

# Betrayed

Lucas was using all his restraint to resist carrying Emmaline inside to peel her out of her dress. Haley was one of a kind. Dylan linked me, “I will wind up and set King Alpha Prick loose on anyone who tries to change Haley. It’s so easy for me to do. He has such a hair pin trigger. I love her so much. Do you SEE Lacy in that dress?”

I had to agree, “I’ll dial his number or take you to him. My little sister looks all grown up and beautiful.” The limo driver got things moving. Dylan linked me, “The private theater? Lacy has wanted to go there since we were kids. Did you tell Haley?” I replied, “No, but Eric knows. I’m sure he told her.”

Dylan snorted, “I REFUSE to be thankful to King Alpha Prick. Haley is all knowing until proven otherwise. Don’t you even think of asking him either. It’s Schrodinger’s cat.” I rolled my eyes.

When they left Dominic growled at me. “I want to take mate right now.” I admitted, “So do I, but we have a date night to get to.” Dominic grumbled his displeasure. I decided to throw him a bone. I picked Emmaline up and carried her inside the house. I couldn’t stop myself from kissing her. Dominic purred, “Mate wants us too, make a move, human!” I growled at him, “She deserves to have a nice date.” Dominic growled, “MUST you make sense right now?”

It got us moving though. Emmaline popped us to our destination. I quickly lead her up to the loft. I was taken aback when I saw it. Haley had gone above and beyond. I smiled when I looked over at Emmaline. I was going to take this to heart. Emmaline loved this whole thing. I could do this for her occasionally. Especially since we didn’t need to drive or fly anywhere. She could pop us in and out. That would make it easier since we did need to be there for our pack. A night away was doable.

We toured the loft, Emmaline practically salivated over the hot tub. I was determined that no matter how much growling Dominic did, we’d do whatever Emmaline wanted today. If she just wanted to go to bed after our date that’s what would happen. I’d join her after a very long, cold shower on my part.

Looking at Emmaline’s dress I had to wonder what Haley was thinking with her suggestion of touring the park here. Emmaline was wearing heels. She wouldn’t want to walk around and get sweaty. I could get us a car to drive around.

A man with a black top hat called to us. I linked Eric, “Did your wife get us a horse drawn carriage?” Eric laughed, “Did she not mention that?” I snorted, “No. He said bibbidi bobbidi boo to us.” Eric just replied laughing.

Horses didn’t typically like wolves, but this one seemed fine with me. Haley’s suggestion of the park made more sense given Emmaline’s outfit with this added detail. I glared at several admirers throwing glances towards Emmaline. Our coachmen got us the General Jackson right on time. We really did need this. I made a mental note that as a couple we needed to escape the craziness sometimes, I was going to remember that.

As soon as we got on board the boat, Emmaline was swarmed with women asking about her dress. I heard my name called, “Mr. Lyons?” I turned and the captain smiled at me, “You look just like your picture. Your clue is underneath your seat for dinner.” I asked, “Where was it originally?” He smiled, “I was just going to hand it to you. Mrs. Connors wanted to put it on our paddle wheel, but I told her that was not possible. I do not think that woman often hears the word impossible.” I smiled, “She does not. She makes things happen.”

The captain smiled, “Her husband is a lucky man then, as are you. Your fiancée is quite beautiful.” I smiled back at Emmaline, “That she is. Thank you for the information.” The captain nodded, “Enjoy the dinner and the show.” I nodded to him as he walked away to greet other guests.

I turned as Dominic let a low growl out at several men. Two were even werewolves that immediately scattered. I couldn’t take my eyes off the way Emmaline’s ass looked in her dress. Haley was trying to kill me slowly with her fashion choices. The dress even had a slit this time, which meant she’d remembered our conversation in Faerie.

When we were seated, I pulled an envelope out from under the table. I felt a key inside and relaxed. This was finished. She’d given me the key to where my collection must be held. Thank god. I would look at it later. Right now, it was just about us. I didn’t watch a single moment of the performances. I was captivated by my mate. Her eyes sparkled with delight as she ate, drank, and took in the entertainment. It ended all too soon.

Once we got back into our carriage, she wanted to go get milkshakes. When we were back in the carriage, I asked where she wanted to go next. Maybe dancing? I’d have to keep her glued to my side. I was a little surprised she wanted to go back to the loft until I remembered she wanted to use the hot tub.

Dominic growled, "I want to get her out of that dress." I sighed, "So do I, but we fucked up. This is her night." Dominic mumbled, "You fucked up. I'm just along for the ride." I rolled my eyes, "You didn't offer a single alternative suggestion." Dominic was quiet after that.

Once we got back, I paid the coachman. He assured me, "That's not necessary, Mr. Lyons. I have already been paid." I gave him the money, "I insist you take the tip. You made my fiancée so happy this evening." The man nodded his thanks.

I took Emmaline upstairs. Dancing with her in the loft was much better than the club. When she kissed me, I barely managed to pull back. I was on the cusp of losing control to Dominic. Dominic huffed, "Blame the wolf, we're easy targets. You want her too." Before I could respond to him Emmaline told me she didn't want me to stop.

Dominic said, "Green light. If you don't take her right now, I'll take control and lock you away all night long." I growled, practically sprinting towards the bedroom carrying Emmaline in my arms. I teased her. Dominic growled, "Why aren't we inside her yet?" I retorted, "We are taking our time." Dominic grumbled until I finally pulled her dress off her. I was painfully hard realizing she hadn't been wearing a bra all night. I was going to pleasure her all night long.

I wanted to give her a massage first. I took my time, loving the feel of her skin under my fingertips. Her arousal grew the longer I worked on her muscles. It was an intoxicating scent to me. Once I'd finished, I played with her some more. Tasting her skin; desire exploded within me.

After I put Emmaline's hand on myself, I couldn't control the need to be inside her. Dominic yelled, "FINALLY!" I ignored him; slowly building us to release. I was going to take her harder later, but this time I wanted to be sweet and tender.

Emmaline got up way too soon after we finished and began sashaying around wiggling her ass. She popped to the shower, and I let Dominic take over. Emmaline started popping all over the shower to get away from me. I hoped she knew what she was getting into. Dominic and I were both riled up.

When I caught her, I fucked her hard against the shower wall. She just screamed for more and Dominic willingly gave it to her. She could barely talk when we were done. Dominic was preening in delight. She popped away to the hot tub. Her actions in it were unexpected but welcomed.

When we got out Emmaline wanted to race for the bedroom. Dominic laughed, "Mate is so funny. We are much faster than she is." I gave her a head start, and still had her

the second she walked in the room. I threw her over my shoulder before laying her down on the couch. We spent the evening inside each other. After our last round, her breathing evened out. I chuckled, realizing she had fallen asleep.

I carried her to the bedroom, carefully laying her down on the bed after pulling back the covers for her. I cleaned us both off, before sliding in beside her. I turned her alarm off on her phone. It was going to go off in three hours, and she needed more sleep than that. I pulled her to me kissing her forehead as I drifted off to sleep with her.

I woke up at eleven o'clock in the morning pleasantly surprised to see Emmaline still sleeping. I got up and walked into the kitchen. I saw a note on the counter.

Emmaline or My Lion,

I had the fridge stocked with food and conjured clothes just in case you wanted something comfy.

FGM

I smiled as I opened the refrigerator. I started the bacon and pancakes before throwing on the eggs. I ate the first batches of everything to make sure it tasted good, then got out a tray and prepared to feed Emmaline breakfast in bed. Just as I'd finished preparing her plate by adding in some fruit to eat, I heard her call my name.

I fed her and had my own Emmaline dessert. I was grateful Haley gave us this trip. We were back to normal. Before agreeing to walk around I linked my dad, "Emmaline and I are still here. Is everything ok?" My dad replied, "You know I used to run this pack, son. I can handle it while you have time with our Emmy." I teased, "Of course you can."

Emmaline's eyes sparkled in every story we went into. She debated buying some sparkly pair of boots until I told her to go for it. I took her to grab lunch before we headed back to the loft. I could feel her reluctance to go back. I led her to the couch and turned on the tv. We watched some cheesy movie as we snuggled on the couch. Once it was over, I promised her we could do this regularly.

Her response startled me somewhat. She didn't want anything fancy, just me. I had the money to give her whatever she wanted. The women I'd gone out with before or that I'd fucked had wanted the title and power that comes with my position. My money definitely didn't hurt, but Emmaline didn't care. She just wanted my time.

Eventually, Emmaline popped us back to the main room of our home. Lacy was gushing about her date with Dylan. Dylan linked me, “Our fun sized ninja fairy is goddess. I’ve decided the fairies have the full-blooded fairy goddess, and a partial fairy goddess; it’s obviously Haley.”

I didn’t want to talk about how we all smelled like each other. I put a lot of brain power every damn morning into not thinking about that when Dylan walked into my office reeking of my sister. We all sat down to discuss our dates.

I linked Dylan, “I’m guessing all is well. Keep in mind, I’m asking for G rated details. That’s my baby sister.” Dylan gleefully filled me in, “We are all good. I feel the need to point out she’s a woman now. My woman and boy, does angry Lacy get it going...” I slammed our link shut and shivered.

I focused on the conversation in front of me. I linked my dad, “Why don’t you like the name Landon?” My dad smirked, “It’s fun to argue sometimes when it’s all in good fun. Landon is a fine name.” I asked, “So, my little brother’s name is Landon?” My dad responded, “Of course it is. Look how happy she is.” He looked at my mom with such love. I had to shake my head at the shenanigans.

Gemma came and announced dinner. We were mid meal when Emmaline almost dropped in her seat. I felt in my chest she suddenly felt so tired. I frowned as she walked away to go to bed. My mom laughed, “You tired her out, Lucas. You are aware she needs sleep, right?” I watched the stairs, “She slept until after eleven o’clock today. She normally gets up and going by four to train. She’s never this tired.”

Lacy bit her lip. I asked her, “What?” Lacy timidly asked, “Could she be pregnant or something?” I shook my head, “She’s on birth control, and Haley would’ve told her.”

I took out my phone to call Eric. He answered grunting, “Lucas, this has better be good.” I quickly said, “I’m sorry to interrupt whatever it is I’m interrupting...” Dylan chimed in, “I’m not sorry, not even a little bit.” Eric growled.

I shot Dylan a look then asked, “Can fairies get pregnant outside their concupiscence? Did Haley notice Emmaline glowing?” Eric sighed. Haley answered, “Hello, my lion. Those with supernatural mates who they share their light with cannot get pregnant outside their concupiscence from what Aiden and Marcious have found. Katie doesn’t have very much fairy blood, so she can. Emmaline wasn’t glowing the last time I saw her... Why? Did you mess up my damn near perfect fairy godmother date?”

I snorted, “No, she just slept in late today, and then almost fell asleep at the table just now. She feels exhausted in my chest. It was very sudden.” Haley was quiet then

asked, "What did she eat?" I frowned, "What we all ate. Steak, mashed potatoes, and salad." Haley questioned, "Who prepared it?"

I raised an eyebrow, "Our cook, Gemma. I trust her implicitly. She's my Gamma's mate." Haley asked, "Does anyone else have access to the food?" I growled, "It's in the pack house. She's not sick, just tired." Haley explained, "It's rare for a fairy to be that tired that quickly out of seemingly nowhere. Especially after getting a lot of sleep." I assured myself, "She's fine. She's upstairs sleeping." Haley said, "Either you put a guard on your room my lion, or I'll send one. This is not normal."

I stared at the phone in shock. I linked Brad, "Get to the house, and guard my room." I linked Dylan, "Get people on the border." Dylan nodded. Lacy asked, "Wouldn't we get tired too?" Haley said, "You aren't susceptible to the same things as fairies. Just as if your food was spiked with wolfsbane or silver it wouldn't affect Emmaline. If her food was laced with Iron or sangied it wouldn't affect you."

Lead hit my stomach. I asked, "Sangied? As in the plant, that knocks fairies unconscious, and makes them unable to wake up for a period of hours if not days. That's not a rumor?" Haley replied, "No, it's not. It can make us tired and susceptible to attack." Eric added, "Call if you need us to come."

I asked, "Haley, can you heal Emmaline?" Haley sighed, "She's not actually injured. Had she ingested iron, yes, I could. Right now, she's just tired. I can't heal that. At least, I don't think I can. I'll call Aiden and ask. Let us know if anything changes." We hung up.

I got up as Brad ran inside and went upstairs. I ordered, "Lacy, mom, go sit with Emmaline." They both nodded wide eyed. I ran to the pack house and banged on Gemma and Alex's door. He answered, "Lucas? What happened?" I said, "I need Gemma."

Gemma hurried to the door, "Lucas, what's wrong?" I questioned, "Who helped you prepare the food tonight?" Gemma frowned, "An Omega. I watched her; she didn't do anything wrong. Was the steak undercooked?" I said, "Haley Connors suspects Emmaline's food was laced with Sangied." Gemma gasped, "No! Is that even real?" I nodded, "It is."

Alex asked, "Who would do that?" I told him, "I don't know." I turned knowing who followed me, "Dylan, go over every moment with Gemma. Alex, pull the feeds. Someone did this. I'm going to call Dustin." Dylan nodded and began to walk through the meal preparation with Gemma.

I began to walk away then turned back, “Gemma.” She looked at me. I assured her, “I know you had nothing to do with this. I just want you to know that I have absolute trust and faith in you.” Gemma assured me, “None of my staff would do this, I swear that to you.” I hoped she was right.

I called Dustin. He answered on the second ring, “Lucas? Is Evie ok?” I sighed, “She’s not injured. Somehow her food got laced with Sangied, or Haley suspects it did.” Dustin gasped, “I’m coming.” I frowned, “You’ve heard of it.” Dustin said, “Of course. Witches use it to incapacitate fairies. We have for centuries.”

I was surprised, “Haley didn’t mention that.” Dustin said, “I doubt she knows. Fairies know they have a weakness for it, but she doesn’t seem to hang around many witches on purpose. You need us because this means Alpha Hammond is likely coming.”

I groaned, “Valerie is in heat which means Ryan can’t leave her.” Dustin sounded like he was running, “I know. Aubree and I will be there shortly. I’ll call Katie.” Five minutes later a portal opened, and Logan, Katie, Benjamin, and Harper came through. Katie ran up to our room to see Emmaline.

Logan’s eyes blazed, “If Hammond comes, he’s a dead man.” I sighed looking at the time. Dylan came out of the pack house and joined us. I told them all, “We need to set up a schedule. We are on high alert. Dustin has informed me that witches are aware of what Sangied does to a fairy, and they use it to their advantage not irregularly.”

Dylan frowned, “There’s no witch on the list Gemma gave to me.” I sighed, “We have a traitor among us.” Dylan growled, “I SHALL find this culprit who ruined the FGM date glow. They are on my shit list. They are a glow ruiner and they will suffer.” Logan laughed.

I said, “Let’s get to the office. We won’t be caught unaware, but I won’t have us all be exhausted when Hammond arrives.” I texted Eric the update. A pop sounded and Eric and Haley were now in my office. Haley gave him a kiss on the cheek and popped away.

Eric told me, “She went to see Emmaline.” I nodded as Dustin burst into my office with Aubree in tow. He kissed Aubree on the head, “Aubree, go check on Evie please.” She nodded and made a beeline for the stairs. Dustin questioned, “What happened?” I admitted, “We must have a traitor to the pack.” Dustin’s eyes narrowed, “Then they will pay for doing this to my little sister.”

Alex came in. By the look on his face, I knew it wasn’t good. I asked, “Who?” Alex sighed, “Someone who knows about the camera’s. After Gemma and her staff

prepared the food, the feed was turned off for seven minutes, then back on. None of the other camera's caught even a shadow." I growled in anger.

I had to focus on what I could do right now. I made the schedule taking the first shift. Once mine ended Dylan said, "Go close those eyes of yours. We can't have your mate waking up and discovering you didn't get your beauty sleep. She might pop to Faerie in terror." I nodded.

Eric and Haley took my place. Haley smiled at me, "She's alright, she's just sleeping." Dustin muttered, "For now." Haley turned, "What do you mean?" Dustin said, "There are two reasons to do this." Haley tilted her head, "I know that. To make her easier to take or kill. He wants to take her, not kill her."

Dustin added, "Or to make her mentally susceptible." I growled, "To another illusion?" Dustin shook his head, "No you have to be awake for that. I'm worried he's going to take her to a trance plane. It's expensive though, so it's a long shot. He's probably coming to try to get her when she can't pop away." I nodded, "We will be ready no matter what." Dustin shook my hand, "We will."

I stumbled upstairs to sleep beside Emmaline. I woke with a start four hours later only to find Emmaline was still asleep. I growled then headed downstairs. Gemma was in the kitchen. She assured me, "I did the shopping myself. No one has touched the food but me today." I squeezed her hand gently, "Thank you, Gemma." She started to cry, "I'm so sorry about this." I told her, "It's not your fault. We are supposed to be safe inside our territory among our pack." I linked Alex, "Gemma needs you, she's at my house." He replied, "On my way."

I ate my food then went out to get a report. Dylan was already there, "I know. You want to know things, but I have nothing. We have seen nothing." Nick called before he could say anything else. I answered, "Nick."

He sounded worried, "Lucas, our patrols have noticed your pack warriors running our border. What's going on?" I explained the situation to him then apologized, "I'm sorry, I should've called." Nick said, "Don't worry about it. We will be on alert now as well."

At noon Ryan called Dustin. Dustin answered, "Hi, Ryan." Ryan sounded blissed out happy, "Where are you guys? Valerie's heat ended thirty minutes ago. I texted you the all clear but didn't hear back from either of you."

Dustin explained, "We are in Blue Moon. Evie's food was laced with Sangied." Ryan yelled, "AND YOU DIDN'T CALL ME?" Dustin responded calmly, "You couldn't



have done anything that I'm not doing. Valerie needed you." Ryan gritted out, "I'm taking Aubree's car. Val's still out, I'll just put her in the car. I'm coming." He hung up.

Eric commented, "Valerie will be asleep for at least six hours. A she wolf is exhausted when her heat ends." Ryan had just arrived when terror gripped me. I went to my knees before I realized what it was. I yelled, "EMMALINE!"

I ran up the stairs faster than I had in my entire life. Lacy was shaking Emmaline demanding, "Wake up, Emmaline! WAKE UP!" Emmaline's mouth was bleeding, and her lip was split. Her face was turning purple. She couldn't breathe.

I yelled, "WHAT THE FUCK!" Haley, Eric, Dylan, my parents, Logan, and Emmaline's siblings ran into the room. Ryan was incredulous, "He took her to a trance plane?" Dustin gulped while Katie started to cry. She told us, "We haven't had a chance to get the right ingredients to counteract this yet. Some take days."

Haley quickly asked, "Katie, what do you need?" Katie said, "Space unheard." Haley chanted. Thankfully, Emmaline gasped for breath. Dominic took over and snarled, "I'll kill him. I'll RIP HIS THROAT OUT!" Eric put a hand on me,

but he didn't say anything. His eyes had gone black too.

Haley conjured Katie what she needed and the Bishop siblings got to work. Haley said, "Lucas, you should touch her. Her soul cannot be disconnected from you. She will know we are coming." I didn't need to be told twice. I gripped her shoulders assuring her, "We are coming, baby girl. We will get you out of this trance. I promise."

She whispered my name. I cried into her hair, "I'm coming for you. Your siblings are going to bring you back to me." I turned to Aubree, "How can he hurt her? Her body is here?" Aubree sighed, "Technically, she is here. He made her mental defenses weak so he could attack her mind. He's in her head. She's really strong mentally for it to take this long for the witches to penetrate her mind."

I growled, "WHY is she bleeding?" Aubree flinched, "He must have hit her." I growled, "So you're saying he could rape her in this plane trance place?" Dustin and Ryan hissed. Katie gripped Logan's hand and began to pale. Aubree had a few tears running down her cheeks as well. Aubree answered quietly, "Yes, he could. It's just as real to her as us standing here talking."

Haley snorted, “Then I can heal her.” Dustin said, “Wait. He doesn’t know we know yet, or that we have the supplies to get her out.” Haley frowned, “Fine.” I growled as Katie, Dustin and Ryan started chanting.

Aubree said, “I’m going to join them so we can break the connection faster.” I barely nodded. I focused on Emmaline. Her eyes began to flutter. I yelled, “It’s working! She’s waking up.”

They kept going and suddenly Emmaline was reaching out wildly. I grunted when she managed to punch me directly in the face. Eventually, she sat up and looked around. I felt her devastation and panic when she realized she’d hit me. I’d taken harder hits and could give a fuck less. I needed to know she was ok. I needed to know what happened to her.

The second Emmaline noticed Haley; she calmed down. Eric linked me, “As her cousin, Haley’s presence calms Emmaline more than just being a fairy does. Apparently, it has to do with being her princess too.” I nodded.

Haley healed both Emmaline and me. I was able to relax when Emmaline didn’t have bruises on her throat or blood trickling down her face. I linked Eric, “She met his dead mate? WHAT is happening?” Eric shrugged, “I’m going to guess it’s some weird fairy shit.” I was inclined to agree.

Because I’d relaxed, I was a second too late trying to grab onto Emmaline when she popped herself and Haley out of the room. I yelled, “Come the fuck on!” Eric growled, “Agreed.” Logan said, “That was a Haley move if I ever saw one.” I growled, “Great! They are rubbing off on each other.”

Eric growled angrily. I whirled to face him, “What?” He told me, “Haley felt slightly panicked, now she’s fighting.” I quickly said, “I’ll link Emmaline.” Eric shook his head, “Don’t. If they are fighting, they need to focus.”

I growled at him, and he met my stare. He linked me, “I’m right, Lucas. That distraction could cost them their lives and you know it. We don’t know what they are up against.” I paced the floor with Eric. Not even Dylan said a word.

Katie’s sobs echoed in the room as Logan held her to him. He pulled out his phone demanding, “Gunner, I need you to tell me where Haley is.” We heard Gunner sigh, “What did the Haley do now? I’m kind of busy.” We heard Harper say, “Come back to bed, Haley is fine! She feels victorious in the bond. Her wolf is in for celebratory sex. Cali and I want you back.”

We heard a pop, I turned to see Emmaline with a pup. I took a beat to adjust to how natural she looked with a pup in her arms. Dominic wanted to take her and put our pup in belly immediately. Eric voiced the fact that she came back alone. Shit.

Emmaline's guilt hit my chest like a freight train when she said she didn't know vampires had Charlie. Dominic commented, "The pups name must be Charlie." Logan yelled at Gunner. Gunner replied, "I got it! I've got my laptop open. I'll have her location in..." Haley popped into the room elated from her fight.

Eric kissed her hard. Gunner muttered, "She could not give us all heart attacks every damn day. I'm going to relieve my stress now. Goodbye, Logan. Tell Hales to call Harper, me, and Cali later."

Emmaline said she needed Sam's Aunt and Uncle. I had no clue what Thomas and Lynn had to do with this, but I linked Thomas, "I need you and Lynn in the main house, in my rooms. Right now." Thomas replied, "I'll grab Lynn, and we will be there shortly." I didn't reply.

I linked Dylan, "Keep the patrol's running. Let the pups and she wolf's resume their regular schedules." Dylan nodded, "Things are getting weird, and that's coming from me. First, we had illusions and now plane trances... I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT IS! I liked it better when we admired witches from afar, and they left us to our own business. My Beta text chat is activated. They are getting us all the answers." I locked eyes with him, "Thanks, Dylan. I'm sure her siblings will explain, but..." Dylan snorted, "Yeah, but they are not Dylan or Dylan's Beta think tank." He wasn't wrong.

I turned to Emmaline, "Thomas and Lynn are on the way. Explain. Whose pup is this?" Haley snapped a diaper bag full of things pups need. She cooed at the baby, "Let's get you out of that dirty onesie." She put a changing station down after pulling it from the bag.

All of us growled and she gasped in shock when she took off the onesie. There were burns all over the pup's body. Haley's eyes blazed with anger. Her tone was sweet when she cooed, "Don't you worry, Charlie. Auntie Haley will fix this right now. No more pain for baby Charlie. The bad people are fucking dead too, so don't you worry." The pup giggled at her.

I linked Eric, "Who the hell would do that to a pup?" Eric replied, "Vampires and a witch evidently. You do realize that's likely Alpha Hammond's daughter, right?" I looked back at Emmaline admitting, "I was getting that sense, yes." Eric was trying to reign in his fury as Haley healed the pup.

Eric linked me, “I say we go on a vampire and witch killing spree in Missouri. Are you in?” I winced, “We can’t declare war on Missouri.” Eric growled, “We can. They basically already did. This is twice now.”

I linked Dylan, “Get Jackson on the phone, and get him here. Maybe even Caleb. Bexley can bring them or something.” Dylan looked at Eric, “If he’s suggesting war; I hate to say it, but I agree with King Alpha Prick. You know I hate doing that, but this is twice. They are hurting pups now, that’s just low. Lacy is steaming mad.”

I sighed, “Get Jackson and Caleb here anyway.” Dylan nodded. Haley finished healing Charlie. Thomas and Lynn walked in as Haley changed her diaper then put on a clean onesie. Lynn charged forward, “Thomas.... It’s... how is this possible?”

She took the pup from Haley and cooed at her, “I’ve seen you in my dreams little Charlie Rose. I’m here now, you are safe.” Thomas went over to his wife and put his arms around them. They already looked like a family.

Emmaline smiled, “Millie said you had to take her. She insisted that Charlie was yours.” Thomas cleared his throat asking, “Millie?” She nodded, “I don’t know her last name but oddly her name is my name with a letter difference.”

Dustin sucked in a breath as did Thomas. Dustin asked, “This is Emmeline Ryder’s daughter?” My eyes widened as I looked at Eric. Emmaline frowned, “I don’t know her last name.” Thomas asked, “She’s dead then? Emmeline would never give up her pup.”

I frowned this time, “You know her?” Thomas nodded, “We are related, on my mother’s side. I think she’s my third cousin or something.” Dustin tilted his head, “That’s why she wants you to have her then. You have witch blood.” Thomas shrugged, “Very little.” Ryan muttered, “Which is clearly enough.”

Emmaline commented, “She’s Alpha Hammond’s daughter too.” I groaned, “Why did Millie want you to bring her here? Hammond will attack us to get her back.” Emmaline shook her head, “He didn’t know Millie was pregnant. She said he rejected her before she could tell him. She was hurt, and then she got kidnapped. She realized he was trying to protect her, but it was too late.” So, she was able to be taken because she was weakened from the rejection and recovering. Damn.

Haley sighed, “If she was taken by vampires and gave birth.... They probably drained her. I’m guessing that wasn’t the plan, but the baby was with vampires. It stands to reason they drained Emmeline.”

Katie snorted, “Emmeline Ryder has a lot of enemies. She wasn’t the most liked person out there. She was really powerful though.” Thomas said, “She was bitter she couldn’t find her wick or her birth parents. She channeled that into taking over covens. She has an adoptive sister who found her wick over a decade ago. Emmeline was happy for her, but it hurt her all the same. She couldn’t stand to be around after that. Her sister’s wick got sick, and Andie begged Emmeline to come home about five months ago.”

I perked up, “An adopted sister? Named Andie...?” Dylan linked me, “It couldn’t be that simple. Nothing is anymore.” I looked at him, “We are owed a break.” Thomas nodded, “I never met Andie or her mate, but I know he died. They had a son, but Andie lost it when her mate died. She left him with relatives somewhere.”

I groaned, “So we have a partial witch, werewolf out there all alone somewhere?” Thomas shook his head, “The mate was a partial werewolf who didn’t have a wolf himself. Andie’s not a witch, you could call her a wiccan though. She just called her mate a wick because Emmeline did when they were kids.”

Lynn said, “Charlie needs her sleep. We need to go get stuff for her.” Haley handed her the diaper bag. I heard a pop. Thankfully, Bexley had brought Caleb and Jackson. Eric raised an eyebrow at me. Bexley smiled, “Aww, what a cutie. Haley linked me the situation. I’ll conjure whatever you need for this little one at your cottage.” They left together.

The second the door shut I lamented, “Emmaline, what were you thinking? You popped Haley and yourself straight into danger.” Emmaline shuffled, “I didn’t think vampires had Charlie. I promised Millie I’d get her baby to safety so she would stop screaming at me. She said we had an unwilling traitor among us.”

Dylan linked me, “Could the weirdly spelled Emmeline named witch be helpful and give us a name? I’m betting no but hope springs eternal and all.” I asked her out loud, “Who is the traitor?” Emmaline sighed, “She didn’t say.” Dylan grumbled, “Of course not. No one EVER helps me. Disrespectful and rude, that’s what this is.”

Ryan chimed in, “She wouldn’t. Emmeline Ryder was renowned for enjoying making people figure out things themselves. She would only give enough of the puzzle to get people on the right path. She thought if they were smart enough, they’d figure it out and if not; they’d die.”

Emmaline sighed, “Anyway, Alpha Hammond has someone’s daughter.” I growled interrupting, “No one in our pack is missing.” Emmaline shook her head, “She’s not in our pack. It’s someone from Hammond’s pack. Someone’s daughter from this pack

was mated to someone in his. He is holding her hostage to make our pack member help him.” I growled, “It’s treason all the same.” Emmaline argued, “It’s for their daughter though, they are probably scared” I gave her a look and linked, “Not another word on the subject out loud.” She frowned at me but said nothing.

I speculated to the group, “In theory Alpha Hammond wanted Emmaline at first because I let Christy die. Alpha Hammond’s brother’s mate HAS to be Christy’s foster sister or whatever she calls herself, which is Andie. Andie was distraught over her mate’s death, then her foster sister’s subsequent death. She asked Hammond to avenge Christy. Hammond then meets Emmaline a few days after his mate died, because that pup is about a month old. Then he decides wants to replace his lost mate with mine because of her damn name.”

Dylan chimed in, “I would just like to say, I could’ve recapped this for everyone with pizzaz. Don’t worry, my memo will be entertaining the masses.” I continued, “Anyway, a member of my pack, instead of coming to me, is betraying us. Feeding Alpha Hammond information that could lead to their Luna being kidnapped. Oh, and let’s not forget they drugged their Luna. Did I miss anything?”

Dylan whispered, “Dramatic flair. I’ll fix it later, have no fear.” Eric said, “You missed that his pup, that he doesn’t know about, is here. Being raised by members of your pack.” I growled, “Wonderful.”

Dylan clapped, “I mean, it kind of is. It’s such a trump card. His mate didn’t even want him to raise his daughter. We are superior in all ways. I’m just saying, that’s either some petty mate revenge, or a sign. I choose a combination. It’s petty but also a sign we are awesome.”

Emmaline asked, “Drugged? Is that why I felt so tired?” I nodded, “Yes, you were drugged by one of our own. Our pack members know if they come to me with problems; I will help them. We could’ve solved this together. Instead, they chose to act against me.”

Emmaline thought about it then asked, “Can’t we ask Alpha Chase’s brother, Alpha Cameron, who’s missing? Didn’t he take over Alpha Hammond’s pack?” Dustin snorted, “If your cousin hadn’t slaughtered everyone standing in her way that day, we might have already had an idea.”

Eric growled at him. Haley popped and tackled Dustin to the ground. Logan, with eyes blazing gold, ripped her off Dustin. Haley yelled at him, “THEY HAD MY CHILDREN! AND MY MATE! What would you have done? My cousin Bexley was

pretending to be Emmaline. She was, technically speaking, IN DANGER! Your brother killed twenty people because Valerie was dying, you fucking hypocrite!”

Logan dragged her out of the room. He spoke softly, “Hales, calm down!” She yelled, “CALM DOWN? CALM DOWN! When in the HISTORY of saying the words calm down has it worked?! NEVER! That’s when. THAT ASS!” Logan agreed, “Yes, he’s an ass. You did what you had to do that day, little sister.” Their voices died down.

Dustin rubbed his face, “I didn’t mean that she did anything wrong.” Emmaline sighed, “It’s a sore subject, Dusty.” Dustin nodded, “I’ll apologize to her.” I looked over and spotted Dylan munching on popcorn.

I growled, “FOR GOD’S SAKE DYLAN! ENOUGH with the popcorn.” Dylan shoveled more popcorn into his mouth, speaking with a mouthful, “I’ll forgive you for this kerfuffle. Poor Alpha Sleep Tyrant is so tired, and he needs his beauty sleep. I warned you that you’d scare the villagers and your mate without said beauty sleep. ‘Enough with the popcorn he says.’ I NEED it for my show, and you know this. I didn’t even have to say any words to wind up King Alpha Prick over there. He’s just waiting to be let go. I could get him going, but I haven’t. Gosh, my restraint is legendary. I’m such a good person.”

Dustin backtracked, “I was just saying Alpha Chase’s brother might not know someone is missing because of the slaughter that occurred.” Eric growled, “Haley wouldn’t have hurt anyone who didn’t come at her. They are in a transitional time, but if Alpha Cameron doesn’t know already; he might have a traitor as well.”

Eric strode over to Dustin and promptly punched him in the jaw. Dustin dropped like a rock, Eric growling at him, “Do not EVER insult my wife again, Dustin Bishop. She was protecting our pups and your sister.” Dylan whispered, “Word to the wise, stay down. I just want to throw this out there... King Alpha Prick has NEVER punched me. You must learn the balance, young grasshoppers.”

Emmaline ran over to her brother. Ryan sighed and helped him up. He told him, “Maybe the sarcasm isn’t needed right now. Leave it to Dylan, let him get punched.” Dylan crunched on his popcorn and tapped his hand like it was a microphone, “Is this thing on? I just said I’ve never been punched by King Alpha Prick. He is all twitterpated with love for me deep down. Plus, my sarcasm is on point and timed to perfection.”

Eric linked me, “He also doesn’t make Haley mad. She’s pissed off. Warlocks push her buttons.” I pointed out, “That’s not Dustin’s fault.” Eric growled, “Blaming her,

sarcastically or not is. We both know that wasn't sarcasm." I didn't have anything to say to that.

Dylan continued after eating more popcorn, "I don't blame people for this situation, or for protecting their families like you just did. I for one, worship at our very own fun sized ninja fairy's feet. I can't believe I have to say this again, but I'm with King Alpha Prick here. Who do you think you are? You just waltz in here and try to ruin my fairy show. You've run a main character off! I have not had enough sleep for this. Lucas should kick you out. My show is not on every day, and you're trying to RUIN it. I am filled with righteous indignation."

Emmaline blurted out, "Dusty didn't mean it the way it sounded." Eric deadpanned, "He did. He thinks it's my wife's fault that we didn't know someone was taken from Alpha Hammond's pack." Dustin sighed, "I mean... No... I guess it's not her fault, but he's right Evie. I meant it when I said it. Albeit sarcastically, but still."

Emmaline said, "You can't blame her even sarcastically. Alpha Hammond would've had me already if not for Haley." We all turned to her, and she sighed continuing, "Without her plan, I'd have gone to him all by myself if I saw that text and picture that he had Lucas. I'd have gone to save him."

I growled. Dominic told me, "Mate is not allowed to be in danger to save us." I said, "I agree, Dominic." Dustin sighed. Haley and Logan walked back in. Eric pulled Haley into his arms.

Dustin took a deep breath, "I'm sorry, Princess Haley. I'm just so damn tired of this guy being ahead of us." Haley raised an eyebrow. Dylan linked, "She's choosing her words. I bet they will cut him at the knees metaphorically.

Before she could answer, Lacy said, "But he's not anymore. We have all these clues from Emmaline's weird conversation with his dead mate. Besides, don't tell me you all don't think he's going to attack at my wedding."

Dylan linked, "DANG NABIT! Foiled by my one true love. We may never hear our fun sized ninja fairy's speech. Tis a sad day in these lands." Everyone but Dylan, Haley, and Emmaline turned to Lacy with our jaws on the floor.

Lacy looked at me, "Come on now, you didn't think I'd figure that out? What am I, new? It's the best time for him to attack. We have a traitor in our pack. Alpha Hammond knows the date we are getting married. Even if he didn't have a source in our pack, he could find out. Dylan and I talked about it being the most likely scenario. So, I know I'm right."



I linked Dylan, “Thanks for the heads up.” He replied, “Hey, she brought it up on our big date. We theorized. I planned. It was a whole thing. We are an adorable Beta Male and Female couple. Then this happened. I’m so very tired, but I have plans written down. Plans on plans on plans.” Of course, he did.

My mom stomped her foot, “DALE LYONS! NOTHING will ruin our baby girl’s special day. Do you understand me?” My dad sighed, “Some days I just don’t know what you want from me, woman. We are trying to locate him, and we can’t. He’s hidden by witch magic, which is probably his dead mate’s coven. They aren’t some puny little coven; they are powerful witches. Lacy is right. It makes the most sense for him to attack at their wedding.” My mom stuck her finger in his face, “Then you stop him.” She stormed out of the room.

Emmaline asked, “Why would they help him if he rejected her?” Dustin sighed, “They might not know. Being rejected is typically embarrassing. Emmeline might have gone off on her own to recover and lick her wounds. Then she was kidnapped.”

Haley asked, “Why would she lick her wounds? Did he hurt her? I mean, he rejected her but to cause wounds; that’s to his mate? A werewolf? Plus, doesn’t everyone know licking wounds could lead to an infection?” Dylan laughed, “Yes, they do. How very silly of the witch.” Dustin added, “It’s a saying.” Haley muttered, “A stupid fucking infection inducing saying.”

I redirected, “Back to your wedding, Lacy Loo. I’ll make sure it happens.” Lacy waved her hand, “It’s not like he’s going to do it during our mating ceremony when everyone’s sober. It’s the reception I just had to have.”

Dylan hugged Lacy, “I’ll do everything I can to make sure you get everything you want on our oh so special Dylan and Lacy day.” Lacy shrugged, “I mean Alpha Hammond dying at my wedding would make it memorable. No one would ever forget about our wedding. It would be THE talk of the supernatural world.” Dylan laughed.

Emmaline stiffened and her dread filled me. She began to pale. Haley and Eric glanced at her. I asked, “Baby girl? What’s wrong?” Emmaline quietly said, “Millie said I would reunite her and Charlie.” Dylan laughed, “She called Charles Hammond, Charlie? I’m sad we never met this woman, that’s beautiful. A certain someone, named Claudzilla, called him Charlie once. Does anyone want to guess what happened?”

Ryan spoke, “You’re really not going to be too sad you didn’t meet her. She was a piece of work.” Dylan shrugged, “No one wants the story? UGH! I am SO under

appreciated. I see you looking curious over there fun sized ninja fairy. I'll send you a glorious memo of said story. I got you; we are the fun ones."

Dylan turned to Ryan, "Her being a piece of work is not surprising. Obviously, her mate is too. Hence our current dilemma. Alpha Hammond is trying to ruin Dylan and Lacy day. This upsets Lacy which means serious Dylan has to rise again. For this, I'll crush Alpha Hammond. Serious Dylan has been around so much lately. Someone mention this to my dad. He'll be ever so sad he missed it. The man tried to make me be serious all the time. He's missing his shining moment. Oh well, I bet he'll be green with envy when he finds out. Will he come home? Nope, but he'll still be green. Which sparks joy for Dylan. Yes, it does." I looked at my dad who winced.

I turned to face Emmaline. She was still pale. I took her hands and asked softly, "Millie said you were going to kill him?" Emmaline nodded sadly. I disagreed, "No... no, baby girl. I won't let him get close enough for you to kill him. I will kill him. Ok? You don't have to do that." Emmaline shrugged.

Haley encouraged her, "I have absolute faith in you, Emmaline. You can and will do what needs to be done. Don't feel bad for one second about ending his wretched life. He's coming for you and your friends and family. He dares to try to ruin Lacy and Dylan's wedding. Take his ass down if you have the opening. Everyone here would the same damn thing." Emmaline nodded.

I linked Eric. "No fucking way. He's not getting close enough for her to kill." Eric sighed, "I hate to point out she can pop wherever she wants." Dylan said out loud, "Don't worry yourself, little Luna. If I get a chance, he's done for. Honestly, thinking of ruining Dylan and Lacy day. It only comes but once in our lives. Then we only celebrate with each other. After everything I've done for all the people around here; he wants to mess with my mate's perfect day. Serious Dylan is on the prowl and he's angry. Angry Serious Dylan. Oh god, he's getting more adjectives. HE IS SO SERIOUS! IT'S MADNESS." Lacy pulled him into a hug.

Emmaline said, "Alpha Hammond said he didn't put the contract out on Chelsea. It's someone who Alpha Kyle upset. He wants their line to die out." I groaned, "I'll call him." Jackson snorted, "Chelsea is pregnant with his grandpup and Peter isn't an only child. Whoever put the contract out on Chelsea isn't very smart."

I looked at Eric, "Who could that be? It won't be on our list of who was upset with me." Eric frowned, "Caleb and I have been looking into people upset with Alpha Kyle. He honestly hasn't done anything that would warrant a contract on his son's mate. I have a theory, but no proof." I knew he wouldn't say what it was then. Dylan

whispered, "I'll expect my super-secret memo, Beta Caleb. Mums the word." Caleb laughed.

I said, "Let's go to the office and brainstorm." Haley asked, "The fuck is that? Your brain shouldn't storm anywhere. That sounds painful." Emmaline laughed, "He means they want to theorize." I said, "With both of you." Emmaline looked surprised I was including her. I had promised to do better at that. Besides, at the moment I couldn't let her out of my sight.

Once we settled in the office, I called Nick. I let him know what happened on our end, and what we'd learned. He was not happy, but Beta McAlister had already been pulling threats on just them. Peter was irate and had doubled Chelsea's security.

We reviewed Dylan's plan for his and Lacy's wedding. Eric was going to have warriors stationed and hidden on our border. More were going to be in the main house. Lacy was fine letting her wedding reception be bait. Peter and Drake were apprehensive since Chelsea and Sam couldn't leave without raising suspicion. Emmaline and Haley offered to pop them out when things went south. We called our allies that were attending the wedding to let them know the situation. We'd have our pack well-guarded.

Once those calls were finished Logan looked at Katie. He simply said, "Haley." Haley sighed, "Fine." Logan smiled at her. Katie asked, "Logan, what was that?" Logan answered, "You'll be getting popped out when things go down with Emmaline and Chelsea."

Dustin interjected, "Can someone pop Aubree too?" Emmaline volunteered, "I will." Aubree looked at Katie and said, "It's about the babies. I would be the first to argue with them if it wasn't." Katie sighed, "Fine." Emmaline rubbed Katie's arm.

Logan teased, "I'm glad you can be reasonable." Katie said, "See what communication gets you, Logan Cambridge? You didn't suggest I miss my friend's wedding, and we all arrived in a happy place." Logan said, "Not quite happy, but not upset." Katie made a face at him.

I linked Dylan, "Call Alpha Cameron. I'd imagine this is someone's daughter who grew up in our pack and met their mate in his." Dylan replied, "I pulled our files. We have fifteen women who could fit the bill." I sighed, "That's better than what we had before. Not much, but it's something." Dylan nodded.

I took Emmaline to my car. She asked, "Where are we going? We didn't even say goodbye." I didn't say anything. I couldn't. She had been hurt in our home. That was

unacceptable. She popped out without me, and into serious danger. I stopped at a sandwich shop. I had her order what she wanted and drove back to the house. I told her, “Pop us to your sanctuary or your treehouse it’s your choice.” She looked at me then agreed, “Alright.”

She popped us to her treehouse. I looked around, “It’s nice.” We ate in silence until Emmaline asked, “What’s going on? I don’t like silent, brooding Lucas.” I tilted my head, “Don’t you? You popped out taking yourself and your cousin into an incredibly dangerous situation.”

Emmaline put her food down, “I didn’t go alone, and I didn’t realize vampires had Charlie Rose. I obviously wouldn’t have done that if I’d known.” I sighed, “Emmaline, take me, Brad, Dylan, My dad... a wolf. Take any wolf with you. You’re doing remarkably with your powers, but you haven’t been training very long. Do you have any idea how worried Eric and I were?”

Emmaline raised an eyebrow countering, “Probably as worried as Haley and I were when you let yourself get captured.” I stood, “I apologized for not including you in that conversation. You can’t just go off into danger without planning.” Emmaline stood too, “You do. There was a baby involved. I couldn’t just leave Charlie. I fairy promised, and I took Haley.” I growled, “Haley is a good start, but take a wolf next time too.”

Emmaline crossed her arms, “Because Haley and I didn’t handle it?” I growled, “You act like I can’t feel you. You were scared. Haley made you leave her behind, and you felt extreme guilt when you came back.” Emmaline teared up, “I didn’t want to leave her, but I had Charlie. She told me to go.”

I softened my tone, “I know why she told you to go.” Emmaline pouted, “Haley can handle herself. You guys don’t give us enough credit.” I groaned, “It has NOTHING to do with credit. Haley is a killing machine. But waving two royal fairies’ in front of a vampire is insane. They are faster than you and physically stronger. You didn’t even have fucking stakes on you.”

Emmaline started to cry, “I know you’re right, ok? I never meant to put us in danger. I thought with both of us going we’d have Charlie and be back soon. It was so scary. Their fangs all came down, and Haley went all ninja assassin. Then she had me leave her behind. I can’t believe I did that.”

I walked over to her taking her in my arms, admitting, “I felt so useless to you. They drugged you in our home. Then they had you in some sort of trance plane or whatever your brother called it. Then you pop out without me! Just take me with you, baby girl.

Wherever you go, I go. Haley was protecting you and Charlie. You protected Charlie too. Regardless of who her parents are biologically, she's just a pup." Emmaline looked up, "I understand. If I can't take you, I'll take a wolf. I never meant to put Haley and I in danger like that."

A knot released in my gut, and I kissed her. I was about to take it further when Dylan linked me, "We have a witch at the front door. An emissary she says. I think I should let Fang have her, I don't like her." I groaned, "Stay here. There's a witch at the front door." Emmaline said, "You can't be the lone hero if I can't. We do this together, or next time I stick with taking Haley alone." I growled, "Pop us back then."

Emmaline popped us beside Dylan. Katie was glaring daggers at the witch in question. Haley was twirling her swords around. The witch was visibly paling as she watched. I commanded her attention, "If you are here on behalf of Alpha Hammond, you have made a grave mistake. He's being hunted by the werewolf council, and I am under no obligation to allow an emissary to live."

Emmaline linked me, "She's feeling deceitful, she's going to lie to us." I linked Eric, "Haley needs to do her thing. Emmaline says the witch feels deceitful." Emmaline stiffened beside me when the girl said, "You don't recognize me, Alpha Lucas? I'm sad."

Emmaline released an impressive growl. I turned to her in shock. She popped next to the girl and punched her in the face. I stood, gob smacked, while Haley started to laugh. I started to move forward, but Dylan pushed me backwards. He chastised me, "You don't break up a girl fight! What the HELL are you doing? You would be LOST without me, adrift in the sea with no purpose. Just let this play out."

I glared at him, "I'm protecting your Luna. You remember we had a pack meeting about the guys standing around to watch." Dylan snorted, "This is different. The witch needs protecting, not Emmaline. I don't want your or me to get hit with hail. You're welcome. I know, I'm such a good friend." He threw more popcorn in his mouth.

He was right, Emmaline was kicking the witch's ass. The witch tried to use magic but Emmaline encased her hands in ice. She screamed in pain when Emmaline headbutted her, falling to the ground as she shrieked Emmaline hissed, "Keep your lips on your own man, bitch."

I was confused. I assured my mate, "Emmaline, I've never seen her." Haley said, "I actually know this one! Pick me!" I asked, "You know what?" Haley laughed, "That's the bitch that was making out with the illusion version of Lucas. Right, cousin?"

Emmaline looked down at the witch hissing, “Bitch!” Haley smiled, “I’m so fucking right.” I turned Emmaline to face me. I rubbed her face until she looked at me. I told her, “I didn’t actually kiss her, baby girl.” Emmaline yanked me into a kiss.

Dylan groaned, “I don’t need to see that.” I heard Dylan grunt in pain. Haley laughed, “Not a good comment, my friend Dylan. My cousin is upset.” Dylan pouted, “I gathered that since I got pelted with hail for a mere comment. I’m insulted. That witch should get pelted with hail. She’s bad! I knew I should’ve let Fang have her. I should always go with my first instinct. I know this. I’m disappointed in myself.”

Emmaline popped us upstairs and snapped our clothes off. She declared, “You’re mine, Lucas!” I nodded, unable to do anything else. Emmaline pushed me back onto the couch with force. She bit my lip hard and slid down onto me.

I assured her, “Baby girl, I’m yours.” She rode me and bit my neck demanding, “Say it louder, Lucas.” I growled, “I’m yours.” She bit my mark hard making me yell, “FUCK! I’M YOURS!” We both came violently.

Emmaline started crying. I pulled back, “Baby girl? Please don’t cry.” She couldn’t stop, “It hurts. I know it wasn’t you, but I just keep seeing you two together.” I closed my eyes. How do I apologize for not kissing someone?

I asked, “What do you want me to do?” Emmaline sniffled, “Kill her?” I laughed, “That’s easily done. I’m not leaving her in the dungeons as some sort of sleeper.” Emmaline wiped her tears away as I assured her, “I want you, and you alone. I would never kiss anyone else.” She laughed and playfully pushed my shoulder, “You better not.” She snapped us clothes and popped us back downstairs.

Eric winked at me. The witch asked, “Can you get me some ice, Alpha Lucas? The hospitality around here leaves something to be desired.” Haley rolled her eyes muttering, “Witch bitch.” I linked Eric, “I see Haley did some charms.” The witch had warts on her face and some bruising she didn’t before we went upstairs. Eric nodded, “I did stop her from killing the witch, you’re welcome. It took some effort on my part. Particularly when Dylan was all for it.”

Emmaline spat out, “No, he can’t. I’d be glad to give you some if you keep talking. Suck it up, buttercup.” Haley lost it laughing hysterically along with Katie. Katie threw in, “Yeah toughen up, rub some dirt in it. Weren’t you just saying it didn’t hurt that bad?” Haley said, “Exactly, after all it was just two fairies that kicked your ass, right?”

The witch looked at Haley asking, "Who are you? You didn't even say anything before you hit me." Haley retorted, "Someone who doesn't have to answer your fucking questions, that's who I fucking am." Eric growled at the witch. I linked him, "Just a fairy?" Eric nodded, "The witch was playing off her injuries saying they didn't hurt, and that Emmaline and Haley were just a fairies. It apparently didn't hurt that bad." I asked, "Is Haley ready to go with her truth thing?" He nodded.

I turned to the witch. "What are you doing here?" The witch gritted her teeth, "My mental defenses are strong." Haley smirked, "Good." Eric linked me, "She's trying to block Haley. She's not through yet, but she will get there. I actually think she could be in by now. Apparently, it hurts when you break down mental defenses." I nodded.

The witch rubbed her head. She spoke through clenched teeth, "I want peace. I lied to Alpha Hammond saying I'd be his emissary. I really came to request to join Dustin Bishop's coven." Emmaline snorted, "Liar."

The witch glared at her, "Just because you can't keep your man satisfied..." Emmaline attacked her before I could hold her back. I threw my hands in the air, "Great!" I turned around and asked, "Dad, how does one apologize for not cheating on their mate? Like what flower says, baby girl, I'm sorry a witch made you see me kiss someone who wasn't me, but you thought it was me."

Ryan was amused, "She didn't think it was you." I said, "Ok, someone who looked like me." My dad laughed, "Roses and chocolate are the best I've got, throw in some wine. Your mother didn't speak to me for a week once because of something that happened in a dream. I had no clue why she was mad at me for five days, until she yelled that I did something in her dream. You could've knocked me over with a feather."

Dylan was hopping around, "Yeah! What a jab and cross! Get her, Emmaline! Alex is getting the good whiskey for his training classes. He's doing the lord's work." I linked him, "Could you enjoy this less? We will never get answers at this point." Dylan cheered when Emmaline headbutted the girl again.

I tried to calm her down, "Baby girl, let's try to get answers." Emmaline whipped her head towards me angrily, "You're taking her side?" My dad linked me, "Son, that's a trap." I quickly disagreed, "No, not on her side at all. Once we have the answers we want, you can have at her."

Emmaline took a deep breath and sat on the couch in a huff crossing her arms, "Fine, but if that bitch makes one more nasty comment, I'm drowning her." I just nodded.

Eric linked me, “Our women turn vicious when it involves us.” I replied, “Does it have to be so hot?” Eric said, “Evidently.”

I linked Dylan, “Help the witch to a chair.” Dylan answered, “Why don’t you help her? I don’t like her and I’m eating my popcorn while watching my show in fascination. You do not appreciate my show enough or the love I have for it.” I snarked, “Besides the fact that I’m your Alpha and I told you to do it? Emmaline might just kill her if I touch her. Then she’d accuse me of defending said witch, whose name I don’t even know.”

Dylan conceded, “Fair point. It would put a damper on my show if my Luna was more upset with you. She could pop away and that would be a travesty. I actually don’t know the witches name yet. Haley monopolized all her time kicking her ass. It was glorious.”

Dylan picked the witch up. Emmaline snapped, “Put her in the folding chair, Dylan. There’s no need for her blood to infect the furniture. Who knows what STD she has?” The witch hissed, “I just want to help you.” Emmaline sneered, “Liar.” The witch looked at me, “Alpha Lucas please, I just want to offer you information. In exchange I want to live in the area.”

Emmaline commented, “That’s a partial lie.” Emmaline looked at Haley as the witch rubbed her head cringing in pain. Haley nodded. Emmaline stood questioning, “You want to cause Lucas and I problems, don’t you? That’s why you’re really here.” The witch said, “Yes, I’m here to make you fight. I have a potion that will make him susceptible to agree with me. I just need to spray it on him. I was going to request a meeting with just him and his Beta. The potion wouldn’t work on his Beta, but if Lucas wanted me here I could stay in this territory. I need to get your patterns down and report back. If I could drive a wedge between you two, all the better. Sending you mental images is just a bonus.” Emmaline’s pain was twisting in my chest. I didn’t understand what was going on.

Emmaline’s hands started to glow blue. Before anyone could stop her, she touched the witch. She yelled, “Lucas is MINE!” The witch started to choke then she turned to water. Emmaline said, “I told you she would’ve ruined the furniture, Dylan.”

She turned on heel and stalked out of the room as we gaped at her. Haley offered, “Katie, you should go after her.” I started to move, but Haley popped in my way. She said, “Give her minute, my lion. Emmaline and I are different from other fairies, but even full blooded fairies are possessive. Emmaline and I just happen to be possessive of our mates; not unlike you all. The witch was sending your kiss over and over to Emmaline’s mind. She must not have realized Emmaline could in fact kill her.”



My jaw dropped. I asked, “How could she send it to her?” Haley looked upset with herself, “We need to work on mental defenses. Emmaline’s defenses are naturally strong as a Royal, but the plane trance weakened her. She was seeing you kiss that girl and put your hands on her on repeat.”

Eric asked, “How do you know that?” Haley shrugged, “Because to get past the witch’s mental protection, I had to lower mine. Any of you would have killed the witch much faster than Emmaline did. I would’ve the first time she projected to me. Emmaline clearly has more restraint than I do.”

I groaned “Can I just take her back to Nashville? We were in a really good place before this. Now... What do I even do? I DIDN’T kiss that witch.” Haley said, “She knows that. They are attacking her how they can. She’s sensitive, more so because she’s the Soul Searcher. Our feelings don’t always make sense.”

Katie came back, “She popped away.” Haley told me, “You’re on, Lucas. Only you can find her.” I raised an eyebrow, “You think she’s in her new sanctuary?” Haley nodded, “Yes, I do.”

I quickly left the house, shifting into my wolf. I ran until I reached the force field. I stepped through and found Emmaline sobbing on the bridge. I ran over to her and pulled her to me. I comforted her, “Baby girl shhh... I’ve got you. I don’t want anyone but you. I’m sorry for what she was projecting to you.” Emmaline pulled back, “You saw it too?”

I shook my head, “Haley did once she pulled back her defenses. She just told me.” Emmaline said, “I’m sorry. We needed more information. I shouldn’t have killed her, I just... I can’t stand it. I keep seeing your lips on hers. Hearing her moans and... it hurts so much.” I pulled her to me, “I’ve never even seen her.” She sniffled, “I can’t lose you.” I pulled back, “You never will lose me, baby girl. I’m yours. Only yours.” I rocked her until she stopped crying.

She popped us back to the house and laid in our bed. I got in with her. She told me, “I’ll be fine in the morning.” I sighed, “You don’t have to be fine, just talk to me.” She nodded and whispered, “Ok.” She sounded so broken. I was going to rip Alpha Hammond’s throat out when I caught up with him. He had no right to hurt her this way. Losing his mate was not a reason to torture mine.

Emmaline woke me up the next day and tried to leave for school. I pulled her back asking, “How are you?” Emmaline sighed, “I’m embarrassed.” I frowned, “Why?” Emmaline sat down, “I lost it over something that’s not even true. I killed someone.” I

shrugged, “She was dead anyway. We knew she was lying.” Emmaline nodded, “I’m sorry.”

I lifted her chin with my fingers, so she’d look in my eyes. I assured her, “You have nothing to be sorry for. If I was projected images of you kissing someone else. I’d rip out their throat out in seconds. You lasted longer than anyone in that room would have, even Haley said so.” She laughed, “You would rip their throat out, wouldn’t you?” I nodded, “I would, so would Dominic.” She gave me a kiss, “Thank you. For cheering me up.” I smiled, “Have a good day, baby girl.”

I walked into my office to find a worried Dylan. I saw five empty coffee mugs on the desk. He jumped when he saw me asking, “Is Emmaline ok?” I nodded, “I think she’s getting there. She’s embarrassed she lost it.” Dylan shrugged, “It was funny. Plus, the wicked wannabe witch of our territory deserved it.” I rolled my eyes, “Maybe switch to decaf.”

Dylan gasped, “BLASPHEMY! Even you have to admit it was funny. Emmaline encased a witch’s hands in ice Lucas.... ICE! That’s funny. I’ve decided her name is no longer Emmaline, it’s Queen Elsa forever and always. Our Luna is an honest to goodness Disney Queen. If some warlock projected Lacy kissing someone, I’d rip him in half instead of giving him two beatdowns as a warning. Emmaline gave her a chance; the nameless witch was none too bright.” I laughed, “You have a point.”

Dylan handed me my clue, “This fell out of your pants when you shifted like a valiant Alpha to go find your upset mate. I thought you could use a distraction, and some fun.

#### Clue 9

This key holds it all. Bring it back to where it all began, my lion.

I frowned, “This key doesn’t open my safe room.” Dylan shrugged, “Let’s go see.” We went to the door, but there was no keyhole. I entered the code just in case, and it was still full of Tinkerbell’s. Dylan laughed, “It’s still hilarious.” I sighed, “I don’t know what this goes to.” Dylan shrugged, “I don’t know either. I’m also not going to put any brain power into figuring it out, or I’d unlock the mystery. Those Tinkerbell’s spark such joy for me.”

I groaned, “I’m never getting my collectibles back.” Dylan said, “I think if you figure out what that key goes to you will.” A pop sounded behind us. A voice greeted me, “Hello, my daughter’s wolf.” I turned, raising an eyebrow, “Prince Marcious. What are you doing here?” Marcious smiled, “I am here to help my daughter. I will wait in the main room until she gets home.”

I frowned asking, "Help her how?" Marcious smiled, "Haley called. I can help you both. She's my little girl, just let me stay." I shrugged, "Go ahead." He sat down.

Ryan entered the house without looking up he told me, "Dustin and I came up with a more powerful necklace to protect Evie." Marcious smiled, "Then she will be doubly protected, it cannot hurt." Ryan frowned, "Right, whatever that means." Marcious smiled but didn't say anything else. Ryan muttered, "Fairies." Dylan whispered, "Are fabulous. We know."

Dylan and I went back upstairs to work on our plans. Emmaline popped to me after school. She gave me a hug, "My dad's here, he says he wants to do something. I don't know how long it will take, or if it involves becoming a crazy sex fairy afterwards." I laughed, "One can only hope, baby girl. One can only hope." She smiled, "Ry and Dusty bought me a ring."

I looked down at it. I told her, "It's very pretty." She smiled, "I keep wondering if they are going to admit it's magical protection of some kind." She shrugged, "I guess not." I laughed, "You knew the whole time?" Emmaline laughed, "Katie told me when we were kids." I smiled, "You could tell them." Emmaline smiled, "How is that fun?" I laughed, "Your secret is safe with me." Emmaline gave me a kiss and popped away.

Lacy came in right after, "So Emmaline's dad is... interesting." I laughed, "He's a fairy, but he seems to truly care about Emmaline." Lacy nodded, "She's ok, you know?" I sighed asking, "Is she?" Lacy nodded, "She really is."

Dylan asked her, "And you? You are acting all fine that our wedding could be attacked." Lacy shrugged, "I didn't think I'd get to meet my mate until I was old and gray. If we can get rid of a threat, then I'm all for it. Besides, it's Halloween. Everyone knows the crazies come out on Halloween. OH MY GOSH! It will be like our own personal scary movie! Except we can be smarter than the dumb people you yell at to not do something stupid. We are reversing the roles. Come on that's epic!"

Dylan kissed her, "Is it any wonder why I love you?" Lacy said, "No, I'm amazing." Dylan kissed her again, "You really are. I love you." She smiled, "I love you too." I cringed, "Get out of here before I have an aneurysm." Lacy laughed, "You love it."

Her smell intensified. I stiffened. Lacy whimpered, "Dylan..." He growled as two unmated warriors came into the room. Lacy fell to the ground in pain. I commanded, "Go, Dylan!" Dylan picked up Lacy and ran. I fought off my warriors trying to claim my sister in her heat.

I had just knocked them out when I heard Dylan growl. I took off for the stairs. He'd had to put Lacy down to fight. I linked my dad, "GET OUT HERE! Lacy is in heat." My dad came running and he guarded Lacy. I growled, taking down two more warriors.

I yelled, "Get her out of here Dylan!" I groaned as several more unmated wolves came in. My dad took a hit when he was surrounded. Dylan and I both growled as a warrior picked up Lacy and ran away with her. He made it outside when I caught up to him.

I snarled, "That's my damn sister. What the HELL are you doing?" I knocked him out then yelled, grabbing Lacy before she fell, "Dylan, for the love of god get her out of here!" Dylan snarked, "I was trying! Did it look like I stopped for coffee?"

Hail began to pelt the unmated warriors. I grinned like an idiot as I heard my mate pop in. She sounded disappointed, "Honestly, you all need to have better self-control." She grabbed Lacy and Dylan and popped them away.

The warriors came to their senses instantly, "Alpha, we are so sorry." I shrugged, "Get back to work." Emmaline popped back beside me. She shivered, "I have seen things I did not want to see." I teased, "Better you than me. My mom was right again." Emmaline smiled asking, "Right about what?" I said, "Lacy going into heat soon." Emmaline shrugged.

I asked, "Where are they?" Emmaline answered, "Their wing. Why does her scent not bother them now?" I groaned, "Because she's being claimed. I really don't want to think about that. Her heat sends amplified pheromones into the air, and until she's claimed unmated males want her." Emmaline rolled her eyes, "Well... ok then. Dylan has her, their rooms are charmed so no one can hear them, and she's claimed."

I smiled and led her back to the house. I asked her, "What did you do with your dad?" Emmaline smiled, "It was actually fun!" I smiled, "No crazy sex fairy?" Emmaline pouted, "Your warriors stole my mojo. I was all hopped up ready to go, engines were revved. You should do something about that. Get me going again." I laughed, "Show me what you were doing." Emmaline popped us to her treehouse, and said, "Ok, let me show you." I didn't know how this would get her back in the mood, but I was more than willing to try.

