

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 26-Ashlyn

Cold water rudely woke me when it hit me. I gasped and panted, struggling to move. My hands and ankles had been restrained. I tried to focus my eyes on the room, but it was dark, and I had a throbbing headache. My whole body ached, and I knew my abdomen hadn't healed.

"You look exactly like your mother did at your age." A female voice called out and then a bright light blinded me. Smashing my eyes closed, I turned my head away from the light.

"Now, my dear Ashlyn, you give me what I want and you can leave." The familiar voice said.

"Who are you?" My raspy voice yelled, my eyes still adjusting to the light.

"I'm hurt you don't remember me, granddaughter." She chuckled as she came out of the dark corner, stepping into the light.

"Grandmother!" I gasped. I thought she was dead.

"Granddaughter, you have something that is mine and I want it back," She demanded.

"I don't understand. You're alive." I stuttered.

"Clearly," She answered sarcastically. I don't understand, she died in a car accident with my grandfather.

"Since your slowness is only pissing me off, I'll give you some background." She said, as one of her minions placed a chair for her to sit.

"Before I gave birth to your mother, I had the same gift that you have now. But I had much bigger ideas on how to use it. The moon goddess didn't like those ideas, and she stole the gift away from me. I later found my mate and had your mother. I found out the moon goddess had blessed your mother with my powers, my gift. It wasn't long after she discovered her gift that she met your father.

This made it difficult for me to get to her, since she now had her own personal bodyguard. Then she gave birth to you and I knew I could steal my powers back. I just needed a plan. Little did I know that one of her friends was a witch

and she had spelled the pack. So I faked my death, but I killed my mate. He didn't share the same ambitions that I did. I started building my army of rogues and outcasts. When we went to do the spell, it backfired and every pack member in the area turned to dust.

Poof. I thought I had lost it until I recently started hearing rumors about a Knight coming out of nowhere. You really made it too easy for me to find you, granddaughter." She said with a smirk.

"What did you want to use your powers for?" I asked her, confused.

"I want to be made Queen, of course." She said.

"You should probably just kill me. I'm never giving you my gift." I growled, and she laughed.

"Oh, you will, my dear. I will not kill you, but I will make your life hell until you agree. You are no use to me dead." She said, motioning two of her minions over. One smelled like a rogue and the other was a vampire.

I fought against the restraints, but it was no use. I'm trapped, but I refused to give her what she wanted. Thousands would die if she became Queen.

The wolf slapped me across the face. My head wh!pped to the side, and I spat out the blood thatwas filling my mouth.

"Oh granddaughter, I don't like to see you in pain. just need you to give me what I want. I'll even keep your mate alive for you." She told me, trying to bargain. I spat more blood out, but this time I aimed it at her. The vampire punched me in the stomach and I gr0aned.

"I guess we'll resume this tomorrow. You should probably think about my proposal. It won't last forever." She said, patting me on the cheek before leaving the dungeon. Well, I assume it is a dungeon.

I received a few more blows to my face and abdomen, and then they left me alone. I'm pretty sure I passed out. It awoke me when my chains lowered and I hit the hard floor with a gr0an.

"Tundra?" I called to her.

"I'm here, Ashlyn. I'm trying to heal you faster.

We need to think of a plan to get out of here.” She growled.

“What about my powers? Could I use them?” I asked her.

“We have one shot at this. Try to stay strong and we will wait for the best opportunity to escape.

Your powers will take a lot out of you and you are already weak,” Tundra explained.

“Can she really take my powers?” I asked her.

“No, the moon goddess is the only one that can take the gift back. I’m not sure where she received her information from, but you can’t just give it to another person. They are a part of you.” She confirmed my theory.

She killed her daughter and her entire pack for these powers, just so she could become a Queen.

She wants to be more powerful, to take over the entire mythical world. Someone has to be helping her. There’s no way that she could have achieved all of this on her own.

I guess the only thing I can do is listen to her confessions and anger her while I play dumb. The beating will come, but I know she’ll get desperate and fvck up. I’ll just be patient, like Tundra told me, then we’ll burn this place to the ground.

I’m not sure how long I’ve been here now, but what I think is, every day, my grandmother is here trying to convince me to hand over my powers. And then, she would always have her two brutes rough me up. I was growing weaker every day, with little food and water. But I wouldn’t give up.

I found out that my grandmother really likes to talk, especially if you play dumb. She hates dumb people, and I used that to get a lot of useful information. Apparently, she hated her mate and my mother. She only did what they expected of her, and it took a lot of planning to fake her own death.

Even though she was a Luna, it was never enough. She pressured my mother to pursue the Kings. It pissed her off when her daughter turned them down. It’s hard to believe that she raised not only my mother, but my aunt. She is a vile woman and I hate calling her my grandmother. My grandfather must have

been a wonderful man to counter what my grandmother must have been like growing up.

I also learned that money can buy you anything, even loyalty. I'm not sure how much money she is paying her brutes, but how much money is your life actually worth? How could anyone want to die for this crazy old wolf, no matter how much money she was offering?

She also told me all about her plans for world domination and how the world will be a better place once she makes herself Queen. The mythical world has been at peace for hundreds of years. How could she make it better? Being here is becoming tedious at this point and it's the same thing every day. She'd b!tch about how stupid I was, and then she'd spill her entire life.

Maybe she will move me around this place if I piss her off enough. I could figure out how to escape and how many I had to kill. She'd be the first person I killed for killing my mother and father. I'd never let her get away with that.

The beatings became more and more and Tundra could no longer heal me. But at least if we died, her chance of getting my powers would be gone. Even though I couldn't give them to her, even if I wanted to. She even had a witch in here, trying.

She had really become desperate when she told me she was moving me under the full moon and a special ceremony would take place. She told me I would die, but she would have my powers and that's all that mattered at this point.

Now I just had to survive until the full moon and then I could get the fvck out of here. I'm still not even sure where we are. I have overheard nothing about locations. But I heard they had only about 10 rebels. They all seem to rotate shifts. Not much of an army, but I could take on 10. I'm sure they have more at different locations. An army would become too obvious. I just have to stay alive long enough to kill the b!tch and make a run for it.

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 27-Ashlyn

Apparently, since my grandmother had a new plan, she amped up the beatings. She started using a silver whip to rip open my skin. They bonded my hands in silver cuffs, but silver doesn't affect Tundra like other wolves. It took a while for the cuffs to really start burning. And the silver-tipped whip only hurt because it was ripping my back open, not because of the silver.

She didn't want to wait until a full moon, so she was trying to beat it out of me. I tried to be as patient as possible, but it was becoming too much.

Not only was I being beaten unconscious, but the vampires were feeding on me. I'm surprised I have any blood left. And poor Tundra is barely keeping me alive at this point.

I'm not sure how long I endured this amount of torture, but finally, I was forced up the stairs and out of the building. I noticed we were staying in an abandoned house and I was being kept in a cell that was built in the basement.

I could barely walk, but I knew I had to be strong, that this was my chance. They led me outside into the cold of a clear December night. The moon was shining brightly above us. They led me up onto a wooden platform and cuffed me to a thick wooden pole.

There were five people who wore black cloaks standing around the platform, and I couldn't tell if they were males or females. A little further away were the guards. My grandmother walked up the platform to speak to me.

"Last chance to live, granddaughter." She whispered to me. I said nothing. Either way, she will not be getting my powers today. She shook her head and turned to walk off the platform.

"Let's start the ritual." She called to the witches. I'm assuming they are witches, anyway.

All five of the cloaked people lit a torch. They were chanting away in some language I didn't understand, and then they lit the platform a blaze.

This really couldn't be that easy, I thought. My grandmother tried to make my wolf weak with the silver but she forgot or didn't know that I could use my powers. Yes, I was weak, but I was going to fight until my last breath.

The cloaked chanted again and I willed the fire closer to my cuffs. I could melt them off while forcing the flames to burn hotter. The fire doesn't hurt me; it dances around me. I could hear gasps and my grandmother yelling, but I just focused on the fire.

Once the silver melted, I threw the flames out at the people all around me. I could hear screams of agonizing pain, but I ignored everything and took off

running into the forest. They did not dress me for the December night, but there was no way I was staying to look for the proper clothing.

Iran until I couldn't move anymore. I flopped into the snow, but I knew my body was turning the snow red. To shift, I had to reach out to Tundra. I was going to freeze to death or someone was going to find me.

"Tundra, can you shift?" I panted.

"I'll try." She answered.

The shift into Tundra was painful, but I was so much warmer with her covered in fur. She rushed away in the direction I was originally running in.

She didn't sense anyone around, so she could take her time and save some of her energy.

The sun was rising by the time we found a stream where Tundra could take a drink. The forest we had been moving through was dense and the snow wasn't helping our progress. I didn't know where we were or if we were heading towards help.

Tundra walked for longer until she sensed people.

She immediately shifted back. We didn't need people seeing her white and gold fur.

But now I was na*ked, and it was still freezing. I leaned my back into a tree and listened. Men were talking about tracks but not finding anything. I jumped when I heard them call out to me.

"We can smell you, wolf, come out." One man commanded.

"I can't." I yelled back.

"Why not?" He asked.

"Why are you out here?" I countered.

"We are looking for rogues' responsibility for some recent attacks, but you don't smell rogue

"That's because I'm not a rogue. My pack is Silver Moon." I answered.

“The Silver Moon Pack? What are you doing so far south?” He questioned.

“I don’t know,” I answered.

I could hear them whispering, but I couldn’t make out what they were saying. My mind was racing and I couldn’t focus. I also couldn’t smell what they were as I was downwind from them. That was a stupid move and hopefully they won’t kill me.

“Why don’t you come on out and we can get you to safety?” He asked.

“I can’t. I’m na*ked.” I told him.

“What’s your name?” He asked me.

“Ashlyn.” I finally answered him.

“I’m Derek, Ashlyn. I’m going to throw my backpack over to you, and then my men and I will turn around. You can get dressed.” He told me.

“Okay” I answered. The backpack landed close to where I was hiding behind the tree. I looked around the tree to see that all the men, eight of them, had their backs to me.

I picked up the backpack and ran back to behind the tree. I went through it and found a hoodie, sweatpants and a pair of socks. No shoes, this is going to be a cold walk. I quickly got dressed and walked back out from behind the tree.

“Okay, you can turn around now.” I called to them. Still maintaining a suitable distance between us. I still didn’t know these men and how could I trust them, but did I really have a choice? I’m stuck in the middle of nowhere, where I’m probably going to bleed to death.

When they all turned around, they looked at me, stunned. I knew I was probably a sight with all my bruises and cuts on my face. Everything else was covered, but I knew it was bad. My hair was a knotted mess and I would probably have to shave it to get all the knots out. All the men were tall and I’m assuming built underneath all their bulky uniforms.

One of the men cleared his throat.

“Ashlyn, are you okay?” Derek asked. I knew it was him from the sound of his voice. Derek was the tallest, and he had light brown hair cut short and sea-green eyes. I’m pretty sure Derek was the one in charge. His aura screamed dominance, and he was definitely handsome. All the men were, they were most likely shifters, but I couldn’t place which animal they were.

“No, and I just want to get home. Can you help me?” I asked, feeling dizzy and weak. It’s probably my adrenaline wearing off and the massive blood loss is setting in. I couldn’t even hold the backpack anymore, dropping it in the snow.

My world was spinning, but I didn’t hit the ground. Someone scooped me up into strong, very warm arms. I couldn’t even fight if they were going to kill me. Hopefully they did it quickly, my will to live was gone.

“It’s okay Ashlyn, we’ll get you back to our base, just rest,” Derek told me softly. I think I nodded before I fell into the most peaceful sleep I’d had in what felt like forever.

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 28-Dragon Prince Derek

My squad and I have been in the area looking for rogues and rebels. We’ve had lots of complaints about attacks lately.

I volunteered to come out here to make sure there were no dragons involved in the ongoing attacks. I never thought I’d find a beaten and bruised she-wolf. We are literally in the middle of nowhere. We have clans and packs all around us, but we are tracking on neutral territory.

Even with all her cuts, bruises, and bite marks, Ashlyn is gorgeous. She is a mess, covered in blood, but I couldn’t help but feel this pull towards her. It was like finding a diamond among the snow-covered trees. She’s easily the most beautiful woman I’ve ever seen.

She collapsed, which didn’t surprise me. She lasted as long as she did. Her heart rate and breathing slowed down significantly. Her body is vibrating, which I assume is because she’s coming down from her adrenaline rush.

I instructed four of my men to find out where she came from. She didn’t come out of anywhere, and she was clearly being abused. And I also wanted to know if this was all connected to the band of rebels and rogues.

Three of my men and I headed back to our camp, which was more like a cabin in the woods. It's amazing what you can drop in the middle of nowhere when you're a massive flying dragon. We had a generator for power and we had running water, but it took some time to heat.

We weren't planning on staying out here much longer.

Our cabin was a couple of hours away from our current location. It was easy enough to carry Ashlyn back and I could tell that she hadn't had a good sleep in a while.

"Silver Moon pack? Isn't that where the Alpha King and his son rule from?" Jim asked, one of my warriors.

"It is, but what does that have to do with anything?" I asked him, and he shrugged.

"Didn't the Alpha King put out an alert on a missing wolf? I remember the Dragon King asking us to keep an eye out," Jim explained. And I almost forgot about that.

Apparently, the Alpha King called my father personally to ask for his help in searching for this kidnapped she-wolf. I'm wondering if we found her. I'll have to call my father when we get back to ask him for more details.

After a couple of hours, we finally made it back to the cabin. We left four warriors behind to watch the cabin and we also had a couple of medics, just in case. I instructed the medics to follow me into my room while I was still carrying Ashlyn. Laying her down on the bed, I asked the medics to check on her. I knew her injuries were bad, her blood soaked through the hoodie and onto my sleeve that was under her back.

I headed to my closet to grab a clean shirt before I went to call my father. I noticed that when I was leaving, the medics had inserted an IV and were cutting off the hoodie to see what the damage was. I closed the door behind me to give her some privacy. I'm sure whatever she went through had to be traumatic enough.

I went into the living room to find the satellite phone that we have here. There is no cell reception out here, as there aren't any towers. We don't even have access to the internet; we are literally doing this mission old school.

Thankfully, I could get a call out on the phone. It doesn't always work when we need it too.

"Derek, is everything okay?" My father answered.

"Yes dad, we are all fine and we are still looking for the rebels. But we found something, or should I say someone, out here. She isn't a rogue, and she mentioned the Silver Moon Pack. I would ask her more, but she is unconscious and in really terrible shape. Didn't the Alpha King call you about a missing she-wolf?" I asked him, explaining the situation.

"He did actually. He said her name was Ashlyn Knight. She is his goddaughter and before she went missing, vampires attacked her. They found her car down in a ravine without a trace of where she went.

He called and asked all the council members to keep an eye out and an ear to the ground about her whereabouts. I think it's been about three weeks now since he contacted me.

Do you think this she-wolf is her?" He asked me.

"She told me her name was Ashlyn, and she mentioned the Silver Moon Pack. How many Ashlyns that went missing from that pack could there actually be? She is definitely in rough shape, so it may be a good idea to move her to a pack near us for treatment and to get her back home." I told him. We were still unfinished in our mission.

"I understand, son, and it looks like Blue Moon Pack is the closest to your location. It's about 3 hours northeast of you. I'll give the Alpha King a call so he can set up a drop-off at the pack. Call me tomorrow morning and I'll give you the details." My father explained. I thanked him and we hung up. It's weird to think that we found her about 10 hours away from where she was last seen. The person or persons that took her did not want her to be found.

I went back upstairs to check on her. She was lying on her stomach, and the medics were stitching and applying ointment to her wounds. It looked like a chainsaw had attacked her. They ripped her back to shreds. No wonder I was covered in her blood.

One medic explained that not only was she bleeding, but at least three different vampires were feeding on her.

How she survived that alone, they don't know. And she isn't healing like a wolf should, but I'm assuming it's because her wolf was so focused on keeping her alive and now she is weak.

We are dragons, so we don't fully understand how a wolf heals and such. We don't crossbreed. Even though I'm sure there are couples out there, they just can't reproduce. We know of wolves, but we don't particularly study their anatomy.

All we can do is hope that she wakes up, but if not, we will move her to the Blue Moon Pack and they can get her back to the Alpha King. When the medics were done, they covered her up with a blanket. I gave up my bed and could just sleep on the couch. This way I could watch over her. But I couldn't help feeling like I should be in bed beside her, holding her. She felt so right in my arms, but that can't be right. We don't have fated mates from different mythical creatures.

My warriors arrived later in the evening with a report of what they had found. They tracked down where they thought she came from. It was now a burned-down house. There wasn't much left, everything was charred, and the clearing was just black. Even the snow couldn't protect the ground. They had taken pictures to show the rest of us the scene.

This is where they tracked her to, but it looks like something only a dragon's breath could do. What could burn that hot, that fast, to burn that area into nothing in just a few hours? We didn't even notice any smoke. I guess we'll only learn the truth when Ashlyn finally wakes up.

I finally excused my men and went back up to my room. I grabbed a spare pillow and blanket for the couch.

This is going to be hard for me because I am pretty tall. And I'll be keeping an ear open to listen to Ashlyn, so I probably won't be getting much sleep.

The medics were back in, checking on her and removing the IV. The bruises that I could see were fading to purple and a lighter blue instead of a deep navy. She looked less pale, but she was still in rough shape. I placed a bottle of water on the nightstand before I got ready for bed.

I put some sweatpants and a tee on and started a fire in the fireplace to help keep her warm during the night. We didn't have a furnace in this house.

Dragons run warm, but I'm not sure about wolves. After I was done, I laid down on the couch. Sleep didn't come easily.

I was feeling anxious about Ashlyn waking. I hoped she would wake up before we had to leave so that we could actually get some answers. Sleep finally came as I listened to the crackling of the fire.

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 29-Ashlyn

I woke up with a groan, my whole body hurt. I didn't even want to open my eyes. Maybe everything was a dream, and I actually died.

"Then you wouldn't be in pain," Tundra whined.

I'm glad Tundra is still with me. Before I opened my eyes, I listened to my surroundings. I could hear crackling from what I assumed was a fire. I could also hear soft snoring. Who the hell is sleeping near me?

I opened my eyes and sat up. The fire burning in the fireplace cast an orange hue over the room. I was lying in a very comfortable bed and they wrapped my torso in bandages. I'm still in the sweats that Derek gave me.

Apparently, that wasn't a dream. But how did I get here?

I was taking in my surroundings and I forgot about the soft snoring I heard earlier. I let out a scream when I heard someone speaking to me from inside the room, but I couldn't see them.

"Ashlyn, are you okay?" The male voice asked. After I screamed, he sat up on the couch and I could see his head from over the back of the couch. Holding my chest, he gave me a heart attack.

"Where am I?" I gasped.

"Do you remember meeting me?" He asked.

"Derek?" I questioned.

"Yes, Ashlyn. I'm going to move over to the bed. I will not hurt you." He tried to reassure me while standing up from the couch, he walked over to the bed.

Derek was a very handsome man. I didn't notice all his hardened muscles from under his uniform before.

But his tee hugged all his upper muscles just right. He sat down at the end of the bed, giving me a warm smile, which had my heart melting.

“Where am I?” I asked again.

“You are in a cabin about 10 hours south of the Silver Moon pack. My men and I are on a mission out here and we stumbled upon you. Do you remember meeting me?” He asked.

“I thought it was all a dream,” I told him and he chuckled.

“You were in really terrible shape, but you are healing, just slow.” He informed me.

“What are you? You don’t smell like a wolf.” I asked him curiously.

“You’ve never met a dragon before?” He asked, and I was stunned. I had never met a dragon before and that’s the reason I couldn’t place his smell.

“You’re a dragon?” I asked him, confused.

“We are all dragons here,” he confirmed.

“I don’t understand. Why would you help me?” I asked him. I never heard of dragons helping a wolf.

“You needed help, and it’s not like we are at war with the wolves. We are also in the middle of nowhere,” he answered.

We sat there in silence for a few moments. I was trying to put my memories together. So I got away, but now I needed to get home. I can’t believe I actually made it out alive. I looked over at Derek, and he was observing me. I immediately felt self-conscious about myself. I knew I looked like a hot mess, while he sat there looking like a god.

“Thank you for helping me,” I told him. And he nodded.

“Do you mind telling me how you ended up in the middle of nowhere?” He asked me. Pressing my lips in a line, not knowing what I could trust him with. Yes, he saved my life, but maybe he did so he could use me. I can’t use my powers if I’m broken and weak.

“Okay, you don’t have to answer that. But could you tell me why the Alpha King put out an alert to all the mythical kingdoms about your disappearance?” He asked and I couldn’t believe that Arthur would do that for me.

“Do you have a phone?” I asked him. I needed to contact my family.

“The satellite phone won’t be working right now, and I promise I’ll explain myself if you can answer some of my questions. Please?” he asked as I bit my lower lip, thinking about what I could trust this stranger with.

“The Alpha King is my godfather. That’s why I mentioned the Silver Moon pack. My pack, as of right now, is the Blue Moon pack. I’m moving packs.” I explained. “Someone ran me off the road when I was in Silver Moon and kidnapped me. I woke up in a homemade basement dungeon.”

“And do you know who kidnapped you?” He asked. And I sighed.

“I do, but there are things in my life that not even the people closest to me know. It’s hard to explain without explaining the whole thing, and I’m not ready to share that yet.” I told him.

“I understand, Ashlyn. I have some good news, though. After I call my father, I will take you to your old pack tomorrow morning. Dragons can’t just enter pack lands without permission, so my father is making a few calls.” He explained.

“Thank you, Derek.” I breathed out before giving him a smile. It feels like it’s been forever since anyone has been kind to me.

“I really mean it. It’s been forever since someone was kind to me. I’m not even sure how long I’ve been gone for, and I’m sorry I can’t explain more. My life is just so complicated. But I really appreciate you taking me to Blue Moon tomorrow. My aunt still lives there and I need to speak with her.” I told him.

“I’m just glad that you’re awake. You lost a lot of blood.” He said. “But I have one more question?” He asked me, and I nodded.

“Are you sure there wasn’t a dragon where you were?”

“I’m sure I’ve never met a dragon before. There were wolves, vampires, and witches, but no dragons. Why?” I asked him, curiously. Why would he think dragons were there?

“I sent some of my men to track down where you came from. They found a charred clearing with a building that was burned down to ash. I’m not sure what else, besides dragon’s breath, could do that kind of damage in such a short amount of time.” He explained.

“Oh, that’s strange,” I said, without trying to sound suspicious. He raised an eyebrow at me, but said nothing.

“We should get some sleep. It will be morning in a few hours.” He told me. Standing from the bed and making his way to the couch, but I knew he had to be uncomfortable.

“Derek? There’s enough bed here for both of us,” I told him. And he stopped in front of the couch and looked at me, stunned.

“I know that couch can’t be that comfy. Come, lay down on the other side of the bed. I’ll feel bad if you have to sleep on the couch.” I told him.

Derek grabbed his pillow and blanket before walking over to the other side of the bed. We could easily fit a few more people in this bed. Before he laid down, he confirmed my request.

“Are you sure?”

“It’s fine, Derek. Just please lay down.” I told him.

When he was finally comfortable, I turned in bed to face him, hissing while I twisted my back. That still hurts like a b***h, feeling exhausted from the movement. I didn’t notice the pain when I sat up because I panicked and didn’t think.

I was breathing through the throbbing that was pulsating through my body. Closing my eyes, I was ready to get some rest. Changing positions used up so much of my energy.

“You okay?” Derek asked me. He was lying on the edge of his side of the bed.

“Yeah. I’m okay.” I whispered, before I fell into a deep sleep.

Finding Her True Alpha Chapter 30-Prince Mason

My father mind-linked me later in the evening. It’s been almost 4 weeks since they took Ashlyn, and we weren’t any closer to finding her than when we

started. I was angry and frustrated, becoming more and more unbearable to be around. My mate was gone, and I was the reason no one was there to protect her. I wasn't there to protect her. It was hard to live with my mistake and I was taking it out on others.

"Yes, Father," I answered the buzzing in my head. I could feel it was my father.

"Son, we have news. Get everyone to your office at the pack house." He said and cut the link.

I flew off Ashlyn's bed, running out of her bedroom. I was yelling out to Brandon and Liam while I made my way to the elevator. Both of them walked down the hallway coming from their rooms.

"What the hell is going on?" Liam asked.

"My father has news. Call Alpha Ian and Beta Alex and tell them to meet me in my office here now!" I exclaimed. Just then, the elevator dinged, and the doors opened. We all got in the elevator and I hit the "2". I was eager to hear about the news my father might have.

Brandon was on the phone with the Alpha by the time we made it to floor "2".

We walked out of the elevator and straight to where my office was located. My father was already sitting behind my desk when I opened the door. He was in my seat, but I didn't care. I took a chair in front of my desk. A few moments later, the Alpha and his Beta walked.

We were all waiting around my desk for my father to say something and my stomach was in knots, waiting for any information he might have. I was about to ask him when he spoke.

"I have just received word from the Dragon King that his son, Prince Derek, and his men found Ashlyn alive."

He started.

"Where is she?" I rushed out, jumping up from my chair. I needed to get to her now.

“Sit down, son, and let me explain.” He told me calmly, while I was dying inside from the anticipation, I needed him to speak faster. But I sat back down like he told me to.

“Prince Derek and his men were looking for rogues and rebels about 10 hours south of us. They found Ashlyn, but she is unconscious. I don’t know many of the details. They are in the middle of nowhere and it’s hard to communicate out there.

I know that the Dragon King asked permission of his son to enter the Blue Moon pack. That’s the closest pack to them. The dragons were unequipped to handle a wolf. He told me that his son would call him in the morning for confirmation, as Ashlyn can’t give them permission to enter the pack.” My father explained, and for the first time in almost four weeks, I was hopeful.

“We’ll leave for Blue Moon pack right away and we can meet them there,” I told my father, standing from my chair to address the guys.

“Get packed and meet me in the garage. We are leaving as soon as possible.” I commanded. I needed to get to Ashlyn as quickly as possible. These last four weeks have been hell, and I just needed to touch her, to be with her. I didn’t realize how incomplete I was without her. Thor was howling in my head, happy we had found our mate.

“Mason, be nice to the Dragon Prince. I know you are eager to get to Ashlyn, but you need to be calm and patient.” My father called out before I left my office.

“I promise I’ll try, father,” I said back to him, closing my office door. The guys were waiting in the elevator and I ran to catch them. I could finally breathe. We had found her, and she was alive, unconscious, but alive. This is one of the happiest days of my life.

“I wonder how she wound up in the middle of nowhere, 10 hours away?” Liam asked. And I couldn’t wait to see her. We could deal with all the details later.

“I don’t know. She’s alive, and that’s all that matters.

“I answered him. Since we knew someone had kidnapped her, I have been an a*sshole. I couldn’t do training classes anymore and I was thankful it was over for the semester. I’d hit the gym or Thor was out searching the city and area for Ashlyn.

I can now see why mates fall apart after their mates are gone. It was hell not being with her, and her room smelled like me instead of her. I've been sleeping and spending most of my time there. Her scent calmed the beast in me. Alphas are very possessive of what is theirs and having someone take something of ours makes us go crazy, literally. I could feel my mind slipping and becoming more Thor than me.

It's hard to admit, but I was losing hope that we'd find her. And with each passing day, the depression was getting worse. Life wouldn't have been worth living if I didn't have Ashlyn beside me. I didn't care about second-chance mates or chosen mates. If I couldn't have Ashlyn, I wouldn't want to live. But now I have a chance to make things right and I won't stop trying to win her heart.

When we were finally all packed and down in the garage, we took Brandon's truck. Alpha Ian and Beta Alex were taking Alpha Ian's truck. They have been here for the last four weeks, helping in any way they could. We've all become close friends, and it's nice to hear stories of Ashlyn's life before me. Even though it sucked that Ian was in all the stories. They were really close and I couldn't help being jealous of their relationship.

We all hopped into our assigned trucks and pulled out of the garage. We had a 7-hour's drive to Blue Moon pack and, hopefully, we wouldn't have too long of a wait until Ashlyn arrived. I pray to the moon goddess that she will be awake and feeling better.

I couldn't focus on anything else while riding a shotgun. If Brandon and Liam had been talking to me, I wouldn't have noticed. I was trying to find the words to tell Ashlyn how much she meant to me and that if Thor couldn't claim her, then I would.

I was feeling anxious about seeing her; I knew she was probably still upset about how I acted. Hell, I was still upset with how I treated her. She is perfect, and she wanted me. She drove for 7 hours bleeding and in pain, just to watch me walk away from her over a fvcken k!ss.

A k!ss that she walked away from.

I probably made her feel so worthless. Ashlyn didn't run back to Alpha Ian. She went to a hotel. She didn't want to be with Ian and she proved that. And now I needed to prove to her she was my one and only. She is my everything and "I'll do whatever I need to do to win her back.

We arrived at the Blue Moon pack in the early hours of the morning. We weren't sure when Ashlyn and the dragons would arrive, so we filled in Alpha Jason and then headed to our rooms. Sleep did not come easily for me. I tossed and turned until I must have fallen asleep.