

# Lashing Out

Emmaline woke up with a start. I was surprised I didn't have a hangover. I vividly remembered the first time Katie got drunk. I held her hair back the next morning, and we stayed in her room all day so no one would ask questions. Ry assumed she had food poisoning since he wasn't with her at the party. She'd gone with her boyfriend at the time. Since Ry didn't like him, she didn't tell him she was going. We just let everyone believe that, and no one ever asked us if it was true. Luckily, I felt perfectly fine.

I sighed and went outside. There was a slight drizzle that my water side welcomed. I was stunned to see two dog houses right below me. I watched in shock as pack members brought out dozens upon dozens of blue roses in vases.

Lacy came outside and linked me, "Good lord! How many roses did he get?" I spoke out loud, "They can't hear us, but I have no idea." We counted them together. Lacy whistled, "Fifty dozen. They even slept outside in their dog houses." I frowned, "That's not what I wanted. I just didn't want to be around him." Lacy rubbed my shoulders, "I know, I didn't really want to be around Dylan."

I turned to her in surprise asking, "What?" Lacy sighed, "They were doing a lot of stuff I didn't know about. This all could've been prevented with more communication. I get that he's my brother's Beta, but I'm his mate and your Beta female. Nothing about what they were doing was vital information to the pack that I couldn't know. I understand sometimes that will happen, but this situation wasn't it."

I shrugged, "He's got a big heart, Lacy. A kids heart." Lacy smiled, "He does. I really thought he'd lose that after his parents left. It was supposed to be a summer vacation trip, but they never came back." I frowned, "That's right, they didn't come to the wedding."

Lacy started to pace, "No, they didn't. I'm so mad at them! They were like a second set of parents to me. I know Dylan will NEVER admit it, but he really thought they'd come to the wedding. I want to smack them because of how much they've hurt him and Travis. Have you met Jacqueline? They are so sweet together."

I smiled, "I haven't ever officially met her, but I do know who she is." Lacy laughed, "You'd have to since you told Travis about her." I smiled a little, "I'm happy they are happy." We watched Lucas scatter blue flower petals in between all the arrangements.

I mused, “I guess he goes all out on apologies. I wish he’d cared that much this past week.” Lacy admitted, “I know some things, but I think you guys should talk. I think that’s a huge problem right now. None of us are communicating. We keep saying we will, and we keep falling back into old patterns. I’m no saint here either. I think I started the pattern by running away without talking to anyone. I convinced myself I was being noble, and that I was right to save my brother. Hell, save my pack too. I got a self-righteous award in my own mind. Savior Lacy to the pack’s rescue.”

She paused then added, “I would’ve saved everyone a lot of heartache if I’d just asked one other person besides Christy. It didn’t even have to be Lucas; Dylan would’ve told me. Heck, Chelsea could’ve told me. Her dad’s the Gamma, she could’ve asked him. We all have to take an active role in stopping this, to be blunt, vicious cycle we are in. I wish there was a manual on mates. Like you may be destined for each other, but it all still takes a lot of work and getting used to.”

I told her sincerely, “You are wise beyond your years, Lacy Frost.” Lacy gasped, “Oh, gosh. That’s the first time someone’s called me that. I think both of us are wise beyond our years because of the decisions we had to make on our own. You more so than me. Our experiences shaped us, but they didn’t take away who we are at our core. Claudzilla, I do so love that nickname from your cousin, tried to take all my joy away from me. David and your mother tried to take yours from you. We are still here being who we truly are. The bad guys didn’t win. Our villains lost overall.”

I nodded. She continued, “The way they win is when we act independently. They forced us into that mindset of isolation. I have no idea what Dylan and Lucas’ excuse for that is other than they’ve been autonomous and single for so long it’s a habit. Honestly, our excuse is ten times better. We all need to break it though.”

She was right. She pointed to the guys, “Lucas is going to talk to you. He basically sent Dylan into his doghouse.” Valerie joined us on the porch. Dylan spoke over his shoulder before he went into his doghouse, but I couldn’t hear him.

Lacy snorted, “I know he’s sorry. He hates being outside in the rain. Poor Jacqueline, I’ll have to text her.” I snorted, “What kind of wolf hates the rain?” Lacy explained, “Travis was afraid of storms when he was little. His mom used to sing him a song to calm him down. Once it became clear they weren’t coming back, Travis’ fear of storms came back. Dylan couldn’t remember the song. He thought he was the worst big brother. He spent several weeks writing down what he knew until he had the whole song. He hates being outside in the rain because he says it reminds him that he failed his little brother for a few weeks.”

I gasped, “That’s not his fault, he didn’t fail Travis!” Lacy agreed, “I know he didn’t, everyone does. Travis thought he was weak. He said he was fourteen and a little thunder scared him.” I frowned, “We all react to stress differently, he just wanted his mom. There’s no shame in that.”

I turned my attention back to Lucas. He was apologizing and I was already confused. I rolled my eyes, “What? How could he not have been trying to ignore me? He literally never answered one SINGLE link. He was never around. UGH!” Neither of the girls said anything.

I hissed when he mentioned Nikki. Lacy laughed, “Haley kicked her ass.” Valerie sighed, “I wish Ryan and I would’ve come to the Conners Thanksgiving instead of my parents. It seems like I missed out on one hell of a dinner.” Lacy squealed, “It was epic! Nikki said Lucas was hers.” I growled.

Lacy complimented me, “Impressive growl, little fairy. Haley lost it and Nikki tried to fight her. It was like watching an ant try to fight an elephant. Aiden was beyond entertained.”

We all focused again as Lucas told me he’d be ready to talk to me when I was ready. I groaned, “He’s taking the fun out of getting him back.” Both girls shrugged. I contemplated going down to him right now, but I pushed that aside.

The girls decided to stay with me. Valerie must have linked Ry. She smirked, “Ryan is beside himself because we are mad at him.” I frowned, “Wait, you didn’t know either?” Valerie shook her head, “No, I know what’s going on. I can’t believe they didn’t tell you or think about how you would feel. He didn’t tell me he wasn’t returning your calls or texts.”

Lucas went back into his doghouse. I commented, “I’m guessing Haley is behind the rain. The forecasts were clear.” Lacy surmised, “I think that’s a fair conclusion.” We went inside, but my thoughts kept leading me to the deck.

Eventually, I just went to sit out there. I engaged in conversation here and there, but I longed to be down there with Lucas. It hurt to see him sleeping outside, but I wasn’t ready to give in.

Saturday came and more flowers arrived. Lacy bumped my hip, “Apparently, there are chocolates and jewelry to go along with the flowers. Mom said the living room is practically a chocolate store.” I sighed “I don’t need him to do this, I just need him to understand.”

Valerie asked me, “Understand what exactly?” I said, “That what he did wasn’t ok. It wasn’t fair.” Valerie nodded, “Agreed, it wasn’t.” I looked at her, but she didn’t continue. I sighed, “It feels like you have more to say.” Valerie shrugged, “It’s not my place to say anything. You and Lucas need to talk.”

I looked longingly at the doghouse. After a minute I whispered, “I’m not sure I’m ready.” Lacy stared at me, “If you’re sure.” I nodded. I got through Saturday much like I got through Friday. By sitting on the deck watching more and more flowers arrive. My chest felt tight. I felt this tug to go be with Lucas, but I ignored it.

Sunday Haley popped in at ten in the morning to see us. I greeted her evenly, “Hello, Haley.” Haley smiled, “Hello, Emmaline. Valerie, you’re up first; Let’s go. I’m popping you to Ryan. I’m such a damn good person rising above the fact that I don’t like warlocks, I should make him come get you.”

Valerie had a second to be surprised before Haley popped her away. She popped back and sat down. She looked at me and Lacy asking, “What’s going on?” I stood, “Let’s go out to the deck.”

Haley raised an eyebrow but said, “Ooook.....” The second we got outside Haley snorted, “I see.” I admitted, “I’m not sure I’m ready to face all of this.” Haley questioned, “Face all of what?” I sighed, “Lucas.” Haley tilted her head, “You want to sit out here to be near to Lucas. Which you know, Lacy already knew, and now I know.” I snarked, “Yes, I do know that’s why I want to be out here.”

Haley pointed out, “Your light and your soul want you to go to him.” I thought about it, “Yes, I’ve felt a tug to do so.” Haley sat back asking, “So, the question is, is it pride, stubbornness, or fear that’s stopping you? Or a combination of the three?”

Lacy’s jaw dropped. I stood in anger demanding, “HOW can you take his side? He IGNORED me!” Haley calmly replied, “I’m not taking his side. I’m on team Emmaline all the way, but you my dear cousin, need some tough love. We all do it from time to time. Marcus did it for me when I came back from the summit. I kicked your mate in the balls and broke his nose on Thanksgiving because I am quite firmly on your side. I yelled and gave him what for. I’m not yelling at you; I’m not even cursing.” She wasn’t but I was still angry with her.

She continued, “If your pride is keeping you up here, then you want to punish him and that’s wrong. If it’s fear, we need to talk through that. If it’s wanting to hold out for the same amount of time he hurt you for that’s understandable; but it’s not right. You know that in your soul too. You’re hurting yourself and I can’t have that.”

Tears filled my eyes, “He hurt me.” Haley nodded, “He did. Do you want to leave him? I can and will help you do that if it’s what you want.” I gasped and clutched my chest instantly replying, “No, I love him.”

Haley asked, “Then why can you two not manage to talk to each other? Lucas has a lot to explain, and he has a hell of a lot say to you. He’s not the only one who’s wrong here though. We were wrong. I take the blame for that because I’m your mentor. We should have told them about the sulfur.”

I snarked, “Where is my cousin Haley? What is the matter with you?” Haley didn’t change her expression calmly saying, “Currently? My problem is that my cousin is still in pain for reasons I will uncover, and my husband is worried about his friend down there in a doghouse. Now, will you let me explain why not telling them about the sulfur was wrong?”

I flopped down on the couch. I was pissed she wasn’t getting mad and snarking back. I rolled my eyes, “Go ahead. Try to convince me with whatever Eric brainwashed you with. I’d never thought I’d see the day you backed down. You’re just not the bad ass we all think you are, are you?” Lacy gasped, “EMMALINE!”

Haley still didn’t get mad. She even smiled, “It’s fine, Lacy. She can’t help it; her light is lashing out. I had my own qualms about not telling them. It was against my better judgement not to. Eric simply told me about the ramifications for the pack I had not considered. As our partners, they need to know if we are vulnerable.” Annoying, but true I suppose.

Haley wasn’t done though, “As the Alpha and leader of the pack, they need to know for the safety of their people as well as us. Eric and Lucas did not call as many of the warriors they would have to fight the rogues because they factored us and our powers into the decision.” Lacy muttered, “Crap.”

I hated that she was right. She was still a bad ass, and that did make a lot of sense. Haley continued, “As I said, I take the blame there. I did ask you what you wanted to do, but I should’ve known better. To be honest, your natural fairy fighting instincts and my Hackura instincts told me it would be fine. It was fine, I just see their logic. We are the Luna of our packs. We can’t make decisions to put them at risk without telling our significant other. They can make a better decision for protection of our packs. It’s not crazy to say one of the warriors could’ve been hurt or overwhelmed, or possibly even killed, because Eric and Lucas were operating under the assumption we could use our powers and help the warriors.”

I looked away. Lacy nudged, “Emmaline, you owe her an apology.” I shifted uncomfortably. I knew she was right, but I didn’t care. Why didn’t I care? Haley looked at Lacy, “She can’t right now, but I’m sure one day, hopefully even soon, she will be able to.” Lacy asked, “She can’t? Because she’s depressed?” I hissed, “I’m not depressed!”

Haley agreed, “You’re right. You’re not now, but you were. You shared your sorrow with me, and you got drunk. Now, your light and your soul are very angry. Your instincts are telling you to go talk to Lucas, but you’re ignoring them because you are hurt, stubborn, prideful, and or afraid. I tend to believe it is a combination.”

I stubbornly retorted, “You can’t make me talk to Lucas.” Haley laughed “Sweet, naïve, Emmaline I could absolutely make you talk to Lucas. I’m a fairy/Hackura princess. YOUR princess to be precise. I could command you to do it. I could charm you both in a room that you are unable to leave until you talk. I could charm you to be unable to stop talking. The options are really limitless, but I’m not here to make you talk to him. It’s not my style.”

She paused then added, “Gosh, it’s hard not to swear. I literally have to think about it. Anyway, I’m here to talk to you about why you are still up here. What you do with what we uncover is up to you cousin. I won’t make you talk to Lucas. If I was going to, I would’ve brought him to you when you wanted Lacy and Valerie. I am here because you are hurting, and you’re perpetuating a cycle that you yourself want to break with your mate. You’re also hurting yourself further, and I don’t want that for you.”

I snarked, “No one made you talk to Eric when you were mad at him.” Haley laughed, “We were speaking. I talked to him every day. Granted it was about stupid shit. FUCK. DAMN IT! UGH! Ok, that didn’t count as cursing for this

talk. Eric and I talked about what was for lunch, and other silly things like that.”

She paused then continued, “Our relationship is not yours though. We have our own getting to know each other issues as you and Lucas have yours. If you don’t want to leave him, and you intend to end this fight... Why are you putting it off?”

I yelled, “It’s not fair! He made me suffer for a week!” Haley nodded, “So you intend to make him suffer, not to mention yourself, for the next week? You’ll go back into a depression. Except this time, it will be worse because you are ignoring your light. You could hurt someone.”

I asked, "Like who? Why should I care?" Lacy hissed, "Emmaline!" I asked, "What? People hurt me all the time!" Haley put a hand on mine, "You should care because if you let your light consume you in that way, David Forrester wins. He knows about fairies, and he knows how important families are to our lights. He was hoping your light would lash out, and eventually someone would kill you, or you'd kill yourself. I'm a big proponent of not giving the villains what they want." Dang it. I didn't want David to win at anything.

Haley cringed, "We are clearly not going to get you to answer any other way. I don't like doing this, but I love you. You need to tell us and say the words out loud. It's some sort of cosmic joke the process fairies have to go through when we are hurt." She was going to use her power on me.

She looked into my eyes, "What's holding you back?" I found myself unable to stop the truth from coming off my lips, "He hurt me and ignored me. It's only fair I do it back until the pack members look at him with the same pitying looks they gave me. He said he wasn't ignoring me, but I don't know how that's possible. If he can last a week without even sleeping beside me, I can do it too."

The words wouldn't stop coming out, "What if he does this again? If he can do it once, he can do it again. I don't know if I could handle it. I'm scaring myself. I don't care about people's emotions, and I can't even sense their souls anymore. My friends were upset this week, but I didn't even bother to tell them the solutions I came up with. I don't understand what's wrong with me, but I just don't care. I'm ignoring the pull to go to him because it's not fair. He was strong enough to stay away, I should be too." I felt instantly unburdened.

Haley squeezed my hand, "And now you've gotten through the last stage, with some help." I asked, "That's what your power feels like to people? I literally couldn't stop myself from telling you the truth about what you asked."

Haley nodded, "It does. You can't evade the truth when the Truth Seeker is around and doesn't want you to. You feel better though now, don't you?" I didn't hesitate to answer, "Not fully back to me, but I do feel better. I'm sorry I snapped at you."

Haley winked, "I made you snap at me because you needed to. Your light was wound up tight. It's better for you to lash out me than someone else. If you had used your powers, I could've handled it. Anyfuckingway, here's my advice. Don't hold back when you decide to talk to Lucas. Tell him everything you feel. I will tell you, your soul shut down because you thought he pulled away from you. The longer that went on your soul shattered thinking Lucas didn't love you. He didn't ignore your links, you shut it down. He says he tried to link you, but he met a wall." I did that?

Haley instantly said, “Now, I would like to point out that is not your fault. Anyone who says otherwise gets to deal with me. It’s just something that happens to fairies, especially you when you start to shut down. You and Lucas are soul tied on top of you being the soul searcher. It hurt you and you didn’t do it on purpose. He wasn’t ignoring your links, and you weren’t ignoring his.”

I questioned, “Do you think I should forgive him?” Haley squeezed my hand again, “I think you should talk to him. For a few reasons, one this is hurting you. It’s that’s not healthy to keep yourself in this state. Two, because you want this relationship to work. You can’t very well have a relationship with someone if you don’t talk to them.”

I cringed, “I know you're right, but he needs to talk to me too. He just went a whole week being perfectly fine without me.” Haley agreed, “Of fucking course he needs to talk to you. He was a giant asshole and an idiot, tell him that. He’s not single, and he needs to get that through his thick fucking skull. He should’ve known you would’ve thought he was still pissed. You believed he was punishing you about the sulfur thing.” I really had.

Haley ranted, “He’s a grown ass man, and he needs to act like one. You should’ve popped to him to demand he talk to you. You were being stubborn, and he was being an idiot. Because in all fairness it was his turn to make a move, and he should’ve come to you. As fucked up as it is, relationships are not always fair, little Emmaline.” Which was annoying, but I knew that was true.

Haley pursed her lips, “Frequently, we have to be the bigger person. Sometimes they do, but let’s be honest; they are lost without us. When Lucas is so dang busy he can’t even take a break for himself, you’re there to take him away from work. Pop him somewhere he can’t leave, whatever works for you.” That had some potential, I could pop him places.

Haley added, “Personally, I think popping him to a boat you’ve conjured in the middle of the ocean would be hilarious and your fairy side would love it. If you think he’s mad and he needs space, you can give him a day. If you see no sign of the man, then you pop to him. Keep popping if you have to, he can’t get away from you. Fairies always win stubborn fights.” The ocean idea was pretty good.

Haley assured me, “I’m not telling you to forgive him, cousin. I am telling you he has things to say, and for your own sake; you need to listen to him. Forgiveness does not always happen right away. Sometimes, it’s earned. In my personal opinion, he needs to fucking earn it. The flowers are a good start. Is he going to cover your whole territory in them?”



I laughed, “Maybe.” Haley smiled, “There’s a real Emmaline laugh.” I asked, “How long will I be depressed?” Haley answered, “You are not depressed anymore. As I said we went through the stages. You shared your sorrow with another fairy, me, you got drunk, and then you lashed out. Don’t feel bad about that either, it was my goal because you needed it. Then you told us what was holding you back. You are not depressed anymore, little cousin. I’m aware of the situation now, so I won’t let you go to that state again. Your soul will be unsettled until you speak with Lucas. Your link won’t reestablish until you believe he loves you. Your powers will be a little unstable until then as well.”

Lacy grumbled, “My brother is such a jerk!” Haley agreed, “Yes, he is. To be fair, he didn’t know any of that. They don’t know everything about fairies. Sometimes, I myself fail to give all the details. It’s second nature to us, and we know these things. It’s strange that they don’t. He’s still a fucking asshole though.”

I asked, “How long was it until you and Eric were ok after your fight?” Haley tilted her head, “I was hurt, as was my fairy side. He broke a promise to me, and that’s extremely hurtful to fairies. We weren’t ok until we got home. Both my brother and my therapist told me I needed to tell him all about my feelings. I was talking to him, but not about anything important. We made meaningless talk.”

I laughed, “It’s small talk.” Haley asked, “How can talk be small? Seriously, what is WRONG with this damn realm?” I couldn’t stop the laugh that bubbled over. Lacy started laughing too. Haley seemed perplexed, “We will revisit that another time.”

I snorted, “It’s put a pin in it.” Haley asked, “Are you fucking serious? How does that make sense? No... no more earthly realm sayings. You all are a bunch of weirdos!” Lacy and I were in tears we were laughing so hard.

I waved my hand in front of my face, “Haley, you are too much!” Haley grumbled, “How can one be too much? I am right. The saying here are fucking stupid. Bees knees, pins, you all are crazy. I know there’s one about a horse that’s wrong too. Oh, and the mime one.”

I glanced at Lacy who shrugged. I asked, “Mime one?” Haley sighed, “I told someone to be silent like a mime. I was told that’s not the saying, it’s a grave. Be silent like a grave, that’s just absurd.” Lacy and I laughed harder.

She gave me a kiss on the forehead, “I will let your light lash out at me anytime, little cousin. I know I pushed you to snap at me, but I needed to before you got so angry you hurt someone with your powers.” I nodded, “I understand. You didn’t even say anything that was wrong.”

Lacy commented, "I think you need to tattoo seize the day on all the guys' asses for a period of time. So, they know tomorrow isn't a good thing to say. 'Oh, I'll talk to Emmaline tomorrow.' What could POSSIBLY go wrong with that plan?" I stared at her knowing there was no way she should've said that. She was kidding, but Haley did not pick up on that at all.

Haley grinned broadly, "I like where your head is at, Lacy Frost. I have different words in mind to put on their asses though. OHHH! I can do both cheeks!" Lacy and I dissolved into giggles again as Haley spoke in Fealish.

She clapped when she was done, "This is too good! I can't WAIT until they notice. Lacy, that was brilliant! Should you think of more things like this, write them down. Text me... Something. It's inspired!"

Lacy laughed, "If we could keep it on the DL that the tattoo you did was my idea since you used different words... that would be great." Haley frowned, "DL?" I explained, "Down Low." Haley asked, "Is that a short joke? Because I am down low to the ground?"

I cackled, "No, she's saying don't tell them she gave you the idea." She shrugged, "As long as no one directly asks me whose idea it was, I see no problem with that. Emmaline, you should call Katie and hear what she did to your brothers." I chuckled, "What did she do?" Haley shrugged, "I don't know, I haven't talked to her yet." She gave Lacy and I hug then popped away.

Lacy immediately said, "I hope they don't see it until they shift, and some warrior tells them." I couldn't stop my laughter, "Oh gosh... what if another Alpha sees it?" Lacy and I were both laughing so hard we were full on crying.

We finally gathered ourselves. Lacy asked, "Should we put them out of their misery?" I admitted, "We should put ourselves out of misery. Haley was right. I'm hurting myself more than I'm hurting him. I was just so tangled up in anger until I lashed out at her, and she made me tell the truth."

Lacy consoled me, "Hey, that's not your fault, it's a fairy thing." I said, "Hopefully Haley never gets depressed because she can't get drunk. We'd have to call in Aiden to figure out how to fix her." Lacy snorted, "Then who would fix everything in our lives? She's not allowed to be depressed. I'll kick Eric's ass myself."

I startled, asking, "You can beat up Eric?" Lacy laughed, "He wouldn't fight back. So technically, yes, I can beat him. He'd never fight a woman, outside of training, that

wasn't trying to kill him, and I'd just want to punch him." I mischievously stated, "So we could both punch him."

Lacy nodded, "Haley dropped kicked Lucas pretty hard, I heard his nose break. That girl packs a punch." I winced, "I'm glad I didn't see that." I grabbed her hands asking, "Are you ready?" She nodded and we popped down to the guys.

Dylan took off with Lacy pretty quickly. Lucas waited until Dylan and Lacy were out of hearing range. He asked, "Do you want to go somewhere? If not, I'll explain in the rain, baby girl." I considered it then grabbed his shoulder and popped us to my sanctuary. I snapped two comfy chairs and sat down in one. I was glad the sun was shining here. I felt an instant peace, and the knot in my chest was releasing in Lucas' presence.

Lucas broke our silence, "I'm sorry. I'm so damn sorry." I held up my hand, "Tell me what happened. I want to know how you weren't ignoring me and where you were sleeping at night." Lucas nodded, "I spread myself too thin. Gina's mate, Gina is Principal Tom's daughter."

I interrupted, "I know who she is. Well, I've heard her name." Lucas winced, "Well, in the spirit of sharing everything; she's actually the Ducant Alpha's daughter with his mate. Tom loved her mom, it's a long story, but her mom wants Gina and everyone else to believe he's her dad. Anyway, her mate Ryker needs to be trained as a warrior. Alpha Hammond held his pack warriors back. I'm sure he didn't want anyone to become powerful enough that they could've challenged him. He was definitely not loved by his pack anymore."

He paused before admitting, "I'm not sure when that happened. He used to be loved by their pack. Gina asked if I would personally train him. It was all she asked of me. I knew if Dylan and I trained Ryker we could get him up to speed and into a class probably before your birthday. I agreed and our sessions are scheduled for right after school gets out. After the sulfur incident, I felt like you were doing all this intense training because you thought I couldn't protect you."

My jaw dropped, "Lucas..." He put up his hands pleading, "Please, just let me get this all out." I nodded. He continued, "I called your brothers, and asked them to train with me using their powers. I've gathered lots of tips about fighting fairy's from watching your practices. I've learned a lot training with your brothers this past week, and they have too in reverse."

I was stunned. Lucas sighed, "Dustin has a hectic schedule, so I was driving myself, Dylan and Ryan to Red Run to start training at four." I shrieked, "You've been getting

up at three in the morning?!” Lucas nodded, “Yes, I have. Dustin recommended having two training sessions a day to catch up and be prepared.” That sounded like Dusty.

Lucas kept explaining, “So, after Dylan and I finished our session with Ryker, we ran to our session with Dustin and Ryan which was here in our territory. I saw you training on your obstacle course, it was the highlight of my day. I’ve been so busy I didn’t even get a chance to tell you I met the moon goddess. Among other things, she told me we needed to watch our enemies that we were making for the future. Not for our pups, but someone we know. They said this would affect you. So, I’ve been running surveillance on multiple Alpha’s and their children. I haven’t gotten used to receiving all those reports yet.” What a vague, crappy warning. Someone we know has a child that’s going to suffer? We know a lot of people.

Lucas got to where he was sleeping, “I have been sleeping in our bed, but your arms were outstretched to my side. I would slide into bed on your side and snuggle with you. I had Dylan setting an alarm and linking me to get up. You are a light sleeper, whereas Lacy is not. I’m sorry. I was even almost out the door on Tuesday to pick you up for lunch when a pack emergency happened.” That was crappy timing.

He tilted my chin up so I was looking in his eyes. He sincerely told me, “I’ll give it all up, Emmaline. It’s you for me, you’re everything. I’ll pass the Alpha title to Dylan.” I gasped, “Lucas, no!” Lucas held up his hands, “You mean more to me than our titles.”

I shook my head, “No, we just... you promised we’d do better at communication and we both still suck at it. I don’t want you to give up your Alpha title, it’s your birthright.” I got off my chair and hugged him.

I needed to clarify something, “That was a lot of information. The moon goddess is your goddess, right?” He nodded. That’s even worse. A child of one of her own children, and she couldn’t give us a better clue. I didn’t care too much for her at this moment.

I pushed that aside and smiled, “I’m proud she came to meet you, for trying to help our friends’ future kids, and I’m proud you are training a wolf who needs the extra training. This has nothing to do with you not being able to protect me. I know you can and will protect me, but I want to be able to protect you too. I can’t even describe the emotions I felt when you were stabbed. It was horrible.”

I literally felt the knot inside my stomach disappear. I whispered, “I can’t believe you would give up your title for me.” Lucas looked into my eyes, “I love you, baby girl. I know I’ve shown it horribly, but I do love you.”

I admitted, "I was wrong too. Haley told me why you and Eric need to know about sulfur days." Lucas sighed, "I didn't communicate well there either. I was just so damn mad. It's a werewolf law that Alpha's don't write their training plans down. It's passed from father to son. Lead injection days are not a new policy I made within the pack. All the packs do it, it's been going on since well before I was born."

That did make sense. I apologized, "I'm sorry that I used that in our fight, I didn't know." Lucas rubbed my back, "I know. I think we both need to have supernatural lessons. You need to learn about werewolves, and we both need to learn more about fairies. I almost came across the table and killed Fegle." He could've tried, but I was certain Haley nor Aiden would've let that happen. Something told me Fegle was nothing to turn one's nose at either.

I looked out at the water, "I like him. I almost clawed Nikki's face off. I am certain there's a charm for that." Lucas growled. I slapped his chest knowing what had upset him, "Not like that, he's just a nice guy." Lucas growled, "He likes you. He was flirting with you."

I sighed, "He wasn't, he was just being nice. The whole pack was looking at me with pity all week. It made me so mad. I can't believe Fegle makes you mad when Nikki had her hands all over you. You've even had sex with her!"

Lucas frowned, "The pack was just worried about you. Everyone said you looked really sad. They know how I am when I get busy. As for Nikki, she means nothing to me. I didn't even notice her hands were on me because I was looking at you."

I smirked, "Haley said I'll have to kick your ass if you try ignoring me again. I'll go nuclear if you let anyone, besides me, touch you like that ever again." Lucas nuzzled my neck, "I don't intend to let this happen again, but you can kick my ass anytime, baby girl." Thinking about what Haley had done before she left made me laugh so hard. I wondered what she tattooed on their butts.

Lucas was clearly confused by my laughter. I linked Lacy, "Lucas said I could kick his ass anytime, and I can't stop thinking about what Haley tattooed on him." Lacy replied, "I'm so curious, but Dylan is not seeing me naked tonight. Maybe I can take a peak when he's in the shower."

I gathered myself and told Lucas, "Let's pop back to the house." I grabbed his hand. He asked, "Are we ok?" I nodded, "We are ok. We just need to communicate better. You can't get so busy I don't get to talk to you, not even for one whole day. I can't shut down, and not confront you about it. I'm not sure we are in the land of total forgiveness, but we are ok. I understand what happened, but you need to prove to me

that you won't do it again. We were in a better place with all that before this happened. You were letting me in, and I was helping with the work. You just totally shut me out because you were busy, and that really hurts."

He crushed me in a hug vowing, "I'll make it up to you, I promise. Somehow. Any way you want." I laughed, "You can stop with the flowers, I think I have more than enough." Lucas said, "The flowers will be arriving for weeks to come." I rolled my eyes, "You silly man." Lucas shrugged, "Take it up with Dylan. He's determined not to take over as Alpha. For some reason, he believes the way to accomplish that goal was through flowers."

I laughed, "It's mean, but we could so mess with him about that. You could tell him I'm considering your offer to step down." Lucas disagreed, "I'm not sure I can. I put him through the ringer this past week. He's had little to no sleep. I think we should be very nice to Dylan for a while."

I fake pouted, but I knew I'd have more chances to tease Dylan in our lives. I popped us back into the living room. There were literally boxes and boxes of chocolates. I shouted, "LUCAS LYONS!" He shrugged, "You see why we have to tell Dylan all is well? He's gone off the deep end."

Dylan came running, "Tell Dylan what? I'm not even going to bother contradicting you about going off the deep end. I AM A MAN ON THE EDGE! I live there now. My adrenaline is permanently heightened." He even looked frantic.

I linked Lacy, "You might need to reconsider the no sex tonight plan. Dylan looks insane." She snorted, "I know, but there's no sex." I said out loud, "You need to stop ordering flowers and chocolate that might bring you off the ledge. How many stores have you wiped out? It has to stress you out to try and find more of them."

Dylan shook his head so fast I couldn't track it, "No can do, little Luna. They will keep coming until we have fixed the little fairy standing before me. The network is trying to cancel my show, but I have rallied the troops. We have signatures and we WILL stop this cancellation of my fairy show. Don't you worry, Dylan is on the case. The show is far too young and new to go."

I rolled my eyes, "I'm fixed." Dylan raised an eyebrow, "Fixed as in..." Lucas assured him, "You won't be taking over for me as the Alpha, Dylan." Dylan screamed, "WOOHOO! Praise the moon goddess! To be clear, I wouldn't have done it but YAHTZEE! Travis was already on team Dylan can't take over because then he'd be the Beta. We had plans, so many plans. It wasn't going to happen. I am a little sad we spent all night last night coming up with all these glorious plans. The world

will never know of the genius we gave birth to last night. It's a shame really." I linked Lacy, "Help." She snickered, "I'm coming."

Lacy came in asking, "What's going on?" Dylan picked her up, "I am free! Oh, so free! We are free! FREE! FREE! FREE!" Lacy questioned, "Free of?" Dylan explained, "Of taking over as the Alpha and you the Luna. I told Lucas it wasn't happening, but he was all 'I'll do it for Emmaline.' I was all 'HELL NO YOU WON'T!' It was a whole thing. I can't stop the flowers that are coming though. Or the chocolate. As for the stores, I did in fact wipe out several. GAP owns most of them. His inventory people MUST be in crisis, which means he is. This sparks such joy for me, and I couldn't possibly undo that. It's my gift to me in this cold war."

Lacy was gaping but recovered to ask, "There's more chocolate and flowers coming?" Dylan confirmed, "I ordered every single blue rose in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama. Did you know Alabama has A LOT of blue roses waiting to be snatched up by a Beta in need of not taking over as the Alpha? It's like the state of Alabama knew to be prepared for an epic apology in the form of flowers." Literally no one knew that.

Dylan smiled, "I'm not even remotely sorry about ALL the flowers coming to your school. You know what's downright insulting? I order all these things, and I didn't even put a dent in ONE of your accounts, Lucas. Not a one, you rich bastard." I couldn't stop laughing, "Of course you are not sorry about an embarrassing display of flowers coming to school."

Dylan added, "Nor am I sorry about the chocolate. Not even a sliver of me is sorry. Do you two have ANY idea what you put me through? I have been waking up at three in the morning. Do you know in my carefree days, there were times I didn't go to BED until three in the morning?!"

Lacy bit her lip trying not to laugh. I consoled him, "I wouldn't let Lucas step down. It's his birthright. Also, he made you wake up that early, not me." Dylan looked at Lucas, "You see? You see why you should listen to me? I SAID she wouldn't want you to step down. You had to go all noble being a good man making the big gesture and giving me panic attacks. I was plotting so many ways to make this not happen. FOR NO REASON!" He wasn't wrong, but he should've known I wouldn't agree.

Dylan ranted, "I didn't sleep in the super comfortable doghouse Haley snapped for me. Why did we not think to bring a pillow? Why don't humans love their dogs? I heard they LOVE their pets! I thought a super expensive doghouse would be comfy but NOOOOO. Because of you and that doghouse I tossed and turned unable to sleep. Visions of taking over this pack and being named Alpha as I screamed NOOOOOOOO

NOT ME! TAKE TRAVIS, ANYONE BUT ME!” Lacy lost it and couldn’t contain her laughter any longer.

I linked Travis, “Your brother is broken.” He replied, “Yes, well he just needs sleep.” Dylan continued, “Sadly, my powers of being mute were in full affect and no one heard me screaming, Lucas. NO ONE!” I gathered myself asking, “Your powers of being mute?”

Dylan nodded, “Yes, I discovered that it’s not that people aren’t taking my advice, they can’t hear it because I have the power to go mute. I have been researching who can help me with this ailment but have not come across a teacher who can train me. I can’t control when it happens…” Dylan started mouthing words instead of speaking. I spotted Dale behind a door laughing silently.

Dylan shrugged his shoulders, “See? It just happens. I will scour the records until I come across someone who can help me.” Lucas was the only one left not laughing and I was certain he was pinching himself to stop.

I asked, “Who didn’t listen to you?” Dylan put his arm around me, “Little fairy Luna, the list was so large. There is of course, your mate, my ‘I will make this great gesture of stepping down and make my Beta go crazy’ Alpha. Who will always be the Alpha until one of your pups takes over and mine will be the Beta because THAT’S HOW THIS WORKS PEOPLE!” Oh boy.

He continued, “Then there’s GAP himself who decided a game of football was what Lucas needed before he talked to him. Darrin Connors cracked my rib I tell you; I heard it snap. Do you know what it’s like to have your rib snapped and have to get up and act fine? Lucas crushed Darrin’s ribs after that though so evensies.”

I interjected, “You guys played football on Thanksgiving?” Dylan nodded, “Yes, just out of sheer curiosity… where did you get that dress you were wearing on Thanksgiving?” Somewhat surprised by the question I answered, “Bexley snapped it for me.”

Dylan yelled, “AH HA! There you see, Lucas! I was right! Come on, say it… Dylan was right!” Lucas rolled his eyes. Dylan hopped around him in a circle, “I won’t stop until you say it. Dylan was right! Say it!” Lucas rolled his eyes again but stated, “Dylan was right.”

Dylan grinned, “There! Was that so hard? I need to sit, I’m dizzy.” Lacy admonished, “If you didn’t use werewolf speed to hop in a circle around my brother, you’d be fine.” Dylan was about to crash onto chocolates, so I snapped him a clear spot.



Dylan cooed, “Aww Lucas, you did fix our little fairy. Thank you, Luna.” I said, “I know you know my name is Emmaline.” Dylan just smiled, “I’m in SUCH a good mood! A weight has been lifted from my shoulders. I am carefree and happy again. The colors in the room brightened, Lacy, I swear that to you. Everything is so sharp and in focus again. I’m telling you I’ve been seeing grey since Lucas told me the news. I missed colors. I missed the greens and the blues, all of it. The world is a beautiful place. Let’s go explore it!” He grabbed Lacy and they shot out of the room.

Lucas snorted, “As if he ever lost his flair for snark in his troubled worried times with thoughts of taking over as Alpha.” I laughed, “I would be worried if he did, it would be unsettling. I’d have to bring in Haley and Bexley for a full-on fairy show. We might even need Aiden.”

Lucas agreed, “That would snap him right out of any funk. If all else fails, we bring Eric in to insult him.” I frowned, “Wouldn’t that just make him spiral more?” Lucas shook his head, “Nah, they feed off it. Dylan LOVES to goad Eric, and Eric enjoys toying with Dylan. I do worry for Dylan though.”

I asked, “Why?” Lucas confided, “Eric is not one to let things slide. Dylan has been giving him a hard time for months. He’s going to have a plan to do something about it.” I pointed out, “Haley wouldn’t let Eric hurt Dylan.”

Lucas laughed, “Eric wouldn’t hurt Dylan because they are friends. He will get him back though, and I don’t think Dylan realizes that.” I asked, “Haven’t you guys known each other for a long time?” Lucas nodded, “All our lives. Dylan thinks Haley is his safety net. Eric getting him back won’t stop Dylan from goading him. He will just be more prepared in the future.”

I asked, “Why haven’t you told Dylan that?” Lucas grumbled, “I have many, many times. He just says it’s fine.” I shrugged. I turned my head surveying the chocolates until an invitation caught my eye. I walked over to it and tears filled my eyes. I saw the package was addressed to Lucas, but the invitations were for my birthday.

I whispered, “You planned a party for me? You remembered my birthday?” Lucas smiled softly, “Baby girl, I could never forget your birthday. Gemma has a tentative menu waiting for your approval. She did order the cake though because I wanted something specific. I ordered the invitations last week. I was going to show you when we got home from Eric and Haley’s on Thanksgiving.

A riptide of emotions hit me. A very strong emotion was relief. I sank to my knees and started crying. Lucas ran to me putting his arms around me. He yelled, “Fuck!

Please don't cry! Katie said you loved having birthday parties. We don't have to have one, Emmaline. Please stop crying."

I wiped my tears, "You talked to Katie?" Lucas nodded, "Yes, I asked her if we should have a surprise party. She said you hated the one they threw when you were ten. She helped me finalize the invitations. I only ordered them once she'd approved."

I held onto him, "You love me." He seemed startled, "Of course I do." I shook my head, "Even with everything going on and how busy you were, you planned little details of my party. I'm not thrilled you had time to talk to my sister and not me, but I believe you love me."

Lucas tilted his head, "I emailed your sister, but point taken." I linked Lucas, "I love you too, you know." Lucas glanced at me in shock then kissed me. He pulled back, "I feel your emotions again. I didn't even realize how much I missed them until Haley pointed out they weren't there."

I quickly said, "I'm not ready for being intimate though. It all feels too raw." Lucas shrugged, "Whenever you're ready again is fine, I can wait." I sheepishly said, "You could give me another kiss though." He grinned, "Anything you want." He kissed me again.

For the first time in over a week, I felt truly happy and ok. I texted Haley.

Me: Everything is all good.

Haley: I'll be checking in anyway.

You just had to love her. I snapped all the chocolates to a spare bedroom. Lucas smiled and held me in his arms. I called my sister.

She answered immediately, "Evie? Are you ok? Haley said..." I interrupted, "I'm all good now. Haley mentioned I should call and ask what you did to Ry and Dusty." Katie sniffled. I looked at Lucas before I asked her, "Are you crying?"

Katie cried out, "Yes, I've been such a bad sister! I didn't even know you were upset or fighting with Lucas. I mean obviously when you were here, but I thought that was all fine." I said, "Technically speaking, it was all fine. I just didn't know that. Katie Cat, you're not a bad sister. I might not have answered even if you had called. It's really ok. Come on, tell me what clever thing you did to our brothers."

Katie sniffled, “They say ‘I’m a dumbass dick’ at the end of every sentence. Every other sentence they say ‘Emmaline and Katie are the good siblings. We are the worst.’ They will be back to normal Monday.” Lucas was shaking in silent laughter. Katie chuckled slightly before adding, “I heard about the other thing, Haley is good.” I agreed, “She is.” Lucas didn’t even catch on, but I knew Katie was talking about the butt tattoos.

Later, when we got up, I peaked in on Lucas’ shower. I raked my eyes over him for several solid minutes before making it down to his butt. I had to pop away to hide my laughter. I popped to Lacy. Dylan grumbled, “COME ON! I WAS SO close, you cockblocking popping fairy!” Lacy disagreed, “You really weren’t. There is no sex for you in the near future.”

Dylan threw up his hands, “It’s already been a week because of the militant if I can’t get it no one can Alpha with his insane schedule. Now, you withhold sex. WHY DOES EVERYONE HATE ME?” I smiled, “I like you, Dylan. I’ll bring Lacy right back, I swear.”

Dylan stared at the ceiling, “Sure, the last time a fairy took her I didn’t see her for two and half days. I had to sleep OUTSIDE like an ANIMAL! In a doghouse!” Lacy teased, “Technically, you are part animal.” Dylan said, “Et tu, Lacy?” He acted like she stuck a dagger in his chest, and he collapsed onto the bed. I laughed and popped Lacy out to my treehouse.

I linked Lucas, “I’ll be right back, I’m with Lacy in my treehouse.” Lucas quickly asked, “Is anything wrong?” I answered, “Nope, just wanted to talk to Lacy.” Lucas said, “Hurry back. I’m drawing you a bath.”

I smiled and bounced up and down. I squealed, “Guess what Haley tattooed on their butts?” Lacy asked, “You saw it?” I nodded, “I stole your idea and peaked during Lucas’ shower.” Lacy thought about it before answering, “No, I want to see it for myself. Is it good?”

I nodded, “Yes, it really is. Can I tell you one thing about it? It’s so hard not to say.” Lacy’s eyes lit up, “There’s something to say about it besides the words?” I nodded. She squealed, “Go ahead, tell me. Now I’m curious.” I squealed, “It’s written in sparkly hot pink ink!” Lacy’s jaw dropped, “No... it’s not.” I nodded, “Yes, it is!”

We laughed for several minutes before I popped her back. She couldn’t stop laughing. Dylan was confused. He frowned at me, “Luna, I have to tell you the place of pack clown is taken... By me, yours truly. Stop stealing my moments.” I smiled, “Believe me when I say, I did not steal this one from you.”

Dylan groaned, “That doesn’t sound good. You know what? I don’t want to know. I want to lay here with my mate who is apparently not having sex with me, but this is a bed. Specifically, it is Lacy and my bed. I’m going to snuggle the crap out of my bed and whisper sweet nothings to my pillow. Look at the poor thing. It’s missed me so much.” I laughed and popped to Lucas.

He smiled and led me to the bathroom then left me alone to get into the tub. I snapped myself naked and played with the bubbles. Lucas came in with wine, turned on some music, and turned to leave. I quickly asked, “Can you stay?” I snapped a chair explaining “I just need to be near you right now.”

Lucas answered, “Of course.” We sat there as I sipped my wine in comfortable silence. I stood and conjured my towel to me and got out. We walked into our room together. I stopped short when I saw the bed. I wasn’t sure how I could’ve missed the jewelry in a heart shape on the covers.

I pointed at it, “Lucas, what is that?” He smiled, “I told Dylan to get you the blue roses, but I picked these out for you.” Tears filled my eyes, “I don’t need this stuff, but it’s all really pretty. Did you buy a jewelry store?” Lucas laughed, “I actually did.”

I spun around shrieking, “WHAT?” He just shrugged, “I seem to mess up a lot, owning a jewelry store can’t hurt. Dylan told me the sale was processed today.” I gasped, “On a Sunday?” Lucas smiled, “Money is persuasive.” I picked up a blue heart necklace. THE necklace I’d always wanted.

I turned, “Lucas Lyons, Is this the necklace from the Titanic movie?” Lucas smiled, “It is. Katie said that you cried with her when you watched that movie, and you always wanted a necklace like that one. Haley had never seen the movie. Apparently, she has colorful things to say about it.”

I shook my head, “I did always want that necklace.” Lucas put his arms around me, “I’ll give you everything you want that’s in my power to give to you, baby girl.” I gathered myself, “One day, you’ll have to draw me like one of your French girls.” Lucas gulped, “I could do that.” I laughed, “Of course you can.” He cleared his throat but still sounded hoarse, “I really can draw.” I had no doubt about that.

I put my jewelry away in the closet, admiring each piece as I put it away. I saw a piece of paper on Lucas’ side and picked it up. I laughed asking him, “Is this your final clue?” Lucas looked over startled, “I’d actually forgotten about it, I don’t know what it means.”

I mused, “The beginning... Where did you meet Haley?” Lucas answered, “At her reception.” I implored, “Is that where she started calling you her lion?” Lucas shook his head, “No, that was at... SON OF BITCH! My collection is at King Arthur’s house.” He kissed me then said, “Thank you.” when he pulled back.

I skipped over to our bed and snuggled with Lucas. I woke up for training the next day. Luckily for everyone, I didn’t get hurt while sparring. I don’t think anyone wanted a Lucas who hadn’t had sex in a hot second and who had just got back to a good place with me to be pissed again. I swear I saw the warriors checking on me every five seconds even though Brad was here.

There was a girl smiling at me the whole time. After class was over she walked right up to me with her hand outstretched, “You are very good at fighting, Luna.” I greeted, “Please call me Emmaline. What’s your name?” She smiled, “I’m Chasity, Brad’s mate.”

I knew that their souls told me. I tilted my head, “He’s a good man.” Chasity agreed, “He’s the best. You make our dinner conversations so lively. Do me a favor and pop away from him again in non-sexy catch the fairy game one day. The re-telling of that story was hilarious.” Brad groaned, “Chasity!” Chasity smiled, “What? I only said it because I love you so, Brad.” She kissed him and threw me a wink. They were fun.

I popped back to my room to get ready for school. Lucas linked me, “I have a meeting in Red Run. I was trying to make it back to say bye before school, but it’s not going to happen.” If he couldn’t come to me, then I’d go to him. That was Haley’s advice after all.

I popped to him. He was with Alpha Kyle, Eric, Beta McAlister, Dylan, and Eric’s Beta whose name I was fairly certain was Caleb. I waved at everyone and gave Lucas a kiss. I pulled back, “Good morning.” Dylan grumbled about something I couldn’t hear. Not having supernatural hearing was a real drag.

I popped back to the car in our territory to wait for everyone to come outside. Everything was smooth sailing even though I’d gotten forty dozen more flowers. I thought the flowers would be the most interesting thing in school that day, but then lunch happened.

Haley popped in with fast food for our whole group. She congratulated Chelsea and Sam again on their little ones. They were even allowed to bring the babies to class. I asked, “Does the school always allow babies to come? I hadn’t seen any before Elise and Tristan came along. Or at all last year, and I know several seniors found their mates at eighteen.”

Haley frowned. Chelsea said, “It seems Haley was... unhappy when Eric told her we’d have to leave the pups with our parents. EJ was fussy about it too.” Peter laughed, “The Princess called and threatened many things. I’m told it was done in quite colorful language to the new werewolf principal. She said just because something is done a certain way doesn’t make it right. The girls even have a room designated for feeding times and a written pass to excuse us; and I do mean us. She got Drake and I passes too.”

Haley sighed loudly, “That’s not even remotely how that sentence came out of my mouth. You are a bad storyteller, Peter Kyle” I agreed, “She’s right though. The babies aren’t even that old. Moms get three months off here.”

Haley slammed her hands on the table, “That is PATHETIC! I googled all about it after Eric told me that. Did you know this country is LAST in the amount of time off given to new moms? Some aren’t even guaranteed time. They have to go back to work after two weeks if they haven’t been at their company for a year or they don’t get paid. How FUCKING deplorable is that? Let’s not mention what they give dads. ‘

That seemed to be the end of the rant. Then Haley waved her hands, “Ok, let’s mention it. It’s NOTHING. THIS DAMN REALM! I have written to our congressmen and senator for the state. I am SO ENRAGED! Canada and most of Europe give their people at least a year! You KNOW a fucking man came up with this dumbass policy of twelve weeks not even guaranteed to be paid BULLSHIT.” My jaw dropped.

Haley ranted, “A fucking man who does not understand the bond that forms when one GROWS HUMAN BEINGS inside them. Then to callously be told you have to be away from your babies, even if that’s not what you want. No WONDER there is such depression among human women in this country post birth. I would be fucking depressed too! Sleep deprived new mothers paying for daycare, which is HIGHWAY ROBBERY! Have you SEEN the costs humans pay? It’s INFURIATING! Especially for women who want to stay with their kids but can’t because they don’t have the money.” She might have a point.

Haley hissed, “I AM SO PISSED OFF FOR THEM RIGHT NOW! It’s one thing if a woman wants to go back, and she’s ready. To be forced... This fucking realm sucks balls. Hackura women can take their time. They don’t even have to go back to missions if they don’t want to. The kingdom takes care of everyone. It’s the same in Faerie. Fucking earthly realm bullshit.” I bit my lip to stop myself from laughing.

Peter pointed at her, “She said many things like that to the new principal.” Of course, she did. I nodded. Haley started cackling. Drake asked, “Is she plotting world

domination? Running for president? Either way, let's just get on board." I agreed, "Let's."

Haley explained, "Eric linked me. Evidently, our men decided to shift and go for a run after their meeting." Lacy and I started laughing. I asked Lacy, "Did you finally see it?" Lacy nodded, "Yup, I peeked during his shower this morning when he thought I was asleep." She turned to my cousin, "Haley, you really do need a statue of yourself made; I will worship it." Chelsea chuckled, "What did Haley do?" Haley swiftly stated, "What needed to be done."

Lucas linked me, "Are there any humans in the cafeteria?" I looked around, "No." I'd barely finished the word when Lucas, Eric, Alpha Kyle, Beta McAlister, Beta Caleb, Lucas, and Dylan all popped in with Sharon, who was laughing her head off. Haley smiled and popped to Eric. She kissed him then greeted, "Hi, husband. Hi, Caleb."

Caleb smiled at her, "Haley, you make my whole day better." Haley mischievously stated, "I do aim to please." Lucas growled, "Haley." Dylan actually seemed to be pretty happy. I searched Lucas' soul; he was entertained and only slightly annoyed.

Lucas turned to me, "Did you know about this?" I teased, "Maybe." Chelsea questioned, "Know what?" Alpha Kyle said, "The Princess fairy charmed a... tattoo on Lucas and Beta Dylan's ass. A sparkling, GIANT hot pink tattoo"

Chelsea's eyes widened. Sam, Drake, and Peter started laughing. Lucas asked, "Haley, when does it come off? Because it better come off! Tell me it's not permanent." Haley simply said, "It comes off when I decide it can come off. When will that be? When I believe you have fully learned your lesson, my lion."

Somehow Dylan had gotten popcorn again. Lucas growled, "Haley, I have hot pink sparkly letters on BOTH my ass cheeks!" Haley smiled, "I know, I couldn't get it all on one cheek. It was too many words. It's easier to read on both cheeks instead of just one. I would've had to make the writing so fucking small. Then who'd see it? That's no fun." How did she know that? I wonder who it was tested on.

Eric and Caleb both lost it. Beta McAlister was shaking with silent laughter. Lucas demanded, "Take it off!" Dylan slapped the back of his head yelling, "Take it off? I'm going to streak around and hope someone calls GAP. I believe I could get arrested for that. I'm pretty sure humans' frown on nudity. The cops could call him! THAT WOULD BE AMAZING!"

Eric retorted, "If you get arrested, you only get one phone call. I wouldn't come bail you out of jail, so I'd suggest you use your phone privileges wisely." Dylan frowned then smiled, "Fine, I'll run around MY territory and hope someone calls you."

Haley smiled, "They would only call if they needed his services. Anyway, I have seen my cousin and she has no more sorrow. I'll be popping away to see the kiddos!" Haley popped out with Eric and Caleb. She popped back seconds later, "Sorry, Blade."

Blade stepped out, "Is ok. Tell Tattoo. Blade forgive princess." Haley smiled, "With pleasure. I'll tell you all about their tattoo. You are going to laugh so hard." She popped Blade away.

Lucas said, "Baby girl, please get her to take this off my ass." I smirked, "I didn't ask her to do it. So, I don't think me asking her to remove it would work. You know how she is."

Lucas growled before Sharon popped them all back to Red Run. Chelsea said, "I've got to know what it says." Peter linked her and she started to laugh. Drake linked Sam and she lost it. Sam finally managed, "You have to love her. It's just too good." It really was.

We made it through the rest of our day. Not much got done in our last hour as everyone, including the teacher, cooed about how cute Tristan and Elise were. I drove our group home after school. As I pulled into the driveway, I noticed a car I'd never seen before.

Lacy gasped when I parked next to them and froze. I asked, "Lacy?" She got out of the car and slammed the door shut. I popped out of the car next to her. She pointed her finger at two older people standing there staring at her with wide eyes. I knew exactly who they were without being introduced. They looked like two people I'd come to consider friends.

Lacy yelled, "YOU TWO have a LOT of nerve just showing up here! I know he doesn't know you're coming because he would've told me." I stared at the couple bewildered. I linked Lucas, "We may have a problem."

Lucas retorted, "I know we have a problem, it's on MY ASS!" I winced, "No, I'm staring at Dylan's parents while Lacy yells at them." Lucas yelled, "WHAT? I'm coming." Lucas was outside the door seconds later.



He lowered his voice to talk to the Frost's, "You just showed up? Tell me Dylan knows you were coming home today. Never mind, I know he doesn't know. Get inside before Travis gets back makes it back from the school. He usually runs, and he had a meeting after today. This is not how he should find out you are home."

We made it inside just as Dylan came bounding down the stairs. He sang, "Lucas.... I counted to one hundred. I do hope you weren't keeping me from my fairy show. You know how I love it so. I went through all that trouble to make sure it didn't get cancelled. Do you know how hard it is to get a petition for a show not to be cancelled taken seriously?"

Lucas ran to incept him. He pointed, "Office, now." Dylan complained, "You clearly said count to one hundred, I did that. Now, I am being punished. You are so very mean. You will have to be the disciplinarian for my pups. I don't have it in me."

Their voices faded for me. Dylan's mom's eyes filled with tears. Lacy growled, "Don't you dare, you bitch!" Venom coated her words and she didn't stop there, "You sent them birthday cards for the last four years. No calls, no texts, and no emails. You don't get to cry about Dylan being himself. I will kick your ass on the front lawn if you don't give them one HELL of an explanation."

Lucas linked me, "I need you to pop to me. Dylan wants to talk to Travis outside." I said, "Excuse me. Lacy, I think Dylan needs you." Lacy gritted her teeth, "One minute then. Brad!" Brad came inside startled. She ordered, "Watch them. They don't move a single freaking muscle. You got that?" Brad nodded, "Yes, Beta Lacy."

I grabbed Lacy and popped to Dylan and Lucas in their office. Dylan was rigid with anger which was an odd sight. I preferred singing, happy Dylan. He relaxed when Lacy touched him. I popped our group outside.

Travis was standing next to Jacqueline. She smiled and came over and gave me a hug. She stepped back, "Thank you for him! I'm sorry to just hug you, I know we never officially met. I just I know who you are." I quickly assured her, "It's fine. I know who you are too, and I'm glad you're happy."

Dylan said, "I'm glad you're here, Jacqueline." She squealed, "I wanted to surprise Travis. I wanted to give him the good news!" I asked, "Good news?" She nodded, "I'm transferring after winter break to your school. I was only one name off, and I argued it would be easier on my brother if I was in school with him. They agreed!" I could tell how happy it made both of them. I squealed, "That's great!"

She nodded. Travis' eyes sparkled when he looked at her. He nuzzled her neck, "Best surprise ever, Jackie." Dylan cleared his throat, "I love that nickname. Her full name is such a mouthful. I will be running with Jackie now, forever, and always. I despise that I have to step on this moment, but we have an unwelcome surprise." Travis put Jacqueline behind him in a second looking around for threats. He growled, "What?" Dylan announced, "Our long-lost parents have returned home from never never land."

Travis' eyes darkened. Jacqueline gasped and put her hands on Travis' back. Dylan assured him, "You don't have to talk to them, Travis. I just wanted you to hear it from me. They are back, like the evil they are they arrived without notice moments ago." Travis growled, "Of course they did. No, I want them to tell me to my face why they didn't come back for us." That didn't sound like a good idea. Dylan nodded, "Alright. Let's go."

I asked, "Are we popping or walking?" Dylan snorted, "I'm slamming the front door off its little hinges, my fairy Luna. I need to get my angry walk going. The angry Dylan blood is a flowing. They WILL feel my wrath." I winced, "Ok."

Lucas took my hand and we followed Dylan. He really did take the front door off its hinges. Lacy glared at the Frost's. Brad even looked like he'd swallowed something sour. Lucas' parents looked wearily at all of us from the couch.

Lucas cleared his throat, "Dylan, Travis this is your show." Dylan snorted, "Damn straight it is." Dylan's dad said, "Why don't we all sit down?" Lacy growled, "Fuck that, and fuck you two." Dylan pursed his lips, "No to that. We will not all sit down! You both stand there and tell Travis and I what the HELL happened? Did you fall down a hole after chasing a rabbit and end up in Wonderland? EXPLAIN YOURSELVES NOW!"

I gulped as his voice shook the room. Lucas put a comforting arm around me, and I put a hand on Lacy's arm to support her. I hoped everyone would make it through this conversation in one piece, but after searching everyone's souls I didn't think it was going to happen.