

# Idiotese

Lucas couldn't tear his eyes off of Emmaline now that she was in front of him again. Dominic was howling in delight. He demanded, "Make sure mate talks to us. I miss talking to her." I replied, "That's the goal here." I honestly didn't care where she wanted to talk. Anywhere I could hear her voice was good to me.

She popped us into her sanctuary. Dylan linked me, "Your jewelry store purchase has been pushed through." I replied, "You didn't waste time on that." Dylan retorted, "I am a man on mission. I am FAR too awesome to be the Alpha. I know all the right questions to ask. Everyone would be bored if I was the Alpha. My poor Beta, which Travis is pissed about by the way, would have nothing to do because I would ask all the right questions. Travis would be so bored. No one wants to live a boring life, especially us Frost boys. We bring the fun."

I scoffed, "You are being ridiculous." He replied, "ME? I'm ridiculous! You just... no. The sale is processed. I will LOCK Emmaline in your new jewelry store until she forgives you if you can't convince her to. You have been forewarned, and I'm not even sorry. I'll make your fairy pick out all the shiny things she wants while you apologize after every single item. Eventually, she will say it's ok and all will be well." I somehow didn't doubt that was one of his many plans.

I sat in the chair Emmaline snapped me and we talked through everything. We got through everything that happened. When I offered to give up my title as Alpha she immediately said no, but I wanted her to think about it. She means more than all of this. A part of me would always long to lead my pack; but she was everything to me. She still immediately answered saying no. Dylan would be thrilled.

I hated feeling her uncertainty when I told her I loved her. I'd shot myself in the foot with her. It killed that she wasn't sure I loved her anymore. I'd prove it to her if it was the last thing I ever did. I was surprised and grateful Haley had been by to talk to Emmaline again to explain some things. Clearly, it was not my strong point. Dominic snorted, "No, it's not."

Dominic huffed, "You see what actually telling her things get you? She understands, mate is perfect." I agreed, "Yes, she really is." Dominic was not happy when she admitted she liked Fegle, "LET ME OUT HUMAN! I WILL TRACK HIM DOWN AND RIP HIS THROAT OUT!" I growled at him, "No, stay in there. Since when am I human to you?" He huffed in anger but said nothing.

I tried to calmly tell Emmaline that Fegle had been flirting with her. She really believed he was just being nice. Dominic grumbled, “Thor is right.” I asked, “Thor?” Dominic retorted, “Keep up! You communicate with Eric; I communicate with Thor. He’s told me MANY stories about how his mate doesn’t understand her appeal. Now our mate doesn’t see it, and it was blatant flirting. Thor thinks it’s a partial fairy thing.”

I groaned, “Good to know Thor has a theory.” Dominic added, “I agree with him. He’s a very smart wolf, not unlike myself.” I agreed, “Of course you are both smart.” Emmaline started to talk about Nikki and I winced. Dominic huffed, “But we were just focused on mate, Nikki means nothing. I wasn’t even around yet when you slept with her. I wouldn’t have let you; she smells horrible. Truly, I thought you had better taste.”

I winced, “I was fifteen, she liked me, and had giant boobs.” Dominic snorted, “You clearly needed me. Your taste was awful. Christy was a horrid human, but she didn’t smell like garbage. I’ll forgive you for Claudia. You were enchanted, but I hated that woman.” I sighed, “Yes I know you did. You talked about it incessantly whenever she was around.” It should’ve been a big clue to me about her. Dominic and I were usually in sync.

Emmaline started laughing hysterically. I had no idea what was so funny, but this was her real laugh, so I didn’t care. I did want to hear that hollow laugh she’d had at Thanksgiving ever again. We confirmed we were ok, but not fully back to us.

To be honest, I wasn’t there with her yet either. I was still upset she hadn’t told me about the sulfur training days. Thinking about her being vulnerable or losing a pack member because I thought she had powers upset me. I was pretty much over it, but not fully there.

I’d make this up to her somehow. I linked Dylan, “Emmaline said the flowers can stop.” Dylan replied, “The flowers will continue. I cannot stop them, nor do I want to try. Stop linking me. I’m ordering more flowers! GAP is probably having fits over all the things I’ve wiped him out of. It’s sparking such joy for me.”

I laughed, “How are there more blue roses in the damn state at this point?” Dylan snorted, “I am ordering Lacy lavender roses. I ordered the last of the blue roses in Alabama from a town called Mountain Brook. I’ve decided I want to visit it. I MUST know of this town! They have a watermill that has a water wheel; I want to go there. I will see what wonder lurks in this small town.”

Emmaline's eyes gleamed when she said we could mess with Dylan about the title change. Any other topic or another time, I'd have been on board. Dylan was having a tough time because of me though. Something like giving him the Alpha title wasn't an appropriate prank. That would change his whole life, and his pups.

Emmaline popped us to the living room and she was so shocked I felt it in my chest. Dylan had basically made our living room into a chocolate factory. There was every kind of chocolate you could possibly want somewhere in this room.

Dylan appeared out of nowhere. I linked him, "Were your ears burning?" He ignored me. Emmaline told him it had to be stressing him out to find more chocolates. I wanted to laugh. Dylan thrived on doing this type of stuff. They bantered back and forth.

I linked him, "You don't mean until she's fixed. You mean you won't stop until she agrees to me remaining the Alpha." Dylan snorted, "I also truly do want her to be better. That is the first priority. Fix the Luna, then convince her your sleep tyrant self is to remain the Alpha."

I wiggled my eyebrows at him over her head. Dylan linked me, "So help me Lucas... If you step down my first act as Alpha will be to make you sleep outside for a year! Just you. Emmaline gets to keep her room. All my orders will be directed at you until your Alpha blood literally CANNOT take it anymore and takes your title back. I have such plans."

We put him at ease, and his happiness couldn't be contained. He rambled about the plans he and Travis had come up with. Of course, they had. Travis didn't want to be the Beta just as much as Dylan didn't want to be the Alpha. He had Beta blood, but Travis thoroughly enjoyed being a warrior.

I linked Lacy, "Get in here and calm your mate down. He's going to start breaking into song any minute now." Lacy came in and that just caused Dylan to sing. I snorted; I just couldn't stop the man. He rambled on and on. Lacy linked me "Excuse me? Why does he think he would be the Alpha?" I answered, "Because I would step down as Alpha if Emmaline wanted me to." Lacy frowned, "She doesn't want that." I shrugged, "I offered because I meant it, Lacy Loo. She's my world."

Dylan really had ordered every rose in the tri-state area. He probably could cancel some of the orders, but I knew he wouldn't. Dylan linked me, "I'm not even sorry, not one little bit. Do you have ANY idea the anxiety I have been dealing with? My blood pressure is higher, I just know it is."

I gave him a look, “It wasn’t an extended period of time for you to think it was a possibility.” Dylan scoffed, “An hour is too long for that kind of mental stress. I was doing mental gymnastics. In case you were curious, I’m the all-around gold medalist. You can send congratulations in the form of buying me a popcorn company as my very own.” I was absolutely not doing that.

Dylan then lamented about our schedule. There were days when we were younger that we stayed up until the early hours of the morning partying. I linked Dylan, “The last time we stayed up that late, we were surveilling a pack. You complained the entire time that you wanted to go to sleep.”

Dylan growled, “Shhh that’s not relevant to my argument.” Dylan reveled in his victory about not becoming the Alpha, hopping around me like a bunny. A very fast bunny. I had to stop watching him because I was getting dizzy. I admitted he was right, and somehow that set him off.

I rolled my eyes when he told the girls about his power of being mute. Dylan linked me, “Don’t you roll your eyes at me. My powers affect you the most out of everyone.” I smiled at my best friend. He really was a great man. I couldn’t have picked anyone better for my sister.

I linked Emmaline just to test if it worked or not but was greeted by the same wall. It didn’t feel as solid as it had; but it was a wall, nonetheless. Dominic howled in pain that she still wasn’t sure we loved her. Dylan was ranting on.

I linked him, “Good GOD you are dramatic.” Dylan smirked, “And you love my dramatic ass! Toodles!” He took off like a shot with Lacy. I stared at him before replying, “Toodles? Are you eighty? Jesus, Dylan.” Dylan never lost sight of being himself no matter what was thrown at him.

Emmaline said she’d pull in Haley, Bexley, even Aiden if necessary to put Dylan back to his original settings if he was ever so upset he wasn’t cracking jokes. I’d throw in Eric as well. Those two can deny it, but they enjoyed the little verbal sparring they did. I did know Eric was going to get Dylan back. I was going to have to tell Eric he couldn’t do it at our wedding. Any other day he could, but I wanted Emmaline to have her dream wedding.

I could hear the shock in Emmaline’s voice when she noticed the birthday invitations for her party. I didn’t know how they’d got there. My dad linked me, “I put them there, just answer her.” I looked around and spotted him lurking in a doorway looking anxious.

She'd thought I'd forgotten her birthday. As if I could forget the date my mate came into this world. Gemma was going to have steak and potatoes with green beans prepared if Emmaline approved. We had a secondary plan of burgers and fries. Emmaline could have anything she wanted though. They were just ideas of things I thought she would like.

I had gone ahead and ordered the cake. It was a waterfall, and the back was like the meadow the waterfall was in. I thought it would celebrate both her fairy sides quite well. Emotions snapped into me like a geyser as Emmaline started to sob. I immediately recognized them as hers. I'd missed feeling her this way. She fell to her knees, but I caught her before she fell on her face. SHIT!

I linked Dylan, "Katie said Emmaline liked birthdays! You saw that email too, right?" Dylan complained, "Dylan is busy. He is trying to get out the proverbial doghouse. He did see said email from the creepy ninja prince assassin's witchy mate that said Emmaline's LOVES her birthday." I growled, "She saw the invitations and she's sobbing uncontrollably." Dylan sighed, "Ordering more chocolates for you to beg forgiveness for whatever this is about. Do not forget you now own a jewelry store. The plan to lock her in just needs to be greenlit." We might have to.

My dad linked, "Just ask her what's going on. I guarantee it's not what you think." What was he on about? I should've considered that her stance on her birthday changed after she left home. She whispered that I loved her.

I was baffled. Invitations? The invitations to her birthday party showed her I loved her? I wanted to smack myself when I remembered Bexley had told me to show these to her when she was talking to me again. My dad linked, "I'm taking all fairy advice to heart from now on." I replied, "Thank you, dad. I really..." He cut me off, "I love you, son. I'll do anything for my kids, including Emmy." He was the best dad.

I needed to reassure Dylan, "Cancel the chocolates. She's crying because the invitations convinced her I do love her." Dylan snorted, "Seriously? Not the tri-state rose collection and chocolate factory I created? Your fairy is still broken. Fix her pretty please with a cherry on top. My genius needs to be appreciated."

Emmaline said she wasn't happy I'd found time to talk to Katie. I winced. I had talked to Katie, Dustin, and Ryan, but not her. To be fair, I only emailed Katie. I almost fell over when I heard Emmaline link me. Relief hit me like a ton of bricks. Her fairy side really was ok. I wasn't surprised she wasn't ready to be intimate, but that was fine. Talking to her was more than I was expecting from her by now. I could feel how happy she was. She took out her phone and seconds later I had a text myself.

Eric: Haley said Emmaline told her everything was good now. You ok?

Me: Yes, we are fine now.

Eric: I'm glad. I know Haley was hard on you.

Me: She wasn't wrong. Emmaline is not just her cousin, she's her subject. I understand. We need a

'what you need to know fairies' book. Also, Haley packs a punch, but I needed it. I think we all need to keep in mind some of this comes from the charm she used to take Emmaline's burden.

Eric: Haley and Aiden are arguing about the book. She says other groups that have partial fairy

mates in their pack need to have this information, because to fairies themselves it's second nature. She doesn't want to deal with issues like this when it's avoidable. Aiden has said the books cannot leave Faerie. Haley is fucking pissed. Bjourn taught her to fight. So, she does pack quite the punch. I'm worried about that damn ancient ritual too. I know Aiden is which makes me have even worse feelings about the whole ordeal.

Me: I'm sure she will find a way to get the books out there.

Eric: That she will.

My next text surprised me.

Logan: I'll come kick yours and Emmaline's ass if you try to do this again. Katie has been in a state since Haley told her what was going on.

Me: When did I get your number?

Logan: I put it in your phone.

Me: When?

Logan: You'll never know. Your jewelry purchase inspired Haley to watch that movie. She ranted

about how Jack could've fit on that damn piece of wood FOR HOURS. She even did the math. Katie thought it was hilarious.

Jesus they were stealthy. I linked Dylan, “Logan is going to kick my ass then Emmaline’s if we don’t talk again. Katie is upset.” I left out the part about Haley watching the Titanic. He’d bring it up with her and she’d rant again. Dylan snorted, “You’d best watch it, his ninja skills are next level. You’ll be in a room then BAM he’s punched you in the face. Because he was there all along, you just couldn’t see him.” That’s true.

I felt bad Katie had done something to Dustin and Ryan. They were just helping me. I decided to get up and take a shower. I smelled Emmaline about halfway through my shower. I could see her in the mirror of the bathroom barely peeking in the door. I smirked realizing she was staring at me. My little fairy was feeling naughty. I wasn’t surprised when she didn’t join me because I knew she wasn’t ready for that yet.

I was surprised when Dylan linked me, “Didn’t our mates just spend two and half days together? WHY do they need to talk for a minute now? Lacy said there was no sex in my near future. Why is life SO unfair?”

Emmaline linked me. I told Dylan, “Emmaline said nothing is wrong, and that she will be right back.” Dylan replied, “Did you fall and hit your head? That last time they popped away we didn’t see them for days.” He scoffed mocking me, “Nothing is wrong. It is VERY wrong. Such an Alpha blood you are. Did my mute powers activate and you didn’t hear me say there was no sex in my near future. That is the definition of wrong!”

I replied, “I know where they are. I also do not see sex in my near future. Also stop saying that, that’s my sister.” Dylan’s trepidation came through in his tone “They are back. Whatever went down they are laughing like hyenas and they have tears streaming down their face. Some fairy hijinks are afoot. I feel it.”

I didn’t care, “I’m sure we will find out soon then.” Dylan asked incredulously, “Not even a small part of you is curious?” I admitted, “Dylan, all parts of me are just relieved my mate is speaking to me again.” Dylan complained, “GOD you are boring! Honestly, you are SO lucky I am around to help make you spicier.” I laughed, “You have more than enough spice for both of us. I can have fun too.”

Dylan snorted, “Because I make you have fun. Do remind your Luna I am the funny one in this pack. I was funny LONG before she got here. No, no, long before she was BORN. Being funny is my thing, and she can’t have it.”

I laughed, “I’ll be sure to tell her that. I’m sure that will go over well since we just started talking again. You tell her. I will not tell her something that I could give a shit less about. You can both be funny.” Dylan sounded aghast, “It’s just a LITANY of

betrayals tonight! At least I know my pillow is happy to see me. The rest of you can shove it. My pillow has all the love I need.”

I laughed, “We still have training with Dustin in the morning.” Dylan yelled, “YOU SON OF A SLEEP TYRANT! Fine, stop talking to me. I need to snuggle my precious pillow. It thinks I’m cheating on it with another pillow because of you and your evil sleepless schedule. It’s devastated. I found it hiding under the bed today.” I chuckled to myself.

I drew Emmaline a bath while she was gone. I was pleasantly surprised she wanted me to stay with her when she came back. I wanted her to relax and feel pampered. She loved the jewelry I bought her. I was certain there were pieces I hadn’t picked though. It must have been Dylan.

She admired every piece as she put them away. She was stunned when I’d admitted to buying a jewelry store. It would make Dylan’s and my life easier. Hell, I was going to have to buy a flower and chocolate shop too. I might have stock in one at this point. Or at least I should with the amount of flowers and chocolates in this house.

Emmaline found my clue from Haley. She asked where I’d met her. That was at their reception outside the chapel. Has my collection been in plain sight hidden by some charm this whole time? Emmaline then asked if that was when Haley started calling me her lion.

OH MY GOD! King Arthur had my collection. That sneaky vampire! Of course, he would join Haley’s game. He loved her and Bexley like they were his own kids. I’m positive Bexley would’ve had a half vampire fairy sibling if her mother had lived. Arthur had been willing to give her mother anything, even a child. She would’ve gone to him again eventually. Especially since she only left him because she just wanted a full blooded fairy child first.

After the summit, I’d done my research on King Arthur. Everyone talked about the strange love between the two of them. Many said there was a pull between them. I wondered if he was her second chance mate, but we’d never know. Or someone did know, possibly Aiden. I wondered if Emmaline’s power could work that way. I shrugged that off and went to sleep.

I woke up to Dylan linking me, “MEEEEEEPPPPPPP MEEEEPPPP MEEEEPPPPP this is your courtesy Dylan wake up call. Should you like a nicer one, SET YOUR OWN ALARM, YOU TYRANT!” I held in my laugh and got out of bed to get dressed.



When we got in the car I ordered, “Call King Arthur.” Dylan grumbled, “He will answer because he’s still awake because THE SUN IS NOT UP.” He pulled out a thermos and took a swig. He jabbed a finger at me, “In case you were wondering this is all my coffee. MINE! There is none for tyrants.”

I laughed, “That’s fine, just call King Arthur.” Dylan yelled, “FINE!” He pulled out his phone and dialed. King Arthur answered, “Alpha Lucas, it has been a while.” Dylan grumbled, “It’s Beta Dylan’s phone, I could be calling.” King Arthur laughed, “I know who is calling and why.” Dylan shot me a look.

I answered. “It has not been that long. You have something of mine.” Dylan might have gotten whiplash from how quickly he was looking between the phone and me. His mouth dropped. He squealed, “No way! Not even I saw that coming. That was not my guess for where your collection was.”

King Arthur laughed, “I thought I’d be hearing from you MUCH sooner. Many of my subjects have questions for you Alpha Lucas on where you acquired some of these pieces. They have been salivating over them. I had to issue a command for no one to contact you about bartering with you for them.”

I growled, “Those pieces are mine. Where are they?” King Arthur laughed, “On display in my throne room.” I asked, “How did Eric not know that?” King Arthur answered, “I issued a command no werewolves could know. Haley did have such fun, and her rules were quite explicit. You can come collect them during the day today. I’ll tell my daytime assistant to expect you. I do apologize, but she cannot give it to anyone but you. Again, the rules are quite clear, and I don’t want to be Haley’s next prank target.” Who did? I glanced at my Beta and instantly knew the answer. He would love to be her next target.

King Arthur continued, “Her brother, Prince Bjour, told me when he brought it to me that she’s quite into pranks. They all have her help get each other on occasion. Their first prank was quite hilarious on poor Prince Harper. Prince Drake heard fairies like pranks. They had some small prank planned which Haley found quite boring. She took over, and that opened her up to them. She’s pulled pranks on all her brothers many times over. Once she did get their mother, something about replacing her designer clothes with Walmart brands. She’s got Titus and Astrid’s father as well. Along with Astrid’s brother.”

I sighed, “Dylan and I will be there later to pick it up.” King Arthur chuckled, “I’d tell you how to avoid that, but I find this fun. Goodnight then. I won’t ask why you’re awake, it is strange though. Enjoy your vampire hours wolves.” He hung up.

Dylan glared at me, “Even the VAMPIRE knows how weird it is we are awake. How did you solve your clue?” I smirked, “Emmaline asked when I met Haley and then followed that up with if that was when she first called me her lion. Back to the beginning.” Dylan nodded, “Smart little fairy she is.”

My phone rang and I tossed it to Dylan, “This is the Tyrant Alpha’s phone. Please let us know why you, just like us, are also awake before the sun on vampire hours.” Nick Kyle answered, “We got an early morning messenger from Alpha Ezra. He can’t tell us his message until everyone is here.”

I linked Dylan, “Did our reports show anything?” Dylan shook his head, “No.” I said, “We are almost to your territory. We are meeting with Dustin and Ryan to train.” Nick said, “Eric can’t get here until eleven o’clock.”

I couldn’t deny that made me happy, “Great. Dylan and I have to go to King Arthur’s house to pick up my gaming collection.” Nick snorted, “She got the king of the vampires in on this? What am I even saying? Of course, she did. I heard she quite likes him after he helped her during her time there.” Dylan linked, “What a nice was to say kidnapped and held against her will. Alpha Nick Kyle for werewolf communications everyone.” I rolled my eyes at him, telling Nick “She does like him.”

We hung up. Dylan said, “Don’t think I’m not laying down in the back and sleeping the whole way to King Arthur’s.” I pointed out, “It’s thirty minutes from here.” Dylan snapped, “I know that! WHO do you think got you all the details before you charged off to stand watch over the place for God Alpha Prick? I know more about that entire area than you do!”

I laughed, “Yes, I know you do. You did get to kill a lot of vampires though. If I recall you were quite happy leading some of those charges by my side.” Dylan smiled, “Ahh, yes. They were the best of times in a very bad time. Thank GOD you let me run the pack while you were off seeing GAP at what is now King Arthur’s home. I shuddered hearing how he was.” I winced, “It wasn’t pretty.” Dylan sounded horrified, “He wouldn’t have even found my jokes hilarious. THE HORROR!” I rolled my eyes.

Our lesson with Dustin and Ryan took longer than I was anticipating. I sighed dejectedly when I got into the car. Dylan asked, “What? What are you glum about? That was the best we’ve done against them. No more sadness in our territory. I do realize this isn’t our territory, but you know what I’m saying.”

I admitted, “I was hoping to get back before Emmaline had to go to school.” Dylan frowned, “Drat! Now I’m glum! I didn’t know that was on our agenda. Why do you

torture me with what could've been?" I growled, "You asked." Dylan tapped my arm, "You should've lied, or said nothing." I rolled my eyes.

Nick called back. As soon as I picked up he said, "Eric was able to get away early. Can you guys come now?" I answered, "Yes, we will be right there." I linked Emmaline when we arrived that I wouldn't be able to get back to her like I'd planned. A second later she popped to me. Everyone smiled at her. She waved and gave me a kiss then left.

Dylan muttered, "Oh, Hi Dylan. Nope, couldn't bring Lacy to give you your morning kiss because if you don't remember the whole pack has decided to hate you. I'm going to hang out with your mate all damn day. While Dylan gets no Lacy time. Bye bye now." I laughed, "She probably just wasn't with Lacy when I linked her."

Dylan glared at me, "Because you couldn't have linked her when we got in the car. She would've been with Lacy at training. Selfish Alpha, so very selfish and a tyrant to boot." We all laughed. Nick motioned for us all to sit down.

The messenger took out packets for each of us. We opened them and found an apology letter with an offer for an alliance. Eric looked up stating in a hard tone, "Fuck no." I agreed, "I echo that sentiment." Nick sighed, "I'll think about it." The messenger left.

Beta McAlister said, "He is on one of our borders, Nick." Dylan huffed, "Again with this first name business. It's bad enough Lucas and GAP call him Nick; his name is Alpha Kyle." He turned to Nick, "I am sorry about these crazy people, Alpha Kyle. It's like everyone woke up on the wrong side of the bed because we got up at zero dark thirty and forgot all the rules." Nick laughed, "It's quite alright, Beta Dylan."

Eric looked at Dylan, pointedly saying, "Nick, Alpha Ezra will find out what happened that day eventually. I do not think you will want him as your ally when that day comes." Nick smirked, "That's precisely why I want him as an ally. If we enter into an alliance contract for the next fifty years, I can wipe him out if he has anything to do with any sort of move against me or anyone in this pack. No one will say anything about it." That was a valid point, but I could tell Eric did not agree with the move. He pointed out, "He would know more about you as your ally and what weaknesses you have." It was an excellent point.

We talked over the logistics. Eric still would not agree to be Alpha Ezra's ally. I spoke, "It might be better if neither Eric nor I accept. It would appear like you did nothing but we did. He already thinks Eric killed his brother. If you are his ally it could take him longer to figure out what really happened."

Eric commented, "Being an ally with a snake is a risk no matter which way this goes. I don't even need my wife here to tell me she'd have a bad feeling about this. I have a bad feeling. Nick, your grandpup is EJ's mate. I will always come to your aide as quickly as possible, as will my pups, wife, pack, and allies. I fear one day you will need our aid against Alpha Ezra. Not during your reign, but Peter's. You'll have our backing no matter the timing." I frowned.

Eric continued, "I understand why you want to make it harder for him, but dishonorable people will always be dishonorable. Whether you have an alliance or not, he's planning something. Not that I wouldn't have before, but now I cannot let anything happen to Elise. It would hurt my son, and I won't have that."

Nick nodded, "I understand. What do you plan to do about it?" Eric tilted his head, "I have a warrior who usually guards Haley. I have another guard for her that's training with him, he's more social. I was going to have them work together, but plans change. The wolf I have guarding her now is a bit of a loner. If you'd accept him here, I'd like him to guard Elise from afar. He will remain a part of my pack, but he will live here. He would love this assignment because he loves pups. He enjoys playing with little Cassie. He's a great man. If anything were to come at your pack, his instructions would be to make sure Elise is safe above all else."

Dylan gaped at Eric, but I understood. Nick laughed, "As if I would say no. I know the warrior you speak of. If Ray agrees to this plan he's welcome here. There's a cottage next to Peter and Chelsea's that he can have. If he wishes to stay there when they move into the main house he can or a room will be arranged in the main house." They hammered out those details.

When they were done Dylan said, "So GAP, if any of my pups are mated to yours, I can expect a warrior to protect them?" Eric growled, "Shut up, Dylan." Dylan squealed, "Did everyone hear that? It was a resounding yes. MOON GODDESS GIVE THIS TO ME!" Several people snickered.

Nick readied the paperwork to align his pack with Alpha Ezra's for the next fifty years. He sent a messenger back along with copies he sent off to the council with their approval. Eric and I called our fathers to process it quickly. Dylan linked me, "Smart not to just assume Alpha Ezra would submit them to the council." I replied, "Nick is a smart man." After that was all said and done our wolves were anxious.

Eric told me, "Haley popped to check on Emmaline at school for lunch. She said everything is all good with her from a fairy standpoint." Dylan hopped up and down, "Fabulous, let's go for a run. I NEED to run."

Everyone stripped the second we got outside. Dylan and I were behind everyone keeping an eye on the flank. When we returned, Dylan and I were in the lead. We'd run for about forty five minutes before we quit. Dylan and I shifted back first and grabbed our clothes.

Eric shifted back howling in laughter. Dylan and I turned stunned to see the entire group laughing. I heard female laughter before I spotted Sharon, Marissa Kyle, and Esther McAlister hunched over in laughter.

Dylan clapped his hands, "Ok... that's the second time... What is going on?" I asked, "The second time?" Dylan glared at me, "See? Sleep deprivation is bad for you. I told you Emmaline and Lacy were beside themselves when they came back from the treehouse last night. I smelled Lacy this morning while I was in the shower. I thought she was going to join me, but she never did."

I was starting to get a bad feeling. I admitted, "Emmaline did the same thing last night before she popped to Lacy." I turned to Eric, "What did your mate do to us?" Eric couldn't speak he was laughing so hard. Dylan grumbled, "That's just unsettling, he is wheezing. He never used to laugh. Is that what we are calling that? Someone, make it stop. The windows in the territory aren't safe." That made several people snort.

Nick gathered himself first, "You both have tattoos on your ass." Dylan frowned. I raised an eyebrow, "I may be low on sleep, but I would remember a tattoo. TELL ME Haley can't magic a tattoo on to people."

Beta Caleb responded, "Evidently, she can. It's pink... hot pink and it's sparkly." He lost it again laughing. I tilted my head. I couldn't make out what it said, but it was hot pink and sparkly. I growled, "Dylan, turn around."

He jumped and stuck out his ass at me. I gasped. Dylan sang, "LUCAS! What do our asses say? The suspense is killing me!" I admitted, "One cheek says I speak idiotese Call Alpha, the other cheek says, Eric Connors for interpretation."

Dylan roared with laughter. "She was not kidding. You mess with the fairy; you get the hijinks. GAP, you have ceased wheezing. Riddle me this, it comes off right?" Eric speculated, "If she can magic it on, she can magic it off." Dylan pranced around showing off his ass.

I asked, "Really, Dylan?" Dylan asked, "Do you think we can convince the Fairy Queen to have her dinner party while we still have the tattoo? We could moon the table! I bet that would make their dinner FABULOUS!" I groaned, "You would find this funny."

Dylan smirked, “So do you, admit it.” I agreed, “It’s a little funny, but I won’t tell Haley that.” Beta Caleb pointed out, “You can’t fool a fairy, but unlike them you can lie.” Eric smirked, “She’s at the school.”

Dylan clapped, “YES! Let’s go talk to her! You owe me, Lucas. You got to see Emmaline this morning because she can pop. I haven’t seen Lacy.” I laughed, “Hold on, let me get my angry face on.” I took several deep breaths then opened my eyes.

We all got dressed and Nick motioned Sharon to come over. Sharon popped to us, still laughing asked, “Yes, Alpha.” Nick said, “We need you to pop us to school.” Sharon agreed, “With pleasure, Alpha. I must say Lucas, pink looks good on you.” She busted up laughing and popped us to the school.

I had a hard time keeping my composure when speaking sternly to Haley. Dylan linked me, “You’re going to mess it up if you keep almost smirking. Think about Alpha Hammond, that should make you mad.” He was right.

I barely contained my laugh when Haley said it would come off when she was ready. I linked Dylan, “That is so insanely Haley.” Everyone else was laughing while I tried to keep a stern expression. Haley was just too funny.

I linked Eric, “Moments like this make me want to kick every fairies ass who tried to take this side of her away from us. Who thinks of this shit besides Haley?” Eric replied, “I know. I love how much fun she has pulling pranks. Possibly because she hasn’t gotten me yet. All her brothers said they don’t mind when she gets them though because she has so much fun pulling them.”

I was barely managing to stay stern. Dylan linked me, “REMOVE IT?! ARE YOU INSANE? This is quite possibly the BEST way to get GAP called to our aid! He’d have to come; it would be his own wife’s fault. Think of ALL the meetings he could have to come to with us. It’s GLORIOUS.” He would think that.

Haley popped the Connors group away, and Sharon popped us away. The second we were back in Red Run I laughed. “Do you have any idea how hard it was to keep a straight face?” Dylan responded, “One will never know, you almost smirked like twenty times.”

I laughed all the way to the car. We arrived at King Arthur’s shortly after we’d gotten lunch from Al’s. We met the King’s daytime Assistant. She greeted, “Hello, I’m MaryBeth. King Arthur had me box up your collection today. My vampire will be so disappointed. He loved your pieces. Could I by chance get the names of those you acquired your collection from? It might ease the blow for him.”

I laughed, "Since you have it ready to go; I'll have my Beta, Dylan Frost, email you the list." She smiled broadly and exchanged information with Dylan. MaryBeth said, "It's been demanded for months now that when you arrive, I ask if you are willing to part with any of the pieces."

I quickly said, "Not at this time, should that change you will be my first call." She smiled again. Dylan spoke, "Milady all the collectors names where our valiant gamer knight bequeathed his collection from are now at your fingertips."

I pointed out, "I bought it all, Dylan. I didn't bequeath it." Dylan growled, "I was doing a whole medieval bit. She's dating a vampire; they are super old." MaryBeth laughed, "Not all of them, but mine is." Dylan slapped my chest, "You see? Just let me have my moments, Lucas!" I laughed and so did MaryBeth.

Once everything had been loaded into our SUV we made the trip home. Dylan said, "I arranged for people to unload all of this in your safe once we arrive. I'm not lugging this stuff around. I linked your dad to let them into your safe room to remove the Tinkerbell's.."

That was a good idea. I replied, "Thanks. I thought you were going to sleep on the drive." Dylan rolled his eyes, "Oh ye of Alpha blood, we've had training, fairy hijinks, and a collection to gather. Not to mention coffee, so much coffee. Dylan could last all day with no nap now." We left the warriors to unpack my collection.

My dad teased me, "Finally got it all back, did you? Too bad. It was fun watching you run around solving clues." Dylan told him in a far too delighted tone, "Don't you worry, Dale. Now, we have a sparkly pink tattoo on our asses."

My dad faltered, "You what?" I dropped my pants. My dad roared with laughter. When he stopped, he told us, "We all need to take prank lessons from that woman." I snorted, "We need to keep everyone else from taking lessons with her, or no one will be safe."

Dylan and I went up to our office. I opened the door and was surprised to see a present in blue wrapping paper on my desk. I picked up the card and read it.

My lion,

I know you find my tattoo funny despite what you said earlier. I am sorry for the part I played in your fight with Emmaline. I never want either of you to be hurt. She's my cousin, and you are my lion.

In that spirit, I hope you read this whole book. I tend to forget not everyone has the knowledge I do. Fairies are secretive by nature, which is fucking weird for a group of people who can't lie. Fairies, I guess. Bunch of weirdos, what can you do?

Haley

P.S. Don't tell Aiden.

Dylan squealed, "OPEN IT! Keeping secrets from King Fire Hands?! GOD! This day keeps getting better and better!" I laughed and unwrapped the paper. I was shocked by what I found.

I sat there and stared for a moment then asked, "But... how?" Dylan started to play the song Happy by Pharrell Williams on his phone. He picked up the book and twirled it around dancing to the music. He told me, "I will build an altar for it, we will get a secret lair. I'll have our resident creepy ninja cook one up for us. This is my new bible, and I must memorize every single word in this book."

I took out my phone and dialed Eric. Dylan hissed, "DON'T YOU DARE get this book taken away from me, Lucas! I will hide it if necessary. I need time to screenshot the whole book if you're giving it back. Then I can type it out from there. I won't be at your trainings because I will be doing the work of the gods getting us this text back in print."

Eric picked up, "Lucas, Haley won't tell me when she's taking the tattoo off your ass." I laughed, "She seems to know I find it funny. I'm looking at a present from your wife. Dylan's practically salivating over it." Eric laughed, "Yes, it seems she got those out today then." I asked, "How did she get us all A History of fairies? None of us have had this information or the ability to gain knowledge about the history of the fae. Their books never leave their realm."

Dylan hissed, "STOP TRYING TO TAKE THIS FROM ME! GAP, you can't have it back. I'll fight you for it. It's now my precious." He whispered it like they do in Lord of the Rings. I rolled my eyes. Eric snorted, "If I wanted to fight you for that book, Dylan, I'd have it back easily. As it stands, I have my own. I do not need yours. She conjured herself a copy. Aiden said the original book couldn't leave their realm. Haley said none of these are the original books. She doesn't want what happened with Emmaline to happen again because we don't have the information available to us."

Dylan reverently stated, "She is a goddess fun sized ninja fairy goddess and I bow at her feet. What do we have to do to make that title official? I'll do it. She must ascend to goddess status." I didn't think anything could bring his mood down today.



Then Emmaline linked me that Dylan's parents were here. I stood, "Eric, I have to go. Dylan, count to one hundred or something, but stay up here." Dylan snorted, "I have literally no interest in whatever you are going to do right now. I'm going to read a chapter in my book. If you aren't back, I suppose I'll come see what's so urgent. It had better be good though."

I winced then raced outside and sure enough there stood Dylan's parents. I linked my dad, "Did you know Davis and Betty were coming back today?" My dad replied, "What? They are finally back?" I sighed, "Evidently. Lacy is practically at their throats." My dad told me, "We are on the way." That was good. Because they'd have a better chance of controlling my sister.

I knew Dylan had no idea they were coming. He wouldn't have let it go down like this. Not when Travis could come running home from school and see them standing on the damn front lawn. I needed to get everyone inside. I could only hope Dylan would be so enthralled by his history of fairies book he'd forget about counting to one hundred. Maybe he'd just read the whole damn book while I sorted this shit show out.

I had no such luck. He sang coming down the stairs. It hurt me how happy he sounded. This was going to crush him. I ran up the stairs trying to beat him to the landing so he wouldn't see them. I linked him, "DO NOT come out here." Dylan stopped, "Umm ok. I'll be waiting right here for you. I hear you thundering up the stairs like a herd of zebras. Someone should tell Haley her name is off. You're not a lion, you're a whole herd of some type of animal."

I pulled him into my office. "There's no easy way to say this so I'm going to rip off the Band-Aid." Dylan frowned "Must you? It's been an oddly good day. All I need is to convince Lacy to have naked sexy time, and it will have been a banner day. Gold star next to it and everything."

I winced, "Yes, I do have to. Your parents are downstairs." Dylan went rigid with anger. Fang pushed forward, "Davis and Betty are downstairs?" I nodded. Dylan took back over and began to pace. He snarled, "FUCK THEM! OF COURSE, they come back without telling anyone. They left saying it was going to be a three month vacation to make up for all the vacations we never got to take. Bon voyage children. Then three months turned into a year, then BAM four years. They didn't even come to Travis' first shift or my mating ceremony. Did Travis see them? Tell me he didn't get ambushed! I'll rip their fucking heads off!"

I winced when he cursed but assured him, "He didn't see them. Emmaline linked me while Lacy went at them like a battering ram." Dylan smiled, "That's my woman." I shrugged. Dylan continued "I need to tell Travis before he finds out from anyone else.

Who knows who saw them before you got them inside. I already linked him letting him know we needed to talk. He's waiting at the tree line by the pack house with Jacqueline. I can't walk out there and see them right now; I'll kick my dad's ass."

I nodded, "I'll have Emmaline pop to us." Emmaline was with us the next second. We popped outside. My anger was swirling when I saw both Frost boys in pain. Dylan was my best friend, but I grew up with Travis too. He was like a little brother to me.

My parents and I had helped Dylan in getting everything Travis needed for school. Dylan went to every parent teacher conference, and every parent night since his parents stayed in Europe. Dylan explained everything, and now both boys wanted to confront their parents.

I linked Lacy, "He will need you. It's good Jacqueline is here too." Lacy snarled, "The NERVE of them, Luc! Just to show up like that after what they did. No calls, no advance warning, not even emails! Birthday cards! That's it!" I sighed, "We know they sent letters to mom and dad. Dylan nor Travis wanted to hear anything from them from those letters."

Lacy glared at me, "Because they should've written them their own letters! I would NEVER abandon my son the way they abandoned theirs and he's not even born yet. Mom and dad traveled ALL OVER the damn world trying to find me when I ran away. They had every reason to give up on me, but they never did. They also SAW and TALKED to you while they were abroad." She was right.

I sighed, "It's going to be a long night." She retorted, "They might not live until morning." I stared at her in shock. I linked my dad, "Does a pup increase the rage one feels?" My dad answered, "If both parents are upset, then yes. Why?" I sighed, "Lacy is ready to kill Davis and Betty." My dad groaned, "I'll watch her. You focus on Dylan; the boys won't understand their reasons."

I asked, "Do you?" My dad replied, "I wouldn't have made the same choices they have, but they are coming from a place of fear. I understand they are afraid, and I have seen what fear can do to a person." I went on alert, "Do I need border patrols running?" My dad replied, "Not at all, son."

Dylan threw the front door off the frame. I sighed. Once this conversation settled, I'd have Emmaline snap it fixed. Dylan opened the floor for his parents to explain in the most Dylan way. I saw Davis's eyes narrow at his son.

I linked Davis, issuing an Alpha command in my tone, "Don't you dare, you have no right to criticize him. Just explain what you did and why like he wants and deserves to

hear.” I should’ve known I would’ve needed to use my Alpha tone to make him not criticize Dylan.

I drew Emmaline into me trying to remember that there was a time when these people were like family to me. But that was before they left abandoning Dylan and leaving him to raise Travis alone. They’d abandoned Lacy and I as well. My parents didn’t say as much, but I knew it hurt them that they’d left and not returned.

Davis and Betty were their best friends. Mom needed Betty when Lacy had run away. Dad had needed Davis just the same. Part of me thought if they’d been here Lacy wouldn’t have run away. She might have confided in Betty. She was like the cool aunt you could tell anything to. That wasn’t fair, but it was how I felt. I knew blows would be exchanged tonight. I’d just have to hope they were verbal and not physical.