

# Protect Her

Lucas woke up feeling like he was missing something. The week had flown by. On Wednesday afternoon Alex came into my office. He asked, “Have you seen the obstacle course the Luna is working on?” I glanced up startled, “What are you talking about?” Dylan asked, “Is that where she and Lacy have been disappearing to after school? Tell me Lacy isn’t participating in said obstacle course. I KNEW I should follow them. Dang this paperwork to the pits of hell. It’s interfering with my knowing things.”

Alex winced, “Lacy has done some of it. Not like the Luna has been though.” Dylan grumbled, “When did we get on obstacle course, Lucas? I should know these things! I would’ve said we needed to test the equipment. It would’ve added fun to our day. You bought an obstacle course and didn’t even tell me. I am offended at the highest of levels. I pay our credit cards. What charge did you hide this under?”

I told him, “I didn’t order an obstacle, Dylan. I didn’t even know we had one.” Alex smirked, “We do now.” He led us outside. Dylan whistled, “This is a legit obstacle course. When did this appear?” Alex looked away, “After the pup shower in Red Run.”

Dylan asked, “Why did your mate create this obstacle course? Actually, I don’t care. Let’s play on it. Can we PLLLEEAAASSSEEEE?” I laughed, “We might as well.” We played on Emmaline’s obstacle course, and we went inside when we were done.

Dylan asked, “What do you think that’s about? She just randomly conjured an obstacle course. How the hell did you not know she’d done it? Wait, I know how. You’re a workaholic. The pack is going to get a scathing link about my lack of links about this. I must know the things.”

I sighed, “She must have done it after I went to sleep that night. I hope she’s just running off her nervous energy because I got hurt.” Dylan groaned, “I hear a but in there.” I sighed, “But I’m worried she knows something is coming, and she’s training for it.”

Dylan grimaced, “And there it is. I knew there was a but. Technically speaking, we all know who’s coming eventually.” I added, “Nothing I have found indicates David knows about Emmaline being Evelyn Forrester.”

Dylan said, “Again technically speaking she’s Evelyn Walsh.” I sighed, “I have a headache. My mate's birth name is Evelyn Forrester which she legally changed to

Emmaline Richards but technically her birth name is Evelyn Walsh; therefore, she's technically Emmaline Walsh." Dylan smiled, "Don't you worry. I am here for you and all the technicalities." That was probably good. We worked on paperwork the rest of the day.

Emmaline came to get me for her fairy lessons. She bounded away from me the second she popped us in. After five minutes, I looked at Eric who also looked confused. I asked him, "What the hell is going on? I've got a fairy conjured obstacle course, and now Emmaline is being trained like she's about to go to war. I'd say Haley is in a mood, but that can't be the case. No one else is training the way Emmaline is."

Eric sighed, "Haley said Emmaline asked her to change their training plan." I growled, "She's dodging Bexley's sunlight hands." I winced when she took a hit. Haley popped over to Emmaline instructing, "Fight with your powers, not just your speed." Haley popped away.

Emmaline started using her ice powers against Bexley's sunlight hands. Jackson snorted, "She really is Queen Elsa." I stared at him. He shrugged, "What? I have a little girl. Do you have ANY idea how many times I have watched that dang movie? I swear Matt took her to see it just so she'd sing it all the time. He bought her the digital version the second it was available too. Saied runs around the house singing 'Let it go' at least three times a day." I empathized, "I feel for you." Jackson grumbled, "You have no idea."

I turned back to my friend, "Eric, why did Emmaline ask for a change in her training plan?" Eric shrugged, "I don't know, and to be fair I didn't ask. I only know that much because Haley was up late re-working some plans and I asked what they were." I frowned, "Would Haley tell you if David contacted Emmaline?" Eric looked grim, "I'd like to think so."

Bjourn spoke, "David has not contacted Emmaline." I whirled, "You know what's going on?" Bjourn nodded, "I have been pinky sworn to silence. Haley wanted help creating a cardio plan and new training plan. I am the obvious choice for that. My mate is the Commander of the Army's daughter. Had she not been my mate, as the oldest she could've chosen to take the spot as our commander. Actually, I'd have let her do both. She chose to train, her charities, and training to be the future queen. I trained with my father-in-law to fight from the time I was walking. My cardio programs are implemented by our entire realm. I do not mess around with cardio."

I asked, “You got married?” Bjourn laughed, “Not yet, no. I call him father-in-law, and have since I was sixteen. Astrid is mine, she’s my family as is he. In our realm, we are family. We don’t need to be married for that to be true.”

I was curious, “Do you have to ask permission from the family, usually the father, like in this realm?” Bjourn smirked, “No. The only permission I ask for about our relationship is from Astrid. I find the tradition of asking the father here interesting, if not outdated. I can see the argument about respecting the man of the family; however, if who you are dating someone who wants to marry you... why does it matter what the father says? If he says no, do you cast aside the feelings of the one you love and break up? Why is it the partner’s consent is not more valued in this realm? These are the things I ponder.”

Jackson asked, “Weren’t you guys going to have Haley marry Eric for an agreement with our pack?” Bjourn smiled, “Yes, Haley would’ve consented to it before we brought it to him though. We wouldn’t have done it if she was opposed. We were not about to leave her partner to chance. Fate had not been kind to her in life. We’d been scouting Eric as our top choice for several years. Luckily for us all, it worked out.”

I cringed, “Do I need to be worried, Bjourn?” Bjourn assured, “Not at this moment, no. I do believe if that changed Haley would tell Eric.” Eric snorted, “She’d fucking better.” Hexxi took over with Emmaline, and they fought using their water powers.

I began to pace, “Seriously, this has to be how the fairies prepare for war. We are NOT going to war with David.” Eric disagreed, “We will someday. If he’s not caught quickly, we will be at war with him and his.” I growled, “My mate doesn’t need to prepare for war.”

Bjourn spoke, “It’s better to be prepared and have the knowledge than to not have it and need it. I will say there are a few pieces of this training plan that you will despise. One does not come into play until later though.” I groaned, “I hate the cryptic comments.”

Bjourn smiled, “I never lie to my little sister, and I promised I wouldn’t tell anyone.” Eric told me, “Lucas, he wouldn’t have promised before knowing why Haley wanted the training plan. If he says David doesn’t know about

Emmaline, then he does not. You can’t fault her for wanting to be more prepared. You would be possessed and driven to train harder if you’d seen her hurt.”

I cringed, “I saw her whipped because of Christy’s lies and my incompetence; I did nothing.” Eric disagreed, “That’s not true at all. You are more vigilant now about

unknown factors. You have several people being watched. There's not much you can do training wise. You've been training since you could walk. Emmaline has not and now she feels the need to catch up."

I sighed, "She doesn't need to catch up in a few weeks. They could build to that." Eric shrugged, "I think it will be a good thing." He was right, but I still paced the field. Haley was going to have to use some charm to fix the patch I'd created.

Emmaline popped us home, and I talked to her about the training session. I just didn't want her to push herself too hard. I'd seen it happen many times, where warriors push themselves into exhaustion. I carried Emmaline to bed, and she was asleep before I laid her down. I watched her sleep for a while, getting some work done on my laptop. I might have to convince her to take it easy on herself. Maybe after Thanksgiving I could convince her to slow down and focus on the wedding. Fairy's love to plan parties.

The next day, Gina and her mate came into my office. I nodded to them both. I apologized, "Gina, I am terribly sorry about what you suffered." Gina sniffled, "It's not your fault, I know if dad..." her voice broke, "I know if he'd told you... you'd have found us." I nodded, "I would've. We have prepared your father's body. He will be buried on pack lands if that is what you wish."

Gina's eyes filled with tears, "You would do that for him after what he did?" I nodded, "For you, yes. You are a part of this pack as long as you wish to be. If you both want to move on, I'll give you my recommendation to join any pack you like."

Gina shook her head, "No, we talked about it and we want to stay here. Ryker didn't have a good experience growing up in Alpha Hammond's pack like I had here. I want to remember the good times with my dad here. Thank you for letting me bury him here, he would have wanted that."

I nodded, "He did love you, Gina. Everything he did was done for you. He went about it the wrong way, but I could tell he loved you." Gina cried, "I loved him too. I can't believe he did this though." Ryker hugged her and she curled into him.

I spoke after several moments, "My mom said she gave you a list of therapists. If there is anything else you need Gina just ask." Gina looked up, "Will you train Ryker, personally? He could be a great warrior, I know it."

Dylan linked me, "Something about how you don't have the time..." I agreed, "Dylan and I will train him. When do you want to start Ryker?" Ryker looked at Gina, "I'd like some time to get settled. What about the week before Thanksgiving?"

I looked at Dylan nodding, “We can start on Friday that week. From then on, we can do Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays.” His eyes brightened hearing the schedule. I added, “That first week we could do Wednesday as well. That will be your cardio day along with Thursday. My mate has fairy practice with her cousin on Wednesday’s, but Haley gave everyone that Wednesday off to be with family.”

Ryker nodded and stood, extending his hand, “Thank you. I know you don’t have to train me personally with your Beta. I know I’d be well behind your warriors due to our treatment with Alpha Hammond and I do want to learn. I appreciate the time you’re giving me.” They left my office.

I sighed, “Call Alpha Cameron.” Dylan saluted me, “Aye, Aye captain. You do realize training him personally is going to chew up A LOT of our free evenings?” I nodded, “We owe it to him. He deserved better than he got. With us training him, he’ll catch up to our other warriors quickly. We will be able to shuffle him into classes once he’s comfortable. It was the only thing Gina asked of me.”

Dylan groaned, “Do you HAVE to be such a good person and Alpha? Seriously, you’re nauseating.” I laughed, “You’ll live, Dylan.” Dylan grumbled, “So you say. Is this what I have to look forward to for our very long lives? You making us work a lot more than necessary? I SO did not sign up for that. You need to relax and enjoy the scenery. We already have ongoing surveillance on Alpha Raven’s children, Alpha Prater, and his children, oh and Alpha Ezra... he doesn’t have kids thank god. While combing through any sort of trail to find if the Ducant Alpha had more children. Let’s throw in training a warrior. Why not? We obviously have the time. Who needs sleep? Not I Lucas, not I.”

He stopped talking, but I knew he wasn’t done. He did not disappoint, “Why do we have that surveillance by the way? It seems like overkill.” I knew he’s freak out, “It was advice from the moon goddess. She told me we’d need to watch those we make enemies of for the future. I didn’t get the sense it was for our pups, but it’s going to help one of our allies. So, I will keep watching them because I want to help. Who says no to the moon goddess anyway?”

Dylan was gaping at me. I waited several moments for his mind to catch up. Dylan yelled, “Ok... I have so many thoughts. First, I will quote our special fun sized ninja fairy, EXFUCKINGCUSE ME?! YOU MET THE MOON GODDESS? WHEN? HOW? WHY AM I JUST HEARING ABOUT THIS? I thought we were best friends! You’re just out here meeting the moon goddess and not telling me. I’m complaining about the amount of work we are doing, and you met the moon goddess? OH, CRUEL UNIVERSE! Did you ask the moon goddess why she thought we could handle this workload and have a oh gee...? I don’t know... A LIFE?”

I bit my lip, “We are best friends. I know we are going to spread ourselves thin for a bit, but we will get used to the surveillance reports before my wedding. I met the moon goddess when I was stabbed, and Haley healed me. She told me that Emmaline would handle David with my help. She also said to keep an eye on our enemies for the future. I asked if it was my pups, and she said no.”

Dylan said, “Well I’m glad you didn’t ask for any more clarifying details, Lucas. That would’ve been boring and unhelpful. GOD! I’m going to write out a detailed list of questions for you to ask our moon goddess if she gives you another audience with her. Seriously, Alpha’s are lost without us Beta’s. You can’t speak to fairies or goddesses without our help. You got the bare minimum on the details. You’re KILLING me, man! And now you’re saying I have to have a near death experience to see the moon goddess.”

Dylan paused then grinned, “Please oh please let me tell GAP you’ve seen the moon goddess. I’ll forgive you for not telling me sooner. This is too good. You’ve seen the moon goddess and he hasn’t. PLEASE LET ME TELL HIM!”

I admitted, “Eric and Haley have met the moon goddess.” Dylan threw the file in his hands, “OF COURSE he has. I HATE HIM! Don’t mind me as I sent Beta Caleb a SCATHING memo for not sending one about that. What else is a memo for? You know what question goes on your list for the moon goddess. WHY dear goddess WHY does God Alpha Prick get EVERYTHING?”

I laughed, “You’re not upset that Haley met the moon goddess?” Dylan snorted, “Our fun sized ninja fairy is a goddess herself. I harbor no ill will towards her ever. I am her humble servant. I will not be offending my source of entertainment. That would upset Emmaline, who is now my main line to said entertainment. I cannot upset the apple cart. I’d meet our fun sized ninja fairy if I was the moon goddess too. Wouldn’t you? She’s amazing.”

I laughed, “She’s pretty great.” Dylan frowned at me, “You’re trying to take my fairy fun from me with this schedule.” I shrugged, “It won’t bog you down too much until right before Thanksgiving.” Dylan snarked, “Yeah, because how could that be problematic? Let’s make the holidays even more hectic. How can we do that? Throw in extra work. Let’s not forget that same timeline has Emmaline’s birthday, and a wedding. What could possibly go wrong? The holidays are a carefree, joyous time that aren’t hectic at all. Sometimes Lucas... you don’t use that brain of yours. I love you though.” I rolled my eyes, “You’ll live. Alpha Cameron, please.”

He dialed. Alpha Cameron answered on the second ring, “Alpha Lucas, I have a bit of a situation on my hands.” I cut to the case, “I’ll be quick, Gina and Ryker are back in

our pack. Gina was raised here but left and joined Hammond's pack when she met Ryker. They brought some concerning information to us regarding his former pack that you acquired."

Alpha Cameron sounded relieved, "You guys have Ryker and Gina? They were on my list of those I was concerned I couldn't locate. That's a relief." I told him, "We rescued them from Alpha Hammond. Ryker brought a situation to my attention, and I wanted to bring to yours."

Alpha Cameron spoke evenly, "Alright, what's going on?" I told him, "It seems Hammond held warriors back intentionally. Ryker gave me the impression they were embarrassed by their lack of skill. I'm going to train him myself to get him up to speed, but you may have warriors who are embarrassed to tell you of their true abilities. Gina told my mother that Hammond held many back from their true fighting potential."

Alpha Cameron groaned, "That makes sense. I'll have to do individual evaluations and come up with a program. Thank you, Alpha Lucas." I offered, "Anytime. If you need additional trained warriors, I can assign some to help you. I'm sure Alpha Eric and Alpha Kyle can as well."

Alpha Cameron sighed, "My brother has many warriors that could help. If we can't get the numbers between myself and Chase, I'll give you call." Alpha Chase spoke, "I'm sure we can, brother." Dylan raised an eyebrow, "Ahh, Alpha Chase. How are you?" Chase answered, "Alright. Great even, probably."

Dylan smiled broadly, "Color me intrigued." Alpha Cameron said, "Gotta go. Thank you for the heads-up, Alpha Lucas." They hung up.

Dylan mused, "Methinks something is going on with Alpha Chase." I held up my hands, "I don't want to know. If I don't know I don't have to decide if I tell Emmaline or Eric, who then has to decide to tell Haley." Dylan smiled, "You make it too fun for me to find things out. Anything that ruins GAP's day is something I must know."

I growled, "Not this, Dylan. Emmaline and Haley were already feeling... some type of way about this situation. They did some ancient fairy ritual, and there was a LOT of discussion about pain being involved. Lots of pain. Let's leave this one for now." Dylan moaned, "Why MUST you take these moments away from me? All work and no play makes Dylan Dull. Dull Dylan is not a moniker I want."

I rolled my eyes, "No one would call you dull. Anyone who's met you anyway. Actually, anyone who's heard of you, your reputation would tell people you aren't

dull.” We worked until it was time for fighting lessons. Dylan was elated when Haley told Lacy to sit out.

I was apprehensive sharing glances with Eric. I sighed, “At least it’s just Haley today.” When Haley and Emmaline popped out Dylan clapped. I growled, “No one said they were fighting outside tonight.” Eric frowned, “Haley said they’d be right back.”

Eric shivered. Dylan said, “I’m sorry God Alpha Prick, did you just get a chill? Or did someone Beetlejuice you?” Eric bit back, “Dylan, shut up before I hurt you. Something is off with Haley.” I sighed, “Emmaline doesn’t feel any different to me.” Eric admitted, “It’s not a big feeling, but it’s from our Hackura bond.”

Dylan smirked, “Don’t you worry GAP, we will not tell anyone you caught a bit of chill.” Eric lunged at Dylan who shrieked and stood up. Eric smirked, “Be careful, one day you will push me too far.” The girls popped back.

Eric’s and my eyes narrowed. Dylan spoke first, “Lacy, I do believe something interesting is happening in my show.” Eric growled at him. Lacy teased, “You just now caught that? I caught that when Haley had me sit out.”

I hissed when Haley knocked Emmaline down with a roundhouse kick. Dylan winced, “YIKES! I see we are not holding back tonight.” Lacy agreed, “So it seems.” Dominic and I were on edge watching them fight the whole time.

As soon as they were done, I was on the mats. I needed to know what was going on. Haley was giving me nothing. Eric directly asked her if there was a threat we didn’t know about. Dylan linked me, “Did you hear that question? He is taking lessons from Beta Caleb, I’m convinced. You need to take lessons from me, so I don’t have to say GAP asked a good question.” I yelled, “DYLAN!” Dylan smiled, “Don’t worry I’ve penciled our sessions into our lunch hour. I’ve got your back.” I rolled my eyes.

Dylan linked me, “They might not know of an imminent threat, but your mate just had this big ass smile. We are missing something.” I growled, “You think?” Dylan tried to get the girls to laugh. He linked me, “But really, I have a bad feelings. Maybe I’m becoming a fairy and getting a power. Or maybe it’s my Beta senses. I pick becoming a fairy. That’s much cooler.”

Emmaline said it was about me getting hurt. Dylan linked me, “BAD, BAD FEELINGS! I just know this is going to ruin many of my days to come. SO MANY DAYS!” I sighed, “It’s not always about you.”



Dylan watched Lacy go after Emmaline. He muttered, “Oh contraire, Lucas. This will very much be about me. Not today but someday soon, this little declaration from our Luna WILL very much be about me and my life.”

I ignored him, “Haley, this isn’t necessary.” Haley said, “Oh. Well in that case, I guess we can stop.” I paused, “Really?” Haley rolled her eyes, “FUCK NO!” Dylan asked, “Umm did you just lie?” Haley said, “No, if Lucas was right and this wasn’t necessary, we could stop and go back to the original training plan. He’s wrong though. I can be sarcastic.” Dylan took out a notebook and wrote that down. Jesus.

I growled, “That wasn’t the first time I’ve been stabbed.” Haley said, “There’s a great argument. Hey, I’ve been stabbed before so obviously it’s fine. I’ve been kidnapped and snacked on by vampires. Eric, are you cool with me feeding one since they didn’t drain me of all my blood the first time?”

Eric’s eyes flickered black and he roared, “NO!” Haley smiled, “Right and why is that, Thor?” Eric growled, “Just because a group of them didn’t drain you the first time doesn’t mean another couldn’t! They can’t have you. YOU ARE MINE! NO feeding vampires.”

Haley kissed him lightly on the lips then tapped his nose. She told him, “Thank you, my dear husband, for proving my point. Just because something happened once before doesn’t mean it’s a good idea to repeat it.”

Dylan howled with laughter while I growled. Dylan gleefully pointed out, “She got you there.” Haley nodded, “She’s fine, my lion. She wants to up her training. Would you deny a pack member that request as their Alpha if they came to you?”

I growled, “Fuck your damn good points! Pop back to your territory to fight calmly and rationally with Eric about something.” Dylan gasped, “LUCAS! WHY are you trying to end my show early? I DO SO MUCH FOR YOU!” Haley laughed, “Goodbye, my friend Dylan. I leave you with my cousin who is also part of your fairy show.” Haley popped out with Eric.

Dylan said, “The show is ten times better when they are together. You ruined the whole thing!” I growled at him. Dylan ranted, “Gosh, I hope you are nicer to your nephew than you are to me sometimes.”

I stopped and turned on a dime asking, “It’s a boy?” Dylan grinned broadly, “Yes, it’s probably best you made GAP leave before I taunted him about my son being mated to a future daughter of his.” I snorted, “Not Cassie?”

Dylan rolled his eyes, “You don’t pay close enough attention to the fairy show. Cassie has been around Lacy, and she didn’t pop to her. EJ couldn’t stay away from pregnant Chelsea. Ergo, my son is not Cassie’s mate, but the chance at a future daughter lingers. Hope abounds, my dear friend.” I laughed and gave him a hug, “Congratulations, Dylan. You’ll be a great dad.”

Dylan and I walked outside. I picked up Emmaline who was concerned I’d given Haley a hard time. Dylan linked me, “Sometimes I don’t think Haley or Emmaline know the restraint it takes Alpha males to watch their mate get hurt and not attack. On second thought, that’s brilliant. Now, I just need to goad GAP into joining my fun. You and Emmaline versus Haley and Eric. I could sell tickets! I NEED to go buy popcorn in bulk. I WILL BE RICH!”

I sighed, “You are rich, you overgrown man-child!” Dylan said, “I WILL BE RICHER! WHOOPEE!” He twirled Lacy around who laughed at him. I talked a bit with Emmaline. I linked Dylan, “Emmaline says this new training is about David and me getting stabbed. He doesn’t know about her, does he?”

Dylan replied, “No, we read through those reports today. He knows nada, and he has no Beta. I’d feel bad for him, but he sucks. So, I spare him no cares.” I calmed down a little. I hated that I understood hers and Haley’s logic. WHY were fairies so damn logical when I wanted them to have a glaring error in their logic? Damn it.

The weeks passed by; I was never at ease with the new training plan. Eric and I paced while Dylan mocked us. Eric thought something else was different, but he couldn’t pin it down. I shrugged it off. The Thursday before Thanksgiving I was reminded that Eric’s feelings are never wrong.

We were watching the girls spar when we heard the fighting. The pack link was filled with shouting, “ROGUES! At least one hundred of them.” I was out the door with Eric. I shifted and began fighting.

I linked Brad, “How the HELL did they get through?” Brad replied, “They were fast, and the border patrol was running on our regular schedule. They either got lucky, or they knew. Since there are so many, I’m guessing they knew. Black Mountain is engaged on the border. They stopped a lot from getting this far.” I growled and began ripping through rogues.

I saw a wolf fly by me. I smirked at a rogue whose eyes were wide. That’s right we have fairies! He should be afraid. Dylan linked me, “You know I reserve cursing for specific moments. Well, prepare yourself. MOTHER FUCKER! GAP just called the FUCKING wind in wolf form. I hate him!” I was surprised it wasn’t Haley.

I spotted Emmaline fighting with a dagger. I turned and kept taking down wolves. Brad linked me, “Does the Luna not have her powers?” I frowned, “Of course she does.” Brad responded, “She’s not using them, and neither is the Princess.”

I linked Eric, “TELL ME they are not shooting themselves up with iron before practices!” Eric growled, “I’m getting the feeling they are.” Dylan practically skipped in wolf form to his next target. He linked me, “I do love the fairy show. They aren’t using their powers. I thought they were practicing their hand-to-hand skills. Now, I have other suspicions.”

I growled, “Let’s hope that’s what it is.” Dylan said, “But I saw you and GAP lock your linking eyes. You’ve put it into the universe that they’ve done some iron type training.... don’t you just know.... That’s exactly what they are doing, shooting up with iron. God bless them and the entertainment they bring to my life.”

I growled and ripped through rogues even faster. Eric and I turned in time to see Haley and Emmaline using their powers. I linked Eric, “Dylan originally thought they were working on hand to hand. He must be right.” Eric didn’t sound happy, “I’m not the optimistic one, they wouldn’t do a high dose.” We shifted back.

Dylan asked, “When did the youngest creepy ninja assassin get here?” Eric said, “You’re not very observant, Dylan. He was here the whole fight.” Dylan growled, “First of all, he has NINJA like powers! Second, sorry I was focused on not dying and didn’t pay attention to the NINJA. Oh wait, no. I am not sorry at all. Off to my show!”

We grabbed clothes. Haley snapped us into them before we could put them on. Eric stared at her, and she stared back. Emmaline popped back to our group with Lacy. I couldn’t decide where to look. Haley teased her brother about being in love.

Dylan said, “For the record, I am such a fan that he’s in love with your mate’s sister. He maybe a creepy scary ninja, but he’s our creepy scary ninja.” I rolled my eyes. Dylan went over to Haley and Emmaline and had them pop him back to our office. I growled in disbelief.

Dylan linked me, “I’m doing the lords’ work. I’m giving you guys a chance to breathe in the fresh air before this confrontation. Also... and quite possibly more importantly... I need popcorn.” Eric said nothing, but his angry aura was practically permeating the air.

I linked Dylan, “We aren’t getting calmer out here, just angrier.” Dylan admitted, “Ok, you caught me. It was an excuse. I really wanted popcorn for the showdown.” I growled at him. Dylan continued, “By the by, Haley is excited GAP will be mad at

her. Fairies are so brave. How did no one notice this group of partial fairies? They have brass ones!”

Eric stalked in my house with me right behind him. I was still holding out hope they weren't dosing themselves with iron, but I was going to be mad regardless. Eric didn't seem able to form a sentence once we reached them.

I tried to get the conversation going, but Haley was in a sassy mood. Dylan linked me, “For me, because you love me, PLEASE ask her to snap us a blanket to share!” “I growled, “No.” Dylan complained, “Come on! Aren't you curious what the blanket looks like? I need to know!”

I growled out loud and Eric asked what happened with the girl's powers. Dylan chided, “Again, you mocked my Beta lunch and learn ideas, but GAP there came in with the save... again.” I glared at him. Haley walked over and healed a scratch on Emmaline.

I saw red, “HOW DID OUR WARRIORS LET THAT HAPPEN?” Dylan winced, “She was fighting with a dagger. I can get her broadsword. Those provide less chances to be scratched.” I glowered at him and he took out his phone.

He typed and explained, “Not me ordering the Luna a broadsword pronto. That's what the teenagers say whilst they do exactly what they say not me is doing. I keep hip with the kids. You should try it.” Lacy smirked when she saw what he was doing.

I linked her, “Tell me he's not honest to god ordering a broadsword for Emmaline.” Lacy gave me a measured look, “You know he is.” I cut this conversation off telling the girls Brad already told us about them not using their powers.

Haley's eyes had a bit of gold to them now. Eric linked me, “She really doesn't like it when people tell on her.” I replied, “I see that, I don't really care at the moment.” Dylan asked me, “Can I link Brad to come in here and meet Haley?” I sighed, “No, you giant child, you cannot.”

Dylan pouted as the girls argued evasively. I had enough. Eventually, I gave up and asked Logan because he seemed to know. He practically confirmed it. I rounded on the girls. I could NOT believe they would dose themselves with iron.

Emmaline denied it. Dylan linked me, “Listen to me and let me help you...” Eric asked what they were shot up with. Dylan complained, “I was going to tell you to ask that. He's such a GAP!” Haley said sulfur. FUCK! Of course. That had iron in it.

Lacy was quick to point out it was like our own practices with lead. Whose side was she on? I growled because we only did that sometimes. Thinking back, I knew exactly what lessons they'd done them in. We asked why we didn't know, and they countered with asking why they didn't know about the lead. That was different! They JUST started doing this. The lead containing silver was done in every pack and as far back as I could remember. I had it done as a pup. It wasn't a new policy I'd implemented in the past few weeks and neglected to mention.

I couldn't contain Dominic anymore. Dylan linked me as I pinned Emmaline to the wall, "Lucas... Dominic... whichever one you are. Please, pretty please say nothing." I growled, "This is not some women's rights platform! I had every right as her partner to know she was doing this. We were attacked and she was vulnerable. I HAD NO FUCKING CLUE! I should know about this! I was out there thinking she had her powers to use during that attack. I wouldn't have left her damn side! At MINIMUM, I would've warriors alerted to guard their damn Luna."

Dylan calmly replied, "Be that as it may, say no words. I beg this of you." Haley was on Emmaline's side. Naturally. Eric linked me, "I both love and hate that they are fairies. It's about their safety and having a plan that won't endanger the pack. Not that they can't handle it. They didn't grow up in a pack though."

Logan understood the problem, but he didn't enlighten Haley as to what it was. She didn't get it. I told Emmaline I wanted to know when there were changes made to her training plans, particularly if they were a safety concern. She simply said she wanted my training plan. I can't write that down for her or I would. It was a werewolf law. Alpha's didn't write their plans down; they were passed down from father to son. We all had different styles and strengths.

Dylan linked me, "Damn dude... I just got nailed with a glare. What did I do?" I didn't even bother to answer him, I'd had enough. I told her I needed to know when sulfur days were. She said she wanted to know about lead days. Was she serious? I never hid that from her intentionally. It was a werewolf tradition in a pack.

I had to leave before I said something I'd regret. I shifted the second I got outside and howled in anger. I ran as fast as I could. I could hear paws hitting the ground behind me. I could smell Eric and further back Dylan. Emmaline linked me she was going to the Hackura realm. As if she cared about my opinion.

Dominic huffed, "You don't care if she goes to see her sister, you'd want her to any other day. You are just upset about this situation." I admitted, "You're right." After I ran for several hours, I shifted back. Eric and Dylan followed suit.

I dejectedly said, “She thinks I can’t protect her. She’s doing all this because she thinks I can’t beat David Forrester!” Dylan sounded bewildered, “Lucas, that’s not true.” I admitted, “It feels very true.” Dylan countered, “You said the moon goddess herself told you Emmaline would handle it.”

Eric tried, “Lucas, this isn't about your ability to protect her. I guarantee you Haley didn't consider the pack side because she's a fierce fighter. So is Emmaline, her natural fairy instinct makes her a good fighter. They just didn't consider that we'd need to know for precautions. Not to keep them out of the fight but to have a better plan in case of an attack. I'll explain it to Haley, she will understand. Emmaline will too.” I nodded and took out my phone.

Dylan yelled, “Whoa, whoa, whoa slow your roll Brothers Osborne. Who are you calling?” I told him, “My mates’ brothers.” Dylan snorted, “Oh, good. Here I thought you were doing something dumb. DO NOT TELL ON YOUR MATE TO HER SIBLINGS!”

Eric cautioned, “To be fair, that didn't go well when I did it with Haley. Much as I dislike agreeing with Dylan, he's right.” Dylan waved his hands, “You see? Why are you still on the phone? LUCAS! Hang up!”

Dustin picked up, “Lucas, is Evie ok?” I heard Ryan say, “What's going on?” I snorted, “Other than she's been injecting herself with sulfur to practice fighting with iron in her system, she's great.” Dylan winced, “Should I use my powers of being mute for good or evil, GAP? I lean towards evil, but the partial fairy kind of mischievous fun kind of evil. They have a lot more fun.” I rolled my eyes.

Both brothers yelled simultaneously, “SHE WHAT?” I didn't bother to repeat myself, “I want you two to train with me.” Everyone was silent. Ryan asked, “Huh?” I stated the obvious, “You're warlocks. She's worried about your father and is going to drastic lengths with her safety. Eric and I have learned strategies watching fairy's train. It stands to reason we'd learn more fighting with other supernatural groups. I want to train with you both so I can know how to better fight a warlock.”

Dylan nodded slowly, “Ok, we can work with that. That's not as bad as what I thought you were doing. This is good.” Dustin agreed, “Alright, I think we should do two sessions to a day to start.” Dylan snarled, “OF COURSE you do, you giant warlock fairy jerk.” Eric laughed.

Dylan jumped, “I HAVE WITNESSES! GAP LAUGHED at something I said. Write this down you were all a witness to history my friends.” Eric rolled his eyes. Dustin asked, “Can you guys be here by four in the morning? I have had tight days lately

with starting my own coven and picking up some EMT shifts.” Valerie groaned, “Ryan, don’t you dare wake me up when you leave with them.” Dylan snorted.

Dustin continued, “Then we could do our second session in the evenings.” Dylan said, “Joyous day. Three training sessions a day. Here I told Santa I’d been a good little boy, and he is giving me coal. Fat, jolly BASTARD!” Eric looked at the sky trying not to laugh again.

I thought about it, “Dylan and I can make it work. We will have Ryker’s training right after school gets out, then train with Dustin and Ryan. We can all eat a late dinner.” Dylan gaped, “We can totally make it work, we are single men... Oh wait. NO, we have mates. We won’t see them, there will be no sex! NO SEX, Lucas. I am proud of the fact that I am sexually active.”

I winced, “That’s my sister. Besides, you get Thanksgiving off.” Dylan cringed, “A WEEK? I have to go a WEEK without my Lacy loving? WHY LUCAS? What did I ever do to you?” I gave him a look, “You don’t have to come.”

Dylan growled, “We’ve covered this. Where you go, I go you rascalion. Prepare for so much snark. You CANNOT handle the amount of snark coming your way. You’ll be in a bad mood ALL the time and so will I. This is a great plan. I can’t count the ways this is going to end badly. Do you want to know what the number is? I can’t count that high. The limit does not exist to the possibilities of how this ends badly.”

Eric cautioned, “Lucas...” I cut him off, “I have to prove to her I can protect her. With the goddess as my witness, I WILL protect her. If I have to get up at three in the morning to do that, then I will. I will do whatever I have to do, just as she does to prove I can.”

Dylan hit me on the head, “Lucas William Lyons no one, not even her oldest brother who is the furthest from being sold on you, thinks you can’t protect her.” Dustin cut in, “I am trying! But Dylan is not wrong. If I didn’t think you could protect her, she’d be living with Aubree and me.”

I growled, “She’s mine!” Dylan hugged, “Oh thank the lord! You’re back! I was worried. This weird spirit inhabited your body, and you jam packed our day so full of things we’d never see our mates.” I rolled my eyes, “You’re dramatic.” Dylan frowned “It was worth a shot.”

It was almost midnight when we made it back to the house. Lacy glared at me as she led Dylan upstairs. I was in for a long night because I needed to explain everything to Emmaline. When I got to our room, she was already asleep. Pain hit my heart when I

took in that she looked sad somehow. I should've come back sooner. She'd had sulfur in her system, and she was probably exhausted.

She was reaching to my side of the bed, and I didn't want to disturb her. I reasoned that she'd be less likely to wake up if I spooned her on her side of the bed instead of moving her arms and rolling her over to spoon her.

I linked Dylan, "Wake me up. I don't want to set an alarm because Emmaline is a light sleeper. I want her getting good rest." Dylan was aghast, "So, you care about her sleep? WHAT ABOUT ME? When will ANYONE care about my sleep?" I rolled my eyes and closed our link.

Dylan woke me up all too soon. Fighting with Dustin and Ryan wasn't terrible, but we obviously had things to learn. Dylan told Ryan using the shadows to trip people who haven't had coffee wasn't fair. I actually agreed with him.

Dylan was right about a lot of things. I'd barely seen Emmaline. I'd glimpsed her a few times, but she was always asleep when I left, and she was asleep when I came up to bed. I saw her on her obstacle course on my way in between training Ryker and lessons with her brothers. It was now the highlight of my day.

I knew she was pissed because she wasn't answering my links. It felt as though she'd blocked our connection. If I had time, I'd track her down about it. I almost made it out the door Tuesday afternoon to pick her up for lunch to demand she at least sit in my presence. Of course, a pack emergency came up, and I didn't make it.

By Wednesday Dylan was fed up. He grouched, "That's it! I'm telling Brad to bring Emmaline home." My mom came into the room. I groaned. Lacy and my mom had been on my case. Even my dad told me I needed to take a break and spend time with Emmaline. That's what Thanksgiving was for. I'd make it right then. She'd HAVE to talk to me. We'd be in the same place without me running off for my next appointment.

My mom glared at me while saying, "You can't get Emmy, Dylan. She has tests today. Your maid tells an interesting tale, Lucas Lyons. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN SLEEPING?" I frowned, "My room. Where have you been sleeping?" My mom growled, "How odd... Your maid says for the ENTIRE week your side of the bed hasn't been the slightest bit ruffled. As if you weren't sleeping there. Are you TRYING to ruin your relationship with Emmy? If so, bravo son."

I growled, "I've been sleeping on her side of the bed. Her arms are always outstretched on my side facing my pillow. I don't want to move her arms and roll her



over to me. I just snuggle on her side.” My mom shook her head, “Right, I’m sure she knows that.” I frowned, “She can smell me on her pillow.”

My mom laughed humorlessly, “Because she’d smell her pillow. She doesn't have werewolf senses. Why on GOD'S GREEN EARTH would she think you slept on HER PILLOW? DALE LYONS TALK TO HIM!” She slammed out of the room.

I asked my dad, “Can she not give me a break?” My dad gave me another one of his Alpha looks, “Can you not give me a break? She’s been like this the whole week. She says Emmaline’s been moping around.”

Dylan chimed in, “Lacy said that too. In the brief moments we get to talk before bed.” I frowned, “I don’t feel anything that bad from her.” I could feel her in my chest, but her emotions hadn’t come at me this week. Probably because I’d seen her when she was sleeping.

I shook myself, “Dad, I get to spend time with Emmaline tomorrow. I have some paperwork in the morning, but I’ll get up early to do it so we can spend the whole time at Eric’s together. Then when we get back it will be just us. I don’t know what else to do. She’s sleeping when I get up, and when I come to bed. She won’t answer my links. I miss her... a lot.”

My dad cut me off, “Then GO spend time with her. This is just a job, Lucas. That girl is your whole future.” I argued, “I know and I’m doing this for our future. I’m going to prove I can protect her.” My dad stood, “Son, I love you but you’re an idiot.” With that he left.

Dylan burst into song, “Tomorrow, tomorrow, I love you tomorrow, you’re only a day away!” I couldn’t stop my smile, “Yes, I’m really looking forward to tomorrow too.” We got through the rest of our work quickly.

Haley called me at dinner time. I answered, “Hello?” She greeted, “Hello, my lion. I have been waiting to hear back from Dustin and Ryan if they are coming to Thanksgiving dinner tomorrow. Emmaline didn’t answer her phone. Did she tell you if they were coming? I invited them for her because I know she'd like to have them there. I am personally ambivalent about it.”

I winced. None of us had talked to Emmaline this week. I said, “They are here so they can tell you themselves.” Dustin said, “Aubree and I will be there.” Ryan sighed, “Valerie wants to do Thanksgiving with her family this year. We are going to switch every year.” Haley responded, “Ok then. I would’ve invited her family too, but whatever. What’s Emmaline doing?”

Lacy came in announcing, "Sleeping." Haley sounded surprised, "Wow... she must stress out about tests. I go the barely eating route. She must go the crashing post test route. I have to test out a pie recipe. Goodbye all! See you tomorrow."

Ryan asked bewildered, "She's making a pie? Now I'm sad we won't be there." I glanced at lacy, "Is Emmaline ok? It's only eight thirty." Lacy glared at me, "Not that you've noticed but Emmaline's been going to bed at seven thirty every day this week." Dustin frowned, "That's not like her, I'll talk to her tomorrow."

Lacy growled, "Tomorrow, tomorrow, have NONE of you heard the saying seize the day? Something bad is going to happen, and none of you care." She stormed off. Dylan sighed, "You guys make my life so very hard. What did I do to you? Nothing, that's what."

Ryan chuckled when Lacy was out of ear shot, "Pregnant she wolves have spice. Valerie has been sassy too." I agreed, "That they do." Dylan snidely commented, "Sure, it's the pregnancy. Absolutely, let's blame that. Could they be grouchy they haven't gotten to see their mates much the past week? Nooooo... that would be preposterous. Women. Such strange creatures." We laughed. Dylan sighed, "It's the curse of being funny. Even when you're right, people think it's a joke. I was serious."

The next morning, I got up early. I was excited I would finally be in the same room as Emmaline. Dominic was excited. "Mate will be so proud we've been training with her brothers. We've already made good progress! I can't wait to smell her!" I agreed, "Me too."

After a few hours, Dylan walked in, "Your mate is in a very bad mood, quite possibly dangerous. No, I take all that back. It's absolutely a dangerous mood." I frowned, "What happened?" Dylan winced, "She told me if I looked at her with pity, she was going to punch me in the throat. Then when I said she looked pretty... she said that was the most action she'd got all week."

I growled and pinned him by the collar. Dylan said, "You see? Dangerous. You and Dominic need to get laid. You have a mate, and now you're all grabby because your mate made a lewd comment. Take her aside when we get to GAP's." I admitted, "I plan on it."

Dylan looked worried, "Lacy is concerned about her, she said Emmaline's been acting off. I have to say from our one interaction earlier, I agree. You broke your fairy, and by doing so have broken my entertaining show. Please fix her." I growled, "She's the one who won't talk to me! I link her she doesn't answer. It's blocked or something."

Dylan lamented, “If we could’ve taken a break somewhere you could have talked to her in person. You know, like a person in an actual relationship.” I sighed, “She clearly needed her sleep. I tried to get away, but the universe was not on my side.”

Dylan grumbled, “Yeah, I know you did. If only we knew the person who set our schedules. He’s such a jerk. Oh, wait. IT’S YOU! I do know you did try to get away though from the craziness you imposed on our lives, but actually stopping to go and see her was an option that you did not make use of.”

I led us downstairs. I tried to link Emmaline letting her know everyone was ready to go, but it was still blocked. I told Dylan to link Lacy. They popped in a moment later. Emmaline looked beautiful. I couldn’t stop my growl when she didn’t even look at me and took Dylan’s hand. She flipped me off.

My mom glared at me. Dylan linked me, “She just... awesome. This is going to be a good Thanksgiving. We are about to have two pissed off fairy’s because you know Haley will take her side. Bexley will probably be there, so three pissed off fairies. Maybe if Haley makes Aiden come, he will be on our side. No, that’s wrong too. He’s a fairy, he would so not be on our side. It’s more entertaining to be on theirs. He has fire hands, Lucas. Don’t get my perfect ass burned, please.”

We popped into Eric’s home. I linked Dylan, “HER SIDE? SHE wouldn’t talk to me!” I heard Emmaline say something to Dylan, but I was so pissed I didn’t hear it. Dylan followed me to a different room. He jumped beside me, “Not to split hairs here but... yes she didn’t answer your links. YOU could’ve made time to go talk to her instead of running yourself into the ground.”

I growled, “I HAVE to prove to her I can protect her.” Darrin spoke, “So, this is awkward. We were just standing here.... I was about to say hi.” Dylan rolled his eyes, “Finally! An Alpha. One of you talk sense into him. AHH GAP, I see you back there. I choose you because he listens to you. You are tagged into the game. Go forth and do my bidding.”

I growled, “She didn’t even look at me!” Dylan shrugged, “Yes, females tend to ignore you when they are PISSED OFF. It’s a thing they all do. She’s angry.” Eric interjected, “Let’s all go play a game of football.”

Dylan waved his hands, “No, no. That’s not what I put you in the game to do. LOOK at him! That’s a hell no. Do you know how mad he is? I told you to talk to him. I distinctly recall telling you to talk sense into him.” Eric glared at him. Dylan grumbled, “Fine, I’m on Lucas’ team.” Everyone laughed and we went outside.

It was a good thing we could heal quicker than humans. There were without a doubt some cracked ribs. When we stopped Eric broke our silence, “Now, that we’ve calmed down. What’s going on?” Dylan honest to god raised his hand, “Pretty please, let me tell you the short version.”

Eric sighed, “You can tell a short version of a story? This I have to hear. Tell me your short story, Dylan.” Dylan smirked, “I was right.” Eric sighed, “Fuck my life, I actually know what he means. You haven’t gotten to see Emmaline this week?”

Dylan smiled, “I knew you spoke my language, GAP .” Eric rolled his eyes, “Anyway, Lucas?” I shrugged, “She won’t answer me in link and now she won’t even look at me.” Eric offered, “I’m not an expert but she probably thinks you were ignoring her. Did you talk at all after you left your office?” I winced.

Jackson whistled, “Lord almighty, buy her a jewelry store Lucas. Maybe if you give your fairy a bunch of shiny things.... you will live.” Harold chimed in, “Just an FYI not speaking to your mate for seven days is.... Well just don’t do it. Not even for twenty four HOURS and definitely not for a week. Not ever.” I sighed, “I tried to link her.”

Jackson ignored me, “Dylan, we have a plan if Eric and Haley fight again. If we are out of town we are renting an Airbnb and locking them in it. OR we will trap them somewhere in the house, they can’t come out until everything is resolved. We even have a fairy in on the plan to help keep a certain fairy from popping out.”

Dylan squealed, “I could kiss you! You know what... screw it!” He leaned in and kissed Jackson on the cheek, “I love you and your brilliant mind, Alpha not so serious somewhat like a Beta Connors brother.” Jackson bewildered asked, “Do you see what you’ve done to yourself and your Beta? He’s crazier than normal.”

I sighed. Eric said, “We need to get inside. I’m surprised Haley hasn’t harassed me about the time. I want to go back in time and stop her from using google.” Dylan laughed, “Why?” Jackson answered, “She googles everything now. She says it has all this realms answers, and that has led to interesting things.”

Dylan whirled and pointed at Gunner, “You... you are that boytoy lover Haley speaks of, yes? The techy one?” He knew that. Damn. He must be really tired. Gunner laughed, “Yes.” Dylan jumped up and down, “I have a mission for you of the utmost importance. Use your cyber skills to block Haley from using to google to find out what a girl’s day is in this realm is really like.”

Gunner laughed, “You’re a day late and dollar short to that party, Beta Dylan. Harper had me block her from certain searches the moment she started using google. She will never find girl’s day activities on google.” Dylan emphatically stated, “He does the lord’s work, Lucas.” Gunner laughed.

When we got inside we heard Emmaline panicking. I frowned. She wanted Miley to tell Eric and the Hackura something. Dylan said, “OHHHH Haley did something! I can’t believe I was out playing football and missing my show! I would like my award for the world’s best friend. It should be glass and engraved, Lucas. It should be elegant.”

My heart stopped when I walked into the kitchen. Emmaline had changed. I had to stay on the opposite side of the kitchen because I was tempted to throw her over my shoulder and peel that dress off her.

I linked Dylan, “Where the HELL did she get that dress?” Dylan sighed, “You not only broke your fairy, but you also broke yourself. Pick one of the three fairies that are coming to Thanksgiving dinner. One of them snapped it. Sidebar... WOW That is A LOT of pie on that counter.” It was. All the same type of pie too. Cherry, Eric’s favorite.

I half listened to the situation while studying my mate. I linked Dylan, “Lacy might be right. Emmaline doesn’t sound like herself.” Dylan said, “SHHH my show is on!” Haley tumbled into the kitchen with the Black Arrow. Dylan immediately linked me, “Twenty bucks says Eric takes Haley in his office.”

I looked at Eric after tearing my eyes off Emmaline who still wouldn’t look at me. I snorted, “I’m not taking that bet. Emmaline won’t even look at me.” Dylan grumbled, “Now, does not seem like a great time for I told you so, but my tired ass has no decorum left. I told you so.”

I heard Nikki yell hello after Eric dragged Haley off. Dylan lamented, “Of course, GAP would ruin the wonderful moment of Haley meeting Nikki for me. This is not my week.” I heard Nikki squeal when she saw me.

She jumped, hugged me, and whispered, “Oh, Lucas bear... hello.” Dylan linked me, “I forgot about this gem of a nickname. I think to get back at you for this hellish week of torture; I will order the warriors to all refer to you as Lucas bear until your wedding.” I groaned, “Why did I like her as a teenager?” Dylan answered, “She had boobs, it’s her only good quality.”

Dylan stiffened. I asked, “What?” He bemoaned, “The universe hates us, it’s official. Emmaline just used her Luna command to make me tell her if you’d had sex with Nikki.” I sighed, “Once and it was... bad.” Dylan happily recounted, “If I recall correctly it was really bad. You are the only male I know who didn’t get off your first time.” I sighed, “She just said she’d come too much and couldn’t take it. Was I supposed to say I wasn’t done yet? That sounds awful, and I did get off... in the shower.”

Dylan raised an eyebrow, “Worst first-time story ever. I finished with my hand in the shower. She should’ve known what she was getting into with an Alpha. Everyone knows, literally everyone. Emmaline is mad.” I frowned, “She can’t be that mad, I don’t feel that from her.”

Dylan looked at me like I was crazy, “Your barometer is off. LOOK at her face.” I sighed and engaged in small talk with Nikki. Emmaline’s eyes never left Nikki, even though mine were pleading with her to glance my way.

I stared at Aiden surprise even though I was grateful he’d flung Nikki away from me. She was really annoying. I growled at Aiden though when he took Emmaline from the room. Lacy linked me, “You are my brother, and I love you Luc but you are idiot.” I snarked, “I’m aware. Many people have said that to me lately. She still won’t talk to me.”

Lacy frowned, “She said you didn’t talk to her. She’s linked you and you didn’t answer.” I disagreed, “No, I’ve linked her, but it feels like it’s blocked.” Lacy’s frown deepened, “We need to talk to Haley.” Nikki said, “Lucas bear, let’s head into the dining room.”

Nathan Connors spoke, “Nikki, Lucas’ mate is the girl in the orange dress.” Nikki frowned, “That little thing? A fairy? The rumors are true?” I answered, “They are.” Nikki shrugged, “Well, let’s catch up! I’ll meet her later and tell her all about your youth!”

Dylan linked me, “Get her hand off your chest before Lacy scratches her eyes out.” I looked down and took a step away. I really needed to focus. I hadn’t even realized Nikki was touching me. Jackson linked me, “Stay away from her, you’re already in enough trouble.”

I made a beeline for my usual spot cringing when Nikki sat next to me. Lacy linked me, “Get her hands off you before Emmaline walks in here and sees this. You aren’t even paying attention! Stop staring at the door. Focus on keeping Nikki’s hands away from you before Emmaline drowns her pathetic ass.”

I winced and turned to Nikki until everyone stopped talking. Everyone except Nikki. She kept going on about the good old days. I turned to see Emmaline being led into the dining room by some unknown fairy who shot me a smug look.

I shouted in my link with Dylan, “WHO THE FUCK IS THAT?” Dylan rubbed his temples, “I don’t know. All I know is despite the fact that I have been NOTHING but kind to partial fairy’s; that full blooded fairy hates me with a burning passion. That jerk attending Thanksgiving dinner as if he care about the holiday.”

I looked at Jackson. He’d gone to get them. Jackson linked me answering before I could ask, “His name is Fegle, he’s Aiden’s cousin.” I growled, “What kind of name is that? Aiden’s cousin... as in not Haley’s cousin?” Jackson sighed, “I don’t know what kind of name it is a fairy name. I do know he’s not Haley’s cousin.”

Emmaline sat beside Aiden and this Fegle shot me wink sat on the other side and began to flirt with my mate. I stood. Jackson grabbed me. I linked Dylan, “I’m going to kill him.” Dylan sighed, “Maybe not at the dinner table. That seems like an outside activity.”

Fegle stood up to greet Haley. For a brief moment, I thought she’d kick him out. My face fell realizing this wasn’t a fairy she hated. I glared at Aiden who simply shot me a pointed look as if I was wrong. I stared at Nikki stunned when she disrespected Haley. It was a bad idea anywhere, but in this territory? Was she suicidal? Eric would kill her. Did she not remember the Connors brothers didn’t like her?

Every fairy except Emmaline was openly entertained. I linked Dylan, “Emmaline didn’t even have an expression until Nikki crawled back to her chair. That laugh didn’t sound like her.” Dylan winced, “I agree. You know, we did need another problem to solve. We only have a few major ones on our plate right now. What’s one more? There’s something wrong with our Luna down to her laugh. Sounds good. This is fine. The room isn’t on fire while we sit and eat. Nope. All good.”

Haley had Eric carve the turkey. I barely looked at the food they passed around. I couldn’t take my eyes off Emmaline. She was smiling at Fegle who Dominic wanted to lunge across the table and kill him. I had half a mind to let him do it. Emmaline’s smile wasn’t reaching her eyes though. She seemed really off.

Haley glared at me when Emmaline asked where her brothers were. I only knew where Ryan was, Dustin should be here. Haley explained the girls weren’t feeling well and I still had no clue why that was my fault in Haley’s eyes. Fegle started talking to Emmaline about Halber saying how good she was. I growled at him.

Haley whispered, "Stop that right now, Lucas." I stared at her astonished, "He's flirting with MY mate." Haley hissed, "Funny how now she's your mate. Where the FUCK was that this last week? I never thought you were so cruel. After dinner, we need to have a chat. Let Fegle try to cheer her up, you've done enough damage."

Eric, Jackson, and I all stared at her in astonishment. Dylan linked, "What does that mean? That does not sound good. Did... did we actually break your fairy?" I sat back in my chair staring at Haley who was clearly linking Eric.

Did I hurt Emmaline? I... I know I should've tried harder to talk to her in person, but she wouldn't answer my links. She could've just popped away if I'd gone to talk to her. Cruel. Haley said I was cruel. Dylan linked me, "Nikki's hand is on your thigh and while it doesn't look like Emmaline is watching... she is, and she somehow noticed. Fairy's peripheral vision is... insane. I'm making sure the Beta community knows this. Get her hand off you for all our sakes."

Before I could move Haley leaned forward and whispered, "It's Nikknasty, right?" My eyes widened. Nikki said, "It's just Nikki." Haley shrugged, "Whatever you say Nikknasty. Take your fucking hand off my lion right now, or I will charm you to spend the rest of your wanna be Luna title grabbing life to believe you have snakes wrapping themselves around you. Jackson told me you hate snakes. My lion is my cousin's mate. You do NOT want to attempt to steal from my family. I will gut you like the spineless wench you are. Just ask Claudzilla and Chisassty. Let me guess you all were friends?"

Nikki moved her hand immediately. I gaped at Haley. Dylan asked, "Can I clap? Is that inappropriate?" I linked back, "Yes." Nikki said, "Well... the three of us were close." Haley groaned, "Of fucking course you were. Eric, I need to know who ALL of Claudzilla's friends were. They appear to all be problems. Seriously, how could you be friends with Claudzilla? She was awful. Never mind so are you, I get it. You were awful fucking werewolves together."

Nikki gasped, "I am a member of this family and you can't..." Haley let her eyes blaze, "I suggest you sit there, say nothing, and don't look in Lucas' general direction or some help me god... I'll take this fork and jab it into your eye socket, pop your eyeball out, and make you eat it." That would make Black Mountain love her more. No one liked Nikki here because she always ordered people about. I saw several omega's already whispering about it. The news of their Luna's threats were going to raise her popularity to an all-time high.

Dylan begged me, "PLEASE let me do a slow clap. If I throw a roll at you and Nikki looks at you... Does that still count? I think it would." I couldn't answer him.



Dominic wanted to take over. He wanted to rip Fegle's head off then find out why Haley said we'd been cruel to Emmaline. I hadn't meant.... I was trying to make sure I could protect her. She was my everything! Surely, she knew that.

I linked Eric, "If that fairy winks at me one more time while he flirts with my mate, I'm going to shift." Eric sighed, "I wouldn't blame you. Something tells me Haley would stop you from killing him." I asked, "What is up with the fairies? They are acting like I tried to kill Emmaline." Eric sounded sad, "We will find out. Haley is pretty mad though."

Dylan linked me, "Lacy is wincing and Emmaline finally has an emotion besides fake happy, actually sad, and mad. She's gone like six levels above mad, and now looks like she may murder someone." I replied, "Ask Lacy why." Dylan praised, "Look at you getting your Beta blood flowing with the right question. Emmaline is mad her brothers are on your side."

I frowned, "My side? We were training." Dylan said, "Lacy doesn't know that. I've barely had time to lay eyes on her. I wasn't wasting that time with the itinerary of my intense day." Fegle stood and asked Emmaline if he could take her to the chapel. She stood and so did I.

I couldn't stop Dominic growl, "OVER MY DEAD BODY!" They had already popped away. Haley stood, "Before you Alpha males rush off after them, I'll remind you it's pointless. You can't catch them unless they want you to, which clearly they won't."

Lacy winced, "Emmaline has a plan." I growled, "A plan for WHAT?" Haley said, "Don't fuck with a fairy if you can't handle the hijinks. Angry hijinks are worse." Dylan muttered, "I don't like the sound of that one bit."

I growled and shifted. I took off for the chapel. I heard them pop away before I burst through the doors. Eric threw me outside before I could destroy the chapel. I fought several people for what seemed like a long time when my phone rang.

I was breathing heavy when I answered, "Nick?" Without pleasantries Nick asked, "What the hell is going on? Why is Emmaline telling me to tell you to enjoy Nikki, and mind you I'm assuming that is the Connors cousin Nikki on their mother's side. Emmaline just checked into a hotel in Red Run with a male fairy. Ben is coming to show me his Beta Chat text group. I'm getting yelled at by my wife about something YOU did, and none of us know what that is. What happened?!"

I growled, “Get her to your pack house. I’ll get a fairy ride if it kills me.” I hung up and stalked into the house and briefly paused when I walked inside. Dylan laughed, “I went to the wrong show.” Haley and Nikki were in an all-out brawl, and Nikki was losing badly.

Eric growled menacingly. Haley called the wind and threw Nikki through the wall in the main room. Haley shouted, “Bitch, I will fucking kill you! Stay away from Lucas! He is NOT yours.” Haley chanted in Fealish.

Aiden’s mate, the queen, said, “Aiden, we MUST host one of these events Haley has googled. They all have to come to our realm. No one would ever top our dinner party. We would be the talk of the century. This has been the BEST dinner of all time!”

Dylan disagreed, “It’s been a disaster of epic proportions.” Aiden laughed, “In Faerie this would be a hit, epic even.” Dylan got on his knees, “Fairy Queen Lucinda, please invite me to this dinner. I love fairies. In fact, I’m the partial fairy’s biggest fan.”

The Queen smiled, “As the queen, I name Beta Dylan an emissary of the consort of the water fairy duchess Emmaline. You are welcome in our realm. I have heard a lot about you. Aiden said you give our dear brother-in-law fits. You are a MUST have at my dinner. Call me, Lucinda.”

Dylan twirled her around. He told me, “I know you are having a bad day, but LIFE GOAL ACHIEVED! I can go to Faerie! It’s a twenty-four seven fairy show, AND I’M INVITED! THE QUEEN has invited me. Thanksgiving has taken a sharp turn around to fun town.”

Nathan grabbed Nikki telling her how disappointed he was in her and took her outside with Cassandra on his heels. Haley whirled on me, “YOU!” Dylan froze, “SHIFT AND RUN, LUCAS! SHIFT AND RUN!”

My phone rang and I held up a finger to Haley whose jaw dropped. She asked, “Did he just...” Aiden gleefully answered, “He did, little sister.” Haley stomped her foot and looked at Eric. I sighed, “Emmaline left Red Run. We need to find her.”

Dylan chimed, “Whose your favorite person? It’s me, I know I already found her. She just checked into a hotel in our territory with Fegle. I don’t know what’s going on, but Emmaline thinks you don’t care about her. She won’t unblock your link.”

Haley cut in, “Because she FUCKING CAN’T, YOU IDIOTS!” I asked, “What do you mean?” Haley said, “Do you know what happens when a fairy becomes

depressed?” Eric muttered, “Oh, shit.” I frowned, “I don’t feel depression from her.” Haley raised an eyebrow, “Do you feel anything? HAVE you felt anything?”

I started to speak and stopped. I hadn’t felt much of anything from her all week. I asked, “You think she’s depressed?” Lacy whispered, “Oh my god. That’s why she said she was glad she had Haley handling the details of the wedding. She said she didn’t want to plan anything! FUDGESTICKS! I should’ve known. Fairies love to plan parties.”

I had been looking at Lacy, so I missed Haley marching over to me. She kicked me in the balls and then punched me in the face. She told me, “I don’t give a shit what your reasons are, but to be frank they better be good for not speaking to her for seven days. How could you do that to her? Did you not notice she stopped picking up on people being upset and trying to fix it? Wait, you didn’t notice because you’re an ASSHOLE who stopped talking to her! FOR SEVEN FUCKING DAYS!”

I stood, “I tried to link her.” Haley glared at me, “Depressed fairies shut down. She didn’t even try to shut you out, Her body did it because she feels like you left her. She’s fucking soul tied to you, and you shut her out.”

I yelled, “NO! No, I was training. I’ve been training with her brothers on fighting warlocks. I have another new pack member who needs my personal training. I’m monitoring over thirty people and have had a million pack emergencies.”

Haley glared at me, “Unless you want to become a single man again, I’d advise you to STOP FUCKING ACTING LIKE ONE. You don’t get to have weeks where you don’t talk to your mate. She’s not some stress relief fuck, she’s your goddamn mate! Act like it!”

Dylan cleared his throat, “Emmaline’s not at the hotel, and she left her phone there.” I ran a hand through my hair and saw Gunner. I asked, “Can you track her ring for me?” Haley spoke to him angrily in Latin. Gunner cleared his throat, “That’s for emergencies only. I gave her my word I would only do that if she’s in danger.”

I growled, “She’s with a fire fairy we don’t know.” Haley pointed out, “A fire fairy YOU don’t know. We know him, and you can send him a fucking thank you card. The fairies in the room have been trying to comfort Emmaline by our presence and complimenting her since she got here. Which is a hell of a lot more than you’ve been doing the last week. Before they popped out, her sorrow had gone down.”

Eric looked at me. He went to Haley and stroked her back, “Angel...” Haley asked, “What? He’s being an ass! He’s acting like he’s single man, and completely forgetting

his mate's soul is intertwined with his. He didn't talk to her! She didn't realize he was fucking busy, which is a shitty excuse in the first place! She thinks you don't love her. Every fairy in this room knows that because her soul was shattered, and that can only mean she believes you don't love her."

I went to my knees. Dylan and Eric grabbed me. Lacy whispered, "She's right. Emmaline said Eric must love Haley more because he's talking to her. She thinks you want Nikki." I gripped my chest, "I don't want Nikki! That's crazy!"

Haley tensed and looked at Aiden announcing, "I have to go!" Blade came forward but missed her by a hair. Aiden was tense until his phone beeped. He showed Blade his text and Blade took off.

Aiden's daughter said, "Daddy, you need to have a class with the werewolves about fairies. They don't know anything. Can I pop home to catch a sprittle with my friends?" Aiden laughed, "Of course you can, Princess." She popped out.

Dylan linked me, "We just got called idiots.... by a six-year-old." I couldn't answer him. Aiden commented, "Before I get into your fairy lesson, this google my sister speaks of; is that a subscription I can pay for her to continue to have? It's delightful."

Eric growled at him. Dylan of course answered, "It's a free search engine. You don't have to pay for it." Aiden smirked, "Stupendous. Emmaline's wolf, do you know who the most emotional fairy is in all of Faerie is?" I stood, "I'm guessing it's Emmaline." Aiden smiled, "The soul searcher. Which at this time is Emmaline, yes. She feels far more deeply than any other fairy." Dylan winced.

Aiden smiled continuing, "For example, if before I met Lucinda, I was dating someone who didn't talk to me for a week it wouldn't bother me because I do not care. I will do something else or someone else." I growled.

Aiden smirked, "Emmaline cannot handle such intense reactions because she is the soul searcher. As it happens, her soul is tied to you. If she feels disconnected from her soul, her tie lashes out at her. She will sleep, eat, and maybe one other thing. She will lose all interest in anything else."

I groaned, "I'm... I'm sorry. I was just trying to prove to her I could protect her from David. I thought she was ignoring my links." Dylan asked, "Is there a way to make her emotions more stable like Haley's?" We all looked at him.

He shrugged, "What? I know from Lucas at the summit Eric and Haley weren't in a good place, but she showed up to everything." Aiden answered, "True, but her wolf

didn't stop talking to her. He was practically her shadow. He lived for their trivial conversations. She was the one who withdrew into her shell, but her wolf didn't go away. As it is, Beta Dylan, do you want to know who the second most emotional fairy is?"

Eric groaned, "Fuck me." Jackson agreed, "Seconded brother." I answered, "Haley." Aiden smiled, "Again with a name." Dylan supplied, "The Truth Seeker. It has to be the Truth Seeker." Aiden smiled, "Did I not tell you, Lucinda? I like that wolf. Right, you are Dylan. Do you know who's the third?"

Jackson grumbled, "If you say Bexley, I'm kicking your ass on principle." Aiden laughed, "No, Healers are the third most emotional fairy because they can sense the physical damage one is suffering. They can also glean mental anguish. Plus, you are forgetting Haley took on Emmaline's pain in an ancient ritual. To a degree, your mate bond being messed up affects her because she is holding on the name of Alpha Chase's mate for Emmaline. She's not meant to have the soul searchers ties to such things." I groaned.

Eric asked, "Why did I not know this?" Aiden said, "You haven't needed to. Emmaline will always be more sensitive to emotions than Haley simply because of her power as the soul searcher; however, Haley is a close second. It's why my little sister will never be truly free of her flashbacks and panic attacks. They may come and go, but her soul is too sensitive to handle what was done to her. I am nowhere near as sensitive, and I have sought counseling for the things I have seen."

His voice broke. "Emmaline is not designed to feel unloved. It's part of why she kept moving from place to place. She was looking for a place her light knew she would find love. It's why she stayed here. David throwing her aside along with her mother had to shatter her. The thing that kept her going was her love for her siblings."

Gunner looked up from his tablet, "Emmaline is in this territory in a hotel. She has a reservation under her name at one of Eric's hotels." I asked, "Is that where Haley went then?" Gunner shrugged, "That I do not know."

Aiden offered, "Haley answered a call to protection from a partial fairy." Eric growled, "ALONE?" I was worried, "Emmaline is hurt?" Aiden assured me, "No, Emmaline called to Haley the only way her brain could process to since she doesn't have her phone."

I sighed, "Let's get to the hotel." Aiden laughed, "You can have my sister's wolf send people, but to go yourself is a waste of time. They won't be there." I growled, "I need

to talk to her.” Aiden shrugged, “Too bad, so sad. That is the saying here, isn’t it?” Jackson sighed, “Yes.”

Aiden grinned broadly, “I knew it. My sister is not wrong, you are not a single man. Cease acting like one. Emmaline is young, but even if she wasn’t, she deserved better than you have given her this last week.” I hung my head, “You’re right.” Eric groaned, “Don’t tell him that.”

Bexley offered, “I’ll pop you home.” I asked her, “How do I get her to talk to me?” Bexley admitted, “Your hope is my cousin. If she can get Emmaline to cry and share her sorrow with her, she will begin to come out of her depression.” Aiden chimed back in, “Prepare your territory for a very drunk fairy.”

Eric frowned, “Haley can’t get drunk.” Aiden’s eyes lost a little sparkle, “True, which is sad for her. Emmaline can get drunk though. Alcohol brings the fairy out of an emotionally depressed state of feeling nothing. Well, once they’ve shared their sorrow.”

I asked hopefully, “Will our link unblock?” Aiden said, “No, that will remain blocked until she feels like you love her.” I yelled, “I DO love her!” Aiden held up hands, “I am aware, but I am not the one you need to convince. Haley will tell her you love even though she’s angry with you. In the future, keep in mind wolf, you cannot ignore your own soul. Emmaline is a part of yours as you are hers.” I nodded.

Bexley popped our group home. I asked, “Can we get her back to normal before her birthday? I planned a party for her.” Dylan asked, “In what spare time? Do you sleep?” I walked over to where our mail sat. I pulled out invitations I’d ordered.

I told them, “I knew they were coming today; I was going to show her when we got home. I was hoping Bexley or Haley could get Marcious, Hexxi, and... I guess Idel’s I can send to Beta James address.” Bexley told me, “When you pin her location down, I’d show her those.”

I frowned, “When I pin her down?” Bexley laughed, “You started a game with a fairy that she’s now playing. Haley texted me she’s drinking with Emmaline. Sorrow is shared, the drunk phase initiated, next is the game.”

I groaned “She’s going to play catch the fairy?” Bexley shrugged, “That I do not know. As she set up three hotel rooms and checked into all of them and now is in some location that not even Gunner could find a paper trail for... I’m going to say catch the fairy might not be her game. Getting even sounds more like the name of this game.”

I sat down on the couch dejected. Eric put a hand on my back, "It will be alright, she loves you." I frowned, "I made her feel like I didn't love her." Eric winced, "You'll fix it, because you do love her." Dylan cut in, "Did anyone else notice GAP came with our group? I for one, did not. Wait one second, Lucas. I have something for you."

He went to the back porch and came back in with the doghouse he'd bought me. He set it down, "I have your sleeping arrangements while we play pin down the fairy and convince her to stop playing the revenge game." I actually started laughing. When I stopped I said, "Thanks for that, Dylan." Dylan smiled, "Of course, I always have your back."

Ryan and Dustin entered the house. Dustin asked, "Is she here?" I sighed, "We don't know where she is, other than she's with Haley." Dustin frowned, "Emmaline isn't answering her phone. I'm confused on what's going on here. Lacy texted and said there was an issue. The princess texted and called me an ass. She doesn't seem warm and fuzzy with me but an ass is new. So... what gives?"

Brad and his mate, Chasity, came into the room. Brad put Emmaline's phone down beside me. He told me, "Emmaline wasn't there by the time we arrived." Chasity smiled, "But do thank the Luna for getting us out of Brad's parent house." Brad sighed.

Chasity asked, "What? They haven't decided to like me yet. I think I'll have to pop out a pup to bring them around." Brad's face flushed. Valerie sat down by Lacy. Lacy laughed, "Emmaline is drunk. I'm tagged into team revenge."

I stood excitedly, "So she will pop to you then, that's great! I can try to talk to her." Ryan added, "We can all talk to her." Valerie admitted, "She's coming to get me too. Maybe she will fill me in on what the HELL is going on here."

Haley popped into the room, flipped me off, then grabbed Valerie and Lacy. Once she had she popped away I sat back down. Dylan assured me, "We will track Emmaline down. Lacy said they are safe. We could check her treehouse."

I sounded pathetic to my own ears, "She won't be in her treehouse or sanctuary because I could find her. I do believe the point is that I don't find her." Haley popped back, "You're right. She's not in the treehouse I conjured for her, or her sanctuary."

Dustin asked, "Where is she? We need to talk to her?" Haley turned to Ryan and Dustin. She crossed her arms, "Did I give either of you the impression I was talking to you? I wasn't in case you were wondering. I texted Katie, you are hers to deal with."

She said she would come up with something really fucking creative. Those were even her words.”

Ryan asked, “What the hell did we do?” Haley turned, “Did you, or did not, ignore your sister’s calls or texts this last week?” Ryan looked down. Haley continued, “Don’t worry I know the answer. Harper’s boytoy lover already told me you didn’t. Training with Lucas isn’t a bad idea, but you KNOW your sister. You should’ve known she needed more time with him. No... no this is Katie’s domain. I still don’t like you.”

I explained, “I was trying to prove I could protect her.” Haley rubbed her face, “Eric, I’m tired and pretty pissed off. I can no longer speak idiotese, my ability has faded. What fucking nonsense is my lion saying?”

Eric told her, “When you guys didn’t tell us about your sulfur days, combined with the new training schedule... Lucas and Dominic felt it was a reflection on their mates’ feelings that they couldn’t protect her.” Haley was baffled, “Idiotese translator says what now?” Eric was trying not to laugh, “Angel...”

Haley turned me to, “Are you OUT of your FUCKING mind? Did you not hear her say it was about you being stabbed? I recall her saying those EXACT FUCKING WORDS! This wasn’t about your ability to protect her. It’s about her ability to protect YOU! Unfuckingbelievable. This is why you share these thoughts with a woman. We could’ve explained you were being a fucking dumbass. Where were you sleeping?”

I frowned, “In our bed.” Haley raised an eyebrow, “Emmaline said you weren’t, and she can’t lie.” My mom jumped up, “I TOLD YOU! I told you she wouldn’t know that. Does anyone listen to me? No!” She stormed out while my dad put his head in his hands.

I explained to Haley that I’d been on Emmaline’s side, behind her, and she just shook her head. She huffed, “For the record, I told her that you loved her. I also told her to kick your ass if you EVER try to pull this again. I wouldn’t let Eric get away with not speaking to me for days on end. Even when I was mind fucked and pissed about Claudzilla, I spoke to him. He didn’t let me ignore him. Even though they were meaningless conversations, we had them. I’m not saying we haven’t done stupid shit in our relationship; we have and we will again because we are not perfect, but we TALK! Fix this, my lion.”

I asked, “How do I do that? Bexley made it sound like she would be out for revenge. Where is she? I’ll go talk to her.” Haley cryptically replied, “Somewhere you cannot go.” I shot up, “Tell me she’s not in Faerie.” Haley gritted her teeth, “You can go to



Faerie, you're her consort. You just need a fairy to walk through the portal or pop you in." Ok, at least that was something.

I frowned, "So what do I do?" Haley advised, "Prove that you love her." I asked, "How do I do that if she won't talk to me?" Haley sighed, "Do I have to do everything? Find her." I frowned, "How can I do that?"

Haley sighed, "So the words you were looking for were yes, Haley you do have to do everything. She's on the property. You can't go where she is, but you CAN find her. Last I checked, your sense of smell is out of this world good. My friend Dylan, that is a fabulous doghouse, but I believe you're missing one."

Haley snapped and Dylan had a matching one. Dylan frowned. Haley offered, "Lacy's mad at you too. She didn't know a lot of the things you guys were doing." Dylan complained, "We were just so busy!" Haley shrugged, "Excuses are not welcomed here. We own up to our bullshit. Own yours. I fucked up by not telling Eric about the sulfur days. I should've pushed Emmaline harder to include you guys. That's my damn fault. I'm her princess, cousin, mentor, and trainer. I knew better. Own. Your. Shit. Find your mates with your super scenting noses. I'd bring your dog houses if I were you. I feel a storm blowing in."

Dylan looked confused, "The forecast is clear." Haley sat down, "ERIC! I can't. No one understands me here, and I don't want you to have to translate into idiotese anymore." Eric laughed, "Alright Angel, let's go home." She swatted his hand, "Do you have any more bitchy she wolf cousins who need an ass kicking?" Eric laughed, "No, the rest are fine."

Eric linked me, "Haley is going to make it rain here, probably buckets." I sighed, "Of course she is." They popped out. I sighed, "Haley's going to make it rain." Just then thunder cracked in the sky and it started to pour.

I sighed, "Let's go, Dylan." I picked up my doghouse and Dylan begrudgingly picked up his. He told me, "For the record, you WILL have to make this up to me." I nodded, "I know." We set our dog houses outside and shifted. We followed the girls' scents. They were in a forest area close to Eric's border. I linked Dylan, "Emmaline made another treehouse."

We ran back to the house and grabbed our dog houses. We made the trek back to the treehouse we couldn't see. We set our houses down and climbed inside. Dylan called, "Good thing I ordered Deluxe dog houses for my joke, you're welcome." I actually agreed, "True, at least you didn't buy small ones." Dylan said, "Hopefully when she's not drunk, your little fairy notices you out here."

I swore, "I'll get her to talk to me. I'll hand my title over to you if necessary, but this won't happen again." Dylan climbed out of his doghouse yelling, "OH NO! NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO! YOU are the Alpha. Emmaline is the Luna."

I told him sincerely, "If that's what I have to do to prove to Emmaline that I love her Dylan, I'll do it." Dylan shrieked, "Again, NO! WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS MOON GODDESS? I am a good person!" He ran back into his doghouse.

Dylan linked me, "She won't want you to do that. We just can't be so busy you don't spend time with her. We even talked about that before." I said, "I know, I'm just telling you I'll do whatever I have to do to fix this... To fix her."

Dylan growled, "I will kick BOTH your asses! I will move heaven and earth so that doesn't happen. Order chocolates and flowers on your phone NOW! NO, WAIT; you order jewelry, and I will cover the chocolate and flowers."

I replied, "She likes blue roses." Dylan informed me, "You are buying ALL the blue roses in the damn tri-state area." I knew he was serious. I sincerely told him, "I don't care, do it. Buy all the ones you can find; we can afford it." Dylan snarked, "Some of them will be here in the morning. Rush order. Sorry not sorry."

I laughed, "Again Dylan, that's fine." He asked, "When did you have time to plan a party and order invitations?" I admitted, "In some meetings. I had Gemma plan a tentative menu, but she's got the cake ordered."

The next morning, pack members brought the flowers I'd ordered via Dylan to the forest. I could smell Emmaline's scent stronger now. The rain had become a light drizzle. I linked Dylan, "Emmaline's outside her treehouse." Dylan asked incredulously, "We can't even see her when she's outside? You just have to love fairy magic. I really do want a treehouse of my own."

I counted flowers, "You ordered fifty dozen blue roses?" Dylan snorted, "That's all that I could get here today. I ordered so much more than fifty dozen. I WILL NOT take over as Alpha. I'll order all the damn blue roses in the country if I have to, but I won't be the Alpha."

I began to feel Emmaline slightly in my chest, she was hopeful. I took the roses and arranged them in the field of the forest. Other warriors brought a ton of blue rose petals. I looked at Dylan who ordered, "Don't look at me, scatter them around the field! She's still out here."

I scattered the roses between the arrangements. The chocolates arrived next. I asked, "Dylan, give us a second." Dylan gaped at me, "Really? Fine, I'll just go back inside my doghouse. Lacy, I smell you and I'm sorry. Your very own favorite chocolates are in our room. Overnighted from Europe. Yes, I know it's not fair because you've been craving it. I never said I'd play fair when it comes to you though. Lucas is down here with his crazy talk. I've got Travis helping me with plans. We've gone off the rails. Someone has to reign the Frost men in. We've run amuck in your absence. Poor Jacqueline is all alone trying to reign us in. She doesn't know she has no shot containing me. Poor thing, you should save her." He went into his doghouse.

I looked up, "Emmaline, I am so beyond sorry. I swear, baby girl, I wasn't intentionally ignoring you. When you're ready I'll explain everything to you. I let myself get too busy trying to do too many things. Nikki means nothing to me; I actually wasn't even paying attention to her. To be quite frank, I should've been. She never should've touched me. I'm sorry you saw that, and.... I'm just so damn sorry."

I pulled at my hair, "I'm an asshole. I don't care if you want to yell, scream, or glare at me. I just want to talk to you. I've missed you so much." I took a breath, "Like I said though, this is your timeline. I'm here when you're ready." I crawled back into my doghouse.

My dad linked me the jewelry I'd ordered had arrived. I had him arrange it in a heart on our bed. Dylan and I spent all day Friday and Saturday in the area. More flowers arrived. The living room was practically a chocolate factory. My dad thought we were somewhat insane.

On Sunday afternoon a pop sounded outside the doghouses. Dylan cried, "Thank the goddess! Do you all have any idea how uncomfortable a doghouse is? I miss my bed. I miss you, Lacy." Lacy pointed out, "You could've shifted." Dylan kissed the top of her head, "You see... Do you see why I need you? That's brilliant. Never leave me again. I am but a lost ship without you. There are oodles of your favorite things in the house. Your dad thinks I've gone cuckoo for cocoa puffs. He actually said that."

I came out to find Emmaline regarding me wearily. She sounded sad, "Haley said you had something to say to me." Dylan linked, "Our special fun sized ninja fairy was right. She really does have to do everything. I bow to her awesomeness, and I'm sending her.... Lacy said she likes strawberry martinis. I will order her a bartender for the day who will make them for her all day long." I linked, "Put it on my card."

I spoke to my mate, "I do have something to say, baby girl." Emmaline shrugged, "Then say it." Dylan tapped his wrist, "My, my, my look at the time. Lacy and I must be going." They took off like a shot, and I turned to talk to my mate.