

Birthday Traditions

Emmaline searched the souls of Betty and Davis Frost now that their sons were in the room. They were nervous and worried. Betty especially was on pins and needles specifically about Lacy. I linked Lucas, “Could they be upset Dylan is mated to Lacy? They are really nervous about her.” Lucas growled, “They better not be.”

When the Frost’s tried to get Jacqueline’s name, Travis lost it. His anger almost choked me. I warned my mate, “Lucas, you may need to hold Travis back, his anger is staggering.” Lucas rubbed the small of my back, “Focus on me, baby girl. Let my calm flow into you.” I nodded and focused on Lucas to drown out Travis’ anger. Thankfully, it worked.

I frowned realizing Dylan’s dad was upset about Dylan made jokes. I felt a deep disappointment flowing between Dylan and his dad. I asked Lucas, “Why is Davis upset that Dylan made a joke?” Lucas sighed, “Davis always wanted to Dylan to grow up.” I frowned, “He did grow up, he’s just funny.” Lucas winced, “Davis believes Beta’s should be serious.”

I disagreed, “I’m glad Dylan’s not, he injects humor into situations that keep people from fighting or crying.” Lucas agreed, “I know.” I decided to remain quiet until Davis’s emotions snapped when Dylan called me by name. Something deep within me was angered at the disrespect he showed for Dylan.

Lacy linked me, “Get em’ girl! I’m behind you all the way. I’m just saying, you could punch him. That would be fine.” I smirked, “We will keep that as an option if he keeps being a jerk.” I saw someone walk in and handed Dylan popcorn. I couldn’t stop my smile. He was always himself, and I admired that about him.

I glanced over at Lucas, and my smile dimmed. His soul was deeply worried for Dylan. I wasn’t sure why all a sudden I could tell the direction that people’s souls were having an emotion for, but I just knew. I wasn’t even questioning it.

Betty’s concern for Lacy was growing. Dylan and Travis were becoming more hostile by the moment. Dylan showed it with his snark, but Travis was seething silently. Then his anger snapped and he exploded, though it was calmer than I’d thought it would be.

I told Lucas, “I don’t think their answers matter to Travis, his soul is pretty done with them.” Lucas sounded hopeful, “They could have a good reason.” I warned, “It’s not going to be enough. They could’ve called them. They wrote your parents; they could

have written them.” Lucas sighed, “I know they could’ve. They could’ve explained in the birthday cards, but they didn’t.”

I changed the subject, “What is Dylan’s wolf’s name?” Lucas answered, “Fang.” I squealed “FANG? THAT IS THE BEST NAME OF ALL TIME! If we get a dog and name him Fang will Dylan be mad?” He snorted, “Probably not, no. He’d think he was an inspiration. He’d make it his mission for our Fang to like his wolf Fang. Also, Dominic is put out you think Dylan’s wolf’s name is better than his.” I cooed, “Aww, Dominic I love your name. I want to name our dog Fang. That has to make it better, right? I would never name our dog Dominic.” Lucas laughed, “That does appease him.”

The further this conversation progressed the more stunned I became by Dylan’s dad’s attitude. He was actually proud of Dylan, but he didn’t come across that way. I questioned Lucas, “Why is his dad hiding the fact that he’s proud of how Dylan took care of Travis?” Lucas was shocked, “He’s proud?” I replied, “Very.” I jumped when Travis’ wolf growled at his parents. The malice behind that growl startled me. Travis wolf not liking his parents seemed like a massive understatement.

I linked Lucas again, “What legend is Dylan talking about?” Lucas sighed, “The Legend of the white wolf.” His parents were feeling trepidation and decided to deflect. I gave Lucas a look, “What’s the Legend of the White Wolf?”

Lucas sighed, “It’s a campfire story. It’s about a powerful she wolf that’s pure white. She has some powers that the goddess harnesses because she’s an extension of the goddess. There has never been a pure white wolf in recorded history.” I bit my lip, “Maybe they found one?” Lucas shook his head, “It’s just a legend.”

Dylan understandably lost it when his parents confirmed they had stayed away because of the white wolf story. Travis’ soul was in a state of disbelief. I stunned they stopped having kids because of this legend. Betty’s soul was shattered as she looked at her boys. She’d wanted more kids. Why did I know this stuff all a sudden?

Dylan made a good point though; it would’ve been very hard for a younger child to understand being abandoned by their parents. Hell, at fourteen that’s hard to understand. Travis couldn’t have taken care of a younger sibling; he was still in high school. To put that on Dylan while he was the Beta AND didn’t have a mate yet would’ve been cruel; they’d done enough damage.

The hurt in Travis’ soul was killing me, he was so broken by their excuses. A very small part of him had held out hope he’d had a good reason. Betty managed to get the Legend of the White Wolf out there. I linked Lacy, “I don’t even think based on what

they are saying you could have a white wolf. With Alpha blood you could command people, right?”

Lacy agreed, “Yes, I have that power within me. Not like Lucas can, but I’m still an Alpha. There logic is crap though because the white wolf would be mated to an Alpha which makes her a Luna. A Luna can command too. They are so... irritating.”

I frowned, “Then how could any of your children be the white wolf? They said only Alpha blood doesn’t bow to the white wolf. Your children will have Alpha blood too.” Lacy said, “My pups can’t be the white wolf because it’s a ridiculous legend. It’s a story passed down every generation. Lucas said they’d heard it at camp in Louisiana. Dylan’s parents heard it from some kids when they came home and panicked. Some Beta blood they are, they were so scared of a Legend they abandoned their children.”

I had to step in when Dylan thought his parents wanted to hurt his child. I knew it that wasn’t the intent because they were genuinely concerned about their grandchild. I also knew they weren’t going to be happy if they were getting a granddaughter. That just wasn’t fair. They needed to get over this toxic attitude. No kid needs to know their grandparents don’t like them.

Lacy linked me, “Screw them, I want a little girl eventually. Plus, Dylan wants like five pups. I haven’t given birth yet, but I agreed with the caveat that the number may change post birth.” I laughed, “Always a good idea to keep the options open.” Lacy smiled, “I do want more though.” I smiled, “You’ll be a great mom!”

Lacy smiled then frowned. Her eyes filled with tears, “I won’t be able to hold myself back if we have a girl, and they don’t treat her the same as my boys. I’ll kick their butts.” I replied, “I don’t think you have to worry. At the moment, Dylan has no plans to let them be part of your life.”

Lacy questioned, “How do you know?” I shrugged, “His soul and Travis’ soul are pretty determined on that point right now.” Lacy nodded, “Good. I don’t want to be a brat or anything, but don’t mess with my pups.” I said, “I think that makes you a good mom not a brat.”

Betty’s heart was broken about her sons’ attitude, and their future children. She truly believed one of her sons would father the white wolf. I didn’t understand why she believed that though. Nothing they’d said gave any indication it would their sons. It could literally be anyone if a legend was going to be birthed.

I linked Lucas, “Can any wolf be immune to wolfsbane and silver?” Lucas snorted, “Yes, in a legend they can. I’ve never heard or met of a wolf immune to either.” I

frowned, “That does seem a bit fanciful.” Lucas grumbled, “It’s beyond a bit.” I winced, “They really are convinced Dylan or Travis will have a white wolf if they have a daughter. I just don’t understand why though.” Lucas sighed, “Nothing they’ve said indicated that.” I frowned.

I couldn’t stop my laugh when Dylan started throwing out his fake fears for their kids. When he begged the moon goddess to give him the white wolf so she could unite his family with Eric’s, I snorted. My lips twitched as I told Lucas, “That would be pretty funny.” Lucas snorted, “If the moon goddess has any sense of humor if Dylan has a daughter, she will be the mate of one of Eric’s kids.”

I replied, “Well, the only current option is Alexander. There’s no guarantee they have more kids.” Lucas shrugged, “Eric has always wanted a lot of kids, and Haley has a lot of brothers. Two fairy brothers, now just the one living I guess, and nine Hackura brothers. I doubt she wants just three pups.”

I thought about it, then agreed, “That’s a good point. How many does Eric want?” Lucas snorted, “Once he said he wanted twelve, but now that we have a longer lifespan; he could want more.” I cautioned, “We are not having twelve kids.” Lucas laughed, “I won’t hold you to that, nor do I currently want twelve pups.”

I focused back on the conversation. It was truly heartbreaking, but Betty and Davis just didn’t have logic on their side. Even if they did, their actions were not justifiable. I linked Lucas, “The solution, should this occur, seems fairly straightforward. Don’t let people know there’s a pure white wolf. Make her train. Davis and Betty clearly know how to train her on whatever powers she’d have. Did I miss something?”

Lucas said, “No, and I’d imagine you or Haley would be more helpful training with powers. Werewolves don’t have powers, so we don’t have experience with it, fairies actually do.” I said, “Umm turning into a giant wolf is an awesome power.” Lucas smirked, “True.”

Lucas proudly told me, “I do believe you are right, baby girl. Once shifted we could worry about a plan. Prior to that it’s absurd to worry about. We have pups that people are possessive of before they shift. Sometimes a scent draws them to someone.” That was ridiculous, but I guess it was their nature.

Dylan ran outside shredding his clothes and shifted into his wolf. Lacy followed right after him. Travis glared at his parents before following his brother making sure Jacqueline left before he did. Davis was upset with how his sons acted, but his guilt was his strongest emotion.

I asked my questions about Lacy's Alpha blood. No one knew the answer for sure because it was a legend, but I was pretty dang sure the answer was no. Lacy might not be able to use her Alpha Blood to make Lucas or Eric bow to her, but I'd bet she could do it to the second born Alpha like Sebastian or Christopher.

It wouldn't make sense in my mind for Travis' mate to give birth to the white wolf either. He wasn't the Beta of the pack. In the legend they'd researched it was always a Beta's daughter. So, to me, that clearly meant Travis was out.

Their reasons for missing Dylan and Lacy's wedding were pathetic. They missed the wedding for something that was "unclear." My heart did hurt for these two people. They shunned their real life for a fable, and when they were ready to return to real life; those people they wanted to reconnect with had moved on with their lives. That had to sting but having been abandoned myself, I understood.

Nothing my mom said could make it better either. I'd have clawed her eyes out if she said it was because of a campfire story. I was proud Lucas Alpha commanded everyone not to answer their questions.

Until Betty and Davis could be happy for Dylan and Lacy, I don't think they should know. This baby was an intended product of two people who loved each other very much. That should be celebrated. Dylan and Lacy were happy and that's what mattered. Plus, Dylan put up boundaries, that had to be respected.

My disappointment with them was feeding into anger. Her own son didn't want to tell her, she had NO right to go behind his back. They should do everything in their power to get back into his good graces. These people really had some audacity. How were Travis and Dylan their kids? Then again, the same could be said for my siblings with our parents.

Lucas pointed out Davis would've asked Dale to research the council records. I could feel Dale's regret and resignation when he said he couldn't find anything. Which meant no white wolf existed. Their council would've documented the crap out of that. Any council would've. I was so proud of Lucas when he stood up to Davis telling him not to disrespect Dylan. My fairy side would pull some hijinks if they didn't back off. My light felt protective of Dylan. I'm sure it's because I like him, and I'd brought him his mate.

When Lucas and I walked into our room I'd remembered that the front door needed to be fixed. I snapped my finger then explained to Lucas what I'd done. I linked Debbie, "Hi mom, did I fix the front door? I snapped and wanted to make sure it worked."

Debbie chuckled, “Scared us all for a second, but it did get fixed. Thank you, Emmy.” I smiled and answered, “You are welcome.”

I didn’t understand Dylan’s parents. His dad seemed way worse than his mom. I couldn’t understand why he was so against telling Dylan he was proud of him. Dylan was a great man, and he’d done a great job being Lucas’ Beta. He’d even done a hell of a job being a parent/brother to Travis. Would it have killed him to say thank you?

I was surprised when Lucas mentioned a dinner with the Queen in Faerie. After the war between the fae and wolves, could everyone even come? I mean I guess if the queen said so, they could. I sighed inwardly. Something told me Haley and I would have to be on guard for women looking to hit on our guys. I’d go and bring Lacy because I’d need her as back up. Maybe BA could come too. Maybe if she stands there with her bow locked and loaded those women would take a hint.

I hoped we didn’t have an eventful dinner. I could see Haley kicking some butt and taking names if we did. This time though, I’d join her. We showered together then went to bed.

The next morning when my alarm went off, I got up and went to training. I was stunned to see Betty and Debbie there. I linked Lacy, “Your mother-in-law is here.” Lacy growled, “Of course she is. She probably didn’t look hard enough at the schedule to know Dylan didn’t teach this class. Or she hopes Travis will be there.”

I replied, “Travis has never been in our classes. Actually, I’ve never seen him in any class.” Lacy replied, “Travis has a special program that he does. He always has since he told Dylan his goal of being the lead warrior.” That made sense.

Debbie walked over to me commenting, “This sure is early.” Betty sighed, “I was hoping to talk to Lacy.” I raised an eyebrow questioning, “Why?” Betty admitted, “To apologize.” I advised, “You’ll want to keep it at that. I know you want to fix your relationship with your sons, but if you keep trying to go behind their back for information you won’t be able to repair it.”

Betty’s eyes filled with tears, “You don’t understand.” I disagreed, “I understand more than anyone else here. My mom helped her husband throw me out of their home and have me emancipated without my knowledge or consent. I do understand how it feels to be abandoned by your parents.” Betty stammered, “We didn’t...” I cut her off, “Yes, you did abandon your sons.”

Before she could reply Lacy walked over, “Good morning mom, Emmaline.” She turned to face the class and stiffly added, “Betty.” Betty smiled, “Lacy, I am so glad

you're home. I wanted to apologize for just leaving. I know we had plans when I got back, and we never got to have our girl's day. I'm so happy you are Dylan's mate."

Lacy bitterly spat back, "You're just not happy I'm pregnant." Betty stammered, "No, I am." I linked Lacy, "She's happy but worried, that's at least true." Betty continued, "I'm just worried and none of you take this legend seriously."

Lacy snorted, "Because it's a LEGEND. Besides that, I have faith in Dylan and our pack to protect our pups no matter the color of their wolf. You missed such big moments in their lives for something neither of your sons are concerned about. I understand you are clearly scared about this legend coming true. You haven't explained why, but to be frank nothing apart from being held captive is a good enough reason to miss your son's first shift. It's scary and you need your support group. To miss it is just wrong, just admit that already. At least this one detail of skipping out on them, admit that to miss Travis' first shift was shitty."

Betty sniffed, "No... I... you're right. We had planned to come back, but time just got away from us." Lacy sighed, "Since his birthday is two weeks before mine, I snuck off to hear how it went. I heard his screams of agony while Dylan coached him through his shift. He kept whimpering that he was holding off because he knew you would show up. He fought until two in the morning when Dylan finally convinced him to just let it happen. They were both in tears."

Betty gasped, "What? He held off his wolf for two hours?" Lacy nodded, "As Dylan said, Travis' wolf is strong. You should know that, because so is Travis." Betty had tears in her eyes.

Alex cleared his throat, "Beta Female Lacy, I can escort you to your training." He didn't use her title often. Something told me it was to show her support. He held out his arm and shot Betty a warning look. Lacy hooked arms with him and went off to her training.

Debbie looked stunned. She admitted, "I had no idea about Travis holding off his shift that long, Betty. Neither of the boys has ever said anything about it." Betty sniffled and they left the gym.

Alex came back over and assigned me someone to work with. Once we'd finished, I popped back to get ready. I gave Lucas a light kiss and left for school. The week went by quickly, and without more interference from Betty and Davis thank god.

On Wednesday, Haley popped in after school before fairy practice. She told me, "I left your wedding dress options in the remarkably capable hands of my mom, Queen

Veronica. I sent her all the pictures from your Pinterest board. They are all upstairs for you to try on.” I smiled asking, “Really? All of them?”

Haley nodded, “The woman is more magical than I am sometimes.” She led me to the Luna rooms. She’d already snapped a platform with a mirror. The five dresses I’d been salivating over were in front of me. I said, “Is it sad I didn’t even remember I needed a dress?”

Haley laughed, “No, you knew I was handling the wedding details. You’ve had exams, fairy issues, and learning to be a Luna on your plate. You delegated, that’s what Luna’s do according to the book I found.” I smiled studying the dresses. I put my fingers on the first one, a lace mermaid dress with sheer sleeves. It was backless with a sweeping train.

I told her, “I want to try this one on first.” Haley smiled instructing me, “Snap it on then.” I snapped and stared at myself in the mirror. I told her, “I love it.” I twirled then smiled, “I’m really going to get married; I’ll be Mrs. Emmaline Lyons.” Haley smiled, “That you will be.”

I admitted, “I still want to try on the rest.” Haley laughed, “That’s why they are here. WAIT!” She called someone on her phone and spoke in Latin. A portal opened and Katie stepped through. She gasped, “Evie, you look beautiful.” I smiled, “Thanks!”

I snapped the next dress on. It was a ball gown with Lace sleeves. Katie’s eyes filled with tears, “Gosh, that one is so pretty too. You’re stunning, Evie.” I twirled, “I like it, but I like the other one better.”

Next, I snapped on the A-line wedding dress. It had sleeves that wrapped around my shoulders. It was tight then flared out at my waist. I smiled, “I love this one the most so far.” Katie was waving a hand in front of her face.

Haley told me, “You look amazing in all of them, but you look happiest in this one.” I smiled “I need to try on the other to be sure.” I snapped into the next one. It was a corset that had rouching and a sweetheart neckline then had a larger skirt.

I pouted, “These are all great! I don’t know which one to pick.” Haley laughed, “Try on the last one. Then you can decide.” I sighed and snapped on the last dress. It was a mermaid style dress with a sweetheart neckline. It was strapless and had a beaded belt right under the chest area. It had a slight train. It was stunning.

I gasped, “This is it!” Katie clapped, “I love that one!” I was on cloud nine. Haley agreed, “It’s perfect, you look like a goddess.” We all hugged, and they told me how beautiful I looked. I felt like royalty in it. I was really getting married.

Before I knew it, Friday rolled around. I’d confided in Lacy I was upset about Lucas not seeming to want sex. She said we’d talk to the girls. The second I sat down at our usual table for lunch Lacy ordered, “Space unheard.” I spoke my chant quickly while Peter and Drake groaned.

Sam asked first, “What gives?” I sighed, “Lucas hasn’t made a move to have sex. I mean we do oral, but he doesn’t take a step to go any further.” Lacy suggested, “Make the first move then if that’s what you want.” I blushed admitting, “He usually does that, except when I’m a crazy sex fairy. That side of me takes over.” Chelsea shrugged, “Hey, we want it when we want it too. It’s not just a man’s domain in the bedroom.” The girls were right, I could initiate things. I would do that.

Throughout the week, I’d gotten increasingly excited about my birthday. Aside from not having sex, I’d had a lot of fun during my birthday week. Lucas and Dylan had brought Lacy and me into their work. We were helping them get through their reports. He really was monitoring a lot of people.

The only one I thought he should look at was the report of Alpha Ezra losing it about Alpha Kyle submitting their alliance to the council. He attacked the messenger, and it took three people to pull him off the poor man. He was growling for hours apparently. I shivered. I didn’t get good vibes from the man, and I’d never met him. I had even shivered when I’d taken the file and read his name. Something was very off about that guy. I was glad Lucas didn’t agree to be allies. I didn’t want to see him on a regular basis. If I could avoid seeing him ever... I really wanted to.

When I got home from school on Friday, I could barely contain my excitement. I’d asked Katie, Ry and Dusty to come over. I was going to give them their gifts. Ry laughed as we walked inside, “You are really excited to have a sibling meeting.” I smiled, “Yes, I’m a little nervous too.” Aubree and Dusty walked in next sitting down by Ry and Valerie.

I linked Lucas, “Can you come downstairs? The sibling meeting is about to happen. You also have all the tickets and everything.” Lucas laughed, “I’m on the way, baby girl.” Lucas joined us next. He put his hand on my leg. It made me realize I was bouncing them up and down. Lucas linked me, “They will love it, you don’t need to be nervous.” I smiled brightly at him. Katie and Logan came through a portal and sat down.

Dusty nodded to me, “Ok, this is your show, Evie.” I cleared my throat, “I know you guys put off doing things you wanted to do to look for me. I talked it over with Lucas, and I really wanted to do something special for you guys.” Ry spoke up, “That’s not necessary, it’s your birthday tomorrow not ours.”

I clapped my hands, “I know! I’m so excited this will be my first birthday since they made me leave home where there’s actually a celebration. Everyone is coming! It’s going to be so fun!” I waved my hands then added, “You’re wrong though Ry, this IS necessary.”

I turned to Lucas who handed me Dusty and Aubree’s trip first. I handed it to my brother, “Dusty, I know you and Aubree didn’t get to take a honeymoon because you were funding the find Evie campaign. Lucas worked his magic to get you both the time off work. You leave tomorrow. If you want to you can fly, or I can pop you in. You have tickets to return on the twenty second, but I am popping you back home. I don’t want you to get be delayed and possibly miss our wedding.”

Dusty and Aubree were staring at me in shock. Eventually Aubree asked, “You got us a honeymoon?” I laughed, “I guess now it’s kind of a babymoon too. The original purpose was for your honeymoon though, so whichever you want to say. Oh, I forgot! Haley told me to practice this.”

I thought of the clothes they’d need and snapped. I squealed when I opened my eyes adding, “And you’re packed. Everyone’s spending the night here anyway. For the record, I’m not even asking you; it’s just happening.”

Ry snorted, “Of course, your tradition.” Lucas asked, “Tradition?” I smiled, “You’ll see. Any who.... Ry, I know you gave up the money for your Europe trip. Lucas has been there, and he outlined the places you’d likely want to go. We have your tickets, but it’s for after graduation. You, Valerie and your little one will be jet setting through Europe. Again, I can pop you all in, or if you need a night to yourself; Lucas and I can pop in to babysit or bring your little one back here.”

Ry’s eyes lit up as he read through the itinerary. He looked up, “Thank you, guys. I...” His voice trailed off, “It was worth every penny we spent to find you. This is so kind of you both.”

Lucas smiled squeezing my leg, “What’s important to Emmaline, is important to me.” I got really nervous about Katie's gift. I handed her the envelope, “Katie, I know your dream wasn’t a trip. It was to be a lawyer. I will totally help you accomplish that goal if you want to. We can study together, I’ll help you write entrance exam essays, whatever. Since I can’t give you a law degree, I got us a spa getaway. There are no

dates set. It's just ready for our use after your little guy is here and you are ready for your first trip away. It doesn't matter when that is. Lucas and Logan worked out security already. Plus, I can pop your little man to us or you to him. If you don't like the weekend getaway though, I can get you something else."

Logan smiled at me, but I couldn't focus on him. I was so nervous I couldn't even search Katie's soul to see if she was excited. Katie smiled with tears in her eyes slapping my arm, "Don't you dare change this, it's perfect. I love it! A sister's weekend!" She hugged me, "We missed you so much, Evie." I smiled, "I missed you guys too."

Dusty said, "This was not what I was thinking. I thought you were going to tell us we were spending the night." I snorted, "You are spending the night." Dusty laughed, "Yes, I know, but I thought that's what the meeting was about." I questioned, "You like it, though, right? If you don't, we can change the trip."

Aubree snorted, "Umm hell no, I've never been to Hawaii. She has tickets in here for the Dolphin Quest at Hilton Waikoloa Village here, Dustin. We get to play with a dolphin. We ARE going." Dusty put his hands in the air, "I am all for going, I have never been to Hawaii either. My parents used to go all the time though."

I smiled, "I know, I remembered that you got mad when they wouldn't take us. They told us it was their special get away place." We all smiled then I had to push those memories away before I got sad. I whispered, "They weren't all bad times. Just that last little bit, right?"

Ry stood, "We had a lot of fun before the end. I'm so glad we've found you now." I smiled, "Me too." We talked for a little bit longer than everyone dispersed. Hexxi was the only sister who hadn't confirmed she was coming to my party. Idel said Hexxi was trying to nail down the right present. I told Idel to tell her I didn't care about the present. I just wanted her there and Idel had assured me she'd pass the message on.

Lucas and I went to bed, again with no sex. He was killing me. I decided to add to my tradition, and it was sex afterwards. No one can deny the birthday girl, it was one of my birthday rules. Lucas fell asleep a little before ten o'clock.

I smiled at his sleeping form; he had no idea what was coming. It appeared my siblings hadn't warned him. When the clock struck midnight, I got off the bed, squealed, then jumped on Lucas. He startled awake, "WHAT THE...?" I screamed, "IT'S MY BIRTHDAY!!!" Lucas was sitting up as I ran out of the room. He yelled, "Emmaline, it's midnight!"

I squealed all throughout the house. I threw Dusty's door open first. He was sitting up in bed waiting for me. He got up, picked me up and twirled me around as I screamed about my birthday. Lucas was staring at me, bewildered as I ran to Ry's room and repeated the process.

Dylan was now standing with Lucas bouncing up and down. Dylan clapped happily exclaiming "I love this tradition, Lucas. We should all do it." I ran to Katie's room. I jumped on Logan instead of her because she's pregnant.

Logan laughed, "I see I get to be included now." I smiled, "You're family, so you're included." I ran out to Dylan. I asked him, "Is Lacy in your room still?" Dylan grinned, "Why yes, she is. A herd of elephants can't wake my sweet mate though."

I ran to their room and inside screaming. Lacy jumped out of bed, "WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?" I screamed, "IT'S MY BIRTHDAY, LACY!" My siblings were waiting outside their rooms laughing.

I grabbed two of their hands without looking who I'd grabbed. I squealed, "Come on! Let's go!" Lucas asked, "There's more to this tradition? Where are we going?" I demanded, "Come on!" I ran downstairs and into the kitchen.

I had asked Gemma to have a chocolate milkshake for Lucas, strawberry for Katie and me, vanilla for Ry, and banana for Dusty. I got everyone's milkshakes out of the freezer. Lucas asked me, "How did you know chocolate milkshakes are my favorite?" I giggled, "I asked Gemma. Sorry Dylan, I didn't know you were joining us. What would you like?" He started laughing at me for some reason.

Lacy came charging into the kitchen. She snarled, "OH NO YOU DON'T! I get one first. The pup now demands an Oreo milkshake." I quickly snapped her one. Dylan said, "I want a chocolate chip cookie dough milkshake." I snapped his next.

Dale came in rubbing his face, "What in god's name are we screaming about?" Lucas laughed, "You know exactly what was being screamed about. Emmaline, he wants a vanilla milkshake with M&M's in it." Dale sheepishly stated, "Well, I mean... since I'm up. Everyone else has one." I laughed and snapped him the milkshake.

We stayed up a little bit later. Lacy asked, "I take it you aren't going to training at four today?" I gasped, "But... it's my birthday. Don't I get my birthday off, Lucas?" Lucas laughed, "Of course you do." I pumped my fist in the air, "So we sleep in!" Lucas muttered, "Thank god."

Dylan snorted, “Can I ask why none of you Forrester/Bishop jerks warned us she screamed like a banshee running around the house at midnight? I could’ve stayed awake or got noise cancelling headphones. There were choices.”

Dusty laughed, “It’s just Bishop now, but this was way more fun.” Dylan grinned, “Ohhh and there’s that fairy side you rarely show!” Dusty laughed louder. Ry bumped my shoulder, “I missed you screaming around the house running into our rooms. She first started this when she was three. Katie and I had just gotten back from a milkshake run, and it just turned into a thing from there.”

Dylan asked, “Where does one get milkshakes at midnight? And by one, I mean the partial fairies. This is clearly a thing for your people, and I must know where to find them.” We all laughed and responded, “Sonic,” at the same time. Everyone hugged each other and we went back upstairs.

Lucas teased me, “So, can I go to sleep or are you going to wake me up again by jumping on me?” I smirked, “I plan to jump you, Alpha. I’m pretty sure birthday sex is a thing.” I didn’t give him time to react, kissing him and snapping us both naked and slid down on him. He groaned. “Fuck, baby girl.” I whispered, “It’s been too long.”

Lucas shuddered while I rode him. He put his thumb on my clit. I moaned, “Lucas.” I built us and we climaxed quickly. It really had been a long time since we’d done this. Lucas flipped our positions. I looked at him questioningly.

He smirked, “I hope you didn’t think we were done.” We didn’t fall asleep until four in the morning. I laughed, “Good thing I don’t have to train today.” Lucas kissed me gently, “Get some sleep, birthday girl.” I smiled, “It’s my birthday.” Lucas kissed me sweetly, “Happy Birthday, baby girl.”

I didn’t wake up until one in the afternoon. I happily noted Lucas who was still asleep next to me. I rolled on top of him and bit his ear, “It’s my birthday.” Lucas nibbled my neck, “I’ve heard that rumor somewhere.”

We got up and into the shower. We didn’t make it downstairs until three o’clock. I snapped myself into a loose sleeved gold sequin mini dress with black panty hose and little black ankle boots. Lucas grumbled, “That’s not inspiring me to leave the room.”

I laughed and swatted him, “Everyone will be here in thirty minutes, and I want to see my cake!” Lucas grinned and I popped us into the kitchen. It was a flurry of activity and several pack members were startled at our appearance.

One greeted us, "Alpha, Luna, Hello. You look beautiful, Luna." I smiled, "I've seen you giving Dylan his popcorn." The guy blushed, "Yes, Luna." I put my hands out, "Please call me Emmaline. What is your name?" The guy answered, "It's Danver, Luna Emmaline." I laughed, "I will break you of this habit. I just wanted to see the cake Lucas ordered for my birthday." Danver nodded and led me to the table where the cake was set up.

I gasped when I saw it, "Lucas, I love it!" Lucas kissed me. Dylan yelled, "Thank god!" I snorted, "Did you think I wouldn't like the cake?" Dylan shook his head, "Not that, you two had sex again. Excuse me I have to go strike up the band! He has been so grumpy!" Dylan ran off.

A few moments later, I kid you not, I heard a band. I startled, "He has a band?" Dylan came back inside, "Technically, the band is for the small parade Lucas has orchestrated for your party. Semantics." I laughed, "There's a parade?" Lucas smiled, "Just a small one that goes around the lake." I tickled him, "You are too much!"

Haley popped in, "Hello all! Happy Birthday Emmaline!" She gave me a hug, which started the rounds of everyone hugging. I smiled when my dad arrived. I saw Lucas, Eric, Dylan, and the elder Frosts talking. Haley joined briefly then everyone dispersed. I wondered what she said.

My dad popped beside me, "Hello, my beautiful little girl. This is a wonderful party! You look stunning. The belle of the ball. That is the saying here, right?" I assured him, "It is. Thank you, dad." He gave me a hug. I excused myself after an hour, popping upstairs to use the restroom.

Once I was done, I came out, and noticed the unknown phone on my nightstand. I hadn't turned it on in a while. I turned on the phone, and there was a message waiting.

Unknown: Loose lips sink ships, Evelyn. Happy Birthday.

Me: What does that even mean?

Unknown: Enjoy today but get ready. The showdown is coming.

Me: If I need you, how do I get a hold of you?

Unknown: Text or call this phone. You might not need me, but those close to you will.

Me: Thank you for the cryptic help and birthday wishes.

Unknown: You are quite welcome, enjoy your party.

Me: How did you know about my party?

I waited several minutes but nothing else came back in. I threw the phone aside and popped back downstairs to find an all-out brawl going down between Hexxi and Idel. Haley was actually coaching Idel on how to throw a better punch.

I asked, "What's going on?" All eyes turned to me in horror. Lucas grabbed me, "Come on let's... go outside for the parade. Pop us out back." I looked at Lucas and immediately popped outside. Guests filtered outside after us.

Aiden popped next to me, "Lucinda never wants to leave this realm now. She insists she be invited to all yours and Haley's parties. She actually made an edict as queen." He handed me a piece of paper. Ok?

Dylan came outside and squealed, "YAY! I love the fairy queen!" Aiden asked, "Who doesn't? She's incredible."

Dylan looped his arm with mine, "Emmaline, I think you should throw more parties. I mean there's a fairy edict and everything. More parties! WHOHOO!" I shot a questioned glance at Lucas who winced.

Ry, Dusty, and Katie came outside shaking in anger. I asked them, "Guys? Are you ok? What's going on?" Lucas said, "Let's have your party. You're so excited about your birthday, and none of us want to spoil it. We will tell you everything afterwards, ok?" I nodded, "I dislike the sound of that, so I'm shoving it in the back of mind. Let's party!"

Lucas and I were on the last little float. I had every belief Haley and Bexley had conjured the floats. I was still so happy Lucas had done this. I had never been in a parade, or a part of a float.

Afterward, we went back inside for presents and cake. I walked inside and squealed, "BA!" She laughed at my reaction. Her soul was radiating happiness. She hugged me back, "Hello, Emmaline. Haley mentioned it was your birthday. I had to come give you your present in person." She handed me a small box.

I opened it and gasped it was an arrow on a chain. I stammered, "Is this.... Did you give me your calling card?" BA smiled, "Yes, should you find yourself in trouble, simply touch it. I'll find my way to you. Bjour'n's coming to get me, but I just had to give you this in person."

I smiled, “You seem really happy, how’s your angel?” I felt a little bad since she was Chase’s mate, but she did deserve to be happy. BA answered, “He left to go back to his realm quite a while ago. I have a new guy.” I laughed, “Oh yeah?” She smiled, “He’s really hot and super nice. He’s great.” She was gushing. I was really happy for her. I was a little worried because she was in love with this guy. Her soul told me so. My soul searcher heart was a little sad for her, but I was happy she was happy. BA left.

I walked over to Haley and quickly said, “Space unheard...” Haley quickly chanted. She teased, “You do know you can do the chant, yes? What’s up, birthday girl? I promised your siblings I wouldn’t explain the fight until after the party, so I can’t answer that question yet.”

I shrugged, “I don’t want to know until after the party. Do you know who BA is dating?” Haley cautiously answered me, “I don’t officially know. I so know it’s a new guy. She’s actually dating him as her true identity. She doesn’t do that often, but they met when she was herself. She likes him. She’s been cagey on the details, but that’s not abnormal.”

I sighed, “She loves this guy.” Haley turned, “Loves him? You’re sure? That’s big for her.” I nodded. Haley shrugged, “Good for her.” I pressed, “What about Alpha Chase?” Haley said, “I’m sure it will all work out. Don’t worry about it too much.” I frowned. Her soul was not worried at all. Her wording was odd too. She said she didn’t officially know who BA was seeing. Did that mean she knew?

I decided to put that aside for now since Haley wasn’t worried and got back to my party. I opened the first present handed to me. My dad had gotten me some sort of enchanted computer mouse looking thing. When I touched it, it showed my animals in the special place he had shown me in Faerie. He’d gotten me my dolphin. I gave him a hug.

Idel had gotten me a gift certificate to the mall. Katie, Ry, and Dusty had gotten a trip to Universal Studios for me and Lucas. I’d always wanted to go. It was for my graduation. I laughed, “Great minds think alike, we all got each other trips.” They laughed but they weren’t their normal laughs. It was a little strained.

I opened Haley and Eric’s present next. I opened the card.

Emmaline,

Eric said I couldn’t make you solve clues to find your present. So, you’ll just have to follow me. Wolves are boring sometimes.

FGM

I stood up, "Let's go." Haley sighed, "I maintain it would've been fun to have you solve clues." Eric rubbed her back, "It's her birthday." Haley pouted, "And she's missing out on the all the fucking fun!"

I laughed and followed them outside. I asked Lucas, "Do you know what it is?" Lucas shrugged, "I don't, but Eric emailed some questions and I now realize I should've asked for more information about."

There was a new building about a half a mile from the main house. When had that been done? I walked inside and gasped as I looked around. I asked, "You conjured a pool with a lazy river for me as a birthday present?" Haley smiled, "Yes, but if you don't like it I can..."

I squealed, "NO! You stop that thought right there, I love this!" After everyone marveled over the new addition we went back to the main house. We popped because Haley said it was boring to walk. I opened Lucas' present last.

Baby girl,

You are my world. I love you so much.

Happy Birthday,

Lucas

He'd gotten me an iPad. He'd loaded a bunch of books onto it. He'd also somehow gotten my fealish dictionary on here AND he'd also gotten a scrapbook for me. I opened it stunned to see pictures of us. I didn't even know where he'd gotten some of these.

It was all there. The moment we met. Someone must have taken a picture of us when he'd growled mine. There was even a picture of him proposing. I wiped tears away asking, "When did you even...? Who took the pictures?"

Lucas answered, "A combination of people. I can't take any of the credit for putting pictures in here creatively. I had all the material and pictures, but I gave them to my mom. She put them together beautifully in this book."

I mouthed "Thank you," to Debbie, then stood to give Lucas a kiss stating, "I love it." He smiled, "Good." Everyone started trickling out. Until it was just my dad, Hexxi,

Idel, Haley, Eric, Dylan, Lacy, Dale, Debbie, and my siblings. I sighed and bit the bullet asking, "Ok, what's going on?"

Hexxi pouted, "They don't like my present. I thought REALLY hard about it too." I was stunned. I clarified, "I'm sorry, the all-out fairy fight I saw was about a present?" Lucas said, "Yes. Hexxi... created well..." Dylan sighed. Lucas continued, "Your sister got a doll that looks like your mother and brought it to life. She charmed her to tell David she was going for a spa treatment, which is where the double is, then she popped your mom.... here."

Everything stopped. After several moments, I lost it, "My mom is here? She's seen you all which means she knows where I am?" I couldn't breathe. Hexxi slowly answered, "Not exactly. I'm obviously going to wipe her memories. I thought for your birthday you could say what you wanted to her."

I gritted my teeth, "Where is she?" Lucas answered, "In the dungeons, where I had Dylan take her." Dylan slyly stated, "She might need Haley to do her healing thing. She tripped down the stairs." We all turned to him, and he put his hands up, "She legitimately tripped down the stairs guys. Clumsy thing, your mom. I was thinking about pushing her, so unless I am now GAP who can call the wind because life is unfair... she just tripped. Or my thoughts come true. Choose to believe what you want, but I like this whole my thoughts take action choice."

I turned on my heel and strode towards the dungeon ready to give that woman a piece of my mind. Lucas called, "Baby girl? Where are you...?" I popped to the dungeons remembering that would be faster before Lucas finished his sentence.

I saw her immediately and spat out, "Hello, mom." My mom gasped, "Evelyn! Oh, my beautiful baby! This is why your siblings won't come home. That's why they want to stay here! It really was your birthday party upstairs. Sweetie, I missed you so much!" She reached her hands through the bars as everyone else caught up to me.

I slapped her hand away from me shouting, "DON'T touch me. Haley, can you use your power?" Haley instantly answered, "Of course." Lucas wrapped his arms around me. My mom tilted her head, "Evie, is he your mate? He's very handsome. You're a little young to find your mate though. Fate must have thought you needed him."

I hissed, "Not as young as we all thought though... Am I?" My mom was taken aback. I sneered, "Yeah, I know I'm actually eighteen. You selfish BITCH!" My mom's hands were shaking, "I understand you're upset, but I was protecting us all. We had a family this way. David would've known you weren't his instantly. It was selfish of me

not to tell you, but I always thought I'd have a chance on your sixteenth birthday. I'd planned to tell you all about it."

I yelled, "You could've told me when you LET him emancipate me without my knowledge then run me out of town. HE WAS TRYING TO KILL ME! HELL, he is STILL trying to kill me. Do you even care?"

My mom had the gall to look surprised. She even sounded offended, "I'm your mother, of course I care! He was going to kill Ryan and Dustin if I left with you. I had an impossible choice, but I gave all of you a chance."

I cut in, "You could've told my dad. At any point you could've contacted him. You could've given me the presents from him when I left and told me to find him. You left me with NOTHING! I lived outside. I lived in fear until Lucas found me. Then you have the audacity to say I'm a little young to have found my mate. We found out my real age because I went into my concupiscence without knowing or being prepared for it! YOU TRIED TO RUIN MY LIFE! You say David said he would kill Ry and Dusty. Did you believe him?"

My mom's eye went wide in panic, "Evie..." I yelled, "DID YOU BELIEVE HIM?" My mom answered, "Of course not, they are his sons." I cried, "Then why? Why did you abandon me? Why wasn't I enough? Why did you hurt Ry, Dusty, Katie, and me like this? Why?"

My mom ignored those questions, "You're just as beautiful as I'd imagine you to be in my head." I wiped my tears, "I don't care." My mom sighed, "I did what I felt I had to do. I couldn't let Ryan, Dustin, or Katie know about what really happened. As soon as they found out, they turned their back on me like I always feared. I'd already lost one child; I didn't want to lose the other three."

Katie hissed, "You vile bitch!" Logan held her back. I questioned, "Why? Why was I the sacrifice you made?" My mom said, "David is my husband. That's not the..." She trailed off then incredulously asked, "Is that a ring on your finger?"

You're a bit young for that step. I can't believe your brothers are letting that happen, but..."

I cut her off yelling, "I'm emancipated! They couldn't stop me if they wanted to. Guess whose fault that is? Then there's the fact that I'm now eighteen!" My mom acted as if I didn't yell, "I didn't want to sacrifice you. I thought letting David believe he'd won would give all you kids your best chance." I threw my hands up, "You wanted to give Katie, Dusty, and Ry a fake dead body. How could you even do that?"

My mom said, “Well, witches could do that easily. A face would be hard for the average witch to get right, but a gunshot to the head so that your face would be messed up would’ve worked. It would’ve let them move on. Katie became a private investigator for god’s sakes. That’s a far cry from her dream of being a lawyer.”

I pointed out, “That’s your fault. Had you been honest with them it wouldn’t have happened. All you had to do was get word to my dad. You had almost four years to reach out and you did nothing. I didn’t even know he took care of me until I turned one.”

My mom sighed, “I didn’t just give you to him, I still saw you while you were in Faerie. I couldn’t just part with you. Marc brought me to see you frequently.” I laughed humorlessly, “Are you serious? You couldn’t part with me? You did! When David said jump, you asked how high?” My mom frowned, “I protected you; he would’ve killed you.”

I countered, “You could’ve come with me, all of us could’ve run. You me, Dusty, Ry, and Katie. They all would’ve come.” My mom disagreed, “I couldn’t take them away from their father.”

My dad interjected, “You took my daughter from me quite easily to let David raise her, then cast her aside. I knew you were weak, but not to this degree. You know he is using magic against you, but you do nothing to fight it. I cannot accept that. You should’ve done something to protect our daughter.”

Haley gasped, everyone looked over at her. My dad continued harshly, “I, Marcious Walsh, Prince of House of the Water Fairies reject you June Forrester of the earth fairy descent as my mate. Water and Earth will be no more in this soul tie.”

Holy crap! My mom fell to the ground in pain. I felt their souls disconnect from each other. I shivered; it was an odd feeling. My mom cried, “I’m sorry, Marc.” My dad held his head high, “It is Prince Marcious to you. My baby thought I didn’t love her. She didn’t even know I took care of her when she was a baby; you took my presents from her! You let our baby get attacked by rogues. Only because she could use her powers instinctually, and she knew a little self-defense, does she live. She should’ve never known that life. She lived in fear and looked over her shoulder. I will never forgive you for this. You swore you’d take care of our little girl, and you failed spectacularly.”

June cried, “He has a hold on me.” My dad sadly replied, “If there was any part of you fighting it, I’d have forgiven you. This though, you didn’t even try. Not even for our baby. Goodbye, June.” He leaned down to kiss my cheek, “I’ll be upstairs if you need

me.” I whispered, “I’m sorry, dad.” My dad smiled, “I have you in my life now, I will be just fine.”

I searched his soul. He was angry, upset, and hurting. My mom was feeling the same, but neither were devastated like I would be if my soul mate had rejected me. I called, “Dad...” He turned, “Yes?” I timidly told him, “You have a second chance mate, I can feel it.” He smiled at me, while my mom burst into tears. My dad popped away.

I turned back to my mother, “You should’ve protected me, I was just a kid.” Mom said, “You’re my daughter.” I yelled, “YOU DON’T GET TO SAY THAT! According to a piece of paper you shoved in my face, you’re not anything to me. You’re not my mother, I’m my own person. You let me go, and now I’m letting you go. What’s David planning?”

My mother shrugged, “I don’t know. You need to be careful to make sure that he doesn’t find you. He’s been planning revenge since he found out you weren’t his. Please be careful, Evie. I’m sorry. Just... stay safe here. Whatever game he cooked up; it’s been four years in the making. Don’t play it, please. I’m so sorry.” I shook my head and sneered at her, “Screw your sorry.”

I popped with Lucas to the living room where my dad was. He was crying. I immediately asked, “Are you ok, dad?” He looked up admitting, “I wanted her to have a good reason. I thought she was fighting the spell, but that without training she wasn’t powerful enough. But she just gave in. I can forgive not wanting to be with me at the time we met. I can forgive not wanting to break up her family or letting me be your dad. Not this though. Choosing to let you live the way you did instead of getting word to me.”

I rubbed his back, “I understand. I haven’t met your current girlfriend, but I just know your second chance is out there. I feel it.” My dad wiped his eyes, “You would know. You are my little soul searcher.” Lucas chimed in, “June didn’t accept. I can have one of her other children tell her to accept your rejection if you need her to.” I turned with a question in my eyes. Why would that matter?

My dad just laughed, “That’s a wolf thing. Fairies are far ficker than wolves, angels, etcetera. Our lights move on if we reject someone. We live so long our goddess grants a lot of second chance mates, even third chances. We are freer spirited with mates than any other supernatural group. I do not need her to accept my rejection. My light accepted it as we are one in the decision. I didn’t fight my light to reject her. It’s why I was waiting to hear her side. I would’ve fought my light before then, and I did not want that. Her acceptance isn’t relevant to me, but I do appreciate the offer, Emmaline’s wolf.”

Lucas nodded. My dad hugged me and kissed my forehead, "I am sorry, I should've done better by you." I shook my head, "That's not true. You respected my mom's decision about me. That's not on you. You still tried to stay in my life, until it was too dangerous. I know you would've helped if you knew."

My dad's eyes filled with tears, "I would have. I would never have left you so alone without a roof over your head." I kissed his cheek, "I know. I love you, dad." He choked with emotion. "I love you too." He hugged me again.

Aiden winked at me from the corner. When did he come back? Aiden stepped forward and clapped Marcious on the back. He told him, "There's a water fairy situation I need you for, cousin." Marcious wiped his tears, "Of course there is, let's go home then." He looked directly at Lucas, "You take care of my little girl. I'll be back for the wedding." I smiled, "I can't wait to see you there." They popped away.

I asked, "Werewolves can reject their mates?" Lucas nodded, "It's not done often. When it happens though the other has to accept the decision. If the second party doesn't accept the rejection, their bond doesn't go away. If the wolf who rejected their mate doesn't mark another, they can rescind their rejection."

I nodded taking all that information in. My soul searcher side didn't really like that someone would do this. The way Lucas said it, these weren't mutual decisions. That was awful. How horrible would someone feel if their mate just rejected them with no conversation?

Lucas rubbed my shoulders while asking, "Do you want to say anything else to your mom?" I shook my head, "No, I will probably think of a million things later, but right now I just don't want to see her. I wasn't really prepared to confront her."

Hexxi popped in, "Now for the rest of my gift. Your mother will not remember anything about your life here. She will remember the words you, our father, and your siblings said to her. Well, and the Princess's words. Haley may have channeled some of her anger at her mother at yours, oh well. Happy Birthday, Emmaline." She kissed my forehead and popped out.

Idel huffed, "She is the WORST gift giver. I tried to tell her this was inappropriate when she just arrived with your mom." I shrugged, "It's fine. It's probably hardest for Logan." Beta James snorted. I hadn't even noticed he was here. I smiled at him, and he waved.

Idel asked, "Prince Logan? Why would it be hard for him?" I explained, "Because he probably wants to kill her for hurting Katie. On second thought, I amend my original

statement. It's hardest for Aubree, Valerie, Lucas, and Logan. All of whom are capable of kicking our mother's ass for hurting their mates. I've fought with Valerie, she's a really good fighter. Aubree I've seen in action, and she's quite powerful. Lucas is an Alpha and he's my strong sexy handsome man; enough said. Logan is a Hackura prince. I feel like that explains it."

Lucas agreed, "It does." Logan replied, "It definitely does. There were a lot of fairies here today. They are quite lucky Evin and I were the only Princes of the Hackura present." I asked, "Evin was here?" Katie sniffled, "Evin was with the guards. They, as in the Princes, are all wackadoodles about their mates being pregnant in this realm." I could live with that. I shot Logan a wink.

Katie continued, "For your wedding, Haley's whole guard is coming with mine. Even Logan's is coming to guard me as well. How insane is that? The Princess' guard is going to watch me." Logan interjected, "Just the two not on duty, the other two are coming for Haley." Katie snorted, "Right, that makes it less crazy. PLUS, ALL your brothers are coming to guard the perimeter." I frowned, "Please tell them they are welcome to join the festivities."

Dylan dramatically jumped up, "They will absolutely be there. One second you'll be all I wish they would come inside and the next BAM they are beside you. Shrugging, like they've been inside the whole time. NINJA SKILLED!"

Logan rolled his eyes, "I have never said the words ninja skilled in my entire life. I'm sure they will come inside to wish you well as you are important to Haley and me. I will tell them they are welcome." I nodded, "Katie, are you ok?" Katie sniffled, "I should ask you that." I pointed out, "I don't have extra hormones raging due to pregnancy."

Ry and Dusty came upstairs crying. Katie cried out, "She had no right. She changed all our lives, and admitted she could've fought David's spells on her; it was just too much work. Too much work! She threw a thirteen-year-old... damn it fourteen... out in the cold, hard world because it was too much effort to use her brain? I know they weren't you, but all those little girls who were out there on their own... the girls we saw the end of their lives. They were Jane Doe's. Some drowned, got hit by cars, and some were murdered... mostly by Johns or pimps probably. I investigated some of them and turned what I found over. They were just little girls; they weren't you, but they could've been. She just let that happen. Any of them could've been you."

She waved her hands saying, "I'm sorry." I went over and hugged her, "They weren't me." Ry whispered, "It could have easily been you if someone collected the bounty.

Those girls we saw shot, stabbed, strangled... It's just so wrong. I can't believe that's our mother down there."

I sighed, "Overall this was a great birthday. Let's not let mom ruin the rest of it." I grabbed Katie and led her to Lucas' theater. Dustin asked, "Are we going with the classic pick?" I laughed, "What else would we watch Dusty? It's a tradition."

Dylan said, "And pray tell, what is the movie of choice? Or are we watching some home video of Emmaline screeching at the top of her lungs that it's her birthday at midnight. I need to prepare." I pulled out the cartoon of Anastasia. I told him, "This is the movie, Dylan." Dylan grinned, "I accept that."

Haley chimed in, "I've never seen that. What's it about?" I gasped, "OH MY GOSH! This was my absolute FAVORITE movie!" Dusty wryly added, "It was, I can still quote the entire movie. She watched it incessantly after Ryan played it for her babysitting one day."

Katie laughed, "We watched this every year on your birthday after you'd gone, and we had milkshakes. We looked through the phot albums from your birthday and always bought an extra strawberry milkshake for you." I teared up, "You guys!" Dusty waved, "Hey, hey! No more tears, we are watching the Anastasia movie that all of us can quote BY HEART." I told them, "I'm singing all the songs, and no one can judge me. There's a rule about no judging the birthday girl."

Ry laughed, "Are you going to dance too? I loved the dances." I admitted, "I mean, I kinda want to." Everyone laughed. Lucas encouraged, "I want to see you dance, baby girl." We all sat down to watch the movie. Katie even got up and danced with me as we sang the songs.

Haley was intently watching the movie. She loved the bat, Bartok. She leaned over and said something to Dylan which he howled about. I told everyone after the movie, "I always wanted that crown she had, it's beautiful."

Lucas winked, "I own a jewelry store, say the word and I'll have them make you one." I laughed, "We will put a pin in that." Haley said, "I liked the movie, but that is nothing like what happened to Anastasia."

I asked a bit surprised, "You know the story of Anastasia?" Haley nodded, "We study Princesses and Princes in Faerie. That is not what happened to her, but it's a much better story." I laughed, "Which is why I love it."

Haley smiled and hugged me, “Happy Birthday!” Everyone gave me hugs and left. Aubree said, “We’d like you to pop us to Hawaii.” I called, “Be right back, Lucas.” I popped and landed them in their holiday house.

Aubree squealed, “We meant tomorrow! Good Lord! What if the owner is here?” I laughed, “The owner are Dale and Debbie Lyons, and they aren’t here. Have fun guys! Your luggage is in your room.” I hugged Dusty and then Aubree. “Love you guys!” They both laughed, “Love you too.”

I popped back to Lucas and we went to bed. The next day, I woke up and went to train per usual. I got back into bed with Lucas when I was done. I woke up when Dylan coming into the room, “Strangest thing... I didn’t wake up to a squealing fairy this morning. I got a taste of that, and I quite liked it. I want it back. Squealing fairy hour is now mandatory. There were milkshakes, squealing, bed jumping, pajamas. I mean there’s literally nothing else you could ask of a nighttime wakeup call.”

I laughed. Lucas asked, “Do you need something, Dylan?” Dylan shook his head slightly in disbelief, “Yes, obviously. I don’t just walk in here to disturb your sleep. I’m not the schedule tyrant, that’s obviously you.” Lucas sat up, “What’s going on?” Dylan informed him, “We had some warriors injured on patrol duty.” I gasped.

Lucas growled, “Why didn’t you link me?” Dylan frowned, “It just happened, and we have prisoners to interrogate.” I sighed and gave him a kiss, “At least they let me have my birthday.” I didn’t see Lucas until later that day, and he was upset about something.

By Monday, I was pouting because Lucas, Eric, Dylan, and Caleb were taking an overnight trip out of town Thursday and Friday night. Lacy was pouting too. Lucas was trying to say it would be fine. I knew it would be fine, I just didn’t want to be apart from him. I said, “I could pop Lacy and me to you guys.” Lucas laughed, “There will be vampires there. Eric won’t even let Haley pop in. He’s told Cassie quite sternly she can’t either.”

I scoffed, “He couldn’t tell Cassie anything sternly if he tried.” Dylan jumped, “AH HA! You see it’s not just me.” Fairy practices and fighting training were going really well. Thursday the guys asked that we train right after school so they could watch before they left. I thought it was odd that I didn’t see Dylan throughout our entire practice.

After it was over, I asked Lacy, “Where’s Dylan?” She snickered, “He’s... hanging around.” Haley asked, “Huh?” She glanced over at Eric, “What did you do husband of mine?” Eric innocently replied, “Me?” His soul felt quite smug though.

Lucas groaned, “Uh oh. He hasn’t linked me... but you... told me to block my link for the lesson. Great, he’s going to pout the entire drive.” Lucas clearly unlocked his link and started laughing, “Come on, let’s all go see Dylan.”

Haley grabbed Eric, “Let’s just tell the group where we are popping to. Walking doesn’t sound like something I want to do right now. Especially, since you all are going out of fucking town after this without us.” Eric leaned down and whispered in her ear.

We popped into a clearing. Dylan was caught by his leg hanging up in a tree upside down. Dylan yelled, “LUCAS! WHY haven’t you answered me? All the blood has rushed to my head! I’ve been swaying here for hours. Don’t you worry I used my time wisely. Watch this cool trick.”

He gained enough momentum to fling himself between a couple of trees. I laughed when I read his stomach. Eric had written Don’t mess with Eric Connors. I asked, “Is that permanent marker.” Dylan answered, “It is, little Luna. If you would be so kind to figure out how to magic it off... I would be grateful.” I assured him, “I will look into it.”

I linked Lacy, “You knew?” Lacy admitted, “I told Dylan to come pick me a flower from out here. Haley’s not the only one who likes to pull pranks.” Haley said, “I am fucking offended I was not included in the prank. This is barely a prank.”

Dylan agreed, “Right you are! I would include you in any prank. The NERVE of these people! Who doesn’t include our fun sized ninja fairy goddess in prank plans? It was even your own husband. You should withhold sex from him for a month.” Eric growled at him.

Haley snapped and Dylan was free. Dylan got up and then fell back down, “Whoa, head rush. Thank you, fun sized ninja fairy goddess. I’m literally on my knees in front of you. Seriously though guys, I can’t stand up. I guess someone has to carry me to the car.”

Haley popped away and came back with Beta Caleb, who sighed, “Alright, let’s go funny guy.” He hauled Dylan over his shoulder. Dylan shouted, “Giddy up, partner!” Then slapped Beta Caleb on the butt. We all laughed.

Beta Caleb shook his head, “You are lucky I like you, Dylan.” Dylan said, “I blame all the blood that’s rushing back into my extremities. It’s making me loopy.” Beta Caleb snorted, “Yeah... that’s it.”

We popped to the car and waited for them to get there. Caleb asked, “You didn’t just pop him to the car because?” I shrugged, “No one asked us to.” Beta Caleb groaned, “Seriously Eric and Lucas? You guys suck.”

Dylan laughed, “Yes, FINALLY someone admits GAP is truly a prick. Now, we have a WHOLE car ride to talk about what workout you all do over in GAP’s territory for your glutes. This man has buns of steel, Lucas.” We all laughed, and I kissed Lucas goodbye. Haley and Lacy kissed their mates too.

Haley stated, “I could come, and conceal our scents.” Eric raised an eyebrow, “You can only do that for two hours at a time.” Haley shrugged, “So we pop out and come back. I knew giving you that fucking book would bite me in the ass somehow.” Eric laughed, “No popping in, we will be back tomorrow night.” They got in the car and drove away.

Haley hung out for a bit before popping back to her territory. Lucas called when they got to their destination. They were about to go into a meeting. My phone rang the second I hung up. I laughed, “Do you miss me already?” There was silence then I heard, “Hello, Evelyn.” I sucked in a breath answering, “Hello, David.”