

Read Novel Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 121

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 121-Ashlyn

“Ashlyn?” Ian’s voice rang through the phone.

“Hi Ian.”

“I have to be dreaming,” he exclaimed.

“Ian, you aren’t dreaming. Yesterday, I woke up. I just didn’t have a phone, so I had to find my old one.” I told him.

“How are you feeling? Are you okay?” Ian asked, worried.

“I’m okay, I guess. Things are tense here, but I have James,” I told him.

“Ashlyn, what happened? Where are Mason and Derek?”

“I just don’t want to talk about it. I heard you found your mate.” Ian let out a sigh.

“I did.”

“And? I want to hear all about her.” I told him.

“You do?” He asked me, confused.

“Ian, of course, I do. I just want you to be happy. Are you happy?”

“I’m trying to be.”

“Ian, does she make you happy?”

“She does, but you.” I interrupted him before he could finish.

“Ian, I want you to be happy. There are no buts. And you should want to be happy. I’m okay. You don’t need to worry about me. Just be happy with your mate. And would love to meet her, if she’s okay with it?”

“I’ll be happy if you tell me what’s wrong?” he said, and I sighed.

“It’s nothing, Ian,” I told him.

“Then why does it sound like you are about to cry?”

“I don’t have Tundra anymore,” I whispered.

“Tundra’s gone?” Ian exclaimed.

“Yeah,”

“Ashlyn, I’m so sorry. What happened?”

“It was the terms for me coming back.”

“Where are you? Should I come see you?” Ian rushed out.

“It’s okay, Ian. It’s just something I need to come to terms with.”

“Where are your mates?”

“At work, I think. I don’t actually know.”

“Ashlyn, what happened? Please tell me?”

“Things are just different,” I told him.

“What’s different? And why are they not there with you?” Ian asked me.

“For one, we no longer have the mate bond,” I sighed.

“What?” he yelled into the phone.

“And then there’s the fact that they hold some resentment”

“What resentment? You’re alive. Sure the bond, but that’s not your fault. They can always remark you.”

“They resent that fact that I put myself in a position that led to my death.” I told him and he sighed.

“Ashlyn, I should thank you. What you did for Alex and me is something that we can never repay. Everyone should thank you. There was an investigation into King Theo. He was planning on wiping out all the other kingdoms.” He told me.

“Wait, what?” I asked him, stunned.

“Did no one tell you?”

“No, I guess it just didn’t come up.”

“Ashlyn, can I ask you something?”

“Of course, Ian.”

“Why didn’t you shift? And where did your powers go?” He hesitated before asking me.

“I couldn’t shift. And I no longer have my powers from the moon goddess. Tundra made a deal for Brad’s life and these were the terms,” I explained.

“Now, enough about me. Tell me about your mate?” I told him and he sighed.

“Well, she’s not Nicole,” he said, and I giggled.

“Thank the goddess.” I laughed out.

“Ava is the daughter of an alpha of one of our neighboring packs. My father set up a meeting with them. I assumed to get me to meet her. She’s funny and sarcastic and she keeps me on my toes. And I already know that she would love to meet you.”

“I’m so happy for you, Ian. Now don’t fvck this up,” I told him, making him laugh.

“I’ll do my best. Besides, Ava would probably kill me.” like her already.” I laughed.

“I’m so relieved that you are okay, Ashlyn. And I can’t wait to actually see you.”

“Thank you, Ian. I’m so happy for you.” I heard a banging coming through the phone.

“Sh!t, Ashlyn, I have to go, but call or text whenever you need me.”

“Okay. Ian. Take care.” I told him before ending the call.

I lay in bed thinking about what Ian had told me about Theo. My mates made it seem like I gave up my life for Ian, but I actually gave up my life to stop the destruction of all the kingdoms. Even if the vampire kingdom was still standing after destroying all the others, it would have been a mess and countless lives would have been lost.

Sage entered the room carrying James, already dressed and ready for our day. He squealed and reached for me. I stood up, taking him from Sage.

"You okay?" she asked me, as we made our way down to the kitchen.

"I talked to Ian. He told me that Theo was planning on killing off the other kingdoms. Is that true?" I asked her and she sighed.

"Yes, it's true."

"So I didn't just die because I saved Ian and Alex. I died trying to save the kingdoms." I said, and she nodded.

We entered to find Liam playing on his phone. He was probably waiting for me, since I guess I now have a security team.

"Ashlyn, you should probably eat something. I can feed James." Sage offered.

"It's fine, Sage. I can feed James, you eat." I told her.

"Ashlyn, I can help." Liam offered, and I just shook my head. After I finished making his bottle, I sat down at the table. Liam slid a muffin over to me.

"Matt made you muffins." He shrugged.

"Have you guys seen my laptop or my new phone?" I asked them before taking a bite. It was double chocolate, and I wanted to bathe in it.

"I'm not sure. It's probably in a box, or it could be in your closet," Sage answered.

"Okay, I guess I'll need a new phone. Later, I can find my laptop. I need to head over to the library when James is ready." I told them.

"What are you looking for?" Liam asked me.

"I need to find something about our broken mate bond," I answered.

“So you aren’t the one that broke the bond?” He asked me and I shook my head.

“No, I thought it broke when I died.” I told him.

“It broke before then. When we were at Blue Moon looking for you, Mason and Derek felt the bond break.” Liam answered.

“I didn’t break the bond. But I think I know when it broke.” I told him.

“Does James have a diaper bag?” I asked Sage.

“It’s by the door, Its already packed.” She answered.

When James was done with his bottle, I rinsed it out before I started burping him.

“Okay, I’m ready to head out. I need to go speak to Arthur.” I told them before heading to the front door.

“Ashlyn, do you need me to come with you?” Sage asked, following me with Liam on our heels.

“I’ll be fine, Sage, but I might need you to watch James later. If you can, of course,” I told her.

“I’ll be here. I just had a few things to do around here, anyway.” She said.

“Thank you, Sage. I really appreciated it.” I told her, giving her a side hug.

“Liam, are you ready?” I asked him. He held the door open for me.

“After you, my lady,” he said, and I rolled my eyes. I walked out the front door to find a bunch of warriors.

There must be at least ten of them.

“Liam, what the hell is going on?” I asked him.

“Language, my Queen,” he said, covering James’ ears with his hands.

“What is going on, Liam?” I growled out.

“This is the team,” he said, and I pushed my lips into a line.

“For the house?” I asked him and he shook his head.

“No, this is just for you and James. There are more around the property, and snipers on the roof.” He said, pointing up.

“Liam, this is too much.” I told him.

“Its orders, my queen,” he said.

“Call me queen one more time. I dare you.” I taunted him.

“Ashlyn, it’s nothing personal. We are just here to protect you and James,” Liam said.

“You are here to protect James. And I’m just going to the pack house to talk with Arthur. What the hell do you think is going to happen?” I asked him.

“The news of James’ birth is no longer a secret, and he is the heir of two kingdoms. And you are their queen. Can you just not fight me about this? Please?” he asked.

And I felt guilty for snapping. He was just following orders.

“Liam, I’m sorry. I understand you are just following orders. Whatever you have planned is fine.” I told him.

“Ashlyn, it’s not just ordered. I want both you and James to be safe,” he told me.

“Thanks, Liam. Are the warriors ready?” I asked him.

“Whenever you are. That path leads to the pack house” He said, pointing to a path just up from the driveway.

I threw the diaper bag over my shoulder and readjusted James. I had him sitting on my hip. He was alert and watching the world with his big sea-green eyes. I started walking. Liam was beside me and the other warriors circled around Liam, James and I. It was so weird having so many people around me. And as soon as we came upon the pack house, everyone stopped and stared. I felt uncomfortable under their gazes as we walked up to the pack house.

“Half of you surround the building, the other half come with us.” Liam commented. A few warriors entered before us and a few entered after us. The Alpha King doesn’t even have this much security around him.

“Liam, were the offices moved here?” I asked him, following him up some stairs.

“We had to make some changes because of the location of the house. We moved some offices here, and we moved all the students out of the building, wanting to cut the traffic down. State-of-the-art cameras were also installed, and we upped security,” Liam explained as we walked into a foyer with a receptionist. She greeted us and I asked to see the King. She called him and pointed me in the right direction.

“I’ll be right back,” I told Liam. I walked over to the door and knocked. To my surprise, Arthur answered the door.

“Ashlyn, it’s so good to see you up.” he explained, giving me a hug.

“Thank you, Arthur.” I told him with a smile. Looking around him to see Mason sitting at the table as well. I was hoping not to see him, which I know Sounds bad.

“Now, what can I do for you, my dear?” he asked me, kissing James’ cheek.

“Could I speak to you in private, please?” I asked him. I was feeling anxious having all these eyes on me.

“Of course, my dear. Gentlemen, will you excuse me?” he said before he led me out into the hallway.

“Come, we can talk in my office.” he said, leading the way. I followed him into his office and he closed the door behind us.

“Is everything alright, my dear?” he asked me and I was trying hard not to burst into tears.

“Arthur, I need to go to the council building. I need to visit the library. There were books about the kingdoms and mate bonds there.” I told him.

“Ashlyn, of course you have my permission to go to the council building, but you don’t need it,” he said.

“I was hoping to bring some books home, and I wanted your permission. They aren’t my books to take.” I told him and he nodded.

“Anything you need, my dear. Just try not to rip them. Some are quite old,” he said.

“Thank you, I really appreciate it,” I said.

“My dear, are you sure you’re alright? Did something happen between you and Mason?” He asked me, worried.

“Everything is fine. But I should be going. I need to drop James off with Sage before I head to the council building. Thank you so much, Arthur.” I told him.

“I’m always here if you need to talk.” he said.

“Arthur, I have another question for you. Why did no one know James was the former king?” I asked him. It was weird that he just fell off the face of the earth and no one noticed.

“Spells, my dear,” Arthur said.

“You spelled an entire kingdom?” I asked him, stunned.

“It’s what he wanted. That’s why no one knew the importance of the Knight’s name. A spell was cast, and only a few actually knew who he was before he became the alpha of Emerald Lake.” He explained.

“Thank you. I’ll let you get back to work. But please come over for dinner tonight.” I told him and he nodded.

“I’ll bring Victor.” He said, and I nodded.

“See you tonight.” I told him before leaving his office. I walked by the conference room where Mason was, and I had to ignore the pulling of the bond. The bond wanted me to run to him, to throw myself at his feet and apologize. But my head was having none of that. This bond was not a one-way street.

“Everything, okay?” Liam asked me. He was waiting by the receptionist.

“Yep, but I need to go give James to Sage. I need to head to the council building.” I told him.

“You know that building isn’t safe right now?” Liam told me while we made our way back to our house.

“I know, but I’ll be careful. I need to visit the library. And hopefully I didn’t destroy too many of the books,” I said.

“You don’t need to worry about the books. As soon as the fire alarms went off, the room was sealed off. It’s protecting the books that are irreplaceable.” Liam explained, and I nodded.

As soon as James was safe with Sage, I opened a portal to the council building. All the warriors and Liam came with me. It was indeed a mess. There was heavy equipment everywhere, trying to clean up the mess I had made. Someone in a white hardhat came over to speak with us.

“Gamma Liam, what can I do for you?”

“Our Queen would like to go into the library” Liam answered, and the man looked over at me, stunned.

“My queen, I’m sorry, but I don’t think it’s safe” he said, bowing his head.

“I’ll be careful, if you could just show me where to go,” I told him.

“I wish I could show you, but we haven’t found the library yet. This place is a mess.” the man said.

“Do you mind just showing me the area that you think it’s in? I came all this way, and I would really appreciate your help.” I told him and he looked at Liam.

“And you say you’re not a queen.” Liam whispered, leaning in to me.

“I’ll be with her, if you could just shut off all the equipment for maybe an hour?” Liam said, and the man nodded. The man started barking orders, and they shut all the equipment down. The man came back over to us and handed Liam and me gloves and hardhats with a headlamp.

“Watch your step and be careful in there. Half the building has collapsed and we are still trying to go through everything and collect what is important.” He informed us, and we both nodded.

He showed us where we could enter the building. It was not the front door; it was a hole in the building's side. The building was definitely more of a mess than what it looked like on the outside. Most of the floors had collapsed on top of each other. I was about to step over the threshold, but Liam grabbed my arm.

"I go first, my queen." he said. He then turned on my headlamp.

"You might need that." He said before he walked over the threshold. When he was satisfied, he held out his hand to me.

It felt like hours as we moved through the debris quickly and carefully. It's hard to imagine this place intact after this. Everything was everywhere. Finally, Liam called me over to him.

"I think I found the library door. Give me a hand?" he said as he tried to move a beam out of the way. I found he wasn't as heavy as I thought it should have been.

After we moved it, Liam used his shoulder to get the door open. It was indeed the library, and it was the only room that was actually untouched.

"Finally," T breathed out. I walked in and immediately started looking for the books I had seen earlier when I was looking up things about magic.

"So, what are we looking for?" He asked me.

"I'm looking for books on mate bonds. I don't understand why our bond broke. And I don't understand why I feel so disconnected. Maybe, can you look for books on people who have lost their wolves and the other kingdoms?" I asked him.

"On it" he said, before moving to the other side of the room. I found a few books I had been looking for and moved towards Liam.

"Did you find anything?" I asked him.

"I did. I think these books could have some answers," he said.

"Okay, we can head back now. I think I found what was looking for, and I have a few books to go through." I told him and he nodded. He took the books from

me and we made our way out of the library. As soon as we exited the library and I closed the door, the building shook.

“It’s okay, the building must be shifting. Let’s hurry.” Liam called out. But before I could say anything, the ground gave out under my feet and I fell.

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 122-Ashlyn

I woke with a groan as I tried to remember what had just happened. My head was pounding and my face felt sticky.

“Ashlyn, wake up.” Liam was yelling, shaking my shoulder.

“Liam, stop.” I groaned out.

“Oh, thank the goddess. Are you okay?” He rushed out.

“Liam, what happened?” I moaned out. My whole body ached while I tried to move. I was lying on my stomach, on this hard, icy surface.

“The floor gave out. Does anything feel broken?” He asked, trying to help me up. I sat back on my heels, looking at him.

“Sh!t, you cut your forehead.” He said. I reached up and winced when I found the cut. The sticky must be blood.

“I called Mason. He should be here soon.” Liam told me and I groaned.

“I wish you hadn’t done that.” I breathed out.

“What? Why?” He asked me, helping me to stand on my feet.

“Because I already have a massive headache and all he is going to do is scold me like a child,” I told him as I stood up on shaky legs.

“Ashlyn, I’m not sure what happened, but I know Mason loves you. He just wants you safe.” Liam tried to defend his friend.

“No, he wants me locked at home. He and Derek can do whatever they want. They don’t even need to tell me where they are even going. But me, I have eleven warriors around me at all times. So, it’s not about safety, it’s about control.” I vented.

“Let’s just get you out of here. I need to clean that cut.” Liam said.

“Did you at least have the books?” I asked him, as he led me over to a ladder.

“Yes, I got the books. Can you climb?” He asked me, and I nodded. I just wanted to get out of here.

“You go first, just in case. If you are having any trouble, I’ll carry you.” He said before I started climbing, and Liam’s face was in my a*ss the whole time.

I was trying to take my time as my entire body was screaming at me to stop and my head felt like it might explode. I had to stop to rest a few times, as I was quickly winded.

“Take your time, Ashlyn. You fell a few stories high.” Liam would tell me when I needed to rest. I was hoping to get out of here and home before Mason or Derek showed up. I knew Mason would have called Derek, and I didn’t need the scolding that I knew was coming.

Finally, I made it to the top. The man in the white hardhat helped me up and Liam was right behind me.

Liam grabbed my waist from behind to steady me when I felt like I was going to fall. I felt dizzy, and the room was spinning.

“I have a medical team outside,” the man spoke.

“Ashlyn, do you need me to carry you?” Liam whispered in my ear.

“I’m okay, Liam.” I told him. We followed the man out of the building and Liam led me over to the ambulance that was waiting in the driveway. I sat down on the steps of the ambulance while a medic cleaned up my wound and my face. Covered in dust and dirt. And I’m sure I looked like a hot mess with my face covered in blood.

“My queen, you are going to need stitches.” One medic informed me.

“Do what you need to do,” I told them.

“But my queen, we don’t have any numbing.” He told me.

“I’m stronger than I look.” I told him.

“Can you hold this to your forehead, applying pressure? I Just need to get the stitch kit.” He said, and I nodded. Wincing at the throbbing behind my eyes.

“Are you okay?” Liam asked me, while I did what the medic asked me.

“Yeah, I just have a headache,” I answered.

“My queen, you also have a concussion.” The medic called out from the back of the ambulance.

Before I could even get stitched up, Mason finally showed up. And I was glad that Derek wasn't with him.

My head was still spinning, and I was ready to throw up.

“Ashlyn, what the hell happened?” Mason rushed Out.

“Mason, it was an accident. We were just about to leave when the floor gave out.” Liam tried to explain, earning him a glare.

“I'll deal with you later. You were supposed to keep her safe, not go along with her ridiculous ideas,” Mason growled out.

“Liam, where are the books?” I asked him, ignoring Mason.

“I'll get them for you.” Liam said before he rushed off.

“Books? You went into that building for books? Are you fvcken kidding me?” Mason yelled out.

“Is it true that Theo planned on taking out all the other kingdoms?” I asked him and he looked at me, stunned.

“How do you know that?” He asked me.

“Is it true?” I asked him again, and he looked away.

“If you came here just to scold me about my safety, then you can save the lecture. You and Derek can do whatever you want, but I have to play the good little stay-at-home mommy.” I told him. Liam came back and handed me the books we had collected.

“Now, I’m going home.” I told him, moving around him. I felt dizzy, and all I wanted to do was throw up and lay down, but I would not show him any weakness.

“My queen, you still need stitches,” the medic called out.

“I’m sure it will be fine. Thank you.” I told him.

“Ashlyn!” Mason growled out.

“fvck off, Mason. Why the fr*k are you even here?” I growled at him. I noticed the man was talking to Liam.

“Mason, they found something.” Liam told him.

“Liam, what did they find?” I asked him. I was curious, but then I remembered I had more important things. Both Liam and Mason looked at me.

“Never mind, I’m sure you two can handle it. I wouldn’t want to get myself killed again.” I said before I opened up a portal. It closed before anyone else could step through. Sage was waiting on the porch with James on her hip.

“Ashlyn, what happened?” She rushed over to me. I couldn’t take James, so I just gave him a k!ss.

“I fell. It’s no big deal,” I told her, heading to the house.

“Ashlyn, you’re covered in blood. And you have a gash on your forehead.” Sage rushed out, following me up to my room.

“I know, and I’m fine.” I tried to reassure her. Before I went to start the shower, I put the books on top of the dresser.

“Ashlyn, where are Derek and Mason?” Sage called out.

“Mason is at the council building. I guess they found something. And I haven’t seen Derek,” I told her.

“I’m just going to shower and then I’ll be down to take care of James and make dinner. Arthur and Victor are coming for dinner,” I told her.

“Do you need help?” She asked me and I shook my head.

“You’ve done enough just watching James for me. I can handle the rest,” I told her.

I closed the bathroom and stripped down. Looking in the mirror, bruises covered my arms and chest. I finally looked at my mark. It was the same as before, but Tundra’s name was missing. I’ll need to get a tattoo to represent her. I’m not even sure I want to keep this mark anymore. And that thought broke me. I love them both, but I’ve given up enough of myself. I’m not some submissive housewife that will just take their crap.

Taking a deep breath, I hopped in the shower to get clean. I winced when the water hit my forehead, but I needed to get it clean. I couldn’t even see the wound in the mirror since it was covered in blood again. When the water finally ran clean, I hopped out to get ready. I needed to get James and to go start dinner. I also needed to find some meds. My head was pounding, and I didn’t have time to have a nap.

I checked out my wound in the mirror and it appeared to have stopped bleeding. So, I just brushed out my hair and went to get dressed. Sage was sitting on the bed when I came out.

“James’ is napping. I just wanted to make sure you didn’t die in the shower.” She said, making me laugh.

“Thanks, I love you too.” I told her, walking into the closet.

“What’s with the books?” She called out.

“I need to research this bond stuff. I also wanted to read about if anyone else had lost their wolves. Also, I probably should read up on the other kingdoms.” I answered her. I pulled on some leggings and just a t-shirt. Before the grandpas show up, I can always change. I walked out of the closet to find Sage flipping through one of the books.

“You okay?” I asked her, and she sighed, closing the book.

“How are you feeling?” She asked me.

“I’m fine, Sage. Maybe some meds for my headache, but I should go get dinner started.” I told her. She followed me downstairs and into the kitchen.

“I got you a new phone today,” Sage said.

“Thank you.” It was sitting on the kitchen island.

I was looking through the fridge when the front door was thrown open and we heard someone storming

“Derek, calm down.” I heard Matt yelling.

“Sage, can you go check on James, please?” I asked her. I knew this was about to get ugly. She rushed out right before Derek stormed in with Matt on his heels.

Matt moved in front of Derek, blocking him from me.

“Why the hell would you go to the council building?” Derek growled out.

“I needed to look for something, and Sage was watching James. It’s no big deal,” I told him.

“No big deal? You feel three stories and it’s no big deal.” he screamed.

“Derek, calm down. Ashlyn, are you okay?” Matt asked me.

“I have a headache, but I’m okay.” I answered.

“Derek, she’s fine. Calm down.” Matt told his boss.

“Derek, what is your problem, anyway? James was with Sage and it was an accident. I’m fine and no one else was hurt. So why the hell are you so angry?” I asked him and he huffed.

“Matt, leave.” Derek growled out. Matt looked at me before he left the kitchen.

“Your father is coming over for dinner with Arthur tonight.” I told him.

“Ashlyn, why the hell can’t you just stay out of danger?” Derek growled.

“I had everyone with me. I made sure James was safe. What more do you want from me?” I huffed.

“I want you to stay alive.” He said, frustrated.

“Why? So you and Mason can just go to work and leave me at home. Both of you can do what you want, but I can’t. You run into danger and you are the

hero. I do it and I'm this selfish b!tch who left her child. I'm never going to be this submissive mate, and if that's what you want, then you shouldn't have marked me." I yelled.

"We watched you die. We have the right to be concerned for your safety," he argued.

"Was Theo planning on attacking the other kingdoms?" I asked him, changing the subject. I knew I would get nowhere with all this safety crap.

"Who the fvck told you that?" he growled.

"Does it matter? 'm asking you if it's true."

"It doesn't change the fact that you died protecting your ex."

"So, you would have just left Matt to die? So you and Mason can sacrifice yourselves for another, but I can't. Would you have just left Chantel down there to fvcken die?" I screamed at him.

"Mason and I have kingdoms to take care of, things you don't understand," he defended.

"So, what the f**k do you want from me? From this fvcken relationship?" I yelled.

"I don't fvcken know!" He screamed. I couldn't pretend that what he said didn't hurt.

"If you can't move past what happened, then I think you should reject me. Because I didn't come back to live like this." I told him, wiping the tears from my eyes.

"Maybe if you'd stop running to another man, I would fvcking know." He growled out.

"And maybe if you made me feel safe, I wouldn't feel like I needed to," I yelled, with tears streaming down my face. Derek slammed his fists against the counter, making me jump.

"That's fvcken bullsh!t and you know it. You don't need a fvcken reason to run back to that fvcken alpha.

He even fvcken cheated on you and you still act like his fvcken lap dog.” Derek yelled out.

“Then why did you fvcken mark me? If I was such a horrible mate the first time around, why would you want me?” I screamed.

“You don’t get to play the victim this time. If either Mason or I did any of the crap that you did with Ian, you would have rejected us, and you fvcken know it,” he growled.

“I don’t love Ian. Saving Alex and Ian was the right thing to do, and I don’t regret that. I came back because I love you. But I don’t think you can love me without the bond. Even being marked, the bond isn’t the same.” I cried.

“I think you’re right,” he said, and I could feel my heart breaking. I moved to rush out of the kitchen when a window shattered. I screamed before I ducked down behind the counter. There was a sharp pain in one of my arms.

Looking down, I noticed I was bleeding. Mason, Brandon, Liam and Matt all rushed in. Mason rushed to me, kneeling in front of me.

“Baby, you’re bleeding,” he said, reaching for a towel.

“Derek, what the fvck happened?” He yelled out. When Derek didn’t answer, he asked me.

“Baby, what happened?” He asked me softly, wrapping the towel around my arm.

“I don’t know. The window shattered.” I told him.

“Okay, It’s okay, Baby,” Mason said, kissing my forehead. His behavior confused me. When I left him at the council building, he was pissed at me.

“Mason, the sniper got whoever was shooting at the house,” Brandon informed us. Mason helped me stand.

“Is he alive?” Mason asked.

“He is. He’s a dragon. Derek and Liam are dealing with him,” Brandon answered.

“Why would a dragon be shooting at the house?” I asked, and Mason sighed.

“Mason, you need to tell her.” Brandon said, and my mind was racing.

“I’m going to check on James.” I said, before rushing out of the kitchen and running to James’ room. As I rushed into his room, I heard him cry. Sage was consoling him. I immediately took him from her and he calmed down.

“Ashlyn, you’re bleeding.” Sage exclaimed.

“I’m fine. What happened?” rushed out.

“I think the noise just startled him.” Sage answered, and I nodded.

“It’s okay, baby. I got you.” I cooed, while I held him to my chest.

I sat down in the rocking chair and rocked him until he was asleep again. Holding him helped me feel better about the argument I had with Derek. I can’t blame him for having second thoughts, because I was also having them. Sage left to get a first aid kit. And soon after, Mason entered the room.

“Baby, what Derek said?” he said, kneeling down beside the chair.

“Mason, I don’t want to talk about it.” I told him, closing my eyes.

“I’m sorry about how I’ve been acting today. Not having the bond seems to affect all of us. It doesn’t feel the same, even after marking.” Mason said, and I nodded.

“Hence the reason I went to the council building today,” I told him.

“I’m sorry, Baby.” He sat down on the arm of the chair and wrapped an arm around me.

“I shouldn’t have overacted like that, and I shouldn’t have gone to work. You needed me, and I wasn’t there again. And I’m so sorry. I want you to know that even without the bond, I want this to work. I love you so much, Baby.” He told me and I sobbed into his chest.

“We will get through this, Baby, we have to.” He whispered.

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 123-Derek

After interrogating the bastard that shot at our home, I made my way home. I’m covered in blood. It infuriated me that he was another dragon. I wish I

could say that this was the first incident, but it wasn't. We had to have not only our home on lockdown but the hospital when Ashlyn was still receiving her care there. Our entire lives have been an uphill battle since the day Ashlyn went into her coma.

The vampire kingdom has been on edge because of the death of their king. Turns out that Theo had already rejected his chosen mate and everything was just a plan to take over. I thought I knew him; we had been friends for years and he almost destroyed my family. And now it seems like we have been fighting all the kingdoms.

There have been many threats made not only on Ashlyn's life but on James' life as well. The thought of hybrids scared so many people. And it wasn't just the rogues or the rebels that have teamed up to make sure that hybrids don't exist.

Then there's this bond sh!t with Ashlyn. Everything felt perfect last night after we had marked her, and this morning it was like it was gone. The mark on my neck was back, but the feelings weren't the same. I felt like I loved her yesterday, and I missed her every day she was gone. But today all I feel is resentment. I resent her for leaving us, and that our bond isn't the same as it was before.

I woke up beside a stranger this morning, and I can't shake this feeling that something is wrong. Even Magnus is on edge, which is making me feel worse. I can feel her worries and fears through the bond, and I should want to comfort her. I should want to take away her pain, but I can't figure out my own feelings without feeling angry about what happened. And I don't know if I was more angry with myself or with her.

I pulled my car up to the house, and Ashlyn was sitting on the porch. She looked lost in her thoughts as she looked up at the night sky. It was late and she shouldn't be out here. Matt wasn't too far away from her, and I could see the other warriors. But I wish she would go inside. Someone just tried to kill her and she's out here like it wouldn't happen again. Parking my car, I got out, slamming the door behind me.

"Ashlyn, what the hell are you doing out here?" I growled. She turned her attention to me and I could see that she had been crying.

"I was worried about you. You just ran off." She said, standing up.

“I had to deal with the shooter,” I told her.

“You didn’t have to do that. There’s enough warriors here to hold off an army. So, why did you leave? You didn’t even make sure I was okay.” She said with tears in her eyes.

“Mason had you,” I told her.

“You didn’t answer my question.” Her voice cracked and I could see tears running down her cheeks. And I didn’t know how to answer her.

“If you want me to make you a priority, then you have to meet me halfway. You can’t just run into danger. Do you still want me?” She asked, crying. I wish we hadn’t had an audience for this.

“Ashlyn, I don’t know what I want.” I told her, and her pain hit me through the bond. She grabbed on to her chest and the pain in her eyes made me feel guilty about how I was feeling.

“Matt, is the area secure?” she whispered to him.

“It is, my queen,” he told her.

“Ashlyn, I’m sorry.” I tried to tell her, but she took off in the lake’s direction.

“fvck!” I yelled out. Mason came running out of the house in just his boxers.

“The lake.” I yelled at him. We both took off towards the lake. When the lake finally came into view, a bright light shot out of the lake and we were all hit with a blast, knocking us on our a*sSES.

“Matt, where is she?” I screamed.

“Derek, she’s in the lake.” Matt yelled out. And I looked at Mason.

We both rushed up off the ground and ran over to the dock. I scanned the lake, looking for her. I didn’t see her, and the water was eerily calm.

“Do you see her?” I rushed out.

“No, what the hell was that?” Mason yelled.

“I do not know. Matt, was anyone in the area?” I called to him.

“Nothing’s reported.” He yelled back. Mangus was just about to shift when Ashlyn’s head rose above the water. She was in the middle of the lake. She let out a scream, and we were all hit by another blast, but it wasn’t as strong as the first. I could feel her anguish through the bond, and I immediately felt guilty.

“What the fvck did you say to her?” Mason yelled.

“I told he, I don’t know what I want.” I sighed.

Mason punched me in the jaw, sending me into the lake.

I swam to the surface, coughing up the water I had just inhaled.

“What the fvck, Mason?” I coughed out.

“What the hell is wrong with you? She’s our goddamn mate, and you just told her you didn’t want her. I get that you’re hurt and your feelings are all over the place, but you have no right to tell her you don’t want her. After everything that she has done for you, for us. You can’t just throw her away because things are hard.”

He screamed at him. I climbed out of the lake onto the deck.

“I didn’t say I didn’t want her. I said I didn’t know.” I corrected him.

“Why don’t you just stab her in the heart? She fvcken loves you. She never would have asked me too accept you if she didn’t. Get yourself in check before you break her entirely.” He growled. Mason and I were so distracted from our argument that we didn’t notice that Ashlyn had swum back from the middle of the lake. She waded on to the shore, skipping the dock.

“Baby?” Mason called to her, and she turned around to face us. She was visibly shaking and her lips were turning blue.

“I’m going to check on James and then I’m going to bed. I’m sure there is a damsel that needs saving around here somewhere.” She said.

“What the fvck does that mean?” I asked her and she sighed.

“Do you remember what you said to me back at the cabin when you first met me?” she asked me.

“I said a lot of things,” I told her.

“I asked you why you would help a wolf when you are a dragon. Do you remember what you told me?” she whispered, with tears in her eyes.

“Because it was the right thing to do,” I sighed.

“I want to believe that you would have done the same if you were in my place. I didn’t risk my life because I love them. What I did was the right thing to do.

We all have to make hard choices, and not everyone will understand them. But choosing to be with you was never a hard decision, one I will never reject, even if you chose to reject me.” She said, with tears running down her cheeks. She turned on her heels and walked back to the house.

“Is giving her up really worth it? I know the bond isn’t the same, but she isn’t the same and she never will be. But I still love her, and if you want to leave, I won’t stop you.” Mason told me, before he followed Ashlyn back to the house. I stood on the deck watching my mates walking away and my heart broke and it was my fault. I had no one to blame but myself.

“Derek, Ashlyn is nothing like your mother. Let her in. Magnus said in my head. “You don’t know that. My father never shared the bond with my mother and she left.” I told him.

“She would never leave our child or you. You are the one who will have to walk away. And if you do, I’ll leave.” he threatened me.

“And how the hell can we keep her safe? I feel like I’m fighting the entire kingdom. I’m choosing to make a wolf/witch queen of dragons. She killed the vampire king. They believe she will do that same to us,” I told him.

“And when did you care about what other people think? Take her to our kingdom. Let her meet the people, her people. Keeping her locked up won’t help your case. Magnus explained. Matt, coming up beside me, pulled me out of my chat with Magnus.

“Derek, I’ve known you my whole life. And I also tried to be as brutally honest as I can be with you. I’m telling you right now that if you let her go, you will regret it for the rest of your life. We see the way she looks at you, and the only other person she looks at like that is Mason. I know you’re scared because the bond doesn’t feel the same. And you don’t want to end up like your

parents, but she will never leave you. You will have to leave her, and if you do, you'll be making the biggest mistake of your life." He told me.

"I really hope you will make the right decision." He patted me on the back before walking away, leaving me on the dock.

"Told you." Magnus chimed in.

"And what do you want me to do?" I asked my dragon.

"I want you to climb into bed beside our mate, hold her close and tell her you love her. I know you do. And if you don't, I will take over and do it for you. Tomorrow, you will explain everything to her. And I mean everything. Derek. She has the right to know the truth." Magnus scolded me. Before making my way back to the house, I took a few deep breaths.

I made my way into the house and up to our room. I checked on James before I headed into our room. He was sleeping so peacefully and my heart swelled with the love I have for him. I watched him intently for a few minutes before I headed into our room. Ashlyn was curled up under a blanket on the bed. I'm sure she must be freezing, that water is cold. Mason was just coming out of the bathroom.

"What made you change your mind?" He asked me, pulling on a pair of boxers.

"Tomorrow, we will tell her everything." I told him, heading into the bathroom to shower. I'm still covered in blood and now I had lake water all over me.

After I was done with my shower and all ready for bed, I wandered into the bedroom to find a pair of boxers before climbing into bed. Ashlyn was sleeping in the middle and she was still shivering, even with Mason beside her. I could feel Mason's gaze on me as I watched Ashlyn.

"You hurt her again, and I will kill you myself. Mate or not, I will protect her with my life, even if it's from you."

He said, snuggling back into her. I said nothing as I laid down beside her, my chest flush with her back. She indeed freezing. My nipples were instantly hard from the coldness coming off of her body. I wrapped an arm around her waist, snuggling my face into her neck. She smelt like James and I found it calming.

She's already asleep from the day she had. Ashlyn should take it easy. She just woke up. And we both should have stayed home with her. I felt lost when I woke up and the bond wasn't the same. I watched my mother with other men until she finally left my father. My father had told me that the bond with my mother felt nothing like how a bond should feel. And she cheated, lied, hated me for being my father's son. I'm sure he cheated as well, but he never beat me. She was cruel and mean, and always blaming me for whatever my father did.

I came from a broken home, even after my mother left. My father would focus on work and they left me to myself. Sure, I had friends, but it wasn't the attention I was craving. And when my father told me that my fated mate had died, it crushed me. That's when things really spiraled in my life. I just stopped caring until I found her in those woods. Not having the bond scares me to death.

I would rather leave her than wake up ten years from now and have her leave me.

My mind was racing, and I was finding it hard to sleep. Ashlyn whimpered in her sleep and I pulled her close. She must have had a bad dream. I moved my hand up her shirt, laying my hand on her chest. She was still cold, and I forced more of my heat out to help warm her.

"I love you, Babygirl," I whispered in her ear before kissing her neck.

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 124-Ashlyn

When Derek told me he didn't know if he wanted to be with me, the only half of my soul I had left shattered.

It felt like someone had stabbed me in the heart. I made sure the area was safe before I took off running towards the lake. The pressure that I hadn't felt in so long was threatening to explode, and I just couldn't take it anymore. I don't remember hitting the icy cold water or swimming out into the middle of the lake.

I ducked my head under the surface and let out everything with a scream. My entire body felt like it was burning as I let whatever I was feeling out into the water.

When I was out of oxygen and my lungs were screaming at me, I surfaced. After catching my breath, I let out another scream into the night. Finally, the pressure had calmed down. If Tundra had been here, she would have been able to tell me what was happening. I could feel my magic, but this felt different but also familiar somehow.

It was hard to explain. And my mind was racing with the pain that was consuming my body. My body felt numb even though I could feel the icy water. I didn't care that I could freeze to death out here. I just wanted the pain to stop.

Coming to my senses, I swam back to the shore. I had James to live for, and even if I had to raise him alone, I would not leave him. He deserves so much more than growing up without his mother. I waded past Mason and Derek; they were arguing on the dock.

Derek's now soaked, but I didn't have enough energy to care right now.

"Baby?" Mason called to me. I turned to look at both of them.

"I'm going to check on James and then I'm going to bed. I'm sure there is a damsel that needs saving around here somewhere." I told them.

"What the fvck does that mean?" Derek huffed out, and I sighed.

"Do you remember what you said to me back at the cabin when you first met me?" I asked him.

"I said a lot of things," he answered, crossing his arms over his chest.

"I asked you why you would help a wolf when you are a dragon. Do you remember what you told me?" I whispered, unable to hold back my tears.

"Because it was the right thing to do." He sighed.

"I want to believe that you would have done the same if you were in my place. I didn't risk my life because I love them. It was the right thing to do. We all have to make hard choices, and not everyone will understand them. But choosing to be with you was never a hard decision, one I will never reject, even if you chose to reject me." I told him, with tears running down my cheeks. The mirror thought of him rejecting me, broke my heart and made my chest twist painfully.

After I said my piece to Derek, I headed home. I didn't notice that I was shivering until Mason came up beside me, wrapping an arm around my shoulders. His warmth was trying to break through the layer of cold that encased my body.

"Baby, what happened?" Mason asked me while we walked.

"I don't know," I told him.

"Okay, Baby. Let's get you inside and get you warm. You're freezing." He said, pulling me to his side.

I felt like I was on autopilot as I checked on James before I went to change out of my wet clothes. Mason ran me a hot shower, but even that couldn't warm me.

After the shower, I put on some of my pyjamas that were still new. I would usually wear one of their shirts, but I now felt uncomfortable with them. I crawled into the middle of the bed after I dressed and curled under the covers.

Mason came to sit next to me on the bed.

"Baby, are you alright?" He asked me, leaning down and kissing my forehead.

"Yep," I lied. I didn't feel like talking about it. I just wanted to close my eyes and pray this day away.

"I'm just going to shower and then I'll be in bed. Okay?" he whispered, and I nodded.

I awoke with a start, not even remember falling asleep. Derek snuggled into my back, and I wondered when he came to bed. After last night, I didn't expect him beside me, holding me to his chest. Both my mates were sleeping peacefully, but now I was wide awake. I grabbed a book and went to check on James. If I'm awake, I'm sure he is as well.

I climbed over my mates, grabbing a book and a hoodie before going into James' room. I was still cold, not having Tundra really suck. James was awake and babbling happily to himself.

"Good morning, my little love." I cooed to him. I pulled my hoodie on before I picked up my cheerful boy.

I changed him before I took him and my book down to the kitchen. Making him a bottle and me a coffee, I took James into the living room. I laid down a blanket on the floor to give James some tummy time. After laying him down, I went back into the kitchen to get my coffee and book. I sat down beside James, placing my coffee beside his bottle on the coffee table. James was trying to do pushups, babbling to himself. He was growing and changing so much.

I took a sip of my coffee before cracking open my book. I was rubbing James' back as I read. Hopefully, I can find out why the bond broke in the first place. When James became fussy, I moved to the couch to feed him.

I was trying to feed him, hold him and the book. It wasn't really working, so I put the book down and just focused on James. I could tell that he was getting sleepy. The bottle was almost empty when he was finally asleep. I moved him to my chest, rubbing his back, while being able to read again. James snuggled his little face into my neck before settling himself. My neck was at a weird angle to let him breathe and I knew it was going to be sore when he got up.

I was about halfway through the book when Liam entered the living room. He sat down beside me, looking at the book I was reading intently.

"Good morning." I told him, still looking at my book.

"You okay? I heard what happened." He asked me and I sighed.

"I'm as good as I can be." I told him.

"How are you feeling after your fall?" He asked. And I actually didn't even notice this morning when I got up. Everything must have healed overnight. I wonder how fast witches heal?

"I'm okay, Liam." I answered, giving him a small smile.

"I'm glad you gave me a heart attack yesterday." He laughed, and I giggled.

"I'm sorry about that. And hopefully, Mason wasn't too much of an a*ss." I said, and he laughed.

"Nothing I couldn't handle. We were all worried about you. I jumped down and almost broke an ankle. It was almost too far for my wolf, so for you, it scared me," he explained.

"I understand. Without Tundra, I don't know what I can handle." I said sorrowfully. It was still really hard talking about Tundra. Liam put his hand on my knee.

"I know, Beautiful. But you will figure all of this out," he said.

"I'm sorry about your ankle? How are you feeling now?" I asked him and he laughed.

"You took a knife for me. I'm sure I'll live. But everything is all healed up." he told me. It seems like it was a lifetime ago that Madison had stabbed me over Liam.

"Liam, whatever happened to Madison?" I asked him and he sighed.

"They sentenced her to life in jail," he answered.

"I'm sorry, Liam." I told him. He cared for the one that turned out to be a bitch, and I felt guilty.

"Don't be. She got what she deserved."

"She never deserved you," I told him and he smiled.

"I'm going to go make a coffee before I do my rounds. Would you like one?" He asked me, standing up from the couch.

"I'm okay, thank you." I told him before he left the living room.

Turning my attention back to my book, I continued to read about mate bonds. It was definitely interesting to learn more about something that affects all of us. Most of this I didn't even know. The surrounding people in your life can affect the mate bond. You can even choose to accept them without rejecting them. The bond will eventually break, even without a former rejection. Having doubts about yourself can also affect how the bond works. To sum it up, you have to be happy to be happy, which is ridiculous.

But I think it's me that's affecting the bond. I'm not whole, like I was before, and that is warping the bond.

How can I be happy when I'm grieving the loss of my wolf? Reading further, I found that you can't kill your mate without dying yourself. That must be why the mate bond was broken. I wouldn't have been able to kill Theo without

killing myself and Derek and Mason. Selene must have broken the bond. Theo and I shouldn't have had a bond since he had a chosen mate, but when my hand touched him at the camp, I felt the sparks. But I didn't feel it with King Jordan.

My head hurt by the time I closed the book, leaning my head back on the couch. James was still sleeping, so I closed my eyes and tried to slow my overactive mind.

"Babygirl?" Derek's voice called out to me. I opened my eyes to find him sitting on the coffee table across from me.

"Derek, is everything okay?" I asked him, and he sighed.

"No, everything isn't okay. I'm sorry for what I said yesterday," he said.

"Derek, you don't need to apologize for your feelings." I told him, holding James close. The thought of not having Derek was heartbreaking. I could feel my emotions bubbling to the surface. Derek moved to sit beside me on the couch. He wrapped an arm around my shoulders, pulling me into his chest.

"Babygirl, I need to tell you something, and it's difficult for me." He told me.

"You found someone else?" I mumbled into his chest. My heart clenched painfully in my chest.

"What? No, of course not, Babygirl. I love you, our son, and Mason." He exclaimed, squeezing me closer, kissing my head.

"Then, what?" I asked him, pulling away so I could look at him.

"When I told you about my mother, I didn't tell you the complete story. My father told me that after she finally left, that the bond never felt right with her. And then when I woke up yesterday, and the bond didn't feel right, I panicked. My mother was an awful person, and I thought maybe it was because of the bond. She hated me just for being my father's son. And just the thought of our relationship turning into that scared me." He explained. I snuggled back into his chest, wrapping my free arm around his waist.

"I'm sorry that you didn't have a happy childhood.

And I can't explain the bond with your parents, but I may explain what is wrong with our bond." I told him.

"You know what's wrong with the bond?" he asked me, confused, and I nodded on his chest.

"It's me. I'm the one causing our bond to not feel right. So what you and Mason have been feeling is me," I explained.

"Babygirl, I don't understand. What's wrong with you?" he asked me and I sighed.

"What isn't wrong with me? But I'll explain everything to you and Mason when he's up." I told him.

He squeezed me close to him while we sat on the couch together with James still asleep on my chest.

"How are you feeling this morning?" Derek asked me, breaking the silence.

"I'm feeling better now," I whispered.

"I'm so sorry about yesterday, Babygirl." He said.

"I should be the one apologizing to you. I did not know what you went through. Ever since we met, it's been all about me. I feel like I know nothing about you or Mason." I sighed.

"And that is also our fault. We've been so focused on trying to keep you safe that we haven't had time to be an actual couple. And now we have James. I haven't even taken you to see my kingdom. So, I'm taking some time off. It will not be the same with all the security we have to have, but it will just be us," Derek said.

"Just us and our pack" I told him and he groaned, making me giggle.

"We really need to find Liam a mate," Derek groaned.

"Why haven't you taken him with you to the dragon kingdom? You never know, he could find his mate there." I giggled.

"I guess we can take him with us," he sighed.

"I understand that watching your mother cheat on your father must have been hard. But I would never step out on you, ever. Broken bond or not, you are stuck with me." I told him and he kissed my forehead.

"More like you are stuck with us," he said.

"Then let's be stuck together. And we can figure out the rest later. I want you and Mason. Everything else doesn't matter:" I told him, leaning up, pressing my lips to his. Mason came in before Derek could deepen the kiss. We pulled apart just as Mason sat down on the coffee table in front of us. He was in lounge pants and just a t-shirt.

"No work today?" I asked him and he shook his head.

"You two are my only work today," he said.

"How are you feeling today, Baby?" Mason asked me.

"I'm better," I told him.

"Even after that fall?" He asked, raising an eyebrow.

"Yeah, I'm not sure why? I'll have to talk to Sage." I told him and he nodded.

"What have you two been up to, besides making out on the couch?" Mason asked with a smirk.

"One kiss is hardly making out," I said, rolling my eyes.

"It's better than a punch," Derek said, him and Mason both started laughing.

"Punch?" I asked them, confused. I don't remember punching either of them.

"Mason, punched me off the dock yesterday." Derek shrugged, and I looked at Mason, stunned.

"Why would you do that?" I asked him.

"Hey, he deserved that hit." Mason defended.

"Maybe so, but it doesn't make it right." I scolded him.

"Fine, but I'm not apologizing for it." Mason huffed.

"I'm not asking you either. I would have punched myself, too." Derek said with a laugh.

James raised his little head, and I knew he was now awake.

"My boys up." Mason said, trying to take him, but James gripped on to my shirt for dear life.

"I think he wants mamma," I told a pouting Mason. Derek was laughing at Mason.

"Clearly, mamma is his favorite," Derek said, and I laughed.

"To be fair, he's my favorite," I said, squeezing my boy.

"I was a mamma's boy, so I get it." Mason said, rubbing James' back. Looking at Derek and I could see the pain in his eyes. I couldn't imagine having that one person who is supposed to love you never shows you love.

"Hey, I love you." I told him, resting my head on his chest. James was blowing his gruel bubbles on my neck.

"I love you, Babygirl," Derek whispered, pulling me close. Mason squeezed in beside me on the couch.

"I love you, too, Baby," Mason whispered, kissing my cheek. James leaned back, placing one of his hands on Mason's cheeks, making me laugh. I don't think he likes anyone touching his mamma.

"Hey, you're supposed to be on my side, little man," Mason told James.

"Mason, now that you are here, I should probably explain what's wrong with our bond." I told him.

"I should probably tell you both what we found at the council building," Mason said.

"What did you find?"

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 125-Ashlyn

"What did you find?" I asked Mason, curious. What could I have fallen into, literally? James kept trying to suck on my neck, and I figured he was hungry.

“I’ll need you to explain everything after I feed this boy.” I told him.

“Always hungry, like his momma.” Mason laughed, taking him from me.

“Really? Both of you out eat me, easily.” I huffed.

“Not cupcakes, muffins or cookies.” Derek chimed in, and I gave him a pointed look.

“Then you know what to get me instead of flowers,” I told them.

We moved our chat into the kitchen, and Derek made James up a bottle while he tried to rip out Mason’s facial hair.

“Buddy, that’s attached to me.” He cried out. I was laughing. Getting babies to let go was nearly impossible.

“I think he’s telling you it’s time to shave your poky face.” I told him, while helping with James.

“But I like it.” He pouted.

“When it gets longer, it will just be worse.” Derek chimed in, passing him the newly made bottle.

“Ugh. Fine.” He huffed as he fed our starving boy.

You’d figure he had never eaten before.

“Okay, now explain what you found?” I asked him impatiently. I was dying to know.

“Why don’t you explain this mate bond stuff you found out about?” He countered. I scrunched up my nose.

“Fine,” I eventually breathed out.

We all sat at the table before I started. Derek handed me a coffee before taking his seat.

“So, since I don’t have the other half of my soul, Tundra, the bond won’t be the same. And everything affects the bond. Pretty much I’ve learned, you have to be happy for the bond to be happy. I think it moves things along, but it

can fade over time, just like love and lust. Also, I know why the bond broke. I wouldn't have been able to kill Theo if the bond was still intact. I'm not sure why, though. He had a chosen mate," I explained.

"Theo, rejected her." Derek told us. And it all made me.

"That's why I felt sparks when he was at the camp. He had already rejected her. Anyway, you can't kill your mate, you will die. Which would also mean that Grace never killed Brad. She would have had to get someone else to do it for her." I told them.

"So if we are happy, the bond is happy?" Derek asked

"Basically, I know it's confusing. But in the beginning, we were all happy and the bond fed on our happiness. But we, me, right now, it's feeding on my negative emotions and that's what's making you doubt the bond." I continued.

"So, how do we help you?" Mason asked me.

"I'm not sure yet. I know this is hard on both of you.

But as of right now, I just have to take this one day at a time. And we need to communicate. If you are feeling worried about anything, you need to tell me. Also, please don't doubt me. I'm here because I love you and our family. I could have stayed in what I assume is heaven, but I came back to you three," I said.

"I'm sorry, baby. We should never have doubted you. I guess those emotions were bleeding into us and we couldn't sift through them," Mason said. James was done with his bottle and I took him from Mason to burp him. I was standing, bouncing him gently as I rubbed his back. Mason stood and came over to me, kissing my lips.

"I've missed you so much. And you are so sexy with our son in your arms." He whispered, making me smile.

"I missed you. Now tell me what you found." I huffed that last part, making him laugh.

"De-man-ding." Mason and Derek laughed while I glared at them.

"I am not. I just know what I want. And I want you to tell me." I told him.

“But first, tell us what happened last night at the lake.” Derek asked, and I looked at him, confused.

“What are you talking about? Nothing happened. I jumped into the lake to let out my screams.” I told him.

“Baby, whatever you did, knocked us on our a*s*s,” Mason said.

“I don’t know. I felt pressure again, and I just had to release it. My mind is a little foggy, and I don’t actually remember jumping into the lake or swimming out that far.” I told them.

“Like the pressure you’d feel when you were still an elemental?” Derek asked, and I nodded.

“Could you still be an elemental?” Mason asked.

“Selene told me that all my powers were gone, that I’m basically just a witch now. So, I do not know. Maybe it’s a witch thing. I’ll have to go to the magic kingdom and do some research, and I also want to see Nathan.” I said.

“So, the moon goddess took everything away?” Mason asked me, and I nodded.

“There’s always a price to be paid. Tundra made a deal with Selene for Brad’s life and then another one for mine.” I explained. I was instantly sad, thinking of what Tundra had sacrificed for me. She was my best friend and I miss her dearly.

Mason and Derek must have felt my emotions because they both came over to me, wrapping me in a group hug.

“I know, Baby. Thor misses her just as much,” Mason told him.

“And Magnus,” Derek chimed in.

“What do you guys think of tattoos?” I asked them. They both pulled away and looked at me, stunned.

“You want to get a tattoo?” Mason asked me, and I nodded.

“Tundra’s name isn’t on our mark anymore. I want to get something done, so she is always with me.” I told them.

“I love that idea, babygirl.” Derek said, kissing my cheek.

“Me too, Baby.” Mason agreed, kissing my other cheek.

“Okay, now tell me what you found!” I huffed. Mason stared at me, increasing the suspense.

“Fine, I’ll tell you.” He finally said.

“Thank you.” I breathed out. I snuggled James back into my neck. He must be growing since he’s eating and sleeping so much.

“But let me go change James first, so he can sleep,” I told them.

“I got him.” Derek said, taking James.

“Come on, little man.” He said to James, walking out of the kitchen.

“Men are definitely sexy with a baby in their arms.” I said out loud, watching Derek leave the kitchen.

“They are indeed chick magnets.” Mason laughed. I turned and glared at him.

“Don’t you dare!” I told him, sitting beside him.

“Like I need another woman in my life. You’re more than enough.” He said, grinning at me.

“That had better be a compliment,” I told him.

“Of course, Baby.” He leaned in, giving me a kiss. The kiss started out gently, but it didn’t take long until I was sitting in his lap, my fingers in his hair and my tongue tasting every inch of his mouth. It wasn’t until I heard someone clear their throat did I pull away.

“Now, who’s making out?” Derek asked, taking the chair beside us.

“Where’s James?” I asked him. Still catching my breath.

“Sleeping. I laid him down. Now, should Mason explain what he found, or should we just go back to bed?” Derek asked, wiggling his eyebrows at us.

“No, I need to know. After.” I laughed out, looking at Mason.

“Now, explain.” I told him firmly. I could feel how turned on he was. It was digging into my thigh.

“Fine.” Mason groaned.

“I promise, I’ll help you after you tell me.” I whispered, licking up his neck. He shivered, goosebumps erupting all over his body.

“Have you always been so mean?” He huffed.

“I’m not mean. I’m negotiating. You tell me, and I’ll suck you off. Deal?” I asked him and he looked at me, stunned. Derek, laughing beside us, pulled Mason out of his stunned state.

“I could make something up if you’d offer me that deal” Derek said. Mason wrapped his arms around me, squeezing me into him.

“No, it’s my deal.” He rushed out, making me giggle. I would have done it anyway, but at least this way I got to know faster.

“Okay, so they built the council building over the ruins of an old building. And you fell into what looks to be a tomb of some sort. It was really dark, but I think you need to see it. I think it’s about you, or something that happened 100’s of years ago. It’s like history is repeating itself” he explained.

“Okay, now explain.” I told him.

“Then let’s go,” I exclaimed, standing up, but Mason pulled me back down onto his lap.

“But James is sleeping now. I could portal us there and then we could check it out and be back before he wakes up.” I told him and he pushed his lips into a him.

“Later, we made a deal.” He reminded me.

“That sounds like a good plan.” Derek taunted the line.

“Fine, but you owe me.” He huffed. And I pecked his lips.

“I’ll give you whatever you want. But you both have five minutes to get ready before I leave without you.” I told them.

Before we could even move from the table, there was a commotion coming from the foyer.

“Mom, you can’t just come in.” I heard Sage yelling at her mother.

“Nathan, what the hell is going on?” Sage yelled at our brother. Liz stormed into the kitchen with Nathan and Sage on her heels. Nathan groaned when he saw the position Mason and I were in.

“I told you not to go in there,” Sage told them, laughing.

“What is going on?” I asked them.

“I need you to come outside with me, Ashlyn.” Liz said, and I looked at her, confused.

“It’s good to see you, sis,” Nathan said, looking up at the ceiling.

“Nathan, are you okay?” I asked him.

“Yeah, but can you get off of your mate?” He said.

“I could get naked. This is my kitchen.” I told him, and Sage started laughing. Poor Nathan’s face turned bright red.

“Need to watch more porn.” Sage told Nathan through her laughs.

“I’ve seen plenty. I just don’t want to picture my sister in a mate sandwich.” Nathan groaned. I almost fell off Mason, as I was laughing so hard. Sage was wiping her eyes.

“Mate sandwich.” I laughed out and Sage laughed harder.

“Will you two grow up? Ashlyn, I need you outside unless you want to break this lovely kitchen of yours.” Liz scolded us.

“Okay, Okay. I’m coming.” I told her, trying to calm down.

“That’s what she said.” Sage laughed. The entire kitchen erupted with laughter while Liz glared at all of us.

“How the hell are any of you in charge?” Liz glared at us while we all tried to calm down.

“Oh, come on, mom. That was great.” Sage told her mom.

“All of you are so immature. I’ll be waiting outside.” Liz huffed. Pushing past Nathan, she left the kitchen.

“That woman needs to get laid.” Sage said. Nathan groaned while I started laughing again.

“You just have to push her buttons,” I said, standing up from Mason’s lap.

“You started it.” Sage said, and I was stunned.

“I did not. Nathan did, with his mate sandwich.” I defended. I looked at Sage and she looked at me and we both busted into laughter again.

“Come on, we should go meet her or we will never hear the end of it.” Sage said through her laughs. She interlocked her arm with mine, pulling me outside. Her mother was waiting in the driveway with all the warriors as we came out of the house.

“Finally.” Liz breathed out.

“Sorry, I was fixing my mate’s sandwich. It kept falling apart.” I told her, seriously. Brandon came up beside Sage. He was outside with the warriors.

“Mate sandwich?” He asked Sage, confused, and we both started laughing again.

“Will both of you stop? You are supposed to be a Queen and a princess and you are acting like horny teenagers.” Liz scolded us.

“Nathan started it.” Sage whined, and I agreed with her. Mason, Derek, and Nathan followed behind us when we came out.

“Ashlyn, why do you look like you just crawled out of bed?” Liz asked me, just noticing what I was wearing.

“Because I did.” I told her, and she gave me a pointed look.

“I will deal with that later, but for now, I need everyone to step back. Ashlyn, come here. I want to test your magic.” Liz explained.

“Mom, what is this?” Sage asked, and even I was curious to know what she was talking about.

“Nathan told me what happened yesterday. I think I know why.” Liz answered. Sage turned to glare at Nathan.

“You told her?” She huffed.

“I thought she could help.” He defended.

“It’s fine, Sage. Can everyone step back, please?” I called out. My mates moved closer to me, unsure of what Liz was talking about.

“I’m okay, just step back,” I told them. Both of them hesitated before they moved back towards the house.

“Give me your hands”, Liz asked, and I held my hands out. She grabbed my hands, and I could feel her magic flowing into me.

“Your magic is raw, untouched, ancient. I’ve felt nothing like this before.” Liz told us.

“Okay, and what does that mean?” I asked her, I worried.

“Close your eyes and repeat after me. Flos maqicae.” She said. I closed my eyes and did what she asked.

“Flos magicae.” I said.

“Flos magicae.” she said louder, and I repeated it just as loud, matching hers.

“Flos magicae.” She screamed, and I screamed it out with her. I felt a wave of magic leave my body with a rush. I still had my eyes closed, so I wasn’t sure what was happening. Sage, letting out a gasp, forced me to open my eyes to see what I had just done. Everything in the front yard was now in full bloom. It was early spring, and the flowers hadn’t bloomed yet.

“How is this possible?” Sage whispered. I looked over at them and they were all looking at me, stunned.

“Baby, your eyes.”