

# Cold War

Lucas was so upset with himself. I asked the group, “What the hell was I thinking? Emmaline feels used.” All our heads whipped to Lacy as she produced an umbrella putting it over her head. Dylan asked, “Where did you get that, beautiful mate of mine?” She didn’t have time to answer before it began to pour buckets of rain. I jumped up and ran for the house as lightning and thunder crackled in the sky.

Lacy followed at a leisurely pace. She even had rain boots on. Marcus said, “It’s safe to say, that Haley is pissed.” Lacy retorted, “It’s safe to say Haley is BEYOND pissed. She has to take the burden from Emmaline with some fairy princess command. Jerks!”

Eric growled, “What does that mean?” Lacy shrugged, “I didn’t really get all the details.” I sighed, “Do you have any other details?” Lacy smiled, “Yes, you guys are assholes.” I frowned and walked into the kitchen.

Alpha Chase said, “Alpha Eric, I didn’t know this would harm yours or Alpha Lucas’ mate.” Eric gritted his teeth, “None of us did.” Alpha Chase said, “Your mates know who mine is. Your wife told me my mate deserves my best.”

I frowned pointing out, “Haley would say that anyway even if she didn’t know who it was.” Lacy informed us, “They both know. Haley took that burden from Emmaline too. She told Katie she was going to handle it.” Logan dryly retorted, “Fabulous.”

Marcus frowned. Eric started to growl. I asked, “Eric?” Eric started to pace. Caleb groaned, “God, why?” I asked, “What?” Eric snarled, “Jackson told me some fucking guard is offering to have sex WITH my mate!”

Marcus raised an eyebrow, “Blade or Bjourn would kill him before he got the chance.” Eric rolled his eyes, “Jackson and Bjourn punched him. Bjourn has pulled a knife and is threatening things. My mate of course thinks he was being polite and not propositioning her.”

Alpha Chase asked, “Can she really misunderstand the difference between the two?” I answered, “I’m going to go with yes. Haley absolutely doesn’t understand. Especially if it was subtle and not stated outright.” Dylan kept eating his popcorn. He offered some to Lacy and she threw it in his face. He shrugged, continuing to eat.

Eric said, “Haley doesn’t do subtle hints, and she doesn’t think she has a strong allure. She believes the fairies are worried she will kill them all now that her lineage has been revealed. Or ask her Hackura brothers to.” I said, “It’s a reasonable assumption. Are you going to pace the whole time they are gone?”

Eric simply stated, “Yes. If they were in water territory, wouldn’t you?” I nodded because I would. I asked, “Why did she take Jackson and not you?”

Alpha Chase looked away. Dylan linked me, “He knows the things that I don’t know. I am remiss I didn’t follow him.” I snorted, “I got that he knew” Eric asked, “Alpha Chase?” He sighed, “Apparently, Darrin and Harold aren’t welcome in Faerie.” Both Conners brothers high fived.

Alpha Chase continued, “And... she would rather chew glass than take Eric with her this time.” Eric growled, “I need a manual for women. I hate that she’s there without me. I hate what I’m feeling from her while she’s there without me.”

Molly Conners came in. She smiled, “Hello, Chase. Where’s my brother?” Alpha Chase winced, “He... isn’t here.” Molly laughed, “So, you didn’t tell him you were coming. Interesting. Someone will have to tell me why later.”

She turned to Eric, “What have you done now? Jackson linked me that he’s in Faerie watching some ritual Haley is performing. He’s freaking out because Aiden told Bjourn he should take Haley out of there. He told him to forcibly remove her rather than have her do the ritual she’s doing. What the hell is going on?”

Eric growled, turning over a table. Caleb took out his phone, probably to order a new table. Logan questioned, “Then why is she performing the ritual? Bjourn would’ve taken her; especially if Aiden said he should. That’s a cry for help if I’ve ever heard one.”

Eric answered, “Haley started the ritual right after Aiden told him. They are surrounded inside a multicolored circle.” Molly said, “I repeat... what. Did. You. Do?” Eric surmised the situation and Molly sighed, “Oh boy...”

Alpha Chase said, “I never would’ve asked if I had known...” Molly put her hands up, “I know. I’ve told Haley you and Alpha Sophia aren’t bad people. I’ve known you since you were little. I maintained not telling her the truth of the matter would be a problem. You guys have been evasive with her because it’s Chase’s business. Now, it’s blown up in your face. She just sees things as black and white.”

Alpha Chase winced, “She hates me.” Molly disagreed, “You’re not a witch or warlock. She doesn’t hate you. She actually believes you aren’t a bad person. She just hates that you married Alpha Sophia.” Alpha Chase put his head in his hands, “No, she hates me. She’ll keep my mate from me forever.”

I disagreed, “She won’t. Haley would never do that, nor would Emmaline.” Logan assured him, “She really won’t. She believes in the mate bond. She’s insanely happy with Eric, and she wants that for other people.”

Alpha Chase ran a hand through his hair, “What can I do? Sophia... she’s... it wasn’t supposed to be a divorce. The original plan was for us to get married and when I went to Europe we’d quietly get it annulled. She panicked thinking she would lose her pack when I had my Beta send her the papers. I just wanted to help her. Now, I have her pack members bothering me about having an anniversary party celebrating our farce of a marriage.”

He laughed humorously, “To celebrate the alliance between our packs. Tensions have literally never been higher. This situation is so fucked. Your mates are right.” Eric clutched his chest as I felt a weight I hadn’t realized I was carrying was lifted from mine.

Eric yelled, “SHIT!” Molly frowned. Darrin moved to Eric’s side, “Brother?” Eric gritted out, “It’s not me.” Alpha Chase stiffened, “I apologize to both of you. If your mates would want to hear my apology, I’ll call them. I didn’t mean to hurt them. I need to go. I have to talk to Sophia.”

Eric said, “Any assistance you or she needs, you’ll have it from us. I can’t say Alpha Sophia is on my good list. She has pulled into her shell ever since she took over. Always renegeing on little things, but I don’t know if I’ll get over promising men to help free my Angel and only sending a much smaller amount. I had people get hurt, but Haley convinced me to give her another chance.” Molly winced.

Eric snorted, “She’ll definitely insist I help her now. Apparently, my wife went on a tangent about how women should be able to be Alpha’s and Beta’s with no argument. She said her nieces could be Alpha’s if they wanted, and her cousin could Be a beta is she wants to be. She said Cassie could run the packs if she wanted. When my wife gets an idea in her head, she tends to make it happen.”

I told him, “It’s just not done.” Eric said, “It should be. Cassie is my daughter. I will deny her nothing. I can’t and I won’t. My sons are very protective of her too. They already do their pusher thing when they don’t like someone being close to her. Alpha Sophia should have been able to take over her pack alone. She was raised to be the

Alpha; the former Alpha was her father. He believed in her abilities. She shouldn't be scared to give Chase a damn annulment because of her own damn pack."

I pointed out, "That change won't happen overnight." Eric shrugged, "I'll put a proposal together and get other packs to sign it. The process has to start somewhere." Alpha Chase said, "You'll have my signature the second I see it. Goodbye everyone. I'm sorry that this has caused a big mess." He left.

I sighed, "Problems... Did you see how Emmaline looked at me?" Dylan answered, "Betrayed. Her eyes held anger and Betrayal. Dylan will be right back he will. Must go be Yoda for Alpha Chase, I must." I asked, "What?" He skipped away without answering. We all waited a few minutes for him to return.

He picked up his popcorn bowl and sat down on a barstool. Eric shook his head at him then said, "Haley does know who his mate is. Jackson said she told Emmaline she was protecting two people she cares about by taking this from her." I groaned, "If it's Emmaline's sister..." Eric quickly pointed out, "I don't think so. Idel was here when Chase said his wolf said his mate wasn't near."

I shrugged, "She had popped away for the fairy ritual." Eric tilted his head, "She was still in my territory." Dylan shouted with a mouthful of popcorn, "EVENT PLANNER! It's the event planner!" Eric said, "Maybe. Or one of the partial fairies." I asked, "Who was the event planner?"

Eric jaw flexed, "I didn't meet her. Haley handles all the details of her fairy initiative and events. After this mess, I'm not asking her. I don't want to know the damn event planners name because then I'd have to give it to Alpha Chase. NO ONE will ask for that event planners name. EVER."

Molly snorted, "Eric, Haley has said her name. They are friends." Dylan snorted, "Of course they are. Why wouldn't this situation get more dramatic?" Eric's phone rang, "Great... just fucking great. Hello, Aiden." He put it on speaker.

Aiden sounded angry, "Wolf of my sisters, I have just seen a powerful ancient ritual that is quite binding for my sister. I understand you do not know the full details of the Soul Searcher..." Eric interrupted, "We thought we did. She can tell who someone's mate is, she can sense people's motives, and their emotions."

Aiden said, "Yes, unfortunately for us all your reputation caused my sister to leave out a detail." Eric was confused, "My reputation? What the hell does any of this have to do with my reputation?" Aiden spat back, "You have a reputation for not allowing anyone to harm a female member of your pack."

Eric growled, “I do have that reputation, and I don’t let anyone harm ANY member of my pack regardless of their gender.” Aiden said, “There are more than one type of pain. Telling Alpha Chase who his mate is and bringing them together would’ve caused his mate pain. Which in turn would’ve caused Emmaline pain.”

I asked, “What? Why?” Aiden sighed, “Why is not really here nor there. She is the Soul Searcher. Her power is meant to bring happiness, if sadness is what it brings then she will be sad too.” I growled, “Haley didn’t do this because Emmaline would’ve been sad.”

Aiden angrily yelled, “No, she did it because Emmaline would’ve fallen into a deep depression, eventually becoming suicidal. Unless of course the issue was resolved. Jackson says the problem’s names are Alpha Chase and Alpha Sophia. Should circumstances change and his mate was happy then Emmaline would be fine.”

Dylan linked, “I like happy King Fire Hands better than the angry one. The angry one concerns me. His hands turn into fire, and he burns people’s heads off when he’s mad. Let’s bring back the joy.” I agreed with him.

Aiden continued, “In our case with the last Soul Searcher, she brought together a couple like she’s supposed to. The male was abusive to the female after the Soul Searcher told him who she was. The female was understandably not happy, but like many abusers he hid it well. She was ashamed so she kept quiet thinking the mate bond would eventually change him. The little girl grew weak. Our healers couldn’t figure out why. Eventually, the female confided in the water fairy prince who was the Soul Searcher’s brother. He performed the ritual Haley just did and took the pain on himself.”

Eric frowned, “That doesn’t sound like something a fairy would do; even for a sibling.” Aiden snorted, “Yes, we would. We love our families. The Soul Searcher brings couples together. Those couples feel VERY protective over them in return.”

I rubbed my head, “You’re saying people will do things for Emmaline because she brought them together? She would never ask them to do that.” Dylan joined the conversation, “She wouldn’t have to. I see where this is going, and I’d do it too.” I glanced at him, “Where’s it going?” Dylan said, “I am here for all of you Alpha bloods. I know how this story ends. What’s it like watching a movie in your heads? Do you even try to guess the plot?” I growled at him.

He smiled, “The water fairy prince killed the abusive mate. Right, King Fire Hands?” Aiden snorted, “Close. He couldn’t handle the pain and became depressed, so his father killed the abusive mate, and everyone was fine.” I told Dylan, “You can’t kill

Alpha Chase.” Lacy said, “We could though, together. We could even decide. Alpha Chase or Alpha Sophia.”

I yelled, “No, you cannot!” Dylan continued, “I won’t kill him. I’m his Yoda. I like him, and I’ve even changed a diaper of his. This cements that he must do something amazing in life. It was a doozy of a deuce he dropped that I cleaned up. Sometimes I think Frank knew he was going to poop when he dropped little potty training Chase off on me as a teen. I’m just telling you; I could see it. I told you I feel very protective of Emmaline.”

Lacy said, “Again, killing Alpha Sophia solves the problem too.” I groaned, “Stop trying to discuss killing allies.” She shrugged, “I mean if we had to pick one; I’d pick her. Eric would too. From what Emmaline has picked up from their souls she’s the holdup not him. If roles were reversed, he’d be the top choice.”

I was reeling. Eric said, “They won’t feel the need to kill him because Haley took it from Emmaline. Which means you’re saying my wife is going to be depressed.” Aiden snorted, “That remains to be seen. Next time you have an idea about using a fairy for a power you do not fully understand; call me. I do not want to see my sister this way. The only entertaining thing about this situation will be if my sister suffers the way the water fairy prince did; it will be a race to see who kills whichever Alpha is chosen first.”

Eric growled, “You’re not killing either one of them. A race between whom?” Aiden laughed, “Act like you wouldn’t be in the race yourself. We both know that’s not true. Though I believe the she wolf is right, you would go for Alpha Sophia instead of this Alpha Chase. Even with four legs though, you’re not as fast as a pop or a portal opening. It will be interesting to see who gets to the chosen one first. Me or the Hackura.”

Eric stared at the phone in shock. Logan asked, “Are you fucking joking? You would kill Alpha Chase or Alpha Sophia? YOU? This is that serious?” Aiden said, “I cannot lie. I believe that was Logan. As Bjourn would say, the race will be on if our sister can't handle the burden she just took on. Had I or Haley known this was coming, there is a sacred ritual for the Soul Searcher we could’ve done. So should you not want to inform Haley what the plan is; I make the offer of being at your services. Had we performed the ritual a few days before fairy lessons, no one would be in pain. Or in danger of being depressed, or otherwise injured in any way.” With that he hung up.

Eric closed his eyes. I stated, “We can’t just kill them.” Marcus said, “You do not have to.” I pulled my hair, “He’s not an enemy. He’s not even a bad guy! He’s actually a good guy.” Marcus said, “I notice no one has said that about her.” I

frowned, “She’s got great potential. She always has. It’s just hard with werewolves for her to be the Alpha she was meant to be with how everyone feels about female’s leading as a whole among us.” Lacy spoke, “Haley won’t want him to die.”

Everyone’s gaze went to her. She rolled her eyes, “Come on she said she’s doing this for two people she cares about. Whoever Alpha Chase’s mate is... Haley cares about them.” Logan said, “Fuck it all to hell and back.”

Marcus said, “I believe you are right. I have a pretty solid idea of who it is. My sister does care about that person, but it doesn’t matter to me. If my sister tries to kill herself, or gets sick, and is dying, I will kill Alpha Chase or Alpha Sophia without hesitation. If my sister has a preference, so be it.” Lacy said, “She wouldn’t make that choice.” Marcus said, “Then I would review our files on them and decide that way. My sister is not dying for this.”

Lacy said, “Give her a little credit. She’s a bad ass. She can do this.” I was worried, “Her brother did not seem to think she could.” Lacy rolled her eyes, “Her brother who did not know a fraction of what she was capable of until recently.”

Eric spoke, “Lacy is right and wrong. It’s not that Aiden doesn’t believe in her. He’s worried. Which I have to say I don’t like at all. Besides, in the story it sounded like the pain came from bringing them together. Haley will have no intention of bringing Alpha Chase his mate until he’s single.”

Marcus shrugged, “Then it’s a moot point.” Eric agreed, “I think it is.” I sighed, “Where the hell are our mates? If the ritual is over, why aren’t they back?” Eric said, “They are in the healing waters in Faerie.” I jumped out of my seat, “They are in water fairy territory?”

Dylan asked, “Are you actually joining the pacing brigade with King Alpha Prick now? I must know who does your floors here. They look remarkable for the pacing that’s been happening. I’ll probably need them on call now that we have our fairy to pace over.” I growled at him.

He smiled continuing, “I did tell you this wasn’t a good idea.” I growled, “What other idea was there?” Molly and Lacy snorted. I asked, “What, Lacy Loo?” Lacy said, “Nuh uh, Lucas. Don’t you Lacy Loo me. The idea was fine in theory. You just left out the part where you talk to... oh gee... I don’t know... your MATES. By the way Dylan, if you think I’m excluding you from that sentence; you’re wrong. Lucas, Emmaline thought you were feeling protective of her because you brought Dylan and I today. Instead, you were using her. Way to go.”

Guilt hit me hard. I couldn't even look at Lacy anymore because the truth of her words pierced my heart. It wasn't my intent to use Emmaline that way. She's always offered up her powers, and I took that choice away from her. I was an ass.

Eric said, "If I knew it would hurt Emmaline or Haley, I wouldn't have allowed it." Marcus offered, "At least you know you are safe if Alpha Chase's mate asks Emmaline to tell her who her mate is." Logan snorted, "If it's who you and I both think it is, that won't happen." I asked, "Why?" They didn't answer.

I asked a different question, "What if you're wrong and his mate asks Emmaline?" Logan said, "According to what the Fairy King said that would be fine. Alpha Chase and his wolf would be happy, not sad. It has to do with which party she tells." I pointed out, "There's no way we can know ahead of time who she should not tell a person who their mate is."

Eric disagreed, "That's not entirely true. There will be situations you guys have where you won't want her to tell. More importantly if she doesn't want to tell; she has options. Apparently." I pointed out, "Emmaline won't be happy that the couples she brought together will kill for her because a mate isn't happy."

Eric raised an eyebrow, "Lucas, either one of us would kill someone's mate for being abusive. We have done that. It's the same thing we'd already do with the added incentive. It's detrimental to Emmaline's life. I will not let you or my mate be in that type of pain."

I couldn't stand the thought of Emmaline's death, so I changed the subject. I said, "So you're going to put a proposal together for the werewolf council to allow she wolves to be Alpha's or Beta's. That could take months." Eric said, "We have to start somewhere. Based on what Alpha Chase said, I don't know that Alpha Sophia will agree to a divorce. I don't think he will file for one because he wants an annulment. You know how us Alpha males are about our plans. Besides, you were already training a female Gamma. Why shouldn't women go to the top?"

Lacy snorted, "Maybe Alpha Sophia will find her mate. I bet your ass she would get a divorce then. It's like reverse sexism on her part. I can't WAIT for Haley to roast her ass. Someone record that for me." I disagreed, "I don't think she will go to Alpha Sophia." Eric admitted, "She will. Hopefully, she at least takes Molly with her when she does." I groaned, "She'll take Emmaline." Eric said, "And risk her telling Sophia who her mate is? I doubt it." I snorted, "Guess who's getting used for the sacred Soul Searcher ritual first?" Eric winced, "Then she probably will take her." Lacy rolled her eyes, "Emmaline clearly doesn't know Sophia's mate. She's met her." I pointed out, "She'd met Chase before too." Lacy shrugged.



We heard a pop. We all ran into the living room. I growled at the sight of Jackson holding my mate. She got mad at me, but I pulled her into my arms glaring at him. Jackson linked me, "I had to catch her, or she would've fallen and hurt her head."

I growled, "She smells like you." Jackson answered, "This is the second time I had to catch her. I wasn't going to let her fall." Dominic was furious she didn't smell like us. I was putting everything I had into resisting the urge to claim her. She didn't want that. I didn't even have to ask her to know that. Katie explained everything tersely. I barely managed not to growl at Jackson.

I linked Eric, "I'm sorry more fairies are interested in Haley now." Eric replied, "It's not your fault." Emmaline was angry, which made Dominic growl furiously at me. Dylan linked me, "Ok, that tone was frigid, I think I got frostbite. I am not fully prepared for the cold war coming." I winced. Neither was I.

Eric surprised me when he apologized to Emmaline. Dylan linked me, "I have fallen and hit my head very hard. I just hallucinated that King Alpha Prick apologized." I said, "If you're hallucinating then so am I." Dylan said, "Hell just froze over. The demons are so sad. I can hear them crying from here." I rolled my eyes at him.

Bexley said she was thinking of making Dylan and I drive home. Dylan linked me, "I'll get a boat from King Alpha Prick's boat house. Don't you worry. We'd flood any car engine we borrowed from him right now. Then he'd morph back to his unapologetic prick self. On second thought, maybe we take one of his cars. This version of him freaks me out. I'm on edge. I don't know what to expect anymore. It's unsettling." I rolled my eyes again.

I told him, "Maybe focus more on Lacy being mad at you. She's pissed." Dylan said, "Thank you, captain obvious. I missed that very clear hint. What would I do without you, oh Alpha my Alpha?" Emmaline asked if Aiden could make it stop raining. Dylan linked me, "He absolutely can, he just won't." That seemed accurate.

Bexley popped us home, flipped Dylan and I the bird then popped out. Emmaline didn't want me touching her, or my help. Dominic growled, "Let me out. I'll take mate upstairs. She's not mad at me." I said, "She would've asked for you, Dominic. I have to let her go with Lacy." I handed her over to my sister.

Dylan and I watched helplessly as they went upstairs. Dylan put a hand on my back and my hand went to my chest in pain when she told Lacy to take her to the Luna rooms instead of ours. Dylan said, "She'll come around." I asked, "When? She's not even planning on being in the same room as me. I fucked up. Again."

My dad came into the room, “That’s what happens in relationships, son. You fuck up, you fight, you fix it. If she needs space, give it to her. Women need space sometimes, as do we.” I sighed, “Something tells me her version of space is not the same as mine.” My dad shrugged, “Probably not. I thought we had this talk once, but women and men are different.”

I put up my hands, “I know dad. I just don’t know how to fix this.” My dad sat down, “What happened?” I told him everything. He sighed, “Lucas, what were you thinking?” I put my head into my hands, “I know, dad.”

My dad pulled me into a hug, “You show up. That’s what you do. When she’s ready to talk to you, you listen. Really listen. Your mate is your partner above all else. Unless you want her to follow in your cowboy ways; I’d change yours.”

I pulled back, “Follow my cowboy ways?” My dad laughed, “You do remember we have an Alpha Hammond threat going on? Emmaline could find a way to steal a page out of your playbook to solve the problem at hand by herself. Then there’s the David Forrester issue. He may not be a problem today, tomorrow, or in five years; but he will be one day. Watch yourself son, or that mate of yours will take on those problems without you.” He left and I threw a vase.

Logan said, “I hope that wasn’t expensive. I don’t think a fairy will fix it for you at the moment.” Dylan jumped then yelled, “WHY? What the hell are you doing here?” Logan smiled, “My mate demanded I bring her to her sister. I said no. I took her to our home then for a meeting to divvy out missions. I returned to home to discover Kate was gone.”

Dylan frowned, “Katie can’t open a portal, and my fun sized ninja fairy is down for the count. So dear GODDESS why are you here lurking like a panther ready to pounce?” I sighed, “Katie can control the shadows.” Logan nodded, “Exactly.” Dylan sat down, “I need sleep. I’m slipping. Don’t you worry my creepy silent ninja. I’m express ordering you a special doghouse.”

Logan winked, “You’d never get it to where I live.” Dylan said, “Ah, but you lurk around here often enough.” Logan shrugged, “I’m sure Eric will be mostly forgiven by tomorrow or the day after. I didn’t know about your plan for Alpha Chase at fairy practice. Which was likely intentional on Eric’s part. I’ll be fine when Katie wakes up. She’s only upset I didn’t bring her here.”

Dylan said, “I think you vastly underestimate the length of the cold war between the wolves and their fairy mate’s. My fun sized ninja fairy was angry. Not that she looked

it, but I could tell. The whole flooding the area with a torrential downpour was my sign.”

Logan smirked, “No, I do not. I know my sister quite well. She will be upset with herself because she didn’t tell everyone the full extent of Emmaline’s power. She’ll apologize for that. She and Eric will argue about Alpha Chase which will inevitably turn into fucking. Haley won’t want tension in the house because of the triplets. They will figure it out.”

I complained, “I don’t have any of that going for me. We don’t have pups yet.” Logan raised an eyebrow, “You can absolutely turn an argument into sex. Katie is a tiger in bed when she’s mad. I bet that’s in their blood. They are fairies after all.” I willed my hard on away, “That won’t fix the problem.” Logan laughed, “Of course it won’t. Listening and adapting to being in a permanent relationship is how it gets resolved.”

I groaned, “Why do you know that?” Logan smirked, “All my brothers have mates. I’ve seen it happen many, many times.” Logan started to head upstairs. I asked him, “Where are you going?” He turned, “Katie just fell asleep. I’ll sleep on the floor until she’s ready to go home.” I told him, “There’s a couch in there, at least sleep on that.” Logan nodded and left.

I turned to my Beta, “Take a guest room. Or one of the rooms in your wing.” Dylan said, “I’m coming with you. If the girls are having a sleepover then so are we. Best friend snuggles! Who’s excited?” I shot him a look.

He elbowed me, “Eh... come on. You are a little excited.” I rolled my eyes, “Come on then. I’m getting up for training so I can see Emmaline.” Dylan grumbled, “Who are you? And where is my friend Lucas? To think I was going to snuggle with you! IMPOSTER! I will avenge you, Lucas! I will!”

I just looked at him. He waved his hands around, “Yeah, yeah, yeah, like you’re the only one with that thought. Get up for training. I HATE senior year. Them being in high school is trying to thwart my road to forgiveness.” I agreed, “Yes, high school is the thorn in your rose bush.”

He crashed onto my bed in a full spread eagle. He grinned, “As long as you agree.” I told him, “That’s my side of the bed.” Dylan snored then said, “Shhhh... I’m already asleep.” I sighed, rolling my eyes for the millionth time tonight.

I walked over to the adjoining door. I opened it, nodding to Logan. I walked over to the bed and lightly kissed Emmaline’s forehead. I whispered, “I’m sorry, baby girl. I love you.” I willed my feet to leave the room.

My alarm went off entirely too early. Dylan groaned “That is like a half hour too early.” I sat up, “I want to get there before they do.” Dylan grumbled, “I hate you. Invasion of the body snatchers was supposed to be a fictional movie. How is this my life?” I listed of the things we had to do, “We have to go get your clothes, and that’s at the pack house. Someone hasn’t moved into the main house yet.”

Dylan grumbled, “Well that’s my bad then. I’ll just fix that. I’ll be linking people awake. Our stuffed will be moved today Are you happy?” I shrugged, “Marginally.” He grumbled as I got dressed. We walked into the pack house for him to change.

After five minutes I went up after him. I walked in his room and found him dressed laying on his bed. I yelled, “DYLAN!” He groaned, “Five more minutes, her pillow smells like her.” I groaned, “You can smell her in person at the gym.” He jumped up, “Can we fight them again today?” I wanted to say yes, but I was giving Emmaline as much space as I could.

I told him, “No, they want space.” Dylan frowned, “We aren’t giving them space. We are ambushing them at practice.” I shrugged, “It’s what I have to give her. I can’t be away from her, and not see her all damn day.” Dylan acknowledged, “You’re right. Let’s go. I need to at least see Lacy. Even if she glares daggers at me from her eyes. She’s beautiful even when she’s mad.” I nodded.

As we left someone handed Dylan coffee. He whispered, “Bless you, Denver. You are too good for this world.” Denver smiled and handed me a cup too. I accepted it, “Thank you, Denver.” He nodded, “Of course, Alpha.” We walked into the gym.

Alex raised an eyebrow. He walked over and asked, “Are you fighting Emmaline again?” I shook my head, “No, I’ll be fighting Dylan today. We just need to get a workout in.” Alex linked, “Bullshit. What happened?” I winced, “I messed up.” Alex nodded, “Ok.” I linked him the rest of the story. He sighed, “Got it.”

He asked Dylan, “Are you already on getting more information on fairies?” Dylan snorted, “Of course I am. I love them. I must know all about them to avoid the hoarders of information keeping things from me. I’m the one who has the knowledge and spits it out at the perfect time. They do not have this skill.” Alex laughed.

Emmaline’s scent reached me just as Dylan hit me in the arm. He linked, “They walked in. God she’s gorgeous.” I growled but he just rolled his eyes continuing, “Lacy... Lacy is gorgeous, you possessive sleep tyrant you.” I turned to see both of our mates clearly shocked to see us here.

Emmaline was in yoga pants and a tight top. My shorts got tighter, “Shit... Did she think we might be here? Because that outfit is...” Dylan agreed, “Same. Maybe they thought we would be here and torturing us would be fun.” I sighed; they were smart like that.

I linked Alex, “Does the Emmaline usually wear outfits like that?” Alex winced, “Yup.” I barely withheld my growl. I told Dylan, “Evidently, they find this to be appropriate workout attire, even if we aren’t here.”

Dylan replied, “Great. We won’t be able to say anything about it for a year minimum because we screwed up. I blame those packs Lacy visited. She was raised here. What did those ruffians teach her? It must have been her stint with fairies. My fun sized ninja fairy wears essentially sports bras. I shan’t feel bad for King Alpha Prick. It won’t work.”

It was cardio day for everyone. I felt Emmaline’s trepidation. I linked Alex, “Emmaline swims today. She had a tiring day yesterday.” He nodded and moved off to tell Emmaline. Dylan and I went to the mats, taking our aggression out on each other. I linked Dylan, “Lacy keeps glancing over here. She’s worried.” He smirked as he went in for a punch, “Good.”

We went at it until my dad walked up. He ordered, “Boys, enough.” We both stopped. I told him, “We are just working out.” My dad raised his eyebrow, “I was born at night, but it wasn’t last night. Lacy linked me, she was worried. Take that and run with it, Dylan. Had Emmaline been watching she would’ve been worried too.”

I sighed and went to the gym door and waited. Lacy went to go get Emmaline. Dominic was jumping up and down, “She has to walk by us, and we will be able to scent her.” I smiled, “It’s why I’m standing by the door.” Emmaline turned, then waved to me telling me to have a good day before popping away.

Dylan linked, “A wave? We both get a WAVE? She called your dad to stop our fight, and I don’t even get a goodbye before school? At minimum, I want a hand squeeze. It’s barely touching.”

I sighed, “Let’s go wait outside the Luna rooms. We can tell them we just wanted to let them know we hope they have a good day too.” We went to the room and waited. I heard the pop signaling they’d left. I sighed as I heard the car start outside.

Dylan growled, “Seriously? No goodbye?” I frowned, “It seems that way.” Dylan stalked to the office. He pounded on the phone dialing numbers. I asked, “What are

you doing?" The phone call was answered, "Beta Caleb of Black Mountain pack speaking."

Dylan growled, "I was looking for King Alpha Prick." Caleb said, "Hi Dylan. Eric is spending time with his family." Dylan growled again, "PRICK! Haley isn't even mad anymore, is she?" Jackson chimed in, "Haley woke up at two this morning. They fought for a long ass time according to Eric. It's not resolved, and he will be busy until further notice. They always have family time on Thursday mornings. Eric said he won't be down like normal when the triplets go down for their nap. He and Haley are going to keep talking."

Dylan sarcastically spat, "How nice for him, they are on speaking terms! I would take talking. Hell, I'd take shouting. Our mates are avoiding us!" Jackson sighed, "I'm sorry guys. I have a situation here that I need to deal with." He hung up.

Dylan asked, "Why are we friends with him again? He's so unfair! His mate is not in high school, she's a double princess, she wasn't raised in this realm, and she talks to him when she's mad." Dylan's eyes filled with tears. "I want to be yelled at; I just want something." I hugged him, "So do I."

We managed to get some work done. Ryan came into my office, "We already heard. Dustin and I tried to reason with Katie. I talked to Evie; she's just hurt. She'll get over it." I asked dejectedly, "When?" Ryan winced, "The longest she's gone without talking when she's upset was a week and half. She got mad at me and Dustin, for the life of me I can't remember why." I winced.

Dylan slammed his head on the table, "Great. That's great. Lacy would join her in solidarity." Ryan said, "I'll keep talking to her. Dustin said he would too." I nodded, "Thank you both. Are you alright with what happened at the dance?"

Ryan sighed, "Define alright." I snorted, "Is your heart no longer sputtering?" Ryan sat down, "Valerie was going to die, and there was nothing I could do to save her. The shadows said she was too far gone for them to help." I was surprised he'd asked, but I shouldn't have been. I admitted, "I didn't know the shadows could heal."

Ryan nodded, "For a price. It was going to cost me my life." I gaped at him, "Ryan..." He said, "Don't say you wouldn't do that same. They weren't happy about it. The shadows like me, Dustin, and Katie. They were happy Valerie was too far gone for them to save." I sighed, "She's alright though, Haley brought her back to us." Ryan nodded, "I'm getting back to normal. She was dying in my arms. It's just hard." I said, "I know. If you need anything, I'm here." Ryan nodded and left the room.

Eric called at three in the afternoon. He greeted, "I hear I missed you all this morning." Dylan bitterly spat out, "I hear your mate talked to you." Eric told him, "She yelled for quite some time, Dylan." I said, "That's better than not speaking to you, or refusing to look in your general direction."

Dylan added, "I just bet you and our fun sized ninja fairy are all good now." Eric told him, "Not all good, but mostly yes. We disagree on how to handle the situation, but that's not a deal breaker for either of us. I will have the proposal to allow she wolves to be Alpha's, Beta's, Gamma's, and Lead Warriors to you shortly for your signature, Lucas." I said, "That's fine."

Eric seemed to be weighing his words, "Haley is... taking your mates to Disney World after school." Dylan and I jumped up. I yelled, "SHE'S WHAT?" I heard a pop. Haley stated, "Haley is helping your asses that's what Haley's doing! Ungrateful twirps!" I heard her say, "Bye, Thor." Then I heard her kiss him.

Dylan lost it, "She's even kissing him! OH, CRUEL UNIVERSE! I can't even get yelled at." Haley laughed, "I've more than kissed him today, my friend Dylan. I'll link you later, Eric."

Dylan threw a glass and broke it. He said, "You even had sex?! How does he get yelled at, talked to, and sexed up? I can't even get a glance thrown my way, let alone yelled at. He's getting sex already. This is why schools are evil. Evil Lucas. They teach them things, but they keep them away from us. I'm getting them a tutor. They SHALL be home schooled." He took out his phone. I sighed, "Dylan..." He said, "No need to thank me. I know it's a great idea." I'd stop that later.

Eric said, "My mate was raised differently than both of yours. I have been in my relationship longer; we have ground rules. Haley barely spoke to me the entire summit. We agreed not to let that happen again. We promised that we would put everything, except our pups, on hold to resolve things between us. The first time was angry sex if that makes you feel better."

Dylan turned red with rage, "THE FIRST TIME! I hate him, Lucas. I do." I sighed, "Why is she taking the girls to Disney World?" Eric laughed, "Because google told her it was a magical place." I groaned, "Eric, my mate didn't sleep in our bed and she waved to me before she left. I'm not in a great mood."

Eric changed his tone, "She said they all needed to do something fun and normal. She wants to talk to Emmaline because she feels partly responsible for both of you fighting with your mates. She said she didn't fully explain Emmaline's powers. She is

pissed off at herself because she gets on full blooded fairy's for doing that." Ok, that made sense, but she could've done that here.

Eric continued, "She wants them to have fun too. She scheduled appointments for them to get dressed up as Disney Princesses. They are going to ride rides and have girl time." I asked, "Who is going with them?" Eric answered, "Harper, Gunner, and Haley's entire guard. She invited her brother's mates, but they were busy. Astrid was trying to wrap up her training so she could go. The Black Arrow is also going."

Dylan mumbled, "I want to go. They get to have all the fun. I love Disney World." I pointed out, "It's a girls day thing." Dylan said, "I distinctly heard the names Harper and Gunner. Plus, Blade is in her guard. Can't you imagine him on the rides? I can. It will be glorious and no one will take a picture for the memo. Missed opportunities I tell you." I shrugged, "One is her brother, the other is dating her brother. Blade is guard. Is Haley at least calling me Lucas yet?"

Eric answered, "She called you her lion." I sighed, "At least one woman doesn't hate me." Eric lowered his voice, "Neither Emmaline nor Lacy hate either you." I asked, "Wait didn't Katie go with them?" Eric said, "Katie is there too, yes."

I smiled, "So additional Hackura guards are with them." Eric said, "I'm sure Logan is there as well." Dylan muttered, "Lurking like a horror villain waiting to jump out and murder someone. Seriously can they make a little noise every once in a while?" Eric said, "In my experience, they cannot." With that he hung up.

Dylan said, "Well, maybe when the girls get back, we will get yelled at." I shrugged, "I hope so." I took out my clue. "I saw a book of Fealish on Emmaline's nightstand. At least I can solve my clue." Dylan looked at it then stared at me.

I asked, "What?" He told me, "That isn't Fealish. They're words scrambled around. Honestly, you would be LOST without me." I took it from him, and we unscrambled the words. I read it out loud. "Your next clue is hiding in an envelope at the bottom of the lake in the chest. What the hell?"

We both ran outside and managed to make out a chest at the bottom of the lake. "Oh, for crying out loud." Dylan smiled, "I finally have something to smile about today. Don't ruin this for me. Go get your clue!" I sighed. He was right. At least this was fun.

I started taking off my clothes. I got down to my underwear and dove into the water. I reached the chest thanking the goddess I had supernatural lung capacity. I opened the chest and inside an envelope encased in glass held my next clue. I pulled it out, swam



back to the surface and got on the dock. A funk appeared in my hands as soon as I stood up. Dylan squealed, "You just have to love fairy magic. What's the clue?" I read it out loud:

## Clue 8

General Jackson holds your next clue where he floats.

I growled, "Jackson!" Dylan frowned, "That was too easy. I don't like it." I pulled out my phone calling Eric again. He answered amused, "Lucas, the girls are fine, and having fun." I growled, "Jackson has my next clue." Jackson sounded confused, "No, I don't."

I growled, "I dove to the bottom of my lake and opened the chest that now lives there. The clue clearly says General Jackson holds my next clue." Jackson laughed, "I don't know what to tell you. I'm not your next clue. I don't have any of the clues."

I asked, "Who the hell else would General Jackson be?" Jackson answered, "I don't know, but I can tell you it's not me. I have nothing to do with this, so far anyway." I growled. Eric started laughing.

Dylan frowned, "Do my ears deceive me, King Alpha Prick? You laugh now? It gives me such pause. It's a terrifying sound. The pups nearby just fled the area." Eric taunted, "I fucked for several hours today, Dylan. How's your sex life?" Dylan growled at him.

Eric continued, "I asked Haley about Lucas' clue, and she told me what it means. It's good and Jackson isn't lying. It's not him." I groaned in frustration, "Fine." I hung up the phone.

I asked Dylan, "Any ideas Beta of mine, who I'd be lost without?" He said, "I was certain it was Jackson. Maybe it's the Jackson River." I raised an eyebrow, "In Virginia? I don't think so." We both shrugged and went back inside.

We worked until we heard a pop. We both jumped up like two kids waiting for a prize. I frowned greeting the two people in front of me, "Bexley, Eric, we weren't expecting you." Bexley laughed, "But it's fighting training night." I frowned, "I thought they were at Disney World having fun." Bexley smiled, "Yes, they popped back for fighting lessons."

Dylan asked, "Are you joining them Sunlight Fairy Hands?" Bexley smirked, "Yup." She popped away as I raced outside. Haley was already explaining the training plan.

Emmaline and Lacy took off running. Haley and her group waited until we caught up then took off.

I growled when I heard Emmaline grunt in pain. I asked no one in particular, "Is this necessary?" Logan answered, "If you want Emmaline to have the highest chance of survival, yes." I growled, "It's five on two." Logan said, "In real life that could happen. It could be far more than five even. My sister knows what she's doing." I sighed.

Dylan grumbled, "Unless she's not telling us a side effect of Emmaline's power." Dylan was pinned to the outside of the gym before I could blink. Logan squeezed his throat, "Listen very carefully, Dylan." I interrupted him growling, "Logan, let him go."

Logan glanced back then dropped Dylan. He said, "It's not my sister's fault neither of you communicated with your mates. YOU made those choices, not her. She didn't mean to hold back, and she feels bad about it. She just spent several hours making sure both your mates were cheered up. She took them both aside and spoke to them about her part in all this."

Dylan jumped up, "I know that. I love our fun ninja sized fairy." Logan said, "Good. You best be very sure that nothing you say in future insinuates otherwise. EVER." Katie took Logan by the hand and led him away.

Eric said, "The Hackura do not abide disrespect, Dylan. When it comes to their sister; they don't even hear derision or sarcasm in anyone's tone." Dylan said, "I got that just now, ever so loud, and clear. Unless of course it's mommy queenie meanie in your territory. Then they seem to lose all sense of hearing, but that's just me. Oh, wait no it's not people talk about it. You know I love our very own fun sized ninja airy." Eric growled at him.

Dylan continued, "As a friend." Eric said, "Yes, as much as I loathe that, I do know it. What did you mean about my mother?" Dylan smiled, "I love that you know that's who I was talking about." Eric sighed. Dylan said, "Ask your fun sized ninja fairy." Eric growled, "Fine."

Eric looked around at our group then smiled, "There could be some fun fairy drama at your wedding, Dylan." Dylan perked up, "Really? Why?" Eric smirked, "I have promised not to share that information until my wife is positive she's right. I just thought you would like to know. You will eat it up if she's right."

I linked Eric, “You did that to cheer him up.” Eric replied, “I dislike him being sullen. He’s supposed to be an obnoxious big kid. He will also be annoyed if Haley is right.” I laughed, “You like him.”

Dylan squealed, “My day has turned. I think I see the sun peeking through the clouds. I will be entertained and someone else will be annoyed. Now I want to know what fairy fun will ensue.”

Eric rolled his eyes. Dylan said, “October is so far away! Maybe I can convince Lacy to have our wedding sooner.” I snorted, “October starts next week.” Dylan growled, “So we get married October first, it’s a fabulous idea.”

Lacy ran over to us breathing heavily. “The invitations have been sent out, Dylan Frost. We are getting married on Halloween. I didn’t hear why you want to change the date, but it’s not happening. DO YOU HEAR ME?”

Dylan grinned like he’d won the lottery, “Ever so clearly. No date changes, Halloween it is.” Lacy studied him then nodded, “Good.” She yelled, “EMMALINE!” Emmaline popped next to Lacy then popped away.

A shot of sunlight came towards us. Eric hit the ground and I tackled Dylan down. Eric yelled, “Bexley!” We just heard a giggle in reply. Dylan smiled as we stood up, “She yelled at me.” Eric raised an eyebrow, “You say that like it’s a good thing.”

Dylan grin broadened, “I have wanted her to yell at me all day, King Alpha Prick. OF COURSE, I have to thank you for it happening. What’s it like having everything go your way twenty-four seven?” I rolled my eyes.

I linked Eric, “I’m actually jealous she yelled at him.” Eric said, “Emmaline’s unlikely to yell at you. It’s not the heat of the moment anymore. Haley said she’s more disappointed than anything else.” I shrugged, “I’d take eye contact.”

Eric looked at me, “I think you’ll get that. You know I fucked up with Haley a lot at first. I obviously still step in the deep end from time to time. She has messed up with me. We get through it. We are forever. You and Emmaline are forever too. Admitting you fucked up is always a good place to start.”

Haley popped next to me, “When you solve your next clue my lion, call me. I have... well it wasn’t planned, but now there’s a surprise that goes with it. Ok, bye.” Haley popped away. Eric smiled.

My gaze narrowed on him, “You know what her surprise is, don’t you?” He just smiled, “Since I know what your clue is, and I know my wife, I’ll bet I do. My advice, solve that clue quickly.” I asked, “Can you give me a hint? Dylan’s best idea was the Jackson river... In Virginia.” Dylan snorted, “It was better than your idea.” Well, true.

Eric said, “Keep going along the river lines. Just not Virginia.” Dylan clapped his hands, “You see? I am a genius, just admit it. Without me you are lost.” I sighed, “Really, Eric? You couldn’t have just linked me that?”

Dylan put his phone away and said, “Just for that, I won’t tell you what I just discovered. I know your clue, and it’s good.” I growled, “Come on!” Dylan said, “No, no King Alpha Prick gave you a good hint. Figure it out.”

I sighed, “I’d rather figure out how to get my mate to talk to me.” Dylan shrugged, “Suggest a different wedding date. Surprisingly, that worked for me.” I rolled my eyes, “Lacy has supernatural hearing, but Emmaline doesn’t.” Dylan tilted his head in agreement.

Haley finally ended their practice. Emmaline and Lacy came out beaming with pride, covered with dirt from head to toe. Haley complimented, “You guys did good.” She snapped and they were clean again. Haley popped onto Eric’s back.

Dylan muttered, “I hate him, I really do.” Haley shot Dylan a look. She asked, “Why?” She studied him, “You don’t actually mean you hate him.” Dylan shrugged, “It’s guy stuff.” Haley said, “Guy stuff gets you all in enough trouble as it is. I’d let it fucking go.” Dylan said, “Not him, he’s never in trouble.”

Haley frowned, “Eric gets in trouble. Don’t you, Thor?” Eric smiled and rubbed her arm, “All the time, Angel.” Haley asked, “Logan, are you guys coming with us?” Logan shook his head, “No, you guys go on.” Haley smiled, “Bye Lacy and Emmaline. I hope you had fun today! I did.” Emmaline quickly said, “We had a great time. Thank you! Bye, Haley.” Haley popped her and Eric away.

Lacy stalked over to Dylan, “I don’t know what’s gotten into you Dylan Frost! I can’t believe you were trying to change the date of our wedding. I mean really, after the crap you’ve already pulled you try to add this.” Lacy yanked him by the arm heading for the pack house.

I told her, “Your stuff was moved to your wing today, Lacy Loo. You live back in the main house.” I saw her smile before she rounded on Dylan, “Now you move my things without even asking. It’s just insulting, Dylan!” She was berating him the

whole way back to the house. Dylan was skipping along behind her grinning from ear to ear.

Emmaline cleared her throat, “She’s not really mad about that last part.” I spun to face her. My throat felt dry. My tone wasn’t steady when I replied, “I know.” She held out her hand, and I took it without a second thought.

She popped us to a beautiful place. I looked around, there were flowers, a lake, a rainbow, and the sun was shining. The sun was shining? That wasn’t even possible, it was dark outside. I asked her, “Where are we?” Emmaline smiled, “Haley showed me how to create my own special place like this. We are the only ones who can find it because we are soul tied.”

I smiled, “You did this?” She nodded, “Haley and I came back a half hour early. She instructed me on how to create it, but I did it all. She didn’t say a single enchantment for it. She wrote them down for me.” I complimented, “It’s truly amazing, baby girl.”

I was looking around when I heard a splash. Emmaline seductively asked, “Aren’t you coming?” She snapped me into swim trunks and I couldn’t help but notice she was in a bikini. I got into the water and swam to her. She told me, “Haley thought this could be a place in our territory I could safely do the water fairy ritual. No one could find me here besides you.” I agreed, “I think it’s great.”

We swam in silence for a few moments. I told her, “I’m so sorry.” Emmaline sighed, “I just don’t understand. I thought we’d settled this. We agreed we talk to each other. Then you just go and loan out my fairy powers without asking me. For a person you knew I wouldn’t want to tell their mate to.”

I cringed, “I know. It wasn’t my intention I swear to you. I should have stopped him from asking. I should have told him no. As his ally, I can’t keep his mate from him, but I don’t have to have you bring him to her. It was thoughtless and I’m very sorry. I just understand how he feels. Now that I have you, I can’t imagine what he’s going through.”

She nodded, “I don’t mind using my powers to help you. Or even to bring people together, I love that part. I just want to be part of the conversation. Especially since they are my powers.” I cautioned, “We might have to be more careful about who you bring together.” Emmaline smiled, “Don’t worry, Haley and I talked through that. I had a bit of a meltdown thinking about how that could go bad.”

I asked, “What conclusion did you all come to?” Emmaline smiled, “The mate bond is a powerful thing. Only someone who is malicious could fight against it to hurt their

mate. I can sense their intentions. Besides, it's not like I know everyone's mate. Just people I've met or seen a picture of. For now, anyway." I nodded, "That's true."

Emmaline touched my cheek, "Don't worry, Lucas." I said, "I'll spend the rest of life worrying about you and trying to keep you safe. I love you, baby girl." She smiled, "I love you too." I smiled, "I thought you'd yell at me. In fact, I've been hoping you'd yell at me all day." She laughed, "Is that why Dylan is grinning like an idiot, because Lacy yelled at him?" I nodded, "Yup."

Emmaline sighed, "I don't want to yell at you. I don't even want to fight. I'm tired of fighting. I've fought with Dusty, you, and Alpha Hammond keeps popping up. I'm tired of fighting. I just want peace." I pulled her into me. "I will try my best to give you that. I will do better."

Emmaline admitted, "Being in a relationship is new to me too." I nodded and she popped us back to our room. I asked her hopefully, "Are you staying with me tonight?" Dominic was growling, "If she won't stay with you, I'm taking over to ask. I miss her scent." I agreed, "I'll give you control if she says no."

Emmaline nodded, "I missed waking up with you." I hugged her, "I missed you so damn much baby girl." Emmaline snorted, "I forgot how dramatic wolves are. You claim fairies are the dramatic ones, but I did see you this morning. I spent one night away from you, and you're acting like it was a week."

I sighed, "Ryan told me the longest you'd gone without talking was a week." Emmaline shrugged, "I might have made it to Saturday. The power of a girl's day and talking to your friends can't be overstated." I rubbed her shoulders, "You feel free to have as many girl days as you want as long as there's protection there for you all." Emmaline hit me with a snowball, "I'm all the protection I need, thank you very much." I smiled and wrapped my arms around her so we could sleep.

Dominic purred, "She's so cute when she hits us with snowballs." I rolled my eyes. He'd ripped out throats for far less than that. He was right though, it was cute. I woke up to a kiss on the cheek. Emmaline said, "I'll see you after school, Lucas." I nodded. "Have a good day, baby girl." She skipped off to school while I took a long cold shower. Even thinking of her and jacking myself off wasn't removing my need to be inside her.

I finally turned the shower off, got dressed and went to my office. Dylan was there already smiling, "I got yelled at all night long. It was fabulous. Then I didn't even have to go outside to get to work. I swung by the kitchen, picked up both our

breakfasts with our coffees. Life is good. I plan for it to be better tonight, but for now life is good.”

I groaned, “I still don’t want to think about you and my sister together.” Dylan shrugged, “You seem better too.” I nodded, “Yes, we talked.” Dylan asked, “Talked? At a normal volume? She didn’t yell at you?” I shook my head, “She’s tired of fighting. With me, her brother, and Alpha Hammond.”

Dylan sighed, “Our PI’s hit another wall with that. Hammond’s mother gave birth after his father died, but the record is…” I groaned finished the sentence, “Sealed by magic.” Dylan nodded. I complained, “Great. Just great. Could we catch a break?”

Dylan happily stated, “We did with our mates. They are speaking to us now, so we have that going for us.” I stood, “We need to stop Hammond. He keeps coming. This last one was more intense. If a warlock hadn’t raised Emmaline, she would’ve thought I cheated on her. What’s the goal of that? She runs into his arms?”

Dylan straightened. He asked, “What was she supposed to do? She went to Dustin, that obviously wasn’t their plan.” Simultaneously we said, “Someone was outside waiting to take her.” Dylan yelled, “JINX!”

I dialed Al. A female voice greeted, “Al’s Diner.” I told them, “I need to speak to Al.” The voice sighed, “I need a million dollars, Al is busy.” I growled, “Who is this?” The voice answered, “Wendy.” I linked Dylan, “Couldn’t it have been Liz?” Dylan said, “Evidently not.”

I politely said, “Just tell Al that Mr. Lyons is on the phone.” The voice sighed, “All right. I’ll tell Al the guy that owns most of the town is on the phone, but Al’s still busy. Prank callers. Jeez.” Dylan started laughing.

I heard Liz pick up the phone, “Mr. Lyons, I’m so sorry about that. I’ll transfer you back to Al’s office.” I sighed in relief, “Thank you, Liz.” I heard the line pick up after a few moments, “Alpha. Sorry about Wendy.” I quickly said, “It’s fine. The night of the dance did you see anyone suspicious?”

Al answered, “No, there was a parent that stayed in our parking lot. They had binoculars and everything.” We looked at each other. Dylan asked, “Man or woman?” Al answered, “Definitely a mom. Pretty lady according to Frank. He laughed about it when he went out for his cigarette.”

I asked, “What kind of car?” Al replied, “An SUV why?” I wanted to groan, “Plates?” Al said, “I… Alpha?” I asked, “You heard about the dance, right?” Al said, “Sure…”

the illusion... Oh god... Emmaline. That woman was waiting for Emmaline?" I agreed, "We think so. She must have been waiting for Emmaline to come outside. They made her think she saw me kiss someone else."

Al growled, "I'll tell Frank to be on the lookout for her. I'm sorry, Alpha." I reassured him, "You didn't know. It was a reasonable conclusion. It still could've been a mom of one of the Red Run students looking to see who her son or daughter went to the dance with." Al said, "I suppose." We hung up and sat down. I groaned, "Not a single break."

I took out my clue and googled General Jackson. I yelled, "SON OF A BITCH! The boat in Nashville? I have to go to Nashville?" Dylan laughed, "Do you hear an angel chorus when you solve a clue?" I growled at him.

I called Eric. He picked up immediately, "Lucas." I asked, "I have to go to Nashville for a clue?" Eric laughed, "It's better than Virginia. Just avoid the packs down there. I hadn't told Haley that we don't like them down there."

I sighed, "Haley wanted me to call her when I solved this clue." I heard a pop. Haley said, "My lion, did you solve your clue?" I answered, "Yes, the steamboat in Nashville. How did you even work that out?" Haley said, "A friend, BUT since you are going to Nashville I've arranged some things."

Dylan started laughing. I asked cautiously, "What things?" Haley said, "For you and Emmaline. You have tickets to the dinner show on the General Jackson steamboat. I also got you an Airbnb, it's a riverfront loft. This google has its advantages. Miley told me about Airbnb's fascinating site. I'll have Eric text you the address. Since Emmaline can just pop you to Nashville when she gets home from school; you could go walk around Centennial Park. Whatever you guys want. She'll have a card with unlimited funds to spend. Have fun, my lion!" I heard a pop.

Tickets for the dinner appeared on my desk, and my phone chimed with the Airbnb instructions. The address and the code to the door. I was stunned, "Eric, she didn't have to do this." I heard a pop, as the doorbell rang. Haley giggled, "It's mostly for your mates. You should get the door, my friend Dylan."

Dylan stood, "Really? Is it for me? I LOVE MY FAIRY SHOW!" Haley laughed, "Like I would forget about you. I talked to Dale too, letting him know you'd both be busy until tomorrow. Have fun guys. I'm sorry for not explaining everything so you could make your bad decision with the full picture about Emmaline's powers. Let's all admit you all would've come up with another dumb thing to do, but you weren't given



the choice. For that I'm sorry." With that she popped away. Dylan said, "I like fairy apologies."

Someone knocked on my door before my mom came in. She patted Dylan on the arm, "Your limo driver is here, Dylan." Dylan bounced up and down, "A limo?" My mom laughed, "Yes. Here's the key to your hotel room." Dylan took it gleefully. He squealed, "THE PENTHOUSE! I LOVE FAIRY APOLOGIES!"

He ran downstairs, and I followed him out of curiosity. Sure enough, there was a hummer stretch limo in the driveway. My mom said, "Now you boys fix this with my girls, you hear?" We nodded. She said, "Don't think I don't find out what goes on in this house. I still know everything. Valerie went into heat at school today. Emmaline popped her to Ryan."

Dylan mumbled, "I knew that. I was linked. I did know." I snorted, "Why didn't you tell me?" Dylan said, "Because it was handled." My mom laughed, "See? I know everything, boys." She turned to Dylan, "Like I know my baby will go into heat soon. Be on better terms with her, or I'll have Emmaline pop her somewhere with me. I'll keep her in ice water until her heats over. Don't make me do that young man. You know I want a grandpup. I'll hold it against you for years to come." With that she walked away.

I looked at Dylan, "Lacy being pregnant at her wedding won't be so bad." Dylan was preening with delight, "Moon goddess, I will do anything Lacy wants. I could find the ice bath location. I could. My super sniffer would activate!"

I laughed, "Well, we will get to see if my mom's right." Dylan snorted, "If... IF? Name ONE time that woman has been wrong in our lives. She is scarily accurate." I had to agree. We saw Brad pull in with a smile on his face.

He got out of the car shaking his head. He told us, "You guys have no idea." I looked at Dylan asking, "About what?" The car doors opened and Lacy and Emmaline got out. They were in incredible, sexy dresses. I gulped. Dylan said, "I am getting a statue made of my fun sized fairy. I will give thanks to it and worship at its feet."

I agreed, "Use my credit card." I couldn't take my eyes off Emmaline as Lacy giggled. I told her, "You look amazing, baby girl." She turned in a circle, "You like it?" I nodded and she ran over to me. "I can't wait for our big date!" I caught her in my arms, "Me either, baby girl."