

Water Rituals

Emmaline woke up to her alarm. I was surprised when Lucas wanted to come to training. I racked my brain, but I couldn't think of any reason he'd be coming. Was something going on I didn't know about again? Last time he was there because he was afraid that I'd leave him. I recoiled at the thought of us fighting. He eased my fears immediately. We were basically wrestling, but not seriously? What the heck?

The warriors seemed just as surprised about Lucas' attendance. He must have linked them because a few were smirking now. At least nothing was wrong. Lacy linked me when she walked in, "What the hell?" I shrugged, "I don't know. He just said he was coming to see my progress. I can't think of any reason he would be worked up about letting me out of his sight. Do you think there's another Alpha Hammond situation?"

Lacy frowned, "There better not be, but Dylan is on the way." I replied, "He said he's not fighting Dylan." Lacy eyebrows raised, "Then who does he want to fight? Is he really just going to watch you?" I looked away, "He said he wants to fight me." Lacy inhaled, "Are you serious?" I nodded. She asked, "What the actual heck?" I shook my head in response.

I looked at Dylan when he came in, and barely withheld my laugh. I linked Lacy, "I've never seen Dylan look more unkempt than in this moment." Lacy looked over and rolled her eyes, "I realize he had a rushed wake up call, but he could've at least gotten his shorts on correctly." I bit my lip, "He's a good friend and mate." Lacy smiled, "That he is."

Lacy linked me after everyone was paired up, "I'm fighting Dylan?" I shrugged and snapped Dylan's outfit on correctly. I speculated, "Maybe they want us to get ready for Astrid?" Lacy agreed, "That could be it."

Lucas was making it hard to focus. He took off his shirt. How was this fair? His abs had abs. I desperately wanted to lick him again. Why would he do this to me? Couldn't he fight me with his darn shirt on? I didn't know if I could fight him in the first place but feeling him against me with no shirt definitely told me I couldn't.

It became painfully clear within minutes why Lucas was here. To work me up. I linked Lacy, "They are messing with us by getting us all hot and bothered." Lacy growled, "The most obnoxious part of their plan is that it's working." I snorted, "It really is." Lacy said, "Ew, that's my brother." I chuckled in our link.

Lucas used every touch to his advantage. If he ground his hips into mine one more time, I'd pop us out of here and pounce on him. Thankfully, the class ended because I was about to spontaneously combust. Lucas acted surprised by my aggression once I popped us to the bedroom. He could take his surprise and shove it. He riled me up and now he had to pay the piper. We went at it like animals until Lacy knocked on the door.

I walked out of our room once I was ready. I linked arms with Lacy. I popped us to the car. Brad got in without a word. Valerie slid in with Ry. Valerie teased, "I didn't think you guys were going to make it today." I shrugged, "Why wouldn't we?" Valerie smirked, "I heard some things..." Ry said, "Please for the love of god, don't have this conversation." Valerie giggled.

I drove us to school in silence. Sam and Chelsea were waiting by my locker. I had another note. I considered not reading it, but my curiosity got the best of me.

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Emmaline,

I know things got messed up, but I have your best interests at heart. Meet me by the locker rooms during first period.

Grayson

I stared at the note in shock. Did he honestly think I would meet him? I discreetly crumbled the note in my hand. Drake and I walked to class together. I threw it away in Mr. Blaze's trash with no one the wiser. One crisis averted for today. I refused to meet Grayson's gaze in second period. Travis growled at him when he tried to pass me a note. Travis, of course, took the note and read it. I couldn't help but notice he didn't look happy.

After class Travis pulled me back giving the teacher a look. She cleared the room pretty quick, with a sympathetic look in my direction. Brad had been in class with us and clearly would be for the foreseeable future. Travis growled, "Care to explain?" I frowned, "How can I explain? I don't know what the note said. What am I explaining?"

Travis raised an eyebrow and read the note, "Emmaline, I missed you at the lockers. Meet me in the gym in the next period." I rolled my eyes, "Because ignoring him the first time was too subtle?" Brad asked, "When did he ask you to meet?" I shrugged, "He left a note in my locker. Evidently, it was actually him and not a fake person like

last time. One can't be too careful though since someone is a secret handwriting impersonator. I don't want to meet with him anyway. I threw the note away in Mr. Blaze's trashcan."

Brad groaned, "Emmaline, I need to know about the notes. Particularly given what has happened with the fake note from the Alpha." I sighed agreeing, "Fine. I just didn't think it mattered because I obviously wasn't going to go. I don't want to talk to him." Brad nodded. Both men accepted I would tell them about the next note.

The rest of the day went smoothly. I drove us all back home. Ry was really quiet the whole way home. Once everyone got out of the car, I caught his eyes in the rearview mirror. I didn't move, catching his silent message to hang back.

After everyone else got out I asked, "What's wrong, Ry?" Ry sighed, "Dustin is really messed up about your fight." I sighed, "I'm not great either, but I can't fight him every step of the way anymore. It's exhausting and hurtful. In any other situation, he would like Lucas." Ry agreed, "I know. It is hard for us all. We know Dustin is wrong though." We both got out of the car. Ry advised, "Just don't be too hard on him for too long." I nodded in acknowledgement.

We walked inside side by side. Dusty was waiting. I wanted to sigh. The only thing that stopped me was the look on his face. He looked horrible. His eyes were rimmed red, he looked like he hadn't slept all night. He brokenly stated, "We need to talk, Evie." I searched his soul, and found his remorse, regret, self-loathing to be too much for me. I ran in for a hug.

I pulled back from him and agreed, "I'll pop to say hi to Lucas and be right back." I popped away. I couldn't help but smile at Lucas. Seeing him really did just make the whole day feel right. I popped back downstairs to Dusty, surprised to see Ry was still there.

I raised an eyebrow at him. He smirked, "I'm keeping the peace, and making sure the ground rules are followed." I nodded instantly understanding. Anytime we fought our mom would have a peacekeeper who basically served as a moderator. They set ground rules for the conversation that had to be followed. You got grounded if you broke them.

I asked, "What are the ground rules, Ry?" Ry smiled, "No popping, walking, or running away. No raised voices, and no cheap shots to significant others. We talk this out how we were raised. No one leaves this room until it's resolved."

I teased, “Then we’d better talk fast, I have fairy lessons tonight.” Ry considered, “If we don’t have it resolved before fairy lessons, then you will have to pop right back here afterwards.” I crossed my arms, “I agree if Dusty does.” Dusty nodded so I sat down.

Dusty spoke first, “I’m sorry, Evie. There’s really not much else I can say. I’ll be better about you and Lucas. I just had this idea in my mind of how everything would be when we found you. Obviously, that was before I knew about mom and dad. I thought bringing you home would fix the fractures in our family that began forming when you left. I thought everything would be just how it was, you know? In my mind, you’ve been frozen in time that last day I saw you.”

I admitted, “Before I met Lucas. I wished I was that little girl too. I’ve learned a lot though. I know that I can survive on my own.” Dusty winced, “I didn’t want you to have to do that. I know Lucas is a good man, and he’s good with you. It just feels like he took something from me. Nothing about how you came back into our lives is what I thought it would be.”

I already had tears flowing down my cheeks. I took his hand, “I’m sorry, Dusty. I didn’t want to stay away from you guys. I was just scared.” Dusty said, “I know. I just wish you could’ve told us where you were. Or told us what happened in a note, we could’ve found you sooner.” I shrugged, “I wish I could’ve.”

Dusty started to cry, “I hate that. I hate that when we came here you were afraid of us.” I interrupted, “I was never afraid of either of you.” Dusty disagreed, “That’s semantics. You were afraid of what would happen if we found you. You had to know once Ryan saw you that we’d find you.” I sighed, “I did.”

Dusty ground out, “You were going to run again.” I nodded, “If I hadn’t met Lucas; I would’ve. I can’t leave him though. I was a wreck because I didn’t know what to do. I knew Ry would eventually convince you he actually saw me.” Dusty said, “I just... I’m so damn mad all the time. I can’t believe they did this to us. How are you not mad?”

I raised an eyebrow, “I AM mad. I hate mom a lot. I thought I was over it, but Haley pointed out I’m not. I don’t think I will ever stop hating her. I don’t care what her side is, she didn’t pick me. She didn’t even lift a finger to help me. She could’ve emailed, called, texted, or sent a freaking smoke signal to my dad. He would’ve helped me.”

My voice shook with anger as I added, “She could’ve told you, Dusty. Katie and Ry were always closer to David than you were. YOU would’ve helped me. I’m so mad

she took that from me. Any help I could've had she slammed the door shut and sealed all the windows. It hurts.”

Dusty whispered, “You have no idea how many girls I’ve seen battered and broken trying to find you. It’s hard to put that all aside because as much as I don’t want to be, I’m angry with everyone. Even you, Evie.”

I was surprised, “Me? What the heck did I do?” Dusty stood and paced, “Nothing! That’s the ridiculous part. I know you didn’t run away now, but I’ve been angry for years thinking you did. I’m simultaneously angry and grateful to Lucas that he’s the reason you didn’t run after saving Ryan. I’m angry that you ever felt the need to be scared of me, Ry, or Katie.”

I sighed, “Anger isn’t always rational. I wouldn’t have left you guys if I’d had a choice. I couldn’t even leave you completely.” Dusty grimaced, “We couldn’t ever track you down. We went to every place the presents came from. The closest we ever got to you was in Texas. We actually got a hold of you boarding a bus to Louisiana. You never arrived there though.”

I winced, “The bus route stopped for snacks, and I took a cab back to Oklahoma.” Dusty sighed, “I just need to let go of how I thought all this was going to go. I’m not handling my anger well, especially for our parents. I’m mad at myself for not even suspecting my dad in your disappearance. I know who he is, I have for a long time, but I just never thought...”

He trailed off. I put my hand on his, “Why would you have? You didn’t know he wasn’t my dad.” Dusty turned, “But I SHOULD have. I should have investigated the stones turning to water. If I’d bothered to do that one thing, I could’ve saved ALL my sibling’s pain. Katie... hell Katie became a P.I. for Christ’s sake. Ry and I had to pick her up from the hospital a few times.” I said, “I know. If it makes you feel better, Logan killed those people. Well, he had some in the Hackura realm still.”

Dusty laughed, “Of course he did. We couldn’t find them, they went underground.” I nodded, “I figured. There’s no way you guys would let anyone get away with hurting Katie.” Dusty said, “Or you.” I nodded, “I know that too.”

Dusty assured me, “I will stop getting upset about you and Lucas. I just want you to be happy. If he’s it, then he’s it. I won’t ask about kids, and I’ll do my best to be happy when that time comes.” I smiled, “Thank you, Dusty. I’m not going to spring a kid on you the rest of this year so you’re safe.” Dusty smiled, “I appreciate that.”

I pointed to Ry, “He can’t say the same, nor can you.” Both laughed. Dusty admitted, “That’s true. I’ve just had a hard time moving you from that last night we all ate together. I see that little girl who ran to her room crying about mom and dad fighting.”

I nodded, “I know. I should’ve talked to guys, I’m sorry.” Dusty hugged me, “Let’s all put it behind us. Mostly me. I’ll figure out how to channel my anger at our mom and my dad.” I nodded, “I love you, big brother. I love that you all never gave up on finding me. It means so much to me that you guys did everything you did. I know you guys made sacrifices. Did you and Aubree even go on a honeymoon?” Dusty cringed, “No, Aubree understood though. We were using the money for leads on you, and the trips to track things down.”

I nodded. I was going to talk to Lucas about that. I wanted to give them both a trip. I didn’t know what to do for Katie, but I’d figure that out. I could give Dusty and Aubree a honeymoon. I could also give Ry and Valerie the trip to Europe Ry always wanted. Lucas would help me; I knew he would.

I asked, “Are you guys going to train on your fairy powers?” They both shrugged. Ry rubbed the back of his head, “We are thinking about it. Especially with what Katie can do, but we haven’t decided.” I nodded, we all hugged. I told them, “I’ll see you guys later.” They squeezed me a little tighter than normal.

I popped to Lucas, grabbed Katie and Logan, then popped us to Haley’s yard. I assured Lucas everything was ok, then went to go over to practice. I walked away only to have Katie grab me. She asked worriedly, “Are you alright? I’ve been worried about you and Dustin all day. He’ll get his head out of his ass, I just know it.”

I smiled, “We talked. He’s just really angry about everything.” She nodded, “Yeah, well he can join the club. He doesn’t need to be a jerk about it though.” I laughed, “I think he’s done now.” Katie nodded and Haley came over, smiling at us.

Haley said, “Idel says you’re hers the whole lesson.” Idel popped to me, “Yes, Hexxi is hogging all our half-sisters. I told her wasn’t fair, so here I am to teach you guys.” Haley laughed, “You were at my partial fairy event Sunday.” Idel snorted, “I couldn’t find a sibling there. My mom would know if she had another child, and dad is upfront about his children.” Haley shrugged, “Whoopsies happen? That’s the saying, yes?”

Katie and I laughed. I said, “It’s accidents, but whoopsies works too; I suppose.” Haley shrugged, “Whoopsies is more to say than accidents. Seriously, someone needs to put me in charge of your realm’s sayings. They need my help.” I bit my lip, “That would be something.”

Idel chimed in, “Yes, yes, yes. Haley is delightfully entertaining now. My sister, my turn!” Haley put her hands up. She turned to my sister, “Let’s leave them to their water fairy lessons, Katie. Today, you and I are going to try popping.” Katie laughed.

I looked at Idel as they walked away. I asked, “Do you think she can pop?” Idel nodded, “Yes, she will be able to.” I started laughing. Idel frowned, “What is funny about that?” I replied, “Logan will shit a brick.” Idel smiled, “Won’t that be fun? Let’s watch him lose it.”

We both laughed when Logan’s entire body literally jerked when Katie managed to pop a few inches away from Haley. We gathered ourselves after several moments, before Idel said, “Hexxi said you were working on freezing the lake. She told me you got a fourth of it covered. That’s quite impressive for your first try.”

I snorted, “Hexxi didn’t think so.” Idel rolled her eyes, “For as much time as she spends with the partial fairy’s that girl has her head in the clouds. You weren’t training on these powers until recently, your progress is fantastic.” I smiled tentatively at her.

Idel continued, “Haley told me she gave you more instructions on how to freeze the water. Trusting your light is a good start. I want you to do that, but I want to expand on that. Focus on the molecules that make up the water. Imagine it as a skeleton, something smaller that you can visualize. Water is made of particles and atoms among other things. Use your thoughts to will the lake turn to water using your light and encouraging the atoms that make up the water itself.”

I smiled, “That’s a really good way to put it.” Idel smiled, “I bet you can get half of the lake frozen today. Trust yourself and the water. That’s part of being a fairy. We have to trust in the element that gives us powers.”

Sharon came up to us greeting, “Hey guys!” I smiled, “Hey! How have you been?” She wrinkled her nose, “Garrett locked me in our room because he didn’t want me to come tonight.” My jaw dropped. Idel laughed, “Silly wolf, he forgot who he was dealing with.” Sharon rolled her eyes, “He did.”

I asked, “Why didn’t he want you to come?” Sharon sighed, “He’s worried about my heat hitting without him around. I swear, it happened to one girl in their pack and now all the men have lost their shit.”

I frowned, “But I brought Chelsea to Peter.” Sharon clapped, “SEE? Thank you! It was fine.” Idel laughed, “Well, while we wait for a wolf to break the land speed

record getting to you...” Sharon smiled smugly, “Haley took care of it. He’s not coming.”

Idel teased, “Then you’re in for it when you get home. I’ll think of something to help you while we work today. For lesson purposes, you get a bowl of water. I want you to control the water in it. Make multiple drops out of the bowl.” Sharon asked, “I can do that?” Idel said, “Of course you can. Emmaline, get to work.” I smiled. I felt a little bad, but I already liked Idel better than Hexxi. She was much more relatable and sister-like.

I got to work and realized Idel was right. I’d managed to get half the lake frozen today. It took me most of our lesson, and I was exhausted, but I was really proud of myself.

Idel squealed, “Look at you go! Half the lake! Did you see that, Haley? She already froze half the lake! We will be having our ice-skating lesson in no time!” Haley laughed, “I think that will be a fun break for everyone.” Idel clapped her hands, “I’ve thought of a way to help my sister out with her wolf problem.”

Sharon started laughing. I asked, “Problem?” Idel said, “Don’t you pretend like he won’t go all wolf on her the second she gets back.” I smiled, “He will. How can you help her?” Idel smirked, “We little sister, WE help her by doing the water fairy ritual.”

Haley started laughing. I asked, “How will that help her?” Idel rolled her eyes, “Haley, you said you did the earth ritual with her.” Haley nodded, “I did.” Idel turned to me, “Then do I have to explain that her wolf won’t be doing any yelling or talking of the non-carnal nature for the entire night?” I blushed.

Sharon asked, “What’s going on? Why will Garrett be having sex with me all night? Not that I’m complaining.” Idel said, “After we do the water ritual your water side will basically demand you screw your wolf into oblivion. Since we have three of us here, and we are sisters, it will intensify the need.”

Sharon gaped, “He locked me in a room, why would I want to reward that behavior?” Idel tilted her head, “It’s for you sister. YOU will be in control unless you give it over to him. Besides, having sex is fun. It’s not just for men, and it will get you out of trouble. That wolf won’t be able to remember his name when you are done.”

Sharon looked at me with a questioning stare. I shrugged, “I have no problem with being a crazed sex fairy tonight with Lucas.” Idel clapped her hands, “That’s the spirit! Come on Sharon, it’s sister bonding time.” Sharon seemed to be debating but laughed when Idel started bouncing up and down like a little kid, “Please, please,

please, please! Hexxi gets to do everything with you guys! She'll convince you to do it when I'm not here. Please sister, let me bond with you both this way."

I searched her soul then said, "She truly doesn't want to miss out on more time with us." Idel smiled at me. Sharon exasperatedly sighed, "Fine, but we're ALL do it together. Emmaline has to come." I smirked and looked at Lucas. I winked at him saying, "I was already in. He got me all kinds of up this morning at training."

Haley asked, "He did what?" I told her, "He joined training this morning to get me all hot and bothered." Haley laughed, "And now I know what I'm doing tomorrow morning after Eric and his brothers go running." I laughed.

Sharon wickedly stated, "Garret won't know what hit him." I laughed, "He really won't." Haley asked, "Katie, do you want to give my brother a time and a half tonight?" Katie tilted her head, "The earth ritual?" Haley nodded, "Why not? They are going to do the water ritual."

Katie looked back at Logan with mischief in her eyes. Haley laughed, "They for sure know something is up now. You guys need to work on being covert." Katie shrugged, "I don't need to be covert. Let's do it." We all grabbed hands as Lucas yelled at me not to go. Idel laughed at him.

Haley popped us to the little pond where we'd done our earth fairy ritual. She commented, "Someone should tell my lion you never dare a fairy." I laughed, "I would've gone anyway." Haley snorted, "Have you ever turned down a dare, Emmaline?" I thought about it, "Actually, no." Haley smiled, "Fairy side. Dares can be mischievous or bring out mischievous fun." I nodded, "Noted."

Idel popped to the middle of the pond. She snapped and we both looked down. Sharon and I were now in white halter top leotards with a see through short white skirt that faded to blue above our knees. I smiled, "I love fairy things." Sharon smiled, "Me too."

Idel called, "Come on slow pokes!" Haley laughed, "Yeah, you pokey prixles! Get out there!" Katie laughed. Sharon asked me, "She knows it's a pokey puppy, right? I mean it's a children's book, and she has kids." I replied, "She has absolutely no idea it's a pokey puppy. I am very confident in that answer." Sharon laughed and grabbed my hand. We both popped to Idel and Haley and Katie moved off to do the earth ritual a little further away from the pond.

Idel clapped, "I'm going to show you guys the moves. Before you say ask if I expect you to be a synchronized swimmer the answer is yes I do, BUT it will come naturally to you. I promise." We both nodded.

She was right, and luckily this pond was somehow clear enough for us to see into. I wondered if Haley enchanted it or something for water fairy rituals. A soft hydraulophone started playing. I looked around and spotted one playing itself in the middle of our group. Idel winked at me, "Fairy magic is fun." I nodded and we copied the moves she showed us.

We were practically a small, synchronized swim team. We moved with precision around each other for the whole song. It felt like a few moments, but I knew it was longer. Idel spoke softly, "Take my hands sisters, we will float on our backs until we feel our need and pop to our men." I smiled asking, "You have a man?" Idel winked, "I have a lover. I have not found my mate yet."

We all took each other's hands. Our heads were in the center next to each other and we just floated. I felt much closer to Idel and Sharon than I had before. I was glad Idel had shown us this ritual. I wondered where Maribella was. Something told me her wolf was going a little crazy about her pregnancy. I couldn't help but smile realizing that's exactly what had happened.

I let myself listen to the sounds coming from the hydraulophone. It was a beautiful instrument. Few people knew of it, but something told me water fairies were drawn to it. Out of nowhere a need hit me, almost pulling me under the water.

Sharon and I jolted up, looking around wild eyed. Idel instructed gently, "Go to your wolves, sisters. Thank you for joining in this ritual with me. I look forward to doing it again. It's special with family." I barely managed to say, "Thanks, Idel. It was great!" Then I popped away, thinking only of Lucas.

He was pacing in the same room we'd been in last time. I wanted to growl at him for not being naked. I was on him after snapping his clothes away; like he should've been all along. I attacked his lips because I needed him. I was certain if he wasn't inside me soon, I'd stop breathing. Lucas said something to me, but I pulled his face to mine.

I popped us to the couch and lowered myself down onto him. He growled, "Damn, baby girl." I smirked and popped off him. He snarled. I winked and grabbed his hands and popped so now he was bent over the couch. I conjured a whip and spanked him with it.

He gripped the armrest, growling. I turned him, pushed him over the armrest, and jumped on him. I slid myself back onto him moaning. I couldn't stop. I put one of his hands on my breast, and the other in between my legs. He pinched me and I screamed his name. I yanked him up to a seated position gripping his hair. I turned his head to the side, then bit his mark hard imagining, sharp teeth like his re-marking him.

I possessively growled, "MINE!" Lucas' eyes went black as he answered, "Yours." I kept riding him, "Only mine! Swear it!" Lucas answered, "I swear it, baby girl. I'm yours, only ever yours. As you are mine." I smirked, "Then prove it, Alpha."

Dominic growled and had me under him in seconds. He grinned wickedly, "Prove it, you say?" I nodded and jerked my hips, needing friction. He caught my hips, "Oh no, no, my naughty fairy. I have something to prove." He pulled out of me, and I whimpered. I pouted, "That's not what I meant."

I was flipped around, and his hand came down hard on my butt three times. He carried me to the bed, tossing me onto it as if I was as light as a feather. His face was in between my legs and his tongue was on me. I was screaming his name soon enough. My legs were shaking from pleasure.

After four orgasms, I clamped my legs so hard around his head he laughed, "Don't try to kill me down here, baby girl." I was still screaming but tried to send a message to my legs to relax. They weren't responding though; I was too far gone. Lucas pulled me off the bed and turned me around, so my arms were on the mattress. I grew wet in the anticipation of him entering me.

He commanded, "Conjure me a butt plug." I immediately did as he said and heard him spit into his hand. He placed the plug in my butt and entered me at the same time. I felt so full. He whispered, "Are you ok?" I nodded, "More. Please, Lucas."

He lightly put his hand on the nape of my neck, and the other went to my hip, gripping much harder. He slammed into me, "You are so wet, Emmaline. FUCK!" I gripped the sheets and when Lucas put a little pressure onto my neck, I lost it. I came so hard I couldn't stand anymore. Lucas put me on the bed. I begged, "More, please! I need it so badly." Lucas made a startled sound of surprise.

His eyes flicked back again and I knew I'd brought Dominic out again. He entered me, and we stayed like that for hours. I was barely awake when we finished. Lucas gently spoke, "Maybe you pop us home in the morning." I mumbled, "Sounds good." I was out like a light after that.

My alarm going off startled me awake. I bolted out of bed not recognizing the room. Lucas' arm snaked around me, "It's alright, we are still at Eric and Haley's." I gaped at the room that was in complete disarray around us. We'd been kind to it last time in our destruction, this was chaos.

I commented, "It looks like a tornado hit the room." Lucas smirked, "Hurricane Emmaline hit. I'm a fan." I snorted, "I don't think I did this by myself, mister." Lucas grinned, "Guilty as charged, baby girl." I rolled my eyes, "And smug. You forgot smug."

Lucas started tickling me on the bed. I managed to say, "Hey, I need to pop us back! I'll be late for training." Lucas shook his head, "Nope, Dylan and I talked about this. You and Lacy won't be training with the pack Thursday's. You have your Haley training."

I pouted, "But I like training." Lucas said, "I understand, but you're going to be taking on multiple assailants on Thursday nights now. I want you to be fresh. It was the only way to calm Dylan down after you fell asleep."

I frowned asking, "Why is he so worried?" Lucas smiled, "It's hard for us. You are training, and we realize you are strong and capable. but you are our mates and it's in our nature to want to protect you. In training, you will be in danger. Add to that he's grappling a little bit with Lacy having been gone for two years. It's hard for him, which is VERY hard for him to admit. He's the funny guy, but she's his mate."

I sighed. I felt bad for Dylan. He was being weird, but I'm sure it was hard knowing his mate was out there on the run when he actually knew her. Lucas struggled and he didn't know me. Dylan probably feels like he didn't protect her. To get my mind of how much that must hurt Dylan's soul, I initiated another round of sex. We showered afterwards. I tried to snap the room back together and I was pleased I was only missing little things like broken lamps.

I popped us back to our home and got ready for school. Gemma had our breakfast ready and waiting for us the second I popped us into the kitchen. She smiled, "I'm getting used to that. Alyssa told me it gets better with time." Lucas choked on a pancake, "I don't think I've heard anyone, outside of Cassandra, call Mrs. Blanch Alyssa." Gemma laughed, "Of course people call her by her name, Lucas." He nodded, "Of course. Still weird to hear."

I handed him a glass of water. He linked me, "Thanks." I nodded and asked, "So, since Chelsea is moving packs, who will be the next Gamma?" Gemma smiled, "She was training to be the Gamma. Lucas is such a forward thinker." Huh?

Lucas said, “Chelsea has a little brother.” I gasped, “What?!” Gemma laughed, “He’s three. A bit of an oops on our part. I thought I was past my prime.” Lucas sat back and seemed to be contemplating something.

Gemma asked, “What’s that look Alpha?” Lucas said, “You got in that accident right before you got pregnant with him.” I asked, “What? Where?” Gemma answered, “We were on vacation in Ireland. Driving there was not for us. Well, Alex did fine. The accident was my fault. I turned, forgetting we drive on the opposite side of the road. I overcorrected and put us in a ditch.”

Lucas pressed, “Afterwards, what happened?” Gemma laughed, “You know, Alex has such a different version. I had this euphoric feeling. My poor mate was in pain, and it was my fault. He does say he had a euphoric feeling too. He swears he heard voices. A modulated one and a normal one, crazy man.”

I gasped. Gemma asked, “What?” I looked at Lucas, “You think Haley healed her?” Lucas nodded, “I do. Alex probably did hear a modulated voice.” I frowned, “Who...? BA! You think Haley and BA were there.” He nodded.

Gemma gasped, “Lucas, please ask Alpha Eric to ask her for us. That was so kind of her, and we all adore Bray.” That was a place I’d always wanted to visit. I asked, “Is that the name of the town you got in your accident in?” Gemma nodded, “I went into heat that night, and when we got back, we found out I was pregnant. We thought it was a magical place.” Lucas snorted, “She definitely healed you, but I’ll talk to Eric though.” My cousin was the best.

Lacy linked me, “Is Lucas coming to the dance on Saturday?” I winced, “I didn’t ask him.” Lacy sighed, “Ask him so I can tell Dylan he’s coming.” I sighed, “Lucas...” He turned towards me, “Yes?” He was smiling, almost as if he knew what I was about to ask.

I took a deep breath, “There’s a dance on Saturday at school... and well... will you go with me?” Lucas kissed me, “Of course, baby girl.” I smiled and he asked, “What color is your dress?” I winced, “I’ll tell you later.” Lucas laughed, “You don’t have a dress, do you?” He was right.

I stood and grabbed my backpack, “I’ll have one tonight after I ask Haley about it.” Lucas said, “Fairy godmother duties again? She’ll be thrilled.”

I smiled and ran to the car. I got in and Lacy immediately asked, “Well?” I nodded, “He’s coming.” Lacy whooped, “I KNEW IT! This is going to be such fun. Do you

have a dress?" I shrugged, "I'm going to ask Haley if she can do her thing." Lacy smiled, "Perfect!"

I asked, "Do you need her to get you a dress?" Lacy shook her head, "No, I have a dress. I bought it in Ireland. I've just needed an occasion to wear it." I smiled, "Well, then Saturday it is."

School flew by for me. Lacy and I linked back and forth all day about our training lesson. We were really excited. A little nervous, but mostly excited. Time started to move at the pace of snails when we got home.

Lacy groaned, "Could time go ANY slower?" Dylan practically squeaked, "Slow? Time is practically going warp speed. I'm sensing fairy hijinks afoot." Lucas laughed, "Dylan, it's going to be fine." Dylan growled at him.

I raised an eyebrow. I teased, "Can't you find some chill like Lucas?" Dylan whirled, "Chill? Is that what you sense from him?" I sighed and searched Lucas' soul. He was in fact not calm. He was worried, a little panicked, and feeling protective. I admitted, "No."

Dylan shrieked, "AH HA! I KNEW IT!" Lucas rolled his eyes, "Some of us have composure." Dylan said, "Composure is for Alpha's. Us Beta's lose all composure at the things you all as Alpha's put us through sometimes. We have support groups for all the CRAP we have to do." Lucas laughed, "I'm sure you do." Dylan was muttering quietly.

I hated it when they did that. I chided him, "Dylan if you don't want everyone to hear you, link them. I'm the only non-wolf here who can't hear you. I don't have super hearing." Dylan smirked, "I am deeply sorry you are missing my commentary; it's duly noted that you like hearing it. It's an adjustment having someone who can't hear me so far away. I'll correct that immediately, have no fair pretty little Luna. I said this is madness."

I shrugged, "I think madness would be me never training with Lacy when we seem to be facing multiple threats. It's a good idea and you know it." Dylan imitated my words in a mocking tone, "It's a good idea and you know it." Lucas spoke in a warning tone, "Dylan." Dylan grumbled, "What? Don't you Dylan me. This is insane."

Bjourn appeared behind Dylan. I tried not to laugh when he winked at me. Bjourn asked Dylan, "What is insane?" Dylan actually jumped several inches into the air. I couldn't stop my laugh. Dylan whirled around yelling, "You must CEASE doing that

immediately! WHY? Why MUST you walk around like a NINJA! MAKE SOME DAMN NOISE!”

Bjourn laughed, “I am afraid I cannot.” Bjourn smiled at Lacy and me, “My mate and sister in law are very excited for your lesson. Actually, my sister and cousin are too.” Another one of Haley’s brothers stepped up behind Bjourn. At least I was pretty sure he was her brother. He looked related to the others I’d met.

He nodded to us, “It’s a pleasure to meet you Lacy and Emmaline. I saw you when we came for my sister when she got shot, but introductions weren’t made.” I nodded and held out my hand, “Emmaline.” He smiled, “Prince Benjamin.” Lacy spoke, “I’m Lacy. You’re Ariel’s mate, right? So, she’s fighting with us too?” Prince Benjamin smiled, “Against you actually, but more or less.”

Dylan grabbed Lacy and stormed off towards the gym. He grumbled, “Perfect. This is just PERFECT!” I bit my lip. Prince Benjamin said, “Strange man your Beta, Alpha Lucas. I heard he was funny.” Lucas smirked, “He’s one of a kind.” Prince Benjamin shrugged, “Logan quite likes him.” I had noticed that.

We all walked towards the gym. Once we got there, Lucas dropped my hand and walked over to Dylan. He was pinned underneath Haley. She teased, “See? Don’t you want them to be good like me, my friend Dylan?” He sighed, “Of course I do, you are an amazing fun sized special ninja fairy.” He winked at Eric who growled at him.

Dylan gracefully jumped up when Haley moved off him. Eric yanked her into his arms and growled at Dylan. Eric’s soul was both amused, annoyed, and possessive. Dylan’s soul was worried, but now a larger part was smug.

I jumped in, “Ok, I don’t know what that was. You all go solve your man problems while we women folk fight each other.” Haley laughed. Lucas gave me a hard kiss. When he pulled back all the men stalked off.

Astrid nudged me, “I like you, Emmaline.” I smiled at her, blushing a little. Haley instructed, “Miley and Astrid are going to fight Emmaline while Ariel and I fight Lacy.” I winced, “I hoped I’d be fighting you.” Haley smiled, “You will, but we’ve been training together. I want you to see different styles.”

I quickly told her before I forgot, “After we are done, I need your help with something. There’s a dance on Saturday that I completely forgot about. I need a dress.” Haley smiled, “Your fairy godmother will get you to the dance in a beautiful dress.” Astrid laughed but looked at me appreciatively.

Haley clapped, “And now we fight.” Lacy and I stood back to back. I linked her, “Do you think they have an easy setting?” She took a punch from Ariel and snorted, “No, they do not.” We fought back working together. It was a little awkward at first, but we were learning each other’s styles quickly.

Astrid definitely didn’t have an easy setting. We reset multiple times. It was like fighting a bear, a lion, and a cheetah simultaneously. Haley’s team was switching around who was fighting who. It was kind of incredible to watch them fight together as a team.

Astrid and Ariel swapped places. Ariel was now fighting me, and Astrid was fighting Lacy. Haley even switched with Miley at one point. Haley smiled, “Good job guys! Next time we are going to take this outside.”

Dylan half screamed, “OUTSIDE? LUCAS! Chill does NOT LIVE HERE ANYMORE! I was not designed to have such feelings!” I laughed, “So we can hide and use the terrain?” Haley nodded, “Yes, and you will pop away.”

I pointed out, “I’d take Lacy with me.” Haley smiled, “And I’ll bring my team with me. You never pop leaving your teammate unless you know they are fine.” Haley held out her hand and healed my face from the bruising I’d gotten. She healed Lacy, Miley, and Ariel. We’d managed to get some shots on those two. Astrid and Haley were just fine since we never managed to land a hit on either one.

Dylan was beside Lacy in a second. He told her, “I, for one, hated everything about that.” Lacy smirked, “You would. It was fun though. I see why you like fighting.” Dylan shrieked, “FUN? Oh, dear lord. LUCAS! Did you hear what you have done?” Lucas responded, “She has Alpha blood. What do you want me to do?”

Dylan grumbled and started to take Lacy away. She gave me a signal. I popped to her and popped us back behind Haley. Dylan growled clearly annoyed. Lacy smiled, “I want to see the dress Emmaline gets for the dance Saturday.” Dylan sighed, “Fine.”

Haley called, “Eric.” Eric laughed, “Let’s go, Lucas.” Lucas complained, “You have GOT to be kidding me.” Haley waved her hands, “Out. I’m saying it nicely. I won’t if I have to say it again, my lion.”

Lucas said, “That wasn’t saying it nicely. I refuse to leave until you say it nicely.” Haley smirked, “Challenge accepted.” Bjourn gleefully yelled, “YES! Finally! Someone understands the challenge was issued.” Haley called the wind, and it pushed Lucas outside. Dylan was howling in laughter while Lucas tried to fight air. Eric simply walked out after him.

Haley spoke in fealish. I asked, "What did you say?" Haley smiled, "I temporarily barred Lucas from entering the gym. Let's get you your dress. We have fifteen minutes." I laughed then turned to Lacy asking, "What kind of dress are we talking about? I've found the dress code differs from school to school." Lacy smiled, "All of the ones at our school are formal, you need a long dress." I smiled, "You're going to love this Haley, because the dress I want is pink."

Astrid, Miley, and Ariel snorted. Haley clapped with glee, "REALLY?" I nodded, "Yup." I took out my phone and showed her a picture. Haley loved the dress. She conjured a wand stating, "Bibbidi Bobbidi boo."

The dress I wanted appeared on me. Lacy gasped, "It's gorgeous!" It had a beaded top that was see through until you got to the sweetheart neckline. There was a beaded belt at my waist then it flowed out from there.

I twirled squealing, "I love it!" Haley smiled, "Let me know if you like the shoes." I lifted my dress to find silver shoes with little jewels on them. I smiled whispering, "They are perfect." I looked up and hugged her. I sincerely told her, "Thank you." She smiled and snapped me back into my work out clothes.

Lucas threw the door open glaring at Haley. She smiled and waved at him, "Welcome back, my lion. Emmaline's dress and shoes are perfect in case you were wondering." Lucas gritted his teeth, "I'm sure it is."

Eric wrapped his arms around Haley, nipping at her ear, "Let's get out of here." Haley agreed, "Hop on board the fairy express. Back to the territory where people appreciate the things I do for them. Honestly, my lion. It's beginning to hurt my feelings." Haley popped away. I frowned. Her soul told me it was true.

Dylan said, "I love the fairy show. I love it so much. We have GOT to get them a reality show. Don't you dare hurt her feelings anymore, you sleep tyrant Alpha you. I'll never forgive you if my show gets cancelled." Lucas rolled his eyes and took me back to our room. I texted Haley.

Me: Where did the dress go?

Haley: The Luna closet. Molly told me there were Luna rooms. I never used ours. I don't understand why the fuck they have them, but that's just me. I turned ours into the triplet's nurse.

Me: Thank you again! I love it.

Haley: Anytime. I love fashion, and my Fairy Godmother tasks.

Lucas told me, “You did really well tonight.” I disagreed, “We didn’t win once.” Lucas pointed out, “Those women have been fighting together since Haley was brought to the Hackura realm eight years ago now. You and Lacy did a good job.” His soul told me he was serious. He was also very proud of me and of Lacy. I smiled, “We did, didn’t we?” Lucas nodded and we went to sleep.

Friday actually flew by. I was really excited about this dance. I woke up on Saturday and did my training with Lacy and Valerie in tow. Valerie commented, “I bet a lot of the girls will be here. This is the easiest one to get in with the dance tonight.” She was right. Almost all the girls were here this morning. Which Alex seemed prepared for.

Afterwards, I popped back into my room finding an envelope on the bed. I looked around, but I couldn’t find Lucas. He must have gotten up early. I pouted but opened my letter to read it.

Baby Girl,

Today you are going to be relaxing. I’m going to make sure you’re pampered. Haley snapped the Luna room into a spa for today. Chelsea, Sam, Valerie, and Lacy will all be getting ready with you. Katie is joining as well, but just for fun. I’ve scheduled massages, manicures, pedicures, and someone will be doing all your hair and makeup for all of you. Enjoy being pampered. I love you.

Lucas

I smiled and wiped a few happy tears away. I linked Lucas, “Don’t we have time for shower sex this morning?” He growled in our link. I popped into the shower. I turned on the water and found myself pinned against the wall.

I smirked, “Good morning, Lucas.” He managed to say, “Good morning” against my neck before we were buried inside each other. We separated when a knock came from the adjoining door. Lacy yelled, “I’ll send Dylan in there! It’s pampering time!”

Lucas laughed, “We should make her come in here, you got me all riled up.” Lacy must have heard him because she replied, “As I said, I’d send in Dylan. I’m not risking having to gouge my own eyes out. No thank you.” I laughed and stepped out of the shower, snapping us dry.

I snapped myself into a zip up jacket and some yoga pants. Lucas groaned, “That’s not helping, baby girl.” Dylan came through the door with his eyes covered. He

started talking, “I was informed I must come here. So here I am, a poor cog to my makes wishes. Is everyone decent?” I laughed, “Yes.”

Dylan removed his hands from his eyes, “I have been ordered to drag you from the room, Lucas. Lacy is saying if I don’t there will be no sex tonight. Get your wonderful Alpha self out of this room or I’ll cockblock you back. Don’t do it to me, man. I’ve been serious so much lately; my mind is practically revolting at the thought. We must leave and I must tell jokes. I was thinking of messing with King Alpha Prick just to settle myself.” I laughed while Lucas shivered, throwing up in hands in defeat. They left the room together.

I walked into the Luna rooms and laughed. I commented, “Haley just goes all out.” Valerie and Lacy simultaneously said, “Yes, she does.” They yelled, “JINX!” The room was completely transformed. It was now a salon and spa. I smiled when I spotted my sister. I ran to hug Katie. I added, “I’m surprised Haley didn’t join us.”

Katie admitted, “Logan said this isn’t her thing. It’s something to do with being touched by too many people.” I straightened, “That makes sense and it’s people she doesn’t know.” Katie nodded. We both took in the room as Chelsea and Sam arrived.

There was a table with sparkling Rosé and regular, clearly labeled Preggos and non-preggos drinks. The girls and I laughed the entire time we got ready. The massage was heavenly. I asked, “Do only girls work at the salon Lucas hired?” Chelsea snorted, “Are you kidding? Our mates would NEVER hire men to do this. They’d all be in here in a second to drag the poor unsuspecting man out for doing his job. It would cause a stir too. It’s considered quite taboo for a she wolf to smell of another male. Particularly date night.”

Katie’s eyes narrowed and she frowned. I asked, “What’s wrong?” She shrugged. I took her in the bathroom. She spoke the space unheard chant. She said, “Miley told me the morning of Eric and Haley’s wedding she took a massage meant for Haley.” I frowned, “Ok, given she doesn’t like being touch, that makes sense.” Katie frowned, “No, it doesn’t. The masseur was a male. Why would they do that if it’s so common that she wolves know it would cause a problem?” I frowned, “I’m not sure.” We didn’t dwell on it, and quickly walked back out.

It was the most relaxing day I’d ever had. I thought I’d never get to have this kind of day with my friends let alone with my sister. I walked over to Katie and squeezed her hand, “I’m so glad you joined.” Katie snorted, “Nothing would keep me away from getting you ready for your dance. You helped me get ready for all of mine.”

I smiled as the memories filled me. Katie and I would make a day of getting her ready for dances. I was always better at doing her nail polish than she was. I told her, "I loved those days." Katie smiled, "So did I." She helped me carefully into my dress once my hair and makeup were done. She even insisted on helping me with my shoes. She stood back, "Evie, you look beautiful." I smiled, "Thank you Katie."

I walked out, and the other girls were all dressed too. I said, "Gosh, we are one hot looking bad ass girl gang." Chelsea insisted that we raise a sparkling Rosé glass to that. We toasted and ate some of the pizza Lucas had gotten for us.

Chelsea asked, "How should we do our entrance for the guys?" I smirked, "The fairy way. Pop in and startle them all, except Logan. I think it's impossible to startle him." I snapped Katie into a sexy dress black dress. She laughed, "Nice, little sister." Everyone laughed as we all grabbed hands.

I popped us to the middle of the living room yelling, "Ta-da!" The guys all whirled, except Logan who just smirked. Dylan rolled his eyes, "Not even that gets you? A pop out of nowhere is just an everyday event to you."

Logan smirked, "For the past eight years it has been an everyday thing to me. It takes a lot to surprise me." Dylan smiled, "Challenge issued and accepted!" Lucas groaned, "Dylan?" He asked, "What? The creepy silent ninja's are always talking about challenges. I am taking a page from my fun sized ninja fairy's book. I SHALL surprise him. Somehow." I snickered.

Lucas whispered in my ear, "You look beautiful, baby girl." I replied, "You look quite handsome yourself." He had on a light pink tie and a black button-down shirt with black pants. I asked, "Where did you get the tie to match my dress?"

Lucas lightly squeezed my waist, "Your fairy godmother, of course. We couldn't possibly end up with two different shades of pink. Apparently, that would be catastrophic." I shrugged, "Pink is her favorite color."

Dylan squealed, "We know. You should see pictures of their reception. It was like pink galore. Guess who hated pink previously?" I snickered, "Eric?" He clapped, "Ding-Ding-Ding! We have a winner. It was glorious. Someone might have sent Claudzilla pictures after her reappearance at the summit of said wedding. She liked pink, but King Alpha Prick changed and removed every pink thing she had decorated in their territory. I just imagine she shrieked and threw things. It sparks such joy for me." Good to know fun Dylan was back.

Lucas took my hand and led me outside. I gaped at the sight before my eyes. I turned to him, "You have an Aston martin?!" Lucas laughed, "I have a red one." I laughed as he held the door open for me. I commented, "I thought we were all riding together." Lucas shrugged.

Ry came up at a jog, "You look beautiful, Evie." I smiled, "You look dashing yourself, Ry." He smiled and gave me a hug. I wished Dusty had come. I guess this was still too much for him, and he didn't want to ruin my night. It still stung. Ry whispered in my ear, "Look to your right."

I stepped back and turned to see Dusty. I smiled and ran over to him. He picked me up and spun me around. He told me, "You look beautiful, Evie, all grown up." Aubree said, "Land sakes alive, Dustin, She IS grown up. We have been over this time and time again." I turned to Aubree and gasped, she was glowing. She asked, "What? We have talked about it, a lot."

I looked back at Dusty and winked, "I'm just realizing I'm going to be an aunt twice over now." Aubree stood stock still for a moment, then started bawling. Dusty picked her up spinning her around. Aubree asked, "Really?" I nodded, "You are without a doubt glowing." Dusty shouted, "I'M GOING TO BE A DAD!"

Ry and Katie both ran over congratulating them and we had a sibling family hug. I said, "Ok, we officially have to go." Katie said, "Being late is all the rage." I laughed and gave her a hug. She told me, "Have so much fun tonight!" Logan wrapped his arms around her and her little bump in her sexy black dress.

I asked her, "Do we know if I'm getting a niece or nephew yet?" Katie smiled at Logan. He kissed the side of her forehead, "Go on, tell them." Katie smiled happily, "It's a boy." I squealed and hugged her. Lucas had joined us by this point and shook Dusty's hand along with Logan's.

Eventually we separated, and our group headed off for the dance. I happily chatted away, "That's so exciting about Aubree and Dusty." Lucas smiled, agreeing, "It is." I asked, "Why wasn't Dusty with you guys today?" Lucas gripped the wheel. I frowned, "He promised me he'd do better with you." Lucas said, "It wasn't about me. He had some things to deal with warlock wise."

I could tell Lucas' soul was worried, but it made me happy it wasn't about Dusty. I smiled, "Good. He's still trying like he promised." Lucas smiled, "He really is." I changed the subject, "I'd like your help with something. Aubree and Dusty didn't go on a honeymoon because they were spending the money to fund the find Emmaline campaign they were spearheading. Ry always wanted to go to Europe, I know he

spent his trip money too. I thought maybe if it's not too much trouble we could... Well, I don't have enough money..."

Lucas interrupted me, "My money is your money, married or not. You are my mate. You and I can look up places and book a honeymoon for Dustin and Aubree. We have several homes throughout the world. We can send Ryan and Valerie to Europe after graduation." I smiled, "You are good to me, Lucas Lyons."

He smiled and we pulled into the parking lot. Everyone was waiting in our group to walk in together. It was your typical high school dance. Someone spiked the punch, the decorations were stars hanging above the group, and some streamers and everyone looked really good.

We'd been dancing in our group for a half hour straight. I turned to Lucas, "I'm going to the bathroom." Lucas nodded smiling, "I'll get us some water." I laughed, "Aww, you're not going to get the punch?" Lucas snorted, "It was spiked, so that's a no." I laughed as he headed towards the refreshments table. I watched him go for a minute before heading to the bathroom.

I did my business then freshened up my lipstick before heading back. It was only a few minutes, but those few minutes mattered more than I could've imagined. I walked back in the gym and looked around. I couldn't find a single person from our group. Lucas wasn't by the refreshments, and no one from our group was on the dance floor.

I saw a guy in my first period. I asked, "Hey, did you see where Lucas or my friends went?" He shrugged, "Nope. I didn't even know they were here." I stared at him astonished, "You didn't know your Alpha and Beta were here?" He looked confused.

I asked, "What about the guy from school that's always with me, Brad? Have you seen him?" I actually hadn't, but I knew he was here. The guys shrugged, "No, but there's the Alpha now." I turned to see Lucas heading out the back door.

I was relieved for a whole second before I saw his hand flicker on the door when he turned. I could see his pink tie. I stalled for a second. For once, I was glad that I was raised by a warlock, because it meant that right now, in this moment, I was prepared. I knew this was an illusion now.

I honestly considered not following the fake Lucas, but the worry for my friends and him literally propelled my feet forward. I wound my way down the hallways quickly. We finally reached the front office where the fake Lucas walked inside.

I waited a beat then opened the door. It was like a dagger stabbed me in the heart. Lucas was making out with a girl I'd never seen before. His hand was sliding under her dress. I gasped grabbing my chest. I felt like knives were repeatedly stabbing me. I mentally repeated, "It's not real. It's not real," but the pain was all consuming.

Grayson's voice pulled me out of my spiral saying my name, "Emmaline, is that you?" I took a deep breath mentally telling myself, "It's not real, Emmaline. You knew this wasn't Lucas when you followed him." I didn't dare say it out loud. Witches didn't have supernatural hearing, but I didn't want to let on that I knew this was a game.

Grayson joined me. He yelled, "Holy shit! Let me get you out of here. Let's get you some fresh air." Grayson's arm gripped mine, but I yanked away from him. I ran away from him towards the women's locker room and bolted the lock just in case.

I told myself, "Think Emmaline...." That's when I knew exactly who I needed. I popped and opened my eyes. Dusty looked surprising, worriedly asking, "Evie? What's going on? Are you crying?" I ran into my brothers' arms.

I told him, "I need you, Dusty. Something weird happened. There's probably several warlocks and witches at the dance casting an illusion. I don't know what happened to Ry or my friends or..." My voice broke, "Lucas... I went to the bathroom. When I came back no one remembered my friends or Lucas were there. The illusion casters wanted me to think Lucas cheated on me. I saw the flicker of his hand before I followed him. I don't know where he is. What do we do?"

Dusty rocked me back and forth for a minute then wiped the tears from my face. He told me, "You are going to snap and fix your makeup." I nodded and did as he said. He continued, "You are going to pop me with you back to the school. I'll come in and find you. Where did you pop from?"

I told him, "The girls locker room on the east side." Dusty nodded, "I'll come get you, and we will figure this out, alright?" Aubree snorted, "We, meaning the three of us." Dusty disagreed, "We, meaning the two of us who are not pregnant." Aubree snorted, "You're hilarious, husband of mine. I'm coming. I'll either be following by car or popping with you and your sister, you decide."

Dusty groaned, "If there's a fight..." I cut him off, "I'll pop her out if she's in danger. Directly to Haley's healing hands if need be." Aubree smiled, realizing I didn't say I wouldn't let her fight. Dusty sighed, "Alright, let's do this."

I nodded, grabbing each of their hands, then I popped them beside the SUV that Ry had driven tonight. Aubree gagged, “God, the magic is so thick I can barely stand it.” Dusty said, “Throw up on a bad warlock or witch if need be.” Aubree snorted teasing, “How wonderful. Our baby has powers... powers of smell to make me vomit.” I couldn’t stop my laugh, which managed to calm me down a little. I squeezed Aubree’s hand quickly in gratitude.

Dusty grabbed my hands, “Do not open that locker room door for anyone but me.” I nodded and hugged him, “Please be careful, Dusty.” He nodded and I popped myself back into the girl’s locker room. It was creepy in the dark, but I didn’t sense anyone near me.

After twenty minutes, Dusty banged on the door, “It’s me. Open the door.” I opened it slowly and Dusty yanked me out as he traded spells with a warlock. Dusty yelled, “I warned you!” He called on the shadows. The warlock was gaping as Dusty had the shadows rip his heart out.

Aubree said, “Nice. Messy, but heart out of the chest is classic.” I asked, “Have you found Ry?” Aubree said, “Did we ever. Well, he found us. He’s been fighting warlocks while looking for you and Valerie. He knew it was an illusion like you and fought it. We just need to find the wolves.”

Tears filled my eyes, “What if they make Lucas think I cheated like they tried to trick me?” Dusty said, “Don’t cry. He would know it wasn’t you, he would feel your bond. He loves you, and he knows you love him. Besides, he knows I’d kick his ass if he didn’t believe you.”

I laughed and we made our way through the school. Ry was up front standing over a dead body. He was furious. He spotted me and relief colored his expression. He exhaled, “Thank GOD you are ok! We need to find Valerie!” I nodded. Aubree whispered, “They don’t want to say your name because of what they call you. They don’t want someone to overhear.” I nodded.

Dustin rubbed his temples, “We need to take down the illusion. It’s the only way to Valerie, Ryan.” I said, “Follow me.” I took them to my science class. I pointed to the closet, “All the supplies you need are here. You three work on it, and I’ll cover you.” Aubree got to work. Dusty closed his eyes for a minute or two then nodded. Ry gave me a wink. I smiled knowing Dusty really was trying.

They had just started when two witches came in. They didn’t see me until I’d pelted them with hail. I willed it to hit them in their head and they went down quickly. I checked on them and did a happy dance. I’d knocked them unconscious.

I texted Katie what was happening. A second later a portal opened. Logan and Benjamin stepped through. Logan asked, "So, the dance got dramatic?" Benjamin snorted, "Fairies are here. Of COURSE, it got dramatic, brother." I rolled my eyes, "I had nothing to do with this drama, I'm even trying to fix it."

Benjamin asked, "Why didn't you call Haley?" I said, "Well, this was a witch problem. My brother is a warlock, it seemed natural to go to him." Logan said, "Haley would have killed all the witches and warlocks by now."

Benjamin agreed, "She does hate them. Hate makes you such a good fighter." I snorted, "Then my mom should be worried should I ever fight her." Logan commanded, "Duck." I immediately hit the floor as Logan threw two knives.

I heard two bodies hit the floor. I stood up, "Thanks." Logan nodded, "Of course." I smoothed out my dress. I bit my lip, "You guys can go clear the school... I guess?" Logan snorted, "Katie will have my balls if I leave you." Benjamin agreed, "She was very convincing on that point. I'm also not leaving you either, I like my balls where they are." They did managed to make me laugh.

Aubree, Ry and Dusty started chanting louder. I knew that meant the illusion was about to come down. I told the guys, "Get ready. They are about to take it down." Both looked completely ready, anticipating the fight coming our way.

A green light shot through the school. I heard screaming that I recognized. I yelled, "LACY!" I dropped my phone and took off like a shot to the gym. I almost fell when I saw why Lacy had screamed. Valerie had been stabbed.

Sam sobbed, "Why did you do that, Val? Why would you jump in front of me?" Ry's strangled scream hit the air. I saw the shadows kill everyone left, except the one Lucas had been fighting. He and Dylan took him down.

Lucas' relieved eyes met mine for a second. I ran to Valerie, but Ry beat me to her. He cradled her as he cried, "Don't... don't you dare leave me." Valerie whispered, "I love you..." She started coughing up blood, "So much Ryan." Ry was crying while Dusty was working on Valerie.

I knew it was in vain. She wasn't going to make it. I ran out of the gym heading towards my phone. I stopped realizing I could conjure it to me. I called Haley. She answered, "Hello, Emmaline. How's the dance? Damn, I just got popular Logan, Lucas, and you are calling me."

I screamed, “WE NEED YOU! VALERIE IS DYING!” A pop sounded. Haley stood next to me with Jackson. I grabbed her hand and started to run. She simply popped us beside Valerie. Ry cried, “Save her! You can save her, can’t you? I’ll give you anything you want, please just save her! You have to! Please!”

Jackson came running into the gym. He stared wide eyed going over to Lucas taking out his phone, probably to call Eric. Haley put a hand on Ryan, “Of course I can and will save her. I want nothing in return. Hold her hand if you want but do it quickly, she only has minutes left.”

Ry kissed her then moved back. Haley looked at me, “Emmaline, I’m going to pass out when I’m done. Eric will be Eric. Sorry... kind of. No, actually not really. I’m going on a witch and warlock killing spree after this one, brothers.”

Benjamin laughed but Logan was staring at Valerie and Ryan with intensity. Valerie’s breathing was growing labored. Dusty looked at me, a silent question of whether Haley could do this. I nodded and felt Lucas’ arms around me. He cradled me to him, “You’re ok. You’re ok.” I gripped his arm, “I’m fine, Lucas.”

He cried into my neck, “I’m so glad you’re alright. They... I saw you die.” I turned to him, “I saw you kiss a skank.” I kissed him hard and tapped his nose whispering, “You’re mine. There are no skanks allowed.” Lucas whispered back, “You’re not allowed to die. No dying.” I shrugged, “If you say so.”

A pop sounded. Bexley arrived with Eric. She sighed, “Oh ratsenfratsen.” I raised an eyebrow, “What?” Bexley said, “Liam is on a no cursing around our babies kick. I make-up curse words for him, and I’ve started using them too. This is my life now. Mom life, who knew? Healing your brother’s wolf is going to knock Haley out. Her light seems exhausted for some reason. Alexander is down for the night, which means Haley will probably be out until morning. Kujo is going to growl about it.”

Logan said, “That’s better than what it used to be for her to heal something like this. She’s gotten much better though. This shouldn’t knock her out at all.” Bexley shrugged, “She eats more often now, and she’s stronger in her fairy powers. She unlocked her powers, and she uses them regularly. She’s no longer denying her fairy side, she’s found a purpose with the partial fairy’s. I’m not sure what’s going on. Like I said, her light is exhausted for some reason, but I don’t know why. I wish you luck with Kujo.” She popped away.

We all waited practically holding our breath while Haley healed Valerie. I left Lucas’ arms to grab onto Ry. I assured him, “She’s going to be ok.” Ry turned and starting

sobbing, “I wanted to hold her hand, but I didn’t want to mess anything up. I can’t lose her. I just found her.”

Dusty came over holding Ry from behind. He spoke confidently, “She’s going to be fine. Haley is the best. She won’t let you lose Valerie.” Sam sobbed as Drake held her. It was an hour and half before Haley’s hands stopped glowing. Haley almost hit her head on the ground before Eric scooped her up in his arms, cradling her to him. We all waited for Valerie to open her eyes.