

# Burden

Emmaline was relieved for Ry when Valerie opened her eyes. I caught Logan's eyes and he smiled. I'm positive only me, him, Lucas, Eric, Jackson, and Benjamin knew Haley was going to be able to save Valerie. Dusty's face clearly showed his pure relief, while Aubree had tears streaming down her face. I felt a little bad that even now after everything she's done, people doubted Haley's abilities.

On the other hand, I knew Valerie's injury was fatal. Everyone else did too. It's not like everyone knows everything about fairies and our powers. Fairies are secretive, according to David and Haley. Ry was holding Valerie whispering to her.

She seemed surprised Haley saved her. I linked her, "You are in our bad ass girl gang. We can't lose our members!" I shot her a wink, and she gave me a grateful smile. Lucas told me to pop everyone home. I looked around at our group. I'd never done a group this large. Thankfully, one of my classmates and pack members offered to drive the cars back, reducing the numbers.

I searched Lucas' soul and hid my smile. I linked Lacy, "He doesn't want anyone to drive his car." Lacy snorted, "He loves that dumb car." I was surprised he picked Tessa and her mate. Then again, he was probably the oldest one here besides the Alpha's and Brad. Brad needed to come with our group because he was injured.

I linked Brad, "Are you alright?" He smiled, "It's nothing Emmaline, just a bump." I told him, "I'd like you to get checked out anyway." He smiled and I popped us all back home. I couldn't stop myself from jumping on Lucas in excitement when we made it back to our pack hospital.

Lucas started issuing orders to doctors. I felt a large group of anxiety, worry, and desperation coming our way. I saw parents start flying into the hospital. I needed to ease their souls, so I told them in vague terms what had happened. I gave credit to Haley and Eric's pack because that seemed like something Haley would want done if it were her.

One look at Eric's face confirmed I was right. I smiled, giving Lucas the credit, he was due for having us all in training. It definitely came in handy today. Lastly, I gave credit to my brothers. We'd have been stuck in the illusion without them and Aubree until the witches all died or got what they wanted.

I shuddered to think what would've happened if I hadn't gotten back in touch with my family. It could've been a huge mess. I would've had to call Haley, and we'd have had to wait for a witch. Valerie would've died without ever meeting Ry. I had to physically put a stop to my thoughts as Lucas ushered our group into a giant room to get examined.

I rolled my eyes when Lucas made me get checked over. I literally didn't get hit. No one even attempted to try to hurt me. This was obviously Alpha Hammond's doing. I wondered what I was supposed to do after seeing Lucas kiss some other girl. I shrugged that off while Dr. Gonzalez examined Haley.

I could sense anxiety coming off the poor doctor in spades. I didn't have to wonder why for very long because he asked if Haley hit her head. Eric said no. I linked Lacy, "Crap. I just got her in trouble." Lacy frowned, "How?" I sighed, "She was probably in a fight before I called her, and Eric didn't know about it." Lacy smirked, "You just have to love that she's a bad ass tenacious little fairy. She's like the female spokeswoman for the supernatural women's movement we didn't know we had going on. She's all we don't need a man; we can do what they can." I had to hide my laugh, "She kind of is."

Lacy and I both gasped when Dr. Gonzalez lifted her shirt. I was beyond stunned, "How the hell did she take a shot to the head and shots to the ribs like that?" Lacy winced, "She took a beating. That had to be from several people. Why would she do that?"

Logan's soul told me he was furious. I searched Eric's soul next, then linked Lacy, "Someone needs to come up with an answer because Eric's soul is a swirl of dark angry energy." Lacy said, "Haley has made Eric calm down a lot. He's feared for a reason. Why would anyone come at Haley knowing her Hackura ties and Eric? They are suicidal." I mean she was right. Her Hackura ties were bad enough. Something told me no one wanted to cross Aiden about her either.

Lacy linked me again, "Did you hear what Beta McAlister said about Sam?" I was getting REALLY annoyed I didn't have supernatural hearing, "No... Would it kill all you wolves to SPEAK UP?!" Lacy said, "Probably. He said her blood pressure is high. She's on bedrest." I frowned, "Well we have to go there tomorrow and keep her company." Lacy laughed, "You think Lucas is going to let you out of his sight? That's cute. We all saw you die." I flinched, "You saw someone die, but it wasn't me. Poor girl. Whoever she was, they just used her. Lucas can come, but we are GOING to Red Run to cheer Sam up."

Lacy growled, “Bastards, killing someone for an illusion. Setting that aside, I love having fairy’s around. She wolves would’ve never dream of telling an Alpha we were doing what we wanted after a scare like this.” I smiled, “The times they are a changing.” Lacy smirked, “That they are.”

Bjourn and Marcus joined us. Bjourn had Gunner pinging Haley’s locations from this evening. Lacy linked me, “I just bet over half of Gunner’s technical skills are spent on things involving Haley.” I smiled, “I don’t think he’d mind. He seems to really love her brother Harper.” Lacy smiled, “He does. They are adorable. I can actually see him, Calista, and Harper together.” I nodded; they did seem like they would match really well.

Dr. Gonzalez's soul was radiating fear and trepidation. Someone needed to help the man. He explained his findings. Eric was irate. His soul was definitely murderous now. Lacy linked me, “I didn’t need a medical degree for that guess. Do we think a partial fairy was in trouble?”

I thought about it, “She had her fairy powers to heal Valerie. Why didn’t she just fight with those? She even called on Aiden to help her and us when she got shot.” Lacy said, “She wasn’t shot though. She obviously handled whatever it was. She was with Jackson when you called.” Bjourn said BA got hurt. Lacy and I exchanged worried glances. I took out my phone and texted her.

Me: BA are you ok? We got attacked and Haley had to save one of my friends, Valerie. You met her at our girl’s day. Haley passed out from healing her because it was bad. Death bad. She’s being examined by our pack doctor. Eric may go on a killing spree.

BA: You are too sweet. I am fine. Of course, Haley pushed her powers. That girl gives so much of herself. She popped in after I sent an SOS to my brother. My cover was burned. My drink was drugged. I couldn’t move, and I knew the Hood himself couldn’t get anyone to me on time. Even with sending out my SOS. Haley popped in to get me to safety. She covered me as they started to beat me.

Me: Are you ok though? Haley had enough juice to heal Valerie. Was she coming back to you later?

BA: No, I didn’t take a single hit. The paralytic wore off once she left me. I actually just finished baking her a cake with our special alcohol.

Me: Wouldn’t that cook out of the cake?

BA: It would, but it's in the icing

Me: I so want a piece of this cake

BA: How pissed is Eric? Is he going to come for my brother?

Me: I don't think he actually will. He is threatening things though. Bjourn is upset with the Hood himself not your brother.

BA: I wouldn't blame if he wanted to punch him, but he can't kill him.

Me: His soul is in a bad place now, but he will calm down when Haley wakes up. He's good but I doubt he can find The Hood before she wakes up. The shroud is concealed somewhere.

BA: The Hood isn't hiding. Bjourn knows where we live. It would take Bjourn at least a day to find him if he was trying to avoid him. I'll shoot Haley a text in warning.

Me: Shouldn't you warn the Hood himself?

BA: LOL I'm with him. He's basically waiting for Bjourn. They are actually friends.

Me: If it helps, Bjourn said The Hood did exactly what he would've done. Sending the person that could get to Haley the fastest roles reversed.

BA: That does help I'll pass that along

I was relaying him the information BA gave me. While asking questions myself.

Me: How many demons did Haley kill/how many beat her?

BA: There were twenty of them. I feel bad she covered me trying to figure out how hurt I

was. I asked her why she didn't just pop us away. She said no one hurts the people she cares about and lives.

Me: That is so Haley.

BA: It very much is.

I put my phone away just as Dale ran in gathering our group. The relief in his soul was almost suffocating me. I needed to ask Haley now that I'm more attuned to using

my power, how to shut it off sometimes. Everyone's relief had almost choked me in the last few hours.

We found out that Debbie was having a boy. I was really happy for them. We went and saw Debbie, and her anxiety was released as soon as she saw us in person. I wondered if Dylan knew they really did consider him one of their own children. What staggered me even more was realizing they felt the same way about me.

Lucas dragged me to bed. I fell asleep wondering if I was going to have bruises from the iron grip he had on me. When I woke up, I went to train. Alex spotted me and walked over, "The Alpha cancelled training because of the fights yesterday." I frowned, "I didn't fight. Will you spar with me?" He smiled, "Of course, Emmaline." I smiled, "Thanks, I really appreciate it." He nodded and we fought.

He showed me some new moves, also pointing out that I was not in the correct stances with my feet on a few moves. I thanked him when he called the lesson. It wasn't an hour long like normal, but I appreciated his time.

I popped back to our room to shower. Afterwards, I decided to pop to check on Haley at the hospital. I frowned finding the bed Haley had been in empty. Dr. Gonzalez came in, "They called her cousin Bexley to pop her home." I nodded and stepped out to call her.

She answered on the first ring, "Hello, cousin." I smiled, "Hi, Haley. Are you ok?" Haley said, "I am fine. I just woke up thirty minutes ago." I laughed, "I'm surprised you're not getting a lecture from Eric." Haley said, "When he wakes up, I'm sure there will be one. Which is not entirely fucking fair, but whatever." I laughed, "You're making progress then. I was certain he was going to stay awake until you woke up." Haley told me, "I'm sure he was going to."

I heard a growl, "Where are you, Haley Connors?" Haley said, "You can smell me, and you can sense my location. I'm on the deck. I was letting you sleep." Eric growled, "You went and got hurt without me." Haley sighed, "It wasn't intentional, Thor. Emmaline, I'll let you go. I'm glad you are ok." I laughed, "Good luck with Eric. His soul was a mess of angry emotions last night." Haley clicked her tongue, "I'll just bet they were." I added, "Angry murderous emotions. He's a little scary." Haley laughed, "Not to me, but I appreciate the heads up. Though his face already tells me that."

Eric said, "Angel, you have five seconds to get off that phone." Haley pouted, "Uh oh, I'm in trouble." I warned, "It might not be the fun kind." Haley quickly assured me, "It can always turn into the fun kind, cousin. Talk later." She abruptly ended the call.

I stared at my phone. I really needed to tap into my fairy side like she could. How could she look at the face Eric was making last night and not wet her pants? It was beyond me. I popped back to my room.

Lucas growled, “Where were you?” I said, “Training then I went to the hospital to check on Haley. She wasn’t there so I called her, then popped back here. Come back to bed. Let’s just sleep a little longer.”

I held out my hand and Lucas took it, climbing back in with me. He kissed my hair, “I love you, baby girl.” I smiled, “I love you too.” When we got up, I told him that Lacy and I were going to Red Run. I linked Lacy, “You were right. He’s not happy about the Red Run plan.” Lacy replied, “I for one am shocked... oh wait... nope knew it. Are we still going?” I channeled my inner Haley, “Hell yes we are.” Lacy snorted, “Dylan and I will head up to the main house.”

I told Lucas in no uncertain terms that Lacy and I were going. He was welcome to join but that was that. He looked furious but agreed to come with us. I smiled and called Sam. She answered, “Hey, Emmaline. Good morning.” Her sadness was in her voice. I said, “Lacy and I want to pop on over and cheer you up. Are you up for us to come today?” Sam immediately brightened, “Yes, that would be great!” I happily told her, “We will be popping to you shortly.” I popped Lucas and I downstairs where Dylan grumbled that he was coming with us too. I grabbed both of them, popping us to Red Run.

Dylan said, “I’m still here under protest, but popping does make it better.” Alpha Kyle came around the corner glancing at Lucas in surprise. Lucas answered his unspoken question, “Lacy and Emmaline insisted they had to come cheer Sam up today.” Alpha Kyle smirked, “Drake will be happy about that and I’m sure Sam will be as well.” He pointed us in the direction of Sam and Drake’s room.

I stopped at Peter and Chelsea’s knocking on their door. Peter opened it, clearly surprised to see us. I smiled, “Hey! We are going to sit with Sam and cheer her up. I stopped by to see if Chelsea wants to join us.” Chelsea called, “Heck yes I do!” Peter said, “I need a kiss first, sugar baby momma.” Chelsea smiled, “As if I would leave without giving my man some sugar.” She kissed him and he hugged her for several moments then let her go.

Drake opened the door as we arrived saying, “I’ll leave you all to your girl time.” He gave Sam a kiss and left. I said, “So, high blood pressure due to stress? It’s understandable.” Sam sighed, “They think it could be pre-eclampsia.” I frowned, “I don’t know what that is, but I bet I have a cousin who could solve that for you.” Lacy said, “Heck yes she could.”

Sam asked, “Would she? Drake is really worried.” I googled pre-eclampsia. I clicked my phone off very disturbed with what I’d found. I assured her, “I know she will. We aren’t going to let anything happen to you or your little nugget in there.” Sam smiled, “Thanks. I really need a distraction.” I smiled at Lacy, “What could be better distraction than deciding wedding details?” Sam smiled, “I don’t think there is a better one.”

Chelsea said, “We could decide our mates’ costumes for Lacy’s wedding.” Lacy snorted, “Your mates costumes? You have to come in a couple’s costume.” I frowned, “You don’t want us in bridesmaid dresses?” Lacy shook her head, “No. Why should you guys miss out on the costume fun? It’s not like I dreamed of my wedding color scheme my whole life. I thought I’d have a boring mating ceremony. Let’s decide on your couple’s costumes.”

I got a wicked idea and started cackling. Lacy squealed, “YES! FAIRY FUN! What are you and Lucas coming as?” I snapped myself into the Tinkerbell costume Haley had gotten for me. I stated, “Tinkerbell and Peter Pan.” We were all cackling.

Chelsea gathered herself first, “Alpha Lucas... is... going to.... die.... with you... in that outfit...” I laughed and shot Haley a text making sure she wasn’t coming as Tinkerbell. She answered back with a screen full of LOL, saying it was all mine. She’d even snapped the Peter Pan outfit to my room.

We picked out the dresses for my wedding for the bridesmaids. I texted a picture to Haley and Katie. It was a long red lace patterned dress with sleeves. Everyone loved it. I made sure it was loose because I didn’t know when Katie or Sam would be having their babies.

I linked Lacy, “We need to throw... like several baby showers. Sam, Chelsea, your mom, and Katie. Holy crap.” Lacy smirked, “I happen to know a fairy who LOVES to plan such things.” I breathed in relief. “You’re right! Thank goodness.” We got some more wedding details hammered out.

We left Chelsea with Sam in her room. We ran into Drake and Peter on the way out. I did my space unheard chant. We discussed dates with them for baby showers. Peter said we could throw them together since they were the future Luna and Beta female. They were best friends, and both he and Drake believed they’d love a joint shower.

We decided it would be after Lacy’s wedding. Sometime in November, we’d pick an exact date later. Peter was hoping they’d know the gender of their child before we did the invites. Lacy told him they could do gender neutral colors. Peter said he didn’t

care about that, he just wanted to know if it was a boy or a girl. He had no preference, he just said as an Alpha he likes to be prepared.

We walked away. I linked Lacy, “One hundred percent, they are having a girl.” Lacy laughed, “What’s your reasoning?” I smiled, “He wants to know the gender and the little one isn’t showing. She’s already keeping him on his toes.” Lacy said, “I’ll die laughing if you’re right.” I smiled, “I just know I am.”

We found Lucas and Dylan, and I popped everyone home. Lucas announced that he wanted Dylan and Lacy to move into the house at family dinner. Everyone was excited. Lacy and I were linking about how much fun it would be. We could say meet in the living room instead of me popping to her to pop back here. Or her running over whenever Lucas and Dylan were busy. Debbie was beyond thrilled all her kids would be under one roof.

Monday Drake came into school with worried eyes. Peter looked strained as well. Chelsea was crying until she saw me. She grabbed my hands, “Emmaline, I don’t have Haley’s number.” Drake’s head shot over to Chelsea. I asked, “What do you need?” Chelsea said, “Sam has pre-eclampsia.” I nodded, “I’ll text her now.” Drake yanked me into the briefest hug I’ve ever been a part of while Peter stared at him in shock. Drake whispered, “Thank you, Emmaline.” I smiled, “It’s not a big deal.” Drake said, “It really is.” I texted Haley.

Me: Sam has pre-eclampsia. Would you mind healing her?

Haley: Of course, I don’t mind. Do I need to pop in and grab Drake from school?

Me: I’ll pop our group to you and Sam.

Haley: See you in a pop.

I laughed, “She’s too much. Ok who’s coming besides Drake and me?” Peter told me, “Just take our whole group.” Valerie came up, “Me too!” I smiled teasing, “Ry let you out of his sight?” Valerie sighed, “Just for school.”

I smiled then linked her, “You should text him where we are going.” She nodded, “Good call.” I led our group to the front office. I smiled at the secretary who was Sam’s aunt. Her eyes were rimmed red, “Hi, I need to borrow a room. I need to pop our group to Red Run for...”



She interrupted me standing grabbing Drake by the arms, “Is Sammy ok? I’m in knots worried about her.” Drake said, “Princess Luna Connors agreed to come heal Sam. Emmaline’s popping us in to be with her.”

The secretary started to cry, “Oh thank the goddess! Sam’s mom is just a mess. I don’t have pups. My husband and I consider Sam our own. Go back to conference room A. I’ll send a note to all your teachers.” I gave her a hug, “Thank you.” We all filed into the room and held hands. I popped us all to Sam where Haley already was.

Drake moved quickly to Sam’s side. Haley smiled at him, “I was just explaining to Sam my healing will speed up her pregnancy. She will have some discomfort as the baby’s size grows. Your baby will be born either right on track with Peter and Chelsea’s little one or a little before.” Drake nodded, “I’m fine with that.”

Alpha Kyle and Beta McAlister entered the room. Haley said, “Drake you can hold Sam’s hand if you want. You will get a calming sense. This will take around thirty minutes or so.”

Alpha Kyle asked, “Does Alpha Eric know you are here?” Haley smiled, “He does. I’m sure he’ll call you to make sure I got here...” She trailed off as one of her boys popped to her. He smiled at her and she said, “Hey, EJ.” EJ looked around then popped right into Chelsea’s arms.

Haley gasped as Chelsea cooed at him. Haley straightened, “Ummm... right well... wow... Ok... Sam, let’s get you healed.” I cocked an eyebrow at Lacy. I linked her, “Has EJ ever popped to anyone else around you?” Lacy shrugged, “None of them have ever popped to anyone besides Eric or Haley that I’ve seen.” I nodded and shrugged that off.

We all watched Haley heal Sam. Peter laughed when Drake began to purr. Beta McAlister said to me, “You have no idea what this means to us.” I smiled, “Haley likes to help in any way she can. Especially for our bad ass girl gang.”

Alpha Kyle laughed, “She organized a girl’s day for my wife and her friends.” I teased him, “You all best prepare yourselves then.” He just smirked. Eric did in fact call him while Haley was healing Sam. When Haley was done, she sat back.

When Sam opened her eyes Haley smiled at her reminding her, “Like I said you’ll have some discomfort today from the baby growing, but you’re healed now.” She turned “EJ, we need to go home before daddy gets upset.” EJ growled in response. Haley told him calmly, “Eric Junior, don’t you growl at me. I will pop home and get your dad.”

Chelsea laughed but Peter's eyes narrowed. He asked, "Why doesn't he want to go with you? Why did he pop to Chelsea in the first place?" Haley sighed, "I'm not certain." Alpha Kyle laughed, "Do we need to pop Alpha Eric in? Alpha males are notoriously stubborn. We bow only to our father's as Alpha males when we're children."

Haley frowned, "No, EJ come on. Let's go." EJ put his hands on Chelsea's chest. He legitimately sighed then popped back to Haley. Haley smiled and kissed his forehead. Peter said, "Are you going to tell us what's going on?" Haley sighed, "If this happens again, I'll know for sure. Then I'll tell you." Peter accepted that.

He turned to me when Haley popped out. He asked, "Do you know what that was?" I shrugged, "Maybe she looks like one of Haley's brother's mates or something." Peter frowned, "I guess." I grabbed our group besides Drake popping us back to school.

Peter said, "Umm... you forgot Drake." I snorted, "No I didn't, Sam needs him today." Peter laughed and we all went to our classes. The rest of the day flew by. I barely saw Ry or Dusty; they were busy with other things.

Ry couldn't let Valerie out of his sight. I don't even know if she realized he sat in the school parking lot all day. I saw him and Dusty eating lunch outside on Tuesday and Wednesday together. I was worried about him. I decided I'd talk to him after fairy lessons.

I was surprised when on the car ride home from school Lacy announced, "I'm excited to see your fairy lesson tonight." I glanced at her. Brad said, "Eyes on the road, Emmaline." I rolled my eyes then asked, "You're coming?" Lacy frowned, "Lucas didn't tell you? Dylan and I are both coming."

I thought about it then said, "He's still worried." Lacy said quietly, "We did all see you, but not you, die. Lucas lost it." I frowned, "I would too." We got home as a mail carrier was placing a giant doghouse on the front porch.

He smiled when he saw us, "Can you sign for this? Dylan Frost ordered it." Lacy stepped forward, "I'm his ma..." I cut her off, "Fiancé. She's his Fiancé." I linked her, "He doesn't know what a mate is." She chuckled and signed for it.

I asked, "Did Dylan get a dog?" Lacy shrugged, "Not that he told me." We walked around to the front of it. I laughed, "It's a prank. The nameplate says Lion." Lacy laughed, "He's too much. I wonder if this is because Lucas keeps upsetting Haley." I shrugged, "Probably."

Lacy turned to Brad, "Can you set this around the back on the deck?" Brad nodded then laughed when he saw the front, "It's a good thing he's the Beta. The Alpha might be upset with anyone except you, Dylan, Emmaline, or Princess Luna Connors for this." He wasn't wrong.

I ran inside. Lacy and I finished our homework and I went to Lucas' office to grab him with Lacy slipping in behind me. I felt touched that he wanted Dylan there just in case. I popped us all to Haley and Eric's territory.

I grabbed Lacy's hand linking her, "I can't wait for you to meet everyone!" I rolled my eyes, "I wish Idel was here instead of Hexxi, but you'll meet her one day." Haley smiled in greeting, "Well hello, Lacy." Lacy smiled at her. I explained, "Lucas wanted Dylan here today. Dylan wanted Lacy here. I think they are still reeling from the dance."

Haley laughed, "Alpha Males, what can you do with them?" Katie grumbled, "Kick them in the balls." Haley laughed, "If you do that to my brother you have to get video evidence." Katie asked, "What kind of friend would I be if there was no evidence?" Haley smirked, "Not a badass one."

Hexxi greeted, "Hello, Lacy, it's nice to meet you. I'm Emmaline's half-sister, Hexxi." Trixie and Farrin even came over to meet her. Haley had everyone sectioned off. She'd turned to smile at Eric when suddenly anger snapped within her soul. I choked a little, it was so intense.

Lacy looked between us worriedly. Haley gritted her teeth, "Alpha Chase is here." I was surprised. Haley turned me back to face her. She yelled, "Son of a MOTHERFUCKER! That ass hat is here to find his mate. FUCK!"

Katie said, "Just don't tell him who it is, Emmaline." I wanted to cry, "I can't not tell him." Haley frowned, "That's not entirely true. FUCKING FUCKERS! Emmaline, I'm so sorry. I didn't know he was coming. Long story short, you have a decision to make. IF you want to tell Alpha Chase who his mate is... if you even know his mate... It's likely he thinks it's a part fairy and has smelled them... you can tell him; however, if you bring them together and his mate is rightfully pissed he's a fucking married man.... it will hurt you until their issues are resolved."

I shrieked, "WHAT?" Katie shouted, "Are you fucking kidding me?" Haley sighed, "Did you feel unsettled when you told Dylan who his mate was, but you couldn't unite them?" I nodded. Haley continued, "Did you feel the same with Ryan and Valerie? You felt the need to tell her and felt bad about their situation, until they started talking and she was happy."

I thought about it, “Yes.” Haley sighed, “If you brought mates together who were unhappy it would tear at your soul until their issues were resolved. That’s not normally a problem because bringing mates together is a happy thing. In Alpha Chase’s case, I can’t imagine a woman would be happy her mate is married... even... oh shit... Idel... FUCK!”

Hexxi yelled, “NO WAY HALEY! That will hurt her feelings!” Katie raised an eyebrow, “I like Idel, but why?” Haley sighed, “Because fairy’s have lovers, but the only person they would ever marry is their mate. It had to be my fairy event that he caught the scent at. She attended, and... oh shit fuck balls no. I DO NOT like the options of who his mate could be outside of Idel.”

I gulped, “BA stayed with you before our girl’s day.” Haley nodded. I said, “I don’t want to tell him while he’s still in his situation.” Bexley joined us enraged. I continued, “BA didn’t want me to tell her who her mate was. She wanted to meet them organically.”

Haley agreed, “Yes, she wants to see how fate brings her string to her.” I looked at Hexxi, “And I don’t want to hurt Idel. Hexxi knows her best and says it would. Hell, I don’t want to do that to anyone even if it’s not one of them.”

Haley sighed, “If I had known ahead of time, we could’ve had more options. I’m so sorry, Emmaline. You’re going to have to be bound to my decree as a princess to not tell. It won’t hurt, but we will have to go to Faerie to complete the ritual. It will keep you from telling anyone except me who his mate is. You won’t feel burdened to tell him. Then it becomes my problem to solve.”

I sighed, “I don’t want that to be on you.” Haley shrugged, “We have no other options unfortunately. Especially, since you don’t want to tell him. I wouldn’t if I was you either.” Hexxi and Farrin were looking at Haley with both fear and awe. I shook my head.

Haley told me, “I’m not just your cousin. I am also your princess and taking the burdens of my people is part of my job. I would not want you to suffer.” I asked, “Are you going to suffer?” Haley sighed, “Not like you would, no.”

I nodded to Haley. She grabbed my arms. Katie shot a furious look over to the group of guys. Bexley was fuming mad. Lacy linked me, “I’m going to kill them all.” I sighed, “Maybe they didn’t know.” Lacy snorted, “That’s why Dylan bought the doghouse. They knew.” I hoped that wasn’t true.

Haley spoke rapidly in fealish. A golden glow surrounded us both. It came out of me and into her. I looked at her with worried eyes. She sighed, "Let's go deal with this. The final step will be I will command you as the princess in fealish not to tell them. I will only issue that command if one of those jerks asks you who it is. At least it gives them a chance not to ask and not piss me the fuck off."

I nodded as she stalked off. We all followed her, even Hexxi, who seemed quite pissed off for Idel's sake. It was a little ironic since we didn't know who Alpha Chase's mate was yet. Haley asked as a formality why Alpha Chase was here.

He actually took ownership. I studied his soul. Frankly, he was a mess. I'm guessing his fear was about rejection. He genuinely wanted his mate. My heart softened towards him; I couldn't help it. Lacy linked me, "They can't keep her from him. He's their ally; they have to help." I replied, "They could've told us." Lacy said, "They should've." I asked, "Why didn't they?" Lacy said, "Probably because they knew you wouldn't like it."

Alpha Chase then asked the question I was dreading. He asked me who his mate was. I tried not to picture it, but like a light turning on, I knew. Haley spoke in rapid fealish, commanding me not to tell.

I opened my mouth; thankful nothing came out. Haley handled the situation. When Lucas questioned me being in pain Lacy linked me, "She is going to snap to hard at him."

Everyone winced when Haley addressed him by his title. Marcus and Logan exchanged looks at the venom in Haley's tone. I focused on feeling betrayed that Lucas didn't tell me about this so I wouldn't laugh during Haley's speech. She was going to have to teach me how to look that calm while angry, because her soul told me she was pissed.

Lacy linked me, "I don't know if that's the right word. Alpha Chase and Alpha Sophia were like siblings when I knew them." I shrugged. I knew something strange was going on with those two. Alpha Chase argued a fairy wouldn't be insulted and Hexxi spoke up.

I linked Lacy, "I'm just saying. You have to know it's bad when a full-blooded fairy is upset with you. Like there's your flashing neon sign. Everyone always talks about how stuck up and flighty they are." Lacy agreed, "Yeah, they tend to let a lot slide right on by them. So, if Hexxi is this offended for her sister.... It's not great. Especially since Alpha Chase is so young. It's not like he waited as long as Lucas or Eric."

I nodded. I linked her, “I know something else is going on. Alpha Chase isn’t ok with his marriage or Alpha Sophia. His soul is a mess. Whatever is going on here, I think there’s more to it.” Lacy shrugged.

Haley told Alpha Chase to divorce his wife if he wanted his mate. Lacy shouted, “PREACH HALEY!” We listened to Haley get more sayings wrong. Lacy linked me, “We should make manasserie catch on. It goes with a lot more situations than mansplaining.”

The more Haley talked the more I thought she should become a lawyer with Katie. I glanced back at my sister and shivered. Those two would be sharks in a courtroom. Alpha Chase asked if it could be a human worker. I glanced around as no one seemed to understand Haley’s reaction; except Marcus and Logan. They shot each other another glance. My eyes narrowed. Haley must not have used humans. Wouldn’t Eric have known that?

Haley and Alpha Chase discussed his marriage. I studied his soul. He was being honest. He was just trying to help her. Why did they jump to... Hey, let’s get married? I had to pinch myself not to laugh when I saw a delivery arrive. Dylan hadn’t just gotten Lucas a doghouse; he’d ordered one for Eric too.

I linked Lacy, “Some days I’m not convinced Dylan doesn’t want Eric to hit him.” Lacy gulped, “Eric has killed people for less.” I assured her, “He’s not focused on Dylan right now. His soul is focused on Haley.” His concern for her was pinging all over. Lacy replied, “Thank the goddess for that one.”

I couldn’t keep the betrayal out of my voice when I confronted Lucas about knowing about this whole ordeal. He tried to explain the ally situation which Lacy had already explained in a single sentence. I understood why they had to help Alpha Chase. I didn’t understand why he didn’t tell me. AGAIN.

I couldn’t believe they were willing to put me in that position in the first place. Let’s force Emmaline to share someone’s mate because she can’t control it. It felt like my rights had been taken away. Like they took my choice and tried to use my powers against me, and we didn’t even know how they worked! It hadn’t escaped my notice that nobody had bothered to ask before they’d offered me up on a whim.

Lucas and I had words before Haley popped to us, taking me back to fairy lessons. I looked down whispering, “I shouldn’t have yelled at him in front of those other guys. You wouldn’t have...” Haley shrugged, “He deserved it. You can’t do what I would in every situation. You weren’t raised how I was. We all have things that shape us into who we are. If there was someone over there who would use you against Lucas, I

wouldn't have let you stay back. I would've popped you with us. None of those guys will use that fight against Lucas, not even Alpha Chase. I looked up what we have on him. He's... a good person."

She spoke her space unheard chant. She told me, "Unburden your soul, Emmaline. Tell me as your princess, who is Alpha Chase's mate?" I started to cry, "You know, don't you?" She pursed her lips, "I have a very good idea." I admitted, "It's BA." Haley sighed, "That's what I thought, I'll handle it."

I looked at her asking, "What will you do?" Haley said, "I'll tell her I know who it is. She will tell me she wants to meet him in an organic way. I'll pester Eric constantly to get Alpha Chase and Alpha Sophia divorced. Or something.

I'll do something. BA deserves to be happy. I may doubt many things, but the mate bond is not one."

She looked back at Eric and continued, "I love that man more than I thought was possible. He sees past all my scars and emotional damage. I want BA to have what we have. Because even when he makes me mad, he's the best damn thing that happened to me. Our life, our children, it's everything I thought I'd never have. BA deserves the best. I can tell you right now after her whole first love fiasco with the troll... Alpha Chase being married will wreck her. So, I'm going to need the goddesses to give me time to fix this clusterfuck so they can meet organically, at which point he will be fucking single."

I nodded, "I think there's something about them that we don't know." Haley asked, "Why?" I told her, "Alpha Chase's soul has been upset and annoyed every time he's around Alpha Sophia. He's not ok with what's going on." Haley frowned, "Ok, I'll figure that out too."

Haley undid her space unheard chant. Hexxi stroked my back, "Just go center yourself by the water today. The ritual to bind you to the princesses' command will tire you out. I want you to have your full energy." I sighed and went to sit by the water.

Before I knew it, Katie was tapping on my shoulder. I stood with her looking up at the sky. I asked, "When did it get cloudy?" Haley answered, "When I rolled in the clouds to remind my husband and his brothers, along with your mate, that I can start a torrential downpour on their heads."

I laughed, "Could you do that after you pop us to Faerie?" Bexley grumbled, "Not before I get there." Lacy asked, "Can you conjure an umbrella for me then?" Bexley

snapped. Lacy said, “They might get the hint though.” Bexley spoke a chant smilingly triumphantly, “Now they can’t see it. Jerk faces!”

Haley sighed, “Make sure to tell Eric I’m popping Bjour, Blade, and Jackson with us.” Bexley nodded, “Don’t you worry, I’ll tell Kujo all he needs to know.”

Haley nodded and popped us to Blade and Bjour, then she popped us inside to the kitchen. Jackson and Alpha Chase were there. Haley reached out a hand, “Jackson, we have to go to Faerie where I get to take on the pain my cousin would’ve endured because of this fucking decision that was made without our input. At the moment, I would chew glass before I took Eric. So, you get to come because Darrin and Harold aren’t welcome in Faerie.”

Alpha Chase paled, “You have to be in pain, princess?” Haley said, “Yes, and while I know you didn’t know that I’m not currently rational. So, I’ll just say get your fucking shit together because your mate deserves your best. Be the best. I believe in the mate bond, and I did study you after we met. You’re good at being an Alpha. You care about your people and your family. You look up to my husband, which is why I can’t figure out for the life of me why you married Alpha Sophia. He never would’ve. He told me so, and he meant it. Just...unfuck your personal life.”

She grabbed a stunned Jackson and popped us outside the castle in Faerie. I gaped at the beauty before me. I stated, “This is amazing.” Katie echoed my thoughts, “It really is. I mean your dad's house is... wow... but this...”

Jackson, Bjour, and Blade were staring worriedly at Haley. Haley spoke in Latin. Blade literally faded away. Bjour stood by her side refusing to move, responding back to her in Latin. She was annoyed but nodded to her agreement to whatever he said.

Guards stood there smiling at us. Specifically at Haley. Finally, one spoke, “Princess, you have brought guests.” Haley said, “Yes, my cousin the water fairy duchess. Her sister, who is my brother Prince Logan’s mate. Katie has earth fairy blood in her. My brother Bjour, and you remember Alpha Jackson Connors.” The guard nodded, but he didn’t look happy.

Bexley popped in. The guard greeted her, “Bexley, welcome home.” Bexley snorted, “Sure.” The guard looked at Haley and started flirting, “Your wolf was unable to come this time, princess? Are you staying the night? I can have your chambers prepared.”



Haley said, "Thank you, but we are not staying the night. Jackson is here in my husband's stead. I need to speak to my brother." The guard nodded, "Of course, princess. Let me know of any needs you may have. I will gladly meet them." Jackson growled while Bjourn took out a knife.

Haley didn't appear to notice that he was flirting with her. I bit my lip when Haley replied, "Ok, thank you Reger for the offer. I just need my brother." Reger frowned.

Jackson stepped forward getting in his face, "My brother takes care of her needs just fine." Haley snorted, "He meant anything in Faerie. Not what you think. It's just his job. Good lord, I can't take you guys anydamnwhere without you misunderstanding things. Come Emmaline and Katie."

Bexley was trying not to laugh. Jackson kept growling at the guard. He lowered his voice and I cursed my lack of supernatural hearing. Katie said, "Uhh Haley, that guard likes you." Haley snorted, "He doesn't. No one here liked me until I killed my brother because he betrayed them and Aiden. Which is a shitty reason to start liking someone. They are scared of me now because they know I'm a Hackura Princess too. They think that I'll sic my brothers on them; or kick their asses for how they behaved towards me as a child."

Katie said, "Wow. Ok that one hundred percent has nothing to do with any of that, girlfriend." Haley frowned, "Yes, it does." Aiden popped beside us. He teased, "You are fighting a lost cause, Katie Bishop. Such a lost cause."

Haley questioned, "What's a lost cause?" Aiden smiled and patted her head, "Convincing you, dear sister, that you have admirers." Haley scoffed, "People who don't want me to murder them are not admirers." Aiden smiled, "You see? Lost cause." Haley stuck her tongue out at him.

Aiden seemed to notice Jackson and Bjourn were here with us. He raised an eyebrow, "Are you mad at your wolf, little sister?" Jackson offered, "Eric wasn't available." That was a lie of epic proportions. Aiden laughed, "So, she is mad at him. Everyone in this room knows her wolf wouldn't let her come here without him given how he feels about her being here. He has made that abundantly clear to me, many times."

Jackson growled which only made Aiden grin wider. He asked Haley, "What did your wolf do?" Haley didn't answer, "We are here to perform the end of the ritual for my princess command." Aiden's jaw dropped, "You... are here to WHAT?!"

Jackson was still growling. Haley sighed, "I didn't have a choice, brother." I sighed, "She didn't. It was my choice. There's... It's... a messed-up situation." Aiden sighed,

“There is someone’s mate you know that would cause them pain to discover then, yes?” Haley answered, “Yes.”

Jackson asked, “Haley, how can you know that?” Haley said, “Because I’m a woman. Even if I was wrong, I wouldn’t let Emmaline take that pain on over a chance. It would hurt her soul.” Aiden sighed, “So now it will hurt yours.”

Bjourn interjected, “Excuse me?” Haley sighed, “Aiden, please.” Aiden frowned, “Why did you not just bring her here earlier this week and perform the sacred ritual for the Soul Searcher?” Haley threw her hands in the air, “What a great idea! Why didn’t I do that? Oh yeah, because I didn’t know until it was too late.”

Aiden surmised, “Which is why we are mad at the wolf, he knew.” Bjourn asked, “Can we go back to the part where this will hurt my sister’s soul?” Jackson nodded, “I have to agree with Bjourn. You didn’t say that earlier, Haley.”

Tears filled my eyes, “You said it wouldn’t be as bad for you.” Haley took my hands, “It won’t be. I’m not the Soul Searcher. It would have sent you into a depression. Me, well, it will just piss me the fuck off until I get what I want.” Aiden raised an eyebrow.

Bjourn spoke in a hard tone, “King Aiden.” Aiden turned to him saying, “If our sister says she will be fine, then she will be.” I could see he was worried though. Crap. I walked over to Haley, “I don’t want this to hurt you.” Haley assured me, “I’m protecting two people I care about very much.”

Bjourn, Aiden and Jackson simultaneously yelled, “TWO?” Surely Jackson and Bjourn figured out Haley knew who Alpha Chase’s mate was. How was that surprising information? Haley ignored them. She kissed my forehead then said, “It’s nothing to me. No one can match me in managing emotions. Nothing can hurt me the way I used to be hurt. We already started the process anyway. We can’t stop or we will both be in pain.” Katie gave Haley a hug pulling me into it with her.

Aiden sounded annoyed when he spoke, “So, not only are you taking on her keeping a secret as the Soul Searcher; you took on the burden of knowing the name of the mate in question, little sister.” Haley replied, “Yes, brother.” Aiden’s lips went into a firm line.

Bjourn sounded pissed, “I find that look on your face unsettling. You are always smiling and finding things amusing. Why doesn’t he find this amusing, little sister?” Haley shrugged, “Because it’s not amusing, it’s annoying and it was avoidable. If you

would like this all to be resolved, make it your personal mission to fix Alpha Chase's life choices."

Jackson sighed, "He was trying to help a friend." Haley snorted, "He picked the worst option possible. I mean really, did they even come up with any other fucking ideas? Did anyone advise them?" I added, "Yeah, why did let's get married at eighteen when we aren't even mates come up?"

Jackson sighed, "Her pack gave her the impression they wouldn't let her rule without a male by her side. Her father was sick... He was dying. Her Beta refused the role of Alpha because it was Sophia's. We were out of town when he died, all of us allies were actually." Haley's eyes narrowed, "How fucking convenient." Jackson frowned. It didn't really sound convenient it sounded like bad timing. Could Haley really think someone engineered them being out of town so they couldn't advise them against it?

Haley continued, "I understand Alpha Sophia was in an emotional state. Why did NONE of you think to have her challenge her opposers? She would've won." Jackson was quiet, "We weren't here, but Eric would've advised that. That's not typically how that's done though." I said, "Excuse me? You guys fight about stuff all the time." Jackson said, "Fighting for the Alpha title within a pack, unless the Alpha dies with no heirs, brothers, or a Beta isn't done. If the Alpha dies with a female heir, someone else is usually chosen. Like I said, we were out of town. Eric wouldn't have let them oust her. She was trained to be the Alpha. Allister named her his successor."

Haley grumbled, "Sexist shits, all of you. Whatever. Let's do this Emmaline. Then I'm going to get on my changing shit for she wolves' agenda. Because if MY DAUGHTER wants to run HER FATHER'S pack WITH her brothers then she fucking can. I will personally behead anyone who fucking says otherwise. My little girl can do what she wants to do, and so can with my nieces. If Saied wants to take over your pack, Jackson; I will make sure that fucking happens."

Jackson frowned. Bjourn actually cracked a smile. Haley continued, "Do you know if I would've been older than Bjourn the crown would've come to me unless I abdicated? Seriously, have none of you ever heard of Queen Elizabeth II? She ruled her country like a fucking boss. Honestly, men! If Aiden and I had an older sister, she would've ruled here too. What the actual hell is wrong with you people?"

Aiden was outright laughing now. Haley turned to me, "We ARE changing this shit for our daughters, Emmaline. Future daughters and the only current one in existence, Cassie. NO ONE will EVER tell my baby girl she's not good enough to do what she wants to fucking do. It's her FUCKING BIRTHRIGHT! If Eric EVER wants out of that damn doghouse Dylan bought him, which is BRILLIANT by the way, he will

make sure that my baby can do whatever she wants.” She pointed at Jackson, “You link him that right now!”

Haley turned to Bjourn. He answered her unspoken question, “Cassie can do whatever she wants. Anyone who stands opposed to that stands against us.” She turned to Aiden whose smile was broad and smug, “Of course my niece may do as she wishes. Aiylee will be queen here. I would kill anyone who told Cassie she could not rule.” Kill? Did he just say kill? Not fairy hijinks? Ok, then.

Now I was as mad as she was, “Who the hell are they to tell she wolves they can’t run packs? Can they be Betas?” Jackson shuffled his feet, “Typically the role goes to the male of the family, or the mate of the daughter. We wouldn’t do that in our pack, but that’s what is usually done.”

Haley said, “Assholes. All of you. Miley’s daughter can be a Beta if she fucking wants to be. You tell my husband that too!” She glanced at Bjourn, “Of course Charity can do as she wishes.” Bexley said, “My daughters can be warriors if they desire to be so. Even the lead warrior, like their father.” Haley nodded.

Aiden spoke “Of course they can, cousin. People would not dare insult you by saying otherwise. No one wants to insult the honor of the King of Faerie.” I was beginning to think that was true. Aiden smiled at Haley, “I do so love it when you take on the injustices of other supernatural groups, little sister. We will make sure Cassie can do as she wishes, I promise.” Several people gasped. Haley walked over and hugged him. They spoke in Fealish. I needed to crack that book she gave me wide open so I stopped being left in the dark on what was being said around me.

When she stepped back Haley said, “Let’s gather the supplies.” Aiden questioned her, “Are you sure about this, sister?” Haley answered, “I’m always sure.” Aiden sighed. Bjourn grabbed Aiden by the arm, “I’m going to need you to not do that. Smile for fucks sake before I carry our sister out of here over my shoulder.”

Aiden stared at him for several moments before quietly stating, “Maybe you should.” Bjourn let him go, clearly startled. Haley grabbed me and started chanting. Aiden sighed, “Too late, Prince Bjourn.” Bjourn frowned, “You never call me that. Will it really be that bad for her?” Aiden said nothing.

Somehow Haley had surrounded us in a circle of sugar. I couldn’t hear what was discussed by anyone outside of the circle anymore. A pink, blue, and green vortex shot up from around the circle she’d made. I told myself to remember the words Haley was chanting.

I mentally repeated her words, “Simy lims meself point outa lims. Me the dat outa lims simy da. Meself point orto the searcher. Dat to me addto falhing. Meself point burden lim negg dat. Meself taking dat simy meself commanded.” I didn’t like the words I could make out.

Haley and I were lifted from the ground slowly circling the inside of the vortex. A thread of red and blue came out of my chest, harshly piercing Haley’s. She didn’t wince but her soul told me she was in pain. The thread wound into her from me. How could one mated couple have such a long thread? The last of it left my chest and flew into Haley’s. I felt significantly lighter. I didn’t even realize how much the knowledge of Chase and BA had already begun weighing on me.

My eyes filled with tears feeling her soul. I didn’t know what this would do to her, but right now; I knew it hurt her. The vortex set us back down and disappeared. I swayed on my feet. Bjourn caught Haley, and Jackson caught me. Haley could barely keep her eyes open.

Aiden eyed her worriedly stating, “You are welcome to stay the night.” A little girl and a woman who had to be Aiden’s mate had joined him. She didn’t bother to hide that she was worried as she stared at Haley.

The little girl spoke, “I’ve never seen that ritual. Can Aunt Haley come for more visits? She’s SO COOL!” Lucinda said, “That’s an old and ancient ritual, Aiylee. Mommy had never even seen it done either. Your Aunt Haley is one of a kind.”

I spoke to Aiden, “Cousin, she told me it wouldn’t burden my soul and wouldn’t hurt her that much.” Aiden said, “That remains to be seen. She is correct that it will not cause her as much harm as it would have caused you.”

He turned to Jackson. His eyes flickered ember, that couldn’t be good. He told him, “In the future, wolf, I know it’s not any of your favorite things to do; but I would appreciate it if you don’t wish to speak to my sister about using a fairy power that you call me. I could’ve brought the tools to Emmaline prior to today. This was not necessary. Bexley, should you find my sister requires more comfort than your presence can provide, call me. I will come.” Bexley nodded with tears in her eyes.

I hadn’t noticed Hexxi standing in the background. I marched over to her. I demanded, “What’s the big deal?” Hexxi sighed, “This hasn’t been done in centuries, little sister. The last royal who did it was nowhere near as strong as Haley is. The Soul Searcher was his little sister. Well half-sister. She united a couple; everyone except the Soul Searcher thought they were happy. The little girl became weak. Our healers

could not find what was wrong with her. Finally, the female fairy of the couple came to the brother because she couldn't bear the little girl dying on her behalf."

My jaw dropped. Dying?! Hexxi continued, "She told the brother, who was a water fairy prince, what had really happened since she was united with her mate. He was cruel to her, he beat her, he cheated on her, and embarrassed her. The brother researched and found that it was tearing his sister's soul apart. Because she was more sensitive than most fairy's; it was going to kill her."

I gasped. Katie immediately asked, "What happened when he performed the ritual?" Hexxi was silent, "He wasn't as bad as the little girl. He did get depressed." I whispered, "How did it end?" Hexxi sighed, "His father killed the abusive mate. Once their souls were no longer bound everyone was fine. His mate mourned his death, but she moved on."

Jackson stated, "We can't kill Alpha Chase." Bjourn said, "You cannot. I can and will if this hurts my sister." I bit my lip, "You can't. Haley... Haley doesn't want him to die either." Bjourn said, "I don't give a shit. Nothing will happen to my sister because of some Alpha and his problems. Besides, I could also kill the wife. That would solve the problem too from the story I'm hearing." Aiden said, "I concur." Bjourn raised an eyebrow.

Hexxi said, "Haley will most likely be fine, Prince Bjourn." Bjourn said, "It's the most likely part of the sentence I have a problem with." Hexxi admitted, "Haley is far more powerful and has a much more traumatic background than the water fairy prince did. All he knew of life was rainbows, unicorns, and prinxles."

Bjourn bared his teeth, but Hexxi held her ground. She trembled slightly stating, "Haley knows the story, Prince Bjourn. Someone tell my sister's wolf to take better care of her. Our family will not bear that burden again. It was not a good time in our families history."

Jackson pointed out, "We had no idea." Hexxi said, "You didn't ask. It wouldn't have occurred to Haley to mention it because you all do not surround yourself with bad people. Alpha Eric is notorious for not allowing women in his pack to be mistreated in any way."

Jackson argued, "Chase would never hurt his mate. He's a good man. Alpha Sophia wouldn't hurt her mate either if that's a factor." Hexxi said, "That's another reason why this will go better for Haley. It's not physical pain; it's emotional. That does not harm Haley like physical pain."

Bjourn bitingly replied, "My sister could disagree with you there." Hexxi snorted, "Haley would take emotional pain over the physical atrocities that were done to her. Emotional and physical pain scars the same, but physical pain may never truly leave you. Even as a healer. If they did you wouldn't have shown King Aiden a scan of her skeleton. One may not need a gallbladder to survive, but it does have a purpose. As does a kidney. Haley is going to be ok. I would say your Alpha Chase should get a divorce as soon as possible. If I were him, I would be working on it right now. Alpha Sophia should let the ink dry on the papers with her signature because there are few people I would want on my side more than Princess Haley Connors."

I actually might have to like Hexxi. She gave me a hug, "Tell my cousin I owe her a debt. To have you suffer in that way would've traumatized our family. You have dealt with enough for one so young." She popped away before I could say anything.

I complained, "I have GOT to learn Fealish." Aiden laughed, "You will pick up quickly when you do." He turned to Bexley, "Call me if Haley needs anything. I'll be calling her wolf. Take them to the healing waters; It can't hurt." Bexley nodded.

Jackson asked, "Can we not just leave? Eric is losing his mind." Bexley happily stated, "King's orders." She popped us all to the healing waters and let Haley and I float. Bjourn sat silently for several minutes.

Blade materialized. He looked mad, "Is always trouble. Here trouble, there trouble. Ally wolf not harm Princess. Blade not let." Bjourn spoke in Latin and they started conversing. Jackson hung his head. He whispered, "Eric wouldn't have done this if he knew it could've hurt either of them."

Bexley sighed, "No one questions that. Haley will even tell you this is partly her fault. She gets excited about fairy powers, and she doesn't fully explain them. It's not her fault, it's a fairy trait. She's better than most of us about it. It's common knowledge here that the Soul Searcher can be harmed if the mated pair is unhappy."

I looked over at Haley whose eyes were closed. I asked, "Can she truly take this on?" Bexley said, "If anyone can, it's her. I will tell you that you could not have handled it. That's why she did it." Katie hissed. I asked, "So if anyone I bring together is bad, I'll die?"

Bexley said, "No. They could both be bad people, but be happy together. If you brought someone their mate, and they beat the mate you brought them to that would hurt you. If Alpha Chase's mate asked you who their mate was; you could tell them because to tell their mate would bring Alpha Chase happiness. The problem here was Alpha Chase's mate could be hurt by his marriage."

Katie questioned, "If Alpha Chase's mate was unhappy after Emmaline told them about him, does the catch not become he would then be unhappy because his mate was?" Bexley considered that, "Not necessarily. Especially since he's a wolf. His wolf half would be ecstatic, and from what I've learned from my Pookie bear, his wolf would be mad at Chase, not the mate. His wolf could take over and spend time with his mate. If Alpha Chase's mate was abusive towards him that would hurt Emmaline." Katie said, "I hate this power. It's horrible."

I disagreed, "I like making people happy. Everyone I've brought together is happy." Bexley smiled, "And protective of you, right?" I shrugged, "I guess." Bexley said, "And if someone was causing you harm, I just bet they would kill for you." Katie gasped, "That's the catch? People are happy because of Emmaline; so, to protect her they would kill someone who was hurting their mate." Bexley nodded, "Yes, yet another reason my cousin took this pain on. She's saving those Alpha's lives."

Bjourn stated, "I would kill for her, as would any Hackura, and the rest of my brothers." Bexley said, "She wouldn't ask you to, though." I stood up in the water, "I wouldn't ask anyone to kill for me." Bexley smiled, "Of course not. They would research the problem and find a solution. A fairy would know the problem outright."

I went back to the story, "So the little girl brought her brother his mate?" Bexley nodded, "He did it because she was his little sister, but she did bring him his mate. Who eventually gave us Marcious, who in turn gave us you." We were all silent.

Bexley spoke with more confidence than she had earlier, "Haley can do this. Besides, I doubt anyone is going to let this fester with Alpha Chase and Alpha Sophia for very long. Least of all my cousin." Jackson said, "We can't make them get a divorce." Bexley said, "Make is a strong word, Alpha Jackson." I asked, "It's just Alpha Sophia, isn't it? Alpha Chase wants a divorce." Jackson didn't answer, but I felt that was an answer in and of itself.

Bexley looked at the water. "Let's get everyone home. I think I'll pop us inside since until my cousin is feeling better, the rain will continue." Jackson asked, "It's going to be pouring buckets of rain until the Alpha Chase situation is handled?" Bexley teased, "Wouldn't that be amusing and just a little fun? All the water fairies would flock to our territory." Jackson shook his head, "No, that doesn't sound like fun at all. Please god, tell me that's not actually happening."

Bexley laughed, "Haley could do that, but I imagine the rain will stop when she has more energy. The ritual she performed was impressive and powerful." Jackson said, "Yes, I noticed a lot of people VERY interested in my sister in law. Eric is not going to like this."



Bexley shrugged, “She’s not taking on very much pain right now. She has no intention of telling Alpha Chase who his mate is. That’s what would bring her the most pain, bringing them together. Right now, she will feel the burden Emmaline would for not telling, though not as badly as badly as Emmaline would.”

I sighed in relief, “OK, why didn’t anyone say that? For goodness sake, I thought she was on death’s door or something. So, what Haley said is true?” Bexley tilted her head, “Our cousin cannot lie, nor can you.”

Talking to fairies was like pulling teeth sometimes. I clarified, “So she feels the burden of not telling, to a lesser degree than me. She’s not going to feel the pain of bringing the mates together because she has no intention of telling Alpha Chase who his mate is.” Bexley nodded, “Yes.”

Bjourn and Jackson glared at Bexley. Blade said, “Is dramatic. Whole race.” Bjourn agreed, “You are correct.” Bexley said, “You just can’t please people. Give them all the facts they complain about it. Hide the fact they complain. No one is ever happy! This situation isn’t exactly a science, it affects people differently. Aiden will look into it more, but the situation between the siblings lasted three days before the water prince was killed. I don’t think this will be the same situation.”

I sighed in relief and whispered to Katie, “I thought she was going to be in massive amounts of pain.” Katie looked relieved, “It’s not just you, we all did. They did not explain it very well. We should’ve just waited for Haley to explain.” Jackson snorted, “Agreed.”

Bexley smirked, “She wouldn’t have told you all of it. She would’ve said…” Bjourn cut her off, “She would’ve told me all of it.” Bexley pursed her lips before admitting, “That does appear to be true.” Blade said, “Is trying. Is better.” Bjourn nodded.

Bexley said, “Let’s pop into the monsoon.” Bjourn waded into the water to pick up Haley. I asked Bexley, “Why is she so out of it when I’m ok?” Bexley said, “You won’t be as bad, but you’ll be tired when we leave Faerie. She’s tired from performing the ritual and taking the burden from you. She will be fine after some sleep.” I sighed, “I feel like I take her from her kids a lot.” Bexley smiled, “Haley spends most of her time with Kujo and her babies. She will be fine by the time they wake up.” I felt a little better.

Bexley looked at Jackson, “Emmaline will probably fall if you don’t catch her when we go back.” Jackson said, “Great. Perfect. Lucas was already going to be pissed; she smells like me from when I caught her earlier.” I pointed out, “You could switch with Bjourn.”

Jackson said, "Lucas and I are fairly evenly matched in a fight. My brother can kick my ass. Bjourn is her brother, and his smell won't bother Eric. If Bjourn wasn't here I'd do it and my brother would replace his scent with mine."

Blade laugh, "Is trouble." Jackson agreed, "She is." I glared, "This isn't her fault." Blade shrugged. Jackson laughed, "You misunderstand me, Emmaline. She is trouble, but she's worth every second. My brother has never been happier. He smiles and he laughs. I would never let anything happen to her if I could prevent it. Not only because she's a good person, but because she is my brother's happiness. I love this side of him. He's always serious, but with her; he's just... lighter and less burdened. I know you didn't know him before, but I never heard him laugh until she came along." From what I'd sensed from Eric's soul, that was accurate.

Bexley popped us all to the main room of Eric's home. Bexley was right, I almost hit the ground before Jackson caught me. I heard a growl. It annoyed me to no end. I ordered, "Shut it. Would you prefer he let me crack my head open?" Lucas ripped me from Jackson's arms.

He asked, "What happened?" Katie said, "Haley fixed your screw up and took the burden from Emmaline. Believe me when I say you DO NOT want anyone else to explain this to you. It boils down to Emmaline's soul is not burdened."

Eric angrily asked, "And my wife's is?" Katie said, "To a much less extreme than Emmaline's would've been, but essentially yes." Jackson added, "She performed some ancient ritual that fairies were coming out of the cracks to watch her do. It hasn't been done in centuries."

Eric growled, "Fucking fantastic. The fairy king failed to mention that." I pointed out "As you all failed to mention to him you wanted to use me like a magic eight ball for your married friend." Lucas corrected, "Ally." Lacy snorted.

I frowned, "That's semantics. I'm not your own personal magic eight ball to use an abuse. Especially when you know I wouldn't want to hurt someone the way Alpha Chase's mate would be hurt." Everyone was quiet.

Eric spoke, "I am sorry, Emmaline. We did not think of it that way. As his ally, I am bound to help Alpha Chase as is Lucas. As a werewolf and an Alpha, I am bound to not keep his mate from him. He is not a bad man; he has just made some bad choices. I do actually consider the man a friend. I can't imagine keeping a good person's mate away from them after being with Haley." I said, "I understand, but it doesn't make it ok. I appreciate the apology though."

Bexley said, "If it was just your mates, I'd make them drive home in this storm. Since I like you cousin and I find I quite like Lacy; I will pop you all home." Lacy said, "You could pop us home and make them drive." Bexley laughed, "How diabolic this wolf is. Is it any wonder I like her?"

Eric rubbed his head, "Bexley, please pop them all home since the roads are flooded." I asked, "Can't Aiden make it stop raining?" Eric snorted, "Can he? Probably. Will he, no." That did sound like Aiden. Bexley grabbed my arm. Lucas was already holding me. Dylan grabbed Lucas and Lacy grabbed Bexley's other hand.

She popped us home. She advised, "Drink lots of fluids, cousin." I nodded and she left. I told Lucas, "Put me down." Lucas sighed, "Let me help you upstairs." I waved him off, "Lacy can help me." Lucas begrudgingly gave me over to Lacy. We managed to get up the stairs with me hanging off of her.

She headed towards mine and Lucas' room. I feebly told her, "No, in there." Lacy asked, "The Luna rooms?" I nodded and she put me on the bed. I asked, "Can you go in the closet? I left a book of Fealish in there. I want to look up the words Haley said in the ritual."

Lacy nodded and came back with the book. I quickly thumbed between the pages to find everything. Tears streamed down my face as I read what Haley had said. Lacy asked, "What did she say?" I told her, "As her princess, I take this from her soul. Give me the pain and remove it from her as a whole. I take this pain for the Soul Searcher. Give it to me heart and all. I take this burden she shall not bear it. I am taking it as I commanded."

Lacy winced, "Shit. The guys really stepped in it this time." I admitted, "I see both sides. They didn't know. They wouldn't have let it get where it did if they had. I don't think Alpha Chase would've even asked them. My problem is they had no problem using me."

Lacy jokingly teased, "Like a magic eight ball?" I nodded then asked, "Are you mad at Dylan?" Lacy snorted, "Was it pouring buckets of rain in Black Mountain territory?" I laughed, "Did your umbrella help?" Lacy smiled, "The looks on their faces was priceless. I waited twenty seconds after Bexley popped away. I pulled out the umbrella and seconds later the floodgates opened. They ran like they heard a shot being fired. To be fair, the lightning that came down sounded like one."

I smiled, "Will you stay here with me tonight? I don't want to be alone." Lacy laid down, "I'll always be here if you need me. You're my sister too. Not officially, but

one day soon.” The shadows appeared in my room producing Katie. She stated, “And I’m your sister always, so scoot over both of you.”

I asked, “Does Logan know you are here?” Katie said, “He will figure it out, eventually.” She climbed into bed with Lacy and me. We all drifted off to sleep. I woke up to my alarm and got ready for training. Lacy said, “I might as well come with you.” Katie complained, “You all need to sleep in.”

Logan’s voice made us all jump, “I’ll take you home then.” Katie sat up, “What the hell? Have you just been sleeping on the couch?” Logan simply stated, “Yes.” Lacy and I rubbed our faces. Katie sighed, “Fine. Maybe now you realize when I say I need to be with my sister; I mean it.” Logan nodded, “Duly noted.” She got off the bed and hugged me.

When they left, I popped Lacy to the gym. Both of us were startled to see our mates were already there. Lacy linked me, “Are they just going to show up all the time now?” I snorted, “Evidently, when they are in trouble, worried, or horny.” Lacy asked, “Which are they now?” I answered, “All three.” Lacy said, “They can shove the horny side up their butts.” I snorted out loud.

It was a cardio day. Crap I didn’t think I had enough in me to pop away from anyone. Alex came up to me, “It’s a swim day for you.” I nodded, thank god. I swam my laps until Lacy came to get me.

Lucas was waiting at the gym door with Dylan. I waved to him, “Have a good day, Lucas.” I popped us to the Luna rooms, where we both got ready. I sensed someone outside our door. Two someone’s. I linked Lacy, “Dylan and Lucas are outside the door.” Lacy snorted, “Because the hint of waving at them and popping out of the gym was missed.” I nodded, “I’ll pop us to the car.”

I grabbed her hand and popped us into the car. I yelled “Anyone who’s riding with us, get in now. The train is leaving the station.” Everyone jumped in, even Brad who was frowning. I ignored his gaze and drove us to school.

When I got out of the car Ry came over. He ordered, “Get back in the car, Evie.” I sighed, “Ok.” I got back in. Ry asked, “Are you ok?” I shrugged, “I guess. I feel bad that Haley is taking on the side effect of my power because my soul can’t handle it. What kind of crap is that, fairy goddess? You created a Soul Searcher who can’t handle people not being happy with their mates? Oh, but don’t worry, everyone I brought together who is happy will want to kill those people so I can continue on. That’s SO messed up!”

Ry agreed, "That is a messed up power to grant, and not give the ability to handle people not being happy." I rubbed my temples, "My mate was just going to use my power for his ally. I understand he has to help him, but I am just tired, Ry. I'm tired of fighting with everyone. I thought Lucas and I settled this. We decided we would talk to each other. Dusty and I just figured everything out. I just want everyone to stay in their lanes for a week. A whole week of no lane changes." Ry smiled, "I'm sure that will happen." He gave me a hug, "It will be alright, Evie." I smiled, "I know."

I walked into school and got through my day. When I walked outside, I was surprised to find Haley waiting. She had a big SUV. She rolled down the window and I was even more stunned to see Katie in the front seat beside her. Haley waved, "Get in girls. Just so we're clear I mean, Valerie, Sam, Chelsea, Lacy, and Emmaline."

Brad interjected, "I'm guarding the Luna." Haley said, "Yes, well I have my guard with us. Harper and his boytoy lover are coming with us too. I've got us covered on so many levels." Ry asked, "Where are you going?" Haley smiled, "We are going to cheer ourselves up! That's where."

Chelsea said, "I'd love to, but we have a meeting we have to sit in on with Peter's parents." Sam sighed, "We do too." Haley waved her hand, "Not a problem! You can join us another time." The Red Run group left.

Lacy shrugged, "I was just going to avoid Dylan all night. I'm in." I smiled, "Me too." Valerie kissed Ry, "Me three." Ry managed to let her go.

We all jumped into the car. I asked the million-dollar question, "So where are we going to cheer ourselves up?" Haley smiled, "Google said Disney World is a magical place. I booked us all appointments to be dressed up as one of the Disney princesses. We get to pick which ones! Then we are going to go around the park. BA is joining our fun as well!" Trepidation lit through me. I hated that feeling about her. I liked her.

I glanced at her in the mirror, and we turned onto an access road where Blade, Gunner, and the rest of Haley's guard was waiting. My phone lit up with a text.

Haley: I already talked to BA. She still wants to see how the universe brings them together. There's time to fix this whole mess. Before she finds out he's married. I'm going to unfuck that situation. He will make her happy. Like we are.

Me: Thanks Haley.

Haley gathered us all and popped us to Florida. Lacy squealed, "We are legit outside Disney World. I LOVE FAIRIES." Gunner said, "I could open a portal to Florida."

Haley countered, “So could I. Popping is cooler.” Gunner rolled his eyes, “So you say.” Haley smiled, “So I do, Harper’s boytoy lover. ASTRID YOU CAME!”

I watched as BA and Astrid walked over to our group. BA was still in all black with a mask of her eyes, but not her Black Arrow gear. She smiled at me, and our group set off for our magical Disney adventure.