

Life isn't fair

Lucas opened his eyes and took in the beauty surrounding him. Russia was a very picturesque place. Dylan spoke first of course, "They are in a castle? Maybe David even got them maids. What if they are sitting in there eating beef stroganoff? Meanwhile, we are out here working hard to get inside, and they are just fine." I rolled my eyes.

Aiden announced, "This ward has an iron base to it. That couldn't have felt great for Haley to pass through. I hope they aren't in an iron cage." I frowned, "That would weaken them, wouldn't it?" Aiden nodded, "Yes, it would."

The Hackura groaned. Eric asked, "What?" King Titus spoke, "We feel two connections where Haley would be." Eric laughed, "That's good then." Dylan rubbed his face, "Right. That's obviously good. WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN? Why are you and the creepy ninja's so cryptic? Would it kill any of you to spell it out for those of us who haven't slept in days?"

Eric laughed, "I couldn't possibly ruin the moment when you find out for yourself." Dylan said, "Now, now GAP... Did you miss the part where I said I haven't slept in days? A pink turtle could pop up, and I would think it was normal. An everyday occurrence even."

Marcus started to laugh, "We actually have some pink turtles in our realm. Haley snapped them pink." Dylan gasped, "She can do that? I want a purple pig." I asked, "Dear god, why do you want a purple pig?" Dylan snorted, "Why wouldn't I? Wilber had people coming to see him from all around. THINK of the money we could charge for people to see a purple pig. We would be RICH I TELL YOU!"

I raised an eyebrow, "We are rich." Dylan sighed, "Someone get us inside before I decide to be deeply insulted no one is laughing at my hilarity. None of you appreciate me."

Dustin and Ryan looked at each other. Ryan said, "It's going to take time to take this ward down. It's stronger than the one at Lost Lake." Ben offered, "I'll help you." Dylan clapped, "There you go, Unknown Caller Ben, make yourself useful so GAP doesn't kill you because he has nothing else to do right now." Ben gulped.

Dylan turned to Lucinda, "Oh, lovely, beautiful fairy queen. Would you be so kind as to snap me pumpkin spice latte three extra pumps of espresso please and thank you." I

snorted, “Maybe just one extra shot.” Eric interjected, “Or none. He doesn’t need an espresso shot.”

Lucinda smiled and winked at Dylan. She told him, “Anything for my friend Dylan. One pumpkin spice latte with three extra espresso shots coming up because you are my favorite.” Dylan jumped up and down, “YIPEE! I’m the fairy queen’s favorite, Lucas. That deserves later reflection once I am buzzing with energy.”

He chugged the latte Lucinda handed him. Eric linked me, “Fucking hell.” I sighed. Aiden snapped the rest of us coffee while grinning mischievously. Dylan finished his drink then fist pumped into the air, “AHHH I AM READY TO GO! Put me in coach. Let me at ‘em, let me at ‘em.” He started jumping back and forth.

He told me, “I feel like I could do a backflip. In fact, I’m going to do a backflip.” He took off running, I cautioned, “Dylan, you don’t know how...” I trailed off when he did a backflip.

He taunted, “You were saying something you doubting Thomas?” I said, “Evidently, you can do a backflip.” Dylan started to dance, “Of course I can. Let’s give the witches a latte. I could bring that ward down now. I CAN DO EVERYTHING!” Eric disagreed, “No, just no Dylan.” Dylan turned, “GAP, do tell me how you got so lucky? I mean really did you sacrifice virgins to the gods? What did you do? The WORLD needs to know.”

Eric growled, “I have NEVER hurt a woman who did not pose a threat to pack or family.” Dylan said, “That’s not what I meant. GOD! You all are so serious. Lighten up, Francis.” I rolled my eyes. “Now he’s quoting movies.”

Dylan turned, “Lucas... I often quote movies. Hey... where did Beta James Bond go?” Aiden said, “He did not hop on the super powerful fairy family express.” Dylan glared at the sky, “WHY MOON GODDESS? Queen Lucinda would’ve snapped him a martini!” Lucinda smirked, “Shaken not stirred even.”

Dylan continued to yell at the sky, “It’s because I’m not GAP, isn’t it? If Beta James Bond amused him, he would be here.” Eric said, “Dylan, my wife, pups, and her cousin are behind this barrier. They are with a man who hates my mate and your Luna.” Dylan waited several moments then asked, “Was there more to that statement? We all know that already.”

Eric was about to yell at Dylan when BA said, “Good lord, you all are worse than women. I’d bet I can get through this.” Molly mused, “You did get through the other one.” BA wiggled her eyebrows. Dylan clapped, “Right, you have a weekend getaway

to get to according to the goddess that is our fun sized ninja fairy. Who is that with? Your string perhaps?"

BA laughed, "I can't tell you his name before I tell Haley. That's like breaking so many girl code rules." Dylan said, "Awww come on now, just between us gals." BA laughed, "I can't actually tell you. I'm not dating him as the Black Arrow."

Dylan's eyes lit up, "It's so your string!" BA blushed. Eric raised an eyebrow. BA avoided answering, "I don't really talk about my real identity." Dylan happily asked, "So it's like fight club? GAP, WE ONLY HAVE ONE RULE!" Eric rubbed his face.

Dylan told BA, "He has to join our guy gang though. So, I need someone to talk about it." BA laughed, "I'm sure Haley can get a group of guys for your gang without you knowing directly which one I'm dating." Dylan said, "Well, if he's not your string we don't want him." BA laughed, "Then I suppose you'll have to wait and find out."

Dylan pouted, "Tired Dylan is not a patient man! You look too happy for him not to be your string. TRUST ME. I am THE expert. I watched GAP and Lucas date women who weren't their mate. I dated women who weren't my mate. The only one who could make me smile like that is my mate. Where is your weekend getaway?" BA shrugged, "I don't know, he's surprising me."

Dylan sighed dramatically, "Then I hope he is your string, or he could be a killer ferreting you off to commit your murder." Eric punched Dylan in the arm. Dylan yelled, "OW! I'm not saying he would be successful! She's crazy fast and amazing with arrows."

BA laughed again. "That being said, I'm going to get in there and get to my girls." Eric cautioned, "Haley will kick our asses if that ward hurts you." BA winked, "All the more reason for me to try to get through. You two are ridiculously cute together, Eric. I've never seen her so happy."

Dylan clapped and pointed at BA, "That's three... three women who can him Eric and he doesn't so much as growl. Never in all my years has that gone down like this. I have seen it all now. Nothing can surprise me." BA laughed, "I like you Dylan Frost, call me BA."

Dylan squealed, "LUCAS!" I winced, "I know." Dylan asked, "Do you? Do you really? The Black Arrow... I'm sorry BA said I can call her BA. Not you, or you, or even you." He pointed at different people. He stopped on Eric.

Eric smirked, "I've been calling her BA since she stayed at my house." Dylan threw his hands in the air, "OF COURSE YOU HAVE, YOU PRICK!" BA laughed, "As fun as this is, I'm going to join the action. If I don't see you before Haley pops me out, I hope to see you again soon."

Dylan said, "The wedding. You're coming to the wedding, right? It's on Christmas Eve." BA sighed, "Sadly, I have a mission." Dylan complained, "AWWW come on! I heard a birdy say the Scott's were in charge... cozy on up to miss Lexi Scott. Sisters can make their brothers do things from my observations."

BA laughed, "Rumors are not fact. You don't know the Scott family leads us." Dylan pursed his lips, "True. Give me the number of the Hood himself. I'll charm him, it's my superpower." Eric scoffed. Dylan stuck his tongue out at him.

BA told Dylan, "Ever since the Hood lost his string... he's been on a mission to be the best leader we've had. He doesn't take a break. I take my missions so he can relax, and so I stay busy." Dylan thought about it then said, "AWWW, the poor guy. My mated heart twitterpated with sympathy for him. We can have Emmaline meet him. She can figure out his second chance string. We can get him to lighten up."

BA smiled, "I hope he does, he's a great guy. He's one of the best men I know." Dylan said, "That's adorable. Such interesting affection you have for your leader. Familial even, possibly." I linked him, "You cannot think the Hood and Black Arrow are related." He snorted, "The saying it runs in the family comes to mind." Maybe but the Hood generally only had one moniker per family.

BA didn't answer him and instead stepped into the ward. Molly clicked her tongue, "The man doesn't learn." BA gave her a thumbs up and took off running. Dylan asked the group, "Do we even need to do anything? Did you see how fast she is?" Molly laughed, "You wait until you see her smash people's skulls in with her bow. Her upper body workout must be intense."

Dylan yelled, "I MISSED THAT! OH, CRUEL UNKNOWING WORLD!" Eric breathed a sigh of relief. I asked, "Eric? Eric smiled, "BA got to them. Haley linked me that they are kicking ass. Emmaline is working on something with the ward."

Logan voiced my question, "How can she do that? She's not a witch." Aiden happily explained, "She's going to take the iron part down so we can get in. Rest assured wolves, our family will be victorious. Marcious stay back with the wolves to help on this side." Marcious nodded sadly, "Yes, cousin. I will do that."

I took a stab at getting him to clarify that, “Take down the iron?” Aiden smiled, “She is going to turn the iron to water.” We all gaped at him. Dylan said, “Sure... that... The whole thing? Can she do that? What am I saying? Of course, she can, she's Queen Elsa. She just uses love to thaw things.”

Aiden frowned, “The ward is not frozen, I do not understand this reference.” Dylan shrugged, “I’m tired. So very tired King Fire Hands.” All of a sudden the ward looked like it was sweating. The warlocks all paused. Aiden laughed, “Here we go!”

After a few minutes it was as if it had been popped like a balloon; water rained down on the inside of the ward. Aiden winked at us, “See you on the other side, wolves. Fairies assemble!” Aiden, Lucinda, and Bexley popped away.

Dylan asked, “Did he just imply they were the Avengers? Because... I’m so on the fairy avengers’ team.” I responded, “I think he did.” Eric grumbled, “Google is the worst thing for fairies to get a hold of.” Dylan disagreed, “I think you mean the best thing ever. I love everything about it. Hey warlocks, the fairies are kicking your ass.”

Dustin snarked, “Thanks Dylan, that’s very helpful.” Dylan smiled gleefully, “Just doing my part, man. I’m just a Beta hoping I could jump start your competitive fairy blood.” Marcious asked, “How do you know fairies are competitive?”

Dylan linked me, “I forgot he stayed behind. DRAT! He can’t know about my precious.” Out loud Dylan said, “Duh, I live with one. Remember? It’s your daughter. I have spent my time dedicated to learning about the partial fairy’s since I met your cousin Haley. Ever since the very first moment I spoke to her on the phone, I have been captivated by her. She already had me in the palm of her hand after their wedding. So much pink. Did you know he hates pink? Loathes it. Yet his mating ceremony was chock full of pink. I bow to her amazingness. Have you heard about our first conversation? It was glorious. Followed by our second conversation, then the amazingness that was the video of her taking our council to task that she later killed.”

Marcious laughed, “I did hear about that.” Dylan asked, “Which part?” Marcious smirked, “All of it. The wolves did not appear to know that while fairy women are quite pleasant during pregnancy if you push them... they are vicious.”

Jackson snorted, “Why haven’t we watched this tape?” Dylan shrieked, “YOU HAVEN’T SEEN IT? I watch it whenever I need to cheer myself up.” I asked, “Eric, you haven’t seen it?” Eric shrugged, “No.” I laughed, “I have. He made me watch it when I got home. It’s... something.”

Dylan berated them, “BLASPHEMERS! All of you! Heretics! You do not deserve her. WHY MOON GODDESS?” Eric growled, “Because she’s fucking mine, Dylan.” Dylan bemoaned, “BUT WHY? Dear goddess WHY is she yours?”

Marcious laughed, “That is a popular question in Faerie, Beta Dylan.” Dylan said, “Now, now, none of them deserve her either. I won’t lie to you Marcious, I don’t know who does. I’m glad Haley is GAP’s because she is so close by. My fairy show is on twenty-four seven thanks to these two Alpha males.” He pointed at Eric and me.

Bjourn spoke, “Had Eric not been her mate, we would’ve killed hers. We wanted Eric for her. She needs someone like him as her partner.” Dylan said, “What? You were going to kill her mate?” Bjourn glanced at Marcious before answering, “Yes, especially if it was a fairy.” Dylan said, “Damn. She was always going to get to be Eric’s in this reality?” All the Hackura nodded. Dylan turned to Eric, “PRICK!” Eric smirked.

Dylan yelled, “WAIT! He said someone like him... OHHHH THERE WERE OTHER CHOICES! Tell me who.” He smiled. Ryan and Dustin turned briefly with smirks on their face. Eric growled, “DYLAN!” Dylan smirked, “You know I’m right, don’t you? You feel it in your perfect, knows everything head.” Eric growled, “She’s mine.” Dylan sighed, “I’ll get the list, I will. I might have to arrange visits... It will be glorious.” Eric snarled and started to move towards Dylan.

He stopped when the stench of rogues hit us. We whirled around. They had come to the barrier, ready to attack the second the ward came down. Dylan cleared his throat, “Not to rock the boat, but Dustin and Ryan; Is there any reason why you couldn’t just ask the shadows to get you inside?” Dustin said, “The shadows aren’t a genie. You can’t ask them to break wards. They respect that magic they present.”

Dylan snorted, “The shadows have rules? God, can we get the fairy’s back? They are far more fun.” He scoffed, “Rules.” Marcious roared with laughter. He turned commenting, “Beta Dylan, you will have to come to dinner at my home sometime. You would be a hit.”

Dylan whirled, “I would be popular in Faerie?” Marcious said, “Very. Your mate would dislike it, but you would be quite the hit.” Dylan clapped, “Did you hear that, Lucas?” I rubbed my face, “Yes, I imagine I will hear all about it for the rest of our lives.” Dylan smirked, “Damn straight you will! Marcious, I want to be the resident wolf expert on partial fairies. Can you help me with that?”

Marcious laughed, “I could tell you stories about fairies I suppose. Here is my card.” Dylan squealed like a teenage girl, “A fairy card Lucas. I have a fairy card WITH A

FAIRY ON THE OTHER END! I don't recall ever being more excited than in this moment." I casually replied, "When you married my sister, found out you'd be a dad, moments like that come to mind." Dylan wasn't even listening to me; he was holding up the card and singing.

Eric groaned, "Really, Marcious? Why?" Marcious answered, "He amuses me." Dylan gleefully exclaimed, "FINALLY! Someone who gets me. I appreciate them and they appreciate me. NONE of you can take that from me."

Dustin yelled, "GET READY!" Dylan took off his pants and put the card in them. He tied them to his ankle. We all looked at him. Dylan explained, "I'm not leaving this card in the dirt in Russia you guys. This WILL be on my person at all times. I already memorized the number." Eric rolled his eyes, "Of course you did. I have his number, Dylan; I could text it to you."

Dylan snorted, "This is my card GAP. You have a number in a phone. I have a physical card handed to me by the Prince of the water fairy's himself. Obviously, he likes me more than he likes you." Eric said, "Sure, whatever helps you sleep at night. Go ahead and think he didn't give me a card too."

Dylan started to dance again. "Alright, I'm ready." Eric said, "Good, we were waiting on you to be ready. It's why we've been FUCKING STANDING HERE THIS WHOLE TIME!" Dylan smiled, "There's no need to shout. You could've just told me to get ready." Eric pinched the bridge of his nose, "Lucas, I'm five seconds away from muzzling him."

Dylan gasped, "You said you'd never do that again!" Eric corrected him, "No, I said I would TRY not to do it again." Dylan said, "I'd just link Lucas all my thoughts until he told you." I changed the topic, "We need to shift."

Dylan looked at Eric, "HAHAHA I win." He shifted into Fang. Eric shifted into Thor and growled at Dylan. Dylan jumped in a circle around Thor. I shifted into Dominic. We all growled as the barrier came down. I jumped on the rogue who was going for Ryan's throat. Eric and Dylan were right beside me. Ryan blew out a breath, "Thanks."

Dylan linked, "Ummm... who knew Russia had this big of a rogue problem? We are massively outnumbered." I turned linking my friend, "Eric." Eric growled, "Tell me that's not five hundred rogues." I agreed with his assessment, "That does seem about right." Eric charged forward.

Dylan linked me, “WHERE IS THE GOD OF THUNDER GOING?” I took off after Eric. Dylan asked me, “Where are we going?!” We rushed the line with Eric. His brothers were right behind us. A pop sounded when Aiden and Lucinda joined us again with Bexley. Lucinda held out her hands and the wolves started to explode.

Dylan linked me, “SHE CAN BLOW UP ROGUES? I LOVE HER!” Bexley was throwing sunlight around, going for the kill. Eric howled when another pop sounded. I howled too. Haley had joined us. Dylan linked me, “How did she get taller? Is that a charm?” I looked over, and nearly staggered. Haley was now taller than Emmaline.

Haley smiled, “Hey there, Thor. She leaned down and the ground began to open. Several rogues fell into the crack once it was wide enough and Haley closed it. Dylan said, “Ummm... that’s new and amazing. Have I asked how is she taller now because... how? I have so many questions.”

Haley looked over at us. “Hey Dominic, Hi Fang.” Dylan jumped up and down, “She knows Fang’s name? OH MY GOD! RIBBON HALEY!!! WE HAVE A RIBBON HALEY!!!! LUCAS OUR LIVES ARE AMAZING! ALERT EVERYONE! RIBBON HALEY IS TALL AND AMAZING AND SHE KNOWS US LUCAS!” He howled in joy.

Haley laughed, “I guess you figured out I’m not your Haley. Emmaline was calling me not momma because the triplets called me not momma.” Dylan was too excited, “The triplets knew she wasn’t their mom? This gets better. DAMN these rogues for ruining the beauty of this moment. Tall Haley, we have a TALL Haley.”

Haley popped beside her Hackura brothers and fought with them for several minutes before she popped to Aiden. They fought with each other just as easily as she fought with her other brothers. Dylan linked me, “This Haley is not only tall she has a good relationship with Aiden.” I agreed, “So it seems.” Dylan nudged me in wolf form, “It’s too fun.”

Aiden happily ordered, “End this little sister of mine from another reality.” She smiled and held out her hands then curled her fingers. She took down all the remaining one hundred and fifty wolves. Dylan pleaded with me, “OH MY GOD! Can we keep her too? She’s amazing. There’s two of them. GAP could keep Short Haley and Tall Haley can live with us. Then we can get the two of them together. I will never be bored again.” I pointed out, “She belongs to an Eric in a different reality.”

Dylan shifted back and untied his pants from his legs, “Screw alternate reality GAP. I want that one for our home!” I shifted back, “Argue with her and Eric about it. I’m going to find Emmaline.” As I was running towards the castle, I was snapped clothes.

I could hear Dylan bickering with Eric, who told Dylan Tall Haley would eventually leave.

I turned to see her give Eric a quick hug. She told him, "I know you aren't mine, but I miss you." Dylan huffed, "OF course you do. GAP everyone! He's here all the DAMN TIME!" Tall Haley laughed, "You're just as fun here, Dylan." Dylan smirked, "Of course I am. I'm fabulous spanning all realities."

Eric said, "I'd like to go see my Haley and... I can tell the triplets just popped out." Titus looked at his phone. "They are with Veronica. I'll leave you all here and go give them a stern talking to." He opened a portal leaving as I reached the castle.

The second I stepped inside and was ankle deep in water, I followed the smell of jasmine knowing it was leading me to Emmaline. I needed to see her. I heard Emmaline talking to David. She was going to kill him. I sighed. I REALLY wanted to torture him, but if this is what Emmaline needed; I was beyond caring. I just wanted to get her home. I wanted to be her husband. I wanted our life together.

I entered the room in time to see her put her hands on David's chest. I couldn't take my eyes off her. My feet were frozen. My brain was screaming at me to go to her, but I couldn't move. I was just drinking her in.

Dylan bumped me from behind. He linked me, "She's really there, and she's ok. Move your sleep tyrant self to your woman." I rushed to her and put my arms around her. I felt lighter. She was in my arms. I wasn't going to be able to let her go anytime soon.

Emmaline's siblings joined me. Dylan said, "So many fairies, so little time. How long have we been friends, Tall Haley?" The Tall Haley laughed, "A week and a half. I met Eric two weeks ago, and you and Lucas came for a meeting with him. Jackson said Eric and I had to put on clothes and stop being naked." Dylan snorted.

Eric smirked, "You're such a killjoy, Jackson." Dylan shrieked, "JACKSON IS THE KILLJOY? Uhh no, that would be you. Don't try to give your mantle away. He's the reasonable one." Dylan scoffed, "Jackson a killjoy. It's just backwards and opposite day here in Russia." Eric rolled his eyes.

All of David's kids got their last words into their dad. Dylan linked me, "Slowest drowning EVER!" I replied, "I'm sure that was Emmaline's intention." Dylan stated, "Don't piss off the Luna." I added on, "Never piss off Katie Bishop." Dylan smiled, "Her fairy blood makes her so fun. I just know it. That was a drop mic moment. I can't believe I don't have one to give her."

Emmaline turned into my chest and started to cry. I kissed her, pouring all my feelings into that kiss. I linked Eric, “I can’t have this happen again.” Eric responded, “I know.” I emphasized, “I can’t be apart from her like this again. What do we do? They are a part of this powerful family, but they don’t live in Faerie. They are the targets people will come for.”

Eric agreed, “I know that too. Those who come will be sorely disappointed because they will come against us every time. I won’t lose Haley again. I will fucking destroy anyone who tries to take her from my side.” I assured him, “I’ll help you. We need a plan.” Eric curtly stated, “We will have one.” I nodded.

Tall Haley was surprised our Haley didn’t know many human sayings. Her Hackura family shrugged. I linked Eric, “They do seem to know our sayings. Why doesn’t our Haley?” Eric winced, “Because they didn’t raise her. Their focus was on her physical and mental health by the time she came to them. They trained her and focused on getting her to open up to them. They didn’t train her about our realm. She didn’t do missions where her knowing the sayings were necessary. That’s why they know our sayings. So, they blend in when they go on missions. None of them wanted her gone for long periods of time like they can be. Most of her missions were silently getting in and out or helping BA. That’s how they became friends.”

I thought about it then nodded, “That makes sense.” Aiden was visibly relieved about the state of that realities relationship with her fairy family. Dylan linked me, “That’s gotta suck that knowing that a small decision here or there and his brother would be by his side. I don’t even know how I would handle it if Travis betrayed me. No that’s a lie, I do know. I’d kick Travis’ ass. Then I’d make him go bobbing for apples.”

What in the actual fuck? I asked, “What?” Dylan explained, “Travis hates bobbing for apples. He’s very bad at it. I’d make him keep bobbing until he got one. He could be bobbing for days, he’s that bad.” I shook my head. “That’s... so you Dylan.” Dylan smiled, “Isn’t it? People should do things my way. The world would be a better place.” I laughed, “It would certainly be a more interesting place.”

I turned my attention to Marcious when he asked Emmaline for a hug. I frowned. Dylan linked, “You will have to let go of her for him to hug her.” I growled, “Not necessarily.” Dylan said, “Sure, if you want an Emmaline sandwich it is not necessary.”

I admitted, “I can’t let go of her.” Dylan said, “We all see that. She’s shimmying her way towards her dad. Come on, you can do this. I believe in you. Deep breaths and relax your hands. Come on. There you go. Who’s a good boy?” He threw a piece of

popcorn at me. I batted it away. He frowned and shook his index finger, “Now, now, we don’t waste our snacks! BAD Lucas!” I stared at him for several seconds.

As soon as Marcious and Emmaline finished talking and he popped away, I had Emmaline back in my arms. Dylan sounded so happy to inform me, “You lasted a whole forty-five seconds without her in your arms. I see we are going to have to work on this. The good news is you can only improve from here. Maybe by the end of the week we can get it sixty seconds.”

I growled. He held up his hands, “I know. It’s a lofty goal, but I think if we put our heads together, we can accomplish it.” Emmaline panicked over the date. I assured her our wedding was still on. Dylan asked, “Can we sleep until Christmas Eve? I’m asking for a friend who’s very tired.” I didn’t answer.

Emmaline brought up Beta James Bond. Dylan linked me, “Stop trying to take Beta James Bond from me! Just because he’s my new best friend doesn’t mean I have no love for my old bestie! I still love you, man. Don’t be jealous of the newcomer, it’s very mean and petty.” I replied, “I simply stated his first name isn’t James.” He huffed at me.

Dylan asked Haley for more coffee. I linked him, “I think you need decaf.” Dylan hissed, “You shush. I NEED coffee. I am one cup away from falling flat on my face. Then I’d drown in the water because it’s ankle deep. My pillow would never know how much I truly love it.”

I sighed, “You and this pillow.” Dylan retorted, “It’s MY pillow not this pillow. Don’t insult my pillow. It’s the best pillow there is around. It’s the one thing that I didn’t have to change from my bachelor days. We have been through things that pillow and me. I can’t die without it knowing of my undying love for it.” I gave up, “Sure, Dylan.”

Dylan said, “You will have to do some talking because you are my witness. I have not slept on another pillow. No cheating is happening. GAP will have to attest to that as well.” I said, “Let’s not tell him that just yet.” Dylan sighed, “Only because my ability to run away is dampened. Under duress, I agree to not telling him right now.”

He then talked about his pups being mated to Eric and Haley’s. I linked him, “Didn’t we just cover your inability to run away?” Dylan smirked this time, “Worth it!” Eric linked me, “Why do I just have this sinking feeling a pup of mine will be the mate of one of his pups?” I said, “Because that’s how our lives go now.”

Eric groaned, "I do not have enough alcohol in my house." I bit my lip, "Hopefully it's Alexander, or at least another son of yours to come." Eric said, "If one of his sons is mated to Cassie or any future daughter I have... I'm going to kick his ass." I frowned, "That doesn't seem fair." Eric seemed nonplussed, "He's already admitted life isn't fucking fair."

I linked Dylan, "You'd better hope one of your little girls or boys is mates with one of his boys. He already plans to kick your ass if one of your pups is mated to any of his girls." Dylan yelled, "WORTH IT! Moon goddess I don't even care. Either one will work for me. I'll throw a parade in my pups honor. It will be a pack holiday. There will be celebrations!" I believed he meant every single word.

We both watched the Tall Haley sit and simply fade from view. Dylan hit me in the arm, "THAT... IS... THE COOLEST THING I HAVE EVER SEEN!" He begged Haley to let him be a part of Ribbon visits. I linked Eric,

"There will be no living with him after this." Eric snorted, "There was no living with him before. Now he's seen a Ribbon visitor, and he's met Beta Bond." Crap.

Dylan faltered when Haley talked about the other Tall her. He linked me, "That's actually sad. I don't want to dwell on them robbing her of seven plus inches of height. That's... cruel, dastardly, pure evil. I have more adjectives let me know if you need them." I replied, "I'm good."

We all turned in time to see David turn to water. Dylan repeated, "Longest... drowning... ever. I know you didn't get to torture him, but he was basically waterboarded for several hours. With no break. I mean who needs to torture people? We just make them regret all their life choices while we get on with our lives. It's perfect! It also gives me time back in my life, and I NEED time back in my life."

I admitted, "I still wanted to torture him, but I don't care right now. Other things are more important." Dylan agreed, "Yes, like sleep. We need sleep. So much sleep." Dustin started to talk to Alexa. Dylan grumbled, "OH FOR THE LOVE OF GOD! Can he try to make her like him when we've had sleep? Seriously sleep deprivation is a thing. My brain isn't as fast as it should be. I'm missing key Dylanism moments, I can feel it."

Eric tilted his head when I looked at him. He actually agreed, but he wasn't going to say it. Dylan said, "Great everyone is going to try to get along for Charlie Rose's sake. LA TI FREAKING DAH. Let's go. Vamoose. Go on and git! Let's get the heck out of dodge. What saying will be my ticket home? Silly Dylan! Click your heels

three times!” He smacked himself in the head. “Do you see what is happening to me, Lucas? I am broken!” Eric agreed, “He is.” Dylan stuck his tongue out at him.

We paused when Emmaline grabbed Alexa’s hand. A pink glow transferred from Emmaline to Alexa. Dylan asked me, “Ummm... that’s new. Right? I haven’t missed that?” I answered him, “No, that’s new. Do you know what it was?” Dylan retorted, “Of course I do, you sleep deprived man. She eased the pain in Alexa’s soul. I’m pretty sure...No, I’m fairly positive.... maybe.”

Alexa confirmed his assumption. Dylan said, “BAM! Fairy experted. I should never doubt myself. Of course, I was right.” Emmaline was overwhelmed. Dylan was all over her plan to go home, lamenting some more about his pillow.

Eric linked me, “Lucas, I am one more comment away from setting his pillow on fire.” I admitted, “We might all need some sleep.” Aiden told everyone to hop on a fairy. Eric linked me, “He may be powerful, but I am not above killing him either.”

I linked Jackson, “Eric wants to kill everyone and set Dylan’s pillow on fire. He’s reached that level of exhaustion.” Jackson winced, “Aiden is excited and not realizing the ramifications. Haley and Emmaline will be the first targets of everyone. You can’t get to Faerie without a fairy to escort you. A willing escort even. Maribella, Emmaline, Haley and even Sharon will be much easier targets.” I agreed, “Yes, I know.”

We all snapped our heads to Lucinda when she said we had to be in Faerie for New Years. Dylan was beyond excited. He squealed, “LUCAS! MY DREAMS COME TRUE! I want a popcorn fairy too, moon goddess. It’s my dearest wish.” I asked, “What on earth is a popcorn fairy?”

Dylan looked at me like I was insane, “Obviously, it’s a fairy whose sole purpose is to snap me popcorn when the situation calls for it.” I raised an eyebrow, “Don’t you use Danver for that?” Dylan winked, “Mostly. He could get a break though if I had a popcorn fairy. He wants to try his hand at fighting training. We have a meeting with him. At some point, I can’t remember when because Dylan is broken.”

I was surprised, “Does he really?” Dylan nodded, “Yes, I think he will be good. You know he’s my favorite Omega. I want to give him a chance.” I replied, “You know I have no problem with our Omega’s training to fight. We have them all in basic self-defense. If he wants to continue his skills that’s fine. He doesn’t need my permission.” Dylan shrugged, “He still wants to meet with us.” I sighed, “Fine.”

I linked my dad, "We are coming home." My dad immediately replied, "Thank god! Did you get Emmy? Is she alright? Do you have David?" I replied, "Of course we have Emmaline. She's fine and David is dead. Emmaline killed him." My dad sighed in relief, "Good, we are waiting for you here."

We were popped into our living room. Mom was a mess. Her face was puffy, and even Lacy had red rimmed eyes. My dad linked, "They have been going out of their mind with worry. Lacy lost it on Davis and kicked him out of the house." I asked, "Why?" My dad replied, "He was always where she was, and trying to make sure she was ok. It was driving her nuts." I tilted my head, "As long as she didn't kick Travis out."

Before he could answer I spotted the man in question myself. Dylan linked me, "Travis is now going to have to make sure Lacy has all her books before she leaves school." I empathized, "Poor Travis." Dylan mocked, "POOR TRAVIS? I have AGED TWENTY years since... What day is it? I don't even know. It's been like six years since we left for an overnight trip. THAT HAS BEEN SO MUCH LONGER THAN OVERNIGHT TRIP! Never again will I believe you when you say we are going on an overnight trip. You have burned the bridge. It's ashes. Overnight MY TUCHUS!"

The conversation turned to Grayson. Dylan linked me, "We need to have to rule. When there has been no sleep and I asked how something happened, I need to know you got out of your car and changed the tire because you had a flat. I don't need to know about the construction site where you probably picked up the nail and the weather that day. I need a bottom line here." I snorted, "I've never heard a fairy tell a story that way."

I linked Eric, "Haley had plans for Grayson? What was she going to do?" Eric admitted, "I don't know, but she's had plans since she first heard his name. She said he was an obnoxious human who had to go." I sighed, "I have mixed feelings about it. He was just a kid, but he was annoying. I wanted to kill him for being the other man Emmaline had kissed. He was just a pawn though." Eric shrugged, "We all know you're better than me. I'd have killed Grayson long before now."

Dylan linked me, "I just want to go to bed. I need to know how Grayson died so I accomplish this goal. Make her explain it to me, she's your mate." I pointed out, "She is telling you what happened." Dylan complained, "She's telling the longest story in the history of stories for the demise of Grayson, the thorn in my side." Dylan froze when Emmaline said she tried to stop Grayson's neck wound from bleeding.

Eric linked me, "Tell me she used his lucky shirt to mop up the blood. Just tell me, Lucas. It will make my whole day." I linked Lacy, "Is it his lucky shirt?" Lacy was trying not to laugh, "It is." Dylan linked me, "Lucas... if my lucky shirt is gone because of Grayson, I will curse something... somehow... NO, I will get Katie to curse someone for me."

I linked Eric, "It is his lucky shirt. Can Haley fix it?" Eric admitted, "Probably. Let's not tell him that." Dylan was on his knees. He linked me, "That's the shirt I first kissed Lacy in. I lost my virginity wearing that shirt. It's just gone! Someone needs to bring me Grayson's body so I can kick him... repeatedly." Of course, that's what he wanted.

My dad hugged me. I linked the pack, "Your Luna is home. She killed David Forrester and fought her way back to us." I heard the howls of joy erupt from all around us. Lacy explained to Emmaline what was going on.

Travis linked me, "How tired is my brother? He just threw popcorn at me." I winced, "We haven't slept since we left." Travis whistled, "Oh boy... you know how he gets." I wryly informed him, "You missed the triple espresso shots latte Dylan had." Travis nearly snorted, "I'm not even sad I missed that."

Haley explained to Dylan her plans for Grayson. Dylan linked me, "ICE FISHING IN ANTARCTICA because it's cold there. I love her, I do. It's a deep, unabating love that will never end."

Haley conjured his shirt and Dylan actually cried. Travis linked me, "He needs sleep." Haley snapped the shirt clear of blood. Dylan yanked her in for an air hug then ran to hide behind Lacy. Travis was shaking with laughter.

Eric linked me, "A very large part of me wants to lunge towards him to see if he would yelp." I'd imagine he would. I watched Haley closely. She seemed ok with Dylan's hug since he didn't touch her.

Emmaline wanted to shower and sleep. Dylan was about to make a break for it but reminded us he wanted to be in the conversation about the prophecy. I linked him, "I wouldn't let you miss that conversation." Dylan mockingly replied, "Puh-lease, I'd sniff it out like a bloodhound even if you tried not to include me. I will be ready, like our creepy ninja ready to jump out at every moment."

Dylan and Eric goaded each other some more before they popped out. Dylan shot from the room with Lacy in his arms. He linked the pack, "Don't ANY of you THINK of having an issue that needs me for twenty-four hours. If you see the Luna at a

training session you send her BACK TO BED! Do not let her pass go, she does not collect two hundred dollars, directly back to jail, which is her bed, for the Luna.”

I bit my lip as the pack link echoed with laughter and, “Yes Beta Dylan.” He responded, “I am so serious. If any of you let her train and she gets hurt, I will never be nice to you again. Twenty-four hours of your punishment of no Dylan begins. I know it’s not fair, and you’ll miss me. We all have to make sacrifices for the greater good.” I snorted in reply.

Emmaline and I took a quick shower and we slid into bed. I shot off the bed when Emmaline popped out of my arms. Dominic was not ready for her to be out of our eyesight. He linked me, “Neither are you. Don’t lie. Move your human legs. Get mate.”

I grabbed Emmaline and threw her back on the bed. We spent hours reacquainting ourselves with each other’s bodies, only stopping when our stomachs reminded us we needed food. I wanted to slap myself. I didn’t even know the last time she’d had food was. Come to think of it, I wasn’t sure when I last ate. Emmaline asked me about the prophecy, but I wasn’t really sure. Oddly, we needed Dylan but Haley would be able to explain it more fully.

I paused our walk to the kitchen when Emmaline said she met the fairy goddess. That was pretty big. The fairy goddess was rumored to be quite flighty. She told me she’d met her when she got hit by a bat. That FUCKER! If he was alive, I would’ve done LOTS of things to him before handing him over to Logan. That was fine by me.

I pulled out my phone and texted Eric that we were up. Haley and Eric popped in a second later. I frowned looking at his expression. I linked him, “You look pissed.” Eric responded, “I am pissed. This prophecy shit is insane. Apparently, I’ll have another daughter at some point. SHE will be the one with the most powerful gift of sight Faerie has ever seen.”

I questioned, “Why not Cassie?” Eric linked, “Because Cassie is the Truth Seeker. Apparently, the gift of truth seeking, and sight cannot go to the same person.” I responded, “At least you know you’ll have another girl. That’s exciting.” Eric growled, “I am so pissed the fairies are going to be watching for her. Not just fairies... everyone wants a pup that hasn’t been conceived.” I admitted, “That is... strange.”

Dylan ran into the kitchen whisper hissing, “I KNOW you weren’t starting without me.” I stared at him, “I’m just trying to get food.” Dylan replied, “I got you food. I have been ready for hours! Hours, Lucas. I am the BEST BETA OF ALL TIME. I am

so ready for this moment.” That was probably the least surprising piece of information I was going to get today.

Emmaline asked if Dylan was serious about the equipment he had to hear about this prophecy. I didn't even have to ask Dylan to tell her the answer. Dylan was more serious than he had ever been in his entire life. Even Davis might be impressed.

Emmaline grabbed a ton of pizza and sat by Lacy. I got mine and joined the table, between my Dad and Emmaline. We ate in silence until Haley was done eating and ready to share. Haley went into how the ruling house of Faerie has changed over the years. It was only the fire fairy prince and the Queen being mates that had stopped the houses facing war. Her declaring Fenilton as King kept the Holloran family in power. Fenilton was loved prior to his death.

I linked Eric, “Does the prophecy change because Arion isn't in it?” Eric answered, “No, he just would've stood with them. They aren't weakened without him from what I know. They would've been a little stronger with him though. Tell Dylan I got him a conjured copy of every book Haley knew about that had this prophecy in it.”

I was actually stunned. I replied, “You what now?” Eric shrugged, “You and I don't have time to read the books. Clearly, he does. He can give us pertinent information that we need to know, while we up our security and training. Now, Dylan can't say I never did anything for him now.”

I linked Dylan, “Eric has fairy books for you.” Dylan sounded shocked, “Our link is broken. You just said GAP has fairy books for me.” I winced as I said it knowing he was about to scream in my head in excitement, “Eric does have fairy books for you. He had Haley conjure copies of all the books she knew of containing information about this prophecy. He wants you to read them and tell us what we need to know.”

Dylan yelled, “Oh my god. MY DREAMS REALLY DO COME TRUE! Even GAP will recognize me as the fairy expert. I don't have enough popcorn; Danver needs to bring me champagne!” I sighed. Sure enough, during Haley's story, Danver brought two flutes of champagne to Dylan. He raised a glass to Eric then downed it. He raised the second to Eric and downed that one too.

Eric linked me, “I already regret this.” I didn't even focus on that, “So we have the purest of soul, mind, and heart fairies between you and me. My line will always be soul searchers along with a powerful little boy, and you've got the strongest fairy with sight coming who will also be a wolf. Do you have a headache?”

Eric responded, "I have a fucking migraine. I've upped my warrior's training, all the way down to Omega's. I'm having them take basic warrior classes other than self-defense now." I thought about it, "That's not a bad idea. They always know they have the option for those classes in both our packs."

Eric shrugged, "It's not an option anymore. We all need to be prepared because people are going to come for them, and they would kill anyone they thought was in their way." A piece of information that did actually make me happy was that Emmaline could now keep someone's mate to herself without pain. I'd known that had weighed on her.

I linked Eric, "How much trouble did Aiden get in for making Bexley royal without Haley?" Eric snorted, "She yelled at him for hours. She cried, and then he cried." I listened to Haley for a bit. I linked Eric again, "Blessed by Goddesses and Gods as in multiple?" Eric curtly replied, "Yup."

Dylan linked me, "I love today. Nothing can bring me down so don't you dare tell me anything bad today." I sighed, "Fine." Emmaline asked Haley if she could take someone's wolf. We all stiffened. I linked Eric, "No way." Eric replied, "She could." I was repulsed at the thought.

I cringed, "To lose your wolf..." Eric tilted his head, "I know. She wouldn't do it without a good reason." I said, "Then... people won't come for her. She could take their powers, and no one wants to lose that." Eric frowned looking at his mate, "If they could get her though, they could use her as a weapon to take people's power. I'm sure there are plans to wipe her memory or some kind of shit so they can do just that." That was a terrifying thought because I was certain it would hurt Haley, but even a Haley with no memory would not hurt someone else without a reason. We all knew that.

Haley explained their call to protection would now pull every member of their family to their side. I frowned linking Eric, "Hopefully no one injures their voice boxes then." Eric said, "It's what I would do if I wanted to take them." Hopefully since he was smarter than most about tactical strategies no one else thought about that.

Dylan linked me, "GAP has plans, doesn't he? I sense his vicious mind swirling." I said, "We need plans, Dylan. We need his mind in this situation. If you knew about the prophecy and wanted to take them... what would your first move be?"

Dylan immediately answered, "Knocking them unconscious and injecting them with iron." I tilted my head, "Not bad. Apparently, part of that is what David did with a bat." Dylan growled, "I am not sad he's dead. Not one bit. What an absolute jerk!"

Hitting my Luna with a bat! I'd make him regret the day he was born." I smirked. I knew my friend had that side to him. Dylan was vicious for those he loved.

Emmaline was overwhelmed by the prophecy. My dad linked me, "Son, we need better... Everything." I responded, "I know." My dad said, "They will come for her and your pups." I said, "I know, and we will protect them."

Haley and Emmaline were put out they still couldn't lie. Dylan agreed with them, "It does seem crappy with this massive destiny placed at their feet. A little white lie would be helpful. For example, if someone asked, 'are you Emmaline Lyons?' She could just say no. That would be helpful."

I wasn't surprised Emmaline wanted to be known by her fairy name as well as mine. I knew that would make her father quite happy. Dylan linked, "Aww but that's a dead giveaway for being part of the fairy version of the avenger's family. Like you just know a Thanos is coming because he doesn't know he won't be successful because they can't lose."

I grimly stated, "Many will come for them. To know her lineage and to come against Faerie and be considered an act of war. I find I accept their support in such situations." Dylan said, "Yeah, I can't worry about that today because I have more books to add to my lair." I asked, "You actually have a lair?" Dylan smirked, "I do. It's glorious, and by the way Logan thought his Zen garden was funny." If he didn't my Beta would have a black eye.

Dylan was still beyond excited about New Year's Eve in Faerie. Emmaline was worried about our pups. We would protect them. Dylan asked, "Protect them? I will worship them. Can I just say I'm excited for all your pups? Especially the super awesome one that's going to do all this cool water stuff. I can't wait. Hopefully, he can bring acid rain because I missed that when Brooke did it. I feel very left out on that front, and I feel my nephew could fix that for me." Emmaline laughed, "It was a little funny."

Dylan gasped, "A little funny, she says. A PUP brought acid rain to put a witch in her place for touching her mate." A knock halted that conversation. Eric and Haley taking that as their cue to pop out.

It was Denver. I smiled, "Come in, Denver." My dad nodded at Denver on his way out of the office. Denver took his seat at the table with Dylan, Lacy, Emmaline, and me.

He spoke somewhat nervously, "Dylan said your meeting was over, and that we could meet now." I nodded, "Yes. Dylan told me you wanted to do more training. You know

you don't need permission for that Danver. You are welcome to train as much as you want." Danver nodded, "I know, but I wanted to tell you my goals." I sat back, nodding, "Alright."

Danver took a deep breath, "I want to be your last line of defense for the Beta pups." Dylan and I both stiffened. I asked, "What?" Danver explained, "Beta Dylan has always been so kind to me. I want to protect his family. I know I won't ever be a warrior assigned to them, but when they are young; I want to be the one getting them to safety. I want to know how to protect them if someone reaches them. That's why I want to train more."

Dylan stood, "Thank you, Danver. I would trust my pups to your care." Danver smiled, "Thank you, Beta Dylan! I won't let you down! One thing... I hope that's not out of bounds, but I've noticed you are leery of your parents since they returned."

He looked at me worriedly and continued, "I do not mean to speak ill of the former Beta and Beta female, but I followed them. They keep leaving every day at the same time. They are meeting with a witch. Not one from around here. I think she practices dark magic... No, I know she does. She has the look. Honestly, she's terrifying. I had one of our warriors pull the plates from her car. She's from Nashville. I couldn't get close enough to hear what they were saying, but... may I speak freely?" I nodded.

Danver began to wring his hands. Emmaline reached across and touched his hands, "Danver, no action will be taken against you if you are wrong. We want people to share their concerns with us. We want to have good relationships with other supernatural's in the area too. There are witches in this area the Frost's could have met with. To meet with one outside my brother's coven... does seem suspicious. You are safe in this space."

Danver blurted, "I think they want to do something to Beta Lacy or the pup. Given their obsession with the white wolf... I think it's the pup." Dylan growled. "Thank you, Danver. I'll handle it from here. We will get to the bottom of this." Danver nodded and left.

I spoke quietly, "Dylan..." Travis ran into the room, "What's going on? What's the emergency, Dylan?" Dylan linked me, "Get my so-called parents in here." I linked Davis and Betty and my parents. They all shuffled into the room several minutes later.

Lacy glared at them. Davis sighed dramatically, "What now?" I stood using my Alpha command, "You WILL tell me why you are meeting with a dark witch from Nashville." Betty paled. Davis sighed, "To see if she could help us."

Dylan growled, “With what?” Betty whispered, “If you’re having a girl. We wanted to know if... if her wolf could be suppressed until she meets her mate.” Dylan growled.

Lacy leaped across the table, and punched Betty in the face. Jacqueline pulled Lacy off Betty, but only because Lacy let her. My sister screamed, “MAKE THEM LEAVE, LUCAS!” My dad sounded sad, “Davis... you can’t mean this.” Davis sighed, “Just until she meets her mate. She’d be safer. We just want our grandpup to be safe.”

Everyone was waiting on me to say something. Eventually I spoke, “Is that even possible? Can a witch suppress a wolf?” Davis begrudgingly answered, “An unshifted wolf, yes. It has to be done on their sixteenth birthday.” That was not good. We didn’t need people knowing that.

I announced, “You are stripped of your former Beta titles. You will stay here under my watch, and you will NEVER try to suppress anyone’s wolf in this pack. Is that clear?” Betty and Davis shivered under my Alpha Command.

I growled, “I SAID IS THAT CLEAR?” They both answered, “Yes, Alpha.” Dylan followed me up, “You are not my parents, and I don’t recognize who you even are.” Travis agreed, “What he said. You stay the FUCK away from Jackie. I’ll kill you both if you go near her.”

Betty cried, “It’s not like it would be forever. When she meets her mate, her wolf would come out. They just have to look into each other’s eyes.” I snarled, “How cruel of you to let a werewolf think she doesn’t have a wolf.” Davis denied the accusation, “No, she’d know. After she didn’t shift, we’d tell her.”

Lacy snarled, “YOU ARE NOT THE PARENTS! YOU DON’T GET TO MAKE THOSE DECISIONS!” Emmaline softly asked, “It hurts the wolf and human, doesn’t it? To have their wolf blocked from them when they are supposed to shift. What happens to their wolf?”

Betty explained, “It’s... well it’s never been done. The witch said it would be quite painful, but the wolf is just locked away inside the human. They will be able to access memories, and they will know what’s happening in the present. They just can’t come out.”

Emmaline pressed, “So, this could be done to any sixteen-year-old?” Betty frowned, “I don’t know why anyone would do this unless they were concerned about the white wolf. We made sure that as soon as she met her mate her wolf would come out.”

I sneered, “How kind of you. Because any nefarious type would give a damn about having a ‘legitimate’ reason for such an atrocity. Get the fuck out of my sight.” I linked Alex, “Set up surveillance on the former Beta’s. They don’t fart without you knowing about it, Understand?” Alex replied, “Sure, Lucas. What happened?” I quickly explained. He was pissed.

Davis yelled, “You gave us no choice, son! You wouldn’t tell us what you were having! We needed to protect her.” Dylan grabbed his dad by the shirt and threw him into a wall. He growled, “Listen here old man, you will NEVER know any of your grandpups. IF I have a little girl, you’ll never get within a hundred feet of her. Ever. I hope to GOD she’s one of GAP’s pup’s mates. That way they would do something AWFUL to you two sick fucks for thinking of hurting her.”

Betty cried, “It’s to protect her, not to hurt her!” Travis snarked, “By hiding someone’s wolf from them? That’s horrible. How is that safe? Alpha Eric met his mate at thirty-two. Lucas was in his late twenties. What the fuck is wrong with you two?! It’s just a LEGEND!”

Betty whispered, “Legends often come from the truth.” Dylan spat out, “Which is why I look for bigfoot every DAMN WHERE I GO! Here’s your truth, you have no sons. You have no family, and you’ll never have a damn granddaughter. The ONLY reason I won’t ask Lucas to banish you is because I want to keep my eyes on you. I won’t have you hurt my pups in that way or Travis’. Understand and hear me this one time old man, you mean nothing to me. You are an enemy of my family, and I will do whatever I have to do to protect them. Don’t you EVER meet with some witch to take my pups’ wolf EVER AGAIN!”

The warriors came into the room. I ordered, “Take the Frost’s to the dungeons. They will be there for a month before we re-evaluate their stay down there. They get regular meals.” Betty begged, “Luna, please! You know our souls. We mean them no harm.”

Emmaline frowned, “I do know your souls. You do mean well, but the road to Hell is paved with good intentions. Lacy is my Beta Female, soon to be sister-in-law, and my best friend. You were plotting to hurt her child. As someone who has a wolf yourself, I don’t know how you could even think of this. I worry you have just set things in motion that...” She trailed off.

I frowned. Dylan linked me, “I hate that unfinished though. I hate everything about it.” I asked, “Emmaline?” Emmaline asked, “Did the witch have to research this?” Davis shrugged, “Yes, what does that matter?” Emmaline said, “I hope it doesn’t, I truly do. I hope some wolf doesn’t suffer from this discovery you’ve forced into the light. I fear it will though.”

I motioned to the warriors to take them away. I wrapped my arms around her, “Baby girl?” Emmaline sighed, “Think about it. A dark witch knows this is a possibility now. I’m sure they would charge a heavy price, but there are David’s of the world out there. This is going to hurt someone.”

I frowned. She felt such misery that I felt it in my chest. I reminded her, “Only for a time, at least it’s not permanent.” Emmaline frowned, “You’re right.” I studied her, “You still don’t feel good about it.” Emmaline agreed, “I don’t. That is cruel, and... I’m just worried.” I told her, “That will not happen to our pups. They will have their wolves their whole lives. I’ll be damned if it happens to Dylan or Travis’ pups either. I’ll have Dustin start looking into ways to reverse this. Ok, baby girl?” She nodded.

I closed my eyes. I didn’t want to leave Emmaline, but I was an Alpha. My best friend needed a run. I ordered, “Dad, stay with Emmaline. She doesn’t get out of your eyesight.” He nodded. I called, “Brad.” He stepped in the door, “She is never out of your sight either.” He nodded.

I turned to Emmaline, “Baby girl, if you pop somewhere, Brad and my dad go with you. Do you understand?” Emmaline acknowledged me with a nod then asked, “Where are you going?” I looked at Dylan, “I’m taking Dylan and Travis on a run.” Dylan was shaking he was so angry and Travis was barely containing himself. I jerked my head, “Let’s go.”

We ran to the front door. Dylan shifted the second his feet reached the landing. He howled in agony and anger. The pack looked worried as we took off. I linked everyone, “It’s alright.” Everyone nodded but stared at Fang with worry.

We ran for an hour before Dylan shifted back. He punched a tree. Travis spoke shakily, “Dylan.” Dylan turned, “I want them DEAD!” I agreed, “We can do that.” Dylan punched another tree. Travis had tears in his eyes, “Brother.”

Dylan turned, “Our pups. Our unborn little girls we don’t even know if we are blessed with. How could they?! I hope to GOD our pups are GAP’s pups’ mates! DO YOU HEAR ME MOON GODDESS! YOU GAVE US THOSE SHITS AS PARENTS, GIVE OUR LITTLE GIRLS THIS! PROTECT THEM! GOD DAMN IT!”

I put my hand on Dylan, “If you want them dead Dylan...” Dylan screamed, “AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!” Travis put his arms around Dylan. Both started to cry. Travis told him, “You’re my brother and my dad, Dylan. Whatever you want, I support.” Dylan blew out a deep breath, “I’m an idiot, but I can’t... I can’t give the order to kill them.” I shrugged, “I can.”

He thought about it for several minutes. Finally, Dylan said, “No, we will watch them. They step one toe out of line, and they are done for. They so much as BREATHE in the direction of a witch, I’ll kill them. How are they the same people who raised me? I need to know that answer. She cut the crusts off my peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. She nursed my scrapes after training. He wanted me to be more serious, but he wasn’t cruel.”

I sighed, “They are scared.” He growled, “THEY ARE FUCKED UP! To take a teenager’s wolf from them! To suppress them! To even have the thought! I didn’t think I would ever be winning the ‘whose parents sucks the most’ pool. I think I did though. We just shot into the lead by a mile. The whole thing is sadistic.” I agreed, “I know.”

Dylan rubbed his face, “Emmaline is right.” I said, “I know that too. I’ll get Dustin working on a solution to see if there’s anything that can be done.” Dylan sighed and hugged Travis again. He promised his brother, “We will protect our little girls.”

Eric linked me, “All of us will protect them.” I turned, stunned. We were on the border of his territory. I asked, “How long have you been there?” Eric smirked, “Long enough. I was told you guys were here, and that Dylan was angry. I heard him yelling from a mile back.”

Eric spoke out loud, “Dylan nothing will happen to your daughter’s, should you have them.” Dylan wiped his tears, “Oh moon goddess you give so much. GAP, in case you were wondering this only confirms it for me. One of your kids will be my daughter’s mate should I have one.” Eric snorted, “Whatever.”

Dylan smiled weakly, “No no, your presence here is my light. My guiding sense that... your overprotective pups will protect my future little girl. I feel it, GAP, deep down inside me.” Eric rolled his eyes, “Regardless... we will protect your little girls. Yours and Travis’, should you have them.” Dylan smiled, “Aww GAP has gone soft for the ladies. Little Cassie is a miracle worker.”

A pop sounded. Haley smiled, “Hello, my friend Dylan.” I asked, “Haley, can you take someone’s wolf and give them back?” Haley recoiled, “What?” Eric raised an eyebrow. Dylan clapped “YES! Lucas that is devious and cutthroat. Please my fun sized ninja fairy goddess.”

I told Haley what happened. Her eyes blazed. She admitted, “I don’t know if I could give them their wolves back.” Dylan shrugged, “Who cares?” Haley closed her eyes. She took out her phone and spoke in Fealish. She ended the call. “Aiden seems to believe I can give them their wolf back.”

Travis assured her, “We don’t care.” Haley whispered, “I do. Taking someone’s wolf would be like taking part of their soul.” I pleaded, “It’s for a week. Just to give them a taste of what they wanted to do to a sixteen-year-old child.” Haley’s eyes blazed again. “Fine.” She popped us to the dungeons.

I linked Emmaline, “Bring Lacy to the dungeons.” A pop sounded and Lacy was there with Brad and my dad. Haley held up her hands. My dad linked me, “Son...” I assured him “She’s only taking their wolves for a week.” My dad sighed. “Alright.”

A glow began between Haley and the Frosts. It took twenty minutes. Haley backed into the wall and lowered her hands. Eric linked me, “Haley said Aiden is right she can give them back. Call me when you want her to do it.” They popped out.

Davis questioned, “What happened? What did she do?” Betty cried, “Where’s... Dayla?” Dylan explained, “Technically, she’s gone. We can’t suppress her, but my special fun sized ninja fairy goddess can TAKE your wolf. She’s a super powerful goddess basically, and I already told you she’s my friend.” Davis cried, “That’s cruel!” Dylan nodded, “Good, then we are the same page.” He turned and left with Travis without another word.

We followed them out of the dungeons. Emmaline told me, “Haley hated every second of doing that.” I sighed, “She’s giving them back in a week.” Emmaline frowned, “It hurt her to do that, though. I understand why you did it, and I think they deserved it. I’m just telling you; you can’t ask her to do things like that lightly.”

I hugged her, “I swear I didn’t, baby girl.” Emmaline kissed me. “Eric wouldn’t have let her if you did.” I snorted. Dylan said, “No, he would not. I feel like we need an evil laugh going here. Or a heroine laugh, because the dungeon dwellers are the bad guys. We thwarted their plan, thanks to Danver.”

Danver came in, “Alpha... Beta, Luna, Beta Female. Beta Dylan, you linked me to come see you.” Emmaline smiled, “It’s still just Emmaline.” Dylan threw his arm around Danver, “Danver, Travis and I are going to take you out. It’s a steak dinner night for you. Let’s go true Frost family. Those turncoat’s downstairs don’t count.”

He started to leave then turned, “Uhh come on Jackie.” Jackie blushed, “But you said the true Frost family.” Dylan grabbed her arm and dragged her to their group, “Which are a part of, little Jackie. You are Travis’ mate, therefore a true Frost. Danver here is an honorary Frost. We should adopt him.” I snorted.

He kept talking as he walked out the door. Emmaline smiled, “You just have to admire that he may take some shots but he’s always Dylan.” I agreed, “You do.” My dad said, “It just... I can’t believe they would do this.”

Emmaline put a hand on his shoulder, “Fear makes people do weird, crazy things. They truly believed they were helping.” My dad argued, “It doesn’t matter. To... just lock someone’s wolf away from them... It’s such a big part of you. It’s as if half of you is missing.”

I commented, “Because it is. Dominic is a part of me. They are trying to take half of someone’s very soul from them, like Haley said.” Emmaline sighed. I nodded to my dad. I took her to the kitchen, and we ate more food.

The days flew by and before I knew it, it was my wedding day. I woke up to Dylan dragging me out of bed. He linked, “Lacy said you had to get moving because she wants to wake up Emmaline.” I snorted, “Fuck that.”

I leaned down and kissed Emmaline awake, “Happy wedding day, baby girl. I’ll see you at the end of that aisle.” Emmaline laughed, “I’ll be the one in white.” I looked out the window. Then told her, “It’s snowing.”

Emmaline squealed and ran to the window. She waved at Aiden who winked at her. He popped into our bedroom, “Congratulations, cousin. Haley said you wanted snow. So, I give you snow.” Emmaline hugged him, “Thank you,

Aiden. It’s perfect!” Aiden laughed, “I’ll see you in the chapel. Haley has arranged the Fae ceremony with me. I’ll see you up there.” He smiled and kissed her on the head, then popped out.

Emmaline squealed and hugged me. “We are getting married today.” I smiled, “Damn right we are.” Lacy came in, “Ok, it’s time for the guys to get out. The girls are all arriving.” I smiled and kissed Emmaline one more time before I left the room.

Dylan clapped me on the back, “My little boy is getting married today. I just never thought I’d see the day.” I laughed and he led me out to the kitchen where Eric was waiting, along with my dad, Nick, Beta McAlister, Drake, Peter, Tucker, and their kids. Christopher already had Brooke in his arms.

I laughed, “God, are we getting mates day part two?” Nick laughed, “Christ. Let’s just get you married today, Lucas. If it is part two though, I need Sebastian in that group. He’s pouting.” I smiled, “Let’s get me married today.” It was finally my turn to marry my mate.