

## And Then There Were Four by Lilith Carrie

Chapter 91: Playing with Fire

Talon.

I had always been unsure about Ivy being pregnant, but the moment Hale told us that Ivy was having twins through the link, I couldn't be happier. It was a moment I had known was coming, but now that it was here, I was more than nervous.

Was going to be a good dad? Would they end up liking me? "It's good news, brother," Damian said, slapping me on the shoulder with a smile. "Yeah, it is," I replied hesitantly. "Damian, can I ask you something?"

"What's that?" He said as he moved around the nursery, checking everything the contractors were doing.

"Do you remember that old story that mother used to tell us about the great Bjorn?"

Damian stopped in his tracks, looking over his shoulder at me with a smile. "Yeah, what about it? Have old fairy tales been crossing your mind lately?"

"Shut up," I groaned, rolling my eyes. "I'm being serious." "So was I. I thought James was the sentimental one, and Hale was the nerdy one."

Damian's laughter and comment caught me off guard, but as I narrowed my gaze, he knew I was being serious. I didn't bring things up unless it was important, and right now, I needed him to focus.

"What about it, Talon?" he finally sighed as he returned to what he was doing.

"What if the story was more than a story? What if it was real history?" I asked, trying to remember the details of the story and how our mother used to tell it.

"Don't be ridiculous, Talon. It's a kids' story. Now focus, we have to get some of this s\*\*t done," he replied, completely brushing off what I was telling him.

Go figure, after all, Damian was a logical man, and if there wasn't proof to back something up, he didn't pay it attention. I wouldn't consider that entirely good for an Alpha to think that way, but he had his brothers to help him.

We were stronger because of our unique unity. "Fair enough. I'll go down and see if the b\*\*\*h has left yet."

Nodding his head at me, he kept himself preoccupied as I made my way down the stairs only to come face to face with James, Hale, and Ivy walking through the front door.

Quickly, I rushed her and swept her off her feet, twirling her around in my arms while she laughed. "A boy and a girl."

"Yes, yes," she laughed. "Put me down, Talon, or you're going to make me sick."

"Sorry," I said as I placed her on her feet and pulled her in, crashing my lips against hers. "I can't help it. Seeing you pregnant is so damn tempting."

"Yeah, well, that will have to wait, brother," Hale cut in, causing me to look at him.

"Why? Are you still on that kick? I know what you said before, but come on now. Isn't it supposed to help with easing labor or something like that?"

Pinching the bridge of his nose, Hale groaned. "Yes, but she isn't in labor. However, she could have the baby within the next four to six weeks."

"Oh," I knew we had just talked about this, but having the doctor confirm it made it all that much more real. "Well, hopefully, one of our problems will be gone soon."

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"She is still here?" Ivy snapped. "Why?"

"She said that she had to pack and then argued with Damian, who told her fine but to hurry and leave."

The look that passed through Ivy's eyes was one of displeasure. She wanted the woman gone now, and she wasn't going to be told that she had to wait. Pushing past us all, she stormed her way towards the back door. And that only meant one thing.

Ivy was going to go into turbo mode on this woman.

"Ivy... Ivy, no," James said, putting himself quickly in between her and the door. "I will go tell her for you. You remember what the doctor said. No stress."

"Move, James," she snarled at him as her eyes changed. "No. Now, as your mate, I demand you go upstairs and take a nap now."

Never once in my life had I heard James use an almost decent Alpha tone, and the fact he just used it on Ivy was shocking. Hale and I glanced at each other before looking back at them.

Ivy stood with her fists clenched, and her brows narrowed, but slowly she relaxed and rolled her eyes. "You'll make sure she is gone by the time I wake up?"

"Yes," he squeaked before quickly clearing his throat. "Yes, I will make sure."

With a sly grin, she leaned forward, kissing him, and then smiled at Hale and me before she made her way towards the stairs, hoping to take a nap.

"What the f\*\*k was that?" Hale said as we glanced from where Ivy was back to James.

He looked absolutely pale as can be, but swallowing deeply, he straightened himself and ran his hand through his hair. "We pretend I didn't just about s\*\*t myself and that you watched me manly standpoint to her before going to handle a problem."

Turning, he didn't wait for us to comment and exited the back door on a mission. It took a moment for Hale and me to let what happened sink in, and as it did, we both burst into laughter.

"I don't think I have ever seen him like that."

Turning to Hale, I shook my head, glancing out the window at James, who was walking towards the cottage, but obviously talking to himself.

"No kidding," Hale replied. "You think he is trying to pump himself up for what he is about to do?" "Oh, no doubt. Fifty says the old broad doesn't go out easily."

"Hell no, I'm not taking that bet. I have faith in James, but the woman is stubborn as hell. Let's just hope he can get rid of her before Ivy gets back up again. I'd hate to see what would happen if she was still here." Hale was right about one thing.

It wouldn't be good if the woman was still here when Ivy got up.

Then again, part of me would entirely enjoy watching Ivy completely have a go at this woman. It would make for great entertainment.

If this was how things were going to be from now on, I was looking forward to the future for sure. \*\*\*\*\*

A few hours later, Ivy was refreshed and wide away with a hungry look in her eye. As she made her way into the kitchen, I looked up from the laptop I was working on and watched her search the fridge for something.

"Were you looking for something?" I asked her as she slammed the fridge door, and turned to me with a pout on her lips that I found incredibly sexy.

"I'm hungry, and nothing in there looks good." "What kind of hungry?" I asked her hesitantly. "Like you want a snack, or you're hungry-hungry?" With a look of disgust, she rolled her eyes dramatically. "Why do you have to say it like that?"

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"Say what, like what?" I asked in confusion. "I'm just trying to figure out what kind of hungry you are, so I know what you want to eat."

"I know. I'm sorry." Sitting down on the bar stool, she folded her arms on the counter and rested her chin on it. "I'm grumpy when I'm hungry."

"Oh, I can see that," I replied with soft laughter. "Let's see what I can find for you."

Before I could even get up from where I was sitting, commotion from outside drew our attention to the front door. The sun was slowly setting off in the distance, and whoever it did not sound happy.

Jumping to our feet, Ivy and I made our way towards the door, opening it quickly. Out front stood James and the Elder arguing, and to top it off, Ivy's mother had arrived with none other than the infamous Kate.

"Who the f\*\*k do you think you are?" Kate yelled at the woman. "Don't you dare f\*\*\*\*g speak to him like that? If he told you to go, you need to pack your s\*\*t and get one. It shouldn't take this long for you to grasp the understanding of your assignment."

"My assignment?" Elder Harrison scoffed. "What pack are you with—"

"Hey? What the hell is going on?" Ivy yelled, catching everyone's attention. "I thought you were supposed to be gone?"

The elder sneered at Ivy, shaking her head. "And I thought you were supposed to be a Luna. I guess we both thought wrong."

A growl ripped through my throat at the woman's words. However, I didn't have a chance to do anything before Ivy's mother had raised her hand and slapped the woman in her face, stunning us all. "Who the hell do you think you are talking to my daughter like that?!"

Oh, s\*\*t. I see where Ivy gets her attitude. "I will have you arrested by the council for what you just did!" The elder yelled. "This is treason!"

"Treason?" Ivy said, stepping forth, her eyes shifting to their celestial blue. "If you haven't noticed, but I don't answer to the laws of your world."

“Whoa, Ivy... let’s calm down just-”

I tried to calm her, but her eyes snapped to me, and I knew what that meant. She was about to lose her s\*\*t, and she was hungry. This wasn’t going to be good.

‘Damian, we have a serious problem, where the f\*\*k are you.’ I said through our mind link. The last thing I was aware of was that he had gone to the next town over for a meeting, and he didn’t exactly let anyone know when he would be back.

‘I’m on my way back. Why?’ he replied as I watched the tension grow as the women yelled at each other. All that was but Ivy.

‘The elder is about to lose her life because she won’t listen. ‘What are you talking about?’ he growled. ‘She left earlier.’ ‘Well, I take it she came back, and she has pissed Ivy off!

Cutting off the link, I grabbed Ivy’s arm before she could step closer. The rage of emotions flowing from her through the link was like nothing that I had ever felt before.

“Please just f\*\*\*\*\*g leave, now!” I roared at the elder, who stood quietly for a moment. “This isn’t over. If she can’t be controlled, then neither can her children.”

That was the wrong thing to say, and as I held Ivy back, I watched the woman climb into her car and leave. Ivy fighting against me was hard to control, but James tried everything he could to calm her.

“Ivy-” her mother said cautiously as my eyes snapped to her.

“Not right now. Kate, take her mother into the house, and we will figure the arrangements out after we calm her down. Go... now.”

Kate didn’t hesitate to do as I told her. She ushered Ivy’s mother into the house, and as she did Ivy slipped from my grasp and tossed James aside like it was nothing.

This was a new side to her that none of us had ever seen, and as her eyes met mine, she growled.” She’s mine.”

## Chapter 92: Understanding Death

Talon.

When Ivy glared at me and told me the woman was hers, I knew without a doubt that something terrible was about to happen. Without even a warning, she took off in a full sprint as fast as she could from the property. The car had long sped away down the driveway but knowing Ivy, that wouldn’t stop her.

"We have to stop her," James cried out. "She's pregnant, and she hurt the babies,"

James had a point. Damien wasn't here yet. Hale was in town until the end of the day. James was a good man and was too able to take care of a lot. But he didn't have the power needed to subdue Ivy like this.

Shifting into my wolf, I took off across pack territory, darting over the lawns down the hills towards the woods where Ivy had disappeared through. I had to find her. I couldn't let her do something she would absolutely regret. Even though she was the same person, she just seemed to have this alter ego that pushed through, making her more dominant when she shifted.

I knew deep down she would feel nothing but guilt if she ended up killing this woman. It would be the first person she had physically killed.

That sort of thing was never easy for anyone.

Catching her scent, I moved faster, pushing myself as hard as I could, her body coming into the distance as I kept trekking over the lands until, abruptly, she stopped. Not wanting her to know I was chasing after her, I halted in my position, hiding behind the shrubbery of the woods, watching her, waiting to see what she was going to do.

She was hunting, seeking this woman as if this woman was an elk that became her prey.

There was no stopping a wolf when it was in mid-hunt. They were dangerous, primal, and very territorial.

With Ivy not technically being a wolf, but being something else entirely-there was no telling what she could do.

The mind link that linked my brothers and me and even Ivy was going wild. However, Ivy's side was dormant. She had closed herself off in order to focus, and I had to push back mine in order to focus on her.

'Where are you?' Damien pushed through the link, using his alpha tone, catching me by surprise. 'Currently about 5 miles north of the pack. She's hunting!'

'She already ran five miles? There's no way she was able to do that. Are you sure of your location?' Damien snapped.

Did he really, honestly, think I didn't know where I was?

I grew up on these lands. These woods were my gain out of the four of us. I was the more primal hunter. There was no way they would know these woods better than I did.

'Are you seriously going to f\*\*\*\*\*g ask me that question?'

Silence met me, and at the moment I had been dealing with Damian, Ivy bolted without warning, running north, deeper and deeper into the darkness and thicket of the woods. I followed her.

The canopies of leaves above us protected us from the sunlight, where creatures usually blended in with the darkness. Watching and waiting for the right moment to make their move.

However, today they were silent, and it made me wonder if those creatures knew what she was, and they themselves found her terrifying because right now, the shift she had made was nothing like I had ever

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seen before.

Her figure almost glowed within the darkness, her long hair shimmering in a sea of light that didn't exist from any other source around her.

The way she moved was elegant and as graceful as a fairy. But yet as quick and as dangerous as a wolf. Entranced by who she was and the fact that she was my mate, I didn't dare stop her. I didn't care what the others thought. I couldn't. At least not right now.

There may be a point where I could try to talk sense into her, but the time was not. Now, that was very obvious. After a little while, she came to a slow jog until her feet crept across the forest floor.

In the distance, a cabin sat alone within the darkness; the only light in that cabin came from the single pane window near the front door. What shocked me the most, though, was that the car the elder had driven was parked out front.

The woman who supposedly came directly from the council to see us was only 20 miles north of where we actually lived, and that was completely unsettling.

Why was the elder here? This was not anywhere close to where the Council headquarters was.

I had thought I had concealed myself, tracking her the entire time I had been doing so. But as she stopped in her tracks, her hand upon the trunk of a tree, she looked over her shoulder at me and smiled.

She had known I was there the entire time, and not once did she stop me? What was she waiting for?

“You joined me, pretty wolf?” her delectable voice said through my mind. It taunted me, egging me on to play with her and I was shocked she had opened the link just enough for me to speak with her, though; it was pretty obvious we were the only two in this conversation.

‘Ivy, please turn back now. You’re pregnant and cannot be in a fight. Think about our children.’

Turning her attention back to the cabin, I could sense she found nothing but amusement in my words. ‘Do you really think that I would do anything that would hurt my children?’

‘No,’ I replied without hesitation. But that doesn’t mean that they won’t do something that could intentionally hurt them. Please think about this. She is not worth it!

‘That is where you’re wrong. My children are hungry.’

Her words were like ice trailing down my spine. Moving forward, faster than I could process, she disappeared from my sight, and it wasn’t until I heard the shrill screams, growls, and cries from within the cabin I realized what had just happened.

Ivy was tracking at a slower speed so I could keep up with her. We had to follow her the entire time when she went out on these hunts. It wasn’t because she was slow, and we were fast enough to keep up with her. It was because she wanted us there and knew we would follow her.

Shifting back into my human form, I ran naked towards the cabin, throwing open the door that was barely cracked, only to find the bloodiest scene I have ever seen before laid out in front of me.

Ivy had killed three people within this cabin. Two of them I knew, one of them I did not.

Blood coated her skin from the top of her head to the tips of her fingers. She was soaked in red, and the most peculiar thing of all was she had a satisfied grin on her face as she swallowed down a bit of flesh, closing her eyes and pure satisfaction

“Did you just eat them?!” I exclaimed in shock, with my eyes wide, and an unfamiliar sense of confusion flowed over me I had never felt before.

“Those two?” she replied with a smirk as her eyes panned towards the elder and another man, “No, I did not eat them.”

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“Then what did you just swallow? If you didn’t just eat them?”



With a small laugh, she lifted her hand and pointed at the other body on the floor. "This one tastes different. The other two are wolves and I have no interest in eating the flesh of my ancestors, but that one. That one is intoxicating, but I don't know what it is."

Her words were almost like riddles. I knew there were other supernatural creatures out there. Everybody was aware of that, but the problem was they rarely come by. So much so, most of the wolves believed them fairy tales.

"What do you mean, they're different?" I asked as I stepped forward, looking down at the body before me. That almost seemed human.

Tilting her head from side to side, she stepped towards the creature and bent to her knees before her hand reached out and grabbed its face, inhaling deeply.

"I don't know what it is, but it tastes delicious."

Taking a deep breath, I closed my eyes, running my hand over my face as I tried to calm the small, logical part of my personality hidden deep within me. I was primal.

I was considered more of the loose cannon, but yet my beautiful, perfect innocent mate was eating a creature we couldn't identify.

To top it all off, she killed a council member, and Devyn... the son of a neighboring Alpha. A very particular Alpha that didn't like us whatsoever.

"May I ask why it is Ivy that-Ivy, leave it alone," I said, interrupting myself as I grabbed her hand, pulling it away from the creature. "You have no idea what it is or where it's been."

"Don't be so dramatic," she groaned, rolling her eyes as her senses seemed to rein back in. "What I did was for a reason, and at least one of us did something."

"What are you talking about? You literally killed a council member and the son of an opposing alpha. Not to mention something else entirely that we don't even know. If it was a royalty of its species... look, you can't just go around killing things because you want to."

Raising her brow, she looked me up and down and stepped over the creature, making her way towards the door as she licked her fingers clean. I had no idea where she was going, but wherever it was, she seemed very content with what she did.

"Ivy, will you please stop and talk to me? Tell me what is going on."

Getting out an exaggerated sigh, she stopped in her tracks, closing her eyes for a moment before she turned and opened them, facing me. "There are things I cannot explain because I don't know how to explain them. However, they were a threat to our

pack. To my needs and my children, and I took care of it as I will every single time a threat comes about.”

“OK, but the problem is you can’t just go killing anybody you want to. If you find a problem with someone, you need to let us know so we can handle it properly.”

She shook her head, staring at me as if she couldn’t believe the words coming out of my mouth. “As I’ve told you before, I will do what I need to do to protect my children and the laws of your world do not apply to me. Even if I am softer minded at times, this is the side of me that will eventually completely take over,”

Hearing her say the side I was looking at now was the side that would eventually take over was not a very comforting thought. The entire conversation, of course, I had opened through the link so that the others could end up hearing it as I was hearing it.

She was making it clear what was going on was going to have to be accepted one way or another. For some odd reason, she considered those people to be a threat, and she executed them appropriately, something my brothers and I were going to have to learn to handle or simply take care of when needed.

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“It doesn’t have to be this way. You have to let us help you. We’re your mates,” I finally said, before she turned away from me once more.

“Talon, are you afraid of me?” she asked as she stared at me with an intensity I had never felt before.

“Why are you asking that question, Ivy?”

“Because I want to know the truth. Do you fear me, Talon?” she asked again, waiting for my response.

“No. I don’t fear you. I just want to understand you.”

Laughter escaped her lips as she walked closer to me. Gently running her finger over my chest, she leaned up and kissed me with the blood of her victims on her lips.

“You should fear me.”

93: Universal Fate of the Twins

Ivy.

Stepping out of the shower, I pondered over everything I had done. Yeah, I lost myself a little bit in the commotion of things, and I shouldn’t have acted the way I did. But the

woman was a threat to my family. She was a threat to my children. She was a threat to my mates and a threat to me.

I had given her chance after chance and do not regret my actions when I killed her. Little did the others know she was meeting with two other people who were interested in completely eradicating me and my mates in order to take over territory.

I had overheard their conversations before I burst through the door and slaughtered them. It was only fragmented, but it was the only information I needed to dismantle their circle.

I would do it again.

Without hesitation, I would slaughter anybody who posed a threat to my reign, my children, and my mates. Even if that meant I had to slaughter every wolf not part of our pack to ensure we would be protected, I would do it.

Because of my actions, I was well aware of the consequences that were to come.

Was I terrified? Yes, because I didn't want there to be a war brewing on the horizon with the possibility of taking everything from me. But then again, had I not done anything, we would have been at risk.

With a heavy sigh, I took the towel to my hair and gently dried every last bit of it. Staring at my reflection in the mirror, my celestial eyes were almost able to see into my own soul as it glimpsed the darkness that was within. I kept thinking about the dream I had before.

I needed to speak to the goddesses and with the men currently out of the house, I had the perfect opportunity to get the answers I needed.

I couldn't even face my own mother, or Kate until I did. My mind wouldn't allow me solace, and I prepared to face Frigga with my mind made up.

Placing down the towel, I moved towards my bed, laying upon the soft blankets. It had been a few days since I had used my room properly because of construction, but with them almost done, only small pieces of things stood out of place.

That I was grateful for. The only place I felt comfortable enough to do this was in the seclusion of my own space. Closing my eyes, I let myself fall into a state of REM and, eventually, I was transported once again to the clouds of white that opened up, letting me step forth onto a patch of green where white columns and a podium sat off in the distance.

Frigga stood there, waiting for me alone. Her long hair and white gown blowing gently behind her as she smiled upon seeing me.

"I was wondering when it would be that she would finally show face here," she said with a content grin on her face and her hands clasped in front of her body.

"So are you going to tell me you were expecting me, as Priscilla always is expecting me?" I said with a sly grin, causing her to chuckle to herself.

"What is it that I can do for you, Ivy? You seem to have a lot of questions, and considering your latest actions, it makes me wonder what you've really got on your mind."

Shaking my head, I couldn't hide the exhaustion I felt throughout my entire body. I was a mess, and one that needed to be quickly fixed before I did something else that would be frowned upon. Not that I thought what I did was wrong

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"Where would you like me to start? Should I start with the dreams that I've been having? Or that I just slaughtered three people in a cabin, one of which was a creature I had never encountered before. Even though I am new to this lifestyle, I would have at least thought that the inner me may have recognized it, but not even the inner me knew what the hell it was. Do you have any clue as to what that creature was?"

Staring at me, she took a moment before slowly nodding her head and gesturing for me to follow her over towards a beautiful grassy area that had pillows and blankets thrown upon it.

"The creature that you ingested is considered a Nephilim." Was she being serious? There was no way.

"I'm sorry... a what? Do you mean like the half-human thing?" I asked with complete confusion and utter shock she would even mention that word. I didn't even know those freaking things existed. I thought they were just fairy tales.

"Ivy, you were literally a celestial being, and werewolves exist as well as vampires, and you're telling me you have a hard time believing that Nephilims exist?"

She did have a point.

With everything else in the world I kept finding, it shouldn't be hard to believe there is a large index of creatures that probably inhabited the earth I had no clue about.

“OK, so why was an elder wolf, the son of an alpha and a Nephilim in a cabin 20 miles north of where I lived, and why did the Nephilim taste so good?”

“I’m not sure why the creatures were meeting, however they did have dark auras around them. Again, you know we cannot get involved. So we only merely watched, but I knew right away you found the elder to be threatening from the moment she stepped foot inside your home, did you not?” she asked, causing me to think back to the moment the elder stepped inside the home.

I had found her threatening. I had found something about her completely off. It was quite different from the conversation I had originally had on the phone with her. So something about it just didn’t add up and when she acted, the way she did out in front of the pack house was when I lost it. She wasn’t the person she was supposed to be.

“Something was wrong with her. She wasn’t the person she was supposed to be.”

“Very good,” Frigga replied as she picked up her goblet and sipped from it. “She wasn’t the person she was supposed to be because she was corrupted before you received her.”

“What do you mean, she was corrupted?”

“Remember when Priscilla and the Valkyrie came to you at the Council members chamber and told you there was one that was divine, that was looking to change the path for those on Earth?” Thinking back

to the conversation, I tried to remember exactly what had happened that day was utter chaos, so my mind was a bit fogged over.

“I think so. I don’t remember who she said it was, though.”

Nodding her head, she placed her cup down and stared at me. “Loki has escaped the Eternal realm, causing mass chaos upon Earth. You are not like the others. As I’ve told you before, you have a greater purpose. Your purpose, I cannot tell you just yet. But I will tell you it involves your children, and it is very important you protect them at all costs.”

“My children. What do you mean it involves my children? Why would anybody be after my children?” I replied with anger in my tone as I narrowed my brows at her.

How could she tell me somebody was after my children and not tell me the reason why? Or who would want to be? “You need to calm yourself, Ivy. Getting angry here will do nothing for you,” she replied, causing me to

take a deep breath in and out to calm my currently racing heart.

“My apologies. But I’m sure you’re aware as a mother yourself, learning your children are in trouble is a very painful thing to go through. So, could you please leave me some context as to what you’re referring to?”

“Of course. I can give you what I can within the realm of my ability. The rest, you and your mates, will have to figure out for yourself.”

Of course, that is her f\*\*\*\*\*g response. Nodding my head, I sighed. “OK, I will take what I can get.”

“Your children are special. They are the children of one ancient and one partially divine. The children you are bearing have, once upon a time, lived in this world a long, long time ago and every few hundred years those children are needed once again to take their place on Earth to fix what man and creature cannot.”

So like their fathers, who were once reincarnated to live upon the land again, they were doomed to do so as well. That’s just f\*\*\*\*\*g fantastic.

“I take it there is no way to change that?” I asked hopefully, but knowing the answer already. “No, Ivy. It doesn’t work like that.” “Of course not,” I frowned, pinching the bridge of my nose.

I knew I should have been acting chaotic and losing my mind, but doing so wouldn’t change anything, so why take that course of action? Taking a moment, I thought back to one thing that had been bothering me.

“The dream that I had once before about me standing within the darkness, only to come into the light and see a girl with red hair and sharp teeth. She said she was me, but she called me mother. Was that the future?” I asked hesitantly as I stared at the ground, not wanting to admit there was a part of me that knew eventually one of my twins would die.

“You saw a girl with long red hair and sharp teeth and she had celestial eyes?” With concern in her glance, she leaned forward and lifted my eyes to hers. “Ivy?”

“Yes. Initially, she said that she was me, but then she called me mother. I didn’t understand it, but then a baby cried and I turned into the darkness and left, anyway. That was when I came upon a blue and pink blanket on a grassy plain. My feet froze to the floor, and through the shadows, approached a beast. A wolf-like creature dripping with hunger, who then launched itself at my children as I screamed and jolted from my sleep. I did not see how the dream ended.”

Quickly standing at her feet, she gestured for me to follow her. I wasn’t sure where I was going, but she took me back how we came with haste.

“Listen to me carefully, Ivy. The woman was not who you think she was. The dark wolf-like creature is a foreshadow of the future, but because you woke up, the scream of

your pain saved your children and whatever disaster was about to come your way. There's still so much unknown about your future and that of your children. The universe decides what it wants. When the time is appropriate."

"Frigga, you have to tell me why you are concerned? Why are you acting like something terrible is about to happen?" I asked her as she pushed me towards the gate through which I came.

"I need to figure out a few things. Until I can explain who this person is, I can't. I have to be certain, but for now, I need you to stay where you have been. Speak with your mates about the stories they were once told by their mother. It will give you clarity, but until then, you must be strong. Listen to your instincts. The celestial inside you will guide you."

Pushed through the gate, my eyes fluttered open, and I stared at the ceiling above *me*. Whoever the woman was in my dream, she was bad enough to rattle Frigga, and that was concerning.

I had gained some clarity, but once again, was left with so many questions.

If my children were in danger.... I would find a way to protect them. No matter the cost.

#### Chapter 94: Vow of Love

Heading downstairs, I made my way towards where the laughter and conversation was taking place in the living room. Kate and my mother sat with Hale and James on the sofa, looking over the many albums mother brought.

"You didn't bring those with you..."

Her eyes looked up to mine, and as if nothing had happened at all, she smiled and nodded her head." of course I did, Ivy. I have been looking forward to the moment of sharing them with your mates *forever*."

"Of course, you have been," I sighed heavily. "I'm glad that you're here, though."

Standing to her feet, she moved toward me with a smile and wrapped her arms around me. The feeling of my mother's hug was definitely what I needed. With everything going on, I had a hard time believing I could do it without her.

"Everything is going to be okay, Ivy. I'm here now, and from what the guys were saying, you need help with the nursery."

Pulling back, I stared at my mother with a smile. "You have no idea. Nothing like learning last minute your babies are due to be here in a few weeks."

“Or sooner...” Kate added, causing my glance to land upon her as she made her way towards me and hugged me as well.

“I didn’t even know *you* were coming,” I laughed as I stood back, staring at them both. “Well, I figured that having us both would help to level the estrogen in this home a bit.”

The guys chuckled at each other when I looked at them. They held albums in their hands and whispered while pointing out different photos.

“You know, that makes the two of you look so sweet and sentimental looking at those.”

They both looked up at me with narrowed eyes as Hale lifted his middle finger. “This shits to good to pass up. Wait till Talon sees it.”

“Wait till I see what?” Talon said, walking up behind me, kissing me on the cheek. “Hey, sweetie. Are you feeling better?”

Were they really going to act like I didn’t just slaughter three people?

“Uh-yeah. Where’s Damian?” I asked, looking around as Talon moved to where James and Hale were sitting.

“He is in his office.... Oh damn, is that Ivy?” Talon exclaimed with laughter. “Look at the forehead!”

“Go f\*\*k yourselves. I was adorable,” I said, crossing my arms over my chest.

Kate and my mother began laughing at the comment as Damian’s office door opened, and he moved to stand in its doorway. “Ivy, can we talk?”

There it was. Seriously, Damian. Always looking to conduct business. “Yeah, sure,” I said as I glanced back at my mom. “I’ll be right back.”

As soon as I entered Damian’s office, he pulled me in and pressed his lips to mine. “What the hell were you thinking today, Ivy?”

His actions took me aback, and standing with hesitation, I found myself speechless. “Uh,”

“Uh, what? You could have gotten yourself f\*\*\*\*\*g killed. You’re pregnant with the future of this pack, and what you did isn’t okay.”

“Look, don’t preach to me, okay? I know what I did wasn’t exactly thought through, but there is a lot more to all of this. To be honest, there is a lot we all need to discuss.” Sighing, my shoulders sagged, not even knowing where to begin.



How was I supposed to explain to them everything that had been going on? I honestly didn't even know where to start, because it would leave so many questions unanswered.

"What are you talking about? What's going on?" he asked as he leaned against the wall staring at me.

Deciding against telling him about what Frigga said for now, I went with the information I overheard in the cabin. "Before I killed them, I heard bits and pieces of a conversation. One where the council and others are plotting to get rid of us. We're seen as a threat to a lot of people, and they want us gone."

"I kind of figured that when I went to clean up the place. It seems the council is working with some of our enemies."

"We have to be careful, Damian. If they think we are a threat, they will come here, and right now, no one can afford for war to happen," I replied, trying to make him see the point of the conversation.

"Well, that's kind of thrown out the window now. Look what happened at the cabin. They are going to want to know where the elder went. Guess what the last place that she was, was here. So what do you think is going to happen?"

I hadn't entirely thought about that when I had killed them, but thinking on it now, I finally understood what Talon had meant. "Shit."

"Oh, yes. s\*\*t is definitely right. You want to be the Luna this pack needs, you need to think about what you do before you do it. I'm not sure if there is a way for me to talk us out of this one, Ivy. They will be

out for blood."

It was clear my actions were not the best. However, I did exactly what Frigga told me I should be doing. I listened to my instincts. That woman had to die, and it led me to two others that needed to be put down as well.

"We will deal with it when it comes to it. For now, we wait and see what happens." "That isn't how this works!" he snapped at me.

Staring at him, I felt my blood boiling. "It is how this is going to work, Damian. Trust me for once, and just leave it be. When they come looking, we will tell them she left here. We have proof from others that they saw her leaving our pack territory in her car."

He was seething in anger, and honestly had every right to be, but what is done is done. There was no fixing it, and he shouldn't keep worrying. We would handle it when the time called for us to handle it.

Taking a deep breath, he nodded. "Fine, but when the time comes, you are going to learn how to fix your own mistakes, Ivy. I may not always be around to do them for you."

\*\*\*\*\*

Damian.

As soon as Ivy left my office, I felt the rage within me slowly slipping out. I was pissed, of course, because once again she had done something that had made my position as Alpha even harder.

I didn't understand why she couldn't control her urges and try to act somewhat normal. With our children on the way, and everything else on our plate, we didn't have time for more problems.

"Everything okay?" Hale said as he entered my office with concern etched in his eyes.

"No, but then again, Ivy doesn't seem to think that anything is an issue anymore. She thinks that doing nothing is the best course of action."

Holding up a bottle of scotch, he shook it in front of me with a smile. "Drink?"

"Yes, make them large," I groaned as I flopped down into my chair. "How is all of this supposed to work if she is constantly taking things into her own hands, Hale? I always feel like I have to be the bad guy in the situation, and I hate it. This isn't what I signed up for."

"No one is telling you to be the bad guy, Damian."

"Oh, no?" I scoffed as he handed me my glass. "Then why am I going to be the one who tells her no, and also has to deal with the cleanup of her killing spree?"

"She saw them as a threat, Damian. She did what any territorial wolf would do."

In a way, Hale was right, but it didn't make things any better. She had killed very important people, and that wasn't going to go over well with the people they were associated with. Instead, it was going to bring people to our doorstep looking for answers.

"We need to prepare for the worst, Hale. Just in case they come for her." Hale froze in his spot before his eyes slowly slid to me, "No. You're not going to go to that length."

"We have already discussed this, Hale. If they try to put it on Ivy, I'm going to take the blame, and you will take over as Alpha. It has to be that way."

Slamming his glass down onto the table, he glared at me with tight lips. "You're not going to take the blame for anything, because they aren't going to come. She needs you just as much as she needs the rest of us, Damian."

"That's where you're wrong," I laughed softly. "I see the way she is with the three of you. I don't have that connection with her, Hale. All I have ever done was bring her pain and misery. I'm the worst mate to have ever been matched, and I do nothing to make her happy."

"I refuse to listen to this s\*\*t, Damian," Hale sneered. "You're needed just as much as the rest of us, and if she loses you, it won't end well for the person who caused it."

Shaking my head, I tried shaking the feeling of my slowly cracking heart. To think I was nothing to her hurt me. However, I wore the pain very well, and I kept my emotions closed off so much I forgot what it was like to feel at all.

The night I had spent with Ivy was to help me remember, and even that night I often thought was nothing but a dream, simply because I felt so distant from her.

"Please, Hale. Just promise me if anything goes wrong you will take my place, and protect her as we all vowed to do." I sighed as my eyes met his once more.

As much as I knew, he didn't want to agree. He did. He nodded his head in agreement before standing to his feet and pulling me to mine into his embrace. "You better not do anything f\*\*\*\*\*g stupid, Damian. I mean it."

Hugging my brother wasn't something I had done often, and the weight of the emotions it caused me was almost overbearing. Holding myself together, I pulled from him and gestured to the door. "GO entertain our guests while I finish up here. I'll be out shortly."

Hale's gaze stayed on me for a moment longer before he nodded, and made his way out of my office. As soon as he was out, though, the slow, steady stream of tears flowed down my face.

I had failed so many times before, and I would make sure that this time I didn't. Even they came for Ivy... I would take the blame and her place. I would do whatever I had to, to protect my mate and my children. Even if it meant giving my own life to do so. I loved her too much to let her go.

## Chapter 95: Baby Shower Confrontation

Ivy.

Two weeks passed with peace, and during that time, I had accomplished getting the nursery put together with the help of the guys, my mother, and Kate. My mother and Kate stayed longer to be with us, and I was more than happy to have them here.

It meant I was able to spend more time with them both, and with the delivery date getting closer, I needed a refreshing change. Something that didn't revolve around what was going to happen and who wanted me dead.

"Hey, do you think we need to add more of the vines to that wall?" Kate asked as she stood staring at the wall above the dresser with her hand on her chin and confusion in her stance.

"I mean, I wouldn't oppose it. I think that would be cute."

She glanced at me for a moment before nodding her head. "You're right. It's way too cute to pass up."

Shaking my head, I continued to fold the baby clothes in the white basket while she had fun. I thought T had bought a lot of things, but after a long shopping trip with those two, these kids had everything they would ever need for the entire first year of their lives.

"Ivy!" my mother called out as she came searching through the rooms until her eyes landed on me. "Ah, there you are. The guests will start arriving soon."

Guests... I almost forgot that my mother had thrown a last-minute baby shower for me today. She had invited the entire pack, and made it co-ed so that the guys could be present. I wasn't sure who was going to come, though.

I wasn't exactly liked much. "Okay, okay," I smirked. "I'm coming down now."

She didn't miss a beat when she stood in front of me, staring at me with her hands on her hips. There was no way she was going downstairs without me, and as much as I wished she would, I knew this battle wasn't one I would win.

"Go, Ivy. I'll finish up here and be down in a minute."

Knowing there was no way to avoid the inevitable, I nodded, and left with my mother to go appear before the non-existent masses she believed were coming. However, when I walked down the stairs, I found myself in shock at how many people were here.

It almost looked like the entire pack had shown up for the celebration. It warmed my heart to be a part of it. To see how many people in this pack came to celebrate the future rulers that would one day inherit this all.

"Congratulations," the voices called out as I walked through the sea of people towards the back door, heading outside to where a grand event was being held.

"Mom, you really outdid yourself with this. You didn't have to go through all this trouble."

Gazing at my mother, though, I saw the wide smile on her face of pure joy. She was over the moon with the turnout, and would now talk about this day forever.

“know that I didn’t, but you are my only child, and you deserve the best. And so the best is what I plan on giving you.” The comment warmed my heart, making me even more thankful that she was here.

There were still unsaid things between her and i regarding how this all came about, but I knew that

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one day eventually, we would have that conversation. She was my mother, and she would let me know things if it were important, or when the time called upon it.

“Congratulations Luna on the arrival of your children, a woman with dark brown hair and bright green eyes said as she walked up to me, handing me a bouquet of flowers.

“Oh my goodness, these are absolutely beautiful! Thank you so much. What’s your name?” I asked, a little unsure of who the woman was. I had remembered seeing her around a few times, but I was still trying to get familiar with everybody.

“My name is Jada. I was actually going to offer you to join the mother’s circle that we have down at the park community center. I figured it would be a great way to get to know the other ladies of the pack and when the children are born, a great way for them to play with other children of the pack as well.”

The offer was more than generous and I had waited a while to have at least somebody accept me in. So for her to offer such a thing, there was no way that I could refuse. “That sounds wonderful. Please follow up with me later and make sure I get that information because I would really love to be able to join you.”

Jada smiled at me, before bowing her head in a show of respect as she continued to walk on to let another come up and speak to me. The procession went on like this for a while until every single woman had said their congratulations to me and delivered whatever gifts they had brought.

Thonestly didn’t think I needed a baby shower, considering everything was already purchased for the twins, but some gifts that were given were a lot more personal and I loved them.

One gentleman crafted a hand-painted glass mobile for the twins’ room with glass wolves dancing around a crystal moon. It was one piece that I loved the most out of everything that I had received, because the crystal moon replicated the color of my eyes.

"It looks like you've quite made out today," Hale said as he and Talon came walking up next to me. They were right. I had made out, but seeing them here with me in a coed baby shower was a relief I didn't think I would have.

"Yeah, I sure did. I don't think we're going to need anything for the children for quite some time. Between everything that we got, what my mother and Kate got, and nowhere at the baby shower, these children have things to last a lifetime."

"Ain't that the truth?" Talon chuckled before a loud commotion drew our attention towards the front of the house.

"I want you to stay here," Hale demanded as I pulled away from him.

"Get out of my way..." I replied as I pushed past him on Talon. Making my way towards the front of the pack house to see what was going on.

It wasn't exactly the greatest of ideas to put myself in the middle of something in my condition because the babies could be here within two weeks. But if something was going on, it was my responsibility to see what it was.

Coming around to the front of the House, three black cars came into view. All of them carrying security guards from the council's chambers. My heart dropped to the pit of my stomach.

"What in the hell is going on?" I asked as my crystalline eyes showed clear and bright to anyone who was currently in my presence. They had grabbed Damien, who was pushing them off as James was held back from whatever commotion was taking place.

"Luna Ivy, the ancient one. It's a pleasure to see you," replied a dark-haired older man who stepped out from behind the shadows of his security guards.

He didn't look like the type of man that would particularly be a council member, but as he stepped closer, something inside of me snapped. There was something wrong with him, just as there had been once before with the elder Harrison, and I wasn't sure what it was.

+25 Points

But it was something I would not let anywhere near my children.

A deep growl left my throat as I bared my teeth at him. "Do not step any closer to me. I demand that you unhand my mates. For everyone's safety."

"Are you threatening the Council, Luna?" the man asked in a very stern voice, as if he was trying to intimidate me.

“There’s no need to threaten you. If I wanted you taken care of, you would have been dead the minute you stepped forward, however... that is not the case. I demand you unhand them and explain to me why you’re here ruining my baby shower.”

He stared at me for a moment, before laughter quickly left his lips, and he gestured with his hand for the men to allow Damian and James free.

“We are here because two weeks ago, one of our council people disappeared. Later on, they were found completely torn apart, as well as the son of a fellow alpha. Now, the alpha’s son, we have no idea why he was where he was, but the elder was last seen here...”

“Yes, I’m aware that the elder was last seen here,” I replied, as if it was the most obvious answer there ever had been. “But what do you mean that she’s dead? She was literally just here two weeks ago. When she left, she told me she would love to accept the invitation to come to the baby shower. If you check our cameras, you can see that she had taken off. We have security cameras at the guard shacks to monitor who comes in and out. I can assure you she left in her vehicle.”

There was a slight pause as his gaze drifted from mine to Damien’s and then back to me. “You are a lot more cooperative than your mate is. He wouldn’t allow us to obtain anything, but you’re telling me you can show proof from footage at your guard shack that Elder Harrison did indeed leave by herself in her vehicle from your property?”

“Why yes, I can. Actually, if you would like, I can have that information sent over to you this afternoon. Of course, I hope you would be considerate of the current events going on and allow us to continue my shower and then have that information sent over afterwards. There’s only about two hours left,” I replied, smiling sweetly at him.

I knew the footage was there, and it was the only footage I could give him because it was the only footage that didn’t implicate us. However, his eyes gazed up at the camera at the corner of the roof of the house and swirling ideas seemed to develop in his mind.

“I’d like the footage from that camera as well. Do you think you might manage that so it shows she got into the car in one piece?”

“As much as I would love to give you that, I can’t,” I replied with a frown. “And why can’t you? Are you guilty?” he sneered at me as his eyes narrowed.

“No,” I laughed. “While Elder Harrison was here, we had construction going on. We were having some remodeling for the new nursery, and the people who were remodeling hit an electrical line, and it fried some of the circuit.”

“I see. That sounds very convenient because of the current situation,” the gentleman said. “Do you have proof of this?”

“Of course I do. I can actually send you a copy of the invoice from the day that it was called. The situation that had happened, and when they actually came out to fix it, if you would like.”

Taking a moment, he thought over everything I said as he ran his tongue across his teeth. He quickly glanced back at another man that was with him.

“It seems the Luna and her mates are more than willing to helping us figure out what happened to the elder. Isn’t that correct, Luna?” he said before turning back to me. “Just to clear things up, could you tell me where you *were* that night?”

“Of course, I can. My mother and my best friend Kate actually came that very evening. They’ve been

+25 Points

ere for the last two weeks. They’re from a neighboring pack down in Georgia.”

No matter what the elder asked, i had an answer for everything. I was surprised Damian himself Hidn’t speak up. Instead, he stood quietly with a stern glare across his face and his lips tightly met.

“Brilliant. I do apologize for the misunderstanding. I have no problem waiting. As soon as your shower is over, if you could please get that information to me, that would be much appreciated, and I hope that you will offer your services. Of course, in order to help us find out exactly who had done this.”

Knowing he had nothing else to ask. He was quickly wrapped up in the rest of the conversation, standing unsteadily on his feet as he gestured for the men to get back into their vehicles.

“Of course, I will make sure to get everything to you this afternoon.”

“Very good.” Turning his attention to Damian, I watched the man glare before letting a look of amusement pass over him. “I will see you around, Damian.”