

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 116-Ashlyn

After I was ready, my mates led me through the house to the living room, where everyone was waiting. The house was beautiful. I was in awe as we walked through the house.

“We didn’t change much. We want you to make this place feel and look like home,” Mason told me.

“Is this how your mother had it?” I asked him, and he nodded.

“She had great taste,” he said, and I nodded.

“It’s wonderful. Honestly, I wouldn’t change a thing unless either of you wanted to. And I love what you both did with James’ room. It’s beautiful.” I told them.

“I’m glad you like it, Baby.” Mason said, pulling me to his side as we walked.

They led me to a doo, and could hear the others talking. I could hear Liam cooing with James. Talking about getting all the ladies and training him and such. It was so adorable and it warmed my heart to hear the love in his voice as he talked to him.

“Awe, Jamie, why are you being so fussing now?” Liam asked him as Mason opened the door.

“Probably because he wants momma.” I said behind Derek. Mason and Derek stepped to the side, revealing me to the group sitting in the living room.

“To be fair, I’d fuss until his momma held me to her chest,” Liam said, standing up. He walked over to me and handed me James before he wrapped his arms around me.

“We’ve missed you so much, Beautiful,” Liam mumbled into my cheek. I could hear Derek gr0aning. which made me laugh.

“I missed you too, Liam. I’m surprised Derek is letting you live here.” He giggled as I laughed.

“I know, right? I think he may have a crush on me.” Liam grinned at me. I was trying so hard to hold back my laughing.

“In your dreams, pretty boy.” I heard Derek yell out.

And with that, I couldn't hold back my laughter.

"Will you two knock it off?" my uncle Ben said. He stood up from his seat and came over to give me a hug.

"Living with a bunch of boneheads," he mumbled.

"I'm glad you're finally awake to tame your zoo." Uncle Ben said, making both me and Sage laugh.

"Yeah, sis, they are all yours now." She laughed out. I just rolled my eyes. I guess I'll stay busy working at my zoo.

"Brad, I expected you to be halfway around the world by now." I told him when he wrapped me in a hug.

"I couldn't leave, just in case," he whispered.

"Have you at least planned where you are going?" I asked him.

"Kind of. Eric and I are just going to go to the airport and get on the first flight out of here." He laughed.

"Oh, to be young again," I said, and he laughed.

"When did you become a little old lady?" He laughed out.

"When I had this baby boy," I told him.

"Fair enough. But if you ever want to travel, you can just take James with you," Brad said.

"That's true. But I think for right now, I'm just going to keep my feet on the ground." I told him.

"I understand, Buttercup. I'm so happy that you're awake," he said before kissing my temple.

Matt and Brandon were the next ones to come over and give me a hug.

"I saw what you did to that poor council building. You are one bada*ss witch," Matt said.

“Was it really that bad?” I asked him. I was trying to remember how I left it, but I couldn’t remember.

“We have to rebuild it.” Liam chimed in.

“Oops, my bad.” I shrugged.

“It’s okay, Baby. We needed to remodel that old building, anyway.” Mason said, pulling me close. I sat beside Mason on a couch, and Liam sat on the other side of me. I’m not sure where Derek ran off to.

“How are you feeling, Beautiful?” Liam asked me, and I could tell the others were listening intently.

“I’m okay. It’s weird being back. It felt like I was only gone for a couple of hours,” I said.

“Were you in the in between again?” Brandon asked.

Sage was sitting on his lap in a chair and they both looked so cute together.

“Not exactly,” I said. Derek walked back in and let out a growl.

“Could you stop touching my mate?” He growled at Liam.

“Maybe you shouldn’t leave her alone. She’s very touchable.” Liam tainted him. All of us erupted in laughter. Derek looked like he was going to kill Liam.

“You really like poking the dragon, don’t you?” I laughed out.

“I had better move before he actually kills me this time.” He said, kissing my cheek. He moved to sit beside Matt and Derek huffed, sitting beside me. Derek wrapped an arm around me, cursing under his breath.

“You okay?” I nudged his leg with mine.

“Till be better once I’ve marked you again. Until then, Magnus will be on edge.” He answered, kissing my temple. looked down to see that, even with all the noise, James was now sleeping. I leaned down and kissed his little head, now covered in thick, dark hair like Mason.

“Ashlyn, where did you go?” Sage asked me more seriously.

“Heaven.” I sighed, and I could hear some gasps.

“Brad, Donny says hi.” I told him.

“You saw Donny?” Brad exclaimed, and I nodded.

“I also saw my parents,” I told them.

“Really, Baby?” Mason asked, and I nodded.

“What did they say?” Sage asked. I could feel my emotions bubbling to the surface. Sage moved to sit on the coffee table in front of me.

“Ashlyn, it’s okay. You don’t have to answer. You can start at the beginning or you don’t have to tell us anything right now. We can tell you everything that happened after you killed Theo.” She said, wiping some tears off my cheeks.

“I’m sorry,” I whispered. Mason and Derek were rubbing my back and Sage was rubbing my leg.

“Hey, you died and came back. There is nothing to be sorry about. It’s a lot to process. You felt like you were gone for a few hours, while we had been here wondering what was happening for eight weeks. We can tell you what we found.” Sage said, and I nodded.

“Okay, what did you guys find out?” I asked them.

“Well, Susan, Grace, and the former vampire king are all dead,” Sage started.

“And Theo and Gregory.” Liam added.

“I killed Theo, but who killed Gregory?” I asked them.

“Ian did,” Mason told me. I turned my body so that I could look at him.

“What?” asked him, stunned.

“He shifted and killed Gregory when he was exiting the council building after you died and your magic vanished.” Mason explained.

“Was Ian okay? He shouldn’t have shifted in his condition.” I rushed out.

“Ian was fine.” Mason said, and I let out a breath.

"Ian and Alex were both okay," Derek confirmed.

"Okay, so all the bad guys are dead and I destroyed the council building." I breathed out.

"Yeah, that sums it up," Liam said.

"Okay, is there anything else?" I asked, looking around the room.

"Buttercup, what did you give up for my life?" Brad asked me.

"Tundra gave back the powers the goddess gave us, and she gave up the ability to shift." I answered, looking at him.

"Why would she do that?" he asked me sorrowfully.

"Because she loves you as much as I do. She knew I could never choose between you two, so she made that decision for me." I told him, with tears in my eyes.

"That's why you didn't shift?" Mason asked me, and I nodded.

"Ashlyn, let me take James," Sage offered. She stood up, and I handed over my sleeping baby to her. Brad took Sage's seat in front of me.

"Buttercup, I'm so sorry about Tundra." Brad said, Wrapping his arms around me and pulling me into his chest.

"I don't regret the decision she made to save your life, Brad. I just miss her." I mumbled into his chest.

"She didn't come back with you," Brad said. I pulled away, wiping away my tears.

"Everything comes at a price. She stayed so that I could come back." I breathed out. Mason wrapped his arm around me, pulling me to his side. I rested my head on his chest.

"And Donny, says hi?" Brad asked, making me giggle.

"Yeah," I laughed. Donny definitely knew how to give a serious situation a laugh.

“That sounds like him,” Brad said, shaking his head.

“He was always a goofball,” I told Brad, and he laughed.

“You don’t even know half of it,” he said.

“I’m sorry about Grace,” I told him.

“Don’t be. Our relationship was always toxic, the bond just blinded the truth. And besides, without Grace, I would never have met you, or had the pleasure of raising you.” Brad said. I could feel the tears coming back to the surface.

“Stop being so sweet.” I huffed, trying to wipe away my tears.

“Lets go eat, Buttercup. I’m starving.” Uncle Ben announced, standing from his seat.

“Shotgun the seat beside Ashlyn.” Liam yelled out, running out of the room.

“I’m going to fvcken kill him,” Derek huffed, making me laugh.

“You know he does that, because he knows it bothers you, right?” I laughed.

“Their br0mance is so adorable,” Brandon said, earning him a growl from Derek.

“Hey, if you want to take Liam for a spin, I won’t judge.” Mason laughed out and Derek glared at him.

“A bunch of fvcken bone heads.” Uncle Ben commented as we walked to the dining room.

“You guys are ridiculous.” I laughed.

After dinner, I was feeling more like myself again. It was so good to be around most of the people that I care so deeply for. I missed Tundra deeply, but she gave me so much and I couldn’t let her down. After dinner was all cleaned up, and everyone had lifted, my mates and I headed up to our room. It was located on the third floor of this massive house. I swear the kitchen alone was the size of our apartment and I can’t wait to explore more of our home tomorrow.

The first thing I did after entering our room was check on James. He was sleeping soundly, and I found myself just standing by his crib, watching him sleep. He is so perfect. I reached over and picked up the gold wolf stuffy that was on a small shelf by his crib. I held it to my chest while I watched him.

“Your momma wolf loves you so much, our little pup.” I whispered to him.

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 117-Mason

After our little get-together, Derek went to shower and Ashlyn went to check up on James. I have a baby monitor that is linked to my phone so I can check up on him whenever I want, and it also alerts me to noises in his room.

I pulled up the footage to see Ashlyn watching over our boy holding the gold wolf that Sage bought for him.

The wolf looked like Tundra and I was going to have to ask Sage where she bought it or I'd get a custom one made up for her. I knew she needed something to remind her of her wolf.

Derek came out of the bathroom with a towel wrapped around his hips. I'm surprised he was actually wearing a towel. He's been walking around na*ked for weeks now.

I motioned for him to come over to me. I was sitting on our bed, looking at my phone.

“Mason?” Derek asked, sitting down beside me. He rested his head on my shoulder while we watched Ashlyn.

“Your momma wolf loves you so much, our baby pup.” Ashlyn whispered to him and it broke my heart to hear her so heartbroken.

“Do you think she'll be okay?” Derek asked me.

“It's going to take some time. I think all we can do is hold her and be a shoulder to cry on. We will never truly understand what she's been through.” I told him.

“I'm just a lad she's finally back. I know that may sound selfish, but not having her here was hell.” Derek confessed. And I had to agree. I know she is going through a rough time right now, but things will get better.

She just has to find herself again.

“Could you imagine life without me?” Thor asked in my head.

“No, I couldn’t. I’m sorry buddy, I know you lost your mate.” I told him.

“You better not fvck this up, or I’ll leave you.” He huffed, retreating to the back of my mind. I wonder what he meant by me fvcking up. I love her more than my own life. I’d give up anything for her. All she’d have to do was ask. Title, money, none of that mattered if she was gone.

Ashlyn finally came back into our room and headed into the closet. She came back out wearing one of my shirts, looking se*xy as hell. Derek was already lying on his side of the bed, in only his boxers, and I could tell that he was already hard, watching her walk towards our bed.

Ashlyn and I met halfway after I put my phone down.

I was still dressed, but I knew I wouldn’t be much longer.

I wrapped my arms around her wa!st, and before she could say anything, I pulled her into my che3st, crushing my !!ps to hers.

Even without the bond or the sparks, my d!ck was instantly and painfully hard. She was still the most beautiful woman I’ve ever seen. And I knew this feeling was real.

I pulled her back with me, not breaking our k!ss, until the back of my legs hit the mattress. I sat down on the edge, grabbing her th!ghs, I pulled her onto my lap, straddling me. Ashlyn let out a m0an, and I thrust my tongue into her mouth, tasting every inch of her. Oh, how I’ve missed the way she tastes. I felt the bed dip behind me, and Derek started k!ssing my neck and shoulder, causing goosebumps to erupt all over my body. The most we do is k!ss and cuddle. It felt wrong doing anything more with Ashlyn in a coma.

Ashlyn started rolling her h!ps against me as our tongues fought for dominance. I moved my hands under her shirt, touching her bare skin. She felt so right in my arms. I pulled out of the k!ss when my lungs started screaming for oxygen. She was panting as I k!ssed down her neck.

“Mason,” she m0aned out, grinding her h!ps harder into me, making me gr0an into her neck.

“Baby.” I moaned in her ear.

“Mason, why are your clothes still on?” She moaned out, pulling my shirt up over my head. Derek pulled me back on the bed, so I was now lying on my back with Ashlyn on top of me. He crushed his lips to mine while Ashlyn kissed down my chest. She sunk her teeth into my chest, causing me to gasp. I wasn’t expecting her to bite, but man, was it hot.

Derek took that moment to thrust his tongue into my mouth, tasting every inch of my mouth. I grabbed the nape of his neck, forcing him closer to me while our tongues battled it out. I was so lost in what Derek and I were doing that I almost forgot about Ashlyn kissing her way down my body. She tugged down my pants and boxers before she took one of my balls into her mouth.

Derek swallowed my moans as she licked her way to the tip of my very hard cock. She licked the tip, moaning as she cleaned off the pre-cum. My other hand found the back of her head, fisting her hair as she took my full length into her mouth, causing my hips to buck against her face.

Derek kissed down my jaw, to my neck as I moved in rhythm with Ashlyn bobbing her head.

“Baby” I groaned out, throwing my head back onto the mattress as my tip hit the back of her throat. After not cumming for the last eight weeks, I’m surprised I’ve lasted this long. Her mouth felt so good wrapped around my cock as I fucked her mouth. Derek was sucking and nipping at my neck, and I knew I wouldn’t last much longer. I was just about to cum deep down her throat when Derek bit down, marking me as his. Fisting Ashlyn’s hair, I let out a groan as I shot my ribbons of cum in her mouth.

I was panting when Derek pulled his teeth out of my neck, licking over his new mark, sealing it. When he was done, he crushed his lips to mine, as Ashlyn made sure she licked up every drop of cum. When she was satisfied and I was painfully hard again, she kissed her way up to my neck, sucking on my new mark.

“You taste so good.” She moaned, licking up my neck. I grabbed her hips, grinding her soaking wet pussy into my cock. My tip hit her clit, causing her to moan out, digging her nails into my chest.

Derek grabbed the nape of Ashlyn’s neck before crushing his lips to hers. I watched them as I grinded my cock between her folds, coating myself in her

juices. I leaned up to her now bare chest, capturing one of her nipples in my mouth, sucking it into my mouth hard.

Derek swallowed her gasps and moans as one of her hands fisted my hair, holding me to her chest.

Ashlyn moved from Derek's lips, kissing her way down his body as he kneeled beside me on the bed. He was no longer wearing his boxers, as Ashlyn worked her tongue around the tip of his cock, causing him to let out a groan. I slid out from underneath her, watching as she took Derek's full length into her mouth. He fisted her hair while throwing his head back.

"So good, Babygirl." He moaned out. I moved behind her, grabbing her hips and pulling them up. I rubbed the tip of my cock around her entrance, soaking my tip in her warm juices before I pushed inside her warm, wet pussy.

"So tight, Baby," I groaned. She moaned around Derek's cock as he fucked her mouth. I gave her a moment to adjust. It wasn't until she moved against me did I pull almost all the way out and thrust back in.

My pace was painfully slow until I heard Ashlyn let out a whimper as she tried to move her hips faster. Before I could quicken my pace, Derek grabbed my neck, crushing his lips to mine.

"Fuck, Babygirl." He mumbled against my lips, and I knew he was about to cum. I pulled away from his lips and bit into his neck, marking him as mine. He came inside Ashlyn's mouth, letting out a groan, and I could feel our bond forming completely. I pulled my teeth out and licked my mark, sealing it.

When she was done with Derek's cock, I leaned forward, pulling her back flush with my chest. Derek moved his chest against hers, holding her against me.

"You feel so good, Baby." I moaned in her ear.

"Harder, Mason." She moaned out. She had one hand fisting my hair, and one gripping Derek's chest.

Without causing me to slip out, Derek pulled Ashlyn's legs around his waist, lifting her against his chest. He trusted his cock in her pussy, forcing her to stretch around both of us. She was a moaning mess as she threw her head back to rest on my shoulder.

“Fvck.” She m0aned out as we both pumped into her faster, chasing our release. I reached my hand around, finding her clit.

“Harder,” She m0aned, digging her nails into Derek’s shoulders. I could tell that she was close as her pvssy pulsed around our c0cks. I knew Derek felt it as we both leaned into her neck, sinking our teeth in.

“fvck” She screamed as her pvssy squeezed c0cks as she came undone. She was panting and m0aning as she came down from her high of pleasure. Derek and I both pulled our teeth out of her neck, l!cking to seal our marks. She leaned forward into Derek’s neck and bit down hard, causing him to gr0an. I knew he came, as I could feel his c0ck twitch against mine.

“fvck, Babygirl.” He m0aned out as she pulled her teeth out and l!cked up the blood. Derek pulled out of her and moved so I could fl!p her on her back. I thrust into her and crushed my l!ps to hers. I could taste myself and Derek on her l!ps and it turned me on even more than I already was.

“Mason,” She mumbled against my l!ps. I was so close when she pulled away from my l!ps and bit down on my neck hard. I release my ropes of hot cvm deep inside her as she l!cks her bite mark. Her pvssy pulsed around my c0ck, and I knew she came again when she m0aned against my neck. Gr0aning, I stilled on top of her, panting, as I could feel our bond forming.

“Baby, you marked us.” I panted out.

“fvck, I missed you both.” She panted. Derek laid down beside us and k!ssed his mark on her neck.

“We missed you, Babygirl.” He mumbled against her skin.

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 118-Alpha Ian

The last six weeks have been hell, and the guilt is only getting worse with every passing day that Ashlyn isn’t awake. She didn’t have to save me, she shouldn’t have. She has so much to live for. I had my pack but, in all reality, Alex could take over and run things here. He’s been doing it now since we arrived back from the council building. I couldn’t focus on being an alpha and I’m still having a hard time functioning.

Every time I close my eyes, I see her lifeless body just lying there. Jax, my wolf, hasn’t really been talking to me. He misses her just as much as I do. I

know I fvcked up our relationship, and I'm the only one to blame for all the sh!t I put her through, but I love her. It took losing her to truly see what I was doing. I was the worst, and she forgave me.

She died to make sure that Alex and I were safe, and I owe her everything. I know the doctor said that she is just in a coma now, but she may never wake up. She was the best thing in my life and I just threw her away. I don't think I'll ever be able to forgive myself for everything I did to her. She gave me my life and I can't move on, stuck in the nightmare of the day she died.

Banging on my bedroom pulled me out of my thoughts.

"What?" I yelled out from my bed. My father entered, closing the door behind him.

"Son, you need to get up. I have Alpha Jackson arriving soon. And you need to be at the meeting." My father told me, sitting on the chair beside my bed.

"Dad, Alex will be there and he can fill me in." I told him, not bothering to move. I was just staring up at the ceiling above my bed.

"Ian, I know you are heartbroken over Ashlyn. But she is alive, and that is a good thing. She will wake up when she is ready." My father said.

"Dad, I should be dead. She saved my life and now she is in a coma and they don't know if she will ever wake up. Dad, she has a kid. She should have left me to die." I growled in frustration.

"Ian, Ashlyn believed that your life was worth saving. Maybe you should prove her right and make her proud." My father said before he got up and left the room.

"fvck!" I screamed out into my empty room. My stomach twisted painfully from the guilt.

Eventually, I got out of bed and took a shower. When I was done, I pulled on a pair of jeans and a forest green henley shirt. Before I left my room, I ran my fingers through my hair. I may still need a haircut and a shave, but I'm out of bed and dressed, and that will have to do. I walked down the stairs to find my father waiting in the foyer with Alex.

"Good. You made it. They should be pulling up now."

My father said. Alex opened the door for my father and I followed behind him.

“You okay, man?” Alex leaned over and asked me just as a few SUVs were pulling up.

“No, but I’m here,” I told him and he nodded. If I could have stayed in Silver Moon, I would have.

Warriors exited the vehicles first, before the Alpha exited his vehicle. I knew he was the alpha by his aura and his age. He seemed too old to be a warrior. He was still built like a house, but you could tell that he was older and had the scars to prove it. After greeting my father, he opened the passenger door of his vehicle. I thought maybe he had brought his Luna with him until she came into view. She had dark brown shoulder-length hair, with bright brown eyes. She was taller and clearly athletic. Dressed casually, like she didn’t want to be here either. When her eyes met mine, she looked at me, stunned.

“Mate,” she gasped out. Jax said nothing.

“Son, this is Alpha Jackson and his daughter, Ava. This is my son, Alpha Ian.” My father introduced us. I greeted both of them politely, but I needed to get away from her. How could I find my mate, and now, of all times?

“Ian, why don’t you show Ava around the pack grounds?” my father asked me.

“Ava, Alex can help you out with anything that you might need,” I said before I walked off towards the forest that wraps around the entire pack border. I needed to go for a run.

“Jax, is she really our mate?” I asked my wolf.

“She is, but I don’t want to accept her.” He whined.

“Ashlyn has her mates.” I reminded him.

“I’m just not ready yet,” he whimpered.

I understand, buddy. Let’s go for a run.” I told him. I went behind a tree, stripped off my clothes, and shifted into Jax’s large black wolf. He took off, running around the border a few times before he finally wore himself out.

I was finally exhausted when we finally came upon my clothes and he shifted back. I quickly got dressed before making my way back to the pack house.

When I entered, my father called out from the living room. I rolled my eyes before I walked in to see my father, Alpha Jackson, his daughter, and Alex.

“Ian, you missed dinner.” My father commented.

“I apologize, father. I got caught up patrolling the borders,” I said, and he raised an eyebrow. He wasn’t necessarily a lie. I was running the border.

“The borders must be very secure,” Alex commented with a smirk. I pushed my lips into a line. Fuck.

“Anyway, Ava has decided to stay for a few days,” my father announced, and I looked over at her.

“More like I was forced,” she mumbled.

“Ava, that’s enough.” Her father warned her.

“No dad, this is ridiculous. He clearly doesn’t want me here, so why the hell should I even bother?” She huffed. The tension grew with our silence as we all just stared at each other.

“Say something!” Alex yelled in my head.

“Ava, I’m sorry about earlier. It just isn’t a good time.” I told her, and I could see that I had hurt her.

“You have someone else?” she asked.

“That’s not it,” I sighed.

“Then, what is it? It’s bad enough I had to come here in the first place, but now to have my mate reject me in front of everyone.” She yelled, standing from her seat beside her father.

“My wolf isn’t ready for a mate,” I told her, and she was stunned.

“What?” she gasped out.

“There’s a lot to explain and, honestly, you wouldn’t want me,” I told her before I left the room. I felt guilty that I hurt her, but I was in no state to start a relationship with anyone.

I went to my room and found my phone to text Mason. Maybe Ashlyn was awake and I might not feel so guilty.

me: Any changes?

Mason: nothing. The doctor agreed to move her into our home from the hospital, so that's good news. But her state hasn't changed.

Me: I'm glad she is at least home. And is James good?

Mason: growing like a weed.

Before I could put my phone away to go shower, Alex walked into my room without knocking. He paced the room while I just watched him.

"Ian, I know you are hurting, but seriously! Ava is your fvcken mate." Alex yelled.

"Alex, Jax isn't ready to accept anyone. And to be honest, I'm in no state to start anything either." I told him.

You could at least give her a chance. Get to know her. I know you have survival guilt over what happened to Ashlyn. Hell, even I do, but don't throw this away.

Ashlyn wants you to be happy. That's all she has ever wanted for you and this is your chance," he said.

"How can I be happy when she is lying in that bed? She fvcken died. It's a miracle that she is still alive. And everyone just expects me to move on with my life. I watched her die." I sat on the edge of my bed and broke down. Alex sat down beside me.

"I understand, I really do. But Ava doesn't know all of this. To her, you just rejected her. I know you feel terrible about what happened, but life isn't just going to stop. And Ashlyn would kill you if you messed this up again." He told me.

"What do you want me to do?" I asked him.

"Take things slow, get to know her. Go shower and just take her for a walk. It might make you feel better to talk to someone." He said, and I nodded.

“Meet her on the back porch when you are ready.” He told me before he left the room.

I wish I could talk to Ashlyn. I already knew what she would tell me, but just hearing her voice would make this so much easier. She’d be happy that it wasn’t Nicole. I showered and got dressed before I made my way to the back porch. I knew I could at least apologize for earlier.

I walked out the kitchen door on to the porch to find Ava. She was watching the night sky, leaning on the railing. Dressed in a pair of jeans that hugged her curves and a hoody. She pulled her hair back into a ponytail.

She was very beautiful, and I found myself watching her.

“Just going to stand there, Alpha.” Ava said, pulling me back to reality. I cleared my throat.

“You can just call me Ian.” I told her awkwardly, unsure of what to say.

“So, Ian. Can you explain to me what could hurt your wolf so badly to reject his mate?” She asked. I walked over to the railing beside her. Looking up at the night sky, I let out a sigh. I could feel Ava watching me.

“I should be dead. And the only reason I’m not, is because, my best friend sacrificed herself to save me.

She’s been in a coma for the last six weeks and her mates don’t know if she will ever wake up.” I said.

“Ian, I’m so sorry. I didn’t know.” She said.

“And how could you? I’m sorry about earlier, I really am.” I told her, turning my head to look at her.

“You feel guilty?” She whispered, and I nodded.

“You mentioned mates? So, not your girlfriend?” she asked.

“We dated, but we are just friends now. She has two mates, the Alpha Prince and the Dragon Prince.” I told her and she gasped.

The rumors are true,” she breathed out.

“Rumors?” I asked her.

“The mystical world has a Queen,” she said in awe. Her face turned to confusion as she appeared to be thinking.

“Wait, you’re saying that your best friend and ex-girlfriend is our queen?” she rushed out, and I pushed my lips into a line.

“I just call her Ashlyn, but yeah, I guess that’s true,” I told her.

“Wow,” she whispered. We fell into a comfortable silence for a bit, just looking up at the night sky.

“You’re feeling guilty, aren’t you?” she asked me and I sighed.

“Very. I don’t want to lie to you. Ashlyn may have mates and a child, but I still love her. And my wolf still loves her.” I told her.

“So what happened? She found her mates and left you?” she asked.

“I wish I could say that was how it happened, but it did. I cheated, and she left. She found Mason first and then Derek.” I told her.

“Well, I appreciate your honesty, Ian. It’s difficult, especially for an alpha to admit when he is wrong. But how did you guys turn out to be friends?” she asked, curiously.

“I’m not entirely sure. We have been friends for almost ten years. I guess we both didn’t want to lose each other,” I told her.

“Should I just head back home?” She asked me.

“I’d like you to stay, but only if you want to. I’m not perfect, and there may be some days when I will be unbearable, but if I fuck this up, Ashlyn may actually kill me.” I told her. She nudged my hip with hers as we stood side by side, leaning on the railing, looking out into the backyard.

“I like her already.”

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 119-Ashlyn

I woke up with a weird feeling of urgency. I was moving towards James’ room before my brain was even awake enough to realize what my body was doing.

My mind finally caught up with my body as soon as my hand touched the doorknob on his door.

I grabbed the robe that hung by the door, pulling it on before I opened the door quietly as I peered inside his room. James was playing with his toes in his sleeper. I let out the breath I didn't realize I was holding in. He was cooing and making bubbles as I came over to his crib, leaning over to watch my baby boy.

"Good morning, my sweet little boy. What are you doing awake?" I cooed. He reached his hands up and I picked him up, holding him to my chest.

"Hungry?" I asked him. I changed his nappy, and then I went down to the kitchen to make him a bottle. I was sad that I wasn't nursing him anymore, but as long as the baby gets fed, that's all that matters.

I made him a bottle before I took him out to the sunroom just off the kitchen. You can see the lake at the back of the house. The sun was just about to come up, so it was still pretty dark. But it was still a great place to sit and think. I cradled James in my arms and fed him.

He quickly fell back asleep, and I found myself just watching the world outside our home.

It was peaceful, and I relaxed, enjoying this small moment with my boy. I may feel confused about my life right now, but one thing that I was very sure of was James. I love my mates, but James is my entire world.

I rubbed my new mark while I watched the sunrise. James snuggled into my chest, still fast asleep. A commotion coming from inside the house made me turn my attention to the kitchen. What the hell could happen this early in the morning? I stood up with James and went back into the kitchen. I found my mates, Liam, Brandon and Sage, all looking panicked. All eyes were on me as I closed the door to the sunroom behind me.

"Is everything okay?" I asked them, confused.

"Baby, why are you not in bed?" Mason rushed out, coming over to me.

"James was up." I told him.

“Ashlyn, you scared the crap out of us.” Sage exclaimed, and I looked at her confused.

“Were you expecting me to leave?” I asked them.

“Of course not, Baby.” Mason said, wrapping his arms around me.

“Then is there another reason you are all running around the house like crazy people?” I asked, looking around the room.

“Beautiful, before we always knew where you were.

It’s just new having you moving around. And you have a habit of running off.” Liam said, and both my mates let out a growl.

“I appreciate your honesty, Liam. But I would never put James in danger. And besides, where the hell would I even go? All of you are here.” I said.

“I thought you talked to Ian.” Mason shrugged, and I looked up at him. He still had his hands on my hips.

“I probably would have, if I knew where my phone was. But why would talking to Ian make me run?” I asked him and he pushed his hips into a line and looked at Derek.

“Baby, Ian found his mate,” Mason finally answered.

“Really? fvck, it’s not Nicole, is it?” I rushed out.

“No, it’s not Nicole,” he said.

“Oh, thank the goddess.” I breathed out. Finally, my brain caught up with what Mason had just told me.

“Wait, so Ian found his mate, and it’s not Nicole. And you thought that I would have been upset enough to run off with James?” I asked. The silence in the room spoke volumes.

“Okay, well, I’m going to go lay James down and then get ready. I have a big day planned for us.” I said, pulling away from Mason and moving to exit the kitchen.

“Liam is in charge of your security,” Mason said before I stepped through the door frame. Taking in a deep breath, I looked over at Liam.

“I guess you’re with us today.” I told him before I left the kitchen.

After I laid James down in his crib, I went back into our room. I went over to the closet and looked around for any of my old stuff. I do not know where my phone went to, but I still have my old phone. I found the box with all my documents in it from Grace and, to my surprise, my old phone was in the box with the SIM that I had taken out. Charging my phone beside the bed. I checked on James and then I went to have a shower.

I was trying not to let what my mates said bother me. I know that Ian and I have a weird relationship. And I’m so happy that he has found his mate. Now I can stop feeling so guilty about being happy with my mates. I love Ian, but I’m not in love with him. And I’m trying to understand both sides. I would be upset if the situation was reversed, but they both know Ian, and they know I would never step out on them, on our family. If I wanted to be with Ian, I wouldn’t have remarked on them.

Taking a deep breath, I turned off the shower. I stepped out and wrapped a towel around my body before stepping into our room. I found both my mates. Derek was sitting on the edge of the bed, and Mason was pacing the room. Both looked at me when I stepped out.

“What’s up?” I asked them, heading to the closet to get dressed. They said nothing as I got dressed in a pair of jeans and a blouse. When I was done, I walked back into our room to find them on the bed, mumbling to each other. Ignoring them, I walked over to James’ door. I was just about to turn the knob when Mason spoke.

“Baby, I didn’t mean to upset you.” I paused before I turned around to face him.

“The only part that upset me was the fact both of you thought I would intentionally put James in danger.

He’s my child and I would never hurt him, especially over a guy.” I told them, crossing my arms over my chest.

“But you did. You saved Ian, instead of being in James’ life,” Derek growled out. I immediately felt guilty.

I didn't make the right decision then, but I would never make that mistake again.

"Derek!" Mason growled.

"You're right, Derek. I didn't make the right decision then, but I will choose no one over my son again." I said before I turned around and entered James' room. He was still sleeping, so I took a seat in the window seat they had set up. His room looked out onto the lake. It was a beautiful view.

I couldn't enjoy the view with the guilt of almost leaving my son churning my stomach into knots. A queen is supposed to protect her people, and all I did was get myself killed and lose my wolf. I failed as a queen but, more importantly, as James' mother. Getting back home to him should have been my top priority, and it wasn't. And I'll never make that mistake ever again.

It wasn't long before Sage peeked her head in.

Seeing me, she wandered in, closing the door behind her.

She came to sit with me on the window seat.

"Are you okay?" She asked me. I turned my attention from the window to her.

"Derek's right. I shouldn't have put anyone above James." I told her with tears in my eyes.

"What are you talking about? What did he say?" she asked me, confused.

"He said that I put Ian above our son when I saved Ian." I told her and she sighed, wrapping an arm around my shoulders.

"Oh sweetie, they are just worried about you. And I know he didn't mean it like that. You were reckless before, but I know now that James is your life and you would do nothing to endanger his life." She told me.

"Then why were you all so worried earlier?" I asked her.

"Because we just got you back. We panicked when we couldn't find you or James. We thought something might have happened," Sage said.

"You thought I ran off to see Ian?" I asked her and she sighed.

“Well, I didn’t. I knew you would never leave again without someone with you, especially with James.” She told me, squeezing my shoulders.

“They don’t trust me, do they?” I whispered.

“They don’t understand that Ian was your safe place. You spend so much of your life with him, and it’s hard to let go. I know you love Mason and Derek. If you didn’t, you would never let them mark you again, especially without the matebond.” she said, and I rubbed my mark. I didn’t even look at it to see if it was the same.

“Can I tell you something?” I asked her.

“Of course you can. I’m your sister,” she answered.

“I’m happy that Ian found someone. It means I can stop feeling guilty about being happy.” I told her.

“I know, sweetie. Feelings are hard. But things will get better. Everyone is just on edge. Like Liam said earlier, we are just worried about your safety.” She said.

“I’m no longer important. I’m no queen. Maybe by being mated to Mason and Derek. I can understand being worried about James’ safety, but mine? I’m no one, again.” Sage let out a gasp before turning to me so I could face her.

“A nobody? Really? A nobody wouldn’t have brought down the council building. A nobody wouldn’t have saved countless people forced to fight. A nobody wouldn’t have been able to get werewolves to donate blood to vampires. And you saved so many more just by making sure that d!ck of a vampire was dead. You may not feel like a queen, but you are one. And don’t you dare ever let anyone tell you otherwise,” she exclaimed.

“How can you have so much faith in me?” I asked her.

“I’ve seen firsthand what you are capable of. You don’t need powers to inspire people. You do the right thing, because it’s the right thing” She said.

“Then why does it seem that I help others but I hurt my mates?” I asked her.

“Because you need to include them. They will only strengthen you if you allow them to. You aren’t on the journey alone. We all love and care about you. We

are all here for you, so when things become too much, lean on us. It doesn't make you weak to ask for help." She said, rubbing my back. All I could do was nod. I was choking on the emotions that were caught in my throat.

"Now, go take a moment for yourself. I'll come get you when James is up. And don't worry, Mason and Derek both had to leave." Sage told me.

"Thank you." I whispered. I checked on James before I headed back into our room.

I decided I needed to call Ian. I unlocked my phone and my screen showed a picture of me and Ian. We were out hiking and he was carrying me on his back. This phone holds so many memories of us. I ignored all my past messages and found his number. I hesitated before I hit the call button. As the phone rang, my stomach was in knots.

"Ashlyn?" Ian's voice came through.

"Hey, Ian."

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 120-Mason

"Derek, what the f**k was that?" I growled at him after Ashlyn left our room. "You feel the same way. Don't act like you don't," he yelled back.

"Sure, but you don't have to tell her. She made a decision that she can't change and making her feel guilty about it won't help. I understand how you feel, but we love her and she needs us right now." I scolded him.

"We are always going to come second to that fucken alpha." he growled out. Before he could storm out, I yelled after him.

"If she wanted him, she had a way out. She remarked us because she wanted us.", I told him. I must have made my point, because he hesitated before slamming the door behind him. Sighing, I left our room. I had a meeting with my father this morning. I was debating canceling so I could sort my mates out.

I understand why Derek is so upset, but it will change nothing. She's here with us, and that's what matters right now. I don't like her relationship with Ian either, but I don't want to control her. I don't think she would ever cheat on us and if she was going to leave, she could have. She marked us before she

knew Ian had found his mate. If she really wanted to be with him, she had the chance.

I met Brandon at the front door. He was coming with me while Liam was on protection duty. Matt should be back tomorrow, and then we can make up a schedule for the warriors. We had warrior stations all around the house and yard. The news of an heir had spread, and we wanted to keep not only James safe but Ashlyn as well.

We didn't know what she was capable of now. And after everything that has happened, it's better to be safe than sorry.

"That good, huh?" He asked after we exited the house.

"Yeah. Derek's pissed about this whole Ian thing. He feels like she gave up being with our son to save Ian." I sighed.

"That's rough," he said.

"And he told her," I said, and he gasped.

"Fvck. And what did she say?" he asked me, while we walked to the pack house.

"She agreed and said that it would never happen again. And then she left our room," I answered.

"Mase, you know you have nothing to worry about. If she wanted Ian, then she could have left, but most importantly, she wouldn't have let you mark her again." he said.

"How did you know we remarked to her?" I asked him.

"We all saw it this morning in the kitchen," he answered. I don't even remember seeing it.

"Right."

"She clearly doesn't need the mate bond." He shrugged.

"Would you have marked Sage without the bond?" I asked him.

“Without hesitation. But Sage was so worried about me wanting kids and then it was her parents. The thought of hybrids isn’t well liked,” he answered.

“Who would have guessed that we both would end up with witches?” I told him and he chuckled.

“Right? As crazy as our lives have been, I’m glad that you found Ashlyn, and I found Sage. Things will get better.” he said, and I nodded. Before we reached the pack house, my phone chimed in my pocket. I pulled it out to see an alert on James’ baby monitor. My heart was instantly in my throat. I opened the app to find that Ashlyn and Sage were sitting in the window. Brandon leaned over to see what I was looking at.

“Mase, you probably shouldn’t ease drop.” Brandon said. And I knew it wasn’t right, but before I put my phone away, I heard something that Ashlyn said that broke me.

“I’m no longer important. I’m no queen. Maybe being mated to Mason and Derek. I can understand being worried about James’ safety, but mine? I’m a no one again.”

“How the hell can she think she isn’t important?” I said out loud.

“Mason, stop listening.” Brandon said, grabbing my phone.

“However, she feels it’s up to her to tell you. She must not know about the cameras,” Brandon said, and I shook my head. My phone saved the footage, so I clipped the clip of her saying what she said and sent it to Derek.

“Mason, What are you doing?” Brandon asked me, while I was busy on my phone.

“I heard what you said, but I just want Derek to hear what she said. Just that part.” I told him.

“Fine, but if she kills you, I’m bringing you back just to say, I told you so.” He said and I pushed my lips into a line.

Brandon and I were sitting in a conference room with my father and his gamma. We were going over plans for the new council building since the whole thing will have to be demolished and rebuilt. It’s going to be a massive

undertaking, especially since we are working with four other kingdoms to get this done. The phone in the room rang and my father answered it.

“Yes?” he answered.

“Oh, that is wonderful. Please send them up.” My father said, his mood taking a 180.

“Father?” I asked him when he hung up the phone.

“Ashlyn is here with James.” My father announced, and I looked over at Brandon. My look at Brandon did not go unnoticed by my father.

“Should you not be happy that your mate and child are visiting?” he asked me and I let out a sigh.

“Its complicated.” I told him. And before he could say anything else, there was a knock on the door. My father rushed over to the door to answer it.

“Ashlyn, it’s so good to see you up.” He exclaimed, Wrapping her in a hug.

“Thank you, Arthur.” She returned his hug. I felt awkward as I sat there looking at the two of them.

“Now, what can I do for you, my dear?” he asked her, k!ssing James’ cheek. She could now hold him on her h!p. She had the whole mom look down.

“Could I speak to you in private, please?” she asked him, sounding nervous about something.

“Of course, my dear” he told her before turning his attention back to the room.

“Gentlemen, will you excuse me?” he said, and they both left. I felt a ping in my heart that she didn’t even acknowledge me.

“Are you not going to go see her?” Brandon asked, and I shrugged.

“If she was here to see me, she would have asked for me,” I told him, going back to my work.

“And you think what Derek told her was bad,” Brandon mumbled under his breath. I pushed away from the table. I went to leave the room, running into my father who was entering while I was exiting.

“Where are they?” I asked him.

“I believe she needed to get some books from the council building. She didn’t find what she was looking for in the library.” My father answered.

“The council building isn’t safe for her or James,” I told him.

“Really, Mason? Yes, of course, I would send my daughter-in-law and my grandson into danger. She said that she was going to take some warriors and leave James at home with Sage. And Mason, I don’t know what is going on with you and Ashlyn, but you had better fix it. I didn’t watch you fall apart every day for the last eight weeks, just so you could fvck it all up.” my father scolded me.

“And how the hell do you know it was my fault and not hers?” I argued.

“She has been lying in bed, fighting for her life for the last eight weeks. What the hell did she do? Sleep too long?” His voice was full of sarcasm.

“I did nothing,” I told him.

“Bullsh!t.” Brandon sneezed behind me.

“Dad, she’s only been awake for less than 24 hours.” I told him.

“And yet you are here working? I could have handled this today, so why did you really come in today?” he asked, and I sighed. I didn’t have an answer.

“Fix it. Victor and I are coming over for dinner tonight. And both you and Derek had better have pulled your heads out of your a*sses by the time we arrive.” He told me before taking his seat. I turned back to see Brandon holding back his snickering.

“And how is that fair? 1, for one, did nothing wrong.” I told him, sitting down again.

“I still see you sitting here with us, instead of with your mate. So, yes, you are doing something wrong. Something is clearly bothering her and you should be able to feel her emotions through the bond. Are you not bothered because she didn’t even bother to say Hi to you when she came in here? And you didn’t even greet her. It doesn’t matter how angry you are, you always greet your

mate and you also show them you love them. Relationships aren't perfect and they are hard work. And is the mother of your child not worth your hard work?"

"Fine, I'll go see her." I yelled in frustration. I stood up and headed for the door.

"It doesn't matter now. She's at the council building," my father said. And I was about to punch this damn door.

"Are you fvcking kidding me? You just tore me a new one about not being there for my mate, just to tell me she left Silver Moon." I growled.

"Next time, do better. Now, sit, we have work to do" He said, going back to his paperwork like he didn't just scold me like a child. I flopped back down into my seat and pulled out my phone to text Derek and Liam. I needed to make sure that Liam was with Ashlyn.

me: Ashlyn is at the council building.

D: and?

Me: just letting you know.

D: why did she go there?

Me: she's looking for a book, according to my father. I haven't spoken to her.

D: She didn't take James with her, did she?

Me: No, he's with Sage.

D: okay, good. I think my father may be right. Everything has changed with us. Now I just had to figure out how to get us back to how we were before.

Me: Liam are you with Ashlyn?

Liam: Yes, she wanted to go to the council building. James is with Sage back at home. And we took half the warriors with us and left the other half at home.

Me: Okay, just keep her safe. That place isn't safe to be wandering around in.

Liam: Already on it.

I went back to work, thinking about what I could do to help strengthen our relationship. I know I marked them both because I love them. And I felt the bond now. I can feel that she is okay, maybe upset. I can't place the emotion. Derek, on the other hand, is angry. I don't know if he was angry with himself or with Ashlyn. Both of us should have skipped work and just been there with her and James. We are stuck in this routine of not having her and we need to break it.

I love her, and I don't ever want her to question my love for her. The first moment I laid eyes on her, I could have marked her. I knew I wanted her, with or without the mate bond. So why is this so hard? I prayed every day that she would wake up and now that she is, I'm here at work doing whatever the fvck this is.

"Dad, I'm going home," I told him before I stood up and left, without saying another word. I can just wait with James until his momma comes home. I was over being away from her. All four of us need to spend time together. We are a family and a part of that family has been gone, but now that they are back, we need to work through everything. Our family was worth fighting for.

I entered the house, finding Sage playing with James on the floor in the living room. He let out a squeal as soon as he saw me, making me smile. I wandered over to him and picked him up, kissing his cheek.

"We didn't expect you home," Sage said.

"I know, but I just needed to be home." I told her and she nodded.

"Ashlyn told me what happened this morning." Sage told me, sitting on the couch.

"And?" asked her. I knew she had more to say. One thing I knew about Sage was that she would always speak her mind, no matter how honest.

"Her soul is broken. That's why you feel so disconnected from her right now," she said.

"I don't understand. How is she broken?" I asked her, confused.

"You and Thor are two sides of the same coin. You both share a soul. And now that Ashlyn doesn't have Tundra, she is broken." My stomach was in knots from the guilt I was feeling about what happened today.

“Also, she talked to Ian today. I don’t know why you and Derek were so worried about him and Ashlyn? She just wanted her friend to be happy, and you both twisted it into something that it wasn’t.” She stated.

“He loves her.” I defended.

“Being in love and loving someone are different. You can love someone without being in love with them. He was her safety net. And you both twisted it and made her feel guilty about being happy. She clearly loves both of you. Ashlyn is hurting and when you both walked away from her, you pulled away your safety net.” She explained.

“Why can everyone see it but me and Derek?” asked her, confused. Brandon, my father and now Sage. And I’m sure Liam noticed it as well.

“Because both of you are resentful of the decision she made. Would you have left Brandon or Liam behind?” She asked me and I sighed.

“No,” I whispered.

“Even if you knew you might die, leaving behind your mates and son? Would you just say fvck it and leave them behind?” she pushed her point.

“No” I told her.

“Then stop blaming her. She could have stayed dead, but she came back, broken, for you three. Her being broken was worth it as long as she had you three. So both of you need to make this right before something happens that you can’t take back.” She said, and I nodded.

My phone rung in my pocket and I juggled James around so I could pull my phone out of my pocket. I noticed it was Liam before I answered.

“Mason, we need you here. It’s Ashlyn.”