

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 136-Ashlyn

I spotted Derek holding James from the air. He was standing by an ambulance with Victor. "Down!" I yelled at Freya. She landed as close as she could to the ambulance. I jumped off of her back before she hit the ground and took off running towards the ambulance.

"Where's Mason?" I screamed.

"Take James and I'll find him, babygirl." Derek rushed out, and I knew he was also panicking.

As soon as I took James, my body glowed white. I instantly healed him. He didn't look like he had been burnt, but he could have had lung damage from the smoke.

"Derek, I need you to find him." I rushed out, tears filling my eyes as I looked up at my mate.

"I'll find him, I promise. Stay with my father." He said, kissing my cheek before he ran off.

"Freya, go with him." I yelled at her. She nodded and took to the sky again.

"Victor, are you okay?" I asked him, turning my attention to my father-in-law.

"Just a few burns, nothing I can't handle." He shrugged it off.

James snuggled into my chest, gripping him. I should never have left them alone. I thought they would be safe here.

Taking Victor's hand, the bright white light returned to heal him. I should never have put him at risk. Guilt and worry churn violently in my stomach as I wait for Derek.

"Victor, can you tell me what happened?" I asked him, sitting beside him on the ambulance steps.

"I was sitting with James. Mason had gone to make a bottle, and then the room exploded. I protected James with my body, but I don't know what happened to Mason." He told me.

"Derek and Freya will find him. I can feel he's alive." I told him.

“I’m so Sorry, my dear. I should have been able to protect them. This is my kingdom,” Victor said.

“It’s not your fault. Was anyone else hurt?” I asked him. I needed to do something. The wait was going to kill me.

“A few of the warriors. No casualties. That side of the castle had been cleared out to ensure your safety when you were here,” he said.

“Fvck. Who the hell could have done this?” I breathed out, frustrated by this whole mess.

“I don’t think it’s just vampires,” Victor answered.

“This is becoming exhausting,” I said, on the verge of tears.

“It will be okay, my dear.” Victor said, wrapping an arm around my shoulders.

“If anything happened to Mason, I wouldn’t be able to forgive myself.” I cried.

“He will be okay. He’s strong for a wolf and his love for his family is even stronger. Whatever happens, he will pull through. He’s too stubborn to die” Victor said.

Freya landed nearby and my anxiety picked up.

“Freya, where are they?” I yelled at her. She motioned with her head, pointing behind me. I rushed around the ambulance to see Derek helping Mason to walk. I rushed over to them and wrapped my arm around the other side of Mason.

My body glowed brightly again as I healed him. It burned most of his clothes and I could see it charred his chest from the blast.

“Baby” Mason breathed out as soon as the light faded.

“Mason, I’m so sorry.” I cried, holding on to him the best I could while holding James. I never wanted to let any of them go ever again.

“Baby, I’m okay. I was just unconscious. Derek and Freya found me covered in snow.” Mason mumbled into my neck.

“Good thing for the snow. It helped stop the burning,” Derek said.

“We are going home now.” I told them, firmly. I was never leaving home again.

“I need to stay to help my father clean up this mess” Derek said. Mason and I both pulled away from each other to look at him.

“You are coming home. I’m not losing you.” I told him.

“Babygirl, I have to. This is my kingdom and whoever did this threatened my family.” Derek answered, wrapping his arms around me.

“I need you three safe right now. This happened in my kingdom, and I won’t stand for it. Someone almost killed my mate and the heir to the dragon kingdom. Whoever did this just started a war.” Derek told us.

“Baby, Derek is right. He needs to take a stand,” Mason said.

“I can’t lose you.” I told him, on the verge of sobbing.

“Babygirl, I’ll be okay. I’ll be home soon. I just need to clean up this mess.” He said before kissing my forehead.

“I got them,” Mason told him.

“I know you do.” Derek said, before kissing him.

“I’m glad that you’re okay.” He told Mason, resting his forehead against his.

“Thanks for coming to my rescue,” Mason told him with a chuckle.

“Anytime.” Derek told him with a smirk.

“Derek, I don’t like this.” I told him, snuggling my face into his chest. James and Mason occupied all my arms.

“I know, babygirl. But I promise I’ll be careful. Now open up a portal and get to safety. I’ll call when I have news.” He said, kissing the top of my head.

I hesitated before I opened a portal; I did not want to leave Derek.

“Go, I’ll be home soon.” He said before pecking my lips.

“I love you.” He mumbled against my lips.

"I love you. Please be careful." I told him.

"Come on baby, we need to get James home," Mason said.

I opened a portal to the council building, Freya stepped back into me before Mason and I stepped through. Before the portal closed, I looked back at Derek.

I blew him a kiss before the portal closed up. My stomach was in knots, knowing that I had just left my mate there.

Mason and I were standing in the garden out front of the building. He wrapped his arms around my waist from behind and snuggled his face into my neck.

"He'll be okay, baby." He mumbled.

"You don't know that. I almost lost you and James today." I told him, trying to hold back my sobs. Sage ran out of the castle with everyone else on her heels. She stopped right in front of me, worry etched into her face.

"Ashlyn, what happened? Where's Derek?" She asked, and I let out a whimper.

"There was an explosion at the dragon castle. James and I were there with Victor. Derek took Ashlyn into the city. Derek had to stay to clean up the mess." Mason answered her, as I was unable to find my voice.

"Is James okay?" Sage rushed out, looking at James.

"I healed them both." I breathed out.

"Come, let's get you three inside. I'll show you to your wing of the castle." Sage said, and I nodded. Walking up to the door, I hesitated to enter the castle.

"Sage, can you take James?" I asked her.

"Baby, what's wrong?" Mason asked me while I passed James to Sage.

"I just need to do something," I told them. I turned around and started walking down the driveway.

As soon as I made it to the gate, I knelt down and cut open my finger. I drew the protection symbol on the asphalt driveway. I had to reopen my finger a few times to get enough blood. When I had finished, the symbol lit up. Stepping into the center, I forced that magic out to run along the fence that surrounded the castle.

No one was ever going to hurt my family again. I was done with all these games. If they wanted a war, they were about to get one. After the light from the magic faded, I raised my hand up, feeling the hum of the magic.

That just placed around the fence.

Taking a deep breath, I made my way back to the castle. Everyone was waiting by the door for me. Even after using that amount of magic, I still felt overwhelmed by everything that had happened today.

“impressive,” Sage said to me, once I made it back to the door.

“What is?” I asked her.

“Ashlyn, you just placed a protection spell over the entire council building grounds. That’s not a simple spell,” she exclaimed.

“As long as you are all protected, I’ll do it every day if I have to.” I said.

“Baby, I know you’re worried and scared, but Derek will be okay” Mason said, wrapping his arms around me.

“I almost lost you today. You and James. I won’t be making that mistake again. If they want a war, they have one.” I told them.

“Ashlyn, you can’t be serious?” Liam asked me, stunned.

“Matt, I’d like you to go help Derek back in the kingdom. And yes, Liam, I am serious. I’m not asking any of you to fight. But I’m done living in fear. I can’t do this anymore.” I told them.

“I’ll go help, Derek,” Matt said, and I nodded. I’m also met your grandmother” I told him, walking with him away from the house.

“Derek took you?” He asked me, and I nodded.

“I hope she behaved. She can be a handful.” He chuckled.

“She was wonderful,” I told him. I opened a portal, and before Matt could walk through, I thanked him for helping Derek. He nodded and walked through, the portal closing behind him.

“Ashlyn, did you mean what you said?” Sage asked me and I noticed she didn’t have James and the others had gone inside.

“Mason has him.” She said before I could ask her.

“I do. I can’t live like this anymore. I could have lost both of them. How am I supposed to live without them?” I cried out.

“Ashlyn, I know you are upset. But you can’t do this alone. You also can’t run in there without having all the facts. Get some sleep and we will come up with a plan, okay?” She said before wrapping me in a hug. I broke down, sobbing on her shoulder.

“I know, Ashlyn. I know you’re tired. But we will get through this together. I’ll call Nathan and get some magic warriors there to help.” She told me, rubbing my back.

“Okay” I mumbled against her shoulder.

“Come, let’s get you something to eat, then I’ll show you to your wing.” She said, leading me into the castle.

“Sage, I need to speak to the former vampire, king.”

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 137-Ashlyn

Sage led me through the castle until we ended in the kitchen. Liam and Brandon were in there waiting for Us.

“Where’s Mason and James?” I asked them, sitting down at the table. Sage started busying herself in the kitchen.

“Mason put James down in his room and went to shower. He’ll be down later.” Brandon answered.

“Ashlyn, can you explain what the fr**k happened?” Liam asked me. Both of them were sitting across from me.

“Derek took me into the city, and then there was an explosion at the castle. It was only in Derek’s wing. His father protected James, and the blast threw Mason. Freya flew me back to the castle and put the fire out. Derek found Mason unconscious, and I healed him and James.” I explained.

“Did anything happen before the blast?” Brandon asked me.

“The council was a pain in the a*ss. And Freya froze one for calling hybrids an abomination. And when we were in the city, a crowd surrounded us. We had warriors with us, and I got a chance to speak to a few of them. Derek and Matt’s grandmother even defended me.” I told them.

“Derek and Matt are related?” Liam gasped out, and I nodded.

“Derek’s mother is Matt’s father’s sister,” I said.

“And?” Brandon asked me.

“And that was it. After the situation in the city, that’s when we saw the smoke coming from the castle,” I said.

“Okay, what’s your plan?” Liam asked me.

“I’m going to go speak to King Draco.” I told them.

“Not alone.” Brandon said.

“I need this to end. I almost lost Mason and James today. They should have been safe in the dragon castle with the dragon king. What am I supposed to do?” I said, frustrated. Sage placed some food and a glass in front of me, but I didn’t feel like eating. I was worried about Derek.

“Sweetie, I know you’re upset, but you need to take a moment to breathe. Rushing in there didn’t work so well last time.” Sage told me, sitting beside me.

“So, do I just wait until the next attack happens? And then what? I need to speak with him, not start a war.” I told her.

“And what if you find out that he is responsible for this?” Sage asked me.

“Then I’ll kill him.” I told her, crossing my arms across my chest.

“Beautiful, I trust you completely, you know that, but I don’t like this. We don’t know the kingdom and we don’t know how many followers you have there. It could be a trap.” Liam said.

“I know, but what the fvck am I supposed to do?” I huffed out. Standing up from the table, I paced the kitchen.

“Ashlyn, you need to eat and get some sleep.” Sage said.

“I can’t! Derek is out there and I can’t do anything. I’m fvcken useless.” I’ll yelled.

“So you think going to the vampire kingdom unprepared will make things right?” Sage said, and I growled out in frustration. A growl coming from the hallway rattled the kitchen. I turned around to see Mason standing in the doorway.

“Ashlyn, there is no way you are going to the vampire kingdom.” He growled out.

“Mason..” I started, but he interrupted me.

“No, Ashlyn. Derek and I watched you die. There is no way. I’m letting you go anywhere near that kingdom until we have a plan in place.” He said firmly.

“Mason, you and James almost died today and you want me to do nothing?” I yelled out.

“Yes, I want you to do nothing until we investigate what happened today. We are not losing you again.” He growled out.

“Mason, this is my job.” I defended myself.

“No, Ashlyn. You are a mother and our mate and I’m not losing you. If I have to force you to submit, I will.” He said.

“Mason, this needs to end. I can’t keep doing this.” I screamed at him.

“So what? You die and nothing changes. Your death will only affect your family, and I’m not watching you die again. I’m not watching you lay unresponsive in bed for eight weeks. If you love us, your family, you will sit here and do nothing until we come up with a plan.” He yelled.

“Someone threatened my mate and son and you want me to do nothing?” I yelled.

“So, I can just run into the vampire kingdom?” He challenged me.

“That’s fvcken different, Mason, and you know that.”

“No, it’s not. You want us to trust you, then stop running around doing your own fvcken thing. Everything you do affects us. And you are going to get someone you love killed because you can’t just sit and wait.” He yelled.

I glared at him before I stormed out of the kitchen. I was trying to protect them, to protect everyone. I followed James’ scent until I found what I assumed was our wing. It was at the back of the castle. I entered, and it reminded me of the wolf wing in the old council building. I didn’t focus too hard on the details. After I found James’ room, I entered to find that they set it up exactly like before.

James was sound asleep in his crib, and just the thought of losing him had my heart twisting painfully in my chest. I sat down on the floor, leaning my back against his crib. Pulling my knees to my chest, I sobbed.

I was feeling so many emotions that my mind couldn’t keep up with the events of what happened today. I understand why my mother chose to have a simple life. They hid the fact that I was a hybrid from the world, and now I understand why. They were protecting me. Now I just have to protect James.

Derek

I was so grateful that Mason and James were alive and that my father wasn’t seriously injured. What a fvcken nightmare of a day. After saying goodbye to my family, I found my father.

“Dad, you okay?” I asked him.

“Son, Ashlyn healed me.” He answered.

“So what do we know?” I asked him.

“They are trying to find the explosives. Maybe we can track the sale and see where it came from.” He told me.

“Any casualties?” I asked, and he shook his head.

“Well, there’s some good news,” I said.

“Did you send them home?” My father asked, and I nodded.

“I need them safe right now and I can’t do that here.” I told him.

“I’m sorry, son. This should never have happened.” My father said and I could see that he felt guilty.

“It’s not your fault, dad. Thank you for keeping James safe.” I told him.

It surprised me to see Matt walking towards us. I thought he would be with his mate.

“Always, son.” He said.

“Matt, what are you doing here?” I asked him when he was standing in front of us.

“Ashlyn sent me. She’s worried, Derek.” He told me.

“I know she is, but this is my kingdom, and I refuse to let anyone get away with this.” I told him and he nodded.

“She met Nana?” He asked me and I sighed. And speaking of nana, she came rushing over to us in a panic.

“Ashlyn and the baby, are they okay?” She breathed out.

“Nana, they are back home. Everyone is safe.” Matt answered her and she let out a breath.

“Oh, thank the heavens. And what are you going to do about this?” She asked, pointing a finger at me.

“We are trying to figure out what happened.” I told her.

“Well, who do you think did this?” She asked me, crossing her arms across her chest.

“Ashlyn has enemies, but I’m not sure. Who would have known that we were here today? It was a last-minute trip, so nothing was planned.” I thought out loud.

“You have a mole somewhere. And it’s about time you tracked them down.” She said.

“Derek, I don’t think it was vampires. I’ve been speaking to King Draco. The opinion of Ashlyn has been changing over the last few weeks. The vampires that she has helped came forward, and they have been working hard to change people’s minds about the hybrids. King Draco doesn’t even blame Ashlyn for his son’s death.” My father told us.

“Then who else is there?” Matt asked.

“Susan, King Draco’s father and Grace are dead. Ashlyn’s father, King Gregory, is also dead. And King Theo is dead. So, who else was against Ashlyn and the hybrids?” I asked them.

“The Fae kingdom?” Nana asked.

“King Jordan says he stands with Ashlyn.” I answered her.

“But King Theo said the same thing,” Matt pointed out.

“Yes, but Ashlyn blessed them with a child. Do you think he would go against her after that?” I asked him and he shrugged.

“We should still investigate, son. And we should try to pinpoint where all the threats are coming from.” My father said, and I agree.

“We should start with the traitors in the square. They are getting their information from somewhere. We could use them to track down the person or persons responsible for all the hate.” Nana said, and I had to agree.

“That’s a good idea. I’ll get Lance to track down the two that were speaking with Ashlyn.” I told her.

“No need. I know where both of them live. Meet me in the bakery in an hour. Matthew, you’re with me.” She said before turning around and walking away.

“Matthew” She called out when Matt wasn’t moving fast enough.

“I guess I’ll see you in an hour.” He said before he left.

“I swear that old bird is crazy.” My father breathed out, making me chuckle.

“Really dad?” I asked him.

“What? It’s true. She’s the only woman that has ever scared the crap out of me. I even have nightmares about her baking me into a pie.” He shivered. I laughed at his comment about my grandmother. She has always been tough, but loving. I always wondered how her daughter turned out to be such a b***h.

“Are you going to be okay, dad? I should go get Lance and the team,” I told him.

“And I’ll handle the council. I’m sure they are all freaking out.” He chuckled.

“You have got yourself an amazing woman.” He said, patting my shoulder.

“Thanks dad.” I said before he walked towards the castle. Looking at it now, it’s a good thing it’s as big as it is. My wing is going to take years to fix, but at least the rest of the castle was untouched.

“Lance!” I called out when I finally spotted him in the crowd.

“Derek, is everyone safe?” He asked me, and I nodded.

They went home. But now I need you and the team to come with me to Ms. Evans’ bakery.” I told him, and he raised an eyebrow.

“Why?” He asked me, confused.

“Her and Matt are rounding up some suspects.”

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 138-Mason

I swear to the goddess that woman will be the death of me. Hearing she wanted to run into the vampire kingdom, knowing nothing infuriated me. I’m done playing this fvcken game with her. If I had to force her to submit, I would.

“Mase, that was a little harsh.” Liam said after Ashlyn stormed out of the kitchen.

“Not harsh enough. Derek and I watched her die. And I can’t go through that again. And if I have to lock her in a lead room to stop her, I will.” I growled.

“Mason, we all feel the same way. But she’s scared. Almost losing you and James today is clouding her thinking,” Sage said.

“And all the other times she has put herself in danger?” I asked her and she sighed.

“She wants to fix this. And she doesn’t know how to ask for help. But forcing her to do something will not help.” She said.

“You wouldn’t be saying that if you had to watch Brandon die,” I told her.

“Mason!” Brandon growled.

“It’s true. None of you have any idea what we went through. Yes, you witness it, but until you experience it, you don’t know. And I refuse to go through that again. She is my mate and I love her, but I will not let her do what she wants. She has our family to think about.” I yelled before I stormed out of the kitchen. I was in no mood to play these fvcken games.

“Your a*ss better be in this fvcken castle” I mindlinked her as I went back to our room.

“I’m in James’ room.” She linked back. I growled to myself about the way I spoke to her.

Our entire relationship has always been so stressful and we can never just catch a break. I just needed a moment of peace with my fvcken family. Was that too much to ask?

“She wants to protect us, like we want to protect her,” Thor said.

“By getting herself killed,” I growled.

“We would do the same for her. She values our lives over her own. She’s a true alpha. Every time, she put her family above herself. Even if she says she’s done helping others, she will always step up and help.” Thor defended her.

“I know, and I love her for that. But I will not let her die. I can’t live through that again.” I told him.

“I can’t either, but feeling her in this much pain isn’t helping. I lost Tundra and I will never get her back. So you better get your a*ss in there and make things right with her.” Thor growled.

“I know, buddy, and I’m sorry,” I told him. He retreated to the back of my mind, leaving me to my thoughts.

I wish Derek were here to help with this. We both seem to balance each other out. Walking through our room, which is more like an apartment, I went to the door that led into James’ room. I found Ashlyn, sitting on the floor, with her face on her knees.

“Baby?” I whispered. She lifted her head, and I knew she had been crying. Her eyes were red and puffy and her cheeks were tear-stained.

I walked in and scooped her up off the floor. I carried her bridal style back into our room, laying her on the bed. Both of us were looking at each other while I lay down beside her. Tears filled her eyes as she stared into mine, her eyes now sparkled like an amethyst stone.

“Mason, I don’t know what to do.” She breathed out, holding back her cries.

“Baby, sometimes the only thing you can do is nothing. I had to do nothing while you were missing. I had to do nothing while you were in your coma. And now you have to do nothing until we figure out our next move.” I told her, rubbing my hand up her side.

“I almost lost you.” She whispered, on the verge of another breakdown. Her emotions were all over the place.

“But you didn’t. You heal me and James and we are both okay. Now you need to sit back and let us investigate.” I told her. She took a deep breath before she nodded. I wrapped my arms around her, pulling her to my chest.

Breathing in her scent, I couldn’t get over how she smells like flowers on a snowy day. The two scents should contradict each other, but they work. I lost track of how long we had been lying here. I enjoyed having her body flush with mine as I held her tight.

“Mason, I’m sorry.” She mumbled into my chest.

“I’m sorry too, baby. I just need you safe. I won’t lose you again.” kissing her forehead, I told her, squeezing her tight.

“What are we going to do?” She asked. I let out a sigh before I answered her.

“We will wait for Derek. When he gets back, we will come up with a plan together.” I told her.

“I need to find the next king of the vampire kingdom.” She said.

“What are you talking about?” I asked her.

“The next king, I’ll be able to tell who it is. Apparently, they will have different coloured blood and only royalty can see it.” She explained.

“How do you know that?” I asked her, confused.

“Selene told me when I was in the tomb.” She told me.

“And what else did she say?” I asked her.

“She said that the dragon kingdom, would follow me with Freya by my side. Also, the Fae kingdom is with us because Aurora will be James’ mate.” She said, and I was stunned.

“What?” I exclaimed.

“Yeah, it’s a lot. So we went to the dragon kingdom.

Selene said that once I find the king of the vampire kingdom, everything should fall into place.” She explained.

“Okay, well, one step at a time. Let’s figure out the threat first and then we can see about going to the vampire kingdom.” I told her. We laid there in silence for a bit while I thought about what she told me.

“Can any royal blood find the vampire king?”

“Selene said royal blood could see the different colour blood of a royal vampire. So I’m assuming any royal blood can see it. Why?” She asked me.

“Just curious. But if that’s the case, Nathan, Sage, Derek or myself could find them. You don’t have to go to the kingdom “I told her.

“So, you don’t want me there at all?” She breathed Out.

“I didn’t say that. I just want to keep you safe. And if staying here is the safest place, then you are staying here. I’m not risking your life if someone else can

do the job. Derek has been close to the vampire kingdom, and he can go check it out.” I told her.

“Fine, whatever you think is best,” she said, sounding defeated.

“Baby, Derek and I are just trying to keep you safe.” I told her.

“But I’m not allowed to keep you both safe.” She huffed.

“Ashlyn, I didn’t say that.” I sighed.

“It’s fine, Mason. “I’ll just stay home like a good little pet.” She said. I was almost about to say something when Thor growled in my head.

“She’s angry right now. Just leave it.” He said.

Sighing, I pulled her closer. Right now, I’ll let her be angry. She and our son were safe, and that’s all that mattered.

Ashlyn’s breathing finally evened out, and I knew she was asleep. Hopefully she’ll feel better after she gets some much needed sleep. Sleep, however, did not come to me. My mind was racing with what happened today.

How the hell did anyone get close enough to the castle to blow up an entire wing? My mind was trying to fit the pieces together when a knock sounded at the door.

Gently pulling away from Ashlyn, I got up and answered.

Sage was standing on the other side with a tray of food.

“Is she sleeping?” She asked me, and I nodded. I moved out of the room, closing the door behind me.

There was a small sitting area on the landing before the stairs. Sage placed the tray on the small coffee table and sat on one chair while I sat on the loveseat.

“Are you doing okay?” She asked me.

“She’s angry, but I can’t give into her anymore. I can’t see her die again.” I told her.

"I know, Mason. I can't either. But she's an alpha. It's like fighting you or Derek. She is hard wired to protect her pack, and that's what she is trying to do. It takes a lot of years before the hot-headed alpha learns not to jump before they look." She said, and I chuckled.

"You know I'm right?" She said, and I nodded.

"I know. I was the same way, and I still am, but I haven't died. Thor lost his mate. We've all lost someone.

I know she's trying to fix it, but maybe she should take a seat and let us handle it." I told her.

"What do you mean?" She asked me.

"Ashlyn told me that royal blood could identify the next vampire king. Their blood will be a different colour. So, you, Nathan, Derek or myself could go find them. She also said that after that, everything should fall into place." I explained, and she nodded.

"She told me the same thing. But after today, do you think she let either you or Derek leave?" She asked me and I sighed.

"Probably not, but do we have a choice?" I asked her.

"I think you three need to take some time. With the protection spell Ashlyn placed, this is the safest place. Reconnect with each other. I know that almost losing you and James terrified her. And you were right about what you told me in the kitchen. If it was Brandon, I would have wrapped that man in bubble wrap. I would die without him. Ashlyn may have gifted the bond, but I loved him before she placed it." Sage told me. I was happy that Brandon found someone like Sage. I'm glad my best friend was happy.

"So, we wait for Derek and then take some time?" I asked her, and she nodded.

There's not much to do until we know where we are going and who we are going after. And Ashlyn will eventually learn to look before she jumps." Sage said with a giggle.

"How can you two be so alike but so different?" I asked her and she laughed.

“I don’t have alpha blood. Both her parents were alphas with a little magic from my father. She’s going to be stubborn, but that’s why you love her.” She said, and I nodded.

“That woman may be the death of me, but I love her more than anything.” I told Sage.

“And what’s life without a little craziness?” She told me and I chuckled. I love her and she can be crazy good and then crazy that makes me want to rip my hair out.

“Do you feel better?” She asked me.

“Yeah, I do. Thor has been helping me. Sometimes it’s better to not say anything,” I said, and she nodded.

“Then let’s wait to hear from Derek. Would you like watch James tonight? I know you must be tired from today.” She asked me.

“I should be okay. I can’t sleep anyway,” I told her.

“Would you like me to help with that?” She asked me but I shook my head.

“I have to hear if Derek calls. But I’m going to need a new phone. The blast cracked my screen.” I told her.

“I could always wake you. Your body’s healed, but your mind needs rest,” she said. I was thinking about her offer when my phone rang in my pocket. Pulling it out, Derek’s name popped up on the screen.

“Derek, you okay?” I answered.

“Mason, I think we found something,” he said.

“Derek, before you tell me, do you know what colour Theo’s blood was?” I asked him.

“Red, why?” He asked, confused.

“Just something Ashlyn said. I’ll explain later. Anyway, what did you find?” I asked him.

“We have a name.”

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 139-Derek

Before Lance and I could even move, a portal opened up. I was terrified that it was Ashlyn until Nathan and some of his men walked through.

“Nathan?” I called out.

“Derek, it’s good to see you alive.” He said, rushing over to us.

“Your sister would have turned this place into a winter wonderland if I hadn’t been,” I told him, and he chuckled.

“I think our entire world would freeze,” he said, and we both chuckled.

“You’re Ashlyn’s brother?” Lance asked him.

“Lance, this is King Nathan of the magic kingdom. Lance is a warrior on my elite team.” I introduced them.

“What are you doing here?” I asked Nathan.

“Sage called me. Ashlyn is worried.” He told me.

“I know she is, but someone almost killed James, Mason, and my father.” I told him.

“And Ashlyn and Mason shared some heated words. Sage is trying to defuse the situation.” He said, and I sighed.

“I’ll deal with it when this is done.” I told him and he nodded.

“So what’s the plan?” He asked me.

“We have a couple of people to interrogate,” I told him.

“This should be fun. You want me to portal?” He asked him. But before I could answer, Lance told me to hold on and rushed off.

“Yeah, we can portal, but let’s wait for Lance.” I told him.

“And you should probably change,” Nathan said. I forgot I was just in sweatpants.

"Yeah, maybe." I answered. Before I could move, Lance came back and threw a bag at me. Opening the bag, I found a shirt, socks, and shoes.

"Thanks, man." I told him, pulling out the shirt.

"I have your phone as well. Figured you'd want that just in case," Lance said, and I nodded. When I was done getting dressed, Nathan took my hand, and I thought of the front of the bakery. After Nathan and I stepped through, his warriors and mine followed.

"So why here?" Nathan asked me before we entered.

"I don't know. I guess we are both about to find out," I told him.

I found the front door unlocked, as I pushed it open. I could hear banging coming from the basement. After everyone entered, I locked the door behind us. I didn't need unexpected visitors. I led us over to the basement door and as soon as I opened it, the stench of blood hit me. Walking down the stairs, I found Nana, Matt, and Matt's father, Lucas. They tied both the men from earlier to chairs. The one I punched in the stomach was a bloody mess while the other looked untouched.

"Prince Derek, I swear I had nothing to do with the blast at the castle." The man name, Jeremey, pleaded when he saw me.

"He's no prince! Breeding with a hybrid monster!" The other man growled out. I think Nana called him Mr. Edwards. Nana punched the man in the face and we all gasped out. I now understand why my father was terrified of her.

"Say that again, a*sshole. I fvcken dare you!" She screamed at him. I looked over at Matt and my uncle, and they both looked just as terrified.

"Who's the lady?" Nathan asked me, leaning in.

"That's my grandmother." I told him, before walking over to Jeremey.

"Jeremey, tell me everything you know and you can go home. I just need to know who is behind this." I told him and he nodded.

"Fvcken traitor!" Mr. Edwards yelled out. Nathan walked over to him and touched his forehead, his head slumping forward. I looked at him and he shrugged.

“Just sleeping.” He said.

“I wish I had that power.” Nana huffed out. I shook my head before turning back to Jeremey.

“Tell us what you know.” I told him and he nodded.

“There’s a young man named Ryan. He’s been coming around and telling everyone how crazy hybrids can be. He even has video proof” he said.

“What is he?” I asked him, wondering if the man was a vampire.

“I’m not sure. He didn’t have a smell. But we all saw the videos. Your mate makes vampires explode. Her elemental use. Even her magic. She’s terrifying.” Jeremey said.

“You have no idea. But these vampires attacked her. Nothing she did was unprovoked. She was doing what she had to do to protect her family.” I told him and he nodded.

“I’m sorry. I shouldn’t have believed the rumors. We all thought she was a monster, but she was quite sweet.” He said, and I chuckled.

“When she’s not pissed,” I said, and Nathan and Matt chuckled.

“So where did this Ryan guy come from?” Nathan asked him.

“He was making rounds at all the pubs. A lot of us believed what he was saying. But after seeing her today, that’s not the case anymore,” Jeremey answered.

“And you met him?” I asked him, and he nodded.

“What does he look like?”

“He’s young, around your age. He was tall but not as built as you. The man had brown hair and blue eyes.” Jeremey described him.

“That could be anyone. And we don’t know which kingdom he is from,” Nathan said.

“And how the hell did he get into my kingdom?” I asked out loud.

"I can't answer any of these questions, but I know that after seeing her white dragon. No one in their right mind would go against her. White dragons are sacred." Jeremey said, and I nodded.

"It shouldn't have taken her to get a dragon for you to respect her. But I see where you are coming from.

"Have you seen this, Ryan, lately?" I asked him.

"He was at the dragon's den pub yesterday evening. That's the last time I've seen him." He answered.

"And do you know his problem?" I asked Jeremey. Pointing at Mr. Edwards.

"I don't know. Ever since his mate died, he seems a little unhinged." Jeremey sighed.

"If you see this, Ryan, again, I want you to call me immediately." I commented, and he nodded.

"Matt, release him and give him our numbers." I told him. After Matt untied him, Jeremey came over to me.

"Prince Derek, I'm truly sorry for how I treated your mate today." He said, bowing his head.

"I almost lost a mate and our son today. Your king was injured, as well. You can redeem yourself by helping us." I told him and he nodded. I sent Lance to escort him out of the building.

"So, what are you thinking?" Nathan asked me.

"How did this Ryan guy get into the kingdom? They would have noticed someone without a scent." I said.

"Maybe he's working with someone? Witches can spell to change their scents and the same with the faces." Nathan said, and I growled in frustration.

"It literally could be anyone." I yelled out, and punched me in the arm.

"Derek, this is your family. Pull your head out of your a*ss and start listening to the facts." She growled at me. I pushed my lips in a line as I rubbed my arm. How can this little old lady be so strong?

“And what facts am I missing?” I asked her and she gave me a pointed look.

“This Ryan guy has to be a warlock or a Fae. That’s a good start. So we know the vampires aren’t involved.” She said, and I nodded.

“I still don’t see how this narrows things down?” I asked her.

“Wow, what the hell does your mate see in you?” She said, making Matt laugh.

“You know it’s the body, Nana.” Matt laughed out and even his dad chuckled.

“Thanks, Nana. I love you too.” I told her.

“Think who else would want this? I don’t think this has anything to do with hybrids, but with the power that Ashlyn possesses. They are just using the fact she is a hybrid to manipulate people to their side.” Nana said.

“That makes sense. As soon as Ashlyn explains what happened, people seem to quickly change their minds about her and hybrids.” Matt said, and we all agreed.

“Ashlyn has all the kingdoms then, so who does that leave?” I asked.

“Clearly, someone is holding onto a grudge, either towards Ashlyn or her family,” Nana said.

“Could it be one of her mother’s mates? Or her grandmother’s mates?” Nathan asked.

“James is dead. My father would never hurt her. Your father is also dead. We had suspected King Draco, but my father told me he wasn’t involved. So that just leaves King Jordan, but I don’t think he’s involved. Ashlyn blessed them with a child and she saved their daughter.” I told them.

“We should probably track down her grandmother’s mates then. King Draco’s father was involved,” Matt said, and I agreed.

“Then what do you want to do with this guy?” Lance asked me, pointing to Mr. Edwards.

“I’ll take care of him. Derek, get back to your mate and child.” Nana said.

"It's mates, Nana. I have Ashlyn and Mason." I corrected her.

"Oh, lucky girl," Nana said, and Nathan groaned.

"What's your problem? We are all adults here." She said to Nathan.

"Ashlyn is my sister." He told her, and she chuckled.

"Don't want to picture that," Nana said.

"No. It's bad enough my other sister called it a mate sandwich." Nathan groaned and everyone laughed.

"Who wouldn't love a mate sandwich?" Nana asked, and we all groaned.

"Mom, no." My uncle said, shaking his head.

"What? An old lady can't have fun." She said.

"Nana, you can have all the fun you want. We just don't want to know," I told her.

"Whatever. Take some pastries when you leave. And I want to meet Mason and your son the next time you visit." She told me.

"Thanks, nana." I told her, kissing her forehead.

"Yeah, yeah. Get going before I put you boys to work." She said, shooing me away. Nana may be more loving than my mother, but she wasn't affectionate.

"Matt, go with them. Your father can give me a hand here. And I also want to meet your mate." She told him.

"How did you know?" He asked her, stunned. She just tapped her nose. Nothing gets by nana.

"Right. As soon as everything calms down, I'll bring her by." He told her.

"Good. Now go." She said, and we all left, not waiting for her to put us to work.

"I'll grab some stuff before we leave." Matt said, moving behind the counter after we made it upstairs.

“So am I portalling the two of you home?” Nathan asked me.

“I need to check on my father first, and then I’ll go home. But I’ll call Mason to see how everything is going there.” I told him and he nodded. I stepped outside to call Mason.

“Derek, you okay?” He answered.

“Mason, I think we found something” I told him.

“Derek, before you tell me, do you know what colour Theo’s blood was?” He asked me and the question threw me off. What kind of question is that?

“Red, why?” I asked, confused.

“Just something Ashlyn said. I’ll explain later.

Anyway, what did you find?” He asked me.

“We have a name,” I told him.

“Wait, Sage is here. Let me put you on speaker.” Mason said.

“Mason, where is Ashlyn ?” I asked him.

“She’s sleeping.” He said, and I sighed.

“I guess we can talk about what happened when I get home. I just wanted to let you know we found out that a guy named Ryan has been going around, trying to manipulate people against the hybrids. Also, he doesn’t have a smell.” I said, and I heard Sage gasp.

“What?” Mason asked Sage.

“This Ryan is a warlock or a Fae,” Sage told him.

“So no vampires?” Mason asked.

“I don’t think it’s vampires. I just need to check on my father and then I’ll be home.”

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 140-Derek

After learning that my father was okay, I left Lance and the team with him. Nathan then portaled Matt and me home. It was very early in the morning and all I wanted was a shower and to snuggle with my mates.

Walking into the castle, I was thankful that Sage was still up. She was holding James, feeding him.

“What are you doing awake? Where’s Ashlyn and Mason?” I asked her, before kissing James’ forehead.

“I did a sleep spell on Mason so he could sleep, and Ashlyn was already sleeping. I told Mason that I would take James for the night.” She told me.

“Thanks, I appreciate it. I can take him?” I told her and she shook her head.

“You look like sh!t. You need to go get some sleep.” She said.

“Thanks. Can you at least show me where our wing is?” I asked her, and she nodded.

Walking through the castle reminded me of the dragon castle. There was artwork on every wall, but the colours were purple and white, instead of red and gold.

The colours matched Ashlyn perfectly, and this was truly her home. James was asleep by the time Sage showed me to our room. I offered to take him, but she refused. Sage has been such a great help, and I was so thankful to her.

“So what happened between Ashlyn and Mason?” I asked her before she left.

“Ashlyn wanted to storm into the vampire kingdom, and Mason overheard. He told her he would make her submit if he had to.” She said. I pushed my lips into a line. I probably would have said the same thing.

“And?” I asked her.

“And that’s it. She stormed out of the kitchen and I haven’t spoken to her.” She answered.

“Okay, thanks for the heads up. And thank you for taking James.” I told her, kissing James goodnight.

“Goodnight, Derek.” She said before she left. I walked into our room and found my mates sleeping on either side of the bed. Even in their sleep, they were still mad at each other.

Rolling my eyes, I went to have a shower before climbing in between them. Both of them rolled into me, chasing my scent. And now I was the mate sandwich. I snuggled into Ashlyn while Mason was my big spoon.

Ashlyn still smelled like smoke and I wonder why she didn’t have a shower?

Sleeping never came as I was thinking about what Sage had told me. I understand where Mason is coming from, and I probably would have said the same thing.

Ashlyn outpowers us, but she’s not above death. And neither one of us could watch that again. But then Mason and I have been training for this our entire lives.

Ashlyn had been doing this for less than a year. And his words clearly affected her or she would have just portaled out of here. Sighing, I pulled her closer, breathing in her neck until sleep finally took me.

I woke up snuggled into Mason. Where Ashlyn was lying was cold now and she must have been up for a while now. My panicked movement shook Mason awake.

He groaned, rolling over to face me.

“Derek, what’s wrong?”

“Ashlyn isn’t here,” I said, and he sat up.

I was preparing myself to run out of our room when Mason let out a sigh.

“She’s in the kitchen with James.” He breathed out.

Closing my eyes, I tried to reach her. We haven’t been able to mindlink, but maybe with Freya we could. Finding her, I opened the link.

“Babygirl?” I called to her.

“Derek, I’m in the kitchen with James.” She told me, before closing the link.

“Derek, what’s wrong?” Mason asked, sitting up beside me.

“I can mindlink Ashlyn. But she’s still pissed. What did you say to her?” I asked him and he sighed, flopping back on the bed.

“I told her I would make her submit if I had to. That she can’t just run into the vampire kingdom without a plan.” He breathed out.

“Mason, I get it. But fr*k. It’s like we can’t win.” I told him, resting my head in my hands.

“I didn’t mean to be so short with her, but just hearing her say that she wanted to go there without a plan infuriated me. I don’t understand why she can’t see that we can’t lose her.” He sighed.

“I want to sum these feelings up with what happened yesterday. She’s scared. We both were. I even stayed behind to get answers,” I told him.

“I get that, but how does running into danger help?” He asked me.

“She needs someone to blame.” I answered him.

“She needs the right person to blame. You said that you didn’t think it was vampires. Storming in there could cause a war,” Mason said, and I nodded.

“We can explain everything to her today. I also need to call King Jordan. Nathan is investigating on his side.

We are looking for a witch or a fae” I told him.

“Could it be a hybrid?” He asked me.

“How would that happen?” I asked him, and he shrugged.

“Could there have been hybrids that escaped the war? Maybe they feel wronged by the war and they want revenge on us all with Ashlyn by their side.” he said.

“You’ve been doing a lot of thinking,” I told him.

“Others have survived. Maybe there was more in hiding. I don’t know. I’m just trying to think of every likely scenario.” He said, and I flopped back on the bed beside him.

“I don’t think it’s King Jordan. But my Nana said that this could all be over power. The whole hybrid issue is just a distraction from the real problem. But who would chase her powers? And do they want hers or do they want a child with her? James will be incredibly powerful and maybe whoever is doing this wants their child to rule?” I told him.

“If they want her, then we have to protect her. But it also means that they will come after us.” Mason said, and I agree.

“Now we just have to figure out who this is and where we can find them?” I sighed.

“While the others are investigating, we should take some time to spend with Ashlyn and James,” Mason said.

“I think that is best. There’s nothing we can do until we have a plan of action. We can just do all our work from here, but if we need to go anywhere, we should include Ashlyn. We grew up in this, she hasn’t.” I told him and he sighed.

“I should go find her.” He breathed out, sitting up.

“You should. I had to sleep in the middle because you two wouldn’t even touch in your sleep.” I told him.

“I was more scared than angry yesterday. She could do whatever she wanted and we wouldn’t be able to stop her. I don’t think I could even get her to submit.” He breathed out, standing from the bed and heading to the closet. He was right. Nothing was stopping her from doing what she wanted. That she is still here and not in the vampire kingdom means she respects Mason enough to listen to him.

“I think we should be thankful that she respects us enough to listen. There’s nothing stopping her from doing what she wants.” I told him, walking into the closet behind him to get dressed.

“You think as an alpha, I would hate that my mate is stronger than me, but I’m not. I just don’t want her to die. I feel like she thinks we don’t think that she is capable,” he said, pulling on a shirt.

“If it was one of us that possessed her powers, we would have ripped everyone apart by now.” I told him and he sighed.

“Double standards.” He breathed out, and I nodded.

“Breakfast is ready.” Ashlyn said through the link.

“We’ll be right down.” I told her. I could feel how uneasy she was.

“Lets get downstairs and we can figure everything out.” I told him.

Mason led the way as we made our way down to the kitchen. The layout was pretty simple, but I still would have gotten lost if the smell of bacon didn’t hit my nose.

I followed the scent to the kitchen. Sage was standing in front of the stove and Ashlyn was cutting some fruit with her back to us. Mason went up behind her, wrapping his arms around her waist. He snuggled his face into her neck. I assume they were mindlinking, as I couldn’t hear them talking. I made a coffee before I sat down beside Matt at the table. His mate was sitting beside him, and all the other hybrids were sitting around the table. Liam had James and Gabby was playing with him.

“What’s the plan, boss?” Matt asked me.

“I’m going to call Jordan, and then see if we can track down this Ryan guy.” I told him, sipping my coffee.

Ashlyn placed a tray of fruit on the table while I was talking with Matt.

“Ryan? So you are looking for someone named Ryan?” She asked me, before kissing my cheek.

“Yeah, do you know a Ryan?” I asked her, and she nodded.

“Really?” Mason asked her, sitting beside me with a coffee.

“Yeah, the night when I first arrived here, and we went out. The guy I was talking to on the patio, his name was Ryan, but it can’t be the same guy.” She said, and Mason growled.

“Mason, don’t start. You had a girl practically sitting in your lap.” She huffed at him and I turned to look at him.

“First, she wasn’t in my lap.” He tried to defend himself.

“Whatever.” She told him, rolling her eyes.

“Mason, you’ll have to explain. But first, Babygirl, do you remember what his scent was?” I asked her.

“We were outside and since we were in the wolf kingdom, I just assumed he was a wolf. Why?” She asked me, sitting between Mason and I.

“Do you remember what he looked like?” I asked her.

“He was tall, slimmer build, brown hair and blue eyes.” She told me, and Mason let out another growl.

“How the hell can you remember someone you met once, and that was forever ago?” Mason huffed out.

“I thought he was good looking.” she shrugged and the look on Mason’s face made me laugh out.

“Besides, you were with what’s her name?” she said.

“Amber?” I asked her and she shook her head.

“No, she was after.” Ashley told me, drinking some of my coffee. Mason sighed, and I looked at him.

“Okay, anyway, do you remember his scent?” I asked her again.

“I don’t. Why?” she asked me.

“This Ryan doesn’t have a scent, and is reported to be in the dragon kingdom before the explosion. We also believe that he has been spreading hate about the hybrids.” I told her.

“I thought he was a student. We could always look at the intake records. Look up all the Ryan’s and then search through the student IDs.” she said, and that was a good idea.

“Smart idea, Ashlyn,” Liam exclaimed, and she smiled.

“Sometimes, I’m more than just a pretty face,” she told him, and he chuckled.

"After breakfast, you can help me go through the records," Liam said, and she nodded.

"Anything else?" she asked me.

"I just need to call Jordan," I told her.

"Okay, I want to call King Draco." She shrugged.

"Ashlyn," Mason exclaimed.

"To talk, Mason. What the hell am I going to do through the phone?" She huffed.

"Ashlyn, vampires can't change their scent. Only Fae's and witches can." Sage told her, sitting beside Brandon.

"Okay, we aren't looking for a vampire, but does that mean I'm not allowed to talk with him?" She asked us.

"Babygirl, what are you thinking?" I asked her.

"I need to discuss the royal blood history." She answered.

"Baby. you aren't going to the vampire kingdom." Mason commanded.

"I wasn't planning on it, and I wasn't asking for your permission." She huffed, standing from her seat. She walked over to Liam and took James from him.

"Gabby bear, when you're done with your breakfast, meet me in the library." She told Gabby before she left the kitchen. Sighing, I turned my attention to Mason.

"What girl?" I asked him.

"Okay, that's on Liam." He said.

"Hey, I said be nice. I didn't say you had to take her home." Liam exclaimed.

"Wait, what?" I asked him, confused.

"No one took anyone home. That was the night that Ashlyn almost died, the first time." Brandon clarified.

“Brandon, why don’t you explain?” I asked him.

“We went out. There were a couple of girls. One was interested in Mason. This was before they knew they were mates. And I guess on the patio she was talking to this Ryan guy.” Brandon said.

“So, you and this girl?” I asked Mason.

“Nothing happened. That was the night I k!ssed Ashlyn and the fake bond surfaced.” He told me.

“She said that to be a b!tch, Mason. It pissed her off because you were talking to another girl,” Sage said.

“And how do you know?” He asked her and she rolled her eyes.

“I’m a girl. I would have done the same thing. She was jealous, and she wanted to make you jealous,” Sage answered, and Mason let out a sigh.

“Its fine, Mason. Clearly, she never saw this guy again. But I’m glad that she remembered him. It’s probably not the same person, but it’s a lead.” I told him and he nodded.

“Fine, but I’m not happy about it.” Mason huffed.

“I didn’t say you had to be happy about it, but you should probably go apologize again.” I told him.

“Bring her a pastry, that should make her happy.” Matt chimed in and I forgot all about them.

“You guys should just start carrying around snacks for her.” Sage said, and we all chuckled. As much as I hated her upset, I’m glad it wasn’t directed at me this time.

“Come on, Mason. Let’s go find our mate.”