

Maze

Emmaline took a deep breath when she heard David's voice for the first time since that fateful day when he kicked her out of her home. He warned, "Do not bother to text anyone. I am monitoring your phone, and there will be consequences. You have caused my children to abandon me."

I snorted, "You did that all on your own. A better man wouldn't have taken his anger out on a child. My mom was the one who wronged you, not me." David laughed, "I take my anger out on her often for what she did." I asked, "Excuse me? You hit her?" David answered, "Where no one can see the bruises. She tore my family apart."

I disagreed, "You did that. You can't blame her for the choices you made. You have so much hate in your heart that you told Katie, Ry, and Dusty I ran away. You could've divorced her, but instead you hit her. I can't believe there was ever a time I looked up to you." David grumbled, "I should've known they would have looked for you. I should've said you'd died."

He'd ignored everything I had said. I snorted, "Well, you know what they say about hindsight. How did you find me? How did you even get this number?" David sounded angry, "I'm a powerful warlock. Did you forget that these past few years?" I retorted, "No, but you didn't find me because you're a powerful warlock."

David hissed, "Be respectful." I honestly told him, "I have no respect for you, David. You held me accountable for my mother's sins. I'm done paying for them. I had no say in what happened back then, and deep down even you know it wasn't my fault." David didn't say anything for several moments.

He told me, "I have plans for you, Evie." I informed him, "You don't get to call me that, it's not even my name now. What a coincidence though because I have plans for you as well." David laughed, "Maybe you are my child. You and Katie always did have that point where you stopped taking crap."

I got mad, "You know who my father is." David spat, "The water fairy Prince, yes I know." I knew something he didn't. I told him, "Mom's mate Prince Marcious Walsh. Congratulations on using your magic to separate a fated pair. You officially suck."

David yelled, "HER MATE? I knew she could produce powerful children, but I had no idea... interesting. She could have fought me then." I bitterly replied, "I'm aware, she sucks too. You guys are perfect for each other." David laughed, "You shouldn't have invited her to your birthday party then. It just confirmed who you were."

I sighed admitting, “I didn’t invite her, I didn’t want her here.” David sounded amused, “Odd.” I asked, “How did you find out who I was? My identity wasn’t easy to figure out.” David laughed, “Yes, for a thirteen-year-old you were quite resourceful and smart. Never staying in places too long, but especially not swimming. Very smart, Evelyn.”

I wanted to reach through the phone and strangle him. I spat back, “I don’t care if you think it’s smart. I want to know how you figured it out.” David complained, “You always were impatient. It won’t ruin my game to tell you though. Seems a particularly smitten young man was running with some witches. I was already planning to use you to get back at the Princess. Their group of warlocks and witches were looking for help against yours. I had an ear to the ground for any word coming about you. I offered my assistance. He had a picture of you, another way you were smart. There’s nothing, not even a school yearbook picture of you anywhere. He sent me the picture. I was shocked to be honest, but it aligned both of my plans.”

I groaned, “Are you serious? Grayson and I went to ONE dance! He didn’t even talk to me afterwards. He’s not smitten. He’s pissed that someone else showed interest in me.” David laughed humorlessly, “Does that really matter? How are you the mate of Lucas Lyons?”

I cut him off, “It’s Alpha Lyons to you.” David gritted his teeth, “Whatever. Do you have any idea what you did to me? Katie is mated to a Hackura prince for god's sake. I could’ve had the world, but you always ruin it for me.”

I stared at the phone before I responded, “Again, I ruined nothing. Katie, Dusty, and Ry are adults, and they made their choices. Logan and Katie met because of me. He will never let you near her again. Even if your game succeeds, Logan WILL kill you.”

David thought about what I’d said for a second before he said, “Katie wouldn’t let him kill me.” I snorted, “Katie wants to kill you herself. The only reason she hasn’t killed you is because I didn’t want to deal with you or mom yet. You said it yourself. Logan is a Hackura prince. He will kill you. Really, it’s going to be a race, but something tells me with this phone call, I just gained the lead.”

David laughed again, mocking me, “You? You think you can kill me?” I stated, “I know I can. Let’s get the point of this chat. You didn’t call to say hi and you know who I am now.” David admitted, “I can’t deny that I have missed your quick wit. You were always such a smart little thing. I called because I want you to come to me.”

I snorted, “Are you insane? I’m not doing that.” Not without a plan anyway. David laughed, “Oh but see... I think you will. Aubree dear, say hello to Evelyn. Though I

suppose you call her Emmaline.” The blood drained from my face. Haley was right; he went after Aubree first.

Aubree said, “Emmaline, I’m fine. Don’t do it. Find Dustin!” He cut her off, “Now, won’t you come pop on over here and join us, Evelyn?” I paused so my voice wouldn’t shake, “A fake voice? Do you think I’d come without you proving that’s actually her? Ry was right. You have lost it.”

David yelled, “I HAVE NOT LOST IT!” My phone beeped, “There. There’s your proof.” I opened the picture he’d sent. It was him with a knife to Aubree’s throat. Her mouth was bleeding, but other than that she looked fine.

I stalled, “She’s pregnant with your grandchild. Have you no shame?” David laughed, “Yes, that must have been the work of the fairy princess. It was one of the reasons I didn’t want her to be with Dustin. I got a hold of her medical records. I’ve asked our Aubree how she got the Princess to like her. The Princess openly distained me before she even knew what happened to you. Though... I do suppose that had to with Axel Price and his coven.”

I was surprised, “You knew Axel Price?” David laughed, “Yes, I did. I suppose there’s no harm in telling you this, you’ll be dead soon. I helped Axel get witches and warlocks for Fabian in exchange for him leaving my wife and children alone. It was going on long before your cousin was born. Luckily for me, I was a middleman. The Princess has no idea I played a part in her hell because she never saw me. The spell that wouldn’t allow her to move but feel was something I supplied their group. I added my twist to it of course, it amplified her pain. Fabian didn’t want just a regular spell.”

I linked, “Get out of there! It’s a trap! RUN LACY!” I linked the pack, “Warriors get to Beta Lacy! She’s at the school. This is a kidnapping attempt she needs help now!” I heard growls fill the air. I told David, “You won’t get Lacy.” David laughed, “Oh, but I will. My people have already seen her. The holoport is set. She will be here soon.”

I linked Lacy, “Did you get out of there?” Lacy replied, “I’m fighting witches can’t talk now.” I warned her, “They are trying to back you to a holoport. Keep moving forward.” Lacy said, “They do keep trying to tackle me. Noted.”

I asked David, “What game do you want to play?” David chuckled evilly, “Now that’s more like it. I have a maze set up.” I shivered. David’s mazes were not fun. Aubree yelled, “NO! She’s your children’s sister! She’s the mate of a powerful Alpha and a Duchess of the water fairies! They will declare war on witches and warlocks. They will win too.”

David mockingly retorted, "That's not a very positive outlook on those who practice the same craft you do." Aubree replied, "I've seen the fairy's fight. No, I've seen fairies of all elements fight together. They are united now, David. Even your children can use Fae magic. Katie can pop and cause an earthquake. The partial fairy's ADORE the Princess. The Princess adores Emmaline." David snorted, "Of course she does. Ahh and here's Mrs. Frost."

My heart dropped. I linked her, "LACY!" Nothing. I heard a whimper, "Don't do it, Emmaline." I closed my eyes in defeat. David stated, "I'm not a fair man, Evelyn." I snorted, "I am aware." He laughed, "Sine we had thirteen good years together, I'll give you ten minutes to write a note to your Alpha. As I said, you cannot call him. You will find your brothers are in a game of their own." Aubree screamed, "NO!"

David sighed, "She's very dramatic. I'm monitoring your phone. No calls or Lacy will pay. If you make another call, it will be Aubree. The clock starts now." I hung up the phone and screamed in frustration.

I ran to my nightstand. David didn't know about the unknown phone. I called the number. A male voice answered, "Hello, I guess David called you." I panicked, "He has Aubree and Lacy. I have to go to him. You need to be helpful. Get to Ryan and Dustin. Gather everyone. I'll stall my game as long as possible. Thank you for the phone, David is monitoring mine. I'm calling Haley and Lucas next. Round up the troops and get ready for whatever revenge it is you want."

The caller laughed, "You aren't going to ask who I am?" I yelled, "I HAVE A DEADLINE!" The caller told me, "I'm Ben Price." I shook my head, "I don't have time to process that. Good to know your name, Ben. I have to go."

I called Haley, but someone else answered, "Hello?" I wanted to scream, that wasn't Haley's voice. I quickly asked, "Where's Haley?" The voice replied, "She's in the Ribbon, this is Molly." I groaned, "Tell her factors came into play. Rally the troops." I hung up before Molly could say anything else.

I called Lucas next, but he didn't answer. I called two more times and left a message, "Lucas, this isn't how I wanted to do this. David has my brothers in some twisted game. He took Aubree and then got Lacy through a holoport at school. I have to go to him. I have a deadline or Lacy will be hurt first. I love you, Lucas. I can do this. I'll save Lacy and Aubree. I know you'll come, and so does David. Be prepared and bring everyone. We can do this. I can't wait to be your wife."

I paused then added, "Oh, and tell Katie I said turtle doves. She needs to stay out of this fight with her little nugget. We have enough pregnant women in play as it is.

David is unhinged, and he's already put Ryan and Dustin into a game. We can't risk him putting Katie in one. Logan would go on a killing spree. I love you so much." I hung up the phone.

I said out loud to no one in particular, "Happy wedding week to me." I grabbed my arrow necklace from BA and put it on quickly. I had five minutes left. I popped to Lacy and Dylan's room to see if I could find any sort of clue.

I heard a strangled scream. I turned then yelled, "GRAYSON? ARE YOU KIDDING ME?" Grayson said, "I didn't think I'd run into you, but this is our chance, Emmaline. We need to run!" I asked, "Are you dense? David has Lacy and Aubree. Two pregnant women in his clutches, both of whom I will be related to shortly. He gave me a timeline. You HANDED me onto him on a SILVER platter! He wants to kill me."

Grayson shook his head, "No, that was a misunderstanding. He loves you. Let's just go. You and me, let's just run away. They killed my mom." I hissed, "He RAN me out of town. He emancipated me without my knowledge. He HELPED torture my cousin while she was in Faerie. I am sorry your mom died, but she intended to attack the Princess of the Hackura. If that wasn't crazy enough, she did it IN FRONT OF the Princess's guard."

Grayson was in denial, "No, we can just run. Just take my hand, and we will go. We can forget all of this world. I know you are a fairy, but you don't need to be a part of this." I punched him. I didn't even think about it.

He looked stunned "What was that for?" I glared at him, "If you don't know that then no one can help you. Lucas is my mate. I AM a part of this world even if he wasn't. I'm a freaking fairy Duchess!"

A laugh came from behind me. I whirled around as a man stepped forward, "You really are not too bright, Grayson." I sighed, "Goodie, another unknown warlock. What do you want? My guess is you don't want to help me like the unknown caller. I have three minutes left before I have to go. Make it snappy."

The witch smirked, "I'm just here to tie up loose ends." Before I could react, the warlock slit Grayson's throat. I screamed, "GRAYSON!" Grayson's hands immediately went to his neck. He stared up at the warlock in shock. I quickly grabbed a shirt on the floor to help Grayson stop the bleeding, but it wasn't working. The cut was too deep. He gurgled, choking on his blood, and then he was gone.

I sat back in shock. I stood and yelled, "WHY would you do that?" The warlock shrugged and put a book on Lacy's desk. He taunted, "Should your she wolf friend

make it back, she will probably want her book back. Don't be too upset with her, I influenced her to think she could get into the school to get it."

I clenched my fists, "You've made three mistakes that are going to cost you. I'd wait for you to ask what they were; but I just don't have the time. One, you killed Grayson when he thought you were helping him. Two, you got Lacy to David. Three, you stayed around to brag." I hit him in the head with hail. I was on top of him with hands glowing blue in a fraction of a second. I angrily spat out, "Enjoying drowning, you jerk!" I put my hands on his chest. He started to choke as I popped to David.

I saw the iron dart fired at me. I thought of turning it to water. I didn't have to pretend it hurt when the needle pierced my skin. It stung. I could feel I'd successfully turned the iron to water because there was no pain. I was too focused on the needle iron situation to hear anyone behind me.

Lacy and Aubree simultaneously screamed, "EMMALINE, WATCH OUT!" I turned just in time to see the bat right before it hit me in the head. I was unconscious before I hit the floor. I opened my eyes and saw a beautiful woman. She had long blonde hair and wings.

I touched my head, but it didn't even hurt. I asked, "Are you... the fairy goddess?" The woman smiled, "You are such a smart little thing. You didn't even grow up knowing I was your goddess. Yet, you know me."

I managed not to sound annoyed, "The wings and the glow do give it away. Am I dead? Did that hit to the head kill me?" The fairy goddess assured me, "You are very much alive. You have a long time with your wolf ahead of you. I am coming to you now because you need me." I pursed my lips, "I might have needed you more when I was living outside. A portal to my dad would've been great."

The fairy goddess smiled, "I watched over you, my child. You and the other partial fairies are quite talented. I am so proud of all of my children, and your cousin for gathering them. She has blossomed into the woman she was always meant to be. She was always to be their champion. Schemes of others tried to ruin that plan, just as they tried to ruin plans for you. You and cousin never give up. I love that about both of you. I knew you and your wolf would be great together. The moon goddess had to be convinced, but I just knew."

I didn't think she was very good at her job, but I did agree about Lucas. I replied, "I love him." She smiled, "I know you do. He is a protector, but you my child, just as your cousin, need a partner. He will be that man for you. It will take work, but you

already know that. I knew you were the right choice to be the soul searcher. As will your daughter.”

I gasped and put my hands on my stomach. She smiled, “You are not pregnant, but you will be soon. The child with your soul-searching power will not be in your first pregnancy. She is coming though. Learn all you can, so she can learn from you. It’s not easy to be the soul searcher, as you well know.”

I nodded, “I will, I promise.” The fairy goddess smiled, “Like your cousin, your children will have wolves at birth. That was something the moon goddess and I thought would be so special about joining the partial fairies with wolves. It’s the fairy magic within them that brings their wolf to them before they are sixteen. I am still sad Bexley had her first set of triplets without being declared royal. They will get their wolves at sixteen, but once declared royal her children will have wolves at birth as well.”

That didn’t seem fair at all. I said, “This is a lot of information.” The fairy goddess giggled, “I only get so much time. You must face David. Trust your light when it comes time. Stand with those who love you, and you will not be defeated. Don’t let what happens cloud your mind, or your journey will be a bit more complicated to win the fight ahead.” I said, “I have no idea what that means.” The fairy goddess smiled, “You will.”

She turned, “One more thing, what’s coming years from now, will not be your fault. Don’t take it that way. People make choices, and communication is always key. When it breaks down, we are all to blame.” I asked, “What?” I thought about it. At first, I thought she meant Lucas and I, but then it clicked, “Is this about what the moon goddess told Lucas?”

The fairy goddess frowned, “She’s always faster than me. I have so much to do, you see. So many fairies to watch over. I get distracted watching my children sometimes. She’s always one step ahead of me. The world is such a beautiful place, and she doesn’t stop to admire its beauty as I do. Yes, his goddess did warn him too. I’m not warning you though, my child. I see the path is set. The moon goddess thinks she can change her child’s anger, but it is vast. It is poisonous and his hatred will spark more hatred in others. Hate sparks hate just as love sparks love. Many will suffer because of his hatred. Paths have been altered for many; it is a sad thing to see. Many wolves will suffer, but one most of all.”

It was on the tip of my tongue to tell her to interfere. She was a goddess. She could save that child and us the pain. Before I could say anything, she shook her head sadly, “The poor child. She does not deserve it, help her where you can. She will trust only a

few people; your cousin can reach her. Along with another. Another special little girl.”

I asked, “Charlie Rose?” The fairy goddess laughed, “She is a special one, but no not for this.” I took a stab in the dark naming the babies I knew, “Elise then?” The fairy goddess smiled, “You are so smart, my child. It does sadden me for my child the suffering the she wolf will go through. He’s so unique, my child. It angers me the hard road one of my children will have to her.”

I said, “The she wolf’s... you mean the girl... her mate is a fairy?” The fairy goddess looked away, “FINE! So testy. It seems I can tell you no more. You’ll put it all together one day my child. Your friends need you now. Wake up Emmaline Richards. Show that David Forrester who the Duchess of Faerie truly is.”

I woke up and groaned. I touched my head. My other hand went to my arrow necklace. I rubbed it, smiling as it warmed under my touch. BA was coming. I just knew she was. I tucked my necklace under my shirt before David could see it. Not that he would think anything of the necklace. That was the point of it.

David sounded cheerful, “Good you’re up. Sorry about hitting you with the bat. My anger at seeing you got the best of me.” I turned. My light was telling me to wait. I rolled my eyes, “Don’t lie, David. I think you and I are past that.”

David laughed, “That’s fair, it felt good hitting you. You weren’t out for too long. I thought between the head injury and the iron, we would have some time before our game began. Oh well, choose your partner for the game.”

I immediately questioned, “What’s the catch?” David smiled, “You choose your partner, and the one not chosen meets the end of the line.” I snorted, “Were you not listening earlier when I said Aubree is carrying your grandchild?” David smirked, “Which makes her the obvious choice for you to pick.” I said, “I won’t pick. You may be a monster, but you can’t make me one.”

David shrugged, “Then they both die.” I said, “You and I both know you won’t do that.” David punched me then screamed, “PICK ONE!” I laughed and picked myself up, “Ironic, I believe when I threw a temper tantrum when I was three you picked me up and told me that was no way to express myself. You should take your own advice.”

David started a timer on the wall. “If that hits zero and you haven’t picked, you’ll be thrust into the maze alone. I’ll kill them before you can get out. That’s a promise, Evelyn.” I sighed. I turned to Lacy and Aubree. I asked, “Are you guys ok?” They nodded.

I said, "I assume this is a magical timer?" David smirked, "Yes, you and whoever is holding your hand is taken into the maze." I nodded, "Ok." David haughtily told me, "Which is why Aubree and Lacy are on opposite sides of the room."

Aubree, Lacy, and I looked at each other confused. David chanted a spell, and their chairs flew across the room. Aubree pleaded, "Pick Lacy, Emmaline." David yelled, "FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE, BE QUIET! You're just like your saint mother." I commented, "Whom you murdered."

David waved his hand, "Murdered is a strong word. More like I was involved in a conspiracy to commit murder. I planned her mother's murder, but I didn't actually commit the crime." Aubree started to cry. I watched the clock count down.

David taunted, "You better make your choice, Evelyn. You have fifteen seconds left." I kned him in the junk then punched him in the face. I admitted, "Huh, I do feel better." I popped to Lacy then Aubree. The clock hit zero as David screamed in rage. We were sucked into the maze a second later.

Aubree asked, "How the heck did you pop?" I said, "I turned the iron to water." Lacy laughed. Aubree asked, "Why didn't you kill him?" I said, "I think he must have something protecting him. I trusted my light." Aubree whispered, "The guy who took me said Dustin would die." I shook my head, "David would never actually let Ryan, Katie, or Dustin die. I sent them help... I think. Hopefully."

Aubree asked, "Help?" I admitted, "Ben Price. I sent them Ben Price." Aubree's jaw dropped. Lacy raised her hand, "Can I buy a vowel? WHO is Ben Price?" Aubree said, "Someone who is supposed to be dead. Right alongside his sister, Alexa Price, David's fated wick."

Lacy gasped, "No way! Your unknown caller is Ben Price?" I nodded, "Yup." Lacy pointed at my chest, "What's glowing under your shirt?" I smiled and took out my necklace. Lacy said, "YES! BA IS COMING! Is Haley already here? I know you didn't have much time, but..."

I winced, "Haley is in the ribbon, I left her a message. I sent Travis and some warriors after you Lacy. Dylan and Lucas have to know you are missing. I left Lucas a message too. They should all be coming." Aubree cautioned, "Don't get too excited, they can't get into the maze without Ryan, Dustin, or Katie."

I was determined, "We can get out of the maze, we just have to beat it. David wants me to beat it. He wants to kill me himself." Lacy said, "Before we charge off into the creepy maze that's going to try to kill us... What's the story with David and his mate?"

I thought some coven killed his mate and he killed the coven leaders and took over said coven in retaliation. He brutalized anyone that took part in it.”

Aubree sighed, “That’s the story that circulated.” I interjected, “I hear a ‘but’ lurking somewhere.” Aubree laughed a little, “But there are those who believed his wick found out something, and she couldn’t stand beside him anymore.”

I mumbled, “Fabian’s ring...” Aubree agreed, “That has to be it. I’d turn against anyone who could take part in that.” Lacy asked, “Excuse me, what?” We filled her in on what we’d thought out.

Lacy said, “So, how is Ben Price related to Axel Price? Because if Eric knows Ben’s name... As someone who’s known him their whole life... Eric will kill him even if they need his help.” Aubree argued, “Ben Price is a good man. He’s Axel’s Nephew, but Ben’s father disowned Axel. Ben never knew him, and Axel killed his father. I’m sure Axel was on his list to kill before Eric got to him first.”

I sighed, “Seems like a bloody family feud.” Aubree nodded, “The Price line of witches was powerful. Everyone was surprised that coven was able to kill the Price children. There was only one family more powerful. They were basically our royalty, but the Cromwell’s are in hiding or dead. Their own family has turned into a messy family feud.”

I actually did know about the Cromwell’s. David was jealous of their power. I said, “David would’ve used their relationship to his advantage. He probably injured Ben first so he couldn’t help Alexa.” Aubree frowned, “Alexa wasn’t weak. Whatever David did, it was powerful dark magic. It had to be. She was good friends with my mother. I’ve seen pictures of them together.”

Before I could reply, we were pushed forward by the back of the maze. Lacy snorted, “It seems the maze is impatient to throw its horrors at us.” I asked, “Did he hurt you and Aubree? Can you use your magic?”

Aubree rubbed her wrists, “Now that I’m out of those magical bonds I can.” I asked, “Lacy, can you shift?” Lacy answered, “I can shift. I was only shoved through a holoport. No silver or wolfsbane. I’m kind of offended that they clearly didn’t see me as a threat.” I said, “I guess that’s something. We all have powers.”

I tried to pop us out, but we were slammed back onto the ground. I groaned, “I guess we can’t pop out. I was hoping they wouldn’t have thought of that since they planned to hit me with iron.” I bent down to the ground and began to chant. I was hoping there was water nearby. I felt it when the water responded. That was a serious mistake on

their part to be near water. We heard yells as the water came in. I told my light I wanted it to take down the maze walls. The water ripped through the maze, but it couldn't take the walls down.

I sighed, "It was worth a shot, but the water can't take the walls down." Lacy shivered, "There are animals in here that you just pissed off." I shrugged, "Or I killed them, that's an option." Lacy frowned, "That would devastate you if you were an earth fairy." I did have earth fairy blood, and I did feel a little bad. This was about survival though.

Lacy added, "Since today is clearly none of our lucky day... I'm going with whatever made those noises are not dead." We took a tentative step forward. The maze moved around us, altering the course. Lacy growled, "YOU ARE KIDDING ME! He's such a cheater! We were going the right way, so it switched on us."

Laughter came from behind us, I turned and shrieked. Aubree assured me, "Emmaline, it's just a clown." I shrieked, "I HATE CLOWNS!" Lacy groaned, "You have got to be kidding me." I hissed, "Not kidding! I hate them!"

The clown laughed then mocked me, "You are terrified of us you mean. One almost kidnapped her as a child, and she holds a grudge." I shivered asking, "Are you a real clown, or did David bring you to life?" The clown said, "I'm not actually a clown in my real life, but I am very real."

Aubree grumbled, "Sure, throw in real people in the maze. Real but crazy people." The clown laughed, "I'm not crazy." I tried to reason with him, "David knows I'll kill you, or that one of them will. He doesn't care about you. You're just a part of his sick game like we are."

The clown lunged. I shrieked and fell over. Lacy smacked me on the arm, "We don't have time for repressed childhood memories to surface; I'm hungry." I laughed, "You've been hanging around Dylan too long." Lacy ignored me, "Do you know what happens to stupid clowns who stand in the way of the hangry pregnant she wolf?"

The clown shrugged, "Nothing." Lacy growled, "They get eaten." She shifted and lunged at the clown, she had him by the throat in seconds. He wasn't a fighter, nor was he ready. Lacy shifted back and I snapped her clothes.

Lacy pouted, "I really am hungry." I snapped her a burger. She smiled, "You are the best sister-in-law ever." I snorted, "If we get out of this hell before the wedding. Does anyone know how long we've been here?" Both shook their heads no.

Lacy winced, “You were out for several hours.” I gritted my teeth, “Perfect and my head still hurts. Hopefully, Haley is around somewhere now.” I was starting to get a splitting headache. Lacy lamented, “Ok, childhood trauma one conquered. He couldn’t have just made her swim the English Channel or we’d be out of here in no time.”

She stood and we went a little farther into the maze, hearing more hissing by the step. Lacy said, “Tell me you aren’t scared of bats, Emmaline. Because those sound like bats.” I winced, “Umm... I wandered into a cave and a colony of bats flew out. I got a lot of scratches.” Aubree sighed, “So, you are scared of bats.”

I asked, “How do we even fight bats? You guys can’t get bitten by bats right now, you’re pregnant. What if they have rabies?” We heard the bats start to move. I screamed and threw my hands out, putting a wall of ice between us and the bats. Aubree tilted her head, “That will work if we don’t need to go that way.”

I slapped myself on the forehead. I conjured a hedge trimmer. I revved it, “Let’s see what his warlock magic can do against a hedge trimmer.” Lacy kissed my cheek, “I love you.” I started cutting through the hedges that made up the maze.

We stepped through and heard, “Hi, I’m Chucky. Want to play?” Lacy snorted, “Now he’s just getting lines wrong. It’s wanna play? Dylan will be beside himself when he hears that. He’ll call it a travesty.” I shivered, “WORST MAZE EVER!”

The chucky doll charged without warning, knocking Lacy down who yelled, “Stupid doll!” He came at me, and I wielded the hedge trimmer. I took his head off. Blood spurted everywhere. I screamed, “IT WAS AN ACTUAL PERSON!”

Aubree sounded stunned, “You decapitated him.” Lacy shrugged, “Haley would be proud, that’s her move.” I yelled, “I thought it was a doll!” Aubree pointed out, “Everything coming at us in this maze has to die so we can get out. We aren’t friends with them, and they are here by choice.” I winced but accepted her logic and agreed, “You’re right.”

I took aim at another part of the maze with my hedge trimmer. I heard a scream and turned. A man hissed, “Put the hedge trimmer down.” I said, “You’d probably rather face me with it as opposed to without it to be honest.” The man smiled, grabbing Aubree before we could stop him, he held a knife to her throat.

Aubree was clearly surprised. She appealed to him, “Everett. What the HELL are you doing with David Forrester?” Lacy and I began to advance on Everett. Everett said, “I’m sorry Aubree, but he made a good argument.”

I disagreed, "That seems unlikely since he's insane." Lacy linked me, "Haley and her wind would be super handy right about now." I stopped walking, "Why am I walking? I blame the hit to the head." I popped to Aubree and grabbed her hand, then popped us back to Lacy.

Everett gaped, "You weren't supposed to have powers." I pointed at him, "See what happens when you trust a crazy person?" Aubree whispered, "He had my mother killed, Everett." Everett looked away. Lacy linked me, "Uh oh. He knew that."

Aubree sucked in a breath, "You knew?!" Everett said, "I only found out recently, but it was so long ago! David is going to train me to take over his coven since Dustin went off on his own. I can't turn down David as a teacher. His coven is huge."

I pointed out, "His coven barely exists anymore after everyone found out he put a bounty on me." Everett regurgitated something he clearly heard before, "Once everyone knows your true parentage they will understand." Lacy threw in, "I think he and David belong together, they are both insane. No one will agree with putting out a contract on a thirteen-year-old."

I linked her, "Technically speaking, I was fourteen." Lacy replied, "God, now I'm getting a headache." Aubree started chanting. She and Everett seemed fairly evenly matched. Except his soul was feeling deceitful. He was going to switch to dark magic, just like David would. My mind was racing.

There was a thought I was trying to grab onto. Aubree screamed as a cut appeared on her cheek and it hit me. I called, "Aubree! Call the shadows!" Everett paused, "What?! The shadows?" Aubree said, "I can't control the shadows, I've tried."

I shook my head, "Dustin can though. You're pregnant with his child. The odds that the shadows will allow his child to use them too are pretty high. Just try it! Everett is feeling deceitful! I think he's going to use dark magic."

Aubree closed her eyes. Dark tentacles appeared and pierced Everett through the heart. Lacy gasped, "It worked!" Aubree opened her eyes. She put a hand on her chest, "Oh god, my child can control the shadows; just like her daddy." Lacy and I gaped at her.

I asked, "It's a girl?" Aubree sighed, "We weren't going to tell, but we did that blood test to make sure everything was ok. Dustin can't get mad that I spilled the beans. It was an emotional moment. The shadows. Our lives just keep getting crazier."

I pushed, “Ask if they will take us out of the maze of my childhood fears. Call me crazy, but I really don’t want to be here.” Aubree closed her eyes and suddenly we were picked up and then put back down on the other side of the maze. Aubree smiled then called, “Thank you!” The shadows seemed to laugh as they disappeared. Aubree told us, “Dustin is calling them, I can tell somehow.”

We all turned hearing a strangled scream, “THE SHADOWS! I didn’t know you could call the shadows, Aubree. I was wrong, you are worthy of my son. For the sake of my grandchild, we should all try to mend fences.” He could not be serious.

Aubree rolled her eyes, “As if I want the approval of the man who killed my mother. Some fences can never be mended.” David laughed, “The clown in the maze killed your mother, not me.” Aubree’s hands went into fists. She spat back, “Well he’s dead now.”

David stopped laughing, “You... killed him?” Lacy raised her hand, “I did. He mocked me for being hungry. He had to go, the pup said so. At least in my head he did.” I bit my lip. Lacy whipped her head towards the left. I heard someone scream, “NO!” I knew that scream. It was my mother.

David’s eyes widened. He yelled, “YOU STUPID WOMAN! WHY DID YOU DO THAT?” I turned and saw my mother had dove in front of me. She had a bolt sticking out of her chest. I looked up to see a really pale man holding a crossbow. David marched over to him; I knew he was going to kill him.

I leaned down and gathered my mother in my arms. I felt tears form even though I was mad at her. I cried, “Mom... I could’ve gotten out of the way.” My mom gasped, “It was all I had... to ... prove... I do... Love you. This time.... I choose.... right.... you...are...my bab... y...”

Tears pricked my eyes, “Hang on, mom. Please. Don’t go. Not this way.” Her breath was coming quickly, “It’s my time... It has to be...you ...Kill him, Evie... You can do it... I... love... you... sweetie....” She took one last labored breath and her chest stopped moving.

I screamed, “NO! MOM NO!” I laid her down and began to chest compressions. I yelled, “One... two.... three... BREATHE! DAMN IT, MOM!” Lacy put her hand on my back, “She’s gone, Emmaline.”

I shook my head, “NO! She’s going to be fine. She can’t die saving me. That’s not how this ends. I get to be mad at her for YEARS to come. DO NOT DIE! DO YOU HEAR ME, MOM? You are NOT allowed to die this way.”

Tears were flowing down my cheeks. Aubree put her hand on my back above Lacy's, "Emmaline... she's gone." I stood. David had the audacity to have tears flowing down his face, I screamed, "YOU!" He turned to me startled. I ranted at him, "YOU TURNED HER AGAINST ME! YOU MADE HER CHOOSE! THIS IS YOUR FAULT!"

Another dart hit my skin. I turned it to water, and let it fuel my anger. I pelted David with my hail. He used his powers to deflect them. Lacy dove on top me as another one of David's followers raised a crossbow. We both sat straight up when an arrow pierced his heart. Arrows flew all around us, then the wind came.

I smirked at David, "Looks like more members of my bad ass girl gang have arrived. Would you care to meet them?" David looked around, "Women can't beat me." I heard a laugh I knew. I motioned towards her, "Welcome the soon to be Queen of the Hackura, Astrid." Astrid snapped one of David's followers' necks and strode forward.

She smiled informing us, "I brought all but Torvi and Katie with me." The other Hackura princes' mates came into the clearing after killing their own warlock. I held out my hand, "Meet Ariel, Calista..." David cut me off, "Everyone knows their names, Evelyn. They are the mates of the Hackura Princes'. I make it my business to know about those in positions of power."

I shrugged, "Sorry guys, he's rude. I hope you are wondering who's using the arrows. That's my friend, BA. I guess you would call her the Black Arrow." Another arrow pierced a member of David's group. BA stepped out from the tree line. She nodded to me.

I continued, "You really shouldn't wonder who is bringing the wind and that tornado that's destroying your magic maze. If you are, it's my cousin, the Princess of the both the Hackura and Faerie." Haley popped next to me. She told me, "Molly is here too."

A wolf came out of the tree line. Haley laughed, "She linked me to tell you to be a little vaguer in your message next time. It was super helpful. Everyone's got fucking jokes today. I'm certain she is being sarcastic." She held out her hand and touched my head. It felt like seconds passed. I opened my eyes, "Thanks, that headache was getting intense." Haley rubbed my head, "Miley is here too."

I grinned then taunted David, "Duchess Miley of the Hackura is here too." Miley was covered in blood from head to toe when she faded in. She smiled at David, "Thanks for the scraps of warlock meat. I needed to brush up on my skills. I haven't killed a large group of people in SUCH a long time."

David yelled, "A BUNCH OF WOMEN CAN'T BEAT ME AND MY COVEN!" Haley rolled her eyes, "It's a fucking pathetic coven, that our bad ass girl gang has cut through like cake." David said, "Is she serious? It's butter!"

Haley groaned, "Seriously? Butter from where? Not the fridge, that shit is hard to cut through." She paused then asked, "Is that your mom, Emmaline?" My anger came back into me. I glared at David, "She jumped in front of me." Haley whistled, "Damn. I didn't see that coming. I'd heal her Emmaline, but..." I cut her off, "She's gone. I know. Where are the guys? Aubree said Dustin called the shadows to him."

Haley shrugged, "I don't know. It's technically bad form that I brought Molly with us. They need permission to be on another werewolves' land, and we crossed states. I plan to say oops. Then point out Eric obviously got permission. They just don't need to know when I brought Molly here. That seems like a detail that should not be talked about."

Molly snorted, "Eric hates it when you say oops." Haley bit her lip, "Eric can ... shove it. That's what Eric can fucking do. Oops is the best reason of all time." Molly smiled, "The guys are here." David angrily yelled, "They can't get in. I don't even know how you got in!"

BA laughed, "You warded them out, not me." Haley's witch friends from before came into the clearing. One spoke, "We weakened the ward. Haley being Haley made the Black Arrow pull her through."

Haley introduced, "That's my sister in law Megan, Arion's mate, and her friend Lisa. A witch I like. Fuck it we are friends." Arion's mate?! Megan seemed touched she'd introduced her that way.

David frowned, "She would be injured, burned severely actually if she was dragged inside." Haley glared at him, "You are a fucking moron, and I can't handle anymore idiots today. Someone kill him." I hissed, "Me. He's mine!" Haley shrugged, "Fine by me." I asked, "Is he telling the truth? Did you have to heal yourself?"

Megan glared at Haley, "Yes, because waiting the extra fifteen minutes for us to create a hole for us to come through was too long." Haley agreed, "It really was. I'm glad you've come around to my side of things. BA and I took out A LOT of witches and warlocks before you all got in." BA tried not to laugh but didn't manage it.

Lacy sounded relieved, "Then the guys will get in quickly." Miley interjected, "It closed behind us." Lisa said, "It's pretty powerful, we couldn't keep it open indefinitely." David mocked her, "Women are weak." I countered, "Yet they were

strong enough to get inside whatever protection spell you had up. They are also strong enough to kill most of your forces.” David ground out, “Your wolf won’t get in.”

Aubree snorted, “Her wolf is with MY husband and brother-in-law, they will get in.” A man snorted, “Dustin is likely dead.” David and I whirled around. Both of us simultaneously screamed, “WHAT?!” Aubree clutched her stomach, “No... no... He can’t be. I would know.”

Haley put her arms around Aubree whispering to her. I couldn’t focus. I threw out my questions, “What do you mean? Why would you think my brother is dead?” David said, “That’s an excellent question. Why would my son be dead? His maze is nothing he couldn’t handle.”

The man fidgeted. I looked back pain clear in my voice, “Haley.” Haley nodded, “I’m in his head ask him again, he will not be able to lie.” I turned and repeated, “Why do you think my brother is dead?”

The man answered, “As long as Dustin is alive, David will always want for him to return to the fold. Dustin is the prodigal son. He is not in his maze. I ran him down in the street with a car and used the holoport to get back here with Aubree.”

I felt pain in my chest, not my big brother. I screamed, “YOU WHAT?” My hands began to glow. I called to my light. The man began to scream as David cast a spell. He yelled at him, “I told you to PUT HIM IN THE MAZE! The Princess BETTER have saved my son.”

I screamed, “SHUT UP! This is all your fault! If Dusty is dead, I’ll make you BEG for death. The men in our lives will ask me for a turn with you and I won’t let them have you! HOW COULD YOU TRUST HIM WITH DUSTY’S LIFE! YOU ARE DIGUSTING!”

I called all the water in the area to me. We were actually right by a lake, which was unfortunate for David and his warlock. Neither of them had noticed I had called the water until it wrapped around the man who hit my brother with his car, dragging him to the lake.

I watched him flounder trying to get around the water’s rage, my rage. It wasn’t going to happen. I asked, “Haley, is my brother dead?” Haley assured me, “No, he’s with Eric and Lucas, along with Ryan. They will get in here soon. Eric assured me Dustin is with them, Emmaline. He would not lie about that. Alexander was taken to him, he healed Dustin.”

David snorted, “My son would stand against me. Those kids have her genes and are weak like she was.” He pointed at my mother. I drowned the man in the lake and screamed in a rage. She wasn’t the best, but we had thirteen good years. She was still my mother. I yelled, “SHE WAS WEAK BECAUSE OF YOU! YOU BASTARD!” I ran at David.

All hell broke loose, and everyone started fighting. Arrows were flying, but nothing could keep me from my target. I saw a wolf in my peripheral before realizing it was Lacy. She charged at the men surrounding David. Haley popped over.

I heard Blade, “Is always trouble. Hello, Fairy.” I laughed and mocked the man I once called dad, “David, meet my friend Blade.” Blade smiled. David sounded like a petulant child when he replied, “I thought it was a girl gang.”

Blade simply said, “Princess come. Blade comes.” David asked, “What’s wrong with him?” Blade’s eyes blazed and David shrank back. I charged him, and we began to fight. He wasn’t letting me get close enough to touch him.

Haley and Blade were cutting through anyone who was trying to protect David from me. He was good but I’d managed to hit him several times with my hail. I heard a howl I recognized, and I couldn’t stop my smile. The pride I felt for my mate knew no bounds.

David paled, “Your wolf will be met with rogues.” I shrugged, “He’s dealt with them before. He’s coming for you, ya know?” David proudly stated, “I won’t go down at the hands of wolves.” I laughed, “You’re right. You’re going down at the hand of a fairy and the girl gang of bad asses.” Haley yelled, “FUCK YES HE IS!”

Arrows flew through the air reigning down on enemies. David screamed in irritation, “How the HELL is she firing so many arrows?” Haley proudly stated, “She’s the fucking Black Arrow, that’s how. Do you live in a cave?” David smirked. I searched his soul. He was feeling malicious and calculating.

Before I could warn her David taunted her, “No, but I do wonder how you are even alive. My spell...” He trailed off. Haley tilted her head, “Exfuckingcuse me?” I told David, “Wow, the heat of the moment got you and now you’re screwed.” David stammered, “I was just talking about...”

I cut him off telling Haley, “He helped Axel Price. It’s what cost him his wick before he killed her. The ring has been going on longer than we thought. David changed the spell so you wouldn’t just be unable to move and not feel pain; he made you feel more.”

Haley's eyes blazed, "You fucking SON OF A BITCH!" Her soul was calculating, but the one soul that terrified me was Blade's. His murderous intent was solely focused on David, which would not be a problem if I didn't want to be the one to kill him.

Haley stared deeply into David's eyes, "Of these people here, who are the most important to you?" Well, that person was so dead. David answered, "Emmaline, I need revenge. She is the most important to me. Aubree is next. She can call the shadows so until she gives birth to my grandchild, she is important. I'll find a way to take their child and raise it myself." Ok, that's not what Haley meant. She'd never kill me or Aubree. She meant in his coven, jeez. How did I idolize this man for so long?

Haley said, "Not fucking happening. Dustin and Aubree will raise their child. Are you really making me defend a warlock right now? God damn it... I hate you so much. Dustin will raise his child WITH Aubree. You will NEVER see that child; I promise you that." Several people gasped. Seriously? Did anyone think he was leaving alive?

Haley shrugged, "I meant from your coven. Who is the most important to you? Seriously, do I have to spell every fucking thing out for everyone all the damn time?" David answered, "The two fighting on my right. The one who Emmaline drowned in the lake was, but he harmed Dustin. I am glad he is dead. He was never to harm my son. He didn't even use his powers because Dustin would've defeated him."

Haley popped to the men on his right. She took the air of one of the men. David yelled, "STOP!" I sarcastically replied, "Sure, that will do it." I hit him with my hail. Blade said, "Fairy mess with kill. Do not play. Bites ass."

I laughed, "I don't intend to let it bite me in the ass, Blade. I do intend to mess with him though." Blade said, "You kill or Blade does." I knew that too. His soul had already told me that. David screamed in anger when Haley killed both his favorites from the group.

David yelled at her, "How are you EVEN alive to annoy me?" She whirled, "Because I am Princess Haley Cambridge FUCKING Connors. How MANY times must I answer that damn question? I am NOT weak or powerless! Seriously! FUCK YOU!" Agreed.

David and I engaged again. I smirked knowing I had him where I wanted him. I was about to end the whole thing. My hands turned blue. Aubree yelled, "EMMALINE, POP AWAY!" I wasn't about to do that. I was shoved from behind. I saw David sneering at me as he dodged my hands. He quickly frowned as I felt two people grab onto each of my arms.

I heard Lucas yell, “EMMALINE!” I heard Eric yelling in a panic, “HALEY, NO!” I wasn’t even surprised Haley was with me, but I was surprised at how concerned Eric sounded. We fell in a heap through a holoport onto a concrete floor.

BA grunted, “We did not stick that landing. Not our worst landing though, Hales.” I rubbed my butt that I’d landed on, “You move really fast. Like... the flash fast.” BA laughed, “It’s a skill of mine. I can’t pop around places, but I am faster than a werewolf with my speed.”

I was impressed. I questioned, “WOW. Can all members of the hood move that fast?” BA shrugged, “Most are faster if not as fast as werewolves. My brother and I are significantly faster than most of our people.” Then they were leaders. Holy crap. Was she a Princess?

Haley teased her, “Did you just say fast? You were on the other side of the damn field. It gets me every time. It’s so awesome.” We turned as we heard steel being dragged on the cement floor. Someone sounded annoyed, “A price was only paid for one, it seems it’s my lucky day.”

We all turned and saw a man with a hood up over his head. Haley jeered, “It’s sad he doesn’t know it’s his unfucking lucky day.” BA agreed, “So very unlucky.” The man laughed, and raised his sword asking, “How’s that?”

Haley conjured her swords, “Because I’m REALLY fucking proficient with swords. One on three is nowhere near the worst odds this little group has been up against.” BA said, “Uhh... Haley. There is more than just him. A lot more.”

Men began to step up out of the shadows. Haley said, “I know. He’s just the only one who will be a challenge, and that’s questionable.” BA laughed. I asked, “Is this some weird cult? Where the hell are we?”

The man informed us, “You are in Hell.” Haley snorted, “You’re fucking joking. Hell is in a basement? Please lie better or I’ll do my thing, and make you tell me the truth.” She scoffed, “Hell. As if we would believe that.”

The man frowned, “We are devil worshipers.” It clicked for me, “You are Satan’s coven. David has been fighting against you for years. Why would you help him?” Everyone laughed at me. The man stated, “David circulated that he fought against us to gain power. In truth, we’ve worked together for years. Do you not find it odd anyone who opposes him ends up slaughtered?”

I confidently stated, “David doesn’t want you to kill me.” Because he wanted to kill me himself. The man laughed, “He said you were smart, but we aren’t going to kill you. We just torture people. There’s another part to your hell before it all ends.” I sighed, “Of course there is.”

Haley flicked her fingers, “I’m fucking bored.” She killed two people before the man could raise his sword. His eyes widened as he yelled, “HOW DARE YOU!” Haley shrugged, “I know but to be fair... you are REALLY boring.” Arrows flew into the coven surrounding us.

Haley let her eyes blaze, and I started throwing my hail and icicles. Some yelled, “David lied to us! She still has powers! He said she was the only one being sent. Yet the Princess and the Black Arrow are here too! I don’t want to die for his lies!” So, someone had some brains... but neither Haley nor BA would ever let them live.

The main guy tried to calm them down, “We just need to get a few shots in on the girl.” One came at me. I winked at Haley who just smiled and kept tearing through the room. I took the knife from the man coming at me, just like Haley showed me. I dug the knife into his side and twisted it before I removed it.

BA said, “Damn, our little fairy has skills. I’ve seen that move, Hales. You two have been practicing together.” Someone yelled, “OH COME ON!” I winked at BA, “We have every Thursday.” BA laughed and slammed her bow into a guy’s face and got down on one knee.

She told them “You fuckers made me leave a date early, and I really like this guy. Sex was absolutely on the menu after the date, and I missed it.” I smiled, “You are so cute when you are happy.” She really was. I was just worried about her entire situation. Haley agreed, “She really is. Do I get to meet this one?” I glanced at her. I was certain she knew who the guys was, so why was she asking? I searched her soul. She felt hopeful but resigned.

BA smiled, “I think you have to. He needs Haley’s stamp of approval.” Haley was surprised, “Oh really? It’s getting serious?” BA nodded, “Really serious.” Haley was now resigned and happy. What the hell? It hit me. Was the guy Alpha Chase? Holy crap how would that have happened? I pushed that aside. It couldn’t be... could it? No, that was a problem for another day. I did not have time to solve that right now.

Someone said, “Not to break up this moment, but you have killed too many of my people for me to let you go now. You all must pay. I’m afraid you won’t get to reschedule your precious date.” Haley pondered, “How do we decide who gets to kill him?” BA loaded an arrow, “He said I couldn’t make my date; I think I win.”

Haley shrugged, "I'm cool with it. Emmaline?" I laughed, "By all means." The man said, "You can't take me I'm..." He trailed off when BA sunk her arrow directly through his heart. BA mocked, "What was that? I couldn't quite make it out. If there was going to be a next time for you, I'd say sometimes just say no when someone asks you a favor." The man said, "You can't.... go... with.... her.... this... time." Huh?

An invisible force grabbed me. I screamed, "HALEY!" As I disappeared from the room and her grasp. I heard her yell, "What the fuck?! I will fucking kill all of you for this! Emmaline, call on me for..." Her voice faded.

I felt like I was falling. Is this how Alice felt in Wonderland? Suddenly I hit a wall and gasped. An older woman was in the corner of what appeared to be a cell. I quickly asked, "What's your role? I won't fall for it."

The woman laughed. "I won't hurt you; I'm stuck here just as you are. You are Evie, right?" I frowned, "You seem to have me at a disadvantage." She smiled, "I have been at a disadvantage for quite some time. So, all David's plans have come together. You and I are here, and he has his June." She spat my mother's name.

Tears filled my eyes. The woman snapped at me, "You can't love her! Come on! She chose his weak ass over you!" I wiped at the corners of my eyes, "She's dead. I would agree that I didn't like her, but she was my mom. I did love her. She dove in front of a crossbow's bolt to save me. I could've just popped away. Speaking of. Bye."

She looked panicked when she yelled, "WAIT!" I closed my eyes and thought of Lucas. I hit a wall that burned me. I screamed in pain as I slammed down on my butt. The woman came over to me, "I did try to warn you. The cell has magical protections. We can use magic inside, but not to get out. He had an iron base added recently in preparation for you joining me."

I sighed, "Fine. Who am I joining for a brief time until my fiancé gets here? I swear if David makes me miss my wedding... I will do HORRIBLE things to him." The woman smiled, "When's your wedding?" I answered hopefully, "Christmas Eve." She winced, "Then I hope your wolf finds you quickly. They know you aren't dead right?" I frowned, "Of course they do. Why would they think I was dead?"

She smiled, "This is good then." I honestly told her, "The suspense is driving me insane. What's your name?" She answered, "Alexa Price." I gaped, "I'm about to quote my cousin, EXFUCKINGCUSE ME? You're dead." Alexa snorted, "I wish."

I figured it out, "David couldn't kill you, could he? Because you were his wick? I guess that makes sense." Alexa laughed, "You are so young and adorable. No, when I

found out what he was doing, helping Fabian with that awful ring... the little girls and boys... the things they were doing. It's been around much longer than your cousin knew. Fabian was hunting down partial fairy's his entire life. He just treated your cousin the worst because she always lived, and she was his niece. I heard stories about her. My Uncle," she spat the word, "And David would talk here. I felt quite bad for her. There were so many others before she was even born. I couldn't stand the sight of David when I found out he'd been helping my uncle."

I shook my head, "I don't understand. If it's not because he is your wick, why has he kept you alive all this time?" She smiled, "He wants to know where our daughter is." I couldn't form a coherent sentence for several moments.

I chanted my space unheard chant just in case. If I knew David, he had microphones around. Alexa smiled, "You can do Fae magic, impressive." I said, "I don't know if he has mics in here or anything." Alexa laughed, "No, it's not that sophisticated of an operation, but David could've added them for your arrival without my knowledge. He did know you were coming."

I asked, "Who is your daughter?" Alexa replied carefully, "I'll tell you if you tell me your new name. You have to have one since you evaded David for so long. I honestly have wanted to give you a hug for so long for making him so angry."

I answered, "My name is Emmaline Richards." She gasped, "That's her name." My heart stopped, "No... it can't be.... You're Emmeline Ryder's mother?" She nodded and her eyes filled with tears, "You know my little girl? Once I found out who David really was, I put her into hiding, and had her name changed. David and I always knew we were mates. I had her when I was sixteen. We didn't want to tell anyone until I was eighteen about her. We hid her for two years, but then I found out who he really was behind his mask. My friend helped us, but David killed her too."

I didn't think it could be, but I asked, "Aubree's mom?" Alexa cringed, "It was such a cruel twist of fate that Aubree was David's son's mate." I whispered, "I'm so sorry, but Dusty is a good man." Alexa shrugged, "I don't really care that they are mates. From what David says Dustin is nothing like him. You are a fairy and you cannot lie which mean you believe what you said. Based on what I've heard, that accurate. Anyway, I got my Emmeline out of David's grasp. I had planned to go after her once the dust settled. I never thought David would kill Ben. I never thought Axel would help him imprison me here."

I grabbed her hand, "Ben isn't dead, he's been helping me. He's out for revenge on David... For your death. He's been hiding." Alexa smiled wistfully, "That sounds like my brother. Tell me about my little girl. How is she?" I winced, "She came to me."

Alexa frowned then shook her head, “Oh no. No, no, no no!” I sighed, “Her mate’s enemies took her. They didn’t know she was pregnant, and she gave birth around vampires.” Alexa cried, “Oh my baby! The... baby. My grandchild. Did her child live?” I nodded, “Charlie Rose, she’s being raised in our pack. When we get out of here, you could come see her. Emmeline’s wishes were for her to be raised by a couple in our pack. It’s why she came to me, they are related. I guess they are your relatives too somehow. This is all getting confusing. I’m sure she would’ve wanted you in Charlie’s life.”

Alexa laughed, “Emmeline ended up with distant relatives of mine. So, I’m sure we are related to the wolves in your pack. I have a granddaughter. Wow.” I sighed, “I’m team never tell David. Charlie Rose deserves better than him in her life.”

Alexa agreed, “I wouldn’t betray my daughter, and I certainly won’t betray my granddaughter. You have just reignited my hatred of him. I could’ve helped our little girl. I could’ve saved her, but he kept me here. He kept me away from her, and now it’s too late. She is gone from this plane. I will move to where you are when this is done. I will not take my granddaughter from those my daughter wished to raise her. I would just love to be her grandmother. Mother earth always knows what is best. I have always honored mother earth in all moments of my life, except rejecting the one meant for me. That is the only time I went against her, but it was necessary. I would do it time and time again.”

David’s voice entered our conversation, “Interesting. I cannot hear a single word you’re saying. You two have met though fabulous. Welcome to the rest of your life, Evelyn.” I gulped but I knew he was wrong. Lucas was coming, and we would end this once and for all.