

Game On

Emmaline's mind cleared. I sat up remembering Lucas had been hurt. I quickly realized I was on his lap. Relief filled me as I clung to him. He was my lifeline. I don't care what my dad said, he was wrong. If I didn't have Lucas, I would not be ok. I sure as hell wasn't going to keep on uniting people without him. How could I bring souls together if I was missing half of mine? Haley had it right with her twice light bound stuff. If there was no Lucas, I'd follow him in death. I wasn't going to be half a person. Maybe that worked for full fairy's but not for me.

Haley shot me an encouraging smile pointing to the pizza beside me. I realized I was ravenous. I just kept eating; not sure if I was emotional and eating my feelings away, or if I was replenishing myself after using my fairy powers.

I practically flew into Chelsea's room once I was done eating. EJ was so adorable with Elise. She would turn her head towards him, and he would simply pop to whoever was closest to her. He conjured her a bottle and binky when she started to cry. It was the cutest thing I'd ever seen.

We left Chelsea's room, and went to see Sam. They had named their son Tristan. He was so sweet. I told her, "Sam, he's so cute!" Sam smiled at Drake, "He looks just like his daddy." I smiled amending, "With your hair." She smiled.

I asked, "How are you doing?" She yawned, "A little tired, but really happy." I kissed her forehead, "We will get out of your hair. I'm so happy for you and Chelsea." She squeezed my hand, and I led us into the hallway. I waved to Haley and popped our group home.

I took Lucas to my sanctuary to center myself. I took Lucas because I needed him with me to feel completely centered. This was not a repeatable adventure. I needed him more than he could ever know.

I was so tired emotionally and physically exhausted. Clearly, if Lucas was hurt the only person who could contain me was Haley. Something told me she wouldn't even try. I couldn't even release the witch when my brothers asked me to. I really think the only person who could've done anything about me was Haley, as my princess. Apparently, her murder-y side wasn't just her Hackura blood.

I had never understood my cousin more than in that moment. She was a great person, but she was ruthless in defense of those she loved. Everything snapped into place for

me. I would much rather kill fifty people if it meant Lucas didn't get hurt. I was fine with that trade off. Anyone coming to hurt me or mine was going to die. End of story.

Lucas was consoling me thinking I was upset I'd done something wrong. I knew I hadn't. It didn't even remotely bother me to kill those people. Nor did it phase me that I made that witch suffer until Lucas was ok. She's lucky he was ok, or I'd have thought of something more awful to do to her. I had no idea what that would even be, but I'd do it.

I looked into Lucas' eyes. My mind kept replaying him lying there, stabbed. I needed to get better with my powers. My light felt more connected to me than it had before. I wanted to keep that going. I needed to keep my physical training going because I needed to be ready for David. Maybe I could even take the fight to him instead of waiting. Our badass girl gang could take him.

I'd talk to Haley. Until David was dealt with everything needed to be upped in intensity. This was MY life, and David wasn't going to touch any part of it ever again. I was done being scared of him and the threat of his impending arrival back into my life.

I was officially pissed off. This was David's fault not mine. I was done acting like I had something to be ashamed of. I never had. I kissed Lucas with everything in me. I needed him. He was it for me, and I was going to do everything I could to keep him safe. We made love all night.

Eventually I pretended to be asleep. I waited until Lucas' breathing evened out, then I popped out of bed and watched him for a moment. I popped to my sanctuary. I texted Haley asking if she was up. She replied that she was. I asked if she could get away from Eric for a minute. She popped next to me seconds later.

She greeted, "Hello, cousin. What's going on?" I blurted out, "I want to keep this feeling going. I feel very connected to my light, I need to get stronger. I want you to come at me harder in our physical training."

Haley evaluated me before asking, "Is David's coming? Or did seeing Lucas hurt spark your intensity?" I shrugged, "I don't know that I will wait for David to come anymore. If our girl group took on David... we could win."

Haley grinned, "Our partial fairy group alone could take him, but yes. Our bad ass girl gang could absolutely take him down with ease. YOU can take David down, as can any of your siblings. He was powerful to you because you were a child. I understand that. Fabian was a terrifying man to me, but in reality; I was stronger than him,

physically, emotionally, and definitely in my powers. If you truly want to be more intense, we can.” I nodded.

Haley asked, “How far do you want to go?” I frowned, “What do you mean?” Haley replied, “I mean the reason I can fight with iron in my system is because I have been trained to do so. My brothers trained me with sulfur because it contains iron. It doesn't hurt as much, but it weakens you. I pull my Hackura side to the surface, but you can't do that. I'm not sure how to advise you to do it.” I nodded, “That makes sense though. Maybe if we do small amounts, I could get used to it so I'm not on the ground in pain just in case.”

Haley considered, “You can turn iron to water though, you might not need it.” I asked, “What if I'm knocked out, and wake up with it already in my system?” Haley conceded, “That's a valid point. Are we telling the guys that we are using sulfur in our practices?” I wanted to, then I remembered Lucas flipping out about my arm.

I pursed my lips, “Let's see if they can tell. Lucas could tell when I broke my arm.” Haley nodded, “Fuck... ok. If that's what you want, we will do that. We can tell them if you want, I'll back you up. They would argue but they'd admit we have a point.” I nodded, “For now, let's do it this way.” Her soul told me she didn't think it was the right move, but she nodded.

She told me, “Alright, we will train that way. It won't be every practice, and only small amounts. I'm going to give you a cardio program to start. It will include days we are not training. Let's snap you an obstacle course.” She popped me to the field by my tree house.

She instructed, “Conjure an obstacle course, climbing ropes, a rock wall, a regular wall you have to climb to get over, you get the point.” I thought about it and gasped when I opened my eyes. I'd really done it. I didn't miss anything.

Haley nodded, “Good. I can make a training plan based on what's here. Here's my caveat; IF something happens with David before we have a plan; then you call, text, send a fucking smoke signal, I don't care, but you do something to let me know.”

I frowned, “I wouldn't go without you.” Haley tilted her head, “Factors, my dear Emmaline. There are factors that would cause you to go to David without me. Just as there are factors that come up that mean I charge off on my own.” She had a point.

She continued, “Now, we are badass bitches who can handle our shit. You're not alone though, and there's strength in numbers. Once signaled, I will gather our girls. If you have to start without us, you'll be ready.” I sighed asking, “What factors?”

Haley theorized, “Off the top of my head? David goes after those who are weaker than him. He instinctively sees women that way, and that’s where he will make a mistake. If for example, he got Debbie or Lacy and called to tell you about his captives; that would make you go to him, correct?”

My stomach dropped as she continued, “Or Aubree or Katie. He could be dumb enough to think you’d come to help your mom, but I think we both know you’d plan first before popping in to help her.”

I admitted, “You’re right. I’d go for my mom, but not without backup. I’d make the whole thing a trap, but the others I’d pop without a plan.” Haley evenly replied, “Exactly.”

I pointed out, “Aubree is pregnant with his grandchild though, and Katie is his actual daughter.” Haley looked away, “You’re using logic, Emmaline. Sometimes people are just rotten to the core. David doesn’t care about Aubree. There’s no way in hell he’d get to Katie. I was just using that as an example; but if the sun turned green and David got Katie, he wouldn’t have to hurt her. He’d just need her to get to you. Katie is the only one of those people I listed that David cares about. I’d say his most likely target is Aubree.”

I gasped, “Why? She’s pregnant with his grandchild.” Haley stated, “A grandchild who stands to be MUCH more powerful than David will ever be. His grandchild that will not carry his last name, and I believe David has been outspoken in his dislike for Aubree. He knows that you love your brother. You would go rescue Aubree even if you didn’t like her, but you do.”

I grumbled, “Aubree’s powerful though too.” Haley nodded, “We all have things we are susceptible to Emmaline. Eric is both my strength and weakness. I would give up my life for him or our children. I turned my back on my brother, and he betrayed me. I would go after my family if they were hurt, and I have. I don’t ask questions or get permission; I act. I come for the people I care about, all of whom can handle their shit. No one is invincible. Aubree is vulnerable because she is pregnant. In any situation, it’s not just her she’s looking out for. I’m not saying it will be her, I’m just saying she’s the most obvious target.”

I asked, “Does Logan know that?” Haley raised an eyebrow, “If I know that, Logan knew two weeks ago. My brothers consider all the angles of every situation at all times. Their brains must be constantly exhausted honestly.” I laughed, “I could see that.”

We were quiet for a moment, I popped us back to my sanctuary. I asked quietly, “Do you really think I could take David?” Haley confidently replied, “I know you can. He’s a powerful warlock, but you are ROYALTY. By birthright alone, you are better than him. What David has going for him is fear. That’s not inspiring, and people tend to revolt against a ruler who is only feared eventually. Take our mates for example; they are feared but they are respected. They have reputations for being fair and formidable. When the only emotion people have for you is fear... you lose. People are with him because of his power. Sure, there will be a few who idolize him, but they will be outliers. He doesn’t have enough loyalty on his side.”

She had a point. She added, “Besides, his children have already turned their backs on him and others followed. He is not the man of power you once knew him to be. That doesn’t make him any less scary or intimidating to you though. Believe me, I get that. Fabian still haunts me.”

I rubbed my face admitting, “I don’t want to be scared of him anymore. I’m mad. Mad that I have taken the blame for this, and I’m mad that I’ve been living in fear.” Haley smiled, “Good. You should be. Give yourself grace here though if he haunts your dreams. Or if you freeze when you see him.”

I gulped, “When I see him, I’ll be ready.” Haley shrugged, “The real him, yes. I am going to fairy charm someone to look like him first. You can’t just expect your psyche to be ready. You will practice on fake David before facing the real one.” I shivered, “I guess the fact that the thought of seeing him makes me shiver means you are right.”

Haley hugged me, “You can do this. You are a duchess. He’s a discarded piece of gum on the sidewalk.” I laughed, “It’s dirt under your shoe but same thing.” She shook her head, “This realm. Go get some sleep cousin.” I nodded and popped back to Lucas.

I kissed his forehead, “I’ll make sure he’s out of our lives before we have kids. Our children will not fear him. I most certainly will not be worrying that he will come for them.” I would protect my family, current and future. I took a deep breath and closed my eyes.

The week flew by. Haley was harder on me at fairy lessons than she had been previously. She’d even spoken to Hexxi since she was my water fairy trainer. I popped Lucas and I back home and collapsed on the couch.

Lucas commented, “That was... something.” I muttered, “Yup.” Lucas frowned, “I thought you were working on freezing the lake.” I said into the pillow because I couldn’t even turn my neck, “I asked Haley to change my training plan.” Lucas

frowned, “You are making good progress, but that was intense.” I shrugged, “It’s what I want for right now.” Lucas wasn’t happy, but he accepted my decision.

The next night for our fighting training, Haley had Lacy sit out. She popped her and I away and held out her hand. “Put your hand on this, and a little sulfur will flood your system.” I did. It wasn’t as bad as the iron I’d been hit with in the past.

To my surprise, Haley did the same thing. I asked, “Will Eric and Lucas feel that?” Haley said, “We will see if Eric can with our Hackura connection, but it’s small enough Lucas shouldn’t. I know how to pull back enough and put blocks up on my bond with Eric that he shouldn’t. Are you ok?” I nodded, “Let’s do this.”

Haley didn’t hold back, and I was both glad and sore. Lucas pulled me to him, “Haley, this seems very different.” Haley shrugged, “Because it is.” Eric questioned, “Is there some threat we don’t know about you two are preparing for?” Haley answered, “No.” Dang. She was good. She was telling the truth; everyone knew David was a threat. It wasn’t a secret.

Dylan gripped, “This just bodes so well, doesn’t it? I don’t have a single bad feeling about any of this. Nope not a one. Does seeing one’s mate badly injured make you all go to crazy town where you become a comic superhero with a tragic angry backstory? Please god do not let this be your villain origin story. Look how perfectly fine Lucas is. He’s so uninjured and on the side of good,” he said while waving his hands between Haley and me.

Lucas tried again, “Baby girl....” I interrupted, “You were stabbed. The time for kid gloves is over. I asked Haley to train me this way, and that’s how we are going to train.” Lucas sighed. Haley asked, “Kid gloves? We never wore gloves.”

Dylan lamented, “I have SUCH good feelings about it, Lucas. Mark my words... this will SOMEHOW come back to bite ME in the ass. Not any of you, just me. RIP my sleep. I just know it. I feel it in my very soul.” He was serious, his soul actually felt that way.

As I walked out of the gym Lacy joined me. She asked, “What’s going on?” I did my space unheard chant then stated, “Lucas got stabbed.” I wiped at the tears coming down my face continuing, “I told Haley that I want to take the fight to David. I don’t want to live in fear waiting for him to find me and strike; because he will.”

Lacy sucked in a breath, “You’re training to fight David Forrester?” I answered, “Yes.” Lacy asked, “Haley knows that’s the goal?” I nodded, “She does. Our plan is

to get me to a good place fighting and powers wise then devise a plan of attack.” Lacy questioned, “And Lucas doesn’t know about the reason because....?”

I frowned, “Lucas does know the reason. He got stabbed, that started this. I have this drive inside me right now. I need to end this with David once and for all before Lucas and I have kids. I don't want him coming for my family, you included. He’s my monster, not yours.”

Lacy squeezed my hand, “I’ll slay any dragon with you, Emmaline.” I bumped her shoulder with mine, “You and our bad ass girl gang.” Lacy somewhat pleaded, “So, can we wait till the little peanut pops out so I can be by your side?” I nodded, “Hopefully, it depends though. My dad said that my next concupiscence will be in January. That’s around the time your little nugget will make his or her debut.” Lacy smiled, “His debut, and he should be born in February.” I squealed, “It’s a boy? I’m getting a nephew! Is Dylan excited?” Lacy nodded, “He’s over the moon.”

Lucas came out of the gym and scooped me up. He complained, “You know, it’s infuriating how fairies make such good points.” I was nervous, “You didn’t give Haley a hard time, did you?” Lucas shrugged, “Not really.” I sighed, “She’s doing what I asked her to. She’s not just my cousin, she is my princess.” Lucas’ reply was measured, “I know that. I don’t have to like it.”

I pressed, “I need to do this.” Lucas asked, “Do you really?” I nodded and he ran a hand through his hair, “Fine then, I’ll get on board.” I admitted, “It’s not just you getting stabbed. I need to be ready for David.” Lucas stiffened, “He doesn’t know about you. He doesn’t know your new name, or where you are.” I agreed, “Not yet he doesn’t. I want to be prepared.” Lucas closed his eyes, “Alright.”

We continued in that pattern. I was working on my cardio program every other day. I never got bored because Haley prepared different lessons for every lesson. I was getting really good during our fighting sessions. The sulfur didn’t really even bother me as more than a minor irritant.

We were steadily making our way to Thanksgiving. Eric apparently usually hosted, so we were going to their house. Dylan was really excited about it. I guess they normally didn’t go, but since I was Haley’s cousin we were. She was very about this being a perfect google holiday. She was very into google now.

The Thursday before Thanksgiving Haley upped the amount of sulfur for our training. She put a timer on her watch, “By the end of our training it will wear off, let’s get to it.” She popped us back absorbing the sulfur when we popped in. Everything was going fine, until there were a few minutes left in our training session.

Eric and Lucas jumped down from the bleachers as several warriors came running in. Alex yelled, "ROGUES!" Haley looked at her watch and mouthed, "Ten minutes." Lucas, Dylan, and Eric ran out. Dylan yelled, "Beautiful mate of mine, and mother of my unborn son. Make post haste to the gym safe room, ok? Thank you!"

Once they left Haley said, "Lacy, do you want me to take you to the safe room?" Lacy answered, "No, it's right there." Haley ordered, "Move your ass then!" Lacy raised an eyebrow, "You're not just going to pop me there? Interesting. I KNEW IT! There is something different about your training. What is it?" I scuffed the toe on my shoe on the floor, "Not every training." Haley yelled, "Oh my god! Get to the safe room, Emmaline will explain later."

I chuckled at her urgency. Haley grabbed weapons while cursing, "Damn it! Seven minutes. Let's go. I guess this is good practice." I snorted, grabbing a dagger from her. We ran out of the gym and entered the fray. I had killed two wolves when one scratched me. I hissed and a wolf jumped in to take him down. I realized it was Brad. He looked at me as if questioning why I wasn't using my powers.

A knife flew through the air past me into the heart of a wolf who was sneaking up on me. I looked to see Haley giving me a look that said focus. I saw a few wolves fly away from Eric and looked at Haley who shook her head. Eric was calling the wind, not Haley.

The minutes passed slowly. I was fighting close enough to Haley to hear the alarm on her watch beep. I let my hands turn blue and took down two more wolves. I took cues from Haley not using my powers in a big way. I wasn't sure why she wasn't, but I was going to follow her lead here.

When we defeated the rogues, I popped to get Lacy. Lacy smirked, "You're done. Good. Why couldn't you pop me earlier?" I sighed, "Haley has been injecting us both with sulfur before some training sessions." Lacy said, "That makes sense."

I gaped at her, "That's it?" Lacy shrugged, "Packs do something similar. Every so often we shift, and they inject us with lead that has traces of silver. We have to run either in wolf form if we can manage it, or in human form. I get it. If Lucas didn't notice though, mums, the word." I snorted, "Brad noticed." Lacy sighed, "Damn. He's going to tell for sure."

I popped us back to the group. Lucas and Eric looked back and forth between Haley and me. I turned and noticed Logan was here. His lips were twitching but he was maintaining a cool demeanor. Haley spoke, "Hello brother. What brings you here?" Logan looked at me, "The clone phone got a text warning this was coming."

I clapped, "I knew Gunner was still monitoring it!" Logan didn't sound sorry, "Of course he is. He alerts me if anything is concerning. Rogues attacking concerns Katie, which concerns me. So here I am, little sister." Haley smiled, "You're so cute when you're in love, Logan." Lucas said, "Let's take this to my office."

Dylan clapped, "Emmaline, Haley, someone pop me there, please. I need to prepare." Haley and I both grabbed his hands and popped. Dylan sang, "I smell TROUBLEEEEEEE" He looked at me, "Little Luna of mine that I do love so dearly, pretty please with a cherry on top, snap me some popcorn. I LOVE when the fairies are naughty."

Haley frowned, "We weren't naughty." Dylan snorted, "That's a matter of perspective. From the werewolf side, you've been naughty." Haley smiled, "Then do we get punished?" Dylan spit out his water, "GOD! I LOVE IT WHEN YOU COME HERE! You WANTED to goad GAP into punishing you? Fun sized ninja fairy of ours, I do worship at your feet."

Haley shrugged, "Eric will be fine." Dylan told her, "You know, I can't call him by his first name. I stick to nicknames that way on the rare occasion I say his first name I do not get punched." Haley said, "I think you could manage. You

call him the God of the Pricks, and he hasn't hit you yet." Dylan said, "Because there's an undercurrent of respect in the name, and he knows that he's a prick."

Eric slammed the door open with his eyes on Haley. Logan was still smirking. I gulped when I saw Lucas' face. Lucas grounded out, "Care to share, you two?" Haley sat looking bored, "I'm going to need you to be more specific. I have a lot of things I can share. I could snap us blankets, we could share those." Dylan was already howling with laughter.

Haley continued, "I could snap us drinks and snacks for all to share." Lucas growled. Eric jumped in, "Angel, what was going on with your powers?" Haley looked over at me and saw my scratch. She stood and healed it quickly. I smiled at her, "Thank you." She nodded, "Anytime."

Lucas growled, "Emmaline," in a tone that demanded I look at him. He continued, "Brad said you weren't using your powers." Lacy shot me a look. Haley looked at her nails saying, "This Brad sounds like a fucking tattletale. Eric, you KNOW how I feel about that."

Eric rolled his eyes, “Nonetheless, you didn’t use your powers.” Haley argued, “Yes, we did.” Dylan crunched on his popcorn with his eyes shooting back and forth between us both. I chimed in, “Agreed. I drowned some rogues.”

Lucas pointed out, “You used a dagger first.” Haley complimented, “Quite well too. One slip when the wolf, who I assume was the tattling Brad, distracted you but overall, it was good.” Logan actually laughed. Lucas grumbled, “I don’t like evasions.” Haley frowned, “Who’s evading? I’m telling the truth.”

Lucas turned to Logan, “You seem to know what’s going on here. Care to enlighten us?” Logan evaluated him, “I think you and my brother in law both know to a degree of what’s going on. You are smart men.” Lucas turned to me, “You’ve been getting shot up with iron before training lessons?!” I disagreed, “No, I have not.” Logan smirked again.

Eric angrily asked, “Then what are you getting shot up with?” I made a face at him. Dylan laughed, “I love fairies, they are all so brave. Sticking their tongues out and making faces at the God Alpha Prick. You have to love it. I’ve seen him crush a heart for less. Do they care? They don’t. I love it.”

Haley answered Eric, “Sulfur.” Lacy interjected, “Not unlike our own practices of taking doses of lead.” Lucas glared at her. Dylan howled, “YES! That’s a fairy tendency right there. They are rubbing off on my mate in the best way. I love this for my life. It sparks such joy.”

Lucas angrily spat out, “We don’t do that every training session.” I assured him, “Neither do we. It just happened to be today.” Eric asked calmly, “And we didn’t know you were doing this because?” His soul was not calm at all; he was very angry. I raised an eyebrow at Lucas, “I didn’t know that you all get injected with lead every so often...because?” Haley snorted and Logan laughed outright.

Lucas growled, “It’s not the same.” Haley rolled her eyes, “Come the fuck on.” I nodded, “Agreed, Haley. I’ll go a step further. My training, my body, my call.” Dylan dropped his bowl while Lacy gaped at me.

Lucas pinned me against the wall. Haley calmly stated, “She’s right. Eric, I don’t know all the ins and outs of the training for every warrior on our grounds. You train some of them yourself, and I don’t know their training plans.” Now Eric pinned Haley to the wall.

Logan said, “Sometimes little sister, I consider getting you a shovel so you don’t have to dig your own grave with your hands.” Haley asked, “Why would I need a shovel?”

I'm not digging anything. I'm saying it how it is. I'd just snap a grave anyway. There would be no manual digging. That sounds terrible." Dylan agreed, "It is. Who tries to make a double princess do manual labor? Crazy people, that's who."

Lucas growled, "I want to know when you make changes to your training plan." I said, "Ok, give me a detailed plan of yours then." Lucas growled, "I'm the Alpha, I can't write that down. We keep our training secret."

Dylan went back to eating popcorn. I glared at Lucas, "But the Luna's training plan should be written down? You've never asked us for one before." Lucas growled, "FINE! Tell me when sulfur days are." I countered somewhat immaturely, "Tell me when lead days are." Lucas set me down, "FINE!" He left, slamming the door.

Dylan cleared his throat, "God Alpha of the Pricks if you would be kind as to help me with... that." Eric growled, "This conversation is not over." Haley sighed, "Of fucking course it's not. Just so you know, I did this type of training with my Hackura family."

Eric shot a look at Logan who nodded. Eric yelled, "FUCK!" Haley yelled as he left with Dylan, "Aiden trains that way too! So does the fairy army and royalty!" Lacy stood and did a slow clap, "GOD! You and Lucas need to get married so I can call you sister. My body, my training, my choice! I need that on a t-shirt. DAMN EMMALINE! Your balls are bigger than Lucas'."

Haley laughed. Blade said, "Is trouble. Fairy trouble. Princess trouble. Smart though. Fairy needs training. Princess had training. Is good. Still trouble. Blade knew." I jumped, "Where did you come from?" Blade replied, "Blade always around." I waited for my heart to stop sputtering, "Good to know."

Logan spoke, "You two... I don't even know what to do with the two of you." I sheepishly asked, "Take me to see Katie?" Logan snorted. I continued, "Lucas will calm down while I'm gone." Haley commented, "You might as well take her, brother." Logan smiled, "Come on then."

I linked Lucas, "Logan is taking me to see Katie, I'll be right back." Lucas snarked, "As if I could stop you." I didn't like his tone, but in his shoes I might be salty too. I replied, "At least you know." Jerk. Haley sat down and started talking to Lacy.

Katie was so excited to see me. She took me aside, "Did you read the texts?" I shook my head. I closed my eyes and conjured the phone to me.

Unknown: Rogues are coming. Prepare for an attack.

I looked at Katie then responded to my unknown friend.

Me: A little late on that one, buddy.

Unknown: He's testing the waters.

Me: Who?

Unknown: Don't play dumb, it doesn't suit you.

Me: David?

Unknown: He doesn't know yet, but he's digging. He's thrown off by your birth certificate. Emmaline Richards is seventeen. Almost eighteen. Happy early birthday, consider this my present.

Me: Happy birthday to me then.

Unknown: See you soon Emmaline.

Katie said, "David won't think they got you a fake birth certificate." I nodded, "But he might see me as a way to strike back at Haley. It's firmly established she's Emmaline Richards' cousin." Katie frowned, "Unfortunately, that does sound like dear old dad." I promised her, "I'm getting ready." Katie rubbed my shoulders, "Good. He's weak, but tricky."

I disagreed, "Weak isn't a word I'd use for David." Katie sneered, "Anyone who goes after someone weaker than them because it's an easier target is a weak coward. He never picks on someone his own size. His reputation was built on taking out those weaker than him. I used to think he was this all-powerful warlock, but he's not. I'm stronger than him, and so are you." I smiled, "Thanks Katie."

We hung out some more, and she showed me the nursery she'd set up for her little boy. I smiled, "It's beautiful." Logan joined us, "Time for little fairies to go home." I gave Katie a hug, "Love you, Katie Cat." She smiled, "Love you too, Evie. Good luck with your wolf." Logan snorted, "She's going to need it." I assured my sister, "It will be fine."

Logan opened a portal and sent me back to Lucas' office. I looked around only seeing Haley and Lacy. I asked, "They aren't back yet?" Lacy stared at me like I was insane, "It's been ten minutes." I mused, "That's just so weird, I spent hours with Katie."

We waited for a few hours before Lacy got tired. I popped her to bed. I said goodbye to Haley who gave me a hug. I frowned, "We didn't do anything wrong." Haley said, "No, not wrong. They can dislike it all they want, but they've never asked to see my training plan for you. Not once since we fucking started. I swear they have hypocrite horses they ride around on. Where they have a point is we didn't tell them about it. We were quite possibly on our own hypocrite horses with that one."

I laughed, "High horse. They have high horses they ride around one." Haley said, "Nope they have hypocrite horses." I sincerely told her, "I love you, Haley." She smiled, "Love you too, Emmaline." She popped out.

I went upstairs to my room. I linked Lucas, "Are you coming to bed?" I didn't get an answer. I opened my eyes to my alarm going off. Lucas' side of the bed was cold and unslept on. That stung. I popped to the gym.

Lacy frowned at me, "Whoa, you look like you didn't sleep well." I admitted, "I waited for Lucas until I fell asleep." Lacy asked, "You didn't see him?" I tried to sound nonchalant, "I still haven't. He wasn't in our room." Lacy crossed her arms, "If you need me to kick his ass sister style, you let me know." I shrugged.

I was sure we'd talked about it when I got home from school, but I was wrong. Lucas avoided me as much as he could in the following days. I'd caught glimpses of him here and there. The entire pack was shooting me sympathetic looks.

After a week, I'd had enough. If he wanted to behave like this, then fine. I wasn't going to stick around to watch it. I'd be taking our group to Thanksgiving dinner at Eric and Haley's. Then if Lucas couldn't get the stick out of his butt, he'd get a taste of his own medicine, my style.

I linked Lacy, "I need to talk to you." She replied, "Pop to me." I popped and found her with Dylan. I glared at him, "If you so much as look at me with an OUNCE of pity, I'll punch you in the throat." Dylan's eyes widened and he held up his hands, "Umm whoa... I was just going to tell you how pretty you look. Pray tell, pretty little Luna, what's with the glare?"

I shrugged, "That's the most action I've got in a week. Thanks, Dylan." Lacy snorted. Dylan frowned, "Those kinds of lines are my thing." I shrugged, "Take it up with your Alpha. He's put me in a dang mood."

I popped away with Lacy before he said anything. Lacy asked, "So, what's up?" I explained, "If Lucas' attitude doesn't change after dinner I'm not staying here." Lacy yelled, "You can't leave the pack!" I could but I wasn't. I told her, "I'm not. Haley

sent me instructions on how to conjure a treehouse. That's what we are doing now." I conjured everything I wanted and popped Lacy up to it.

Lacy looked around my new treehouse. She reverently whispered, "Wow... this is... wow." I smiled, "Thanks. I have hotel reservations in Red Run, this territory, and Haley's." Lacy's jaw dropped. After several moments she squealed, "DAMN! I love you. Won't Lucas know you aren't there?"

I shrugged, "If I didn't plan to pop to all of them and check in, maybe." Lacy clapped, "Ok, when Dylan pisses me off this badly, you HAVE to help me get him back." I spoke in a monotone, "Lucas probably won't even care that I'm not here."

Lacy put an arm around me, "Sweetie, he will care." I disagreed, "I've seen the back of his head for a week." Lacy frowned, "He's been in your room at night." I shook my head, "Not on the bed like a normal person he hasn't." Lacy sighed, "I know, I've told him he's an idiot. Alpha males are stupid about their mates." I knew I sounded bitter when I replied, "I guarantee Eric and Haley are fine now."

Lacy looked at me with concern in her eyes. She spoke quietly, "They have that rule so... probably." I countered, "Or Eric just loves her more." Lacy's eyes filled with tears, "That's not true." I asked, "Really? He's managed to not speak a single word to me in a week. He doesn't answer my links, and he doesn't sleep in our bed. I doubt he even remembers my birthday is in three weeks. We are supposed to get married on Christmas Eve. Thank GOD I asked Haley to make my dream wedding snap into place. I'm not in the mood to plan a freaking thing."

Lacy stepped back, "That's... odd. Fairy's love to plan parties." I shrugged, "I'm not in the mood." Lacy looked at me worriedly for several moments. She told me, "Dylan said everyone's ready to go." I sarcastically spat, "Great. My first Thanksgiving in four years that I'll get to eat something, and I just want to throw it all at Lucas' face."

Lacy offered, "Cranberry sauce. Throw the cranberries at him. It stains and he does not like them." That gave me a slight flicker of amusement, but it was brief. Nothing made me happy anymore. I told her, "I just might."

I popped us back and grabbed Dylan's hand. I let go briefly to flip Lucas the bird. He growled, but I didn't spare him a glance. I popped us there. Lucas stalked off. Dylan asked, "Quick question, did you really just flip him the bird?"

I snarked, "Did he really growl because I grabbed your hand? Again, that's the most action I've got in a week. You keep me sane, Dylan. Thanks for that." Dylan ripped his hand from me as if it was on fire. Dale laughed, but Debbie frowned at him.

Dylan advised, "Let's say such things quietly. I like my head where it is currently. Atop my neck where it belongs. Having to run from my Alpha and keep him calm is a push pull balance I'm not sure I could do, and he is actually faster than me."

Debbie growled, "Do something Dale!" Dale retorted, "Woman! I swear it's like you think I do nothing all damn day long." Debbie snorted, "Obviously, you're doing a bang-up job." I left them to bicker and found Haley in the kitchen.

The triplets were in little bouncing chairs. Haley was covered in flour. I asked, "What on god's green earth is happening?" Haley looked up and smiled, "Google said Thanksgiving dinner is very important. Eric loves cherry pie. So, I am making him a shit fucking ton of cherry pies; that he'd better love. Because I could've just snapped it done, but I took the time to make it all myself."

I told her, "I'm sure he will love it." Haley smiled then did a double take. She asked me, "What's wrong? I feel your sorrow." I sighed, "Nothing you need to worry about." Haley disagreed, "Too damn bad. This is what I get for cancelling fairy lessons yesterday. Google said people need travel days. Fairies can pop though; I knew it was ridiculous. I should've just had practice. Now, I'm behind. What happened?"

I shrugged and tears filled my eyes. Haley came over and hugged me. I broke down crying, "Lucas won't talk to me." Haley asked, "What happened?" I sniffled, "The sulfur thing." Haley gaped, "Lucas hasn't spoken to you since LAST FUCKING THURSDAY?" I nodded.

Lacy walked in, "He's being a stubborn idiot." Haley threw off her apron, "No he's being a hurtful fucking idiot, and I'm going to go beat his stubborn ass! Right fucking now!" Miley giggled, "Now she's going to go off."

I wiped my tears and apologized, "I'm sorry, I didn't see you there." Miley smirked, "I didn't want you to. You'll never see a Hackura who doesn't want you to, until they do." I muttered, "That's not terrifying. People usually go with Happy Thanksgiving." Miley laughed, "I like you."

Blade appeared, "Happy Thanksgiving fairy." I greeted him in a monotone, "Happy Thanksgiving, Blade. See Miley? So simple and less terrifying." The only one not laughing was Haley. Her eyes were blazing gold.

She gritted her teeth, "Miley, make sure NOTHING happens to my fucking cherry pies or Lucas will pay. I can't prove it, but I'm positive Eric's mother is lurking, waiting to ruin one." I linked Lacy, "She believes that. Is she right?" Lacy winced,

“Cassandra doesn’t like fairies so... maybe. Mom said she’s been in a mood about Haley.” Bitch.

Miley saluted her, “I am on it! I feel like that was permission to finally punch that bitch in the face if she tries. There will be no messing up of pies.” Mrs. Blanch laughed, “I’ll be here too, Haley.” Haley kissed her cheek, “The world doesn’t deserve you, Mrs. Blanch.” I searched Mrs. Blanch’s soul. She agreed with Haley too. Maybe I’d charm Cassandra’s chair to fall over like Haley did Lucas’ that one time.

A pop sounded. Blade pulled a sword, but Haley quickly put her hand on his arm. She seemed surprised but not scared, “Exsis? What are you doing here?” The fairy who must be Exsis smiled, “Hello, Princess. You are beautiful as always; it has been far too long. You certainly grew up, didn’t you? My, my, my. I did always tell everyone you would be stunning. I love being right. Did you know Aiden tasked me to be a fairy liaison with the hood?”

Haley went on alert, “No, I did not. What happened?” Exsis held out something to her, “I do not know what happened, Princess. I have a letter. It was an urgent request, so I guess nothing good.” He looked quite happy about something that was bad. He glanced at me, and instantly look concerned. Haley snatched the piece of paper out of his hand.

Her eyes went wide, “Exsis, we have to go. Miley, call Bexley to comfort our cousin. Tell Lucas when I get back, I’m kicking his ass. NOTHING better happens to my pies. Happy FUCKING Thanksgiving.” She paused she said, “Google did say holidays can get dramatic. I will take its warnings more seriously next time.” Blade put a hand on Haley’s shoulder, and she grabbed Exsis and popped away.

The letter floated to the ground. I grabbed it hoping BA wasn’t in trouble. I frowned as I read it, “This is gibberish. How the heck does Haley know what it says? I’m positive this is not Fealish.” Miley grabbed it and told me, “It’s code.”

I pressed, “A code you know?” Miley frowned, “No, but Marcus or Bjourn will know what it is.” She sat back down. I waited then asked, “Are you going to get them?” Miley shook her head, “No, Haley has Blade, they will be fine. If she needed more help, she would’ve told us. She can pull on her connections with any of her family if need be. She took her phone; Gunner can track her if it comes to that.”

I asked, “Why didn’t she take you?” Miley said, “The Hood has rules they follow. Blade goes with Haley everywhere. If only Haley’s help was requested, then she has to go alone. It’s understood Blade is coming. If I wasn’t requested Haley couldn’t bring me unless it was life or death.”

Bexley popped in. She frowned the second she saw me, “Now I know why Miley said Haley wanted me to comfort you. Exsis even texted me he was concerned. Your sorrow is intense, cousin. What’s happening?” Lacy frowned, “What do you mean? Emmaline’s seems fine.” Bexley laughed bitterly, “Has she wolf? I am her relative and another fairy. I know she is not fine, far from it. What’s wrong, little cousin?”

Lacy explained, “My brother’s an ass.” Bexley asked, “How much of an ass?” Miley answered, “He hasn’t spoken to her in a week.” Bexley gaped, horrified. “You poor thing! How could he be so cruel?” I shrugged, “Don’t worry, I have a plan.” Bexley smirked, “Good. Show him what he’s missing. Let’s start by changing this outfit.” She snapped then nodded to herself, “That is much better.”

I looked down when Miley whistled. Lacy whooped, “DANNNGGGG, Emmaline!” Mrs. Blanch chuckled, “These men need to learn, you don’t mess with females. We are dangerous. Warfare of the mind is our game; they should stick to the physical.”

Bexley had snapped me into a skintight, pumpkin colored dress that scooped around my neckline. My tone was monotonous even to my own ears, “Thank you, Bexley. I love it.” Bexley told me quite seriously, “Make him sweat, cousin.” The timer on Haley’s pies went off. We all had to help get them out of the oven.

I surveyed them all once they were on the counter. I asked, “She made fifty pies?” Miley groaned, “We have GOT to get her away from google. She helped Mrs. Blanch with the turkey too. She told Eric he had to carve it. She did not take it well when he said it’s usually done before dinner by the kitchen staff. Needless to say, Eric is carving the turkey.” I agreed, “That’s so Haley.”

I saw Cassandra. I asked directly, “Can we help you?” She said, “I thought we’d taste the pies to make sure they were ok. I have pies from Eric’s favorite place ready to go.” I searched her soul and didn’t like it one bit.

I stared at her, “My cousin has yet to fail at anything I’ve seen her do since I met her. Maybe instead of hoping for her to fail, like your soul tells me you want her to, cheer her on instead. You’re not wanted in here until you get a soul cleanse. Stick around and I’ll figure out how to do just that. I’m in a mood. I bet since I’m mad my light would make it hurt if possible.” She ran from the room.

Miley clapped while Lacy gaped at me. I shrugged. I didn’t care. I snorted, “I don’t even know if I can do that. She obviously doesn’t pay attention to anything Haley does, or she’d know that she’s great. That’s on her.” Bexley agreed, “It is.”

Miley threw her arm around me, “How about you come around more often? I have to be nicer to her.” I shrugged, “Maybe I’ll move in since Lucas doesn’t care where I am.” Lacy frowned and went to say something, but Bexley motioned her not to.

It got closer and closer to dinner. I started to pace because Haley wasn’t back. I asked, “Do we have to tell the guys why she’s not here? She’s coming back, right?” Miley frowned, “Yes, hopefully soon.” I kept pacing, “Can we nominate Miley to tell Eric and Haley’s brothers where she is?” Miley smirked, “Uncle Titus is here too.” I gulped. I did not want see the King of the Hackura angry.

Lacy raised her hand, “Miley to explain the situation seconded. Can I get a third?” Bexley said “I’ll be your third, hands down. The Hackura are leery of me. All those people love Miley though. She has to explain.”

Marcus asked, “Miley has to explain what?” I jumped three feet in the air shrieking in fright. Where did he come from? Dylan snickered, “FINALLY! Someone understands my pain.” He gave me a fist bump and went to Lacy. I could smell Lucas, but I refused to look at him.

Miley greeted, “Well hello, everyone. Haley made a lot of pie. We MUST get her away from google.” Eric raised an eyebrow, “If that’s what you were voting on I’ll be your fourth. Unfortunately, I don’t think that what you get to explain, Miley.”

Miley sighed and held out a letter which Eric snatched. He instantly asked, “What the fuck is this?” Eric grit his teeth then continued, “Why is my wife in pain? WHERE IS SHE?” He looked at me. I squeaked searching his very angry soul. I timidly answered, “With Blade?”

Lacy said, “That’s what we know. Oh, and that Exsis guy. She’s with him too.” Eric growled, “WHAT?!” Aiden popped in with Lucinda and Aiylee. He greeted, “Hello, all. Haley insisted we come for this Thanksgiving meal deal... something about a family holiday....” He trailed off looking at Eric.

He quickly said, “Lucinda pop Aiylee, Fenilton, my niece, and nephews to their room here. Aiylee’s been dying to see it.” Lucinda quickly popped away with her children and the triplets.

Aiden frowned, “Eric, I swear Haley said it was important that I be here.” Eric growled, “WHY is she with Exsis?” Aiden was taken aback, “I have no idea. He’s our liaison with the.... Oh no.” Eric growled, “Don’t say that.” Aiden admitted, “He’s our liaison with the Hood.”

Bjourn snatched the note out of Eric's hand. He yelled, "FUCK ME! I'm going to KILL THE HOOD! GUNNER GET IN HERE!" I linked Lacy, "Gunner is here?" Lacy smiled, "He must be, I like him." I said, "Me too."

Gunner ran in and glanced around the room quickly asking, "What did she do now?" Bjourn demanded, "Track her goddamn phone right now, because it better fucking be on her." Eric began to pace as Gunner left to grab his tablet. He muttered, "Somehow I just knew I'd need this."

Just as he booted it up Haley, Blade, and BA tumbled into the room. I linked Lacy, "They look like they were in an explosion." Lacy agreed, "I think they were." Haley glanced at the group with her and they all started laughing.

BA sounded astonished, "I can't believe that worked." Haley jumped up victoriously, "Of course it worked. We came up with a brilliant fucking plan on the literal run. I can't believe you wanted me to heal that asshole." BA smiled, "He's not... usually an asshole. He's been having a rough time."

Haley smiled asking, "Can you stay for dinner?" BA said, "Sorry, I need a portal home. I have Thanksgiving plans. Plus, I need to see my brother."

Bjourn interjected, "Do you? How fortuitous. I'll take you to him." Haley whirled as if realizing we were there. She greeted, "Hey guys! My pies are fine, right?" She was halfway to the counter to check them when Eric picked her up and inhaled.

Aiden snapped his fingers. Haley, Blade, and BA were back to looking like they hadn't been in an explosion. Haley giggled, "Eric, I'm fine." Eric dragged her out of the room. I sighed linking Lacy, "Look at that, he's going to talk to her. I'm jealous." Lacy snorted, "Maybe... or be mad... or other things." I shrugged, "Still talking." Lacy shot me a sad look, "Lucas hasn't taken his eyes off you."

The front door opened loudly. Someone yelled, "HELLLLOO, everyone!" Jackson groaned, "Tell me Haley didn't invite her." Cassandra Connors came back into the room and slapped him on the arm. She told him, "No, I did she's family."

Jackson was stunned, "This will end... badly. Mom, Haley is really about this holiday going well. She won't like her. Not one bit." Cassandra said, "It will be fine. She had nowhere else to go." She didn't believe that. I muttered, "Liar." Several people looked at me. Darrin broke the awkward silence, "She had nowhere to go because no one wants her around."

A beautiful girl walked in. She hugged all the Connors then squealed when she saw Lucas, "LUCAS BEAR!" I raised an eyebrow linking Lacy, "Who the F is she? And who says Lucas bear?" Lacy answered, "She's Eric's cousin, her name is Nikki." Well, Nikki was all over my mate.

I asked, "She likes Lucas, doesn't she? Have they had sex?" Lacy winced, "I think so, but I don't actually know." I linked Dylan, "Who is she to my mate?" Dylan answered, "No one, you're it to him." I retorted, "He's still hugging her, Dylan. What is she to him? They had sex, right?"

Dylan winced, "Emmaline..." I snarked, "As your Luna, tell me." Dylan sighed, "She was his first." I kept my face blank. The wind knocked Nikki away from Lucas. She looked around wide eyed. Aiden demanded, "Keep your hands off the Duchess of Faerie's wolf." I shot him a grateful look.

She glared at him and turned back to my mate. Aiden grabbed me and took me out of the room. He chanted the space unheard chant. He asked me conspiratorially, "Do we want to make her meal unpleasant?" I didn't even smile. He continued, "You are very sad, cousin. I assume your wolf is upsetting you. I can help you there."

I frowned, "How?" Aiden smiled, "I have a cousin that Haley won't mind being here. He can help us. Little touches here and there and some light flirting." I thought about it, "Tell me it's not Halber because I already told Lucas he was my cousin." Aiden smiled conspiratorially, "That's the spirit. It's not Halber, he's my cousin not yours."

I asked, "Exsis?" Aiden laughed, "No, that would upset Haley's wolf. This is another fire cousin of mine, Fegle." I nodded, "A fire fairy named Fegle. How did you get a normal name?" Aiden smiled, "Luck."

A pop sounded. A charming man greeted Aiden, "Hello, cousin." Aiden responded, "Cousin." Fegle took my hand, "You MUST be Duchess Emmaline. Our beautiful water fairy duchess who was found safely." I nodded, "That's me." He smiled, "You MUST sit by me at dinner, Duchess Emmaline. Cousin, tell her she must." Aiden smirked, "She must." Fegle clapped, "Marvelous."

Jackson came out announcing, "We are heading into the... oh fuck me. Who is this?" I introduced him, "This is Fegle." Aiden added sounded delighted, "He's a cousin of mine. Haley did say this holiday was for family when she demanded I come."

Jackson looked between me and Fegle. He warned, "Emmaline..." I sounded blasé to my own ears, "Yes, Jackson." Jackson threw his hands in the air, "Fairies. We are overrun by fairies." Fegle held out his arm to escort me. I looped mine through his.

I linked Lacy, "Operation my way has commenced." Lacy responded, "That sounds ominous. I thought that was after dinner." I explained, "Aiden helped me start it early." Lacy sighed, "I'm officially worried. Nikki is..." I stopped her, "All over my mate, I figured."

I walked into the dining room, everyone but Nikki stopped talking. Lacy linked me, "Lucas definitely noticed." I glowered, "Good." I refused to look at him. Aiden directed me to the chair next to him and Fegle sat on my other side. Debbie glared at Dale who stared up at the ceiling. He complained, "Why, moon goddess? Why?"

Haley walked into the room with Eric. She smiled seeing the fairy next to me. She squealed, "Fegle! It's so good to see you!" Fegle stood and bowed, "I am honored by the invitation. I have been most intrigued by our new Duchess. Word of her beauty was not exaggerated."

Lucas growled. Fegle didn't falter as he continued, "That's a potent smell, Princess. Glad you and your wolf are so happy together." Haley blushed but everyone else laughed.

Nikki sounded like a baby, "Lucas bear, will you pour me more wine?" Haley turned, "Exfuckingcuse me, he's either Alpha Lucas or you can call him a lion. What the fuck is this bear shit? And who the fuck are you?" Nikki gasped, "Eric... she's so rude! I demand you punish her. She should be locked in the dungeons."

My jaw dropped. Did she not come to their wedding? Haley flung her out of her seat by calling the wind. Haley warned, "Bitch you haven't BEGUN to see rude. Sit down and shut the fuck up. This is MY territory." Nikki scampered to her seat; I couldn't hide my laugh. It sounded hollow though.

Haley broke the awkward silence, "Google does say Thanksgiving can have family tension. Now that the bitch is silent, and has realized my lion is not a fucking bear nor is he even available; Eric, will you carve the turkey please?"

Eric was not hiding his smile well. All the Connors were trying not to laugh. Cassandra just sighed. I shot Haley a grateful look. My phone buzzed.

Haley: I've got your six, cousin.

Me: Thank you!

Haley: Who is this she wolf who I might have to kill?

Me: Eric's cousin

Haley: NO FUCKING WAY!

Me: yup-p.

Haley: Why are there so many crazy she wolf's?

Me: Lucas had sex with her.

Haley: Once upon a time, I got that.

Me: He won't even talk to me, but her... his first... he will.

Haley: Want me to kick his ass? LOL The teens here have been teaching me texting lingo.

Haley: But really. I will kick his ass.

Me: Let's keep that in our back pockets.

Haley: We both have on dresses. Mine doesn't have pockets and neither does yours.

I laughed out loud which had Eric looking at me. I couldn't decipher his soul other than to know he was worried. I looked around the table. I noticed Gunner and Harper were there with a really pretty girl beside them. She smiled introducing herself, "I'm Cali." I nodded, "Hello, nice to meet you." Their souls were perfect for each other. I asked Gunner, "Where are Katie and Logan?" Gunner frowned and looked at Marcus.

Marcus answered, "Katie wasn't feeling well, so Haley sent food to them." Haley sighed, "Valerie wanted to spend this thanksgiving with her parents, and Ryan went with her. Aubree and Dustin were going to come, but she's also not feeling great." I teared up, "You invited them?" Haley glared at Lucas, "Yes, I did." What was that?

Conversation picked up around the table. Fegle engaged with me, "So, Duchess I heard that you have some impressive skills. Halber raves about you and let me assure you, the man doesn't rave about anyone." I heard a low growl. I smiled, "Thank you. I've got a really good teacher. I can't wait to learn more from Halber."

I saw Haley slap Lucas' arm out of the corner of my eye. Fegle saw it as well but didn't stop our conversation, "Yes, he looks forward to the same. Cousin Aiden, I might have to take one of these training spots. Partial fairies are delightfully fun, and

quite pleasing to the eye. In case no one's told you yet today you look stunningly beautiful, Duchess. This dress is fabulous."

Aiden chuckled, "I'm sure my sister has a spot for you, cousin." Dylan groaned and linked me, "Emmaline, for the love of god please..." I retorted, "We are just talking. He's not touching me unlike your Alpha over there, who has done NOTHING about Nikki's hand on his thigh."

Dylan's gaze went to Lucas which caused Haley's to. Haley whispered something to Nikki. Lucas stared at her in shock. Nikki withdrew her hand from Lucas as if she'd been burned. Good. Eric was shaking with laughter. Actually,

everyone but Cassandra was. I shot her a measured look. She broke our stare first. The Hackura were studying us both. Queen Veronica smiled smugly and gracefully took a sip of her wine.

The meal passed a lot like that. Lucas didn't even link me. Lacy linked, "I like the Fegle guy." I snorted, "Me too. Maybe I should run away with him." Lacy teased, "I'd miss you." I agreed, "I'd miss you too. I'd never leave you behind, Lacy, and for some reason I love your stupid brother." Lacy smiled, "Lucas is barely managing not to shift." I asked, "Why?" Lacy said, "Fairies really don't see it, do you?"

I pointed out, "He's ignored me all week. Am I supposed to sit around and wait for him to decide to be a grown up? I have a life to live. By the way, where have my brothers been this week? I saw their cars, but not them." Lacy fidgeted, "They have been having dinner with Lucas." I yelled, "You have GOT to be kidding me." Lacy winced.

Dylan glanced sharply at her then looked at me. He put his head in hands. I hissed back in our link, "They are dead meat." Lacy said, "On the plus side, they get along now." I ranted, "They are MY brothers. They get to be on my side when he's the one who's wrong. Heck, even when he's right, my side! My brothers, MY SIDE! That's a frigging thing." Lacy tried to appease me, "If it matters, mom and I are on your side." I calmed down, "Thank you."

Fegle stood and held his arm out to me, "Duchess Emmaline, I would love to escort you to the glass chapel our lovely princess conjured on this property. Many of our trainers speak of its beauty. I find myself very curious to see it." Lucas growled.

I smiled and said, "I'd love to show it to you, it's magnificent." Lucas started to say something, but Fegle popped us away. I told him, "They will come out here." Fegle chided, "Ahh, but Duchess you cannot catch a fairy if we don't want to be caught. Something tells me they won't be shooting us with iron." My phone buzzed.

Haley: Lacy says you have a plan. Enact phase two now because the guys are on the way.

Me: Thanks, cousin.

Haley: Call or text if you need me.

I asked Fegle, "Do you want to join me on this charade?" He looked at his watch, "I have some time. Let's see what mischief you have planned." I popped us away to the hotel in Red Run. I checked in, and we went up to the room.

The phone rang the second we walked in the room. I frowned, picking it up, "Hello?" Alpha Kyle hurriedly asked, "Emmaline, what in the seven hells is going on? A pack member just linked me that you checked into a hotel with a guy. Are you alright?"

I answered, "No, I am not. Thank you for asking. The guy is a fairy, and he's a cousin to the king. He's escorting me around. When Lucas calls you or vice versa tell him to enjoy Nikki." Alpha Kyle yelled, "What?!" I slammed the receiver down. Fegle conjured cards and taught me a fairy game.

I looked at my watch, "Onto the next stop." Fegle smiled, "Wiley, little duchess." I popped us to Lucas' territory and checked in. Dylan linked me, "Emmaline... Please..." I asked, "Please what, Dylan?" Dylan tried, "You don't understand..." I disagreed, "But I do. My mate doesn't care about me until someone else is speaking to me."

Dylan corrected, "Flirting. He was flirting with you, and Lucas does care. So very much. Do you know how much sleep I have missed because he loves you?" Even to my ears I sounded sad, "I don't know that he does anymore. Fegle wasn't flirting, he was being nice. I actually got to speak to someone who didn't feel sorry for me because my mate is a jerk. He didn't stare at me with pitying eyes or anything else. So, stick that in your pipe and smoke it."

Dylan asked, “Will you at least unblock your link with Lucas?” I knew it was immature, but I didn’t care. I snarked, “No, he hasn’t wanted to talk to me all dang week, and now I don’t want to talk to him. Does he not like a taste of his own medicine?”

Fegle got a text and laughed. He bowed, “My cousin has sent me a warning via the Princess. Do you plan to get caught here?” I shook my head, “Nope.” I grabbed him leaving my phone behind. I popped away to Haley’s territory. We checked into my room there.

Fegle smiled once we got up there, “Will this be as quick as the last visits?” I shrugged, “Probably not. I’m not as well-known here.” We talked for a bit. Fegle smiled, “Riling up a wolf is dangerous when they love you. Even when they don’t, it’s dangerous.”

I looked at the ceiling, “He could’ve fooled me that he gave a damn.” Fegle gasped, “Why Rhett Butler? Such language.” He sobered, “That wolf does loves you; it was all over his face. Besides, if he did not; the princess would kill him. If she had qualms about it because of her own wolf, cousin Aiden would kill him. Or your father.” I laughed.

Fegle said, “I noticed you left your phone at the last hotel.” I nodded, “They would’ve tracked it. Lucas hasn’t wanted to talk to me all week. So, why should I talk to him now that he’s decided because another male spoke to me he needs a conversation?” Fegle smirked, “I love partial fairies, I always have. I must be off. Should you need another partner in crime any time, I would be at your service Duchess.”

I smiled, “Thanks for the company, I appreciate it.” Fegle smiled and kissed my hand, “It’s an easy thing to do. Spending time in the presence of a beautiful woman.” With that he popped out.

I sighed and sat down. I called upon Haley's protection because it was the only way for me to get a hold of her. She popped to me in a second. She took a relieved breath, “Thank fucking god, I thought something bad had happened.” I smiled, “Sorry, I don’t have my phone.”

Haley got into the bed and held me. She stroked my hair and I started to cry. I admitted, “I miss him, and he didn’t even bother to look at me all week.” Haley sounded annoyed, “Apparently, he looked when you weren’t looking, but fuck him.” I laughed, “He doesn't even want that anymore from me.”

Haley snapped us drinks, “Miley swears a strawberry martini fixes everything. You don’t have school tomorrow, right?” I nodded. Haley smirked, “Then pop us to your final destination. Evin just texted they found this reservation.” I laughed, “How do you know I have a final destination?” Haley smiled, “Because you are a smart fairy, who is also cunning.” I smirked and popped us to my second treehouse.

Haley looked around then complimented, “This is amazing! I’m so proud of you!” We clinked our glasses. With some enthusiasm I said, “Cheers!” Turns out Haley couldn’t get drunk, but I definitely could.

I linked Lacy, “Ohhhhh LLLAACCCYYYY! Are you up?” Lacy replied, “Are you drunk?” I laughed, “That rhymed. Can you spend the night away from Dylan? It’s ok if you can’t.” Lacy instantly told me, “Pop to me, sister. I got you.”

I giggled and said to Haley, “I’m sending you home since you have kids and a mate who speaks to you. Lacy is going to spend the night with me.” Valerie linked me, “Emmaline, are you ok? Ryan is beside himself.” I retorted, “You tell that Benedict Arnold he’s supposed to be on MY SIDE! Mine! My brother, my side. Fair is fair.”

Valerie asked, “What? Lacy just said she’s spending the night with you. Take me too. Maybe I can get an explanation this way.” I countered, “Do you still want to come if you can’t tell Ry where you are? Because you literally can’t.” Valerie agreed, “Sure.”

Haley put a hand on my back, “I can stay if you need me to.” I shook my head, “Nope, go to your mate who loves you.” Haley told me, “Lucas does love you, Emmaline. He’s a stupid asshole, but he’s your stupid asshole.”

I cried, “Is he? Or is he Nikki’s?” Haley laughed, “That she bitch won’t come within a mile of Lucas ever again. She didn’t have a welcomed exit from our home. Ok, I kicked her ass. That’s not the point, if she goes near Lucas again; I’ll kill her.”

I laughed, “I love you and your murder-y-ness. I totally get that now.” Haley smiled, “I’m sure you do. I’ll bring Lacy to you.” I clapped, “Valerie wants in too! Is it safe to say Team Fairy is back in the lead? Team werewolf was winning all freaking week.” Haley smiled and kissed my cheek, “Team Fairy is totally winning.” She popped away and popped right back.

Lacy and Valerie hugged me. Valerie was asking what the hell was going on. Haley snapped and we were all in comfy pajamas. She snapped again and there was another martini in my hand. Valerie frowned, “Umm maybe she should not have another

drink.” Haley laughed, “Fairies don’t get hangovers, and this is as drunk as she can get. I don’t see the problem. Call if you need me, cousin. Don’t worry. I made them leave their phones behind.”

I smiled, “My fairy godmother thinks of everything.” Haley gave me a hug, “Don’t settle for anything less than what you deserve. DEMAND that he treats you better. Next time, kick his ass if he won’t talk to you. He can’t just ignore you for days, that’s not allowed.” Haley popped away.

Lacy, Valerie, and I talked for several hours then we all snuggled into the bed into the treehouse. If Lucas wanted to play, he picked the wrong fairy. Game on, Lucas Lyons. Game on.