

Chapter 41 - Unscentable

Piper POV

It was a very long night of staring at the ceiling, or at the wall, as Piper tried to figure out just what the hell had happened. She understood Eddie had been able to use his Gamma's charm on her and keep her calm. She had been able to feel his aura on her all the way back to her suite.

Even in the elevator, his hand had been on her the whole time and she'd not been able to do anything about it. Stupid Gamma and his Charm. He'd used all he had on her too, he was so damned strong, she'd had no hope of fighting him off once he'd actually gotten skin on skin contact. Annoyed her now, she'd thought being a rogue she'd have some resistance to it, but now she knew differently.

As for the other issue?

Bradley touching her, and his touch full of those electric sparks which she had experienced that night with him. She did not know what to do about that. Harper was not talking at all, was lying inside of her mind, appeared to be sleeping, but Piper didn't really think so, just actively ignoring everything.

Couldn't feel what Harper felt at all. She had shut herself off. This was not the first time that Piper had seen her like this. It just meant that she was not willing to talk or deal with what they'd both felt last night, when Bradley had touched them.

All Piper knew was that Harper had fled from her Mate as much as Piper had also tried to. Not that she had gotten far, Bradley hadn't wanted to let go. Neither she nor Harper had handled it well at all.

But Harper's usual aggression and threats when being touched had not sprung forth, she'd simply just run away to the far recess of Piper's mind. Shut herself down and stayed there, was still there, in fact. There was nothing Piper could do to make her come forward. She would do that only if and when she so chose too.

The sun was barely rising and she was nowhere closer to figuring out what she was supposed to do. She had barely had any sleep, though she knew sleep had come at one point, because she'd had some weird ass dreams that

just went nowhere, felt like she was trapped in a building and couldn't get out of it, no matter how many times she tried.

She was betting on it being related to the turmoil that was currently her life, which appeared to now be spiralling out of her control, and she was rapidly being unable to stop it. Her uncertainty was invading her subconscious mind and causing weird dreams.

Pipers' bedroom door opened and Brandon climbed on to the bed, "It's dawn." He smiled at her.

"Mm, it is." Piper nodded, and sat herself up. "Why are you up so early?"

"Aspen wants to run." He smiled right at her.

"Oh, um I don't even know where we could run out here in the city."

"Treadmill?" he asked right away. Seemed to be very excited, good to see he was happy and not as confused as he was yesterday.

"I'm actually tired, Brandon. Didn't sleep well."

"Haha, then we'll win." He grinned right at her, obviously thought this was the right time to actively challenge her.

Actually felt Harper lift her head for the first time since dinner last night. She huffed inside Piper's mind, then stood up and stretched herself out, appeared her wolf was good for the challenge against their son. "Alright, go and get dressed." she told him and he was gone off to his room to do so.

"We've created a little monster." she muttered to Harper as she got out of bed, found her new gym gear and pulled it on, reminded herself to find somewhere to let the boy run out in the woods later, likely going to have to leave the city for that. Could google it later, glanced at the time. It was barely 0620.

She yawned as she made her way to Izzy's room to let her know what was going on, didn't want her to wake up and think they had run off and left her here. Pushed the door open and stopped dead. Edward was sleeping in that bed with Izzy. She was certain she had told Izzy she didn't want that. She had also not known he was here either. When had he arrived?

She did not know, with Harper refusing to be around, she had no wolf hearing to pick up anything.

“Hey, wake up.” she snapped.

Watched Edwards eyes snapped open in an instant, alert right away. His eyes shot to her, though he didn’t move, Izzy was practically asleep on top of him, then he smiled at her “Morning Piper.”

She ignored him, her eyes moved to Izzy as she rolled off of Edward and looked at her bleary eyed “I couldn’t say no.” she watched as Izzy bit her lip guiltily “he was begging me all night, until I caved in.”

“ Where are you going?” Eddie asked her.

“Running away.” she snapped, annoyed with him. He had used his bond with Izzy to weasel his way into this hotel suite and she knew it, she had absolutely no idea he was in here, saw him start to get out of the bed at her words.

“She’s kidding.” Izzy put a hand on him, at least the woman had clothes on still. “Piper is a dawn running machine.”

“Sweet, we could all stretch our legs.” his eyes moved off of Piper and back to his Izzy. “Come on we’ll all run.”

Both Piper and Izzy looked at each other and snorted in amusement “Izzy doesn’t run.” she turned to leave “Likely why you were able to catch her slow ass, yesterday.”

“Hey.” it was Izzy, but it was only feigned anger and Piper knew it. The girl hated exercise, was just naturally thin. A good metabolism, she guessed.

Brandon finally appeared, hopping out of his bedroom, pulling his shoe on, stopped and stared at Edward who had a very unhappy sounding Izzy tossed over his shoulder “we’re coming too.” Edward grinned right at her and then Brandon.

“Yay.” Piper rolled her eyes, reached out for Brandon’s hand, who looked right up at her.

“Mum, is Aunt Izzy really gonna run with us?”

Piper shook her head, and was at least glad to see Izzy was put down on her own feet in the hallway “Referee more like it.” she smiled as Izzy hit Edward right in the chest and then frowned and rubbed her hand. “I bet you could run circles around Izzy.”

“Heck yeah I can.” he grinned right up at her “and him to.” he pointed at Edward.

“I’m Eddie.” Edward smiled down at Brandon “and challenge accepted young man. I bet I can beat both you and your mum.”

It was Izzy that laughed now, “Good luck. I’ll get the coffees for after all you crazy people run.”

“Nope, you will be running to Izzy.” Edward informed her.

“Make me.” she stared right at him. Piper knew there was no way he could actually make her.

Piper chuckled now. “Yeah Edward, make her.” she knew that he couldn’t, his Gamma Charm wouldn’t work on her, and there was nothing Izzy hated more than running on a treadmill, she and Brandon could get her to hike occasionally but never run.

“Are you going to go and get changed?” she asked him as they waited on the elevator.

“I got clothes coming. Everyone is in on this challenge.”

Piper glared at him for a moment and then just sighed, running was her thing, just her or her and Brandon. But his statement meant that he had at some point informed his Alpha and the rest of the unit. She had not even thought about that. But should have she supposed.

The whole unit was waiting down in the hotel gym for them. She wondered if they were already down here, or had used the stairs to make good time. The elevator had stopped on nearly every floor to let people in.

Brandon huffed, sounded and looked annoyed, he wanted to challenge Harper, it was their thing to run against each other, and now also an Aspen and Harper thing when Aspen was awake.

“Morning Piper. Brandon.” She heard Bradley state as Harrison tossed Edward clothes.

“I believe you lost someone last night.” She muttered, still annoyed to have woken up to find Edward in her hotel suite.

“Mm, I guess so. Can’t control him, you’re aware of that already, I believe.” Bradley returned all casual like, like it didn’t concern him greatly.

“So I hear, young Brandon challenged Eddie.” Harrison smiled at the boy, “that’s my big brother and I bet you can beat him too. He’s real slow.”

“Hey watch it.” Eddie shot at him as he headed off to get changed.

She and Brandon stood waiting on them, they were all stretching together, “Why are they all doing that?” Brandon asked her.

“ They don’t want to injure themselves,” Piper answered him.

“We never do that, just jump on and go.” and he looked up at her questioningly.

Piper smiled “I’m a natural born runner and so are you. They have to train themselves to run like you and I.”

“Oh...” he seemed to think about it for a minute. “Good, I’ll beat everyone of them then.” saw Brandon rub his hands together at the thought of a bigger challenge.

Piper leaned right down to his ear and asked quietly “Is Aspen awake?”

“He is.” Brandon nodded and smiled right at her, clearly his wolf was wanting to challenge all of them.

“Then get your ass on the treadmill.” she tickled him.

The pair of them stepped up, she’d had enough of waiting on them, it had been a solid 5 minutes already and she was bored.

“My money’s on Piper,” Izzy called out.

“Traitor.” Brandon called right back, only to have Izzy laugh.

She watched them all hop onto their treadmills, rolled her eyes at the smirk on all their faces. Yes, they were the Alpha and his unit. But no-one knew her or Brandon for that matter, they likely only actually ran once or twice a week during training and if she recalled correctly for about 30 odd minutes she doubted much had changed on that. This would be a time challenge, not a sprint to the finish. Let's see who could run the longest.

She grinned at Brandon, it was highly possible that even Brandon would outrun one or two of them, saw Aspen's eyes flicker to the surface up at her and they were off. He'd never beat her yet and though she wasn't about to let that start today, she was hoping he was going to kick some Delta and Gamma ass.

She was running between Brandon and, no surprise, Bradley on her other side. Brandon had Edward on the other side of him, seeing as the boy had challenged him and Edward had accepted it. The man himself was a constant torment of chatting to Brandon till Brandon snarled at him to shut up and just run. About 15 minutes in, Piper nearly laughed. She knew Brandon hated that. She did it to him sometimes too.

Her eyes moved to Izzy who was sitting not too far away on a piece of gym equipment, comfortable and cross-legged, she was on her phone had a slight frown on her face. "Izzy, what's wrong?" she asked, full of concern, knowing it would distract Edward, and boy didn't it, the man damn near fell off the back of his treadmill as his head whipped around to look at Izzy.

"Arg, Phillip called me." Izzy rolled her eyes and sounded bored. And Edward was gone, off the treadmill before it even stopped.

"I win." Brandon yelled. "You loose Eddie." he sounded very happy about winning.

Piper snorted, fully amused, she knew Phillip had not called, Izzy was over there on the work mobile, not her personal phone. She was likely just working, reading emails, but knew it would distract Edward herself. He must have mentioned something to allow Izzy to know it would work to distract him.

"You play dirty." she heard Harrison laugh behind her.

"I didn't do anything." and she hadn't, simply had posed a question. It was actually Izzy who had played dirty. The woman was looking to see her Mate

get beaten by Brandon, a little payback for dragging her backside out of bed at this hour in all likelihood.

Hit the 30 minute mark and she could see Brandon was pacing himself nicely, would run for an hour along side her without Aspen, wondered how strong Aspen was. His eyes turned to hers and Aspen was right there on the surface, his wolf smiled right up at her.

Piper chuckled, Harper hadn't even joined in the run yet, might not at all with Bradley running along side them. Guess she would find out soon enough. Harper was good and strong, had lots of stamina, but her real fun was running at full speed. She was fast. That's why Aspen couldn't win in a race.

1 hour in, she heard Harrison call it quits.

"I win again." Brandon grinned right up at her, so excited. She smiled right back at him, happy for not just Brandon but Aspen also. Though she knew they were coming up on his limit, or would be soon.

Piper, however, had learned to run a very long time ago. Running had been a good escape for her as a child, she would run till she was utterly exhausted and there was no pain from being alone, had been able to run the entire outer perimeter of the pack by the time she was 11. and had continued to run as her form of escape, pushing herself constantly till she just couldn't run anymore, built up her endurance and stamina over all the years.

Could run in human form for hours. Her longest to date was 3 hours on her own without Harper. Knew if Harper joined her could likely run for much longer, also knew Harper wouldn't join in till she was good and ready herself. Then would push her fully. But they had not had to do that in a long time.

Turned her eyes on Bradley and then Cooper. They both looked quite comfortable and relaxed, as did she, hmm. We'll see she thought absently, knew that they were the two strongest in the pack possibly only matched by their own fathers.

Brandon and Aspen were the next ones to call it quits, and Aspen snarled right at her all annoyed as usual at her and then stalked off away at 1 hour and 20 minutes in.

"Your only young." she told him, but still chuckled to herself as she watched him march himself right over to Izzy and plop into her lap to sulk, muttering

“It’s only a matter of time.” she and Harper were actually fully amused by him. It was likely only a matter of time. And when that day came they were actually going to love it.

“A bit of a sore loser.” Bradley commented, obviously watching the boy as well.

She turned her eyes on him, raised an eyebrow at him “Probably, takes after you in that department.” she shot right at him, saw him blink in complete shock but heard his entire unit snort in amusement, and she wondered if she had hit the nail on the head with that one. Turned back to her treadmill and focused on her running once more.

2 hours in and Cooper bailed with and “I’m done.” sounded annoyed that he could not out run her, likely the Beta in him didn’t like being out done either. Watched him walk over to the rest of the unit.

He came back a moment later and handed her and Bradley a bottle of water each. She smirked right at him, just like he had when he’d gotten on that treadmill to start with. Sipped it only, she didn’t need to feel water sloshing around inside her belly, or hear it for that matter. Could be a very distracting thing. Felt Harper actively step up and joined in the challenge at 2 and a half hours, apparently didn’t want to lose. They both knew not many could out run an Alpha wolf and Piper was determined to push him harder than he had ever been before. Harper, on the other hand, she got the distinct impression she was going to make that man run till he could not run anymore.

They would be unlikely to actually beat him in a run that was all speed, but it was completely possible that they could out run him in this endurance, long-distance run, though his wolf would have stamina in spades, was his human body used to running constantly for hours on end as hers was, it was unlikely. In his wolf form he probably could run all day, but she was willing to bet that his human muscles were screaming at him.

She was starting to feel the burn herself, and was likely going to need one hell of a nap afterwards. On the bright side, she’d likely get that desperately needed sleep, she’d not gotten last night.

2 hours and 45 minutes in she heard him drag in a breath, Harper snorted amused at the very sound. Oh it was on she could really feel her wolf wanted to beat him now, was itching inside of Piper to crank the speed up all the way and push him past his limit.

'We can beat him if he suddenly has to run at top speed.' she heard Harper,

Turned her eyes on the man himself. He was a lather of sweat and his breathing was off, he was starting to wear down, she could pick it all up. All those tell-tale signs that he was tiring out "Edward." she called out, and then turned her eyes on the Gamma, "I'd like a real challenge, come over here and crank up your boss's treadmill all the way, when I say so."

"Sure Piper," he sounded fully amused by her words.

Felt Bradley's eyes on her, did not look at him, looked right at Edward as he stepped over "on 5." she smiled right at him, Well Harper did, as she pushed forward all the way. Saw Edward start to laugh, he knew they were not about to loose, and then he counted them down. And at zero tapped Bradley's treadmill speed button until it was maxed out at 20klms an hour, as did she with hers.

"Kick his ass mum." Brandon was yelling all super excitedly at her.

"Oh I intend to." it was all Harper and she was not even tired. Hadn't even stepped up into the challenge until 20 minutes ago, ran flat out on that treadmill, stretching out her legs real good, really actually enjoyed running at top speed.

It took all of 15 minutes for Bradley and his wolf to be done. His wolf snarled at hers as he stalked away. Unhappy he had been beaten by hers. Piper snorted "A bit of a sore loser." she mimicked his words about Brandon. Both she and Harper were fully amused. Eased her treadmill back down and jogged on for another 5 minutes at a slower pace, then simply hopped off the treadmill.

Brandon ran right over to her. "Your awesome mum. You beat them all."

"Never a doubt, son." she winked right at him "you'll run like me one day too."

"Sweet, I'm gonna kick all their asses too." he looked so excited about it.

"Breakfast." she heard Bradley state, he still sounded put out to her as he stood up from where he had gone and sat down with the rest of them, while she jogged on a bit more just to put all of them in their place.

"Your boss is a sore loser, I see." she smiled at Edward.

“I have a name Piper. Use it.” Bradley snapped right at her and stalked off out of the gym altogether.

She nearly laughed, strolled out of the gym and back to her room, to shower and crash out. She needed a good nap, not food, Harper was also feeling good at the moment, showed them up, liked putting that whole unit in their place, especially it seemed the Alpha himself.

Sat to eat when Izzy called her to let her know it was here, “I bet right.” Izzy smiled at her. “But what’s with all the growling everyone does. That’s weird.”

“Not for them? and doesn’t Edward growl at you?”

“Yeah.” she smiled “I kind a like that.” she actually chuckled “Mr Drake did not like loosing to you Piper.”

“I imagine that man doesn’t like losing to anyone. Let alone me a tiny little woman an all.” she was only 5 foot 6, tiny compared to him.

Everyone was laughing now.

“I need a nap, hardly got any sleep last night.” she yawned.

“What you run like that, and on little sleep? How much?”

“Mm two hours maybe.” Piper shrugged “Helps that I have...” stopped that sentence, had been about to say Harper “Been running everyday since I was 10. that I have a bone to pick with him, and that he likely doesn’t run everyday. Doubt any of them do.”

“Well you got along with him today.” Izzy commented “That’s a start.”

“I guess, if you can call it that.”

“I’m going to.” Izzy smiled right at her. “Might not be so bad.”

Piper didn’t say anything, she’d ticked Bradley off this morning. Not only had she beat him with apparent ease, he’d snapped at her about using his name, a little odd. Didn’t bother her not to use it. Yawned again “I’m gonna go crash out, I’ll need to go and talk to Devon, this afternoon. Call him and make that arrangement, please Izzy.”

“What for?”

“Promotion, or have you already forgotten Edward will want you in Montana, when he leaves, so will you be.”

“I don’t have to go right away.” she shook her head.

“They’ll need to get back, have things to take care of, Izzy. Will not want to be out here for days on end.” she hugged Brandon and smiled down at him “You ran amazingly today.”

He grinned right at her, proud of himself and she was also proud of him today. Was curious if he would have been able to out run Edward. It did seem possible, Harrison was his brother and it was clear they did not run like she and Brandon did.

Crawled right into her bed and crashed out. That run it seemed, was exactly what she needed to pull sleep towards her, it had also cleared her mind. The only thing she or Harper had thought about the whole time was beating them and nothing else.

Chapter 42 - Unscentable

Bradley POV

He had still been up in the hotel suite last night when Eddie had strolled out his room, headed for the door to leave the room. It was nearly 2300 “Where are you going?” Brad asked the man, though by the look on his face, smiling at himself, Bradley was certain the man was off to see Izzy.

“I’m going to sleep in Izzy’s bed.” He’d comment casually as he’d headed for the door.

“Eddie...no sex, my son is down there.”

Heard Eddie snort “Yes Bradley.”

Didn’t like the tone, it implied he wasn’t going to abide. “I mean it Edward, this hotel is not sound proofed like your room back at the Pack would be.”

“We’ll be quiet.” He opened the door to leave.

“Edward.” Bradley snapped at him, “I bloody mean it. If Piper tells me you did, and she will hear regardless of how quiet you think you are. I will order you to

stay in this room for the rest of the trip and then..." was silent to make his point for 15 seconds "I will refuse to let Izzy come here at all."

That got the man's undivided attention, he was now frowning right at Bradley from that doorway, clearly unhappy with his words. Bradley stared right at him, he did mean it. He would damned well Alpha Order him if he had to. "Is Piper aware and okay with you sleeping in her hotel room?"

"I don't know, but it is Izzy's room too."

"If she is unhappy about it. You will leave, do you understand me?"

"Yes Bradley." Eddie nodded, looked very unhappy about it but acknowledged it.

Bradley didn't much like it himself. He couldn't even mind-link to Piper to warn her or see if she was okay with it. Couldn't even call her. For that matter, didn't have her private number either. She could well be asleep for all he knew, and know nothing about Eddie going down there to sleep in Izzy's bed.

Gave it a full 15 minutes, nil complaint and the man did not return, either must be alright with Piper or she was asleep. He mind-linked to Cooper who was in the hotel lobby. Pulled him off of guard duty. If Eddie was going to be sleeping in that room, he'd pick up if Piper tried to leave, or if there was any sort of trouble. Eddie would be right there to sort it out or hold down the fort until Bradley could get there himself. Which allowed for the rest of them to get some sleep during the night.

Mind-link to the man 'Eddie, if you're sleeping there, I expect you to be diligent in your duties as a Gamma, where my Mate and son are concerned.'

'Of course Bradley.' came his reply 'Piper is currently in the shower, Brandon is sleeping.' he was informed and then the link was cut.

Bradley sighed and shook his head, he did not need to know she was in the shower, that was just Eddie's way of trying to distract him from being annoyed with him. It was highly likely that Piper had no idea he was even there, this was not going to go down so well. He was going to beat that man if he screwed things up even worse than they already were.

But on the other hand, they would all be safe with Eddie in that room, and a part of him was actually glad his man was there. Wondered if he could get

Piper to agree to Eddie staying in the room the whole time they were there, that would certainly ease his mind, and he and his men wouldn't have to rotate shifts either.

Guess he would have to ask her.

His men in Portland had finally been granted bail and been released from police custody. Though his father had not been able to get the moving van due to the fact that it did actually have some of Piper's belongings inside it. So it had been impounded and it was not going back to them until Piper cleared all this up with the police herself.

Something else he was going to have to talk to her about. He had been going to do it today but had gotten very way laid, with just trying to get her to talk to him. And that was more important to him than a van. Worst comes to worst, he cut his losses and purchased a new one.

His father had also relieved his brother Hendrix from his Alpha position within the pack. Stepping back into the position himself, which had not gone down so well. And Bradley had taken that irate phone call just a few hours ago. Had to explain to his brother why his father was taking over once more, about that contract and the actual implications and full seriousness of it. That, seeing as their father had made the contract, it should be he who is fully responsible to it.

Hendrix had been quiet for a long time, as he absorbed the fact that at any given moment another Alpha could come strolling in and demand an Alpha duel to the death. Then he had stated, somewhat annoyed, "Fine." and had just hung up. Likely he was more than unhappy about this authority being removed.

He was Alpha blooded and would likely have enjoyed being in charge, wouldn't have liked being removed by his father coming out of retirement after 11 years to do it either. Wouldn't have seen a need for it at all. He was well trained and though not in line for the pack himself, especially with Brad actually having a Mate and an Heir now.

Spend most of the evening after dinner with Piper attending to emails and the running of his companies from abroad. He was too restless to sleep. Didn't actually see sleep coming for quite a while if he got any at all. Too much in his mind, but he was currently distracting himself from Piper with work. Or she was going to find him at her door trying to get her to give him a chance, and

he knew she needed time to absorb and come to terms with everything that was going on.

He had explained a lot to her about Whitlock's and that none of them had scents. But that there was a way for him to scent her with her family's help. Then finding out she was his actual Mate still. Having Eddie actually touch her something that was very clear she did not want, any wolf touching her. That made him more than a little sad.

Slept barely 4 hours and was up before dawn, was restless and needed to get it out of his system, had already woken both Cooper and Harry for morning training down in the hotel Gym and they were getting ready to leave when Eddie mind-link him that Piper and Brandon were going to go for a run, that he'd invited himself along, suggest to him it might be a good bonding experience for him, Piper and Brandon.

Bradley agreed with him on that one. Even managed to arrive ahead of them. They'd taken the stairs, and it had been quicker. Was mind-linked again by a fully amused comment, that Brandon reckoned he could out run Eddie, that Eddie had accepted the challenge.

Watching Piper walk into the hotel gym, shocked him completely. He'd never seen her in anything but smart casual dress, and she was just wearing gym wear. Had her hair pulled up in a ponytail, and was wearing a light green crop top that showed him just how ample her breasts actually were, and a pair of matching light green three-quarter tights that sat low across her hips, showed off her very well defined abdomen she was sporting a nice v-line herself, it was very obvious that she worked out, you just couldn't tell from her usual attire and likely all the time. Or at least she ran often. Couldn't stop his eyes from sliding over her. He'd already had thoughts about putting his hands on her most of the night. Now how was he not supposed to think about it?

He was a little unhappy that she was showing so much skin around his unit. But did know she was dressed appropriately. Actually he'd seen she-wolves in his pack wear a lot less for training.

She did not appear all that happy to see him and neither did Brandon, for that matter, the boy actually huffed in annoyance at seeing him here in the gym waiting on them. Likely this was something she and Brandon did together, a mother and son thing. The boy obviously thought he was intruding on their time.

Watched as Izzy walked away and took a seat against the wall, made herself comfortable 'Izzy doesn't want to run.' Eddie mind-linked him, seemed a bit disappointed by it.

' Not everyone likes running Eddie, human remember.'

Heard the man huff down the mind-link and stood and watched as Harry tried to interact with Brandon, even calling Eddie real slow. Which was not true at all. The man was trying to get Brandon to see them in a different light. He already had pups himself and was a good dad.

Both Cooper and Harry had been informed of what had happened during his dinner with Piper. That Piper had openly admitted to rejecting him back then. That their Mate Bond was in fact intact. They were all now trying to play nice, gain not just Piper's trust but Brandon's too. He'd never had a good interaction with his own kind. They were working on that now.

Cooper thought working on the boy, getting him to like them might be the easier option. He didn't know anything of his own kind or very little and so if they could show Brandon that not all wolves were mean and aggressive, the boy's natural curiosity about his own kind might shine through quicker and draw him to Bradley.

It wasn't a bad idea at all, though Bradley still didn't like the idea of using the boy as leverage. Was told it's not leverage, it would be just the two of them bonding and if Brandon chose on his own to talk happily or excitedly about Brad, that was his choice. They weren't going to be asking him to do that. But what Brandon did on his own was up to the boy himself.

He was listening to the conversation Piper was having with Brandon, about why they were all stretching. He did note she did not and neither did his son. A part of him, his Alpha part, wanted to tell them to stretch, so their muscles wouldn't hurt afterwards.

Piper didn't seem to care, told Brandon she was a natural born runner and so was he. That gained his attention, he only ran actively once a week, when he was training others, the juniors usually. His training with his alpha unit was all targeted at strength, fighting and agility. He could run, all wolves could. Most actually enjoyed running, though in wolf form, not human.

Sounded as though Piper ran for enjoyment and so did Brandon. His eyes slid over her body as she stepped up onto the treadmill and he wondered just how

often she ran and for how long, looking at her, it was likely that she ran daily. He wondered if he'd be able to get the boy to come and do some sparing with him after this run.

He really did love hearing Brandon so excited about this challenge and seeing him actively engaged. Although the boy had not spoken to any of them willingly, he wanted to challenge all of them, it seemed. The alpha blood in him, made Bradley smile. Benson was also excited to see what his own boy could do. They had not missed her asking if Aspen was awake. Piqued both their interests. Perhaps his wolf was not actually fully realised, slept a lot still being so young. And that's why they'd not sensed him back in Portland, could have been dormant that day they'd been trying to feel for his wolf.

Nearly laughed when he heard Izzy call out her money was on Piper. And Brandon call her a traitor. Looked right at her, as she looked at all of them, 'a piece of cake.' he'd heard Cooper state via the mind-link and smirked himself. No-one in his pack could out run he or his unit. Watched her roll her eyes right at all of them and only then actually really wondered if this was going to be more of a challenge than any of them thought it would be.

What was her game plan here in this room? They actually didn't know anything about her, not her strength or stamina, nothing at all about Harper herself. There was nothing in the pack's data base about her wolf, on training or strength, realised he didn't even know how big Harper was in wolf form, just had that handwritten statement, a very brief description and nothing at all on Harpers personality. Hell, he did not even know anything about Piper's personality for that matter. So far, all he had seen was aggression and anger and that she was cold and dismissive. He knew they had to be strong in mind to survive all they had inside his pack, survive all she had gone through, sheer determination and will to survive it all. Had left and flourished even. A strong woman, in not just mind, but body as well, he could now see.

Put Eddie right next to Brandon, seeing as there was an active challenge going on between them, though Eddie's constant banter at Brandon didn't go down so well and he heard Brandon snarl at his Gamma to shut it, nearly laughed himself. It was very annoying Eddie had been actively annoying the boy, saw Piper snort and nearly laugh herself. It was good to see.

She did seem to be able to be happy around Brandon, could always smile at the boy, regardless of how annoyed she was with Bradley, she didn't seem to let that seep through to her bond with the boy. He enjoyed watching them, liked it when she smiled too. It would be nice if she could smile at him, even

just once. But he'd gotten nothing from her but frowns or impassiveness, or aggression.

Brandon was so excited to yell out. "You loose Eddie." that Bradley couldn't help but smile at his son. Piper did actually chuckle this time, a soft half giggle, and not only did his heart rate quicken, he felt Benson really look at her, he too, it seemed, liked hearing her laugh. At least they knew she could be happy. Wasn't all anger and aggression all the time.

Could hear clear amusement in her voice when she stated she hadn't done anything, but Bradley was pretty certain Piper had known what she was doing, likely also knew that Izzy would actively play along with her, smiled to himself, as he realised that Piper was actively tormenting his Alpha Unit, actively interacting with them all, it may only be in a small way.

But she was actively engaging with other wolves, it was a good start, any kind of bond between them at all was a welcome sight for him at the moment, considering she'd threatened just yesterday to rip their hands off.

Harry called it quits 1 hour in. The damned woman and his son, it seemed, were natural runners after all, and this was all about running. There would be no sparing afterwards 'your mate is crazy fit.' he heard Harry mutter down the mind-link.

Again, he smiled to himself, shot right back 'so is my son. Only 7 and beat you.' He was very proud of his boy. He really was having a good time. Eddie's suggestion was a good one.

Bradley could see Brandon was going to be one strong Alpha, just what the future of the pack needed, heard Brandon all excitedly yelling about winning again, looked right at his boy and actually felt pride roll right off Benson as well. The boy was grinning, and they both noted that Aspen was right there on the surface. Thankfully, they were the only ones in the gym to see it.

Heard Eddie rib his bother about loosing to a kid, only to have Harry give it right back. Eddie stated he was cheated out of his challenge and next time wouldn't be tricked into getting off the treadmill. Even heard Izzy snicker in amusement. They were all getting along, it seemed. Loved it.

Loved hearing Brandon's wolf snarl all angry and annoyed as he got off the treadmill, the alpha in him did not like to loose. No Alpha did that, he knew for sure. Piper chuckled at him didn't seem offended at all. This was likely their

normal, he realised. Cooper had told him the boys wolf had lost to her on their morning run in the woods back in Portland and had reacted just like now.

Heard his young gravelly voice for the first time, "Only a matter of time." and both he and Benson knew without a doubt that it was Aspen who was annoyed, they'd not actually heard him speak before, growl and snarl yes, but actively push forward and talk, so very young, so very powerful already.

"a bit of a sore loser." Brad commented, even though he was happy to see and hear his boy like that. He was going to have to learn to keep that temper in check, even at just 7 he'd seen just how much aggression was in the boy's wolf, likely to do with needing to protect his tiny pack. Running was probably a good outlet, though as he got older it wasn't going to be enough.

Piper's honey brown eyes turned right on him, and raised an eyebrow right at him, then took a full shot at him "Probably takes after you, in that department."

Damned near missed a step at her comment, she was pretty much accusing him of being a sore loser himself. To his disbelief, he heard his whole unit snort in full amusement. Bradley did not consider himself a sore loser. Though he could at times be frustrated by not being the best at things, but that was just because he was the Alpha, the Pack's leader and needed to be the fastest, the strongest and the most feared and ferocious to protect his pack. Did they all think he was a sore loser too?

'Brad.' it was Cooper down the mind-link 'she's killing me man, look at her. a bloody machine, still so comfortable'

Bradley smiled 'then let her win Coop, I'm still up for the challenge.'

'Your on your own then.' he heard his Beta mutter, then called it quits out loud and got off his treadmill.

Sustained running in human form, was not something they were trained in, his own body was aching, but he had Benson pushing him along, his wolf was not ready to give up yet. Though when Bradley looked at her, Cooper was right, though she had a full sheen of sweat covering her entire body, she looked very comfortable, didn't even see Harper on the surface. If this was just all Piper and Harper had yet to join in this challenge, he could well be in trouble. Benson had been assisting him for the past 40 minutes now.

“Natural born runner.” popped right into his mind and he heard Benson huff, he seemed concerned that they might not actually win this challenge against her.

Though a part of him was actually really loving every second of this, Alpha on Luna showdown. She might not even be anywhere close to being his actual Luna, but he was going to hunt, annoy and cajole her until he won that game. She was his Mate and he wanted her, would find a way to scent her and attain her for himself.

Benson felt a change in her, and looked over at her, knew Harper had finally joined in the challenge. His muscles were screaming at him to stop, he drank down more water and Benson pushed more stamina at him. Neither of them wanted to lose this battle against them. It was 2 hours and 40 minutes in and the woman and her wolf looked right at them. He knew they were assessing the situation, he was going to lose. They still looked so very comfortable. Harper only came on board when it was needed, saved all her wolf strength and stamina till it was actually needed it, it was very clear to him that Piper alone ran a lot, likely every day.

Hearing her issue a new challenge made Benson growl inside his mind. They were already just about at their human limit, they had never run this long in human form in all their lives. But it was obvious she did it all the time and was used to it. No one was catching her if she actively ran away from them.

“Edward, I’d like a real challenge,” she stated calmly, as though this was nothing to her. “come and crank your boss’s treadmill all the way up.”

Bradley sighed internally at his new challenge. Her assessment of him and his status was not wrong, she was going to push him as hard as she could, as quickly as she could. She knew she wasn’t even close to being done. It also angered him that she hadn’t used his name yet again.

Eddie was only too happy to help her, appeared to be fully amused, Brad looked right at her. She paid him no attention whatsoever, she was a ball of determination, she was going to win and put him in his place, wanted to show him up. I’m stronger than you. Is what she was trying to state, likely also, trying to let him know he wasn’t going to be able to push her around.

“On 5.” he heard Eddie state, saw the man look right at her and laugh, damned woman was playing with him and not in a way he appreciated at all,

was going to have him lose right in front of his entire Unit. Eddie seemed to know it, thought it was funny as fuck.

Heard his own son yell out “Kick his ass mum.” no-one, it seemed, was on his side at all and that was more than annoying to him and his wolf. They were the Alpha here, where was the bloody respect.

“Oh I intend to.” it was all Harper, there was no Piper in that statement at all. Her wolf looked very comfortable, this was their first real interaction with Harper. That was not pure aggression and she was outright challenging him and Benson and very smugly so at that.

Running at 20klms an hour, even with Benson giving him all he had, his human body couldn't take it, it was screaming in agony at him, and not just his lungs, but all his muscles, banged his hand down on the stop button and snapped a foot to either side of the treadmill and dragged in a few desperately needed breaths as he glared right at her wolf, his own Mate who was still running, Benson snarled all his annoyance at his own Mate for showing him up and then they stalked away from her.

Heard Piper snort “a bit of a sore loser.” she and Harper sounded amused to his ear. His entire unit were smiling at him. Brandon was grinning, poked his tongue right out at him and then got up and ran right over to his mother, who had not gotten off her treadmill even after she won, had eased it down a bit by bit, over the next five minutes and showed him up just that little bit more, by letting him know she could still go on running if she wanted to.

“ You're amazing.” Brandon was beaming right up at her “You beat them all.” he was so very proud of his mother, didn't even care anymore that he also had lost to her, likely realised he was not going to win against her. Not in a long time.

“Breakfast.” he practically ordered all of them. He needed food and his body was killing him. He and Benson had over done it trying to show her how strong they were, also trying to show her up, and now they were feeling it, they needed food and electrolytes to help his body recover, which meant that so did all of them, especially Piper. She was only half his size and would have expanded all her energy as well.

Eddie was still over by the treadmill, happy it seemed, really happy watching her and Brandon. Obviously, her mood was good and that made his Gamma happy.

“Your boss is a sore loser, I see.” her tone, still so fully amused about his annoyance at losing and his wolf’s as well, grated on his nerves. They were all smiling about his defeat and his temper shot to the surface at her lack of using his name once more. “I have a name, Piper. Use it.” he snapped and stalked off away from her.

Needed a hot shower and to calm the hell down. He took the stairs as exhausted as he was, being in that elevator with her and his unit and all her smugness at her winning and his losing to her, might not be a good idea at all, not with his temper on the surface.

‘Brad calm down, it was all just a bit of fun, remember.’ Cooper’s voice down the mind-link.

‘Was it?’ he muttered, ‘or was she trying to put me in my place?’

‘likely a bit of both, we all went in there, thinking it was going to be a piece of cake to beat her. We were all wrong.’

‘She knew before going in.’ he muttered yet again.

‘Likely so.’ Cooper answered him ‘Perhaps we need to get to know her better.’

‘Like I don’t want to.’ he snarled ‘she’s the one that doesn’t want to.’

‘Has good reason to be afraid, remember. A lot of pain, you can suffer through one humiliation, for her can’t you?’

Felt Benson snort inside his mind, as they stalked into their hotel room, they did not like loosing at all, found Cooper standing waiting on him, was looking right at him, he’d yet to answer the man’s question, glared right at him for a long minute “Fine, order breakfast I’m starving.” and then he headed for his shower.

Chapter 43 - Unscentable

Piper POV

Standing outside her store with Izzy, Brandon and Edward because it seems that man was going to go everywhere that Izzy went. Also meant that Bradley got to have one of his Alpha Unit with her and Brandon the whole time as well.

Thankfully, this seemed was enough security for the man to allow her to go wherever she wanted with Brandon.

They were currently waiting on Devon, so she could have that meeting with him about taking over Izzy's position to be the actual Manager, not the Assistant Manager, though Izzy was still put out about this, unhappy she had to relinquish her new-found job title and promotion. Devon, who was stuck in traffic, was now running late.

Izzy had gotten into an argument with Edward about it back at the hotel before they had all left. It was what had woken her up at 2pm today. They were arguing about Izzy wanting to stay here and work at the store, running the store, that it was her first real big promotion and how she had worked so hard to get where she was.

Though she had heard Edward agree with her, he had also told her he had responsibilities in Montana and was needed there, that he couldn't be out here all the time. That Bradley needed him, he was an integral part of the leadership that helped to run Drake Industries. That she would be given a very important role herself within the company.

She'd yelled about how she didn't want to be just given something because she was to be his wife, that earning a living was better than inheriting one. The man had just stopped and stared at her. Piper had seen it, a brief flash of full annoyance and a little anger in him, he had inherited his position within the pack, not earned it and Izzy had just paid him a massive insult. Not that Izzy knew that.

Brandon had looked right at her and shook his head. He knew Edward was not human and lived within Bradley's Pack, and that Izzy, as Edwards' Mate, would need to move to the Pack. He seemed to understand all of that already. Likely Aspen understood it. But their argument was really starting to get out of hand.

Edward was prowling around their hotel suite trying to explain this to Izzy, but Izzy was really upset that Devon was going to be getting her job, and she was losing everything she had worked hard for, for not only was she losing the position here as a full store manager, she was just now realising that she was also losing her position in Portland at Pipers store because Edward was flat out refusing to allow a long distance relationship to see if they would 'work out' in Izzy's words. He'd told her he already knew they would work out, that he

was not going to have a long-distance relationship. It was completely unacceptable and that she needed to come to Montana.

Demanding her to move had been the wrong thing to state and Piper sighed, saw Izzy's reaction to being told what to do. She hated nothing more than that. Her father had been trying to tell her what to do all her life, control her, and now here was Edward doing the same thing. She was going to have to save his butt a second time.

"Enough." Piper had finally snapped "Izzy, I will build you a store in Helena, Montana, close to where you will be. You can run it." she had to find a way to end their arguing before it turned horrid and Izzy canned their relationship and broke their bond and Piper could actually see her doing it.

Izzy had turned to stare right at her, more than a little shocked by her statement. But it was Edwards' relief at her words that made her wonder if Edward was also realising he was losing his Mate, then he just walked across the room and hugged Izzy. "I can deal with that."

Izzy had tried to shove him away but he'd simply held on to her until she stood there and accepted him, hugging her, submitted to him, very dominant he was, had to have his way.

Piper had just shaken her head, at the man's need to dominate everything, though he was all smiles now, as he leaned on her store window, happy as can be, it seemed. She'd saved his butt more than once now, he owed her one, technically 2.

"I need coffee." she muttered. Looking at her watch, Devon was still a good five or ten minutes away according to his last phone call. She knew there was a coffee shop down the street a few shops down, she'd send Izzy but she also knew that Izzy wanted to be here for the conversation, so just waited.

Brandon had already told her he was bored, like 5 times, she'd given him her phone, he'd left his in the hotel and let him purchase a game to play. He was currently leaning on the window next to Edward, who was helping him or hindering, and she noticed that Izzy was watching the man with Brandon.

Wondered if Izzy was contemplating if Edward would make a good father, most wolves did, good solid bonds to their off spring if everything went to plan, like it was supposed to. Shook that thought off, stepped away from the store

to look down the street, to see how far the coffee shop was, would go and get her own coffee, and saw Devon hurrying this way.

She smiled at him and he raised a hand to her in greeting, let them all into the store. She looked at Brandon, and Edward smiled right at her, "I'll watch him Piper."

Saw Brandon roll his eyes, likely didn't think he needed to be watched, he was going to have to get used to that, it was unlikely Bradley would let him go anywhere outside the pack without someone watching him. Nodded at Edward, she too was going to have to get used to it, she supposed. Headed upstairs to Izzy's office.

Perched herself on Izzy's desk, let Izzy sit at her own desk, not something she was going to be able to do for a long while, she supposed. Then apologised to Devon for calling him for this impromptu meeting. Then explained to him the current situation, with Izzy having found Edward, the man downstairs, and that she would no longer be able to run the store here.

Allowed Izzy to offer the man her own position as the store manager. He looked a little surprised, with Izzy no longer going to be here but accepted the job offer with a smile. There was a discussion about his new salary, and that he would get Izzy's company car as well. He was happy with that. Told him about the apartment she'd leased for a year, he declined that owned his own home already. Didn't need it.

They discussed him helping to find his own replacement, that she would have Izzy go through the previous applications and for the assistant managers position and send those she thought would be good and let him interview them and pick his own assistance manager from Izzy's approved list.

Also informed the man that he would now be answering to Izzy, she would be in charge of overseeing the overseas offices. Waved a hand at Izzy to halt her questions. They could discuss it later. Let him know she would have the contracts drawn up with all the new details and email it to him asap.

Izzy wanted to keep her furniture for her new office in Montana once the store was built, wanted to have it shipped out there. Piper shook her head at the woman. "Just but it all again when your office is built, you've got all the invoices and know what you bought and from where."

Izzy pout up at her as they headed downstairs. “But Piper, that was my first time picking out office furniture, I want my things.”

rolled her eyes and sighed “Izzy it will be cheaper to purchase it all again than to pack up and ship it all bit by bit as it arrives. Likely also quicker as well.”

Again that pout “Fine.” Piper caved in “On one condition.”

“Yes.” Izzy was still smiling “You also have to sign a new contract with me, now your position within the company has changed. I’ll be putting in a few new clauses to suit myself, and you have to agree to them. Seeing as you’re leaving me, for him.” she jabbed a thumb at Edward.

“I’m not leaving you Piper, just...working for you at a different location is all. No different to me working here really.”

“Hmm, if you say so.”

Devon locked up and headed off after bidding them farewell.

“I still need coffee.” She sighed and she did.

“I want a drink to mum.”

She nodded but wanted to talk to Izzy for a moment in private. Looked at the woman, didn’t want Edward around for it. The woman had earned her place in Goddess Gowns and Piper wanted to promote her, make her an official partner to the company.

“I’ll go get us all something, you can wait here.” It was Edward, surprised her quite a bit, that he would leave her and Brandon alone, with the view to possibly running away. Then saw the man’s hand fall right on the boy’s shoulder. “This young man can come and help me carry everything.”

Brandon shrugged, didn’t seem to mind it that much and so she put her order in for a caramel latte, Izzy wanted a Latte Maciatto. She told Brandon he could have anything he wanted and handed the boy her credit card. Her Platinum Amex. Then watched as he walked down the street with Edward, Bradley’s Gamma.

She knew that Edward would not allow anything to happen to Brandon. Bradley would likely kill him, if she and Harper didn’t do it first.

Walked with Izzy down to their car. It was parked four spaces away in the other direction, then they just leaned on it. "Do you like Eddie?" Izzy asked her.

"Why do you ask?" Piper asked in return.

"You just let him walk off with Brandon. I did not see that one coming." Izzy was smiling up at her.

"Hm." she shrugged, "he won't hurt him. I know that," Piper answered.

Turned at the sound of her phone ringing, fished it out of her handbag and frowned at the unknown number, dismissed it and turned to Izzy "I wanted to talk to you about that new position with Goddess Gowns."

Heard her phone chime as a text message came through. Flicked it open "Piper please pick up it's Brad." it read.

Huffed in annoyance, she had not given that man her phone number. Bloody Edward must have, while she was in her meeting, gotten it from her phone. Heard it ring again and nearly hit the reject button again. Turned it to face Izzy instead.

"See what your boyfriend did. That's Bradley." she muttered.

"Sorry Piper, I'll talk to him about boundaries."

"None of them understand boundaries." Piper muttered as she hit the answer button to accept the call, knew he would just keep ringing or texting until she answered him, bloody Alpha's always wanting their way.

"Yes." she answered, fully annoyed that he had her phone number, stepped away from her car and walked a few steps away.

"Hi Piper, I have a dilemma. I need your assistance in cleaning up." he told her.

"Very unlikely." she commented, bored already.

"Very likely. My movers got arrested at your place and my moving van is still at the police impound. I need you to call and have the charges dropped so they can collect the van."

Piper snorted, damn near laughed out loud “That is a predicament.” she nodded. Strolling a little further down the street fully amused now, she’d forgotten for a moment she’d had her neighbour call the police on his people. “Not really my problem, now is that.”

“Piper please. I have the number for the police station, they are waiting on your call.”

“Hmm, I don’t know if I can do that, want to do that.” she amended her words “you did send men to my house without my permission.” she turned around to walk back towards her car and frowned. Izzy was not there, looked in the car, not in it. “That technically is theft, what you...” her eyes caught movement across the street as she looked for Izzy and her phone fell from her hand as she saw two men shoving a struggling Izzy into a SUV, one of them had a hand over her mouth.

Piper had heard nothing of the snatching of her friend, she’d been preoccupied with Bradley’s call, and had left her alone and walked away even, had not expected that anything would happen to her. Didn’t often use Harpers wolf hearing, no need in the human world mostly.

“Izzy.” she yelled in panic and bolted right out into the street after her friend, without thinking about it, someone was trying to kidnap Izzy. What the hell was going on?

Saw one of the men turn and look right at her, at the sound of her calling out Izzy’s name, he looked right at her ‘Phillip’ Izzy’s father’s lacky. She knew that man, felt Harper snarl inside her mind as he slammed the door shut, finally having gotten Izzy inside the vehicle. Felt a car she’d unfortunately run out directly in front of, clip her right leg, cried out in pain as she went sprawling onto the road itself. Car horns were suddenly blaring and tires were screeching all around her as other vehicles tried to avoid hitting her as well.

She tried to get up, stumbled and fell down as she looked at the SUV as it started to pull away down the street. Piper could see Izzy was fighting and trying to get out of the SUV. The kiddie safety locks on the doors had to be activated only allowing for the doors to be opened from the outside, as the SUV drove away.

She still couldn’t get up. Something was wrong with her leg, her knee specifically. There was a woman now standing right in front of her in the

middle of the street. Yelling at her about how stupid she was for running out in front of her.

Piper grabbed onto the woman. "Get me up, my friend just got kidnapped." she yelled right back at the woman, saw complete shock on the woman's face and then she was helped up. Looked at the SUV driving away as she leaned on the car next to her, what was she to do "Eddie." she roared with all she and Harper had, surely the man's hearing would register it.

Saw the woman's hands snap over her ears "sorry." Piper apologised to her and then hopped around her car, leaning on it so she didn't have to put weight on her leg. She did know that using Harper to help her roar at full wolfen strength would likely hurt the humans hearing but had no choice, she couldn't go after Izzy couldn't walk at all. So running at full speed was not going to happen.

Headed off the road between two parked cars and felt that knee buckle under her weight as she tried to step up onto the footpath, cried out in pain, as not only did she fall down, but landed right on that knee damned near screamed in agony. Barely held it in. tears sprung to her eyes as pain seared through her. 'Harper?' she questioned her wolf as to what was wrong with her. 'knee dislocation.' she heard Harper snarl at her. She too was in pain from it. Couldn't heal it herself without it being put back into place first.

"I'll call an ambulance." the lady was talking at her.

Ignored the woman and looked down the street to see if Edward had heard her. She could see him coming, running in her direction. Brandon had been swung up onto the man's back so he could move quicker, she supposed.

"Izzy" she yelled "Grey SUV, Hertz hire car." and she pointed in the direction it had driven off.

Saw his eyes go wide right before his head whipped around as he skidded to a stop, to scan the road and search for her. He and his wolf would be able to spot her in the vehicle easily if it was still in sight. "Go." she yelled at him as his eyes moved to her and then back to the car. It was getting away, but he also knew she was injured. He was torn.

"I'm fine." she yelled out "go." looked right at him when his eyes landed back on her "Brandon." she reached out for him, and he jumped down and ran towards her. Edward was gone in a flash after Izzy.

“Mum?”

“I’m alright, dislocated my knee, find my phone.” she looked around for it, couldn’t be too far away “Down there.” she located it and pointed to it. It was only a few meters away on the footpath he ran and got it. The screen was completely shattered but she could see the phone call was still connected to Bradley at the other end.

“Izzy just got kidnapped.” she rapped out, knowing he would still be on the other end of the line.

“Piper, are you alright? We’re on our way. Where are you exactly?”

“Yes, and outside my store.”

“Where the hell is Edward?” she could hear the anger edging his words, didn’t like that he wasn’t right there, she guessed.

“He and Brandon were off getting drinks, I asked him to.” she snapped at the man. Her pain was horrible and it was affecting her mood quickly. The man was angry about Edward who wasn’t with her, when he should be worried that Izzy, Edwards Mate had just been taken clear off the street.

Looked at the woman still standing there watching her. “I’m fine, go.” she waved her off.

“But I.”

“Its fine, I’m not going to press charges, was my own stupid fault.” Piper told her through gritted teeth “Just go.”

“You’re injured.”

“Just dislocated my knee, happens all the time, don’t worry about it.” she waved the woman away again.

“Piper, where is Eddie?”. It was Bradley still on the line.

“Gone on foot after the vehicle. It was Phillip...” she swore as she moved herself, and pain shot through her knee.

“Piper?”

“Shut it for a minute.” she growled at him, as she forced herself up off the ground. Breathed deep and long to calm herself and try to let the pain wash away. Then hopped her way down the street to her car. It was only one away. Opened the back door “In.” she told Brandon “All the way over.”

He did as he was told and she eased herself into the car backwards, couldn't get that leg in the car at all, closed her eyes and breathed for a good 30 seconds. Opened her eyes and contemplated putting it back in, but didn't know how to.

“Mum?” she could hear the worry in his voice. “Aunt Izzy?”

“Eddie will get her, if not...” she breathed as a wave of pain rolled through her “That bastard Phillip won't get far sweetie...and I'll bitch slap him, into next week. I promise.”

Closed her eyes again, frick her knee hurt. She had never before dislocated anything in her life. And was right this moment thankful that she had not. Picked her phone up from her lap. “Who's talking to Eddie?” she knew the line would not disconnect till they were here. Or it was very unlikely anyway.

“Harry.” came the reply.

“Tell him it's Phillip. Her dad threatened to have Phillip collect her, and take her back. If he can't get her, go to the airport.”

“Piper are you alright?”

“Yes, my knee freaking hurts.” she muttered “Dislocated...I don't know how to put it back in.” she admitted.

“Cooper will do it when we get there, will hurt like a bitch Piper.”

“Hurts like a bitch now.” she muttered, could feel Brandon's hand on her, turned and looked at him, could see he was really worried “It's alright sweetie, it's all going to be fine.”

“Cooper's going to have to touch you Piper.” she could actually hear the concern come through down the line.

“Yay.” she muttered.

It was Edward who reached her first. He looked more than ticked off, "I'm sorry I walked away for just a moment." she apologised to him, that bastard Phillip would never had taken Izzy had she been standing right next to her.

"Not your fault," he stated flatly. She knew he was only here without Izzy because that car had gotten away, he couldn't wolf out in public to use everything he had to retrieve her.

"It's Phillip, I saw him. Got hit by a car." she indicated her knee "I tried Eddie."

Saw him nod, he was hunkered down in front of her, lifted up her pant leg and looked at her knee, assessed the damage "I'm not the right one to put that back in."

"Cooper is." she nodded "I heard already. Leave us hear, take the car Eddie." Piper started to get out of the car.

"No. Brad is nearly here. I'll take Harry and we'll go to the airport. We already got a man there on the jet, I believe someone would have called him already, he'll be on the look out." sounded very unhappy though and she wasn't surprised.

"Her dad spoke to you? Called you!"

"Mm." he nodded.

"Call him, to call off Phillip. Explain you and Izzy are together, you came to get her." saw the man's eyes moved to Brandon.

"It's alright Brandon, I'll get her back, I promise you." she heard him tell the boy, likely knew how much Izzy meant to him.

It was almost a full 20 minutes before Bradley, Cooper and Harrison turned up "Go." She looked right at him, stated without hesitation, she wanted her friend back as much as he did.

Found Cooper looking at her as he squatted down on the ground in front of her. "Piper, I have to look at it, and I'm going to have to touch you." He told her calmly.

She nodded as she saw Bradley lean down and look into the car at her and then Brandon and back to her. "Why aren't you with Eddie?" she muttered.

“Harry is with him, its fine.”

“Piper?” it was Cooper, still trying to get permission, she guessed.

“Just do it.” she muttered, Harper was not going to like it, but she too was in pain from the dislocation. “Just get out of the way fast if Harper reacts.” she told him. She could already feel Harper was all bristled inside her mind at just the thought of a wolf touching her. Tried to remind her, they had no choice right this minute.

Heard the rip of her slacks as Cooper tore the material up the seem and then pushed it aside. Glanced right at her, she knew why, he was looking for Harper, felt his hands on her knee and instantly there was a low growl emitted from her wolf, his eyes shot to hers, knew he was concerned she was going to attack him, and tried again to calm her wolf.

“You ready?” he commented a minute later, Harper’s low grow was still persisting. Wasn’t likely to stop till his hands were off of her.

Piper nodded her head and felt him start to manipulate the injury, and nearly swore as the pain doubled, breathed deeply as he moved it all around until she felt it lock back into place, took a solid 5 minutes and although Harper growled the whole time, at him, she did not attack him at all. She did seem to understand it was necessary.

Flopped down on the seat as the pain started to ease, a sigh of relief.

“Not over yet, Piper.” Cooper commented.

Felt her leg get lifted off the ground and held straight. Knew it was Bradley by the sensation it caused where his hands were on her at her ankle and up on her calf. He got snarled at by Harper, as much as Cooper did. She kept her eyes closed, felt something hard slid under the back of her leg and then, was bracing the back of her knee, felt it roll over the front of her knee, opened her eyes and looked at what they were doing.

They were locking a brace onto her knee. Cooper looked right at her “Breath in.” he comment.

She did and he pulled the two straps of the brace, one above her knee and one below her knee at the same time to tighten it, to fit it to her knee, grit her teeth as pain shot through her knee once more.

“All done,” Cooper stated “We need some ice. It needs to be iced to reduce the swelling.”

“We need to go and help get Izzy.” Piper sighed and then pushed herself up into a sitting position.

“You need rest and pain killers, Piper.” it was Bradley.

“It’s fine.” she muttered, the pain was already decreasing, dug into her pocket and got the car keys out, tossed them at Cooper. “Let’s go.” she could already feel that Harper was working on healing her knee, it was all covered in a light tingling sensations.

“Piper, you need rest.” Cooper frowned at her.

“What I need is to punch Phillip in the face.” she inched herself back into the car's backseat, bringing her leg in carefully.

Then glared at the both of them, when neither of them moved, were just staring at her through the open car door. “Well, I can’t drive.” she snapped at them both, irritated that they weren’t on the move already.

Saw them both frown at her, and then each other before moving.

Chapter 44 - Unscentable

Bradley POV

Bradley smiled when he received a text message from Eddie, damn near made his day. All it read was “Piper’s phone LOL, I’ll delete this.” How he managed it, Bradley did not know, but somehow Eddie had gotten hold of Piper's phone, unlocked it and sent him a message from it.

He was very curious about that. Would have to ask him at some point. He knew Piper was in a meeting, wondered if she'd put her bag down and the man had gone through it. Hmm, didn’t know if he liked that idea at all. But if that was the case, he could forgive him because now he had a way to call her, text her and bug her into talking to him when he wanted to, about whatever he wanted to.

But better not just yet. She was still stand offish, might block him if he bugged her too much. Only use it when he needed to for now. But the curiosity was killing him. He texted Eddie on his own phone to find out.

“How’d you manage that?”

“Brandon and I were playing a game on her phone, she’s in her meeting. Brandon went to the bathroom, told him it is not hygienic to take the phone in there. I’d hang on to it. A smiley emoji.”

“Well, thank you Eddie.”

“Remember that when we get to the pack, and you want to punish me for mating Izzy.”

Bradley shook his head. “Forgiven,” he replied. Couldn’t punish the man not now he’d gotten Pipers number for him.

He wondered if Eddie was bonding to the boy. To all of them, Piper had not seemed phased by Eddie going with them this afternoon, apparently just rolled her eyes at Eddie.

Bradley had not wanted her to leave with Brandon, but with Eddie with her, he had to tell himself they would all be fine.

It was good for her to be with Eddie anyway, would give her time to get to know him and build some trust, especially considering the man was likely going to be sleeping in her hotel suite, and pretty much hanging out all the time with the three of them, because where Izzy went, Eddie was bound to go.

It also appeared that wherever Piper went, Izzy went as well, and of course, so did Brandon. The woman was not getting away from Eddie, unless Izzy went out with him for a meal or a movie, just the two of them that was. Eddie was not even giving his Mate room to breathe. Poor woman, hoped she liked clingy men. It certainly seemed that’s what Eddie was going to be.

Bradley left it alone and went back to answering emails from his business and pack related things, when he got one from his father about the moving van and if Bradley had gotten Piper to clear that up yet, so it could be collected.

He sighed, no he had not. Was going to have to try and sort that out today, or at least broach the topic with her, see if she would be willing to assist him or

not. Bradley honestly didn't know if she would. Yes, she'd found out he was still her Mate, but had not so much as brought it up once. Not before their running challenge this morning or afterwards.

All he knew was that Piper had not been impressed by him trying to just up and move her back to the pack. At least he understood some of that now. Still knew she was likely to be against it at this point. She did know that they were still Mates, had felt it herself, had not uttered a rejection to him, or at least not yet anyway.

He was hoping that she would not at all. He had voiced himself that he had not accepted it back then, that he would not be accepting it now if she uttered it and he did mean that. It was not always easy to find your Goddess-Gifted Mate and when you did. You should cherish them, he would cherish her, if she would let him that was.

He picked up his phone and dialled Piper's number, had already saved it to his phone, liked that it was in there. She was also actually the only Piper he knew. It was a pretty name. The call was rejected. He frowned at it, and then sighed Edward had not put his phone number into her phone.

So he sent a quick text to tell her it was him and to please pick up. Then waited a minute before dialling her again, took a while for her to answer the phone. Likely wondering how he got her number in the first place, wouldn't take her long to figure it out, though he could tell her something else and spare Eddie her anger. He didn't want her kicking the man out of her hotel suite.

She finally answered it after a full minute of it ringing, thought she wasn't going to yet again, but must have just been contemplating the out come of not answering it. "Yes." No hello, no use of his name yet again, and she sounded very annoyed to have to talk to him.

He kept it light on his end, ignored her annoyance at him calling her, he knew why, she was not expecting him to have her number, and to have to take his calls either. "Hi Piper." He even smiled, liked knowing he could call her anytime he wanted to "I have a dilemma, I need your assistance in cleaning up." he told her honestly.

"Very unlikely." he heard her comment, didn't sound as though she believed him, or didn't care to help him out, Bradley wasn't entirely sure, she was very hard to read, even when she was right in front of him. Piper it seemed, had

very good control over her emotional responses, with the exception of anger and aggression. That she had no problem with showing, but everything else seemed to be masked by her. Only Eddie was able to pick up her internal emotions.

“Very likely.” He told her and explained about his movers being arrested and the current need for her assistance and he actually did need her to call, a video call at that, so the officer’s could verify who she was.

Heard her clear amusement at his current situation, got the feeling she was very happy about his position “that is a predicament, not really my problem, now is that?”

Bradley nearly sighed out loud, she might be fully amused but only because he was not getting what he wanted “Piper please.” He breathed evenly, kept control of his tone, didn’t want his annoyance at her not assisting him to show, told her he had the direct number for her to call the police officer in charge.

“Hm, I don’t know if I can do that.”

Made him shake his head, didn’t know if she could do that. Of course, she could, would take her all of 10 minutes in all likelihood, she either wanted to play him along or just out right didn’t want to at all. Annoying him further.

“You did send men to my house without permission,” she reminded him.

Bradley held in the heavy sigh that was trying to escape him. Heard Cooper snort amusingly from the other couch, obviously listening to their conversation. Cooper had actually asked Bradley if he should do that. Cooper had not thought it was a good idea, but Bradley, of course, had ignored him.

He was the Alpha and had wanted her and Brandon in his pack, so had tried to take control of the situation and started organising it. Now he realised that he should not have, but of course, only in hindsight did he now realise this.

“That technically is theft, what you...” her words just stopped mid sentence, his hearing picked up something cracking and smashing and then Piper's panicked voice as she screamed “Izzy.”, shot him straight to his feet. His eyes moved right to his phone screen, to see if the phone call was still connected. It was, something was wrong.

Heard the screeching of tires and car horns blaring, picked up Piper's voice more distant as she cried out in pain, felt his right knee suddenly course with pain.

"Piper." he yelled down the phone, already knew she was no longer carrying it, that sound had been her phone dropping to the ground, and the pain he was feeling. She was injured, he just knew it. He could feel fear welling up inside of him. Benson was up inside his mind agitated as well, had not liked hearing her fear when she'd called out for Izzy or the pain in that cry a moment later.

"Up." he roared to Cooper and Harry and he was on the move, heading for their car. She'd last been seen at the store and Eddie had not texted him to say they'd gone anywhere else so that was the likeliest place to head for. Put his phone on speaker and heard her roar. Both she and Harper together for Eddie. His heart was suddenly racing, they were in trouble. There would be no other reason for her to roar like that.

But why did she need to, "Why is he not there?" he snarled angrily, the man had been told to stay with them at all times. Where the hell was he? If Piper had to roar like that to get his attention.

"I'm calling him now." it was Harry. They were all taking the stairs, could use their wolf speed unchecked and unseen to get down to the car, much quicker than having to wait on the elevator.

He felt more pain course through his leg, they might not be Marked or Mated, but he was feeling pain. Her pain and it was real. "She's injured." he suddenly burst out, realising he was not carrying the med kit.

"There's traffic, could've been hit by a car?" Cooper verbalised for him.

Brad had heard tires on the road and horns blaring, his eyes widened, how badly injured was she? there was no pack around here for medical attention. "The med kit." he cursed himself.

"On it." Cooper was going back in the other direction, back to the suite. Brad could hear her talking to a woman, who was stating she was going to call an ambulance. How stupid he was to have forgotten to pick up the med kit, was now wasting valuable minutes in which he should be driving to her, waiting for Cooper to go all the way back up there retrieve it and bring it all the way back down.

Damned man also had the hire car keys, so they had to wait for him in the hotel's underground car park. Cooper was their Medic on all trips, his uncle was the pack's doctor, Dr. Samuel. He had taught Cooper quite a bit of medical stuff to help with emergencies while they were away from the pack.

Cooper came back and tossed the med kit at Harry, while he was still moving. He didn't seem to care that he was still using wolf speed in full view of any humans down here as he unlocked the car and got in.

Heard Piper yell out Izzy again and then started rattling off details of car, told Eddie to go. She would be fine, called for Brandon, the boy must have been with Eddie, wherever he had been. "Sounds like Izzy is in trouble," he muttered, though he was still unhappy that Eddie was not right there with her.

If he had been she likely wouldn't have been injured and in pain.

Heard Brandon's worried voice and her tell him her knee was dislocated. To get her phone, the boy did exactly as he was told, seemingly without hesitation likely they weren't that far from her phone. He was picking up everything quite clearly, thankfully.

No wonder his leg hurt, her voice came down the line loud and clear, she had the phone "Izzy just got kidnapped."

Heard Harry's horrified gasp from the back seat, and Cooper swore while he was navigating the traffic, he knew Harry had called Eddie, but the man had not picked up and wasn't likely to, was in all likelihood running on foot after that vehicle.

Bradley prayed that Timber wouldn't rip out of him and scare the hell out of the humans. He knew Eddie and Timber were out of control where Izzy was concerned, it was completely possible that Timber would assert full control and let loose in the city to get her back. He'd already ripped out of Eddie once in Maine. Though she had been running away at the time, she clearly was not going of her own volition this time.

Asked if she was okay, where she actually was, still at the store, thank the goddess, they were already on their way there. A good thing, were headed right for her..

"There are no wolves here Brad." it was Harry. "Who would take Eddie's Mate, in broad daylight, with him right there. No-one even knows about her."

“I don’t know.” he shook his head. But Harry was right. There were no wolves here, and even if there were, there was no way they would know about Izzy.

Bradley was more than annoyed to hear that Eddie had been off getting coffee when all this went down. He didn’t really care that Piper had told him to go and do it, the man should have known better.

Then she was trying to persuade the human woman, likely the one who’d hit her with her car to leave, that she didn’t need an ambulance. Waited for her to stop and then asked exactly where Eddie was. No surprise gone on foot after the vehicle.

“It was Phillip.” she told him, shocked everyone in the car, heard Harry’s wolf snarl all aggressively from the back seat, turned and looked right at him found Axle right there on the surface, clearly unhappy about the matter at hand. They’d met Phillip.

More pain coursed through his leg and he was told to “Shut it.” in a very aggressive manner. Could actually feel more pain radiating through his leg, wave after wave of it. He didn’t take the being yelled at personally, he could actually hear through the phone she was moving down the street, trying to walk or hop he thought. It was causing her more pain. Made him rub his actual knee at one point.

Felt Cooper look right at him, “You can feel her pain.” he gasped.

“I can.” Bradley admitted with a nod.

“A strong bond you’ll have, when you claim her.”

He could only agree, he did know that some Mates could feel each other's pain of injury and even childbirth on the odd occasion through their bond. That won’t be fun for him, he thought.

Once again, she was talking to Brandon, finally heard Harry get a hold of Eddie. It didn’t sound like good news, sounded as though the car had gotten away from him, nearly laughed when he heard Piper mutter she was going to bitch slap Phillip into next week.

Made Bradley wonder if she had met the man, at some point in time, it was entirely possible. Clearly she did not like the man, she might only know of him

from what Izzy told her, though it appeared she was holding a personal grudge against the man.

Listening to her explain about Phillip and Izzy's father, only made him mad. If they had known this prior to right now, it could have meant this incident could have been stopped before it happened. They could have prepared for it, but he did not chastise her about it. Eddie could do that later when they got Izzy back.

Told her Cooper would be able to fix her knee, but that the man would have to put his hands on her, knew she was not going to like it at all, Harper certainly wasn't, neither did Cooper. He could already see the frown on the man's face, she had already threatened to rip his hand off once, just for a brief touch to her back. Realignment of a dislocated knee was going to take more than that.

A full assessment and likely two hands to move and adjust it, until it popped back into place, depending on the type of dislocation of course. Bradley was hoping it wasn't one of those one's that required surgical intervention.

He could hear her talking to Eddie, he'd come back to her car. The man sounded angry and sad at the same time, that the car with his Mate in it had gotten away from him, was upset with himself, probably no point in yelling at the man, he and his wolf would both be berating each other or themselves for not staying with her.

But who would have thought that Izzy his human Mate would be kidnapped in a country without werewolves? No-one here would have thought it, likely not even Piper.

The minute he arrived, Harry jumped right into the drivers seat ready to head off after Izzy. Piper was yelling at Eddie to go and he did not hesitate for a second. Then she was glaring right at him, practically demanding to know why he wasn't going with Eddie to find Izzy.

That was simple for him. She was his Mate not Izzy, and she was injured and he needed to be here with her. Why would he go off and leave her alone and in pain? Eddie had Harry and the two of them were not about to let Phillip get Izzy out of the country. There was no way, not unless they had her passport, which Bradley had no idea about. He knew Piper carried hers all the time, but did Izzy?

Glanced in the car past Piper to check on Brandon. He was sitting there biting his lip but looked okay, worried, not scared, likely Aspen was talking to him. Smiled at him with reassurance when he looked at Bradley. But then the boy's eyes moved back to his mother and Bradley realised this was probably the first time he had ever seen her injured.

Watched as Cooper assessed the injury, lots of bruising, nil blood to be seen. A bonus.

'Not the worst I've seen.' Cooper mind-linked him 'I got this, you just be ready to fend off your Mates wolf.'

'Will do.' Bradley acknowledged, he did like how they all called her his Mate now.

It took several minutes to realign the knee and it was not a comfortable feeling for him. He could only imagine what Piper was feeling was way worse, he heard it click right back into place and saw her flop down on the backseat, understood that. His pain was nearly non-existent now as well.

Assisting with putting that brace on, had to breathe through that himself, still found touching her bare skin very hard to do, so damned hot to touch, saw Cooper look right at him, likely picked up on the fact that his heart rate was shooting through the roof and that he was trying to control his own breathing as well.

'Think about something else.' he was mind-linked

'Trust me I'm trying.' Bradley had muttered back, put her leg down the minute he could, damned woman felt like she was addictive, breathed in deep calming breaths a few times. Also noted the minute that brace was on, his pain was gone altogether. She was also talking about going after Izzy and wanting to punch Phillip in the face, clearly did not like the man.

Was not going to let it go, was already pulling herself into the car and had tossed Cooper the keys. One track mind it seemed.

Chapter 45 - Unscutable

Piper POV

Finally, they both got the message, and got in the car. It was moving and they were headed after Izzy, Piper leaned back in the backseat. There was nothing she could do about it till they got there, so try to stay calm and let Harper heal her up as best she could.

Felt Brandon's small hand in hers, opened her eyes and looked at him, smiled at him softly, it was going to be alright, they would get Izzy back. She was taken by two humans is all and though Izzy herself was still human, she was bound to a werewolf, nothing but death separated a bonded pair. Eddie would never give up the hunt, and Piper knew it.

Eddie would catch up to them at the airport or Izzy would holler at the police once there. There was no way in hell she was going home with Phillip of all people. Her father should have come for her himself. And how they were going to get her through customs without her passport? They couldn't.

Closed her eyes and swore "Don't go to the airport, they're not there, Izzy's passport will be with her luggage at the hotel."

"Do you think she'll take them there?" it was Bradley.

Piper thought about that for only a minute, then nodded "Yes, she'll be looking for an opportunity to get away and head for your room, you and your men. Seeing as I'm here and Eddie?"

"Good. Cooper head for the hotel, it's a good assessment and covering both places is a good plan." she found his eyes on her.

"What?"

"Nothing, it's a good plan."

"It just makes sense is all, can't even buy a plane ticket out of the country without passport numbers. I should have thought of it right away."

"You were injured Piper, a lot of pain and so likely distracted." Saw his eyes move to Brandon. "We'll get Izzy back. I'll not stop looking and neither will Eddie till we have her back. I promise you this."

Looked at Brandon herself, he did look very upset, wanted to pull him into her lap but couldn't while the car was moving, smiled reassuringly at him and

squeezed his little hand gently. There was not much she could do but reassure him at this point.

“Is the pain bad?” he asked quietly.

“Not so much now, only at the time, and Harper is already healing me.”

“Feels all tingly when Aspen heals my cuts and grazes.”

“It does, kind of like...pins and needles.” Piper smiled down at him, “but without that hideous pain on movement.”

“I hate that bit when I sit on my feet too long and then got to get up.” Brandon shuddered.

She smiled “No one does, very annoying for all.”

They pulled up outside the front of the hotel, and Piper realised that it was likely that neither Bradley or Cooper would know what Phillip looked like, asked that very question as Cooper got out the car, got a resounding ‘No’ from both of them, and why would they he was human and of no consequence to them or Eddie, or shouldn’t have been.

Watched as Cooper opened Brandon’s door and leaned in and unbuckled the boy, then just picked him up from his seat and took him from the car. Surprised her more than a little, even more that Brandon just allowed it. Guess he was learning to trust them already, he had seen them come to aid and help her. She also knew he was actively getting along with Eddie.

Though it had looked like Eddie was hindering Brandon playing his game on her phone at the store, she'd seen the boy smile a few times, and Eddie had, apparently while she was sleeping, congratulated the boy on beating Harry, and told him they would have a rematch, he was cheated into losing. Brandon had told him he was on, that the challenge was accepted.

Though Eddie also told him he was not going to challenge Piper herself. That had made her smile. Not even Bradley could beat her, wondered how long he was ticked off about that.

Bradley was standing holding her car door open, while she eased her leg out of the car, she'd waved his hand and his offer of assistance away, did not

need a repeat of what had happened at dinner last night, when he'd touched her.

Wincing as she put actual weight on her knee, but it was bearable, saw him frown as she winced, but what did he expect, wasn't going to miraculously heal itself. Put most of her weight on the other foot as she turned and looked around, she actually knew what that hire car looked like. Even the number plate, scanned the immediate area for it "Son of a bitch." she growled, as she saw it parked a few cars down and across the street. "That's the hire car, that took Izzy." she pointed to it, took a step towards it, regardless of the pain it shot through her knee.

"I'll go." Bradley stated, putting a hand on her shoulder to stay her. She looked right at him as she heard the hard edge of his voice. He was all Alpha right this minute, she realised, as she watched him stride away.

Someone had just kidnapped his Gamma's Mate and though Izzy was not an official member of his Pack yet, they all knew Izzy was bonded to Eddie and it was only a matter of time and all the major details being explained to her.

"Bradley will sort this out, Piper." Cooper informed her, though he did not go after the man.

"I know he will." Piper nodded and she did actually know that "Call Eddie, Phillip and Izzy are here somewhere."

She watched as Cooper put Brandon down on the hood of the car, uncaring about any damage it may do to the hire car, he fished out his phone with one hand while keeping the other on Brandon, likely just making sure he wasn't going to fall off or run off.

Piper looked right at Brandon, he seemed comfortable with Cooper touching him, though the boy was watching Bradley as he stalked his way over to that SUV, and the man sitting inside it, to have words with him about Izzy.

Wondered if Cooper was keeping contact with Brandon for a reason, they'd all seen how attached to Izzy he was, wondered if both Bradley and Cooper were worried that boy's wolf would appear and try to assert himself. It was a possibility she supposed. Not even she knew if he would shoot to the surface and try to take on Phillip if they laid eyes on him.

Turned at the sound of an American accent, male and sounded more than annoyed “Just do as your told, for once and you wont get hurt.”

Found herself looking right at Phillip, as he was coming out of the hotel’s front door with one hell of a grip on Izzy’s upper arm, she could already see there was bruising on the woman’s arms from where they had man handled her into their car in the first place, dragging her across a street and fighting to get her in the car when she’d not wanted to.

Could see right this very minute that his fingers were digging into her arm painfully so, and could see the pain on Izzy’s face. She looked more than upset as well. Her usually neat hair and appearance were gone. She looked dishevelled now. Her hair messy and Piper could tell she’d been crying as well.

Shot of the mark regardless of the pain in her knee, and it hurt to blazes, felt that knee actually give but the brace held, and she was able to move and stay up right because of it, ignored the pain that rushed her knee, knowing she had likely just done more damage to it but Izzy was more important that her knee.

Izzy was glaring up at the man who was dragging her by the arm, and Philip didn’t see Piper coming at all, too busy focused on Izzy and trying to get her to do what he wanted of her. She was on him fast.

Her hand landed right on his forearm and she let Harper loose on him, felt all her strength pour into her grip on him, so very tight he would be forced to let Izzy go, and the minute his fingers loosened she yanked Izzy free from his grip altogether with her other hand and turned her away, she knew there was no way Phillip could keep his grip on Izzy not with Harper literally crushing his forearm.

“You son of a bitch.” She snarled right up at him.

Heard him gasp in pain and saw his other hand come up to hit her, smiled right at him “Yes hit me.” she practically dared him, blocked that hit with ease and slashed it down and away from her as she’d trained how to once. Then twisted that arm she had hold of till he was crying out in pain, heard it crack and break and his scream of pain. Then they let him go but only to put her foot into his knee.

Watched with satisfaction as he dropped to the ground on one knee, more pain issuing from him, grabbed a fist full of his hair and yanked his head back

to force him to look up at her “You ever touch my friend again.” she grated out and leaned right down to him, her face a mere inch from his, Harper pushed forward to stare him down “You’ll suffer and eternity of pain. I’ll break every bone in your body.” They snarled at him, and to make sure he understood the clear meaning of their threat, punched him right in the face and heard his nose break, saw blood run down his face.

She could smell the fear coming off of him, Harper’s presence had scared him, not so tough now, she thought, as she glared down at him, he was looking right into her white eyes, not Piper’s normal brown ones. Which he would have seen when he’d looked at her for the first time.

Heard Harper emit a low menacing growl and he was backing away from her. The minute she let his hair go, good he seemed to have gotten the message loud and clear.

“Piper?” it was Izzy.

They turned and looked at her, saw Izzy’s eyes widen and Harper receded and allowed Piper control again. “Are you alright?” Piper asked her, took a step over to where Izzy was standing and hugged the woman. “I was so worried.” She whispered and meant it, she did not want to lose her friend like that.

Felt Izzy hug her back “Where’s Eddie?” she asked softly.

“looking for you, at the airport.” Piper leaned back to look at Izzy, taking in her appearance further, looked at the bruises on both her arms, and then frowned at the red mark on her left cheek. She’d not seen that before. “Did he hit you?” she reached up and touched the woman’s cheek gently.

Izzy nodded. “I tried to get away from him, thinking I could get to Mr Drake in his room. When he caught up to me, he slapped me for it.” There were tears in her eyes now.

Piper’s eyes turned back to Phillip. Oh, he was a dead man, she could feel Harper’s anger mingling with her own at this news. Let go of Izzy and shot towards Phillip. All their anger on the surface, was going to payback in kind with all the strength they had.

Only to be yanked clear off the ground, knew it was Cooper right away. "Calm down, Eddie will deal with him," he told her as he turned her away from the man.

She screamed at him in her rage, to be put down, as he denied her right to beat the hell out of that pathetic man, how dare to not only kidnap her friend but hurt her as well. Found herself carried away completely and taken back to the car, put right in front of Brandon "Enough Piper, human world, calm Harper. I understand the need."

"Let me go." she snarled at him, but he had her arms pinned to her side in a vice-like grip, he was clearly much stronger than she was.

"I'm not Eddie, I can't calm you down, so either calm yourself or deal with me holding onto you."

Turned her head to look at Phillip over the man's shoulder and saw Bradley hauling Phillip up off the ground. He was also dragging another man, the one from the car, she supposed, had a hand around that man's elbow. Neither of them were a match for him and his Alpha Wolf strength.

"Where is Izzy?" she gasped, panicked as she could no longer see the woman.

"I'm right here." She heard Izzy's soft voice and turned to look at her, "Piper?"

"I'm alright?" she told her, and felt calmer just seeing her.

"I've never seen you this mad before." Izzy murmured, and bit her lip, seemed a bit nervous.

"I try not to get mad." Piper admitted "I'm sorry you saw that." She knew Izzy would have seen Harper on the surface, it had been unavoidable at the time.

"What was it?"

"Not here." Cooper interrupted them.

"Let me go, Cooper." She sighed.

"You sure your good?" he asked right back, didn't sound as though he believed her.

“Yes.” she nodded, and she was released tentatively. He stepped back from her and she turned to look at him, gasped as her knee screamed at her, she had used it to kick Phillip, looked down at it, gritting her teeth.

“That will need realignment again.” Cooper told her, sounded like he was disapproving of her actions. She did not really care what the man thought, put all her weight on her good leg, reached out a hand to hold Izzys hand, the woman had just seen Harper on the surface but hadn’t run off, was still standing there with her, she didn’t seem to be all that scared about it and Piper for one, was really glad she did not want to scare her friend.

“ You called Eddie?” She asked Cooper.

“I was on the phone with him when you shot off after Phillip, he is aware and on his way back now. Stay right here.” Cooper told her “I need to go and assist Brad to take those two upstairs.” His eyes moved from her to Brandon and he frowned.

Piper knew what he was thinking, that without anyone from the Alpha Unit here to watch her, she could put Brandon in the car and leave, run away.

“I’m not going to get far.” she indicated to her injured knee. Not to mention he was holding her car keys still.

“You run.” He warned her.

“We won’t.” It was Brandon and he was getting off the car, stepped between her and Izzy and stared up at the man.

Cooper looked right at the boy “Do you understand Brandon, your father is not just going to walk away.”

“Yes.” hHe nodded up at Cooper, “Hunt us if we do.”

“Correct.” Cooper nodded and then just turned and walked away towards the hotel’s front doors.

“He can be a little...scary.” Izzy murmured.

“We can all be,” Piper nodded.

“What happened to you?”

“I ran out into traffic to try and get to you, stop Phillip from taking you, and got clipped by a car, busted my knee, it was fixed, not so much now.” She sighed “Eddie is going to be really mad when he gets back.”

“I didn’t leave on purpose.”

“No, not at you Izzy.” Piper smiled, “at your state, your bruises, that hit to your face, where he comes from, he has rights to...punish any who would harm you.”

“Hmm,” she shrugged, “I think you beat up Phillip pretty good.”

“Won’t help, just be prepared, he might...” how did she explain it.

“Look different, his eyes.” she stared right at Piper as if challenging her to deny it.

“Yes.” Piper nodded.

“I’ve seen his eyes bright green before.” she shrugged “Guess you knew about that.”

“Normal, where they come from.”

“Where you came from? Your eyes were white!”

Piper sighed “yes.” she knew Harper had been on the surface, when they’d looked at Izzy, she just confirmed it. Opened the car door and sank down to get off of her knee.

It didn’t take Cooper long to come back, he frowned down at her, “I can fix that here, or carry you up to your room and fix it there.” he stated flatly.

“Here is fine.” Piper muttered, would rather it be fixed than be carried.

He removed the brace and looked right at her pointedly. “You dislocate it again, before it heals properly, you’ll likely need surgical intervention. Do you understand me?”

Piper nodded, she got it. Harper didn’t even snarl at the man, she still just wanted a piece of Phillip mostly, seemed to understand and be okay with Cooper helping them again. She knew they had been impulsive and risked re-injuring themselves, and had done just that.

With the brace back on they could manage a hobble and some light pressure on her knee, but after 5 steps, the pain was too much came to a stand still on her good leg, heard Cooper sigh, "you bite me, I'll bite back". And then he picked her up and carried her into the hotel, she had no choice, was not going to be able to walk all the way across the lobby and then down the hall to her room.

They were escorted back to their room, and Cooper put her down on the couch looked right at her. "I'll leave you all here, Eddie will want to see Izzy."

"I'm aware of how things normally work, Cooper." Piper muttered.

"Good to see you recall somethings." Cooper murmured, then looked at her knee "Ice it, don't walk on it period, until Harper tells you it's okay." He stared right at her for a solid minute, then turned to Izzy "Do you need medical attention?"

"No." she shook her head.

"Then I'll take my leave, am needed somewhere else." he stood and left without another word, all Beta mode, she thought.

"Spill it." Izzy turned on her.

Piper sighed "Sit down and don't freak out."

"Oh I'm already freaked out." Izzy muttered as she sat down.

"Mum?" She could hear the worry in Brandon's voice.

"She has to find out sooner or later, she is Eddie's Mate." sShe clarified for him. He knew what a Mate was now.

"Mate?" Izzy asked.

"Yes Izzy, and you're bonded to him already, so take a deep breath."

Watched the woman do just that, and after a moment allowed Harper to push forward. The woman had seen her once already, so there was no harm in it, this was what she wanted answers on.

Allowed Izzy to really look at her, for as long as she liked, watched the woman's eyes move to Brandon's after several minutes of contemplation, his wolf Aspen pushed forward but only for a brief moment.

"That's just plain weird." Izzy shook her head.

"Harper is of no threat to you." Piper offered up.

"Harper? Like what Cooper just said, and ...you used that name yesterday, threatened Eddie with it in fact."

"Yes and I did." she nodded "Harper is my inner wolf."

"Wolf?" Izzy snorted, and sounded fully amused.

"Yes. I'm not human, well...I mostly am nowadays."

That got her attention. Now Izzy was staring at her, so she sat and waited, the woman would either accept it or fear it and run away. Piper didn't think Izzy would run away though, she'd known Piper and Brandon a very long time.

"What are you?...Them?...Eddie?" she was frowning.

"What do you think we are?" Piper countered, Izzy was an intelligent woman, and she had seen and heard the wolf side of likely most of them now, definitely Eddie's he'd growled at her, and she was pretty certain that Izzy had Mated to Timber, which meant she had likely seen him on the surface as well. And she knew she'd seen Timber in the flesh that Wolf, had not liked her running away.

Bradley had told her that Benson his wolf, had growled at her and scared her for that matter, sat and just watched her as she stood and paced around the room a good 10 minutes of staring at her and Brandon, pacing some more and then she shook her head and sighed "I want to say something but, it'll sound completely crazy."

That was a good statement, likely was on the right track, "Say it anyway Izzy." Piper encouraged her.

Saw her friend look right at her "Werewolf."

"Correct." Piper nodded "Harper is the name of my wolf."

“Aspen is my wolf.” Brandon told Izzy, sounded not only happy to tell Izzy this but proud as well. Liked having his wolf she realised.

Saw Izzy’s frown deepen and then she came and sat back down, stared right at her some more “Is...Timber, Eddie’s wolf.”

“Yes.” Piper nodded.

“So, the other day...yesterday,...that was Timber?”

Piper smiled “Mm, yes. His wolf it seems, is crazy insanely in love with you, as much as Eddie is.”

“You knew all along.” she pointed a finger at her.

“I did, it’s why I warned you.”

“And.” her brow furrowed, then her eyes widened “That wolf stalking my car in Maine? That Harry was wrestling...that was Eddie?”

“That was Timber, but yes, technically Eddie too.”

“Wow.” she leaned back on the couch was taking this really well. A good thing “He was the biggest damned wolf I’ve ever seen.”

“For now.”

Saw Izzy’s brown eyes turn on her “There are bigger wolves.”

“Mm, it’s likely both Cooper and Bradley are bigger in wolf form.”

“How big is Harper, and Aspen.” her eyes moved to the boy.

The door to the hotel room banged open and Eddie came rushing into the room. “Izzy?”

Watched as Izzy smiled right up at him, knew everything and still got up and ran over to him, hugged him and he hugged her right back “I was so worry Izzy.” She heard it in his voice, knew Izzy would too. The man did not care who heard that he had been afraid he’d been going to loose her.

“You and Timber don’t need to worry anymore. I’m right here.” She heard Izzy tell him softly.

Smiled to herself as she saw Eddie look down at Izzy, a little concerned, but she was not. Izzy had already accepted the idea, their bond was good and strong, likely always would be, watched as Izzy reached up and touched his face, tilted her head slightly and really looked at him. "Can I see Timber?" she asked him.

Timber was right there in less than a second. Poor Eddie had no hope, he wanted to see his Mate too, she was asking for him and he would not deny her "Mine." he growled right at her all possessively.

Izzy laughed up at him. "Yes," she nodded. "Crazy as it is, yes." found herself crushed. into the man and his wolf, Eddie looked at Piper when control was given back to him.

"Your welcome." She told him. "You know Eddie, you owe me a lot."

He smiled right at her "That I do." he nodded, then put Izzy away from him and frowned at all her bruises "I'll deal with Phillip and your father." he told her "Stay here, I'll come back." kissed her softly and was gone.

Izzy sank back down on the couch. "Life is about to get weird."

"Yes it is." Piper nodded.

She'd let Eddie talk to Izzy about Marking and that she might gain her own wolf afterwards. Not all humans had the gene, though Piper didn't see that being a problem for either Eddie or Timber, or Izzy for that matter. She was not going to deny either of them, likely just get to choose which one to be with first each night. Timber seemed happy enough mating her in human form. Loved Izzy already.

The moon hadn't even risen or set yet and she knew it would. Today was the full moon, even things would feel different for Izzy now that she understood and accepted them. She thought sex was good before. Tonight would be a whole other matter for the woman.

Arg, they'd better get their own room. She did not need to hear that, nor did Brandon for that matter.