

Chapter 26 - Unscentable

Brad POV

They arrived in Olympia, both he and Eddie not overly happy with either of the current situations for that matter. He had a Mate he could not scent and a son to that woman, and they were actively running away from him, or from Alpha Timothy, at this point, that man had threatened to separate her from her son and she'd bolted clear across to the other side of the Pacific Ocean.

Eddie, stupidly enough, lay claim to a human girl, who had no idea he was her Mate and had also run off, away from him, clear across the Pacific Ocean to be with her employer. Who was his runaway Mate, so technically her Luna, if Bradley could sort this bloody mess out that was, and he was determined to do so.

Had a Goddess-Gifted Mate out there, was going to claim her the minute he could, Bradley also knew it was also what Benson wanted. They both wanted their Mate, it was annoyingly frustrating that the moon goddess herself would do this to them, allow them to have a Mate they couldn't scent and then allow her to scent him out and cause her great pain, why he had no bloody idea.

It was cruel, is what it was.

Though when they had tracked Izzy's credit card and seen that she had bought a plane ticket to Sydney to follow Piper, it made Bradley wonder about their bond yet again, not for the first time, just how connected those two were. Perhaps the moon goddess had seen fit to draw them together. They both had man issues of the same nature. No trust, been hurt through no fault of their own and run away from that pain.

The four of them walked into Wolf Airlines, the she-wolf manning the front desk, smiled right at him and his men "Alpha Bradley, please go right into the lounge." She'd waved them through a heavy set of double doors, and they'd pushed into the private lounge that Westley and Terence owned. Stood on a loft platform that over looked the lounge itself.

It was a large room with a dozen dark wood tables and comfortable white leather chairs 6 to a table, the carpet was black and the bar where he could see both West and Terence leaning chatting away, was manned by a male wolf, dressed in pack colours, the bar was large at least 16 feet long and had

bar stools all along the counter, he could see fully stocked with every kind of alcohol you could think of.

As they walked down the stairs into the actual lounge, there was a massive multi-tiered, modern chandelier with circular crystal hanging tears that all fell at odd angles. And spaced out around the room were Minimalist-style circular two-teared chandeliers that linked in with the one hanging by the stairs, seemed more like his father's style than Wests', likely though this business was all West, his father had put his architecture skills into the building and designed something very opulent for his son.

Might have that man design Piper's new store in Helena when he got her back.

The far end of the room had large windows that over looked his actual airport hangers, where his planes were all standing at gates. Bradley could see Wests White Jet out there on the tarmac waiting for them. Thank the goddess, he had an alliance with this man that Jet was going to be his life saver, he imagined.

Watched as both West and Terence turned and watched them come down the stairs, leaned away from the bar and extended a hand to him as he approached them. He even offered him and his men all a drink. After the meet and greet was done.

Bradley accepted the drink, he could actually use one. His whole bloody life was in turmoil right now. Took a sip of the 20 year old single malt scotch whisky and sighed, trust West to stock the best. Not that the man ever really drank much, never seen him drink more than a single glass of anything ever, usually sat and swirled his drink but rarely actually drank it. He'd never asked why, not that curious he guessed.

Asked how the two of them were doing, Terence all smiles, his triplets due within the month. West had a pup on the way to now, but not due for a few months either, told him it was going to be a boy. Was happy about that. His new little brothers, twin boys, arrived a few weeks ago and he was glad to have brothers, no more sisters, chuckled about it.

Bradley was a little curious about Terence being here, with his Mate Ella, due within the month, didn't seem concerned that his Mate would go into early labour and he'd miss their birth. He was currently 2 hours from his pack and

Bradley didn't think that if his Mate was that close to having his pup he'd want to be anywhere but near her just in case she delivered early.

Terence was way too laid back, though that was who he was, nothing ever seemed to bother that man, not even now as an actual Alpha, he was still happy to lean back in his chair and chat as though life was easy.

They all went and sat down at a table and West sent his bar tender off to get food. Apparently, this lounge had a fully staffed kitchen out the back. He'd not shown them a menu but had ordered steaks for all of them plus two large share plates of entree's for while they waited for the main meals. Both plates stretched from one side of the table to the other, clearly catered to wolves' appetites.

They chatted about pack life. West and Terence were polite enough not to bring up how he had no idea about having a son out there and currently halfway around the world. With a she-wolf that passed herself off as human all the time.

This was not the first time it would have happened in the wolven world, and it was unlikely going to be the last time that an Alpha, had no idea about a child out there. Alpha's slept around a lot and there was always that possibility.

Mate's left for all manner of reasons as well. Even West's own Mate, Jo-anne, had left him 10 years ago, then she'd come back to pledge loyalty and left again, only to have West hunt her down and drag her back. Now they were happy and Mated once more. A pup on the way, the man did look happy.

Life just didn't always go to plan, some wolves were just not lucky enough to get what they wanted right away, or at all, or had to fight tooth and nail to get what they wanted.

Unlike Harry his Delta, who just smiled at his girlfriend Betsy the day she had walked into the pack-house, the first full moon after her 18th birthday, she'd smiled right at him and stated "Mine. Come here and bite me." with a half giggle and Harry had done just that, he'd been 18 himself. Just a few months older than she was.

That lucky bastard had been with his Mate since they were both 15, and then was granted her as his Goddess-Gifted Mate when she was 18. They'd only ever been with each other, never had eyes for anyone else, not even as teenagers without wolves.

It seemed both West and Terence had looked up his Piper and they were very impressed with the woman. Not only was she worth a bloody small fortune, she was well known, well liked and respected within the human world. West was curious as to how Bradley was going to pull her in from the human life she had created for herself. Noted himself, she had separated herself from the wolfen world, and appeared to be human in more ways than one. Commented that Jo-anne was difficult, being on her own for so long out in the human world, she didn't really like taking orders, was used to doing her own thing and often just raised an eyebrow at him and stated 'not going to happen' and would walk off. Played by her own rules.

Bradley sighed and shook his head. He had no idea himself, "Gently so, and likely humanly publicly so."

Cooper had laughed, "A big lavish human wedding with lots of human photographers and what not, was my suggestion."

West and Terence thought that it was likely a good idea. Couldn't just have a designer of her calibre disappear would likely set off a human world search. Bradley agreed, the wedding would also have to encompass both human and wolfen guests, due to who she was, that was going to be a logistical nightmare.

But he was kind of hoping that with Piper in the industry already she would be able to handle that and, if not, he was certain, with Isobelle's background, she would be able to. Came from a wealthy human family and from what he'd heard, her sisters wedding had been massive. So likely something Izzy was used to handling.

Tia arrived with Thomas in tow, her Mate, both Eddie and Harry's parents, and he watched her eyes land right on her son, Eddie and then stalked right towards him. She was a tall, well-trained woman, an Elite warrior within his pack, for that matter, Thomas trailed her casually. She was very hot-headed and had already torn strips of him over the phone, and didn't look like she was even close to being calmed down.

Saw Eddie stand up with a heavy sigh and mutter "hear we go" under his breath.

Bradley gestured for both West and Terence to stay seated. They had both noted the anger rolling off the woman stalking across the room and their wolves naturally reacted to it "She's Eddie's mother." he'd told them.

Tia came to a halt right in front of her son and stood staring up at him. She herself was 6ft 2, only 2 inches shorter than her son, glared right at the man, then shocked everyone when her open hand struck his face, in a loud resounding slap to his face, grated out angrily at him “Are you so impatient? Did I teach you nothing about humans?”

Bradley watched Timber surfaced at the attack on his human, and snarl right at her, only to have them put her hand right in his face, and point a finger at him “I’m not afraid of you, back off Timber.” she snarled right back at his wolf.

Saw Timber back off after a moment, left Eddie glaring at her his jaw tight, she was and Elite class warrior and could take him and his wolf on, if she wanted to, would be a good match for him in a fight. Likely wouldn’t win but do a fare bit of damage to him.

“Human Edward, she is human, and you lay claim to her. Mate her from what I understand, for the love of the Goddess...you stupid fool, what if you can’t get her back?”

“I’m going to,” Eddie stated flatly.

“Oh and you think... just because your handsome like your father here, she’ll just fall at your feet.”

Eddie did actually look like his father, he had blonde hair and hazel green eyes, whereas Harry looked more like Tia, with brown hair and hazel blue eyes.

“No.” Eddie admitted.

“You’re right on that. Ask your father what it took to get me to come around, bloody tried to use that stupid Gamma Charm on me all the time, pissed me off to the point I beat him several times.”

Saw Thomas smiled and nod, didn’t even deny it Bradley knew that Thomas was very proud of who his Mate had been, so strong and unbreakable even for him, loved that she could just stare him down and take no crap. It was Thomas that stopped the closed fist of his Mate as she tried to punch her son. It appeared she was spoiling for a fight. Wanted a piece of her own son for maybe screwing up his Mate Bond to a human girl.

“Tia calm down.” Bradley finally stood up and interjected himself into the situation, it was getting out of hand, “We do actually know where she is. Used her credit card and went to Australia. I will bring her back, I will talk to her myself.”

“Oh, and you think she is going to listen to you? after your harassment, in an effort to get to Piper.” she snapped at him.

Benson bristled inside of him and surfaced himself to show his disapproval of her lack of respect for her Alpha, growled right at her, low and menacingly. Watched her bow her head slightly as she realised what she had done. Draw in a calming breath and then apologise to him for her words and tone.

“Please just go back to the Pack Tia. I will deal with Isobelle and it will get sorted out or at least get her back to the pack so she can be assimilated or learn about what is going on so she can make a proper decision.”

Saw her look right at him, her expression softened “Isobelle? Such a pretty name. I thought it was Izzy.”

He nodded “Isobelle Jenkins, she actually is very stubborn and loyal to Piper, just like you were to my mother, are now to Lilly, head strong even against me, tried to put me in my place once already, called me some not so nice names too. You’ll love her. I see a lot of you in her.” he told her with a smile at the end, trying to appease her.

“Well, I hope she beats him one, for his behaviour.” she muttered.

“I’m sure she probably will at some point.” Bradley smiled, he could actually see that happening at some point, “Eddie does actually feel bad about what he and his wolf did. I believe Timber has been sulking since she left.”

Saw Tia’s eyes widen and then move to her son. She huffed and shook her head, then stepped over to Eddie and hugged him “Just don’t do anything else stupid son,” she murmured.

Thomas handed Bradley all their passports and looked right at him, “Alpha, if I may have a word in private?” he’d spoken it as a question but Bradley got the feeling by the look on the man’s face that they would be having a conversation. Likely one posed by his own father and not to be had over the phone for all to hear.

Bradley nodded, he narrowed his eyes on Tia for a good 20 seconds to make sure she understood he was in charge, not that he hadn't been for 11 years now, then walked away with Thomas to sit at another table. Across the room, in the wolfen world, was not private in anyway, wolves hearing would pick it up. Stepping away was just a common courtesy.

Opened a mind-link to the man, 'Alpha, Hadley told your father, you have a son with Piper Whitlock.'

Bradley knew it, the damned girl couldn't keep her mouth shut, he'd specifically asked her not to say anything about the boy to their father, yet she had gone ahead and done so. He'd asked purely because the fewer people that knew the less likely it was to get out and the safer they would be.

'Yes, apparently so.' He acknowledged.

'Your father is greatly concerned about how this came about?'

'Oh, is he now! Then you must be referring to the Ice Moon Pack, agreement, that father never saw fit to show me. Regarding the Whitlock women, and I will be having a word with him about that when I get home. Considering it's my bloody head on the line.' he grated out. Was very angry about that, in fact.

'The child Bradley, how was he conceived, we need to know. It could well start a war and Ice Moon Pack is much larger than ours.' He could actually hear the concern in the former Gamma's voice.

He was also well aware of just how large the Ice Moon Pack was, nearly three times the size of his own, and they would not win a war against them, not even come close to it.

'She was in my bed one night when I got home.' he shrugged, it was the truth. 'What can I say? A naked she-wolf in my bed.'

'Did she give consent?' he was asked instantly.

'Didn't say no.' Bradley answered him 'did say please if I recall correctly, begged me not to stop at one point and told me she wanted all of me. And that is what she got, all of me. Though I had no idea who she was to me at the time.' he could only presume Thomas had been informed of all the details by his father and that was why they were having this chat right now 'I thought she was just a she-wolf itching for time with her Alpha.'

Saw Thomas sigh heavily 'I hope that is what she tells her people, from her mother's pack, if not Bradley...'

'I understand the ramifications. Alpha Timothy already told me what he would do and that he would be taking her word over mine as well...it would have been bloody nice if father had shown me that agreement. Perhaps I would have known who she was.'

'That's unlikely from my understanding of it, Bradley. But yes he should have told you, we're all annoyed with that. Though he did believe...'

'I don't bloody care what he believed' Bradley cut him clean off 'or thought. I'm the current Alpha in charge, have been for a bloody long time, in fact. It's my damned life on the line, not his anymore. I think such formalities are supposed to be handed over, before even, the actual change of leadership is done...yes?' he grated.

Saw the man nod his head, he could not argue with that, it was how it was supposed to be done, any and all alliance agreements that involved the reigning Alpha to pass on to the next Alpha had to be formally handed over so that the next Alpha in charge, knew what the hell was hanging over his head. Literally his head in this case.

So that if his actions or any of his pack's actions could be construed as an act of war against another pack, or bring another Alpha to his pack with the right to Duel him to the death over something, he would know about it and could make sure those set rules were adhered to, to prevent such things.

His father had been lax in his duties, even if he thought that Piper had been collected by her mother's family and returned to the Ice Moon Pack, that agreement with them still stood and held true.

There was likely going to be one hell of an Alpha on Alpha yelling match when he got back to his pack, after collecting Piper and his son and he had no idea how on earth he was going to get her to come with him either. He could apologise but he had absolutely no idea if that would work, whether or not she would even care for one at this point.

The boy, however, he had every right to claim and insist on bringing back to the pack. He was not safe out there as a rogue, though Bradley did not want to use the boy as leverage, use his own son like that. If he did, he would be no

better in Piper's eyes than Alpha Timothy was. At this point, that was a last resort, really just wanted to sit down with her and see if they could talk it out.

Though the last time she'd come face to face with him, had not gone down so well, Hadley by his side and him insisting on her getting the gown she wanted. No more of that, her own mother could take her shopping from now on. Their father's unit could go with her for protection instead of his.

This time he would be approaching her without Hadley around and he was going to clear that miss understanding up as soon as he possibly could, tell her Hadley was his little sister, had no idea if she would believe him, didn't know if she even knew his father had a second chance Mate.

Though she would have been in the pack, 10 at the time Hadley was born, but would have been going through her own grief at the loss of both her parents, and likely also felt completely abandoned by the pack itself.

No-one had looked after her, he had absolutely no idea how she survived on her own inside the pack, on her own at such a young age, there had been no-one to care for her ever, her life inside the pack had certainly not been a good one, so getting her to come home, to be part of a pack once more, could well be a very difficult thing.

She was a rogue now and he had no hold over her at all. He couldn't just order her to do it, she'd likely stare at him and then laugh. He didn't want to threaten her in anyway, that would just make her more resistant to coming home, more likely to hate pack life. Probably didn't like that now.

So he was aiming to talk to her, to at least try and persuade her into coming home, to let Brandon come home to the pack, to see what his own world looked and felt like, to be inside a pack.

Bradley had no idea at all if Brandon had any interactions with wolves at all, other than Alpha Timothy and that man had only threatened them on both occasions. Nothing good would have come from those interactions. The boy might well not be interested at all. Bradley had no idea what Piper had told him about wolves or life within a pack, but if she had told him anything it wasn't likely going to be anything good, she was unlikely to have any good memories at all.

Though she could have told him nothing at all, or she could have told him how uncaring and horrible it was, as was likely her experience. He did not know,

was going to have to find out the hard way, by asking the boy to come home or if he wanted to come and see what pack life looked like.

He was a complete stranger to his own child, there was no connection to his wolf Aspen, and that in itself could see Brandon out right reject him as his father, and refuse to come home as well, until there was a connection. He was not happy about that thought and neither was Benson, for that matter.

Looked at Thomas “Go back to the Pack Thomas. I don’t even know at this point if I can bring her in. She thinks Hadley is my Mate. And I don’t even know if she raised Brandon with any knowledge of our kind. It could take a while. I suggest he pull his ass out of retirement and relive my brother of Alpha duties so Timothy doesn’t come to duel him over Piper’s treatment. When he likely has no knowledge of what is going on either. Put the one responsible for this particular mess, back in the firing line. So to speak.”

Saw Thomas stand up “It’ll work itself out Brad, just...be calm, polite and don’t force the situation.”

“Forcing the situation is not my style, that is her own family’s and I wouldn’t be in this situation if her damned cousin hadn’t threatened to take Brandon away from her in order to get her to go home with him. Only made her bolt clear out of the country.”

“We’ll call him, try to sort that out as well.”

“You do that! Because somehow, I don’t think after all his threats and there was more than one, Piper is going to want to go to Ice Moon Pack to meet with the Whitlock Elders at all.” and he didn’t think she would be willing.

Timothy should have led with, ‘I think I’m your cousin What pack were you from?’ Not a threat to haul her ass in. Should have explained himself to her to gain her trust. That would likely have gone a long way to helping the situation and she may have even gone with him, or allowed the Whitlock Elders to come to her at her store for a sit-down conversation.

Chapter 27 - Unscentable

Eddie POV

Hearing that Bradley had a son with Piper Harper, made his heart ache. That little bit more, for the lost Luna to his pack, he’d known she’d suffered greatly,

had just never been able to do anything about it at all, and he had tried too. He searched the pack, hunted all over the place, gotten turned around so many times inside his own pack, looking for Piper, he'd nearly ripped his own hair out.

Had been able to feel it when she was in pain, and desperately needed to comfort her for a very long time, but he'd just never been able to find her. Had not known who she was, what she looked like, where she lived in the pack, knew nothing of her, only her distress over what was happening to her.

He'd tried desperately to hunt her down the day she'd actually rejected Bradley, he'd known she was somewhere inside the pack-house, likely had to be looking right at Bradley to make that rejection, but still he'd not been able to find her. His fruitless search of the pack-house that night had made him lose her altogether.

Because why he was searching the pack-house for her she had been running for the border, by the time he realised this, was headed for the border himself, he had felt her sever from him completely, their connection just vanished. He'd known instantly that what he had feared for years, had actually happened.

She had left the pack entirely, severed all ties with it, unable to cope any longer with the pain their Alpha. Her Mate was unwittingly causing her. He'd had no idea and trying to tell a wolf they had a Mate somewhere and his going off to have sex with another was killing her, would not work. There was no way any wolf would believe that without scenting his Mate, and that she was within his own pack, not a hope in hell of believing it.

Only scenting out your Mate could convince you, and your wolf you had a Mate.

Bradley was all about Goddess-Gifted Mates, wanted to find that one, that belonged to him and his wolf. If he had scented out his Mate, they would have been together, there would have been a Luna Ceremony and a massive celebration, for sure.

So Eddie knew that the man had not scented her out, had not come across his Mate, and he'd been home for full moon balls during the course of those 3 years. Hell, he'd been home on a full moon when there was no mating ball as well. That night she had not just rejected him, but the entire pack.

Their western border was not that far from the city limits and once she severed ties to the pack, Eddie was unable to track her at all, and not actually knowing what she had looked like at the time, meant he could very well have come across her on the outskirts of the human city of Helena and not even known it was her at all.

Now he knew why he couldn't ever detect her, that pendant she wore made her unscentable. It was a logistical nightmare. No wonder he and Timber had been turned around constantly, couldn't scent her, couldn't recognise her in his human form or his wolf form and he had been using all of Timbers senses to try and hunt her, couldn't it seemed, and not his fault, not that that matter. Had just made them feel inadequate in their ability as a Gamma. Thought they were broken, that their Gamma instincts were off and he couldn't fulfil his duty.

He knew Bradley had given up dating and sleeping around after that night, when the next day, between Doc Samuel and Eddies' telling him what they thought was going on. But the damage to his Mate was already done and she'd finally had enough and fled.

Now as they flew across the pacific ocean, he was worried about her once again. Not even Eddie had thought there would be a child, between the two of them, it was just one night together. Bradley had told him he'd not knotted the girl. But to know just how much she had suffered inside the pack and then to become pregnant to her Mate, who never knew who she was, to have that constant reminder for the rest of her life.

Was the moon goddess so cruel to one she-wolf, to put her through so much and then to give her a constant reminder of what she could never have, it must have hurt her even more. Eddie had finally seen a picture of the boy, Brandon, he'd been told was his name.

He actually looked more like Piper than Bradley, had her hair and skin tone, but had his father's very unique eyes. Made Eddie wonder how she'd handled seeing him stare up at her when he'd first been born. Had it caused her more pain?

To see in the photos that the boy already has his wolf, had seen it on Cooper's phone, had the same white wolf eyes of Pipers wolf Harper. Was definitely a Whitlock more so than a Drake. He could only hope that had helped her with raising the boy.

Cooper actually had quite a few photos of the boy, of Piper herself, and of Piper and the boy together. He'd spent the evening and morning watching them apparently, snapped a butt ass load of pictures, had even followed them as stealthily as he could on their morning run.

Told Eddie she and Brandon had a really good bond, and that was a giant relief to him, seeing the two of them together, laughing and smiling before going on that run eased some of his own pain, his own guilt at not being there for her.

He knew they were flying to help Bradley bring Piper in, that he was going to be needed with all his Gamma abilities in full swing in all likelihood. Bradley had already explained to him what he'd sensed on that first encounter with her, it was what Eddie was expecting, it was what they were all expecting, even Bradley.

Though Eddie didn't know if they were going to bring her back in to the pack, she had experienced a lot of pain, tremendous amounts of pain, suffered so much that she had left and now lived as a human, with a very public human life.

Eddie was hoping, knowing who she was now, would kick his instincts in properly. Already knew he could not scent her, had stared hard at the photos of her trying to commit her to his memory, so that he wouldn't need his sense of smell to know who she was.

That day, outside of her store, while he'd been trying to console a very upset Hadley over Piper Harper tearing up the picture of the dress she dreamed of wearing one day. Piper had stepped out of her store and looked right at them, each one of them in turn, all of them there for Hadley, had rolled her eyes and walked away. He could only imagine her pain that day too.

He'd seen the way she'd actually looked at them, knowingly, she knew who Cooper was the Pack Beta, had looked at him and then Harry, had looked to see how many of her former Alpha's unit were there, and seen all of them. That roll of her eyes he wasn't sure if that had been at Hadley needing comfort, or if it was because all of her former Packs Alpha Unit were standing across the road from her.

All of them looking right at her, and had no idea, even now. Years later, after she had left, what she was, who she had been, should have been to them. But he had felt more than annoyance roll off of her, and that something had itched

at him, she'd felt kind of familiar to him. But he didn't recall her at all, and so other than watching her walk away down the street and putting a hand on Cooper to stay him.

He'd let it go. Perhaps now he should have let Cooper go after her, might have seen the boy sooner. Perhaps she had been off to pick him up from school that day, it had been around the right time. He'd known something was off, but it had been years since he'd felt her, since he'd sensed anything about the Alpha's missing Mate.

Eddie had to admit, he had forgotten what it felt like to feel her, as the years had passed the memory of what she felt like to him or lack of what she felt like to him, had faded, dulled and eventually passed altogether. He'd had the feeling that day, that Piper Harper was not human, was something else, but that had been all he'd known.

Now he had to pull himself together, he was going to be needed, all his Gamma instincts which had failed him at every turn where she was concerned, was going to have to pull on everything in him, to help ease her pain, get her to calm down and stay calm.

From what he knew of her, what he'd researched and was doing on this very flight, gathering intel to help him to help her. Piper Harper was very much more human than a werewolf nowadays. And to his knowledge, none of them had ever seen her wolf at all, a description only from her file of a grey and white wolf. Eddie doubted she had shifted in a very long time. He'd not sensed her wolf at the time and he should have been able to, even from across the street, his instincts should have picked up on that much about her, but they had not.

Perhaps her wolf was too weak after all the years of their Mate not recognising them, mating with others that she could no longer shift at all. Though both Bradley and Hadley had seen her wolf's eyes, and Harper push forward and be fully on the surface, it had only been brief. So he knew she was not gone altogether.

Cooper had also reported that it was her wolf, Harper and the boys wolf out on that morning run together, so maybe Harper was there but only inside Pipers mind. If that was the case, then getting her and Bradley back together could resolve that and bring her wolf back out fully, given time.

Though how he was going to concentrate on Piper, when in all likelihood his own Mate Izzy, would be right next to her, he had no idea. She'd run away from him too. Though he knew that was because she, as a human, had no idea what they were to each other. Even though he'd gotten her to state she was his and he had claimed her right back, the woman had no understanding at all and so had left.

Eddie knew it was because she felt like she'd betrayed Piper to him, knew he worked for Bradley and that Piper had warned the woman she'd be seduced by him and end up in his bed, before she knew it and Piper had not been wrong about that. But for very different reasons.

He'd not seduced Izzy to get Piper's information out of her. That thought had gone out the window, the moment his mouth had touched hers, from that moment he'd only wanted to claim Izzy, make her his as had Timber. They'd waited a very long time for their Mate and had become impulsive and demanding, all of his wolf's needs to claim, own and dominate the situation, to take complete control of her had surfaced and that was what they had done.

Only to have her sneak out and run away from them, drive away and tell them she didn't belong to them, when in fact she did belong to him, as he now belonged to her. Now Eddie had to find a way to help his Alpha with his Luna, all the while not claiming his own Mate, when she was going to be right in front of him.

Both Eddie and Timber knew that they had screwed up everything, needed to get Izzy alone and apologise, ask her out, was the right thing to do. She was human and would need to date him as she would any man in the human world.

A long, slow road to becoming his and Timbers, and they wanted her now, right next to them, wondered if Bradley would consider helping him first, so he could better focus on Piper in return. They were both currently in a situation where they actually needed each others help, literally.

Eddie needed his Alpha to sit down and talk with his runaway human Mate and explain to her about what Eddie was to her, not all of it at once, just to convince her it was very important for her to give him a chance, to get to know him.

Did not know how this was going to work at all. Didn't even know if they would be able to sort this mess out. It was likely that if Izzy told Piper all that had

happened at her sister's wedding with Eddie, Piper would be dead certain Izzy was his Mate. She would also know that Eddie, would be hunting Izzy to get her back right at this very minute.

Might have warned Izzy, if Piper did cling completely to the human world, to her human life that she had created for herself, she might actively warn Izzy away from him and those two women were very close. Izzy was loyal to Piper.

Which was a good thing for them to have considering, if Piper could be brought in, and Brad could win her over, meant that the Luna and Gamma's Mate bond was already there in full swing.

It did make him wonder if they had been drawn to each other because of who they should have been to each other. He'd already found out that Izzy had been with Piper for most of the time she'd been away from the pack. Perhaps the goddess had pulled them together, both of them seemed to need each other.

Izzy had that stupid human who wouldn't let go of her, and she'd left him years ago, yet he was still trying to coherence her into a marriage with him. One that from what he could tell her father wanted as well.

But his Izzy was good and strong willed, had said no and meant it. Did not want anything to do with that stupid human man, had run away from him and her family, just like Piper had in fact.

Wondered if that was what had bonded the two women together, he also wondered if Izzy had ever seen Harper on the surface at all. It was a possibility. They had worked together for years. He had no idea how much control Piper had or what type of temperament Harper had either, for that matter.

Though Harper had pushed forward and growled at Bradley that day in her studio, and he was very curious about that. As not many Mate's would growl at each other with full on aggression, so he didn't know if the rejection she had uttered was valid or not. No-one did at this point, they still had to figure that out, and likely first before anything else happened.

Landing in Sydney, neither he nor Bradley had gotten a wink of sleep. Cooper and Harry on the other hand, slept quite well, though Eddie knew he and Bradley had their own concerns. There wasn't even a plan of action at this point. Locate Piper in her hotel and then go from there. That was it so far.

They already knew which hotel Piper was in had tracked Piper Whitlock's credit card, booked themselves right into the very same hotel, a penthouse suite that would house all four of them. Both he and Bradley needed to sleep before going anywhere near either of their Mates or their tired, agitated wolves would likely shove forward and take what they thought was theirs without a thought to the actual consequences.

Eddie could not let Timber out near Izzy at this point, he'd already ripped out of Eddie in a ticked off rage, that she'd run away from him. Had been going to Mark her in his wolf form that day, not something that would have gone down well at all.

Timber was still unhappy that she had run away, and was not at all happy she'd gone half way around the bloody world to get away from them. Was not about to let her get away again. She might be human, but she was his human as far as he was concerned, and he was not giving her up, period.

Even if she never turned, and remained human after they Marked her, and it did happen, Timber was still of the opinion she was his Mate, and he wanted her. It had only been Eddie that night with her. Timber had mostly been in control but had not pushed forward to Mate her. His wolf, he knew, was very aggressive and could likely hurt her. Things would be different once they Marked her though, if she accepted them fully, her body would also accept Timber and his wolfs needs, regardless of how rough he got with her, she would enjoy it.

He was not one to be interested in humans, they were not his thing, not his wolf's thing either, but Izzy drove them completely crazy, the minute he'd kissed her, they had just craved her like the air they breathed to keep them alive.

He looked at himself in the hotel bathroom mirror, he was showered and clean from their long journey, but he actually did look tired, not something he'd ever recalled looking like before, already being away from her, was starting to take its toll on him. He needed his Mate back in his arms.

Chapter 28 - Unscentable

Izzy POV

Izzy woke up to half a dozen missed calls from her father, and groaned annoyingly as she saw there were 3 calls from an unknown number on her

phone's display. Those three calls coincided with her father's. It was also a number with Maine's prefix.

She had actually switched off her phone after leaving the family estate, had known that her father would be calling her, to either hound her about Phillip, or perhaps now after what had gone on with Edward, as he'd introduced himself to her father, to find out just what was going on in her life.

Izzy had sighed and stared at the phone's message bank service which told her there were currently 9 voice messages to be heard, listened to them in order of receiving them, best to get it all in the right context.

The first voice message was from her father, demanding that she come home immediately and explain herself to him. Just exactly what was going on. Why Phillip had gone to him and told him, that he'd been told she and Edward were in fact getting married in around 9 weeks' time.

Izzy had stared right at her phone in complete shock, she'd not said that, had told her father that Edward was nothing to her. But it was obvious he had seen the way the man was all over her. After she'd stopped that fight between Edward and Phillip that had been brewing, she did recall that Edward had literally carried her right out of the family ballroom. But where had he gotten the getting married thing? She did not know and 9 weeks, what the hell was that?

The second voice message was also her father. He seemed quite a bit calmer in this message, just wanted her to call him so he could talk to her about Edward, maybe just trying to cajole her into calling him back. The man even half-heartedly apologised for yelling at her in the first message he'd left.

The third message was from an infuriated Phillip, who stated that her behaviour during Joanie's wedding had been completely unacceptable, that if she kept up this type of behaviour, he would no longer be willing to marry her. Izzy had nearly laughed out loud, that stupid man still thought he was going to be able to marry her, all because her father said he'd make her. It was never going to happen.

Message four, once again her father "Isabelle sweetheart, I think I may have over reacted somewhat. Edward appears to be an upstanding, wealthy man and I think it is time you brought him home to introduce your fiance to us formally. Your mother also agrees with this. Call me back sweetheart."

Izzy rolled her eyes at that message, a wealthy, upstanding man, that just meant her father had actually started looking into Edward Patrick of Drake Industries and had seen the man's bio, and had liked it. Nothing more. As for the 'your mother also agrees.' he had likely thrown that in, because she was much closer to her mother than her father was all.

The fifth message Phillip once again, "Isobelle, This Edward character may have money, but he is not aligned to you or your family's needs. I am the better choice. Call me back so we can sort this out once and for all." though in the background of that call she could hear his current girlfriend calling out to him, to get off the phone she'd brought him lunch so they could eat together. Yes, he was a still a pig of a man, she thought. Got a girlfriend and trying to make another girl come home to marry him.

It also sounded to her like Phillip had also looked into Edward, and did not like what he saw, must be either of two things; Edward had more money than Phillip did or he knew that: her father was now leaning towards Edward himself, so he was trying to wrest control of the situation. He wanted her fathers' company and wouldn't get it without marrying into the family.

Message six once again her father "Isobelle, Edward sounds like a proper gentleman. I managed to speak with him, though only briefly, he was about to board a flight home. Now I understand that the two of you had a bit of a fight. I'm certain it can be worked out. Call the man he wants to apologise to you."

Sweet Goddess, her own father, had actually managed to contact Edward himself. She could well imagine that phone call, likely a welcome to the family son, had probably gone ahead and invited the man home for dinner as well. Why did this always happen? always had men trying to control her life. Her father was always trying to marry her off.

Phillip always still around, though she knew that man just wanted the family company, he could go and chase Cordelia if he wanted the company that bad. He was not about to get it through her. She had no connection to her father's company and intended on keeping it that way.

Voice message seven her actual mother, though off her fathers phone, so likely coerced into it. "Honey it's mum, please do call your father back. He's starting to worry to the point that he is not willing to leave the estate home here in Maine and return to his city apartment," heard her father's voice in the background tell her "It's my bloody house. I will stay as long as I like." Then he'd taken the phone from her mothers hand and grated down the line at

her “Isobelle Jenkins, if you do not call me back I will make my way to Drake Industries and find out myself exactly what Edward Patrick’s intentions are with my daughter. You call me back right now.”

Again Izzy rolled her eyes, he would know by now she did not respond to his threats, that she would call him back when she was good and bloody ready, not when he wanted her to. Checked the time of the message. All these calls had been spaced out over the course of the day she had left and flown to Australia, unbeknownst to her family. She had on purpose left her phone turned off because she figured that Edward or Bradley Drake himself would have gotten her mobile number off of Laura as well as her work mobile. Didn’t want to speak to either of them possessive arrogant men either.

She had really not wanted to deal with any of them, wondered if this constant need to be in control of her, was why Piper had left Bradley Drake’s company in the first place. He was a man who appeared to be just as relentless as her own father was.

They were both like a dog with a bone, just couldn’t let it go. Both controlling, possessive men, were bloody everywhere, it seemed, and could hunt and track with all the money they had at their disposal, no escape. Sighed, she and Piper very much liked to be in full control of their own lives, neither of them liked to be told what to do.

Smiled at thought actually, she had seen Piper go head to head with some pretty wealthy and influential people, both man and woman. She just stood there and stared them down, it was like the woman had no fear really. Or at least none that Izzy had seen until Bradley Drake had strolled into her store that day.

She’d never seen Piper so rattled, never seen her actually run from anyone. And she had run. Izzy had heard the doors banging closed in quick succession on her way out of the store. Seen the way Bradley had stalked out of her office, not her studio. It was the very first time she had ever seen Piper be anything but cool, calm and collected.

The eighth message was Phillip once more. She huffed in annoyance, “It’s been all day now, Isobelle. I am done waiting on you, you’re so very childish all the time, you should bloody grow up. I will be marrying Katelyn Bateman. Not you. We are done. Don’t call me anymore.”

Anymore? The man was bloody delusional. She'd never called him not once in all the time she had left him. Finally, the man had given up on her, it was about bloody time, was happy to hear that message, damned near whooped with joy to hear it. She really hoped that this Katelyn knew that he was a cheating pig of a man.

Though it was very unlikely that the woman knew anything. Hell if Izzy hadn't gone into her father's office building, impromptu that day, to have dinner with her sister, she would never have seen what he was, been none the wiser and likely have been married to the man herself.

The ninth message was once again her father, "Isobelle, I am very disappointed in you. I just found out that you have left the country, gone to Australia. This is completely unacceptable. Come home at once or I will send Phillip to collect you."

Izzy did actually laugh at that one. Guess her father was unaware of the fact that Phillip had called her and told her he'd had enough of her childish behaviour "good luck father." she murmured softly, amused at the thought of him telling Phillip to go and get her and Phillip stating no. Probably be the first time he'd ever said it. Phillip was going to decline that request. They might be business partners, but without the hope of getting her for himself, he would not lower himself to being a lap dog and come and collect her.

Looked at her work mobile and wondered if she dared to turn that one on. Mr Drake Industries, had that number, which also meant so did Edward now in all likelihood. She sat there and stared at it for a very long time, then turned it on. A part of her was very curious as to if what Piper had told her was true. That he would hunt her to the very ends of the earth to get her back.

There were several missed calls on the phone, nil messages left, though, there was a text message that stated "Miss Jenkin's my name is Cooper, please call me back urgently." Who was Cooper? She did not know a Cooper and there was no Mr Cooper that she was in contact with that she recalled.

But to call her Miss Jenkin's, it was likely that this man was one of her father's men, probably just trying to track her down, so they could come and collect her, though when she looked at the message time it had been sent when she had been in LAX on her layover.

Then just a few hours ago, a text message that read "Izzy I'm sorry, I did not mean to raise my voice at you. Please text me back. Let me know you're safe,

Eddie. I will be out of contact on a flight, but please let me know you're okay...I'll see you soon baby."

Got herself out of bed and headed right for Piper's room. She was already awake, up and showered. No real surprise there, the woman usually ran at sunrise every day. Showed her the message, biting her lip while Piper read it.

"On a flight, he'll see me soon?"

Piper sighed "Likely used his connections to track your credit card and got your flight details, on his way to collect you Izzy."

"It was just one night." He was clearly crazy.

"Not to him." Piper shook her head.

"Come on Piper. It was just like, really good sex. That does not denote a relationship."

"In his world, it does. I'm sorry Izzy, I did try to warn you about him."

Piper had warned her she knew that. "So what do I do then?"

"I don't know," Piper sighed, "Though I would not specifically tell him the word no, or that you don't want to be with him."

"What? Why not?" She could feel little alarm bells going off inside of her mind.

"Might not go down so well. It's very complicated, Izzy. He is likely coming to collect you. So you can be swayed into dating him. He will want that and likely won't take no for an answer."

"He's nutso."

Piper half laughed at her. "Yes, they all are. Must have what they want. Regardless as to what anyone else wants. And those four men. They are the top of the food chain. No-one dares tell them no. It is practically unheard of."

"You did." Izzy reminded her.

"I did." Piper nodded at her "Hurt to blazes to be honest with you."

"Bradley took your no, didn't come after you." Izzy stated curiously.

“He didn’t know I had said no and I left the moment I said it, he was asleep and unaware at the time.”

“Really? I left Edward while he was asleep too.” She half smiled now, so much in common.

“Mm, there is a difference though. Edward knew who he was sleeping with. Bradley did not, I was just another girl in his bed to him.” she shrugged.

“Edward desired you. Wanted you and got to have you. In his mind, you’re his now. You agreed, told him you were his.”

“I only said that to get the actual sex, Piper. He was holding out on me, made me say it to get what I wanted from him at the time.”

“Mm, I understand that. But that’s the thing Izzy, you did actually tell him, agreed to be his. So…”

“This is a nightmare,” Izzy muttered.

Watched as Piper actually laughed softly “Welcome to my world.”

“Don’t know if I want to be part of your world. It’s weird to be honest. Really bloody weird.” she sank down on Piper’s bed “Do I even get a choice?”

Piper sat next to her. “There is usually a choice. Think carefully though, Izzy, Edward could in fact be your Mr Right.”

“Yeah right, that man can have any woman he wants, I imagine. Look at him.”

“He’ll only have eyes for you now, Izzy.”

“What?” she wondered if that was true. Could she date a man like Edward? Could she keep a man like Edward? Satisfy a man like him? There were much prettier women out there, some of them with way more sexual experience than her, willing to do sexual acts that she wasn’t. Edward did seem to be a very dominant man, he was likely to have more than the one fetish, she’d seen.

“Izzy, I’m not going to tell you what to do where he is concerned…Just, do what is right for you. Maybe that includes dating him, to see if you like him.”

“Piper, you told me to stay away from him. Now you’re telling me to date him, that is very confusing.”

“You’ve slept with him now. So things have changed in that department. No matter my feelings about Drake Industries, you have the right to see for yourself and choose what you want as well. You might like it there, fit right in...I just never fit in. It’s why I left.”

Izzy was more confused now than before, she didn’t know what to do. “Should I text him back?”

“That is up to you.” is all Piper said.

Izzy wandered back to her room and stared at the phone, at the message Eddie had left her. He’d started it with an apology, wanted to know if she was safe, told her his plans, again wanted to know if she was okay and then told her he’d see her soon. They were the words of a boyfriend.

Not a man who she had just met, sounded caring and worried about her. She sighed, tried to tell herself not to read anything into it, he would be just like the rest, his eyes would wander to some other woman, he was the most charming of the group, that’s what Piper had told her, sat and stared right at that message for a very long time.

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Chapter 28 - Unscentable

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“In his world, it does. I’m sorry Izzy, I did try to warn you about him.”

Piper had warned her she knew that. “So what do I do then?”

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Tossed the phone onto the bed a second later, Goddess what had she gotten herself into with this man?

Chapter 29 - Unscentable

Piper POV

Piper sat watching Izzy, the woman was all over the place about Edward, had stopped calling him Mr Yummy, she'd noted. Was very confused about that text message he had sent to her via the work mobile.

Piper, however, was not confused by it at all. He was upset that his human Mate had runaway from him, was honest in his apology for yelling at her, likely felt bad and thought it contributed to her running away from him. His concern for her safety and well-being was completely genuine. The whole, I'll see you soon, just meant that he was on his way here, coming to see her. Wanted to be near her.

In all likelihood, he and his wolf were anxious that she had up and left and gone half way around the world. She was his Mate and he and his wolf had scared her off. His only desire now would be to fix it. Placate her and win her over. They would not like that she was alone and without a pack for protection. She was human and therefore very vulnerable in their eyes. If she'd been a werewolf, well...she would have understood everything and there would be no problem.

But Izzy was not. Piper had the feeling that Izzy would text him back, the woman was drawn to him, that much was clear to her. Humans could feel the Bond, it was just not the same as a wolf.

To them it was a strong sexual connection and when touched by their Mate, though they did not get those hot electric tingles, they still felt like it was the most erotic touch they'd ever felt, craved it. It still felt completely amazing to them. Made them hot and needy, wanton, easily swayed into their Mate's bed on any given occasion.

From what Izzy had told her, she just couldn't help herself where Edward was concerned. Did not understand how she'd wound up in bed with him. Piper knew that Izzy was not the type to sleep around, dated yes, but didn't just go having sex with anyone, had rules. She was actively looking for Mr Right and according to Izzy.

Mr Right would be happy to wait for sex with her. He would not look at another woman while they were out together, want her to feel comfortable with their relationship and only have sex when she was ready too.

Always came back to Phillip, who had cheated on her, scarred that woman's heart. Phillip had not been her first lover but he had been her first real serious relationship and she had thought at the time he was perfect and had intended on marrying him. Then that S.O.B. had not appreciated what he'd had.

A strong and capable woman, with a mind of her own, who was intelligent and loyal to him, she did not believe in multiple sex partners at the same time, thought it was 'lcky' was the word she had used once.

When Izzy saw a man's eyes tracking another woman while they were dating, out on a date, having a meal or seeing a movie, she ended it. Got rid of him, believed he would not be faithful. Phillip's betrayal had sewed doubt into Izzy's heart, and unfortunately, Piper hadn't thought any man was ever going to live up to the woman's standards.

Now there was Edward. He on the other hand, would live up to that standard, his eyes would never wander, not even if a parade of naked women or she-wolves walked passed behind Izzy. He would not care about that, he only had eyes for one, his Mate and that was Izzy.

It must be nice to have that. She sighed as pain touched her a little. She would never know, her and the Mate Bond, it was just pure pain. That literally

gutted her and ripped her apart. Cursed as she was. But she would not deny her friend the right to feel loved and cherished and Edward would do just that, give her everything she desired if Izzy let him in.

Piper knew she was likely going to lose Izzy at some point now, it was just a matter of time, she supposed. Had no idea how she was going to deal with that. Or even if she could be happy about it. Not considering where she was going.

She was going to lose her best and only real friend to a place that had caused her nothing but agony and heartache.

Wondered absently if she could get Izzy to promise her, not to tell them anything about Brandon. It would be difficult for her to do. Especially once she was initiated into the Pack and shifted, which is when she would really understand the connection wolves had to their offspring, and their Mates.

Piper was not about to up end her life, she'd left all that heartache and pain behind her, left pack life for a very good reason and no-one and nothing was going to drag her back into it, so she could see all those Mated wolves happy and loved up, no she was not going to be forced to watch and be constantly reminded of what she could never have.

She certainly didn't want to be around wolves, didn't want nor need to come across another Mate who would not scent her out and cause her all that pain and agony which she would not be able to hide from Brandon, there was no way he wouldn't see it or hear it, let alone have to watch her waste away and get all sickly again. No, she was human now and she would stay that way.

They all ate breakfast and Izzy put a call into the realtor about her apartment, was concerned about the money Piper was shelling out for this suite. Piper was not, it was just money, she had plenty of it, and Izzy knew that as well. It wasn't like she went splashing it all over the place, she just mostly bought stuff for Brandon with it or took him on holidays other than that it stayed in the bank.

Piper had never had much growing up inside that Pack, no-one to buy her new clothes or toys to play with, not even a computer to help with her school work as she'd gotten older. She had just learned to use the pack-house laundry of a night time to do her own washing, used the lost and found bins and the donated clothing racks to find clothes that fit her. She had eaten three

meals a day in the pack-house dining room like all wolves could, no-one cared that she did, hell no-one noticed her doing it.

To keep her schooling up to date she had used the pack-house library computers and their wifi. She'd cut her own hair when it got to long to manage and bothered her, just usually spent her days sitting inside her parents house, missing them mostly. Until one day she had come home from school to find it had been cleaned out and completely empty. She'd been 11 at the time, and had not understood that at all. Didn't know where she was supposed to live if not in her family home, so had taken to living in the pack-house basement where she had found some of her parents furniture stored, to still feel close to them. It was a place where the pack stored unwanted things until clean out day once a year, or others came through to look at the stuff and see if they wanted any of it.

She'd stayed there in the basement until she'd felt that first pain of betrayal, and had found that abandoned cabin as she'd been trying to escape the pain. That place had not been much, but it had been out in the middle of the forest, away from everyone that could hear her cries of agony and pain.

So that was where she had stayed after turning 18. When not buried in her work, she'd gotten used to being alone along time before turning 18, so living out there alone in the woods was nice. No-one had bothered her out there, no-one ran into her out there and blamed her for not moving out of the way, so she'd made it neat and tidy, put in some curtains for privacy, and had even managed to drag a mattress from the pack-house basement storage area to the cabin to sleep on.

It had been simple and basic and if anyone did stroll in there, well they wouldn't scent her anyway. She'd seen rogue attacks from that cabin over the years, none of them had smelled her as they had crept passed the cabin, none of them had come for her also unable to detect her, just like everyone in this pack.

She had even been the one to report a rogue or several sneaking about the pack woods, had alerted the Pack Beta Cooper, never the Alpha himself. Couldn't deal with that man's voice inside her head. Cooper had always taken her seriously, told her to get to a safe place and hide if she couldn't get to the pack-house.

Being that she was a female and reporting rogues out in a heavily wooded part of the pack, he likely worried for her safety, she supposed, worried that

those rogues would find her and have a piece of her. They couldn't have what they couldn't detect and they never scented her out, just like the pack didn't, she didn't fear them, just stood perfectly still and let them pass by, and now she was one.

Piper sighed and pulled herself from her memories as Izzy tapped her arm. "Where were you?" she asked.

"No where in particular." She half smiled at the woman.

"Not ready for at least 3 weeks, still got tenants in there."

"It's not a big deal, Izzy. I can afford the hotel. Wouldn't have booked it if I couldn't, come on don't worry about it." and as if to prove it, told her and Brandon to get dressed. They were all going shopping.

Piper had seen the time of Edward's text message. If he was leaving right before he texted Izzy and it had read that way, the man wouldn't get here for another 12 hours or so, depending on layovers. It could well be longer than that, depending on where he had been when he texted Izzy, on the east coast where Izzy had been? Montana where the Pack was? Or on the west coast? She didn't know, though, if they had still been looking for her, at her stores were all on the West coast.

So at the earliest, late tonight, would be when he arrived and he'd be jet-lagged and all cramped from flying, and wouldn't be looking for until tomorrow at least. So today was a care free day for all.

Piper let Izzy know this, after she had looked over her shoulder for like the tenth time when out shopping, she seemed to understand and settle, was actually able to relax and enjoy their shopping trip to the Pitt Street Mall.

Piper bought new clothes for all of them. Today was her treat, just to show Izzy she didn't care about the money side of things and they were all shopped out by 2pm and returned to the hotel to sag down on the couch. She and Izzy had coffee and cake while Brandon set up his new PS5 so he could play online games with his friends back home in the States.

Picked up her phone when it rang at 2130 and was more than a little surprised to see her neighbour Ingrid's number flashing on the screen. Answered it "Hi Ingrid, what is wrong?" she asked. Ingrid would never just call her for no reason, only ever when she saw something suspicious in the street.

That woman did love to sit in her living room and drink tea or coffee and watch her neighbours, lived across the road from Piper. "Piper, are you moving, and did not tell me?"

"What no!" Piper frowned, that was a very odd question to be asked. "I'm on an impromptu trip to my store, so I am out of the States, but not moving why?"

"Well, I'm standing in my living room, watching people, like four of them, quite big guys, and they have parked what looks like a moving van in your driveway."

"What?" She was more than shocked by this news, and considerably confused as well.

"Yes Piper, oh hang on, there is another vehicle pulling up, a SUV and they're all talking to each other. Unloading boxes...hey your garage is open now."

"What the hell?" She muttered, had to be bloody Alpha Timothy, trying to force her hand once again. Packing up all her stuff and moving it back to his pack. "I'm not moving Ingrid, call the police, those people are thieves."

"Oh my, right away Piper."

"Wait, what company is that mover van from? Can you get me a logo? I'll have to call the company and tell them what is going on. Tell them I did not approve it."

"Um I can't see it from here, I'll go over there and demand they stop at once."

"No! Just call the police. Don't risk yourself, Ingrid."

"Alright. I'll do it now." the line disconnected.

That self-centred, arrogant ass-hole, was still trying to force her to move to his pack and had actually sent movers to do so. He thought just because she was unaffiliated he could push her around. Well, he was in for a rude shock. She was Piper Harper, a well-known human designer. If he wanted a war with her, she would give him one, a very public human world one.

That man could not just drag her from her life, and force her into his pack, not without Brandon as leverage, and she and her boy were halfway around the world.

Damned Alpha's always thinking they could have whatever they wanted. Likely, he just wanted a piece of her profit line. She knew any pack affiliated business meant that the wolf had to hand over between 30% and 50% of their profit margin. It went right into the Pack funds. It was each wolf's way of being a productive member of the pack, showing their support to help better the pack. Give it funds to upgrade buildings and schools and build new buildings etcetera.

Well, she had worked damned hard to get to where she was, and no damned Alpha was going to step into her life and claim what she had accomplished all by herself, on her own, with no help from them. He could bloody well shove it up that ass of his.

She had lawyers, just needed confirmation that it was him so she could take that bastard on. Charge him with theft, hell she had a working studio in that house, could well be considered that he was out to steal her designs as well. They were worth quite a bit, some of them upwards of 50 thousand or more. Bloody grand theft she'd be charging him with and make it very public she would. That man was going to have to back off and explain himself to the humans.

Got a multi-media text from Ingrid, a photo of the moving trucks logo, stared right at it nearly dumbfounded. Black Haven Moving Co, and the photo showed the Packs logo in the bottom corner a black lake with a rising moon coming from it. The phone number and address along the bottom of the logo were all Black Haven Pack details, then along the very bottom under that were the words printed in black capitals: owned by Drake Industries.

What the hell was going on?

Sent back a thank you text for the info.

Now, she had no idea what to do. She could take on Alpha Timothy Avery, not a big issue. But Bradley Drake himself, she had secrets from that man, bit her lip and wondered if Brandon was in fact still a secret at all.

If Bradley had tracked her to her home and then taken it upon himself to enter her home, he'd have seen photos of Brandon, likely have recognised his own eyes. To track down her home address, though? He had to have figured out who she actually was, a Whitlock, and that name would crop up in his Packs database.

“Shit.” she muttered, she could not take on Bradley Drake, he was a lawyer himself, and a simple DNA test, which she knew he would insist on, would prove Brandon to be his. Even in the human world, he’d be granted access to the boy. It would likely be a very messy, public battle.

Either that or he would go to the Wolfen council and just claim she had kept him an Alpha from his heir, had not told him about the child and an Alpha claiming his heir from a rogue female, she did not stand a chance.

The Wolfen council would grant him all rights to his son and heir, and if he was moving her things, to his Pack, and that is likely what was happening, he was already intending on claiming the boy. It wasn’t enough that she had to suffer his new Mate, he was likely going to use that Wolfen council and the Wolfen laws to force her and Brandon to live inside the pack and she was certain he could, because she was unaffiliated and held no rank or status of any kind.

Her human world would not be taken into account.

Perhaps Alpha Timothy was her best option right this minute, stood up as she realised it was not going to be just Edward coming, it was going to be Bradley himself and the rest of his Alpha Unit, coming for her son.

He obviously knew who she was, a former pack member. Her real last name, Whitlock. It was the only way he could have found her house. Her passport and credit cards she’d used to come out here were also under Whitlock, he could track her as easily as Eddie had Izzy.

Turned her eyes to the clock, they would likely be here in the country already, not long ago landed, they could very well be here in this hotel, banging on her door any time he liked. Though she doubted he would know what room she was in and he couldn’t just wander the halls and try to scent her, that wouldn’t work.

But it was entirely possible that Edward could already scent Izzy, or that anyone of those men could charm the woman at the front desk to give them her room number. This was not good. She had no idea what to do about it either.

They could well have booked right into this hotel themselves, have all the exits covered, that’s what she would do. There were four of them and though she was unscenable to them and could likely slip passed unnoticed, with Aspen

now revealed it was unlikely that Bradley wouldn't feel drawn to his child and there was no way that Izzy was getting past Edward, that man would be hunting with all his wolf's senses, hearing, sight and smell.

She could use Izzy as a distraction to get away, but that wasn't fair to the woman. Throwing her to the wolves, she snorted in amusement at her own thought. Literally at the wolves. Then she sighed no she couldn't do that, was going to just have to wait and see.

Chapter 30 - Unscentable

Bradley POV

Bradley was about to crash out and sleep in his hotel bed. He'd not slept a single wink on the plane out here, hadn't even tried, had been awake now for almost 30 hours now and was exhausted, needed to sleep so that he could have a clear head in the morning, when they made plans to go and get Piper, Brandon and Izzy. Did not want to be a grumpy, surly S.O.B. that would yell and rant and rave.

That would not help his cause at all. Nope, he had to be rested and calm, Piper was unlikely to want anything to do with him and he was going to have to make her. Though he did want to do that gently. Cooper was right. He needed tact where she was concerned.

His phone was ringing and to be honest, he just wanted to leave his face buried in the soft pillow and ignore it, heard its incessant ringing tone and snarled at it, as he blindly reached for it, with his hand, knew it was on the bedside table on charge right this minute, somewhere over there, probably have better luck reaching for it, if he actually opened his eyes and looked at what he was doing. But was too damned tired.

Put it to his ear after hitting the green glowing answer circle on the screen, "What?" he snarled annoyingly with his face still half buried in the pillow.

"Alpha it's Luke, heard of your removalist team, we've hit a snag on moving that she-wolf's belongings."

"What's the snag?" he groaned. Of course there was a problem. Nothing about Piper was ever easy. He pushed himself up and rolled over, hit the speaker button and dropped the phone onto the bed. Closed his eyes and wondered if he could catch a break just once, where she was concerned.

“The neighbour across the road called the police and reported us as thieves.”

Bradley frowned and shook his head. “How would she know?”

“I don’t know, the police want the paperwork, for the move.”

“So give it to them. I sorted that out. Put my signature on it.”

“Hmm, but...her signature is not on that paperwork.”

“Fucking humans,” He muttered. In his world it was not required, he was the Alpha and his word was law. He scrubbed a hand over his face, so damned tired, he didn't have the energy to deal with this. Sat himself up completely and leaned on the headboard. “One of them police officers near by. I can talk to?”

“Sure though...”

“Though?” he asked tiredly.

“ We're all getting arrested, I believe.”

Bradley shook his head. “Put one of them on the phone, find the one in charge, Luke.”

It took less than a minute for a voice to come down the line “Senior Constable Greyson, who am I speaking with?”

“Good morning.” It was barely 7 in the morning over there, “Senior Constable Greyson.” used the man's full title, he knew they hated when you got it wrong. “I’m Bradley Drake, of Drake Industries, those are my movers and I think this is just a miss understanding.”

“Is it now? Not from the call that we received.”

“Who may I ask made that call? Was it my lovely Piper herself, which I doubt, or was it one of her busy body neighbours?” kept his voice light and calm and addressed Piper, the owner of the house, they were all standing in front of by name and with familiarity, so that the officer knew, Bradley knew who the owner of the house was.

“It doesn’t matter who made the call, Mr Drake. Until I see or hear from Miss Whitlock about this matter, its trespassing at the least.”

Bradley shook his head. "Actually it is not. Piper Whitlock is moving to Montana, and will be working along side Drake Industries. Which is my company. My movers are there packing up her belongings, that is all, helping her to move."

"I'd like to hear that from Miss Whitlock herself. Is she there with you to confirm this information?"

The man, it seemed, did know how to do his job, "Not at this said moment no. off in Australia I believe, readying to open her new store." had to keep this man thinking he and Piper were friends and that him knowing her schedule should help with that. "My men do have moving documents."

"I've seen it. Nothing on that paperwork, has Miss Whitlock's signature on it at all. So that is not proof she has agreed to this."

Bradley sighed, "I assure you, I am not stealing her belongings, just moving them to her new residence in Montana."

"I'll need her to confirm that, till then your men are all being arrested and detained."

"That is not necessary, I assure you."

"It is. That call from her busy body neighbour stated it was Miss Whitlock herself that told her to call the police, that those men of yours were thieves. So I will arrest them all. Detain them for as long as I can, until Miss Whitlock calls and clears up this matter herself or states to press charges, have a good day Mr Drake, was it?" then the line clicked off.

So much for getting any sleep, bloody human neighbours. If that was the actual case, he wondered just how much information Piper now had on his movers. Had her neighbour reported the moving company or would Piper think it was Timothy? That man had threatened her and had been going to take her to his pack.

Put a call into his father and told him what was going on, that the pack movers were going to need lawyers and bail money. His father had huffed at him in annoyance and stated "Have you got Piper yet?"

Informed the man that they had only just landed barely an hour ago and just made it to their hotel, that he knew she had checked into this hotel. Izzy had

not used her credit card to check in anywhere so it was likely both women were together. He did not want to go banging on her hotel door, because it was late at night here, it would wait until morning.

“Son, that woman is always a step ahead of you, got away from you at the store, stayed hidden from you even when she was there, helped out Hadley and still got away from you. Got away from her own cousin and left the damned country unchecked. Do you think she’s so easily catch-able? You can’t smell her, none of you can.”

“I know that.” Bradley snarled right at his father. “Maybe if you hadn’t screwed this all up when her mother died, when she was just 10 years old. This wouldn’t be happening.” He turned his tired and angry thoughts on his father, needed to yell at someone, might as well be the man who lost the girl in the first place.

“Don’t you blame me for that boy! You had your bloody hands on her, how could you not tell she was your Mate?” he snarled right back.

“I couldn’t fucking smell her.” he roared back “Who’s bloody fault is that?”

His bedroom door banged open and Cooper was standing staring at him, “Brad?” he questioned.

Bradley sighed and pointed at his phone on the bed. “Sorry Coop, it’s fine.” his temper had brought his Beta right to him, thinking something was likely wrong. Waved him away back to his room, saw as Cooper glanced at the phone’s display, likely read his father’s name, then stepped back out of the room and closed the door.

“Enough Bradley, were both likely at fault to some degree.” his father muttered. Bradley didn’t really think that, his father should have found that little girl when she was 10, and when he had not found her should have confirmed with her mother’s pack if she was there or not. Not just presumed she had gone there.

Yes, a lot had been going on at the time. They were dealing with a massive rogue attack. Then his new baby had arrived the next day, just hours after the attack ended. Then there was clean up after the attack, and one little girl got lost in the process, and now she was a rogue and likely more human than wolf, from what he could tell. Had abandoned their ways.

“Deal with the movers, I’ll try and talk Piper into calling off the police in the morning. It’s late at night here like I said. And I’m not going banging on her door at this hour. Just deal with it please.”

“Fine, you just bring that girl and my grandson, back here asap.” the line clicked off.

Bradley sighed, glared into the darkness of the room, might not be so easy, she was well ensconced into the human world. He’d seen no evidence at all that Piper Harper ran in any circles that were not human and he’d been looking into her a lot, trying to figure out the best way to handle her.

From what he had read, she lived as a human, worked as a human and had no interactions with her own kind at all. Not since she started her company, she lived and worked in Portland mostly, had opened her first store there, a year after she left the Pack and had remained there.

Only one pack close to her, The Pale Moon Pack, but they did not have any connection to her at all that he could find. She lived alone in the city and the Pale Moon Pack. They were out near the Tillamook State Forest. Well away from where she would have been and Bradley was certain Piper made a point of staying away from wolves. She’d been through enough pain due to him not knowing about their Mate Bond, so he doubted very much she would be willing to go near wolves again.

She had voiced her rejection and would not be looking to find another Mate that also could not scent her. In all likelihood, she would be actively avoiding finding one at all cost.

She was likely to be more human now than wolf he thought, saddened him more than a little. But she still had her wolf, Harper. Though how much interaction or shifting she had done was unknown to him,

It was nice that when she had changed her name, and built her company for herself, she had named it for herself and her wolf. He really did like that, showed him how much she cared about her wolfen counterpart, that perhaps a part of her might still cling to her wolfen side.

Put his phone back on charge and lay back down, prayed that tomorrow wouldn’t be a nightmare, that between he and Eddie they could talk to her, keep her calm and get her to be open to the idea of coming back to the Pack.

At least now he did have some idea about her, and her lineage. Not all of it, but maybe enough. He was hoping enough to get her to come back with him, talk to her family and try to sort this out.

Bradley also had to know if their Mate Bond had actually been severed that day, or if it was still intact. He had no idea. Needed to figure that out first, she should know, would still be able to scent him. If they were still bonded to each other, he was hoping so, might give him a better chance of her listening to him. Then there was the issue of if it was? would she openly admit it?

If not, he'd likely have to touch her, put his actual hands on her, she'd felt so damned hot to him, that he'd lost all control of himself. If that feeling was there still, he would be able to tell himself. Wondered how that would go, would he be able to handle it, and he was very curious what Benson was going to do about it. His wolf had been quiet now, for days.

Was still annoyed because he couldn't sense his own pup. They knew the boy was theirs, not only did he have Bradley's unique eyes, the timeline fit, his age was right, they also knew she'd never been with another before him.

Needed to stop thinking about it, needed to get some solid sleep so he would be calm, when he came across her tomorrow. Breakfast and then a plan to be made. Then they were going to find her, knew she was somewhere in this very hotel.

Unfortunately, Eddie couldn't scent Izzy out either, so that was not helpful to him at all, likely going to have to have Cooper go and charm one of the female receptionists after breakfast.

Eddie wouldn't do it at the moment, not with Izzy's past history. Eddie suspected her ex had cheated on her, Harry wouldn't do it, he had a mate and pups back in the pack. Bradley was not going to do it, had other concerns about that, so it was up to Cooper. The man likely wouldn't mind, as Hadley had stated, 'Take one for the team.', not that Cooper would have to go that far, most humans would find him insanely attractive and answer all his questions.