

# Thorn in our side

Lucas woke with a start when he felt Emmaline jump on him. I was disoriented, but I knew it was Emmaline because of the smell and the tingles erupting all over my body. Which was a good thing, or I could've hurt her. No one had ever jumped me screaming about their birthday before.

She was out of the room before I could process much. I checked my phone. Was she serious? It was midnight! She squealed running through the house. I got a link from Dylan, "WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE WE BEING ATTACKED! I'M COMING! Are you even awake?! I was not told I had to be your alarm during a CRISIS! Get up! Find out what's happening! Wait! That's my job. I'm on it! On the double, Dylan!"

I was still rubbing my face trying to wake up as I stumbled after Emmaline. Dylan caught up with me. He was far too happy, "What in GOD'S name is happening? And can we make this a nightly event? Emmaline does know she lives with wolves now, right? The only one she hasn't managed to wake up is your sister. For someone with supernatural hearing, Lacy's is quite a deep sleeper. Not even a herd of elephants could wake that woman up; I swear it to you." I did know that.

We watched Emmaline run into Dustin's room. Dylan said, "Be right back." He ran away. Emmaline came out and ran to Ryan's room. Dylan showed back up with popcorn. He pointed at Dustin's door, "So, her siblings appear to be aware she was going to do this. I've joined team witches suck with Haley. I had JUST gone to sleep. If I knew I'd be woken up by a screaming banshee running through the house; I would've made different choices."

I groaned, "I'm still not really awake." Dylan snorted, "Obviously my eyes deceive me. I do not see you standing here with your eyes open talking to me. That's not a thing Dylan sees." I glared at him, and he winked. I rolled my eyes.

When Emmaline reached Katie's room, she jumped on Logan instead of Katie. Probably because she didn't want to tackle her pregnant sister. Dylan raised an eyebrow at Logan when he came out of the room.

He mocked, "Thanks for the heads-up, creepy ninja assassin." Logan smirked at us. Emmaline ran out to ask Dylan if Lacy was asleep in their room. He was far too happy about what was going on.

Dylan threw popcorn in his mouth as he asked, "What do you think? Herd of elephants or can a screeching fairy actually wake up Lacy?" I shrugged, "We will find

out shortly.” Dylan said, “I’m placing good odds on the screeching fairy.” He shoved more popcorn in his mouth. We heard Lacy scream at Emmaline.

Dylan laughed, “A screeching fairy it is. I’ll have to keep that in mind, it could come in handy. I jumped on the bed while she was sleeping and nothing. I’m not talking a mere bounce either, I got momentum. Your truly treated the bed like a trampoline. I’ve played music, danced a jig, and all I needed was a fairy. I should’ve known. What WAS I thinking?”

My dad linked me, “Dear god, son. A little warning next time!” I replied, “I didn’t know.” My dad grumbled, “How’s an old wolf supposed to sleep around here?” Dylan nudged me, “Uh... her siblings are still standing outside their rooms.

What’s part two? Do we go swimming in the lake? I’m too old to stay up until the early hours of the morning. I have a pup coming. I can’t become a serious person, so I have to get my sleep. It’s all I’ve got to prepare for Mini Dylan. You just KNOW he’s going to be a menace. I’m already so proud of the mischief he will cause.” He wiped a fake tear from his eye.

Emmaline re-emerged to yell at everyone. Dylan contemplated, “To go back to bed, or find out what’s next?” I snorted, “We all know you are coming to find out. Literally all of us. No one doubts you’re coming.” Dylan agreed, “You’re right. It wasn’t a real question. I can’t miss any part of my show. Onwards into the fairy madness!” Emmaline practically floated down the stairs; she was so excited.

Dylan linked me, “I’m so tempted to tell her she could pop, but then I’d miss something.” I shrugged. Dylan asked, “Can fairy’s float? I haven’t gotten to that chapter in my precious yet.” I laughed, “You’re ahead of me in the book, by several chapters.”

Dylan declared, “Because I WILL be the resident fairy expert, I deserve that title. I have loved the partial fairy’s since they came into our lives. I have been paying rapt attention to my show. I’m the president of their fan club, and NO ONE WILL TAKE THAT TITLE FROM ME! Not even GAP or any of the wolves with fairy mates. This title is MINE, all mine. I’ll sell part of my soul to the fairy queen to get more books, so I know more than all of you. You all will have to ask me your fairy questions because I WILL KNOW ALL LUCAS! Muhahaha.” He laughed like an evil Disney villain.

I rolled my eyes, “Ok, Ursula.” Dylan clapped me on the back, “I’m so proud that you got the reference. I need to write this down. Why don’t I have a pen?” Dylan spoke out loud to Logan, “Creepy Ninja assassin, do you have a pen? I seem to have

forgotten one when I stumbled out of bed thinking we were being attacked because none of you could warn a Beta.”

Logan laughed, “Here.” Dylan snorted, “Do you have paper too? He actually had a pen, Lucas! I bow to his preparedness.” I replied, “I heard him.” We walked in the kitchen and Emmaline passed out milkshakes.

I saw Dylan get a piece of paper from a drawer. I asked incredulously, “Are you actually writing it down that I picked up your reference?” Dylan said, “No one will believe me if it’s not documented. I do these things for you, and you don’t even appreciate it. Also, I love this tradition. I will now run around the house on my birthday hollering, and then someone will have to give me a milkshake. I will teach this to my pups and so on. We will live on!” I rolled my eyes. Lacy came in and demanded a milkshake.

My dad linked me, “Did I hear Lacy screaming about a milkshake?” I answered, “Apparently after waking everyone up at midnight for her birthday, everyone drinks milkshakes.” My dad muttered, “I want a damn milkshake.” I laughed and closed my link with him. I wasn’t surprised in the slightest when he showed up.

I linked, “Where’s mom?” My dad snorted, “Your sister gets her deep sleeping habits from your mother. She has no idea we are awake.” Dylan linked me, “Fairies have the right ideas. Let’s never work on our birthdays again. No training, no paperwork. Human’s take days off... vacation days. Let’s mandate this policy. Just so you know, I will not be working on my birthday going forward. I will now always expect a midnight chocolate chip cookie dough milkshake. Feel free to stand outside my door with it as I run the halls yelling it’s my birthday. We need a shadow day in Faerie. I just need to study them, Lucas. Can I do a summer abroad in Faerie? I didn’t go to college. PLLLLLEEAASSSE?”

I shook my head, “Dylan, just... go to bed.” Dylan nodded, “You need time to think about it, that’s cool. We have a whole semester before it’s summer. You take your time big man!” Out loud he asked why no one warned us this was coming.

I linked him, “You keep forgetting they have fairy blood. they thought it would be funny.” Dylan squealed, “I LOVE THEM! Let’s convince them all to move in. We can’t have Haley because GAP would never let that fly, but these three... we could accomplish this. I believe in us.” I pointed out the flaw, “Logan can’t live here, and Ryan already basically does.”

Dylan snorted, “The creepy ninja assassin can live here. They have that whole weird time warp in their realm. Don’t ruin this for me with your logic, Lucas! Marcus and

Bjourn practically live in GAP's territory. All of them rotate through. We should get one!" There would be no talking him out of this.

They began discussing where you could get a milkshake at this time. Dylan linked me, "I think partial fairies might hang out at this Sonic during the late hours. Don't expect me home on school nights. I'll find the closest Sonic and troll for more partial fairies for my show. I'll just wait for someone to order a milkshake. It's a flawless plan, and don't you even THINK about trying to ruin it!"

I snarked, "Far be it from me to ruin your plans, enjoy Sonic." Dylan asked, "Do you know what this place is? Have you just been holding out on me?" I admitted, "I have no idea what Sonic is but evidently it has milkshakes."

Dylan eyed me, "I'll believe you for now, but I better not find out you're lying to me." he turned and went back to his room muttering, "Trying to ruin my fairy fun... I swear that brother of yours, Lacy. He just doesn't get it." Lacy laughed, "My poor Dylan, you just love your fairy show." Dylan complained, "Your brother tries to take it away from me all the time. I think I need cheering up." Lacy laughed as they turned the corner.

I asked Emmaline if we could go to sleep now, but she had other plans. We were naked in seconds, and sleep was suddenly the last thing on my mind. I'd missed this. Dominic said, "I would like to state for the record we didn't have to wait so long for this. She was waiting for you to make a move. Let's make this part of her tradition, screaming, milkshakes, and then sex. OOOHH we could use milkshakes during sexy time."

I closed our link when he began to picture that. Once she'd finished, I rolled over on top of her and kept us going well into the morning. We both fell asleep after we'd finished. It was beginning to feel like my birthday too. I woke up to Emmaline on top of me again, still naked. I could get used to this. I worshiped her body until she said we needed to shower. I could've kept her up here all day.

When she snapped into her outfit for the party my pants tightened. Dominic growled, "Fuck the party. Let's keep her up here. They can all go home..." Emmaline wanted to see her cake though. Dominic huffed, "Mate will love the cake. Fine..." We popped into the kitchen, and Dylan's favorite Omega led her to her cake. She loved it just as I knew she would.

Dylan skipped over to us inhaling deeply. He linked me teasingly, "Get it, get it! Is that what you two have been doing all morning? You don't need to answer, I already know." He actually ran outside to start up the band. I rolled my eyes. Our pack mostly

made up the band at school, so I'd had them dress up in their uniforms for the mini parade we were having for Emmaline's birthday.

Haley and Bexley had too much fun conjuring floats according to Eric. Emmaline was buzzing with excitement. Haley popped in and Eric came over to me. He didn't look overly happy. He narrowed his eyes asking, "Do you know what you have done to me, Lucas?" I shrugged, "I actually don't."

Dylan showed up with popcorn and threw some in his mouth. He spoke, "Do tell us though, won't you GAP? Leave nothing out. I can't believe he didn't tell me. He knows I live for the details of such things. I'm ever so hurt, Lucas." I shot him a look.

Eric snorted, "You made Haley google parade floats." Dylan started to laugh. Eric continued, "Haley has already started to plan the triplet's birthday party. She's told Bjourn when he's crowned king, they need floats at their parade."

Logan walked over adding, "She has a vision board. She found that on google too. The floats are pretty cool, it's a Viking type feel to Bjourn's coronation parade." Dylan happily asked, "Prince Bjourn is actually going to have a parade?"

Logan shrugged, "Why not? It can take place after the coronation. It will make Haley happy, and it will be something new. If we hate it, when my nephew, Hastein, becomes king we won't do it."

Eric raised an eyebrow adding, "I now know what a spritle looks like, Lucas. Because they will be on the floats for the triplet's birthday. There are unicorns, wolves, and several puppies from a show called paw patrol. The cookie monster has a float, and that's just the start."

Dylan laughed, "Good thing you are rich." Eric snorted, "She conjures them, it doesn't cost me money. I just have to hear about every single piece of it because she's so excited. Fuck your parade, Lucas." Dylan couldn't be happier, so of course his parents had to come over.

Eric linked me, "What the fuck?" I replied, "They came back." Eric snorted, "I know, but I didn't know they'd come to see Dylan. They are just walking around... Haley will hate them." I admitted, "The reunion did not go well." Eric sighed, "Wonderful."

Davis complimented me, "Beautiful party for the Luna, Lucas. Alpha Eric, it is good to see you." Dylan smirked, "We changed his name. He's now God Alpha Prick, GAP for short because his title is getting so long. Did you hear all the way in Europe he's a prince now? He's such a prick." Eric's lips twitched.

Betty's jaw dropped. Davis turned red, "Dylan Frost! Alpha Eric, I'm so sorry about him." Dylan snarked, "You don't get to apologize for me, and I'm not sorry. Not one little bit of me is sorry, GAP." Eric replied, "I am aware you are not sorry, nor do I need you to be." Dylan stuck his tongue out at his dad.

Davis yelled, "WILL YOU GROW UP!" Haley popped over to us, "Who the FUCK are you? And why is your voice raised at my friend Dylan? You dare raise your voice to your Beta? At Emmaline's birthday party no less? EXPLAIN yourself or I WILL pull fairy hijinks on your ass."

Davis faltered, "Who are you to speak to me like that?" Dylan laughed, "You done did now." Eric snarled at Davis, who paled. Haley answered, "I'm Princess Luna Haley Cambridge Conners. Emmaline is my cousin, and you will NOT ruin her birthday. Who the FUCK are you?"

Davis bowed his head, "Apologies, Princess. I am Davis Frost." Haley stared at him then looked at Dylan asking, "Is he serious? He wants me to believe he's related to you. Please... he's dreadfully boring, and I've only known him less than thirty seconds. There's no way you two are related."

Dylan howled with laughter before I tapped his shoulder. He told Haley, "I think that often, but he is my father." Haley pursed her lips, "Yes, well... Emmaline did mention you were joining our little club about having terrible parents. I see why now."

She turned to the Frost's "Ok, Dylan's supposed parents.... We can confirm that, can't we Eric? You all do DNA testing here, yes? That was on a show Miley was watching, it was a big deal." Eric laughed, "Yes."

Haley glanced at the Frosts before adding, "We should steal his hairbrush then. I do not believe Dylan is related to these people. Anyway Mr. and Mrs. Frost, I don't abide disrespect to my family or friends. Dylan is my friend. If you think you can come home and ruin my cousin's first real birthday party in four years, you have another think fucking coming. Google says birthday parties are very important. I myself didn't like them until my past birthday, which Eric made amazing."

She paused then added, "To be fair, my Hackura family would've thrown me parities, but I was traumatized and just wanted family there. I was not in place to have celebrations like this when I was there, but Emmaline is. She deserves this. So, why don't you two run away? I hear you are good at that."

Betty and Davis didn't move, they just stared at her. Haley raised an eyebrow. Dylan linked me, "She stole that move from GAP and perfected it. I love it." He would.

Haley asked, “Did I stutter? Run along before I call upon the wind and trees to hold you up as our pinatas for the party. Something about Travis over there tells me he’d take the first fucking swing.” Travis smiled somewhat menacingly. Jacqueline was trying not to laugh. Betty and Davis tucked their tails and left.

Eric kissed her, “That’s so you, Angel. I love you.” Haley smiled, “That’s good. Because I love you too, and we’ve got these little kids running around. I have plans to have lots of little mini versions of us running around. You have so many rooms in our house. It really does seem like a challenge to fill them.” Haley winked at him and popped away.

I laughed, “Eric, just how many pups are you having? You have a lot of rooms in your home.” Dylan held his hands in a prayer position, “Tell me it’s bucket loads.” Eric laughed, “We don’t have a set number, but Haley wants a big family. She sneezes out pups, so labor doesn’t put her off of having more.”

Dylan held up a hand, “I’m sorry. Did you just say sneezes out pups?” Eric nodded. Dylan squealed, “WHAT CHAPTER IS THAT IN? Don’t mind me as I SKIP TO IT IMMEDIATELY! LUCAS! Start popping out pups with your fairy! My life needs fairy/wolf pups. Wolvies if you will. Get it? Wolf and Fairies combined. Wolvies.”

I smirked, “You may get one next year.” Dylan squealed. I looked around and noticed Emmaline had stepped away. Dylan jumped around as he spoke, “Lucas hasn’t read the book as much as me, GAP. I know that if a fairy female’s first pregnancy is multiples, they will ALWAYS have multiples.”

He fell to his knees pleading, “OH, MOON GODDESS LET EMMALINE HAVE TRIPLETS! For me, please. Then there will always be at least twins after.” I laughed, “We will just see, Dylan.” He was about to answer when we heard gasping.

Then Haley yelled, “WHAT THE FUCK?!” That wasn’t good. Dylan sucked in a breath, “Dear sweet baby Jesus. What in the sassafras is happening?!” My breath nearly left my body when I spotted the reason for the confusion. Emmaline’s mom was here. I linked Brad, “Get upstairs to my room and guard Emmaline, NOW!” Brad took off.

Hexxi spoke calmly, “No one panic, I obviously have a plan. I thought it would be cathartic for Emmaline to say what she wants to mommy dearest here. Then I will return her with only the memories of what Emmaline said. She will not remember who was here or where here is, not that she knows that anyway. Isn’t it the best present?”

Dylan voiced all our thoughts, “NO! It’s the worst present ever. She’s married to the guy we are trying to keep Emmaline away from. This is the literal worst idea of all time. It blows all my Beta plans out of the water. GAP! Do GAP things about this. Tear June limb from limb and come up with a story about how she was NEVER here. NEVER! Do your worst.” Eric looked like he was going to do just that.

Idel yelled, “Get her out of here, Hexxi! You are the worst gift giver!” Dylan agreed, “You kind of are, but on the bright side you win the worst award. If you’re going to be bad at something, go for being the worst. GAP! You are not doing GAP things yet. Activate those powers.” Eric glanced at Haley whose eyes were blazing.

Hexxi huffed, “Guys! I thought really hard about this one!” Idel hissed, “Take her home!” Katie was trying to squirm out of Logan’s arms. She looked ready to kill her mom. Dustin and Ryan were rigid with anger. Hexxi crossed her arms defiantly.

Idel reiterated, “Hexxi, this is NOT an appropriate present. What happened to the necklace you were talking about? THAT was an appropriate present.” Hexxi pouted, “Don’t be jealous that my present is better than yours, sister.”

Dylan had popcorn again. Idel popped to her sister and threw a punch. To my shock, they began to fight. Dylan screamed, “YESSS!!! GAP, I take back my words. Continue to plot GAP things, don’t think I didn’t notice your plotting over there. No acting on your plots just yet. Hold on the GAP activities, reach down deep. Link Beta Caleb if you must, to continue plotting.”

Dylan started chanting, “GO IDEL! COME ON PEOPLE! IDEL! IDEL! IDEL! She’s one of us now. She’s a Beta female we MUST choose her righteous side in this fight.” Lucinda popped over to Dylan. She told him, “I do so like you, Beta Dylan.”

Dylan smiled, “Aww, shucks. It’s just Dylan to you, your majesty.” Lucinda smiled and turned back to the fight. Beta James was growling but remaining still. Haley’s voice cut through the chaos that had erupted, “Nice punch, Idel. Put your weight behind it though. Rotate through your feet.”

Idel corrected her stance. Eric and Logan laughed. Dylan squealed, “Fight advice, during a fight! I LOVE HER, LUCAS! GAP can’t we rent her for a week or something? Surely she needs a week away from you on occasion.” Eric growled at him.

I ordered, “Dylan, get June out of here before Emmaline comes back. Take her to the dungeon.” Dylan slammed his popcorn down on a table. He glared at everyone stating, “If ANYTHING else happens in my fairy show... I’ll get you somehow,



someway. Especially you, Lucas. Sending me on a warrior's errand away from my show. The nerve. The gumption... THE GALL."

He grabbed June, "Move it or lose it, lady. You're interrupting my show, and I take serious offense to that." June asked, "Will someone tell me what's going on? Katie? Dustin? Ryan? Is this really Evie's party? Did you really find her?"

She spotted Emmaline's dad and screamed, "Marc! Please! I want to see our little girl!" Dylan dragged her away. Marcious looked quite pale. Eric linked, "Damn. Now, I have to feel bad for a fairy. These parties make me question everything in my life. Why am I here? Not to feel bad for a fairy, yet here I am." I knew what he meant.

Idel hissed, "How could you do that to dad, Hexxi?" She attacked her again, and Haley continued to instruct her on how to improve her technique, which King Aiden found quite amusing. When Emmaline popped back in, Haley snapped the living room to its pre-fight state.

I quickly got her outside. I wasn't letting this ruin her party. Haley was right. This was her first party in four years. I'd tell her as soon as everyone cleared out. I linked Dylan, "The queen passed an edict that she has to be invited to every party Haley and Emmaline have."

Dylan responded, "Me too! I have to be invited too! THINK of how much that would annoy GAP." Dylan came outside skipping. He wanted Emmaline to throw a lot more parties so he could see the fairy queen more often. Aiden wasn't even remotely perturbed. A wolf would've been at my Beta's throat, but Aiden simply smiled and agreed.

Emmaline agreed to have her party first. Her happiness was infectious and bouncing between our bonds. Dylan linked me, "Hexxi isn't the worst at setting up alibis. June Forrester is checked into a spa in California. She's even been seen there. It's some creepy life like doll or something. David doesn't know she's here."

I sighed in relief, "Thank you for finding that." Dylan replied, "So ends Serious Dylan. Welcome the return of thoroughly enjoying his fairy show Dylan. He was missed in those brief moments, but he's back baby!" I rolled my eyes.

When we went back inside the Black Arrow was waiting with a birthday present. Dylan linked me, "Ok, how do I join their girl gang so I can get a birthday present from the black arrow? Is that... LUCAS IT'S AN ARROW NECKLACE... IT'S AN ARROW NECKLACE!!!! TELL ME YOUR MATE JUST GOT BA'S CALLING CARD! TELL ME... TELL ME... TELLLLL MEEEE!"

Dylan was prancing behind me jumping back and forth. BA confirmed it was her calling card. Dylan shouted, "I LOVE OUR LIVES, LUCAS! We know someone with a BA calling card. What am I saying? We know two! There's no way Haley doesn't have one. GOD our lives were so boring PPF."

I sighed, "I regret asking this already. What is PPF?" Dylan said, "Obviously it's Pre-Partial Fairies. I'm never going back. EVER! AWWW the black arrow is in love. SQUEAL! Maybe he can join our man group of mates. I bet he's awesome. I wonder if it's her string." I shrugged, "I'm sure we will find out."

Emmaline went to talk to Haley. I tensed. Surely, Emmaline wouldn't ask her what was wrong. Katie quickly said, "We had Haley promise not to tell Emmaline until after the party. It wasn't even hard. She is on a no one ruins the party kick. It's a little funny how an actual fight doesn't ruin the party in her mind. Fairies have weird qualifications for things."

Dylan interjected, "Glorious qualifications. They have GLORIOUS qualifications, and no one should try to change them." Logan actually smiled.

Emmaline opened her presents. Dylan linked me, "When you get back from your trip, you have to send Lacy and I somewhere. I feel left out now of the trip present group." I replied, "Have a birthday then." Dylan retorted, "My birthday is in the summer, and I want to be sent to the Atlantis resort in the Bahamas." I simply replied, "I know when your birthday is."

Haley started to lead us outside. I linked Eric, "I feel like I should've paid more attention to your email." Dylan pointed to something in front of me, "Umm, how did we miss this giant building the last few days? Did she do that after the parade? GOD, I need to be a fairy. They are over like I forgot to get someone a present, forgot an anniversary let me conjure something."

I linked Eric, "Did she do this when we went inside?" Eric snorted, "It's been here for a week under an enchantment so you couldn't see it." I explained that to Dylan. He asked, "What if we ran into it? Like just running in wolf form then BAM hit a building. That would've hurt while simultaneously being hilarious. I'm very sad that didn't happen. She needs to tell me these things, so I have people run laps then sit and watch them all hit an invisible wall. I would've been howling." Of course, he would've.

Emmaline loved my present. I linked my mom, "You did a great job with the picture's, it looks amazing." She replied, "Of course I did. I'm crafty!" Everyone

slowly filtered out after that. Once we got down to our group of people Emmaline wanted to know what was going on.

Hexxi pouted about us not liking her gift. I linked Dylan, "Didn't like her present? As if bringing her mother here is a present." Dylan shrugged, "She seems to think it is." I could feel her panic in my chest when I explained the situation. For a brief moment, her emotions spiraled so hard I couldn't decipher them. Hexxi explained her logic. There were too many ways this plan could go wrong.

Eric linked me, "Haley is going to have Aiden make sure June truly can't remember anything about where Emmaline is." I asked, "Why doesn't Haley do it?" Eric seemed confused about that as well, "Haley said Aiden has the strongest ability for the charm. Whatever that means. She knows June couldn't break her own charm, but she wants to be certain since this is so important." I agreed, "Alright."

Emmaline stalked off and popped to the dungeon. I yelled, "FUCK!" and ran after her. I didn't want her to face this alone. I could hear everyone running behind me, except the fairies who simply popped. I quickly made it down to Emmaline's side.

Emmaline confronted her mother. To no one's surprise her reasons for not protecting her daughter were shitty. Dylan linked me, "Seriously, it was too hard? That's what we are going with? Let's have my parents meet her, they will be besties." I responded, "I can't believe she just said that." I bit back several growls.

Dylan linked, "Can't we hurt her just a little? Let's convince David she finally left his him and keep her for ourselves." I growled, "Don't tempt me. Besides, Marcious might not let us seeing as she's his mate."

Dylan sighed, "True, but the creepy ninja assassin is on our side. We can do it." I looked over at Logan. He was mad. Dylan continued, "He's terrifying when he's angry. I would piss my pants if he turned that stare my way. Never tell GAP I said that. That was supposed to be in my internal running monologue." I promised, "Your secret is safe with me, Dylan."

Eric linked me, "Our mates won the medals for worst mother ever." I gritted out, "Can you think of a way we can keep her here?" Eric said, "Of course I can. Do you want to keep her?" I sighed, "Yes, but this is about what Emmaline wants."

June walked us through her thought process of giving up Emmaline. Dylan linked, "This is the worst explanation of all time. This coming from the man whose parents disappeared off the face of the earth for the white wolf legend. It's like parents are

competing for the world's worst parent. Just when you think someone is the sure-fire winner someone else ZOOMS into the lead.”

We were all stunned. Emmaline’s anger snapped so hard within me when her mother mentioned she was young to be engaged. My teeth elongated and Dominic took over. Emmaline yelled at her, but June stood her ground until she glanced at me. She quickly paled and backed away.

Dylan nudged me, “Hey there, Dominic. No need to compete with our resident creepy ninja assassin for the scariest face. Let’s let Lucas come back so we don’t shift all wrapped around Emmaline.” Dominic snarled, “Fine.”

Dylan cooed, “Who’s a good boy? Dominic is a good boy! I’ll get you a nice treat.” Dominic growled at him, and I took back over. I glared, “Dylan... really?” Dylan shrugged, “I know, I didn’t have a treat. It was mean. Next time, I’ll have a treat for my good buddy and pal, Dominic.”

I huffed and listened to Emmaline. Dylan linked, “Witches can make us see dead bodies that aren’t really someone’s dead body? I will now have NIGHTMARES that any enemy with a gunshot wound to the face is going to pop back up. I WILL go through our files for those suspects. Consider me paranoid for the rest of time.”

I sighed trying to focus on remaining calm for Emmaline to tap into me if she needed to. We all gaped at Marcious when he rejected June. Dylan whispered, “I have never seen a rejection before.” I admitted, “Me either.” Marcious turned to leave.

Dylan raised his hand jumping up and down, “Wait! She didn’t accept. We can’t just let the man hang in the abyss like that! She has to accept. He’s not wrong, she did let his daughter flounder. She’s a shit mom and mate.”

I assured him, “We will get her to accept, I won’t let Emmaline’s dad suffer.” Dylan screamed in our link when Emmaline told her dad he had a second chance, “SHE CAN TELL WHEN MATES ARE COMING NOW? GOD BLESS THE FAIRIES! I need to skip to the soul searcher chapter in my book.”

June in turn warned Emmaline about David. I linked Dylan, “This pains me, but June is right. David has known Emmaline is a fairy for four years now. He’s had a lot of time to plan.” Dylan agreed “True, but we will handle what he’s got. We have a King, a Prince, and a Princess on our side. Plus, the ninja assassins. We got this.”

I reminded him, “He was feared for a reason. We can obviously beat him, but he’s had years of prep we haven’t had.” Dylan sighed, “Annoyingly that’s right. Despite not

being a fairy, David is known for playing games.” He was right. Emmaline popped us upstairs, and she comforted her father.

I was relieved Marcious didn’t need June to accept his rejection. I linked Dylan, “We don’t need June to accept. Marcious and his light agreed on the rejection; the bond is gone.” Dylan slowly replied, “Well... that’s good... I guess.” I pointed out, “We don’t have to worry about it at least.”

Dylan told me, “I’m ignoring all feelings about that. Just so you know, Haley eviscerated June with her words. You missed an excellent Haley rant. I actually applauded. I want her to give my parents a speech. She can be my filter. I’ll say what I want then she says the unfiltered better version.”

I teased, “Dylan, when are you ever unfiltered?” Dylan laughed, “You’re right. When you’re right, you’re right. Aiden is doing his shoomey whooey forget you know where you are spiel charm deal.” I questioned, “Shoomey whooey?” Dylan retorted, “What would you call it?” I replied, “Not that.”

After Emmaline’s dad left, we talked about werewolves rejecting their mates. I could tell her soul searcher side hated the thought of that. It hurt me to think about it now that I had Emmaline. Eric had talked about rejecting his mate because there was a time when he thought he could.

I knew he loved being the Ribbon because now he knows no matter how young he was when he saw Haley, that was it for him. He wasn’t going to reject her. The mate bond was powerful, more powerful than unmated wolves believed it to be. He only thought about it because he’d made so many enemies he didn’t know if it was fair to put his mate in their line of fire. Rejection is rare but occurs with abuse among werewolves.

Hexxi popped in and told Emmaline everything was taken care of. She was the worst giver I’d ever come across. Emmaline had done better with seeing her mother than I thought she would though. I linked Dylan, “Hexxi might not be invited to future birthday parties. I don’t want to know what else she comes up with.”

Dylan snorted, “No joke. Haley is the Queen of presents apparently. I thought fairy’s liked giving presents.” I replied, “They do, Hexxi just isn’t good at it.” Emmaline shrugged of her mom being here. She even added who she felt bad for, me and her sibling’s mates. She confounded me.

Dylan commented, “Very astute observation. Seeing your mate in pain like all you mates were... I don’t envy any of you. Your control is better than mine. I’d have

ripped her head off for saying those things to Lacy. It was too hard. Then don't be a parent. Jeez, adoption is a choice. Giving up custody is another choice." He wasn't wrong.

Dylan linked me about Logan's wedding day security measure, "The Creepy ninja needs to calm down as T. Swift would say." I sighed, "It does seem to be bordering on overkill." Dylan linked, "BORDERING? Two of his brother's is overkill. They just listed fifteen guards for Katie alone. At least I think it's fifteen. Who am I kidding? It's probably more. Our dude needs a Zen Garden."

Dylan grinned before telling me, "I'll buy him one." I cautioned, "Dylan, I don't think you want to start messing with a Hackura Prince. Eric is bad enough." Dylan shrugged "GAP loves it. Not to mention technically speaking GAP is a Hackura prince now. Because he is the prick of all races. Our creepy ninja probably feels left out."

I sighed, "Dylan..." Dylan answered, "Dylan is not listening right now because he's on his phone purchasing the perfect Zen Garden for a creepy ninja assassin." I sighed knowing there was no stopping him at this point.

The Bishop brothers came back upstairs. They were talking about their journey to find Emmaline. Lacy linked me, "Did you ever think I was dead? Did you look for me like they did? At morgues?" I replied, "No, we knew you weren't dead. We were following your trail, thank god." Lacy nodded and I could tell she was a little relieved.

Emmaline pushed everything aside, and said it was time for her final birthday tradition. Dylan linked me, "Yes! There's more to the tradition! WHO'S PUMPED?" I chuckled, "Evidently, you are." Dylan elbowed me, "Darn tootin!"

Dylan linked, "Aren't you going to ask what movie we are watching?" I shook my head no, "We will find out." Dylan snorted, "Lame!" Naturally, he asked. I'd actually love to watch videos of Emmaline as a child. I winced when Haley hadn't seen the movie.

Dylan asked, "Can we bring her back and bitch slap the fuck out of Alania? I'm pretty sure she's still living somewhere, but we know people who could hold a séance if needed. I just don't think it is. What kid her age didn't see a Princess movie?" I snorted, "I think Eric will take care of it either way." Dylan said, "Of course he will. I'm just saying, I'd slap her for Disney in revenge. Clearly, Disney needs me."

Emmaline's siblings told her they watched this movie with milkshakes in her honor every year. Lacy linked me, "That's kind of beautiful... sad... but beautiful. They have a very strong sibling bond." I agreed, "Yes, they do."

We all smiled watching Emmaline practically perform the movie. Katie actually got up and joined her. Dustin whispered, “She made us all do this. We can all do the dances. She would rewind the tape until she perfected each dance.” I laughed.

Haley was deeply entertained by the bat in the movie. She leaned over to Dylan, “Dylan, they captured you on camera. At least you have a more appreciative boss than Bartok does.” Dylan howled, “You’re right! I knew I liked that bat, it’s because he’s a kindred spirit. Poor little Beta bat.”

I saw Haley’s eyes light up when Emmaline told us she’d always wanted that crown. I linked Eric, “I feel like her fairy godmother is on the case.” Eric replied, “Emmaline will absolutely get that crown.” I laughed, “Her birthday is already taken care of for next year then.” Eric laughed, “If you think my wife will wait until next year to get her that crown, you don’t know her very well.” I smiled. You just had to love Haley.

Emmaline popped Aubree and Dustin to Hawaii. Dylan squealed, “Who would travel by plane? Hop on the fairy express. That’s ten times better. Honestly, regular traveling sucks so much now. I never knew how much it sucked until I caught a ride on a fairy.”

Lacy agreed, “He’s not wrong, traveling like normal people now stinks.” When Emmaline popped back, I took her upstairs. I woke to Dylan ranting. What the hell? We had warriors down. We were out the front door seconds later. I went to the hospital wing to check on my men.

Alex was already there assessing the situation. I asked, “What happened?” Alex replied, “It sounds like witches appeared out of nowhere. We had pups out there, and they had to shield them.” I sighed realizing why they were there, “The pups were learning about borders?” The warrior we were standing in front of nodded.

I hissed, “Fuck!” The warrior laughed and held his side, “That’s what we said, Alpha. We contained it quickly by calling in other warriors. Travis Frost took the prisoners to the dungeons. He’s an amazing fighter.” I agreed, “He is.” The warrior said, “May can’t come fast enough, he will be a strong lead warrior.” Our lead warrior snorted, “Hey! But agreed. I’m old enough to enjoy retirement. I’ve got a grandpup.” We all laughed.

Dylan smiled proudly. I agreed, “It does seem to be where that’s heading, he will do a great job.” I confirmed with Hector that everyone was going to be ok. One witch had died, but the rest were with Travis. All our men would be fine, and the pups nor the teacher were injured.

I stalked into the dungeons. Travis was standing guard. Dylan looked him over and briefly showed his relief. He teased, "So little brother, you just couldn't wait to let everyone know you'll be gunning for lead warrior come May. I told you not to let them sniff that out."

Travis snorted, "You've been telling everyone since I was fifteen that I'd be the lead warrior one day." Dylan tisked, "Do as I say not as I do, little brother. I've been telling you that since you could walk." Travis laughed.

We questioned the witches. They were left over from Hammond's group. They had a group in Knoxville that was gathering forces to attack. Dylan and I coordinated with our allies. We were going to pay these witches a visit. We decided it would be Thursday night. Eric and Caleb were coming with Dylan and me.

Jackson, Darrin, Harold, and Beta McAlister were going the night before to scope out the area. Sharon was going to pop Nick in. I'd sent warriors ahead along with some of Eric's to scope out the situation to be ready to report to Jackson when he arrived.

Everyone wanted to know what we were doing if Grayson was there. I simply shrugged, "We will have to see." Dylan grumbled, "It's not a genie in a box you are thinking about what wish you want it to grant. It's an obnoxious little annoying wiccan who is making our lives more difficult. Have you NEVER seen a movie ever? We let him get away last time, and now he's the proverbial thorn in our side. If we keep letting him go, he will keep doing bad things. It will become so obnoxious then he will hurt or kill someone we love all because we didn't JUST KILL HIM!"

I shrugged. Dylan slammed his hands down, "Fine, don't listen to me. Lacy wants some flower I need to go pick for her. She's been VERY testy about me going on an overnight trip." I frowned, "Emmaline is too. I had to explain the witches are in an area where vampires live. I'm not trying to cause problems. We have a good thing going with King Arthur in charge of the vampires in our area."

Dylan left shortly afterwards, and Haley and Eric popped in. Eric's smugness was wafting around the room, but I brushed it off. Dylan hadn't made it back for Haley and Emmaline's practice.

I was about to link him when Eric said, "Block out your link." I asked, "What's going on?" Eric said, "My warriors reported the vampires don't seem to be protecting the witches. If anything, they seem more annoyed that they are in the area. King Arthur reiterated that the vampires won't fight if it comes to that." I sighed in relief, "That's great. I thought with all the raiding we did when Haley was taken; they could see it as their chance to get even."



Eric shrugged, “We killed the ones who supported King Damon. They all know we had every right to go to war for my mate, wife, and Luna. Vampires are smart, most of them anyway, they don’t want to bother us. Generally speaking, we don’t want to bother them. They aren’t going to fight with us, but they won’t fight against us. It’s a win.”

Dylan didn’t show up for the practice. I frowned, “I’m beginning to get worried about Dylan. He would never miss his show. Lacy, where was the flower you wanted Dylan to get you?” Lacy assured me, “He’s fine.” I shrugged. If Lacy wasn’t worried, then it was fine.

After the lesson Emmaline asked where Dylan was. Lacy finally laughed and everything clicked. Eric was smug when Haley popped them in, he had me block my link, then Lacy was assuring me he was fine.

I linked Eric, “You chose the time before we all take a long car ride together to get Dylan back?” Eric shrugged, “You said I couldn’t do anything at your wedding, as did my wife. I already had this planned when the trip popped up. No fairy pun intended.”

I rolled my eyes, “Great, now you’re taking his jokes. I already regret this overnight trip.” Eric admitted, “I regretted it when I had to tell Cassie she couldn’t pop to me. She cried; it was horrible.” Since she was a serious daddy’s girl, I’d bet it was.

Haley frowned and mentioned she hadn’t known there was a prank going on. I linked Eric, “You didn’t tell Haley?” Eric rubbed his face, “Yeah... that’s going to bite me in the ass.” I stared at him, “Especially since you involved my sister. That was a terrible move on your part.” Eric winced, “That’s a valid point.”

I unlocked my link with Dylan. I instantly heard him, “Lucccaasssss... OHHHH LUUUUCCASSS!” I answered, “Dylan?” Dylan said, “Gosh, now I’m imagining you’re answering me. I’ve lost it.” I said, “I am answering you.”

Dylan asked, “Is this werewolf’s version of the sixth sense? I’m dead and now I am hearing links.” I sighed, “You aren’t dead, we are coming to get you.” Dylan chuckled, “No rush, I’m just hanging around. Like a sloth. It’s moderately obnoxious since I’m a wolf.”

When we caught up to Dylan he was literally hanging in a tree. He linked me, “Good, that wasn’t the werewolf version of the sixth sense. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? GET ME DOWN FROM HERE! Somehow the whole pack couldn’t link me. Travis will be getting coal for Christmas, blocking out his big brother. How rude.”

I reminded him, "I did tell you not to mess with Eric so much." Dylan rolled his eyes, "He's only encouraged me to double my efforts. After I can feel my legs again, and that buzzing sound in my ears stops." I laughed.

Haley got Dylan down. I was a little scared for Eric based on her tone. I told him, "She does seem put out you didn't include her. You may be the next victim of Haley's epic pranks." Eric mused, "Maybe. It's bound to be my turn eventually."

I glanced at my Beta then linked him, "He wrote on you in sharpie?" Dylan smiled, "It just shows that he cares." I rolled my eyes linking Eric, "You've practically confirmed your undying love for Dylan in his mind."

Eric rolled his eyes. Haley popped Beta Caleb in. We all started towards the car, and the girls popped away. Caleb growled, "FUCK you two! What did you do to piss the fairy's off? Dylan is heavy. They could've popped him to the car."

Dylan gasped, "Now, now Beta Caleb. I'm carrying some winter weight. That's just not nice to comment on." I snorted. Eric explained, "I pranked Dylan without Haley's help." Beta Caleb groaned.

Dylan laughed, "Good to know your Alpha does these things to you too. Let's get to the car, I want to see Lacy. Run like the wind, Beta Caleb." Caleb retorted, "You'll get there when you get there. I've got a new pup at home. My wife is BEYOND annoyed I'm not going to be home tonight."

I laughed asking, "Boy or girl?" Caleb smiled, "A girl." Dylan snorted, "Stay away from my wacked out parents. They will tell you all about how she could be a white wolf." Beta Caleb laughed.

Eric linked me, "He's joking, right? They wouldn't dare waltz into my territory and say that to my Beta." I winced, "He is not joking." Eric groaned, "Oh for god's sake."

Beta Caleb's head shot towards Eric. He cautiously asked, "You're serious, Dylan?" Dylan sighed, "I know it's hard to grasp, but sadly I was serious. They are whacked out. I've told Lucas to just put them out to pasture to graze, but you know how Alpha's are with the whole taking their Beta's advice thing. I think my powers of being mute kicked in again."

Beta Caleb laughed, "I'll let you know if she turns into the white wolf, Beta Dylan." Dylan laughed, "I'll be waiting with bated breath. Consider me on pins and needles... for the next sixteen years. It will fly by. Has she met GAP's pups yet?" Beta Caleb

laughed, “She did. Alexander didn’t pop to her. He didn’t when Luce was pregnant either, so it wasn’t surprising.”

Dylan happily replied, “Stay away from Alpha Tucker’s little boy just in case you’re gun shy about it. Poor Alpha Tucker shit his pants when Brooke popped to Christopher Kyle. They are so adorable. She melts people’s skin off for him, and he growls at his brother for talking loudly. It’s adorable.”

We walked up to the car, and all said bye to the girls. We got in the car and Dylan closed his eyes and then opened them a second later He asked, “Are we there yet?” I groaned, “Dylan, don’t start.” Dylan muttered, “A fairy would’ve been there already.” Beta Caleb laughed, “If we weren’t going to a place with vampires; we could’ve had a fairy ride.”

Dylan snorted, “You haven’t been reading my precious. Haley and Emmaline could’ve concealed her scents to pop us in and out. Sharon is popping Alpha Kyle in. Does anyone think your fairies will not find that fair? Because... Dylan does, but no one listens to Dylan.”

Beta Caleb said, “Two things. One, your precious? Say it creepier, Beta Dylan. Two, Eric is understandably touchy about Haley being around vampires.” Dylan gasped, “Have you not seen Lord of the Rings?” Beta Caleb replied, “I’ve seen it.”

Dylan nodded, “My precious is the history of the fairy’s book that I am now in possession of. Our resident creepy ninja is getting me a secret lair for it.” I asked, “Is he really?” Dylan nodded, “King fire hands could take it. I have made copies just in case and hidden them all over the house.” I shook my head, “Of course you have.”

The rest of the car ride passed just like that. We arrived and Jackson told us the vampire in charge of this area, King Arthur’s Lord, had set up a meeting. Eric said, “I guess we have a meeting to get to.” Dylan sarcastically asked, “Who doesn’t want to go to a meeting after a long car ride? I for one, find it charming. Not smelly or rude... not one bit.”

I called Emmaline once we arrived at the meeting location before we went inside. Everyone had laughed when we shifted seeing Dylan’s chest, which he was touting as some kind of badge of honor. Dylan came over then cursed, “Damn it Lacy!” I frowned, “What?” Dylan frowned, “She was doing homework, and realized she forgot her book at school. She SWORE it was there, so now she’s going to school to get it.”

I pointed, “The school will be locked.” Dylan said, “I told her that. She said where there’s a will there’s a way.” My phone buzzed twenty minutes into the meeting. I let

it go to voicemail. It rang three more times which gave me pause. I stood, "Excuse me, I need to get this." The Lord of the area nodded.

Jackson burst in, "We have been surrounded!" The Lord stood hissing, "By whom?" Jackson answered, "A lot of witches and warlocks." Eric grimly stated, "I can't link anyone back home." Jackson said, "Apparently witches can interfere with the distance. It's what they told one of our warriors. Molly called before you got here, Haley is in the Ribbon." Eric asked, "Is it sad that I'm not even slightly upset?"

Dylan snorted, "Since you about channeled your terrifying murderous GAP self in close proximity with me thinking of the last time you couldn't link people at home? I vote no, I'm too pretty and young to die."

I checked my phone. It was a number I didn't recognize. I listened to my messages; my blood ran cold. I yelled, "FUCK! This is David! Dylan, get Lacy on the goddamn phone!" Dylan frowned and dialed, "She's not answering. I'll call Travis."

Travis answered breathing hard calling out orders, "FIND HER NOW!" Dylan immediately tensed, "Find who, little brother? You sound so tense." Travis sounded contrite, "I'm so sorry, Dylan. We WILL find her. NO ONE WILL LEAVE UNTIL WE DO!" Dylan yelled, "WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?"

Jackson urged, "Hurry up and get details. We need to get outside and kill some witches." Travis explained, "Emmaline linked me and a bunch of warriors to come get to Lacy. She said there was a trap at the school. I ran as fast as I could Dylan... I swear... Dad... dad even came. We heard her scream, but we can't find her. I'm sorry."

Dylan howled in anger. Travis continued, "Debbie just linked Dale that Grayson is dead in the house in yours and Lacy's room. They can't find Emmaline." I found my voice. "David got Lacy and Aubree. He gave Emmaline a timeline. She called Haley and left a message with Molly. Emmaline told us to hurry, and that she'd stall the game."

Dylan threw a table, "WHAT FUCKING GAME? THAT'S MY MATE AND PUP! WHERE ARE RYAN AND DUSTIN?" I gulped, "In a game of their own. Emmaline said they will get out soon and help us. She said the unknown caller is in play, and he's coming to help. She gave me a word I'm supposed to say when Logan shows up to tell Katie to stay put because of the baby."

Dominic was howling in my mind. Dylan was losing it. I yelled, "DYLAN!" He turned and I instructed, "Channel that into killing witches. Don't you fucking die on

me because you're worried. Do you hear me? We will get Lacy and..." My voice broke.

Eric clapped me on the back. I continued, "Emmaline back. Let's kill them all." I linked my men outside, "You show them no mercy, kill every last one of them." Dylan and I shifted and tore through witches and warlocks left and right.

Suddenly, in a burst of light, a man appeared with Ryan. They began to fight with us, we destroyed everyone quickly. I shifted back yelling, "Ryan! You're alright. Who the hell is this guy? Where is Dustin?"

Ryan cringed, "Dustin is in a hospital in Hawaii. We need Haley. He got hit by a car on the street in a hit and run." Ryan looked at his phone, "Correction, he's now in the Hackura realm in their hospital. We need Haley, he's hurt really bad." Eric told him, "Haley is in the Ribbon. The Hackura will keep him alive until she can get back."

I growled, "Who the FUCK is that guy?" The guy laughed, "You know me as the unknown caller, or the reason Emmaline could call and leave you a message. David had her phone bugged. She used the phone I got her to call you and the Princess. She didn't have her father's number memorized. Once Lacy Frost was taken, and she found out Aubree was as well... there was no stopping her. She told me to be helpful. So, here I am... being helpful."

Dylan grabbed him by the throat, "LACY FROST IS MINE! WHERE IS SHE? ANSWER MY ALPHA'S QUESTION BEFORE I RIP OUT YOUR THROAT!" Ryan asked, "Uhh what happened to the happy go lucky guy?" Dylan snarled, "Angry, Serious, out for blood Dylan is here. Happy go lucky Dylan will NOT return until his mate, unborn pup, and Luna are returned." Fair enough.

The guy put his hands up, "I'll tell you who I am." Ryan assure dime, "He's fine Lucas, I promise." Dylan growled, "Do I LOOK like Lucas?! I'm the one who has him." Eric snorted.

Dylan told him, "Don't you start over there. You don't get to find me funny when I'm serious. Go find someone for me to kill. Do GAP things and get them back!" Eric took out his phone. Dylan commented, "That's more like it."

Nick got to us, "What the hell just happened? We got jumped out of nowhere!" I sank to the ground, "David got Emmaline and my sister. I think Lacy was holoported to California, and Emmaline popped to her. We need Bexley, Eric."

Liam shifted back, “She’s in Faerie, and she didn’t take her phone. With whatever barrier the witches put up... I can’t reach her.” I turned asking, “Sharon?” Nick winced, “Our pack was attacked. Sharon is fighting rogues with my son, Drake, and Garrett.” I growled, “HOW THE FUCK DID DAVID PUT THIS TOGETHER?!”

Dylan gathered himself, “Grayson. It HAS to be Grayson. The not so proverbial thorn in our sides. I told you if we didn’t kill him, he’d do something annoying. I TOLD YOU THUSLY!”

The unknown caller spoke, “It was Grayson. He and his group talked loudly about Emmaline and you. David was already interested in her. Grayson’s loose lips sunk all your ships. It was only confirmed for David when his wife was brought here. That man is obsessed with how everything appears. He has his wife watched at all times. He thought the fairy brought her because Emmaline wanted to see her.”

I asked, “How do you know that?” The man said, “There is NOTHING about David Forrester I do not know. I have been waiting for over twenty-six years to get revenge.” I threw my hands in the air, “What are you even talking about?” Dylan jumped in, “If you know everything, you know where he has them in California.” The man smiled, “I do.”

A portal opened and Logan charged through with Katie close behind him. Katie cried, “RYAN! You’re alright! Dustin woke up and said you and Evie were in danger. He saw the sycophant of David’s driving the car that hit him! We can’t find Aubree!”

I glanced at Logan then told her, “David has Aubree, Lacy and...” Katie wailed, “NO!” Logan pulled her to him, “I’ll get her back, I swear it to you. I will get them all back.” Katie straightened, “I’m coming. I will slit his throat myself.” I sighed stating, “Turtle doves.”

Katie whirled and her eyes filled with tears. “No... NO! She can’t turtle dove in this situation!” Ryan asked, “Huh?” Katie wiped her tears, “When my first boyfriend broke up with me for that other girl... I was so upset. Evie took the turtle doves he got me and threw them through his window. I told her that I could handle this situation on my own. I told her...”

Her voice broke, “Whenever we had a situation, we needed to handle alone we’d say turtle doves. Oh Evie... Dustin is going to die, Ryan. Haley’s in the Ribbon. I heard them say they can’t stop the bleeding. Oh god... Logan!” She started to sob uncontrollably. Logan’s relief was palpable as he rubbed her back. He didn’t have to keep her out of the fight. She’d respect Emmaline’s request to handle it alone.

Eric sighed and pulled out his phone, “Titus, take Alexander to your realm. Actually, take all three of them. They won’t let Dustin Bishop die.” We couldn’t hear the response, but Ryan and Katie hugged him.

Dylan growled, “I AM SO UPSET RIGHT NOW! My mate and pup have been taken, and now I am not ready again for this kodak moment of GAP getting hugged. AGAIN! WHY IS THE UNIVERSE SO CRUEL TO ME!”

I hugged him, “We will get them back. At least they are together. We’ve seen them fight; they can do this. I know they can. Our women are fierce.” Dylan cried, “I want her back, Lucas. I need her back.” I had tears in my eyes, “I know.” We held onto each other.

After what felt like hours but in reality was only minutes Logan took out his phone. He rubbed Katie’s back, “Dustin is fine, my witch. He’s coming here now.” Katie wiped her tears. Logan turned to Eric, “Mom has the triplets in the nursery. Alexander is the healer. Dad said the other two gave him the juice to heal Dustin, but that he did it alone.”

A portal opened and Dustin strode through it. His hard eyes met Ryan, “He took Aubree, didn’t he?” Ryan nodded. Dustin said, “GOD DAMN IT! I FELT IT! I FELT SOMETHING WAS OFF! He’s got Evie to come to him, right?” Ryan rubbed his temples, “He took Lacy Frost too.” Both brothers exchanged a weary glance. Dustin ground out, “He will be sorely disappointed then.”

Dylan asked, “What the actual SASSIFRASS does that mean?” Dustin spat out, “My dad enjoys games. Evie would’ve come to him for Aubree alone. He took Lacy to make her choose.” Dylan pressed, “Choose what? Speak in English FOR THE LOVE OF GOD MAN!” I did not like where this was going.

Ryan explained, “To choose between who lives or dies.” Dylan clutched his chest. Beta Caleb caught him. I yelled, “Emmaline won’t do that.” Dustin agreed, “She won’t, and that will piss him off. We need to move. He’ll have strong spells up and an army waiting for us. Mom was right, he’s had years to plan this. That FUCKER PLANNED to use Aubree this whole time. I will TEAR HIM TO PIECES.”

Dylan stood, “I say this with nothing but love Dustin Bishop, GET IN FUCKING LINE! I have cut to the front, even in front of GAP. Do you know how hard it is to cut in front of him? But I have done it. So, you will not pass me in this line to get to the man who took my mate, unborn pup, and Luna. You just won’t. I’m faster than you, I can shift and then I have four legs. It’s just science.” He threw his head back and howled.

The warriors in our group howled with him. Dylan looked crazed, “Let’s get in the fucking cars. We don’t have a fairy ride, and I will TEST the limits of said vehicle. Consider me Dominic Toretto.” Logan asked, “Did you forget I can create a portal? I just need to know where we are going.”

Dylan faltered for a brief moment, “I blame the enormous amount of stress I am in for forgetting our resident ninja assassin could create a portal. Now you’re stepping on my Dominic Toretto dreams, but I find I’m not upset; I’ll find another time channel his way. Go on, portal please.”

Eric cautioned, “We need a plan, Lucas.” I growled at him, “She’s in his clutches!” Eric reiterated, “We need a plan. We had plans for weeks about the targets to hit the vampires. Dustin is right. David will have an army waiting. He’s going to think we will charge right in.”

Logan took out his phone and grinned. He told us, “BA is in play.” Katie yelled, “Thank FUCKING GOD!” Dylan raised his hand, “Umm, did anyone else get that vibe?” Katie rolled her eyes. Beta Caleb said, “Let’s not talk about the vibe.” Eric asked, “What fucking vibe?” I growled, “WHO CARES?!”

Then it clicked, “Her necklace. BA gave Emmaline that necklace and she took it. HER RING! Logan, locate her ring.” Logan said, “Gunner just got the location. She’s in Fresno, California.” Dylan pumped his fist into the air, “LET’S FOLLOW QUEEN ELSA INTO THE UNKNOWN!!!!!!!!” LET’S GO, LUCAS!”

Eric got in his face, “Dylan, we need a plan.” Dylan growled, “FUCK your plan. I’m getting Lacy.” Eric grabbed his shoulders, “You are no good to Lacy dead, Dylan. I watched her grow up, she’s like the little sister I never had. Her mate can’t die because I let him run off to do so. Unfortunately, for me you are her mate. I’m not walking into another god damn trap. Your Luna and mate will have their own plan. They are smart and resourceful. I will NOT have you watch your mate suffer for weeks on end like I did. We will get her back; I’m just saying take a beat to plan.” Dylan blinked at him.

Eric turned, “Jackson, get dad to reach out to the pack closest to the location Logan is sending out. We need eyes, and we are coming to them. We mean them no harm and wish to peacefully enter their territory.”

I closed my eyes gritting out, “Dylan, he’s right. If we charge off without letting the pack in the area know, they will attack us too.” Dylan growled, “THEN SOMEONE MAKE THE CALL.” I frowned, “You’re panicking.”



Dylan yelled in exasperation, “YES! WILL SOMEONE JOIN ME! She’s pregnant, Lucas. Emmaline... they have our Luna and my Lacy. I can’t... I can’t think. I cannot be calm. There is no calm. Fang is FURIOUS, I am furious. I am offended and enraged. I’ve channeled GAP. There is no arguing with angry GAP; therefore, people must stop arguing with me. Those are the rules of GAP. Abide by the rules people!”

Jackson suddenly said, “I heard your parents are tripped out about the white wolf.” Dylan looked confused, “Yes, that’s already established that. Keep up, Jackson.” Jackson threw his arm around his shoulder, “Walk with me, and tell me all about it. If you so much as miss one classic Dylanism, I’ll punch you in the nuts. Eric tells me you want more pups. So, I’d suggest you get in touch with your inner funny man.”

Dylan started to walk away with him. He told him, “Dylanism... I like it. I will write Webster immediately. That needs to be added to the dictionary. Maybe it should be a drink instead. I bet it would be a kick ass drink.” Their voices faded.

Eric tilted his head, “Walk with me, Lucas.” I nodded. We got away from the group and he shoved me, “Snap out of it. We are going to fight our way in. We will slaughter every witch and warlock in the state of California if we have to do it.” I nodded, “I know. I just can’t focus.”

Eric nodded, “I know you can’t. I know exactly what you feel. I swear to you, you won’t be without her for two weeks. We will get them both back, actually all three of them.” I took a deep breath, “I feel weak. How the HELL did you do this?” Eric answered, “For Haley. You can do this for Emmaline. We are surrounding you, and we will get through this.”

I nodded, “Let’s get them back Eric.” Eric nodded and we walked back over the group. Eric shivered, “Haley is back.” I was relieved, “That’s great!” He took out his phone then yelled, “FUCK!” Logan laughed, “She’s already taken off, hasn’t she?” Eric nodded, “She doesn’t need pack permission to enter, there’s a partial fairy in danger.” I grumbled, “Where the fuck is our permission?”

Eric announced, “We just got it. Let’s go, Logan.” I looked at my watch, somehow between the meeting, the fighting, getting everyone together, and waiting on permission; it had already been eight hours. Keep fighting baby girl, I’m coming.

I knew she was still fighting because I could feel her in my chest. I was holding onto that feeling like it was a lifeline. She had to make it. We were supposed to have pups together, and a long, beautiful life. She just had to be ok. My sister was going to have my nephew. They had to be ok.

Logan opened a portal, and just like the first time I didn't care to look around the Hackura realm. We stepped through onto a pack land in Fresno. An Alpha and Beta stood to greet us. Dustin looked around our group for the first time. He stalled, "Ryan, what the FUCK is Ben Price doing with you?"

Dylan gasped, "NOOOOO!" I asked, "As in David Forrester's dead mate's brother? That Ben Price? The assumed dead Ben Price alongside his sister Ben Price?" Ben grinned, "One in the very same. David Forrester killed my sister, and I will have my revenge.