

# Learning

Lucas woke up with Dylan yelling in his head, “HOW are you still sleeping?! Wake up because the sky is FALLING. You tell your sister she can’t train with Emmaline and the future queen of the Hackura! You tell her that right now, or I’ll take a file you need and file it away where you will NEVER find it. I’ll laugh as you try in vain. You mark my words, I’ll do it!”

I winced, “What is happening right now?” Dylan snarled, “Your mate, King Alpha Prick’s, and mine want to train together so they can fight better together. That has credence, but Haley is bringing Miley AND ASTRID. As in the creepy crown prince ninja assassin’s MATE, and another to be determined ninja is coming too. TO BE DETERMINED. I think NOT. Do you know how they train? No? Me either. What does Dylan know? Dylan knows they are SILENT NINJA ASSASSINS! Lacy could get hurt.”

I sighed, “I’m guessing Lacy already agreed.” Dylan replied, “She was shouting all the way from the gym. The future ninja queen! Lacy will get hurt. Does she care? NO! We NEED to call King Alpha Prick. He will pay... OHH the King Alpha Prick WILL PAY! He can talk Haley out of it, right? You and he used to make the beast with two backs together. I’m going to need you to cash in that chip for your sister, who happens to be my mate. Future queen ninja is deadly. Haley is deadly enough, but Astrid is like one hundred levels above Haley in terms of fierceness. She’s full blooded Hackura and the daughter of the commander of their armies. Well former... but still! Haley has a fun fairy side. ASTRID HAS NO FUN FAIRY SIDE.”

I held my head and heard a pop. I linked Dylan, “Emmaline’s here. We will figure this out. Please just calm down. No more yelling unless we are being attacked. Definitely not until I’ve had coffee. So much coffee.” Dylan growled but said nothing else.

I explained to Emmaline that Dylan was not sold on the idea of Lacy training with their group. Hell, now that I was more awake, I was not so sure about Emmaline training with Astrid. Training with Haley was one thing. Emmaline is her cousin, and I am good friends with Eric. Haley would never take things too far. Miley and Astrid, especially Astrid, had no such qualms. Emmaline seemed just as excited as Lacy about the prospect of training with Astrid.

I tried to explain how Astrid was JUST as fierce as Bjourn. Astrid was the daughter of the Commander of the Hackura army. Once she found out she was Bjourn’s mate, she trained harder than she had before, which is saying something for the commander’s daughter. The rumor was she trained with Bjourn, Titus, and even Veronica to be as

fierce as possible. Couldn't Torvi help out? Torvi had a soft side, not a large one it was larger than Astrid's. Or Calista. She was a teacher.

Eric was going to get an earful from me about his smart ass mate. Dominic said, "Stop thinking to yourself and focus on what mate is saying. You haven't even explained to her yet that it was at least twenty people she'd be taking on when she decided to take them on alone. You HAVE to tell her. You need to explain Hammond was coming prepared."

I rolled my eyes at him, "I will but not now." Now, there were shower plans. Dominic asked me, "How does someone who never gave a hand job until us, give the best hand jobs?" I replied, "She's just a natural. We are lucky bastards." Dominic chuffed in agreement. We enjoyed our time together.

Gemma was startled by our appearance in the kitchen. She linked me, "I guess I'll get used to you just appearing. It's startling to the senses." I smirked, "I can imagine that is it. With our sense and hearing we are used to hearing people in the pack come up to us." She nodded.

Dylan stormed in glaring at me. He linked me, "This is your fault." I raised an eyebrow, "How's that? You wanted more fairies to join the pack." Dylan snarled at me, "This is not fairy fun. There is serious injury potential here." I said, "You know Haley wouldn't let that happen." Dylan said, "If you're going to make perfectly valid points when I am worried, I just don't know what to say you to. As my bestie, I need you to get on my level. You're all the way down there on ten and I'm up on ninety. Get to my level!"

I bit my lip. When the girls left, I asked Dylan, "So what did you say to Lacy this morning?" Dylan said, "I wasn't in the right frame of mind. I was barely awake! That can't be held against me. It's like when your brain has no filter! My filter was still waking up! I had NO coffee. I was unprepared." I repeated, "What did you say?"

Dylan sighed, "I might have said something along the lines of that's crazy talk, who fights the crown prince ninja assassins mate? People who want to get messed up. You are not those people." I snorted, "You are in so much trouble." Dylan said, "Gee, thank you for pointing that out oh wise one."

Our phone rang. I teased, "I'll get it since your filter isn't working." Dylan growled, "My filter is fine now. I've had copious amounts of coffee. One should not be held responsible for the things they say right when they wake up. It's sleepese, mumblese nonsensical garbage."

I greeted, "Blue Moon Pack." Eric replied, "Lucas." I smiled, "Hey Eric. Thanks for sending us Haley to help out last night. Everything went smoothly." Eric growled while Jackson laughed. Eric told me, "I didn't send her, she sent herself."

Dylan started smiling, "Maybe you aren't awake. She basically told us she sent herself last night." I asked, "She didn't tell you?" Eric said, "She left a note after we put the triplets down." Dylan started laughing.

I shot him a warning look, "I'm sorry, Eric. I didn't know." Eric replied, "I know. That's beside the point, I have news." A knock sounded on our door and Dylan said, "That's our first meeting, it's Al." Eric said, "Call me later, Lucas." I agreed, "I will." I nodded to Dylan and hung up the phone. Dylan opened the door and Al came in.

Al was clearly nervous. I questioned, "Did you notice Alpha Hammond was having lunch daily in my territory? In YOUR diner?" Al's jaw dropped, "What? No... I always work on the books for thirty minutes around lunch time. Then Liz takes her break, and we eat together."

I asked, "Who's on the floor when the school is at lunch?" Al paled and didn't look up when he answered, "Liz is." I requested, "Call her, please." He called and she immediately answered, "Hey babe, are you already out of your meeting with Emmaline's beau?" Al said, "No, baby. Do you know the customer who's been coming in for lunch on the weekdays?"

I interjected, "He's tall, has dark hair..." Dylan cut in, "Comes in a tinted SUV. Generally speaking, he exudes creepy dick energy." I looked at him. He linked me, "What? He does." I replied, "SUV?" He shrugged, "I mean that HAD to be him."

Liz laughed, "Elias? Yeah, he hasn't been there for a week now, but he was a regular for about two months. He's definitely creepy, but I stayed far away from him. He's got a powerful energy around him too. He actually seemed to be getting crazier eyes as time went on."

I asked, "Who does he eat with?" Liz snorted, "Eat with? No, he orders to go. Always two orders. He always wants a burger and a ham and cheese sandwich. Odd combination if you ask me. Normally, I'd try to suggest something else, but I never wanted to be around him longer than to take his order."

I internally groaned, "Did he ever mention anyone special to him? Anything more than just hey how are you?" Liz thought about it, "You know, one time he mentioned his soul mate. I didn't get the impression she was still alive. He was pretty sad about it. He has some family here... Well, someone he considers family. His cousin married

this girl, that means something to someone around here. Honestly, sometimes I act like I'm paying attention to get tips. That's right before my break, and I get to eat with Al. This other girl, Wendy, comes on shift when I take my break."

I told her, "This is great. Thank you, Liz." I looked at Al, "I expect that had you known who was in my territory, you'd have told me." Al nodded. I asked, "How did Frank not notice?" Al paled again, "When it's not busy he steps out to smoke. If no one's hassling the girls he's not paying attention."

I stood, "That brings me to another point, why didn't you tell me how those truckers were behaving? I would've dealt with Ralph long before I saw him accost Emmaline if I knew he was harassing your waitresses." Al hung his head, "I can protect my waitresses. He hadn't done too much to warrant you getting involved." I sighed, "He was planning on marking Emmaline forcefully."

Al stood and slammed his hands on the table, "NO! I wouldn't have let that happen. I can handle scum like Ralph. I always followed Emmaline to the border of Red Run when Ralph was in town. Frank followed Ralph to make sure he wasn't following her. That NEVER would've happened. I would never let anyone hurt Emmaline. You have to believe me, Alpha. Even before I knew she was the Luna; I felt protective of her."

I nodded, "Just keep a closer eye out, especially on Liz. Alpha Hammond is unstable, and she's had encounters with him. I will assign a warrior to her until we have him in hand." Al stood and offered his hand, "Thank you, Alpha. I can't imagine anything happening to her." I nodded, "We protect our own. When you get back will it impact you to cut Frank loose to come talk to me for a little bit?" Al said, "No, I'll run the kitchen until he gets back. I'm sorry about this. You have to know we all love Emmaline." I nodded my head, "She loves you guys too."

Ryan and Dustin entered my office at Al left. Dustin said, "We are going to have a sibling meeting when Emmaline gets home from work." I looked at Dylan then turned back, "Ok?" Dustin said, "We just wanted you to know." I said, "Emmaline would've told me later." Dustin shrugged, "She's coming directly back with Ryan after school."

Dylan laughed. I said, "If you think she's not going to stop or pop to say hi to me... You don't understand her that well." Dustin stiffened, "I understand my sister." I raised an eyebrow, "Do you?" Dustin said, "Look, we don't know if we like each other yet, and that's fine. She's still my sister."

I said, "I know. I'm the one who offered to try to get you all in contact multiple times. I have been in your shoes Dustin. I truly I can't imagine how I would've reacted if I got Lacy back only to find her mate was in a different pack."

Dylan growled. I linked him, “Man you are serious Dylan’ing it up today. I’m just proving a point here.” Dylan growled, “Lacy is MINE!” I rolled my eyes. We really were possessive assholes. I tried to calm him down, “I know she’s yours.”

Out loud I said, “You are hurting Emmaline’s feelings. She’s a fairy. They are all about what’s fair, and to her the difference in your feelings towards Logan and me aren’t fair. You accept him, where you only tolerate me sometimes. I’m in Emmaline’s life to stay.” Dylan said, “Now, now, he’s a fairy too. Being fair should matter to him as well.”

Dustin threw his bag, “Her NAME IS EVELYN!” Ryan sighed, “I wish Aubree wasn’t working.” I replied, “Her legal name is Emmaline. She cringes and cowers in fear when anyone but you, Ryan, or Katie calls her Evelyn. Even when she says her birth name herself, it hurts her.”

Dustin ran a hand through his hair, “You’re just... she’s just a kid.” Dylan spoke with a hard voice, “She hasn’t been a kid in the eyes of the law for coming up on four years. You want to piss in someone’s coffee, let it be your fathers. This is his fault, not Lucas’. I am in a MOOD today. Don’t mess with me. Serious Dylan has decided this is a twenty-four deal fairy warlock man.”

Dustin said, “I know it’s not his fault. I just want her to be a kid and have fun.” I shrugged, “She has fun. The day she mailed the twins presents, she had so much fun with Haley. Blade, Haley’s Hackura guard, is evidently not a fan of the house of mirrors, but the girls had fun. Do you really think she was having fun before I met her?”

Dustin said, “If we’d found her first, she could have normal teenage years.” I snorted, “Could she? Or would you have dragged her back to your house for David to kill without hearing her side? I had to slam your brother against a wall by his throat for him to hear me say there was more to the story. Haley made you swear as a fairy and in blood before you saw Emmaline for that very reason.” Dylan linked, “Among others.” True.

Dustin looked out the window, and I continued “You didn’t find her first, and that’s a bitter pill. Believe me I know, but I’m not the bad guy here.” Ryan interjected, “You’re not.” Dustin said, “I don’t think you’re the bad guy. I think you’re great with her. Is it so wrong that I wanted more time with her? I wanted to see who she’d grow up to be without this shit going on. I wanted her to go to college on a swimming scholarship. Hell, she could be an Olympian with her times she’s that good. Now there’s you. You are who I used to be, her savior. Where do we fit in her life now?”

Dylan asked, “Seriously? Dylan is here to help and point out the obvious. You fit as her brothers. She loves you both. Ryan’s head isn’t up his ass, so she gravitates more towards him. She’s been using her soul seeking powers more. Your feelings probably hurt her feelings. No, actually I lied. It’s not probably, you DID hurt her feelings.”

I sighed, “She loves you. She kept that hoodie of yours with her, and that shirt of Ryan’s that’s in tatters. She told me about you both. She wore your hoodie when it was ninety degrees outside to feel closer to you. She used more money than she should’ve to get bleach and sat at a laundromat for HOURS to get the blood out of Ryan’s t-shirt so she could keep it for comfort. You guys mean the world to her. Yes, I am in her life, but I’m not going anywhere. Ever. You’ve adapted fine to Logan, and he takes Katie between realms.”

Ryan said, “Katie is an independent thing, and I’m her twin.” Dustin agreed, “Emmaline always needed us when Katie didn’t. We were her rocks in times of emotional turmoil. I can’t believe I missed this ordeal with my dad. It never even occurred to me because I never considered he could do something like this. My baby sister was homeless. Evie lost that wide eyed, childlike innocence because I was too selfish to use my brain.”

I disagreed, “You weren’t selfish, none of you were. How do you even suspect your own father of something like that?” Ryan snorted, “Because your father isn’t like ours. He’s always been off. It should’ve occurred to us.”

Dylan exclaimed, “For the love god. Serious Dylan is exhausted. Stop acting guilty and focus on the fact you have her back. With the frequency that girl turns to water, you NEED to get over this, or the waterworks that will follow will be epic. I’ll sue you both for emotional distress if I have to deal with it. I CANNOT stand Emmaline crying.”

Ryan laughed while Dustin nodded. He told me, “I’m trying. It’s just hard not to see her as my little Evie. I missed those years where she grew up.” I nodded, “I didn’t miss as many years with Lacy, but it’s weird that my little sister has a mate. I’m lucky because I love the guy, and he’s my Beta.”

Dylan interjected, “Aww shucks, Lucas. I’m feeling all twitterpated.” I rolled my eyes, “But one of the last times I saw Lacy was after her first shift. She left two weeks later, it’s strange in my mind, she’d just shifted. Now she’s mated to my best friend.”

Dustin nodded, “It felt like I was accepting things. Then when we found out Emmaline’s actually a year older, and we missed out on her firsts as a baby? It’s stupid, but we all were old enough to remember those firsts. I’m so fucking pissed at

my mother for taking her from us. We could've all gone to Faerie, or she could've taken us on day trips. Evie's dad could have brought us to see her, but she just took her from us. Twice."

Ryan muttered, "Bitch." Dylan said, "Normally, I'd throw in a respect your mother comment because mine raised me that way; however, your mom is a nasty piece of work. Mine is missing in action on a vacation that never ends. So, what do they know really?"

Dustin put his head into his hands, "Is it bad I'm hoping David has her bewitched in some way? I know the girls won't understand based on Katie's reaction in Faerie. I just... it will make me feel like she's less of a monster. Not fully in control." I said, "I'd hope for the same in your place. Never tell Haley that though." Ryan snorted, "It would make SO MUCH sense if her mother and ours were related."

I shrugged, "It's not the case." Ryan groaned, "We know. It would just make sense; they were cut from the same cloth." I actually agreed with him there. They stayed for a while and after lunch since Al called letting me know he needed Frank to stay. They were slammed at the diner.

I looked up when Logan came through a portal with Katie and another man. Dylan linked me, "I'm not warm for the male form, but that's a pretty dude. Seriously, are they all hot in that realm? They should stay there. I'm a catch here, but there I fear I'm a four. A four, Lucas. I'm a solid eight here. They must stay away." I shook my head.

I greeted, "Prince Logan, Katie... who's your friend?" Logan smiled, "This is Gunner." Dylan said, "Ahh, the boytoy lover of Prince Harper." Gunner smirked, "One in the same." Dylan said, "Ah ha! I knew it. You like Haley's nickname." Gunner laughed, "Don't tell her. It's our thing that we argue about." Dylan said, "She probably knows, but nary a word will cross these lips. That would ruin Haley's fun. No one can ruin her fun, she's the star of my favorite show."

Logan raised an eyebrow, "Excuse me?" Dylan linked me, "ABORT! SAVE ME!" I teased, "At least you don't look as scared as you sound." Out loud Dylan said, "The fairy show. It's entertaining. Your sister brought it into our lives. I'm moderately obsessed with it."

I snorted, "Moderately, my ass." Logan said, "Haley does dance to the beat of her own drum." Katie laughed, "How come you guys get sayings right, but she has no clue? Ever." Logan grimaced, "Because she wasn't raised with us. We had to immerse ourselves into the human realm so we would blend when we came here. Fairies don't feel the same need. Even if they did Fabian would've never let her come here. If he

had, someone would've seen her eventually that was a Hackura. We'd have taken her by force from the fairies if we'd had an inkling. Any of our people would've talked to her if they'd seen her, because they would've known who she is. Not that Fabian would've known who any of us were because he was just a sadistic asshole."

I cleared my throat asking, "Why is Gunner here?" Dylan said, "Point of reference here, Lucas his name is Prince Harper's boytoy lover. None of this Gunner nonsense." Gunner laughed, "I like this wolf." Logan muttered, "You would. Gunner is here because Emmaline agreed to have a GPS put in her ring after school. I told her I'd bring Gunner with me."

Ryan interjected, "We are having a sibling meeting after school." Dylan said, "We know. You told us already." Ryan snorted, "He didn't know." Gunner smiled, "Open that portal back up. I can get me some Harper and Cali time before I chip the fairy; again." Logan sighed and opened a portal that Gunner stepped back through.

Dylan was smiling widely. He told me, "I love the fairy show." I pointed out, "Logan isn't a fairy, and you were NOT happy with the fairy show this morning." Dylan responded, "It's still the greatest show of ALL time. They had a bad episode; everyone has a flaw." I rolled my eyes.

When Katie, Logan, Ryan, and Dustin left the office. I told Dylan, "Call Eric back." Dylan perked up, "Right, I have a bone to pick with King Alpha Prick." I said, "Great. How could this possibly end any other way except badly?" Eric picked up, "Lucas, I feel like we just talked. Are you having a busy day?" I snorted, "You have no idea. Dylan has things to say to you."

Dylan jumped in, "Yes, King Alpha Prick I do. What in the actual HELL is your mate thinking having the future QUEEN of the Hackura train with my mate? Astrid is just as deadly as Bjourn." Marcus spoke, "Do you not think Haley is deadly?" Dylan said, "Of course she is, but Haley has a fairy side. Astrid doesn't have a fairy side. There's no fun there. There's a commander's daughter and future ninja queen ready to destroy all things in her path."

Bjourn spoke, "Thank god Astrid has no fairy side. After what those assholes did to my sister, I would've had a time accepting any type of fairy mate. There's no need to worry, Astrid won't seriously hurt them. It's training."

Dylan was practically frothing at the mouth. He sarcastically said, "Because no one gets hurt in Hackura training. That is the word on the street." Everyone was silent. Bjourn asked, "You think my mate, my future queen, will harm your mate



intentionally? That she would hurt my sister in that way, to burn the trust she's spent seven years building?"

Dylan sat straight up in his chair and gave me wild eyes knowing what he'd just said. I spoke, "No one thinks that. Dylan is worried about how excited Lacy is. He'd prefer she didn't fight the future queen of the Hackura due to skill difference. Could Torvi help out instead?"

Bjourn laughed, "Why would he prefer that? When I fight with Astrid I only have half the work to do. Having a mate who can fight and protect your children at all costs if need be is a good thing. Wolves man."

Marcus agreed with him, "Wolves. Torvi is pregnant and therefore unavailable for training in this realm. Change the venue and she can help." I said, "Congratulations, Marcus. Speaking of wolves. Bjourn you have a clue for me." Bjourn laughed, "It took you long enough."

Dylan started laughing, finding the humor in the situation again. I yelled, "Haley did that on purpose! She threw in an easy brain teaser after having me do morse code and using a keypad on my phone. I was ready to do mental gymnastics, not think logically about a clue."

Eric chimed in, "She absolutely did it on purpose." I sighed, "What's my clue, Bjourn?" Bjourn said, "I can't give it to you over the phone. Haley's rules were very clear." I sighed, "I'll get it Wednesday then." Dylan linked, "He can open a portal, Lucas. Why do you deny me the fun things in life?"

Before I could say anything else, I heard a pop. Emmaline was now in my lap. Dominic was a little smug, "Did we not tell her brother that mate would come see us? I think we did." I said, "We already knew we were right." Dominic purred, "Mate loves us."

I caught up with Emmaline. I was surprised she didn't seem to get what her siblings wanted to discuss with her. Dylan linked, "This is not good." I shrugged, "It will be fine." Dylan looked at me like I was missing something. Emmaline left after I told her not to pop away.

Once Emmaline left and Dylan un-muted Eric, "King Alpha Pricks, please tell Lucas how badly this sibling meeting is going to go. He does not believe me. I know she's going to tell Dustin to get over his issues with her relationship. He won't. Then he's going to try to get her to admit she messed up in her thinking trying to take on Alpha

Hammond. He's going to offend her. I'm going to go ahead and station men at bodies of water."

I bit the inside of my cheek and then spoke, "The nearest body of water is the lake. They are on the other side of it." I pointed out the window where I could see Emmaline sitting with her siblings. Eric groaned, "Unfortunately, I have to agree with Dylan. Dustin is a dominant male, and he views Emmaline as a little girl. She has every right to be upset with how he has been acting."

Jackson cleared his throat, "Eric, we have a meeting with Alpha Theo's Beta in five minutes." Eric responded, "Right." Dylan called, "Be a dear and tell my good buddy Beta James hello for me." Eric said, "I'm not your messenger, Dylan. Text him that yourself." I chuckled, "Let me know how your meeting goes. Maybe his Alpha hates me less today." We hung up.

I looked out the window to the sibling conversation. I didn't like what I was feeling from Emmaline. No one looked happy. Lacy came into the room and looked to where our attention was. She groaned, "Great. What has that JERK done now? I know he's her brother, but will one of you just let me take him down a peg?"

Dylan asked, "What are you talking about?" Lacy threw her hands out, "Dustin. Gosh he's worse than you ever were Lucas." Dylan grimaced. I admitted, "I get it. He still sees her at the age she was forced to leave. Emmaline's just more sensitive because she's the soul seeker." Lacy rolled her eyes, "More like he's used to being her everything, and now she has you. He can't deal with that, and he's being a tool."

I disagreed, "You don't get it, Lacy Loo. It's hard to be a big brother, and to find the balance." Dylan raised an eyebrow. Lacy sarcastically spat out, "Yes, because it's been so hard for you since I got back." I looked away, "If your mate wasn't my Beta and best friend, I would probably act like an ass. That guy would be taking you away from me when I just got you back."

Lacy yelled, "Seriously Lucas? You let Dustin stay here whenever he wants. He has as much access to Emmaline as he wants. He consistently hurts her feelings. Doesn't that bother you?" I growled, "Of course it does!"

Dylan rubbed her back, "He's just empathizing with Dustin, babe." Lacy pinned him with a look, "I know you're his Beta, but you don't always have to take his side. We aren't in public, it's just the three of us here. Dustin is being an overprotective jerk, whose only thinking about himself. Ryan wasn't thrilled about you and Emmaline at first, but he's watched you with her. He accepts how good you are for her, and he

even told Valerie she radiates happiness with you. Dustin needs to be nice about you or he's going to lose Emmaline."

I was stunned, "She wouldn't cut her brother out of her life for being a little rude to me." Lacy rolled her eyes, "Sometimes I swear you don't have the brains you were born with. You're her mate. She's lived without them for years. She didn't want to, but if he keeps hurting her feelings he will drive her away. She looks pretty pissed off to me right now."

I looked out the window to see Emmaline standing up yelling at Dustin. Her face was flushed with anger, and she was talking with her hands. I growled when Dustin started yelling back at her. Dylan said, "Oh boy, I would say who could've seen this coming, but it was me. I saw it coming from miles away."

I linked my warriors, "Can anyone hear what they are arguing about?" Alex answered, "Katie did the space unheard chant. Do you want us to intervene?" I sighed, "No, let Emmaline deal with her siblings. I will step in if need be."

I spoke aloud, "She will link me if she needs me." Dylan pointed out the window, "That's such a good sign." Dustin looked as if he'd been slapped by whatever Emmaline had said. The pain on his face was unmistakable. I watched Logan materialize from the tree line.

A portal opened in my office and Prince Harper and Gunner walked into the room. Prince Harper kissed him then said, "I brought Gunner back to chip your mate. Don't keep him too long. Cali has a teacher conference she had to get to, then we have more sexy plans when she's done." He ran his hand down and gripped Gunner's butt. I nodded, "Of course, Prince Harper."

Harper looked around the room then asked, "Where is my brother?" I pointed to the tree line. Harper's eyes narrowed on Katie. He spoke in a dangerous tone, "Why is my brother's mate upset?" Lacy snorted, "Her oldest brother is being a tool." Prince Harper frowned, "How?" Lacy replied, "He's not happy with Emmaline and my brother's relationship. He's happy for Katie and Logan, but not Emmaline. It hurts her feelings."

Prince Harper questioned, "Why is Dustin unhappy? Logan said Emmaline was happy here." Dylan linked me, "I feel like they would be plotting your murder if she wasn't." Suddenly I felt a tug in my chest and looked to see Emmaline had popped away. Her siblings panicked. Logan had Katie in his arms in a flash. All of them were heading towards my office.

Prince Harper said, “That’s my cue to leave. I don’t want to be involved in their sibling drama. The poor bastards. We have enough drama from one sister, those guys have two.” Gunner laughed, “Your sister is hardly dramatic, lover.” Harper rolled his eyes, “Her life is.” Gunner agreed and Harper left through a portal.

Gunner sighed dreamily, “That man’s ass is perfection.” Lacy agreed, “It’s not bad.” Dylan growled. Lacy ignored him asked, “Are you going to be around often, Gunner?” Gunner shrugged, “I go where the royal family requests. I’m now the only tech allowed near Haley, so the odds are high I’ll be around.”

Lacy questioned, “Why are you the only one allowed near Haley?” Gunner said, “Because of the three idiots who tried to hurt her. One of them was a tech person and now she doesn’t trust any of them. I consider her a sister and she knows I’m not harboring any feelings towards her. Nor would I let anything happen to her because I love her brother.” He didn’t get a chance to expand on that as the siblings burst into the room.

Ryan immediately asked me, “Where did Emmaline pop to?” I theorized, “She likely went to Haley since she’s not with me. I’ll link her.” Gunner pulled out a device at Logan’s nod then frowned, “Her phone is not pinging off a single tower. You are sure she popped with it, Logan?” Katie nodded, “She conjured it to her.”

Gunner shared a look with Logan that I didn’t care for. Emmaline was panicked in our link. I frowned, “She said she will be back soon. What happened?” To mine and Dylan’s astonishment, Dustin started to cry. Dylan linked, “What? Tears? No, Dylan does not do tears. Why are the fairy blooded people in this pack so prone to tears?! What did I do to deserve such a lot in life? He’s not a water fairy. Why moon goddess? Why me?”

Dustin cried, “She called my Dustin.” Ryan and Katie both winced. Dylan said, “You are aware that’s your name, right?” Aubree burst into the room. She took one look at Dustin and crossed the room to hold him. She rocked him back and forth.

Eventually, she asked, “What happened Dustin?” He said, “Evie called me Dustin. She never calls me Dustin; she was so upset.” Ryan looked at me, “They disagreed over your relationship.” Aubree sighed, “Dustin, we talked about this. You have to let it go, she’s not a little girl anymore.”

Dustin wiped his tears, “She’s little Evie.” Katie pointed out, “She’s not. She’s seventeen. We missed out on little Evie time because our parents are jackasses. You have to stop this; you saw how much it hurts her.” Ryan reasoned, “You know he’s good for her, Dustin. You said so yourself. Valerie told you everything he did for her

once they found out about her. Even before he knew they were mates he was trying to help her. He's a good man."

Dustin looked at me. I admitted, "I get it, you know I do. I'll talk to Emmaline. Hopefully, you guys can straighten this out tonight. Let me talk to her when she come back. You all are welcome to stay in the guest rooms." Dustin straightened, "I am sorry, Lucas. It's just so hard to see her all grown up. I feel like I missed everything." They left.

Logan nodded to two men who followed Katie out of the room. Logan spoke, "I don't think it would be wise for Emmaline to talk to Dustin tonight." I asked, "Why?" Gunner said, "Because it would be a bad idea if Haley did it when she got that upset. When the Claudia situation happened with Marcus, he tried to talk to her, and she blew up because he didn't listen to her. Actually, they fought constantly."

Logan nodded, "That and fairies don't do well with things that aren't fair. I'm guessing that's doubled for the Soul Searcher. She's not an empath, but she still feels her brother's feelings to a degree. It adds to the situation being unfair because she can tell the difference in his happiness between Katie and herself." I sighed sitting as a pop sounded in my office. I jumped to my feet as I recognized the wolf that came with Haley and Emmaline.

I linked Eric when he shifted back, "What the hell?" Eric replied, "I'm not exactly sure what the hell just happened." It turned out in her distress, Emmaline popped to Faerie. Eric linked me, "Haley said in her emotional state she didn't have a specific destination in mind. If a fairy doesn't have a destination in mind their light pulls them to Faerie." I sarcastically answered, "Well that's just great." Eric seemingly agreed.

Emmaline had no interest in talking to Dustin. Eric linked me, "What happened?" Before I could answer Emmaline was handing over her ring to be chipped. I linked Dylan "I forgot to ask Logan when she agreed to that. Do you know?" Dylan answered, "I've been with you this entire time, you would've heard me ask him. I have no idea. Maybe he materialized out of thin air and asked her. He does that."

I linked Eric, "So, Gunner really is like a brother to Haley. Their banter is just like siblings." Eric smiled, "Yes, they are." We listened to them all talk. I linked Dylan, "I'm not even remotely upset about that Logan tricked her into a GPS in her ring."

I linked Eric, "Haley let you chip her ring?" Eric answered, "I can't go through losing her again. Not knowing where she was for a few days was hell." I winced then looked at Emmaline replying, "I can understand that."

I agreed with Haley linking Eric, “Drama really does love her, but Haley’s not dramatic,” He replied, “Our lives are dramatic in general.” I responded, “Yeah, but she doesn’t try to be dramatic.” Eric said, “No, she doesn’t. She gets annoyed that sometimes our lives are so crazy.”

Gunner explained how everything worked. I linked Dylan, “I’m good with the pinging her ring every hour plan.” Dylan said, “Careful now. If your life is in danger, she’ll be all about putting a tracker on you. That would be fair and all.” I rolled my eyes.

Haley popped away with Emmaline as I said, “Haley wait…” Eric growled, “I despise when she does that.” A pack member walked in with popcorn giving it to Dylan. He took a handful and popped it into his mouth. He spoke, “I, for one, am a fan of when she does that.”

Eric said, “Dylan, one of these days I’m going to punch you.” Dylan smirked, “But then your perfect mate would be upset with you.” Eric spat out, “Lacy, be a dear and kick your mate’s ass for constantly talking about how perfect my mate is.” Lacy shrugged, “She is though.”

Eric smirked evilly, “I suppose we do have something in common, Dylan. Our mates are both pretty damn near perfect. Mine has only kissed me though.” Dylan spoke with eating popcorn, “Uhh, I was Lacy’s first kiss. I know she didn’t kiss anyone else in the pack. If they thought about it, I made them run laps. I’m positive Lacy has only kissed me.”

Lacy’s face turned red. I linked her, “Did you…?” Dylan growled, “Don’t you tell me someone went around me in the pack. It was that troglodyte who used to flirt with you at the baseball field, wasn’t it? I’ll kill him.” I pointed out, “Dylan, you can’t kill him.” Dylan frowned, “He will RUE the day. His trainings will be hell. HELL, I SAY.”

Lacy said, “It wasn’t him. You don’t know any of them.” Eric didn’t even bother to hide his laugh. Dylan yelled, “THEM?” Eric said, “As fun as this is, I’m going to get closer to where our mates are having their pow pow. Have fun Dylan. Remember you make my life hell, and I will eventually give it back to you tenfold.” Dylan yelled, “Of course you will, your nickname is King Alpha Prick. You couldn’t be their king if you weren’t a prick every so often.” Logan opened a portal and sent Gunner back through it, while he stayed behind.

The three of us left. We heard Dylan asking how many ‘them’ meant. Lacy was snarling in reply, asking for the number of girls he’d screwed because she’d only had

sex with him. I looked at Eric, “You did that on purpose. You knew she’d kissed someone else.”

Eric smirked, “Yes, I did. The last time I tracked her to California I questioned pack members there. There was a certain wolf very distraught over her departure. Don’t worry, I kicked his ass because it became apparent he took advantage of the fact that she felt lonely.” I growled.

Eric assured me, “If he’d had sex with her, I’d have killed him.” I said, “You’d better have brought him back here.” Eric said, “Of course I would’ve. He was the Gamma’s son. He found his mate when he turned nineteen, he’s no threat to her now.” We got close to the field I claimed Emmaline in after her Luna ceremony, and they both stopped walking.

I admitted, “I wish I could feel Emmaline like you do in your Hackura bond with Haley. How close are we to them?” Eric said, “They aren’t far. Maybe a mile and half out from us at most.” Logan thought about it, “I’d put them at just a mile. I’ve had longer to figure out distances with the bond. That’s impressive through Eric.” Eric shrugged.

I began to pace. “I need to fix this. I can’t have her fighting with her family because of me.” Eric shrugged again. Logan said, “They will figure it out, just as you would if it was Lacy. Dustin isn’t going to be willing to lose her again. They are all very sensitive about that particular topic.”

I nodded, “That’s the hard part. I understand them. Hell, I was them with Lacy being gone. Emmaline just can’t see it.” Eric disagreed, “Emmaline sees a double standard. She also sees that she grew up to be an independent woman who is a survivor. Dustin needs to see that too. She’s not a weak little thing, she’s a strong person.”

I kept pacing, “You are sure they are there? Why can’t we hear them?” Eric raised an eyebrow, “How would we not be able to hear them? That is odd. Hmmm, Logan any ideas?” I growled at him. Logan teased, “As he already seems to know the answer, I’ll just say, fairy’s.” We were silent for a while.

Logan seemed like he was ready to punch me when I kept asking where they were. The more we talked I realized there was a side conversation happening with the Bishop twins and Logan, which made sense. Katie was his mate. I wanted to fix this for both Emmaline and Dustin. I’d felt Emmaline’s pain in my chest, and I didn’t want that.

I was about to link Emmaline again when pops sounded and something was on my back. Dominic took over at first ready to fight. Then I felt the tingles realizing Emmaline had popped onto my back. I stilled as Haley said she felt like she was riding some sort of fairy animal.

Eric linked me, "Something tells me this is yet another fairy childhood thing my wife was left out of." I answered, "She could've gone on her own." Eric said, "The point seems to be doing it with friends." True.

We went our separate ways. I tried to explain Dustin's position to Emmaline. It's a hard minefield to navigate sometimes with a little sister. I felt Emmaline's anger mounting in my chest. I agreed with her wholeheartedly that Dustin had no say in our relationship. I voiced that the situation she and her siblings in wasn't fair to any of them.

She stepped back from me and got angry. I was surprised by the vehemence in her tone. I was just trying to explain his side of things to her. Emmaline pointed out she gave Dustin time to adjust and he hadn't yet. She was upset they wanted a code word. I told her the code word wasn't about control, and she agreed it wasn't for me. She thought her siblings wanted to control her with it. I frowned. They were just worried after yesterday.

I tried to explain, but she still didn't seem to grasp how many people she was thinking of taking on. Dominic growled, "Maybe because someone STILL hasn't explained that to her. How can she learn and adapt if you just think it and never tell her." I rolled my eyes at him.

Dylan walked up slowly. He linked me, "Dude... what did you do?" I growled, "I didn't yell at her for kissing anyone." Dylan frowned, "I got possessive. We talked, it's fine. What happened here?" Emmaline spoke angrily at me before popping away with Lacy.

I yelled, "FUCK!" Dylan asked, "What the hell? I know you didn't do serious relationships but why would you tell her Dustin was right?" I growled, "I didn't. I told her that I understood where he was coming from. I understand he feels like he failed her because I failed Lacy too."

Dylan stopped me, "You didn't fail Lacy." I disagreed, "I did. I let her be lied to and cut off from her friends. She ran from us. You would've had your mate the moment she turned eighteen." Dylan said, "So I waited a few months past her birthday. Lacy is fine, I am fine. The pressing issue is you have GOT to work on your communication skills. They are seriously lacking."



I growled, “Let’s go find them. My bet is Emmaline popped back to the place she was talking to Haley in.” My phone rang. One glance showed it was Eric, the second I picked up he growled, “Lucas.” I responded quickly, “What is it Eric? I need to find Emmaline.”

Eric questioned, “What did you do? Your mate called mine to make her a treehouse in that field we were JUST in. I was literally minutes away from sex with my mate. What the fuck, man?” I sighed.

I started walking in that direction and Dylan followed. I told Eric, “I’ll just get into the treehouse when we get there and send Haley back to you.” Eric asked me, “You do remember not seeing the treehouse Haley made, right? You thought I was crazy for a split second.” I agreed, “Yes, but you saw it. I’m Emmaline’s mate. I can see her treehouse, can’t I?” Eric laughed, “Not until Emmaline takes you to it.” I growled, “COME ON! Dylan, we need to run.”

Eric said, “That’s not going to help. Tell me what you did that cockblocked me.” We made it to the correct spot. Both Dylan and I felt our mates above us in the mate bond, but it was just a tree. Eric said, “Seriously. Haley just linked me about it being asshole week again, and no one telling her. What did you do?”

I tried to link Emmaline, but it was as if there was a block in my mind to her. I panicked “I was just trying to fix the problem between her and Dustin. I explained his side. Now, I can’t even get through to her in mind link. I feel like she’s totally cut off from me.”

Eric sighed, “She probably just wanted you to listen to the problem. Haley doesn’t want me to fix things sometimes, or so she tells me. You have to try to fix it without letting them know you’re fixing it. For god’s sake whatever you do, never tell them how to fix it. Fairy’s go apeshit about that. Try knocking on your link. I can tug on mine with Haley when she cuts it off.”

I tried but felt like I was hitting a wall. Dylan snorted, “You two clueless Alpha’s were never in a relationship before your mates. No woman likes to be told how to fix a problem. Especially when they know how to fix it. They just want you to listen. That’s female 101.”

I glared at him, “Then WHY would they tell us about the problem? I feel like I’m hitting a wall. I can’t get through to Emmaline.” Dylan rolled his eyes, “It’s like talking to a five year old sometimes. They vent and talk about their issues; it’s what women do. At least Eric doesn’t have a sister. Didn’t Lacy ever talk to you about a problem?”

I nodded, “Yes, and I would fix it.” Dylan raised an eyebrow, “Does she know you fixed it?” I sighed, “No.” Dylan said, “There you go. All you had to do was listen and we could all be getting sex right now. I’m with King Alpha Prick here, and that means it’s the END of the world.”

I yelled, “I’m new to relationships! She was in pain. How am I supposed to do nothing knowing she’s in pain!” Dylan shrugged, “You could’ve at least said nothing. Nod your head and say nothing. That was a choice.” Eric said, “Or plan for her and Dustin to be in the same location to talk out their issues.”

I stared at my phone, “Why do I feel like you speak from personal experience?” Eric responded, “Because I do. Haley wasn’t only mad at me after the summit. When we got home, I texted Marcus that Haley was in our room. He went and talked to her, and they worked it out.”

Eric paused then said, “The girls can see you. They had Haley ask who you were on the phone with.” I said, “Well, tell Haley to let us in.” Dylan said, “You’re brilliant. Except I already tried that with Lacy. Essentially she said no, but meaner. So much meaner.”

Eric laughed then said, “Haley said they needed girl time, and that you need to chill the fuck out. This is your fault, and now she has to fix it.” I sighed, “I was TRYING to help.” Eric said, “I know that. Relationships are hard to figure out, and you and I avoided them most of our lives. We fucked instead. Dylan has more experience than we do with relationships. God, that actually burned my throat. I ask my brothers for advice. Unfortunately for you, you have Dylan.”

Dylan stood taller, “And he is ever so lucky to have me. I could’ve helped us all avoid this if he’d just asked.” I sighed then apologized, “I’m sorry I ruined your evening, Eric.” Dylan said, “I am but a forgotten Beta whose evening does not matter to my Alpha. I see how it is.” I shot him a look.

Eric snorted, “Out of the three of us I can guarantee I’m getting sex tonight.” Dylan said, “Why wouldn’t I get sex?” Eric said, “Haley linked me that Lacy said you were on Lucas’ side.” Dylan groaned, “This is what I get for trying to help. I should’ve taken my own advice. Why am I such a good friend? I bear such a heavy burden.”

Eric laughed, “Tell your mate you were just being a good friend, maybe it will help you.” I heard a pop and Eric didn’t hang up fast enough. We heard Haley say, “Now, where were we? I do believe the big bad wolf was about to eat me up.” I ended the call.

Dylan said, “You’d think you’d never seen the man naked or eating a girl out, but you have. Literally that man.” I sighed, “It’s different with Haley.” Dylan conceded my point.

We both felt Lacy and Emmaline get farther away. I groaned, “They couldn’t just come down?” Dylan said, “Lacy linked me, she’s in our room. Emmaline’s probably in yours.” I parted ways with Dylan at the pack house. I sprinted the rest of the way to the house.

Dominic pushed forward, having enough of Emmaline not being near us. He grumbled, “Mate needs to understand, and you suck at explaining. I’m going to tell her not to do this to us again.” I growled, “To us? I’ve been feeling you practically pace silently for HOURS!” Dominic growled at me and stormed into our room.

I smelled her in the bathroom and went to open the door. Dominic lost it when we discovered she’d locked it. He warned her then knocked the door down. Emmaline was clearly astonished. They talked and Dominic haughtily linked me, “Mate is right. This IS your fault.” Dominic jumped into the bathtub. I rolled my eyes, “One does not wear clothes into the bathtub.” He ignored me.

He started the conversation. I eventually took back over. Dominic linked me, “Maybe I should take over in these types of situations to keep us from saying dumb shit.” I sighed; he might have a point. Dominic teased, “I have a fabulous point.”

Dominic grumbled while Emmaline pointed out the flaws of protecting her from everything, “We can protect mate from life. We will protect our mate from everything possible. Nothing will hurt her, Lucas. We waited for her for so long, and she’s so perfect.”

I assured him, “I know. We will learn and do better, but I agree. We will protect her from everything in our power to protect her from.” She climbed into bed, and I pulled her closer to me. I didn’t dare make a move tonight. Emmaline was out as soon as her head hit the pillow.

Dylan linked me, “We are good men, I know this... so WHAT did we do to deserve this HELL?” I asked, “What happened?” Dylan said, “My mate is in sexy lingerie, and she won’t let me touch her. She’s sauntering all over the room, but because I took your stupid side, I can’t have sex.” I cringed, “Nope. I’m not touching that.” Dylan yelled, “Oh NO YOU don’t. You’re my best friend, and this is your fault! The day we signed up as besties, you agreed to listen to ALL my problems! Well, problem!”

I sighed, "Alright, fine. Just apologize and tell her I'm new to relationships. That I didn't listen to yours or Logan's advice. That being my Beta and being on my side is literally in your blood." Dylan was quiet, "That's actually good. Thank you. I will take the Beta crown back from you tomorrow. You're not supposed to take it without telling me, but just this once I'll forgive you."

I said, "I do have good ideas from time to time." He replied with swagger, "You are a genius, and I now remember why we are best friends. Dylan is going to get himself some..." I shut our link off before he could continue that thought shivering. That was still my sister.

When Emmaline's alarm went off Dominic demanded, "Go to train with mate. We can work out with her and have hot sex after." I groaned, "Do you have to have good ideas like that this early in the morning? Not even the sun is awake." Dominic ordered, "Do it human! She'll get all hot and bothered when we pin her to the ground. Lightly of course, not like we pin other people."

I sat straight up in bed. Emmaline shot me a glance asking, "Do you have an early meeting?" I shook my head no. She frowned, "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to wake you." I kissed her. "I'm training with you today." Emmaline smiled, "Are you fighting Dylan again?" I smirked, "No, my little Luna. I want to see your progress. You are going to fight me." She faltered, "I don't want to fight you." I smiled, "We won't hurt each other, I promise." She frowned, "Like play fighting?" I shrugged, "Kind of." She sighed, "Alright." She held out her hand and popped us to the gym.

My warriors bowed their heads to us. I linked Alex, "Emmaline is going to show me what she's learned." His eyes widened but he nodded. Lacy came in, staring at me with her eyes wide. She shot Emmaline a look who shrugged. They were obviously mind linking each other.

Five minutes after Lacy came in, Dylan came in with his hair all messed up and his shorts on backwards. I told him, "Your shorts are on backwards and inside out." He tried to smooth his hair down, "Lacy linked me you were here. I'm here to fight whatever steam you need to let off. What happened with you two last night?"

I smirked assuring him, "There's no need for that. Emmaline's going to fight me. I want to see what she's learned." Dylan stared at me then smiled broadly, "You want to rile her up. You want her to get all hot and bothered. That's brilliant. I'm fighting Lacy too. I must get my Beta blood crown back from you. If you keep having these genius moments you won't need me." I smiled, "I told you. I have good ideas sometimes too."

The warrior split everyone up. Lacy was clearly confused about being paired with Dylan. I led Emmaline to the mats. I took my shirt off, and watched her eyes narrow on my abs. I ordered, "Show me your moves, mate." She came at me. I couldn't hide my grin as I touched her every way I could. I pinned her and caressed her face, grinding into her with my hips.

I instructed, "That's good. Use your legs to flip me." Her lust was rising. She sputtered, "What?" I leaned down and whispered in her ear, "Wrap your legs around me and flip me on my back." She immediately followed my directions and was off me quickly, breathing heavily.

Alex linked, "Are you really using training to get your mate all hot and bothered?" I snorted, "I've seen you do it." Alex replied, "Touché, Lucas."

I motioned for her to continue. We did that the whole lesson. We heard them call it for the day. Alex had barely gotten the words out of his mouth when Emmaline popped me to our room. She attacked me. I laughed, "Whoa, little fairy," I said kissing her back. She hissed at me, "You started this and you will finish it, Lucas Lyons." I smirked, "Whatever do you mean, baby girl?"

She had wrapped herself around me and was pulsing up and down. She snapped us both naked, "You wanted me all riled up. I'm riled. Make me come, Alpha. Please, before I explode." I growled and had her against the door entering her in one move.

I stayed inside her until Lacy knocked on the door yelling, "You've missed school a lot lately. We have to go, Emmaline." I growled, "You NEED to get a GED." Emmaline laughed and snapped herself ready. "I love you, Lucas. I'll see you tonight for fairy lessons." She walked out with Lacy.

I got in the shower, then walked into my office, where I found a whistling Dylan. He handed me my coffee, bowing to me multiple times, "I bow to your genius." I laughed at him, "Let's get to work." The day flew by. Dustin came to visit me with Ryan. Dustin looked like he hadn't slept all night.

He told me, "I want to talk to Evie." I said, "I don't control when you talk to your sister. She has fairy lessons tonight. You can either try before or after." Dustin nodded, "I know you don't control her. No one does. No one ever could or did." Ryan sighed, "I've got to go pick them all up from school." With that he left the room.

I offered, "If Emmaline doesn't pop back, and she usually doesn't, she will come in the front door. Wait for her in the living room." Dustin asked, "Why are you helping

me? I've been a dick to you." I sighed, "Because I want Emmaline to be happy. She won't be happy without you in her life, and her happiness means everything to me."

Dustin regarded me then held out his hand, "I'm trying to adjust to her being older. It does help that I can see how much you care about her. It really does. I'll do better." I shrugged, "It's an adjustment. I'm sure in a few years, you and I will be great friends. That doesn't have to be tomorrow though. Just be honest with Emmaline." Dustin nodded and walked out of the room.

A few minutes later a pop sounded. I was about to let Dominic take control, so I didn't do something stupid like tell Emmaline to talk to Dustin. Then Emmaline spoke first, "I just wanted to say hi. I'm going to hash things out with Dusty." I smiled, "Hi, baby girl." She kissed me then sighed, "I'm going to pop away back downstairs now." I said, "That...." She popped away.

I stood immediately, running to the door, feeling the chase in my blood. Dylan grabbed me and wrestled me down, "She's not popping away from you." I reversed us breathing heavily. "Ever since we played catch the fairy... I'll just have to explain it to her." Dylan got up, "You ok now?" I nodded, "Go see Lacy." He nodded and left. I did some more work.

I looked up when Logan opened a portal into my office. Katie came through with him. Emmaline popped to me moments later. She'd been crying. Katie regarded her worriedly. Emmaline grabbed Katie's hand and mine, popping us to Haley's. She started to walk away.

I linked her pulling her back to me, "Baby girl, is everything ok?" She replied, "Yes, we got it sorted out it was just a hard conversation. Everything's fine now." I nodded and gave her a hug and whispered, "I almost came after you when you popped away." She laughed, "But you knew where I was going." I shrugged, "Apparently, it doesn't matter." This time I nudged her toward Haley and she walked over to their group.

Eric offered, "Catch the fairy makes you feel like it's always a chase." I snorted, "You're telling me." My eyes narrowed on Bjourn. I asked, "Where's my clue?" Bjourn smirked and handed me a piece of paper. I groaned, "I don't get a piece of my collection back?" Bjourn shook his head, and I opened my clue.

Clue 7

Your next clue is hiding

In an eoepelvn

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I groaned, “What the fuck? Eric, Is this Fealish?” Eric said, “Emmaline does have a dictionary of Fealish. It would be fair to give you that as a clue.” I groaned. Logan tensed beside me instantly putting me on alert. I relaxed when I saw that Katie had managed to pop a couple inches from Haley.

Logan groaned, “Fuck me.” Eric laughed, “With as little earth blood as she has, other students have only managed to get to the other side of the lake.” Logan said, “I still hate it... No, I loathe it.” Eric said, “Suck it the fuck up, man. Our mate’s can pop realms.”

Logan considered then conceded, “That would be much worse.” Emmaline had managed to freeze half of the lake today. I was surprised that her other sister Idel was teaching the water fairy’s instead of Hexxi. I asked, “Doesn’t Hexxi normally teach?” Eric nodded, “Apparently Idel said she was hogging their sisters.”

I noticed Sharon was here too. I asked, “Where’s Garrett?” Eric smirked, “Alpha Kyle called me with Garrett growling in the background. He’s worried since they don’t know if she will have a heat, he didn’t want her to come today. He actually locked her in their room forgetting she could pop away.”

I bit my lip, “At least I didn’t do that.” Eric said, “I haven’t done that either. Look at us go. We have one win in the relationship department.” I asked, “Is Garrett on the way?” Eric said, “No, I promised Alpha Kyle that Haley would see to Sharon’s safety. None of the fairies would agree to go get him.” I snorted. Duly noted.

After the lesson ended, Idel was animatedly talking to Emmaline and Sharon, practically pleading with them while Haley laughed. Emmaline looked at me then smirked and nodded her head to whatever Sharon was saying. Sharon got a wicked gleam in her eye and agreed as well. Haley turned to Katie saying something. Katie glanced back at Logan.

Logan snorted, “This is trouble if I ever saw it.” Katie nodded and grabbed Haley’s hand as Emmaline reached for Idel’s and Sharon’s. I yelled, “Don’t you dare!” She winked at me. They all popped away. Logan groaned, “Come on!”

Bjourn said, “She’s with our sister. You know she would not let anything hurt Katie.” Logan agreed, “I do know that.” Emmaline linked me, “Prepare for payback, my

Alpha. Idel is going to show Sharon and me the water fairy ritual.” I was instantly rock hard.

I told the group, “They are doing the water fairy ritual. I’m guessing Haley is doing the earth one with Katie.” Eric smirked “Happy Wednesday to us all, especially Lucas. Why couldn’t Katie be a sky fairy?” We all chuckled. Eric continued, “Logan, I’d head to the room you and Katie have stayed in here.”

Logan smiled, “I do love my little sister, I love her so damn much.” He practically skipped away from us. I pulled out my phone to call Alpha Kyle. He answered immediately, “Lucas. Is anything wrong at fairy practice?” I heard a snarl that I assumed was Garrett. I assured him, “Nothing is wrong. I’m calling to warn Garrett. Our mate’s fairy sister is showing them some water fairy ritual.” Peter’s voice came through the phone “And? Why does Garrett need a warning about that?”

I laughed, “When Emmaline did the earth ritual with Haley a couple weeks ago they were, and I quote Haley here, ‘A crazed sex fairy’ afterwards. Since Emmaline and Sharon are mostly water fairy’s you and I are in for a crazy night. Get to your room. Sharon will be popping to you with a need you will practically be able to taste.” Garrett laughed, “I am practically there, Alpha Lucas. Thank you.”

Eric led us back to the house and said, “Beta James said Theo doesn’t hate you like he used to, but he’s not ready to be in alliance with you again. I don’t know if he ever will be.” I sighed, “I figured,” It still stung, but I did figure that would be the case.

I walked with the group inside Eric’s home. We both saw Alpha Chase pacing the front hallway. Darrin told us, “He’s refusing to leave.” Alpha Chase finally noticed we were here. He turned to me, “Your mate... Alpha Lucas... she knows who someone’s mate is, right?” I nodded, “She does.”

Alpha Chase looked at me with tortured eyes, “Does she know mine?” I stared at him, “She hasn’t said she does, and according to Haley she’d have to if she knew.” Eric cautiously asked, “What’s going on, Alpha Chase?” Alpha Chase paced, “I... my wolf... he said our mate was near last weekend. He’s inconsolable because now he says she’s not. I just... I don’t even know why I came here.”

Eric winced, “Haley had a fairy event Sunday evening.” Alpha Chase’s eyes widened, “You think my mate could be a partial fairy?” I pointed out, “Ours are.” Alpha Chase continued to pace, “What do I do? What have I even done? I’m married. My mate will reject me. My wolf is pissed at me, growling all the damn time. I never have a moment’s peace.”



I said, “You haven’t met her yet, you don’t that she’d reject you.” Alpha Chase didn’t even look at us, “And your mates would be on mine’s side. The Princess could keep her from me if she’s a fairy.” He finally looked at Eric, “Your mate hates me, I can tell.”

Eric disagreed, “My mate doesn’t hate that many people unfortunately. She doesn’t know the whole situation you have going on like I do. She hates what you’ve done because she can’t imagine it if I was married to someone else. Specifically, Claudia Harden.”

Alpha Chase said, “FUCK! Even Lucas’ mate hates me. Does it help that I didn’t not Claudia either?” I disagreed, “Emmaline doesn’t hate you. It hurts her soul to see you with someone who isn’t your mate.” Alpha Chase asked, “WHY do you have the faintest smell of my mother’s cinnamon bread in this house? Did Mrs. Blanch get the recipe out of her before she died?” Eric answered, “No....”

I linked Eric, “His mate really was here.” Eric nodded. Alpha Chase growled, “She was here.” Eric agreed, “It does seem that way.” Alpha Chase paced, “Can I come to the next fairy training session?” Eric looked torn.

Alpha Chase pleaded, “Please... I know an Alpha’s not supposed to say please... but I want to see her. My wolf NEEDS to see her. I can barely keep him contained right now.” Eric sighed, “Yes, but you stay back. IF you find her just know my wife might kill us both, but we will figure it out. Alright?”

He nodded frantically, “Thank you... thank you Alpha Eric. I... what was I thinking? I was a stupid eighteen year old kid. I just wanted to help my friend. Sophia is a good leader and she deserved to lead her pack.” I contemplated offering to ask Emmaline to see if she knew his mate, but I didn’t want to do that to her. Alpha Chase left looking haggard, but more at peace.

Marcus’ voice startled me, “That wolf is fucked. Fairy’s hate unfair shit.” Dylan was right, they needed to stop doing that, it was unsettling. Eric said, “If it’s a fairy. We had staff here for catering, and an event planner. I believe the caterer used some humans with knowledge of the supernatural world. His mate’s definitely not a wolf though. No one had an eighteenth birthday last weekend.” Marcus clearly felt a certain way about someone Eric listed off, but I didn’t comment on it.

Eric and I parted ways. I walked into the room Emmaline and I had been in last time. I was lost in thought wondering what Alpha Chase would do. What his mate would do. He was my ally and I was bound to help him, as was Eric. I knew our mates would not like this at all. I started to pace going over options. Emmaline’s sisters weren’t at the

event that I knew of so the fairy couldn't be related to her at least. If it was a human caterer or event planner that would be even easier. You can't tell them right away, so Alpha Chase could figure his situation out before explaining the supernatural world. If they didn't know about it, which Eric mentioned some had. That didn't mean all of them did. That could work in his favor.

I had no idea how to help Alpha Chase if it was a fairy. Haley would kick his ass, and I didn't know what the fuck Eric would do. The problem was if Haley was against it, Emmaline would be too. Especially as the Soul Searcher. This situation was so fucked up. I heard a pop and turned. I gasped, barely recognizing the look in my own mates eyes. I didn't even get to say anything before she attacked me.