risk after your stunt with your brother today and therefore, James has worked out with your teachers to take the exams under his supervision here.”

My life was literally falling apart in front of me. The last few days of my senior year was squashed all because of Pollux and his stupid ass girlfriend.

“Whatever. At least Pollux will feel the same way I do.” I had hoped for them to agree with me, but instead the looks passing them let me know what I dreaded hearing.

It was only me receiving this punishment.

“Seriously?” | gasped, clenching my fists at my sides. “So Pollux causes all the crap that went on today, and I’m the one who gets punished. Nice to see who the favorite is in the family.”

Storming past Damian and my mother, I marched towards my room and slammed the door behind me. I woke up this morning believing today was going to be an amazing day. Of course, I was fucking wrong.

If Pollux thought for one moment, I was going to let this go. He was sadly mistaken.

I wasn’t going to be grounded in this house alone, and I sure as hell wasn’t going to some realm. They could all kiss my ass before that happened.

Chapter 130: Morning Complications

Pollux.

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After the fallout with Cassie the day before, I made sure to steer clear of my parent’s watchful eyes. From what I heard, Cassie had been grounded to the pack house, and not allowed to attend school and that was the last thing I wanted to happen to me.

I had an image to uphold as the future Alpha of this pack.

I couldn’t be seen being punished.

Heading downstairs, I made my way towards the kitchen just in time to spot my mother taking muffins from the pan and placing them on a plate. Her blue eyes met mine, and as they did, she smiled at me. “Good morning, my sweet boy.”

“Morning, Mom. Where’s Hale at? I was supposed to see him before I left this morning.”

“Oh, he actually left fifteen minutes ago.” She frowned as she wiped off her hands and set the towel on the counter. The house smelt of freshly baked bread, and I knew something was up because the only time mom baked was when she was stressed out.

“He left? That’s weird,” I muttered as I shrugged my shoulders. “No worries, just tell him I’ll talk to him after school. I don’t want to be late.”

Kissing her cheek, I stuffed a muffin into my mouth and

Chapter 130 Minung Computador

grabbed my truck keys. With only a few days left in the school year, I was looking forward to spending the last few days with the boys on the football team, even if I couldn't play anymore.

The moment I walked outside, the cool air from spring hit my face, causing me to smile, my feet crunching across the gravel as I walked towards my truck. Only a few more days were left and though I was looking to the quickly ending year so I could begin my training, the last thing I expected when I turned the corner towards the garage was to see three flat tires on my truck.

"What the fuck!" I screamed loudly as I quickly ran towards my truck, running around admiring only three of the tires had actually been slashed and one had been left untouched.

The scream that left my throat caused my brother Dillon to come running from out the front door. He usually caught the bus to school, but he hadn't been feeling well the last few days and so mom had let him skip. More than likely trying to play hooky because he didn't want to take his final exams.

"What's wrong? Why are you screaming?" he said with a panic expression that turned to shock as his eyes laid upon the completely flat tires of my truck.

"Who the fuck did this?" I roared in anger. "Who in the hell slashed my tires?"

With all the commotion and yelling I was doing, it attracted the attention of my mother and even my father Talon, who came running from the woods. As his eyes landed upon what I had seen, his expression turned to one of anger.

"What in the hell happened to your truck? Did you run over

11 183,

something?"

I stared at him in disbelief, in shock. Did he honestly think I ran over something and it only popped three of the tires? "Seriously. Only crazy bitches slash three tires."

My mother, who stood next to me with her arms crossed over her chest, furrowed her brows in confusion at my comment. "What are you talking about? Why would a girl only slash three in all four?"

"Because the insurance won't cover it if only three of the tires have been slashed."

It was Cassie's voice which triggered me, and instantly I realized she must have had something to do with what happened. Turning around to face her, I watched as she stood leaning against the side of the house with her arms crossed over her chest in nothing but a tank top and shorts, with her hair a complete disarray.

Of course, she would have been the one to do it.

"You're such a bitter bitch. You did this, didn't you? You slashed my fucking tires because they told you, you couldn't go to school. What kind of sadistic whore are you?"

I had forgotten my father and mother were both standing here as I spoke to her, the anger trickling out of me. Her eyes went wide, her mouth parted as she looked at Talon. "See what I mean? He constantly blames me for everything. I was literally inside. I just came out here."

"Lux, it is absolutely unacceptable you would speak to your sister like that and blame her for something when she was

literally inside. I checked in on her this morning and she was sleeping." My mother gasped as she stared at me, absolutely mortified I would speak to Cassie that way.

"Oh, come on. You and I both know that she did this. She's fucking pissed because you won't let her go to school and you're forcing her to go through with the agreement. I heard the entire conversation last night. Do you really think she's going to be okay with me being able to go and her having to stay here and miss out on everything?"

It didn't make any sense why my sister would lash out like this, and for a brief moment, I started to doubt whether I had assumed wrong.

"Look, son. You need to apologize to your sister. As for the truck, take one of your other rides. You have your motorcycle," Talon replied, obviously angry, but trying to keep himself together.

With a groan of protest, I tossed my keys to my truck on the ground and opened the garage. The problem was, as soon as the garage door opened, it was clear I wouldn't be taking my motorcycle either, because the front tire on that had been slashed as well.

As a roar of frustration and anger escaped me. I spun to Cassie once more. However, I didn't make it a step further as Hale stepped out from the house and quickly snatched me by the back of my neck, stopping me in my tracks. "What the fuck is going on?"

His Alpha aura radiated around me and even though I was his son and the next alpha in line, I had to submit to him when he was telling me to stop. "I'm calm," I snapped as he gently let

go of my neck

"Tell me what happened," he replied, staring down at me with nothing but anger in his eyes. I hated it when he was pissed at me, but I did start my morning off in the wrong way. Not that it was my fault.

"Someone slashed three of the tires on my truck and I know it was Cassie. However, Mom and Talon seemed to think it wasn't. I was going to take my bike, which is in the garage, and I opened the door to find one of those tires slashed. It's not a coincidence. Someone in this house did it, and she's the only one with motive."

Again, my sister stood there looking at everybody who had turned to look at her. "Are you fucking kidding me right now? You honestly think I did this out of everybody else that lives in this house? I'm always the fucking culprit."

With a sigh of disgust, she turned on her heels and marched inside. Cassie may have claimed she didn't do it, and part of me was starting to believe she didn't. But this was completely her M.O. so the conflict of the situation just pissed me off even more.

"Son, I don't know who did this and I will find out, but for now, take your mother's car and go to school. When you're done, want you to come directly back here because you and I need to have a conversation about how we treat our family and our pack members, because it's obvious you don't know how to rein in your temper."

Hale handed me my mother's car keys after he spoke, causing me to nod in understanding. I had disappointed him, and that was something that didn't sit well with me

Gritting my teeth, I turned and made my way to my mother's car sitting at the end of the driveway. I didn't mind driving her vehicle. She had a beautiful Lexus and it was better than having to walk or have one of my parents drop me off.

Putting the car into drive, I backed out of the driveway and started heading down the road. Everything that had been going on was complete bullshit and I was sick and tired of my sister going at it with me as if she had some type of objective to win.

Everything was perfect at one point in time and then it seemed like a few years ago she changed her personality and became this rebellious bitch who solely sought to make my life a living hell.

We were supposed to be close. She was my fucking twin. Yet, it didn't matter what I said or did, she never had my back. I tried so many times to help her and all she did was turn her aggression and anger towards me.

Maybe she was jealous of me, who knows.

The moment I pulled into the school parking lot, I saw Ashley standing there. She knew my mother's vehicle and, with a furrowing brow of confusion, she walked towards the car as soon as I stepped out. "Where's your truck?"

"In the shop," I replied flatly, deciding not to tell her the truth. It was honestly none of her business and I was in a bad mood. The last thing I even wanted to do was speak to her.

"Okay, so then why didn't you bring your bike? Why would you bring your mother's car? It's so-not cool."

Stopping in my tracks, I turned to face her. I couldn't believe how petty she actually was and this, honestly, was the last straw. "Ashley, I don't know what it is that you expect to have out of being with me, but I can tell you right now this relationship needs to end. You and I are done. I don't have time to deal with whatever grievances you have. I don't care about matching outfits. I don't care about what vehicle I drive. I'm the future Alpha of this pack, and I actually have more important things to worry about than how good you look."

She stared at me in shock, her eyes brimming with tears as her mouth hung open. "I'm going to be your future wife. You can't do this," she whispered, trying to keep her voice down as she looked around at everybody around her.

"No, you're not. Nobody knows who my mate is going to be, and I will only marry my mate, Ashley. You need to realize that and accept it." The cold response was not what she wanted, and I didn't care anymore. I was tired of her petty bullshit, and I was tired of my sister, too.

Before I turned to try and walk away from her, she spoke again and her words stopped me in my tracks. "You're such a fool if you think that this is going to be the end. Your sister is playing her fucking games and messing with your head. She wants the title too, and if you think you're the only one who can have it, you're wrong. She's your twin, and by law, she can lay claim."

I had no idea what she was talking about, and had never heard that law. However, honestly, the more I started overthinking things, the more her behavior made sense.

Perhaps she did want the title.

Maybe everything she has been claiming to want all these years has been a lie.

Maybe she's waiting for the

right moment to strip it all away from me.