

Chapter 46 - Unscutable

Bradley POV

He stilled Piper with a hand on her shoulder as she took a step to go around him towards that rental car, which she recognised as the one that Izzy had been shoved into. "I'll go." He'd told her, she was injured and he didn't need her injury getting worse. It was still causing her pain, he knew, because he could still feel it somewhat.

This was also his job as the Alpha to deal with, not hers. His eyes landed on that SUV, there was a man sitting in the driver's seat. Bradley stalked his way over there, Benson was more than annoyed, these two people, though only one was here. Had not only taken his Gamma's Mate with the intention of leaving the country with her, they had also caused his own Mate pain, emotional pain, he'd heard the panic in her voice worried for her friend, and then there was the physical as well. She and Harper had been hit by a car in their attempt to get to Izzy.

Yanked that door open to the driver's side, startling the man completely. "Get out, or I'll drag you out." Benson was all on the surface with him.

The man was more than shocked by the sudden abrupt opening of the door, and he did actually get out. "I don't want any trouble, take the car." his American accent told Bradley he'd come from the States to help collect Izzy. Thought this was a car jacking by his words.

Put his hand on the man, he was relatively well built for a human, and stood six feet himself, but with Benson on the surface, Bradley could not only see fear in the man, but could actually smell it as well. Which is what he wanted.

Bradley's eyes moved to the sound of Piper's voice yelling at someone. Sighed internally as he felt his knee flood with pain. "March." He told the man, as he walked his way back to where Piper was. She was attacking another man, and Izzy was not that far away a few steps, watching Piper lay into the man. "That be Phillip?" He asked the man.

"Yes, Isobelle's fiance," He answered.

"No, he's not." Bradley corrected him, annoyed "Izzy is due to Marry Edward in a month." Bradley added curtly, "You two just tried to kidnap her."

“What?” The man looked at him somewhat shocked by Bradley’s words.
“Retrieving her, not kidnapping.”

“Same difference in my eyes. Hers and Edwards as well.”

‘Cooper, get Piper already, her knee is ten times worse.’ he mind-linked to his Beta. Bradley knew that he could not get both of these two men and contain Piper at the same time.

Glanced at Brandon, who was sitting on the car, his head was tilted ever so slightly, like it had been at lunch yesterday. It was likely that his wolf was watching, assessing the situation, ready to surface if needed. He could hear Piper and Harper loose it, turned his eyes back to her to see Cooper had not just gone to retrieve her, had picked her clean up off the ground and was carrying her back to the car.

Watched as Izzy followed Cooper, smiled a little to himself, no fear in the woman over what she was seeing, looked concerned and confused, but not at all scared. A good thing to see, considering she had likely just seen Harper on the surface, he could definitely hear Harper.

Stalked right passed them all, and over to Phillip, leaned down and grabbed that man by his upper arm. “Phillip, I presume?”

Saw the man’s eyes look up to him as Bradley pulled him up onto his feet, saw those eyes widen more than a little with full recognition, ‘oh so he knows who I am’. Bradley thought the man had met Eddie, likely knew who he worked for, and was obviously not expecting to see Bradley Drake staring him down.

“You don’t ever touch, what belongs to me and mine.” Bradley snarled right at him as the man steadied himself on his feet, then hauled his blood-drenched face inside the hotel. Phillip it seemed, was having trouble walking and he was cradling an arm.

It did seem Piper and Harper had injured the man quite badly, likely she didn’t like him touching what she thought was hers either, a good fighter she was, and certainly not afraid of getting into it. Wolves or humans, it seemed, just stepped up and let them all have it. Didn’t know if it was the rogue in her or just her natural warrior instincts.

Shoved the pair of them into the elevator, regardless of the looks they were getting from other guests or hotel employees. Mind-link to Cooper, only got his name out before he got an actual real reply.

"I'm right here." He stated as his hand hit the elevator doors, stopping them from closing, and stepped inside. Took hold of the un-injured man.

"Piper?" he questioned.

"Re-dislocated her knee, not going anywhere. In fact Brandon assured me, they wouldn't go anywhere."

"Really? Just Brandon?" Bradley enquired, that was surprising to him.

"Might not have just been him." Cooper half smiled.

They hauled those two men all the way into their suite, and shoved the pair of them onto the dining room chairs.

"Go and fix Piper's knee, and make sure Izzy is okay or Eddie and Timber will be a nightmare to deal with." watched Cooper nod his head and then just turn and leave without so much as a word.

"I need a hospital," Phillip told him.

"Hmm, what you need is a dozen or more body guards. Because when Edward gets here, and he is on his way. He's likely to tear your arms off, want to kill you for all those bruises on her. Izzy's father was informed of their relationship, I also believe Harry, Edwards' brother, told you yourself, that they were getting married."

"She left him. It was also her father who ordered me to come and get her."

Bradley snorted with amusement "Did she? Not from what I've seen, they looked very happy and all cosy just this morning." His tone changed to anger "Till you kidnap her, you're lucky it was Piper who handled you first. If it was me, you'd be in the hospital already." he grated out. Though Bradley was curious about the rest of what the man had said, about Izzy's father, he let it go for now.

"That bitch broke my arm and..."

Bradley's fist hit Phillips' face in a flash, and he fell off the chair he was sitting in. "Don't you ever call Piper that. That's my wife you're insulting." reached down and yanked the man up and glared right at him "Ever." he snarled right at him, felt Benson push all the way forward "I'll kill you." his wolf threatened him, his Alpha Aura rolling right out of him at the man.

Then Benson just tossed him aside, and the man slumped down on the floor in a puddle of his own urine, probably thought he was some tough human but was not, just a rich bastard used to getting his own way. Bradley's eyes turned to the other man. "Name?" he grated out.

"Mason Blighton, I work for the Mathew's is all." his hands were up already, and Bradley could smell fear coming off of him.

"Well Mason, I suggest you quit your job and find a new one," he snapped, then turned back to Phillip, the man was unconscious, probably a good thing with the way he was ticking off Benson, with insulting Piper.

Cooper returned "All fixed, both women in their hotel room, Izzy...going to have to talk to her asap, she saw Harper and her questions I've stifled for now."

Bradley sighed "Alright, I guess we'll do that here instead of back home. We'll have to convince them to go though." his eyes moved to Phillip again. "Should dump him at the hospital."

"Eddie?" Cooper asked.

"Will kill him." and Bradley knew that he would, because if that had been Piper, the man would be dead already, sighed "We'll need to contain him."

"Or get the police here first." Cooper commented.

"Unlikely they'll get here before Eddie."

"So, what are we doing with them? It's not like when back home and the man can just disappear."

"Mm, no forest, we can just dump their asses into, after Eddie kills them." Bradley nodded.

"So?"

“I guess, we could take them home. Let Eddie stew in his anger until we have them in a place where it can be unleashed.”

“Hmm, might not make it back. I don’t think you want Brandon to see that.”

“He will at some point though.”

Heard a groan come from the unconscious man, his eyes however moved to Mason. The man looked suitably horrified, as was his and Cooper's intention. They had had their conversation out loud, for a reason, to make the man realise the kind of situation he was in.

They had been talking casually and openly as though the death of either one of them meant nothing to them, and it was an inevitable end. Mason now understood his life was hanging by a thread. Bradley didn’t want to kill the humans. Eddie will be another issue. Though if Phillip went missing after this? Izzy would know it was them and might not want to be with him after that.

“We’ll need to use Izzy to contain Eddie and Timber,” Bradley sighed.

“Agreed.” Cooper nodded “What happened to make you beat the man?”

“He called Piper a bitch, Benson lost control.” Bradley smiled.

Cooper smiled as well. “Can’t scent the woman. But also can’t stand anyone insulting the woman.”

“No and No. I want her and so does Benson. Regardless that we can’t scent her at this point.” and they both did. She was unscentable but was still theirs and they knew it, didn’t even care anymore that they couldn’t scent her. Piper knew they were her Mate, and both he and Benson believed her.

“That should go in your favour.”

‘Where is he?’ Came growling down the mind-link to Bradley.

“Eddie’s back” Bradley commented aloud, before answering his Gamma. ‘I have both men here in our room, Izzy is with Piper.’ he chuckled softly ‘Piper beat you to him.’ He told Eddie, in the hope it would calm him and his beast somewhat.

‘Right.’ was the only response.

Harry arrived first, looked at the man in his own urine-stained clothing and wrinkled his nose in disgust. "Piper did that?"

"Most of it." Bradley smiled "I got one hit in." Made him wonder just how good a fighter she was, had two warriors for parents and in all likelihood, took after them herself. Wondered if she'd want to go back into training, then sighed internally. Recalled she didn't want to be back inside the pack, still had no idea how he was going to get that to happen.

Though he had heard from Eddie today, before the shit hit the fan, that Piper had saved his backside again, where Izzy was concerned. Offered to open a store in Helena for Izzy to run, Piper might not want to come home, but even he knew, building or opening a new store meant that she would have to be in Helena herself, so she was actively getting closer to his pack, this was good news to him.

He had actually been looking at property and buildings in the area for her new store, wanted somewhere close to his office, was going to do whatever it took to get her back to his state, and then he could work on her from there, one step at a time. That was the plan for the moment.

"Eddie went right to Izzy?" Bradley asked Harry.

"He did, needed to see her."

"No real surprise about that." Bradley nodded, his thoughts had been to get to Piper, his Mate, his priority. He'd been worried about Izzy, but Eddie had been there somewhere. So Piper had been his true concern. As Izzy was for Eddie, your own Mate always came first.

He'd only ever seen a few wolves who could walk away from their injured Mates, usually chosen Mates. One's not of their own choosing. Sometimes, when no Mate came along, the previous Alpha would choose a suitable partner for their Heir, and though they bonded it wasn't a true bond and so caring didn't always happen between the pair.

It was the reason he'd told his father he had rejected the idea of a chosen Mate, when his father offered to find him a suitable she-wolf to become his Luna. His father had thought that he was helping, because Bradley had not told him of his missing Mate.

He'd been polite with his father, but he'd not been willing to even risk hurting the one he belonged to, and marking another while still attached to your destined Mate, could kill them. Bradley couldn't do that, he'd had no idea if his missing Mate's rejection had been granted by the Goddess. But had always hoped not.

So he could find her someday, and now that he had, he was truly glad for his own beliefs on the situation he'd found himself in. He could have killed her and left his son out here all alone, not even knowing what he was. Actually sent up a thank you prayer to the moon goddess herself for making him so damned stubborn.

So determined to find his missing Mate, for only wanting her and no-one else. Could have turned out to be a complete disaster if he'd just accepted it and moved on. He was so very stubborn and head strong, both his father and stepmother would shake their heads at him sometimes. When he said 'no' he was an immovable rock and they knew it.

Eddie stalked into the room, the door damned near banged off the hinges, and he came to a standstill in front of Phillip, the man was still sitting on the floor, to injured and in to much pain to get himself up and none of them had helped him or even offered to. Both his eyes were swollen shut at this point, from the hit he had taken from Piper which had broken his nose and given the man two black eyes, and then the one Benson had gotten in, poor bastard wasn't doing so well.

The man was lucky he was human, or he'd be a bloodied heap on the ground, Benson and he would have beaten him half to death and then left him to heal up a bit so Eddie could have finished him off.

"Piper did that?"

"Mostly...remember he's not like you Eddie." Bradley reminded him.

"Piece of shit." Eddie snapped "She's got bruises all over her, clearly she did not want to go."

Bradley watched as Eddie's eyes moved to Mason. The man was still unharmed at this point. Then he turned and looked right at Bradley, questioningly.

“Apparently, no idea. Izzy was engaged to you Eddie, hired to help retrieve her.”

“Retrieve?”

“By her own father.”

Eddie frowned now. Bradley knew Eddie had spoken to the woman’s father at least once, had met the man once at her sister's wedding. From all reports, it should have been clear to her father that Eddie was her boyfriend or more, fiance.

“You can deal with her father as you see fit Eddie. But if either of these two die or go missing...Izzy might...”

“Izzy is fine. Piper has told her everything. She actually wanted to see Timber, accepted him right away, in fact.”

That surprised everyone in the room. Bradley was happy about it, Piper clearly wanted Izzy to be happy, perhaps there was real hope for him yet. Perhaps she was not as against wolves as much as she portrayed herself to be. “I’m happy for you.” Bradley told him honestly.

“I owe her a lot. She told me so in fact.” shook his head slightly “So what about them? I really want to rip his head off.” he growled angrily.

Bradley was actually very surprised the man and his wolf were still standing still, that he and Timber had not gone completely ballistic and all of them were not needed to try and stop him. From everything he had seen about him and Izzy, he was expecting Eddie and his wolf to come in here in a full-blown rage out of control. But he seemed he was in full control of himself.

This was the Eddie he’d always known, until Izzy that was. Perhaps the man was only uncontrollable about his actual Mate, an interesting thought. The full moon would be here tonight and his human Mate had actually just found out the whole truth about not just Eddie but all of them he supposed. Not only wanted to see Timber his wolf, but had accepted him. That was a relief, perhaps that was what was keeping him and his wolf calm right this minute.

“Eddie?”

“Let me be the one to dump his sorry ass at the hospital. He might have a few more broken bones by the time he gets there, but he’ll be alive.”

“You sure about that?” Bradley asked calmly.

“I give you my word, he’ll survive. Got to make sure he see’s Izzy happy at our wedding, and pregnant with our first born as well.”

Bradley nearly laughed, heard Harry actually snort with amusement “I’ll go with him Brad.”

“Cooper will go as well.” Bradley could well imagine how many broken bones a human could survive without dying, waved them off as the three of them collected those two humans and walked them from the hotel room.

He was not going to interfere if those two men had been wolves. Neither would survive and a war would likely have broken out with Izzy’s father’s pack, or a sneak in and kill him would definitely have been the least that Eddie would expect. He knew they would take the stairs and not the elevator.

Chapter 47 - Unscentable

Izzy POV

It was a long and emotionally exhausting day for her. Izzy still couldn’t believe that her father had actually sent Phillip to come and get her. He knew she wasn’t going to ever get back with that man, and had likely been trying to force her hand, in bringing Eddie to him, for a formal sit down. It was what he said he’d wanted.

The man was insufferable at times. Had to have everything his way. Well, he was about to meet his match, it seemed, in Eddie. Finding out that not only were Piper and Brandon not human, and neither was Eddie, that they were werewolves, she had a feeling her father was about to find out the hard way. It was going to be Eddie’s way or nothing at all.

This revelation about all of them, and she now understood that Bradley Drake and all his men were not human too, made her wonder about a lot of things around her that she had absolutely no idea about, simply because she was human.

Izzy was currently lying in a hot bath which Piper had run for her, once her knee had felt better, though Izzy did note she was still wearing the brace. While it was running, Piper had sat on the edge of the tub and looked at her curiously, asked her how she was feeling about everything she'd learned today.

"Alright, though can I ask you something about your..."

"Yes, but Eddie will tell you anything you want to know."

"I kind of want to ask you this, not him. I don't know if I'd get an honest answer from him, thinking maybe he'd just tell me, what I want to hear."

"I doubt that..." Piper had replied simply, "but ask."

So Izzy had "You said, his eyes would never wander, that he would be faithful."

"He will be. Wolves Mate for life Izzy. Wolves are very different to humans, he will never stray." she'd smiled at Izzy. "He'll never even think about another and he will crave you, all of the time. Itch to touch you. It'll be a lot to handle at first. But you'll get used to it."

"That's why there's no divorce rate?" Izzy asked. "Will Eddie and I get married? Or is it different...with Mates?"

"It's different for us. But some do marry and you're human, so you'll likely get a nice fancy wedding and yes, your family will be allowed to attend, likely even have it at your family estate if you want that."

Izzy wrinkled her nose and shook her head, she didn't really see herself getting married at the family estate. "If I want to?" she did ask.

"Mm. Eddie will give you whatever you want." Piper nodded as she got up. "You should ask Eddie any other questions. He won't lie to you, Izzy, and there are still many things you'll need to learn and understand."

"Alright." Izzy had nodded.

Piper had left her alone after that, and she'd gotten into the bath to relax, had stared up at the ceiling to think about her day. To think about everything since that man had walked into the store in Portland and tried to charm her,

wondered about that too. She had been irritated with him quite a bit and the more he'd tried to charm her, the more she had gotten angry with him.

How could she go from being so annoyed with him, to just climbing into his bed the next time she'd seen him. She didn't really understand that, but hazarded a guess that it could only be to do with the Mate thing. Piper had told her she was his Mate and was bonded to him, whatever that meant.

That man had tracked her half way around the world, his wolf had punished her for it, in a good way, for leaving them. Smiled to herself as she recalled thinking she'd run away again just so he would punish her again. That man seemed to know just what she liked too. Bit her lip and wondered what he really liked.

She already knew that Eddie was a very dominant man, and got the feeling she was going to learn just how dominant at some point. That first time, she'd not even been allowed to touch him, and she'd wanted to, but no, not until he'd said so.

Wondered if she could return that favour, how would he deal with her making demands on him, chuckled to herself softly at the thought of him not liking it and getting punished for trying it. She would just have to wait and see she guessed. Might do it a lot to be punished by that man and his wolf. Giggled at the thought.

Wondered what Eddie was doing, sighed to herself and had to admit she did miss him already. Which was very silly because she'd only seen him like an hour ago and had spent the entire day with the man as well before Phillip had turned up. Normally she liked her own space, but maybe after today's events, she just needed him close by. Felt safer with him right here with her.

Closed her eyes and relaxed, switched her mind off from everything and focused on just the warm feeling of the soothing water.

Opened her eyes to find Eddie sitting on the side of the tub, just watching her it seems, he smiled right at her as she gasped "Gosh you startled me. How long have you been there?"

"Not long." he smiled "You fell asleep in the bath."

"I guess I did. It's been a long day." she nodded.

“No bubbles left.” he grinned right at her, slid his eyes over her naked body in the water and growled a little at her, she laughed softly up at him. Did love that growl and at least now she knew why he did it, could do it.

“Either I’m getting in, or your getting out baby.” he smirked right at her. “Your choice.”

Izzy looked at the bath. He was not going to fit in this tub with her. “Out I guess, I don’t think we’d both fit.”

“We will in my tub.” he grinned right at her and then stood up, grabbed a towel for her, even wrapped her up in it when she stepped out of the bath. Then pulled her right into him, tilted her chin up and leaned down and kissed her all soft and slow. She wound her arms around his neck and pressed herself up against him.

Felt him pull away with a soft growl “Brad will murder me if we keep this up, with Brandon in the suite.”

“Why?” she smiled up at him, knowing where it was leading. “It’s just…”

“Wolves have very good hearing.”

“What?”

“Brandon will hear us, as will Piper. I have to refrain, not that I want to Izzy.” he released her “Come on, to your room, I need to put clothes on you.”

“What if I don’t want to?” Izzy teased him.

“Oh baby, don’t tease me, I’ll really get a beating.” he smiled down at her.

Izzy frowned a little, for although he was smiling, he kind of sounded like he meant it. “For real?”

“Yes, we have different laws. The number one law: do what the Alpha tells you, or get punished.”

“Oh!…” she thought about that, guess she didn’t really realise how much things were going to change. “So, everyone has to do what Mr Drake says?”

“You can call him Bradley or Alpha, and yes.”

“Why Alpha?” she asked him curiously as she walked to her room.

“Because Bradley is the Alpha Wolf, he rules the Pack we belong to.”

“So, you do what your told to, like...all the time?”

“Mostly.” she saw Eddie nod “Punishments can be quite severe, but don’t worry about that. Brad is fair and a good Alpha, his pack likes him, we all respect him and abide by his rules.”

Izzy sank down on the bed in just her towel and looked up at him now.

“Piper?” she knew Piper didn’t do as Bradley wanted, out right wouldn’t, didn’t want to and likely wasn’t going to.

“Piper is...has different rules to you and I. There is a lot going on there, that needs sorting out. Will take a while yet.” watched him sigh a little on the heavy side, and realised he looked a little sad even as he sank down on the bed next to her.

“Do you know what happened between them? To them?” she asked. She was very curious. Piper had not liked Bradley from the minute he had walked into the store, but then they did also have Brandon.

“I do.” he nodded “It’s not for you and I to discuss. They need to sort that out themselves. Might actually be able to tonight. The full moon is here and will set soon.”

“What’s that mean?” she didn’t understand, still had a lot to learn, like Piper told her.

“It’s when you can scent out your Mate, lay claim to them.”

That got her attention. She frowned right at him “That’s not what you did.”

“Mm, I was naughty. But I was pretty sure you were my Mate.”

“Pretty sure?”

“Mm as the Pack’s Gamma. Which is my rank, third in command actually.” he smiled at her now “But as a Gamma I can’t actually Charm my own Mate. It doesn’t work on them. The Charm just makes a Gamma’s mate mad, really mad. You Izzy, I could not charm, at all and I did try. A tell-tale sign you were my Mate.”

“So am I your Mate?” she asked.

Felt his finger trail along her lower lip a moment later and saw his mouth curve in to a smile “Yes. Do you feel that?” he asked her.

Izzy frowned at him, didn’t really understand what she was supposed to feel, though his finger was hot on her skin. “Feel what?”

“Tell me Izzy, how does it feel when I touch you?” felt his fingers trail softly down her neck.

Sighed softly “Hot and...”

“Tingly,” smiled right at her, felt his hand caress the side of her neck and closed her eyes, as a moan escaped her, “That’s the Mate Bond your feeling, and it’ll get stronger soon. His voice was soft and a little husky.

Izzy looked right up at him, saw his smile turn to a smirk “Ah, you want me.” he sounded very pleased right this minute.

“I do.” she nodded and climbed right on top of him, pulling her towel off as she did so. Claimed his mouth for herself, heard him groan and got pulled hard up against him “Izzy.” he growled softly a minute later “We can’t, not in here.”

Moved herself against him and sighed, she really did want him. “Can we go to your room then?” she asked softly.

“We could.” he smiled at her “But I’m kind of on duty right now. Not fare I know.”

“On duty?” she questioned, didn’t understand that at all.

“Mm, keeping an ear out for Piper,” he sighed.

“She’s not going to run away Eddie, now that Brandon knows about Bradley...she won’t deny him the right to get to know his father. She always gives Brandon whatever he wants. This will be no different.”

“That is a relief to hear.” and he did actually sound relieved, she realised. They were actually worried that Piper would run away. Silly.

“So can we?” she pushed him all the way down on the bed and bit his lower lip, tugged on it “Even just a little.” she whispered and moved her naked body against his. He was still fully clothed but that could be fun too.

Eddie smiled right at her. “No sex. Brad will be really mad.” but then she was underneath him and his mouth was on hers, kissing her deeply. She smiled when his mouth left hers, she was going to seduce the man into what she wanted.

His mouth found her neck and goddess she couldn't stop herself, her whole body arched up to his, and she rocked herself against him, gasped and moaned softly when his mouth hit the crook of her neck, bit softly at her flesh. Grabbed his hips and pulled him hard against her, wrapped her legs around him, and found him grinding against her as she was him.

His mouth found hers, it was hot and hungry, as his body moved against hers till she was gasping underneath him. “Fuck.” he groaned “Izzy.”

“yes.” she gasped, and rocked even harder against him. “Eddie.” she cried out, was so damned close, could feel how damned hard he was for her and he was moving against her in just the right way. His mouth was on hers, as she moaned right into his mouth, as his pace quickened and her cries muffled by his kiss “Izzy we have to stop.” he groaned “I'll lose all control otherwise.”

Slid her arms around him and her hands into his hair “I'm sorry.” she kissed him softly “I just...I don't know...I.”

Saw him actually smirk down at her “It's your need to claim me, and I want you too. I really do. Give me a second, I'll see if Harry will come watch Piper.”

She frowned, he didn't move at all, but then saw him frown a moment later and then was half up off of her, his head whipped around and tilted to the left slightly “Fuck.” he muttered, sounded very unhappy.

“What?” she didn't understand. He hadn't even called his brother yet.

“Piper's not in this suite anywhere.” he got up. “I'm sorry Izzy, I have to go help look for her.”

Izzy sighed, but nodded “She won't go far, Eddie, she will never leave Brandon.”

Watched him head out the door even as she spoke, wondered what the heck had happened. How did he even know she wasn't in the suite? He'd not gotten up and looked, and why did they need to watch Piper? She didn't understand. The woman might be upset at seeing Bradley, frowned to herself...she thought he had been going to marry that girl...but Bradley had told her, the girl was his sister...that...Izzy's eyes widened as she realised Piper was likely Bradley's Mate.

The man had said he loved her.

Izzy's frown deepened, Piper had said...he'd never loved her, there was always another woman...if wolves mated for life, why would Bradley be with someone else? Oh, she was very confused, didn't understand anything. Eddie had just told her that those two had stuff to work out, that it might take a while.

Sighed, something else was definitely going on, perhaps she needed to talk with Piper. The woman had helped her with Eddie, maybe it was time to help her with Bradley, if she could, had no idea if she could.

Where would Piper go? Why would she just up and leave Brandon alone. Got off her bed and pulled PJ's on, checked on the boy. He was settled and sleeping in his bed, completely unaware his mother had left the room. Piper knew that she and Eddie were here in the suite, likely thought the boy was safe with them.

Frowned and walked into Piper's room, saw her phone on the bed side table. Picked it up and popped the password in 25663, and found a message from Bradley himself.

"Piper, please let me see you tonight. The moon sets at 2055."

There was no reply from Piper. Izzy looked at the time. It was 2050 now.

Piper didn't want to see him when the moon set. Why, if he was her Mate, would she run away from him? Put the phone down. Eddie had just explained to her that the full moon was when you could claim your Mate. Piper was actively avoiding it. Bit her lip, it wasn't really like Piper to run away. Though where Bradley was concerned? She had back then, and in Portland, had gone away for the long weekend suddenly, then worked from home to avoid him.

Though coming here had not been to run away from Bradley, no, this was about getting away from Timothy Avery. But was still actively avoiding

Bradley, that man had done something to hurt Piper. Likely had ruined what they were supposed to be.

Piper had told her, he'd never loved her, never would, in fact...she'd heard the pain in Piper's voice, and actually offered to come home. Asked her if she was alright and Piper had admitted 'no she wasn't' something was very wrong! She needed to know what had actually happened.

Izzy did know that Piper was the one to leave, their joke about Piper appearing in Portland fully grown, sighed again and wondered if she could get Piper to tell her what had happened. Eddie knew, but she doubted he was going to tell her. Had said it was not his place. She had a gut feeling that they all knew, and that's why they were all here, to try and bring her back.

Izzy didn't know if Piper would go back, she'd obviously left for a good reason, and she had stayed away at that. Never once gone back, never once even mentioned where she'd come from, or even the state of Montana for that matter. Not to Izzy's recollection.

Izzy had left her own family, but she went back for important occasions like weddings, anniversaries, Christmas's and big birthdays. Might have left but was still connected to her family. Piper, on the other hand, had left everyone and everything and had never gone back, lived away from all she'd grown up with. It was very confusing.

Likely confusing because she was human, so she didn't understand all that went on in their world, likely had a lot to learn and understand, wondered how long it would take to really understand their world, could she? would she fit in or would she feel like an outsider? She didn't know.

Chapter 48 - Unscutable

Piper POV

Piper stood staring at the text message, pain touching nearly every part of her. She knew it would not matter, that there was a full moon tonight. Put her phone down and walked over to the window to stare down at the street.

She had put herself before him or been near him, many times on a night of the full moon over the years inside that pack. Not once had he so much as even looked in her direction. He'd not scented her for three whole years, tonight's full moon would make no difference to the situation.

Harper was already gone, the moment she'd read that text message her wolf had fled to the back of Piper's mind. They knew their bond was still intact, but once again they also knew it would make no difference to them at all. It would change nothing, only cause them more pain when they saw him and knew he could not scent them.

She closed her eyes, it was clear to her from Harper's disappearance that she did not want to come face to face with him tonight. Piper herself did not want to have to see once more that there was no recognition either for that matter. There was no point, it was likely to only cause her just as much pain as her wolf for that matter.

Turned her eyes to the clock, 2030, she was not going to make Harper suffer, put her through all that once again, couldn't her wolf was struggling now, just knowing they still had a Mate, that could not claim them, not without actually being able to scent her, which even he himself had admitting to not being able to do.

Sighed heavily, was not going to even answer that text message.

Moved from her room to the living area, she'd let Eddie in when he'd knocked on the door half an hour ago. She just stepped aside, not really said much. She knew he needed to see Izzy. He and Izzy were currently in her room talking behind closed doors. She had no idea if he was listening for her or not. It was likely that he was just here to be with Izzy, he would be able to actually scent her in a few short minutes.

Sighed softly, Brandon would be safe in here with the two of them. If she went out for a little bit. Or the whole night. As long as Eddie was busy with Izzy he wouldn't be checking on her either and Piper was pretty certain the two of them wouldn't be able to keep their hands off of each other tonight.

She stood wondering just what she should do, already knew that coming face to face with Bradley was not on the cards for her or Harper. They just couldn't do it. Had suffered that too many times to want to do it again. Though how she was going to do this every month for the foreseeable future she had no idea.

It had hurt every single time. They knew today would be no different, not even with him claiming to know, they were his Mate, he could claim that all he liked, he could not scent her, so they both knew his wolf would never claim them without that.

She turned her eyes to Izzy's room as she picked up a soft moan coming from their room. It was now or never. She slipped quietly from the room, making sure the door barely clicked closed, didn't want Eddie's hearing to pick up on anything at all. Checked the corridor in both ways. No sign of Cooper or Harrison.

Likely with Eddie inside her hotel room, Bradley thought there was no need to guard the hallway and be on the lookout for her trying to leave. That's why he was unconcerned about Eddie being in her room. The man was on duty. Well, he had been till now. Had the full moon and a Mate to claim, that would always outweigh his duty.

Walked to the elevator and pressed the button, didn't even really know where she was going to go, likely just walk around all night on her own. Thankfully, she had changed into jeans and a tee-shirt after her shower. She'd known at some point Eddie would be coming for Izzy, and had not wanted to be walking around the hotel room in her pyjamas while he was there.

Piper walked out of the elevator and headed for the front door of the hotel, her nose wrinkled as she picked up the smell of wolf. Turned her head towards it and saw Cooper standing, well leaning on a wall a little ways away, he was not there to look out for her, she could tell, he was talking on his phone, paying no attention to the people around him.

Her hearing pick up his words, "I know Hadley." he sounded a little annoyed. She was curious herself as to why the Pack's Beta was all the way down here in the hotel lobby talking to the girl, who was Bradley's little sister. It was odd. Seemed to be having a private conversation away from his Alpha.

She was not so curious that she was going to stop and listen, not tonight anyway. Continued on her way towards the hotel's front door. She got bumped into by a group of people walking faster than she was. She was not trying to draw Cooper's attention, so she was strolling like she had no care in the world.

Stepped aside for them to pass, right at the door, automatically apologised to them, couldn't help herself, its just what she'd learned to do inside the pack, even all these years later it was still ingrained into her to apologise for others not knowing she was there. Just couldn't seem to not do it.

Stepped out the door only to hear her name questioningly "Piper?" it was Cooper. Although he sounded very uncertain as to if it was her or not, he

could not actually see her face from where he was standing and of course, he couldn't scent her either.

Piper did not turn and look back at him, that would be a dead give away that it was her. She had noted that Bradley and his entire unit actually looked right at her, could see her, were using their actual eyes to locate and look at her. She was also wearing jeans and a tee-shirt, not something any of them had ever seen her do before. It might confuse him.

Piper strolled casually out of the hotel, as though his calling of her name meant nothing to her, as though she was not this Piper he was calling out to, and then the minute she was out the door and passed the group of people waiting on their ride, all milling about out the front of the hotel she bolted away down the street as fast as she could, knew that if she was actually out of sight then he would not be able to track her.

Ran away from that hotel, even Harper appeared to assist with speed to help put distance between her and the thing that would cause them pain, worse than any other night. She did not want to suffer the pain of heartbreak, knowing this time it would hurt way more than before, because now he claimed to know she was his Mate. So him having that knowledge and still not recognising them, was simply just too much to bare. Too much to even consider bearing.

He had not once stated his wolf wanted to claim them or Mark them, no, they just wanted to mate the hell out of them, and that was not enough for her or her wolf for that matter. Last time that had happened his words had shattered them completely. They did not want that to happen again. It would kill them eventually to have him want them, but to never want to claim them. She would not accept a life like that and she knew Harper did not want that either. Was lending her wolf speed to help them get away from just that. Her own wolf was itching to flee from her own Mate.

They could come back when the night was over. It was just one night. They both knew Bradley was going to be mad, but he did not understand the pain they felt, the years of pain they had suffered.

Yes, so he'd felt them reject him, but so had she, for that matter. Unlike them, he'd suffered just one night of pain, they had suffered years of it, would not do it again, would not put themselves before him and have him frown down at them and openly shake his head and admit he did not scent her, no more would they do that to themselves.

He had no idea where she was and she could run all night in all likelihood, ran without a thought as to where she was going, turned random corners left and right there was no method to her running, just trying to keep out of sight and that was all there was to it.

Stopped running at some point, and found a place to sit down. It was dark here in the small alleyway, only a light on either end of the alley. She didn't need light could see fine in the dark. Sank down on the ground and stared emptily at the brick wall across the way from her.

She hoped that Brandon would understand, she was not leaving him, just had to get away for this one night was all. Closed her eyes and wrapped her arms around her legs, put her head down on her knees and stayed there. She didn't know where she was, so they would have no hope of knowing where she was either.

It was going to be a long night of emotional torment, she knew, but at least it was a clear night, and it was not raining. So didn't have to sit out and be soaking wet all night. Sat there and used her wolfs hearing to make sure she knew if anyone was coming her way. To detect if she was in any kind of danger. Or if they had found her. Didn't seem like it, although while running she had not been listening for anyone behind her.

Piper and Harper already knew that they could out run all of them, including Bradley himself. Was not particularly worried about them catching up to her, and she had not heard anyone calling out her name. It was unlikely that Cooper had followed her. Would have just returned to his phone call when she had not reacted, and moved through the humans at a normal pace. They had not run till they were out of his sight line. Nothing suspicious to be seen.

Harper had fixed her knee, before they'd left the hotel. It was aching a bit right this minute, but not so bad that it bothered her, and at least it hadn't failed her at all in her run. Turned her head to rest her cheek on her knees and just stared blankly down the alleyway. For a long time she just sat there. Lifted her head at the sight of a group of people walking into the alley.

Got up herself, did not want any trouble even with humans, it was probably nothing just a group of people cutting down the ally to get to their destination. But it was probably not the best thing to be seen alone in a darkened alley.

It was likely that they were completely harmless. She could hear them laughing and chatting. There were, however 6 of them, and so she wouldn't

risk it. She turned and walked back the way she had come from. Found herself on a street that was well lit at least, turned and walked casually along it, better to be here, she thought, than in that alley.

It really was going to be a long night, she stopped at an unusual scent, turned her head and found a tall slender woman across the street looking right at her. Sighed internally as she realised it was a vampire, a shiver ran through her. This was just what she needed. Harper's ears flattened back against her head. She did not like the way the woman was looking at them.

'not good.' she thought, and Harper agreed. It was likely on the look out for a feed. She turned and moved on. Kept her pace casual as though she was unconcerned about the woman who had been looking at her. But they could still smell the creature, that thing wouldn't be able to smell what she was, which might make it seem that no-one would miss her.

Did not panic, she'd come across Vampires before. Not all of them were bad, could simply be natural curiosity for something she couldn't scent was all. Did not allow fear to over take her. A vampire would detect fear as easily as she could herself. Though that creature would be more well tuned to a body's reaction, likely be able to detect even a sheen of sweat.

Sighed internally, knew it was following her half a block later, could still smell it. The creature liked that she was walking alone. They knew that they could not run, not even she had the speed to out run a vampire. Bloody creatures could move damned fast, faster than wolves. She also knew they were damned hard to kill, usually took more than one wolf to take even one of them down.

Needed to keep a clear head, don't react to it and stay calm. Found herself at a cross walk at a set of traffic lights. Stopped and pressed the button, that woman stepped right up next to her, felt Harper snarl inside her mind. Her wolf instincts were telling her that the situation was not going to be a good one.

Harper wanted to let that vampire know what they were, what it would be dealing with, there were, however no other wolves around, none in this country as far as she was aware. Knowing what she was would surprise this woman, but it would be unlikely to deter her if she thought they would make a good meal.

Stepped onto the crosswalk when it went green and strolled across the street, the vampire matched her casual pace, and as they stepped up onto the curb,

felt pain seer the side of her jaw. That damned vampire cut her with a fingernail. Harper was on the surface instantly, growling right at her all low and menacingly.

Turned her eyes on the creature to see her tasting their blood. She was indeed trying to determine if she was going to be a good feed or not. Registered the surprise in her face as she realised just what they were, had clearly not been expecting to see a werewolf, or taste one for that matter, had likely actually been trying to determine what she was.

“Well now, you’re a long way from home, I imagine.”

Piper didn’t say anything, her accent would give her away instantly. The vampire had an Australian accent, was from here, which meant she likely had a pack of her own close by as well, likely somewhere here in Sydney.

“All alone, too, I see.” there was a smile on her face now, she clearly liked the idea of feeding off of her. Piper had no personal grudge against the vampire, or the woman she would be here in Sydney, that the humans would know her as. But in general, most wolves and vampires did not get along. Sometimes they could, but not all, depended on many things.

This could go one of two ways; a fight which she nor Harper had any idea if they could win, they could fight but had never ever come up against a vampire and had not training in doing so either. Or a calm conversation. Was opting for the second option.

“Hello, I’m Piper Harper.” she introduced herself, hoping this vampire would know her name. These creatures were fashion addicts, it was possible that she might know who she was “and you are?”

“Hungry,” she stated with a smile “What say we make this quick and easy?”

“Let’s not,” Piper sighed “How about you and I just walk away from each other? You would want to start a war now, would you?”

“With who?” the woman turned and looked around. “I see no one with you, smell no one with you.”

“That doesn’t mean I am alone,” Piper countered. She was not affiliated at all, but she actually wasn’t alone, though she herself knew that there was no help coming for her, couldn’t even call for help. Had not brought her phone with

her, hadn't because she knew Bradley would only ring it constantly to try and get her to pick up. She'd left it at the hotel because she'd not wanted that, could now see the error of her ways.

She had not thought that she would come across any other creatures out here, but now she knew better. Saw that woman's eyes move right back to her neck, no mark was what she was registering, trying to decide if what Piper had said was true.

"I think you're alone." tilted her head "and a half breed at that." she smiled "Lets say we play a little game, you run. I'll give you a full minute head start. You might actually get away. You never know." there was full amusement in her voice, likely enjoyed the hunt, Piper supposed.

"No thank you. I'd rather not. Neither would the Alpha Wolf that is here to collect me."

Heard the woman laugh now, "You jest. No Alpha would want a half breed like you."

Harper stuck the woman all claws out before Piper realised what had even happened, had not taken kindly to the insult, it seemed. Saw the bloody claw marks across the woman's face, and knew it was too late to run. They were standing on a well lit street and shit had just hit the fan.

Piper had been violently shoved to the back of her mind, as Harper fully asserted herself to strike that vampire and Harper was still in full control. It took less than 10 seconds for the fight between her wolf and the vampire to break out, Vampire versus Wolf. The woman was very fast and very strong, latched on to them and used all her strength and speed to drag them down the street into an alleyway and then just threw them down it and away from her. It was still Harper who landed on the ground and rolled over several times before being able to get up.

When she got up, all her claws were out and a massive snarl ripped right out of her, as all of fight instincts kicked in. She, however, did not move, and kept Piper locked away inside the back of her own mind. Wanted the vampire to come to her.

Trying to gauge speed and ability, they had no idea how old this creature was, though trying to feed on them out in the open like this, likely indicated that she was only young and still impulsive at that. From what they did know of

vampires, most would not feed in full view of the public, to risky in outing their own kind, punishable by their own laws.

Saw her move, come at Harper, who dodged at the very last second, but whipped her claws out in the woman's direction, sliced through the flesh on her side, heard the hiss of pain, turned to face her, pain searing them as well. They had not been the only one to snap a hand out, the woman had anticipated her dodge and lashed out as well.

Those claws had cut deep, and she was already coming back for Harper. Her eyes glowed the palest of blue she'd ever seen, her creature on the surface. They had no idea if they could win, but they were going to try. They had Brandon to think about. Pulled on all they had learned in warrior training.

Forced Harper to allow her some control, to assist with the fight, used the small area of the alley to their advantage, their agility training and the fact that this creature would move so fast in such a small area it could go against them. There were parked cars and a couple of large dumpsters here.

Felt more pain sear into them as that vampire lashed out at them, she was to fast and keeping tack of her was hard to do. Though it did appear she could not control herself completely, hit the alley wall and cried out in pain, didn't seem to be able to stop in time, indicative of a young and untrained vampire.

A blessing, was going to use that to their advantage. Agility was something they were very good at, used her wolf's full speed to run from one side of the alley to the other, pivot turn at the last second and run back the other, to test the vampires' reflexes and training, only to hear the vampire hit the wall.

Took full advantage of this knowledge, slashed her claws into the creature and shot to the other side of the alley again. It only worked 3 times, before the vampire stopped and snarled at her, had learned already what she was doing and didn't like it.

The creature suddenly roared in frustration and anger. She was bleeding in several places, as was Harper. They had traded blow for blow, but all they could do was try to out manoeuvre this creature and hopefully damage it enough for it to flee and need to heal. But it was clear the creature was hungry, and she would need to feed to heal herself.

That was the difference between them. Harper could heal at will and was actively doing so, though it was slow going during a battle. The vampire could not. For every drop of blood it lost, it would need to feed to recover it.

She watched as the creature lost all control of itself, and was running on pure instinct and its desperate need to feed to heal itself had taken over everything else. It moved so damned fast that they dodged too late and it was on them, had its claws buried into both her shoulders as it slammed them up against the wall. This did not stop Harper from slashing at the woman's abdomen, not even when she felt the vampires' fangs sink into their flesh and start to feed off of them.

A howl of pain ripped out of her, they were pinned by a creature that was stronger and faster than they were, and it was literally sucking the life out of them. Had to fight with all they had, slashed with both hands all claws out to gut this creature, she was too young to understand that to feed on a wolf you had to do it from behind, to keep those wolves' claws out of you.

Sliced her right open, tore into that creature's abdomen and kept ripping and slicing, could feel blood pouring from her, could feel the creature's strength dwindling, it didn't realise it was dying. Too busy feeding, in a blood lust to understand it was actually losing the battle.

Finally, felt those fangs pull from her neck and saw it stumble backwards, uncertain as to why she couldn't feed, as to what had happened to her.

Then she looked down at herself with utter shock at seeing her innards spilling out of her, grabbed at them with her hands as to hold them in and gasped. Harper took the opportunity to launch herself at the creature, clamp her hands around its head and snap the creature's neck.

They slumped down onto the ground on top of the creature as it fell down, itself lifeless, lay there for a moment exhausted, they had never had to fight like this before, and that thing which was turning grey before their eyes had fed off of them, goddess only knew how much blood they had lost, but they had already been injured and now they were tired. Harper receded all the way and Piper was left lying on the bloody mess of a creature.

Pushed herself up and off the vampire, crawled away to the side of the alley way and leaned on the wall, she was too tired and too injured to go anywhere, if that things people came for it, she'd never survive it. Had barely survived this

one. And likely only because it was young and untrained. Probably only freshly turned.

The thing's lack of control said it all, it had not grown up as a vampire, they had rules, just like wolves did. Piper closed her eyes, she was done and she knew it, had lost too much blood to get up and try to move on down the alley way for help, could feel the darkness closing in around her.

"I'm sorry Brandon." she murmured as darkness claimed her.

Chapter 49 - Unscentable

Bradley POV

Bradley was staring at his phone, he had sent that text message to Piper, in the small hope that she would actually agree to see him. He knew she'd been in his pack for years and he'd not scented her. It would never have been a nice feeling, but he wanted her to know that he wanted to try, that so did his wolf. They wanted to come face to face with her and try to scent her out.

Wondered if she'd allow him to remove that pendant and see if that was all it would take, but at the same time did not want to either. What if he was as affected by her not wearing it as any other male out there, what if he tried to hurt her if she wasn't wearing it? Sighed he needed bloody answers.

He and Benson had no recollection of Piper being near them at all, all memories of her were gone from him, and all because wolves relied on their sense of smell to recall who other wolves were, it was just a natural thing for them, not something they ever focused on doing was their nature.

Harry was in his room with the door closed, he'd picked up the phone call and practically purred down the line at his Mate, excused himself and retired to his room. Bradley had felt jealous of the man, their bond was so strong, even his wolf could be heard purring as he'd closed the door. All for his Mate. Been together as a couple for 19 years, Mated for 16 of those years and still couldn't keep their hands off of each other.

Cooper had excused himself about 10 minutes ago after receiving a text message. He had looked right at Brad and, for the first time ever, actually looked a little uncomfortable, as though he didn't want Brad to know who he was talking to. Then had stood up and excused himself, stated he needed to

call home, on a private matter, and actually left the suite altogether, from Brads hearing he'd left the entire floor as well.

Eddie, of course, was with Izzy, no real surprise there.

So it was just Brad Prowling around inside his room and he had retired to his room and closed the door to text Piper. Now he was hoping that she would get back to him. He knew she was in her room, had asked Eddie as much a minute after he'd sent that text and he'd gotten back a 'Yes, in her room pacing around...Brandon is asleep already.'

That did not really surprise him, though Piper had gone back to her suite this morning and crashed out after this morning's run, as had he for that matter. Brandon had not, he'd hung out with Izzy and Eddie all morning playing games on the PS5, and not napped at all. The boy had a long day and an emotionally draining afternoon. He was just 7 and was likely both physically and emotionally drained.

Hearing that she was pacing around inside of her room could only mean that she had gotten his text and read it. That she was likely stressing about it, either didn't know what to do about it, or how to respond to it. There was also the chance that she was not going to do anything about it at all.

Bradley and Benson at least wanted to try and smell her. Perhaps just knowing what she was to them, would help that. He had no idea if that would count or not. Had emailed Timothy about the Whitlock way of allowing their Mate to scent them, seeing that it was a full moon. But the man had yet to reply to him.

He hated that time difference right now. It was the middle of the night over there in Canada, barely 3am in the Ice Moon Pack. Timothy was unlikely to get his email for several more hours. At least 3, perhaps even 4 if he headed off and went right to training first thing in the morning.

Which is what Bradley would normally do. It's what most wolves normally did. He never really strolled into his office inside the pack until 8am, and would get to his office in Helen at about 10, so it could be a long wait. Didn't want to call and wake the man at this point.

If Piper was not going to allow him to actually come face to face with her there was no need. However, if he could convince her, he'd put a call into Timothy right away, and would do it in front of Piper so she could hear the way it was

done and see if she was up for it. He honestly didn't know if she would be. Likely still want more time, need it.

Sighed as the moon was about to set, she was not going to answer him, not going to text him back anything at all. He'd sent that text a long time ago now, his gut was telling him she was not ready. It was completely possible that she had put herself right before him every single time there was a full moon and been completely crushed by his lack of recognition.

It was highly likely that she was down there in her room, right this minute, not wanting to put herself through that all over again and he honestly couldn't blame her for it. It would have been bloody painful each and every time. This full moon was going to have to pass and he was going to have to try again on the next one. Didn't like it but had no choice in it. She wasn't ready to deal with him. Wasn't ready to accept them yet. Though had not uttered a new rejection, he had some hope, that she was considering it.

'Brad,' Cooper mind-linked him 'Is Piper still in her room?'

'As far as I am aware, why?' he returned with a frown.

'I don't know...saw a woman leave, I couldn't tell but...' sounded confused.

That got Bradley's attention. 'Couldn't tell?' he prompted.

'Back of her only, but I don't know. I called out, didn't respond. It might not be her.'

'Wait.' he informed his Beta and mind-link to Eddie. The man was bloody busy 'Edward.' he snarled down the line, if the man was busy with his Mate then he was not listening for Piper! 'Is Piper still there?'

'Um...' there was a short pause, he knew the man was now trying to detect her inside the suite, 'Shit, no. I'm sorry Brad.'

'Get up.' he roared at the man. 'She left the damned building, you had one bloody job Edward.' he severed the link and reconnected to Cooper, 'It was her Cooper.'

'I'm on it already, but I can't track what I can't scent or see.'

Which meant to Brad that she had gotten away from his Beta, he'd actually lost sight of her. How the hell did you track something with no scent, in a city this size?

"Harry, Edward let Piper leave, she's gone." He snarled as he stepped out of his room and headed for the door.

"Idiot." Harry muttered as he came out of his room pulling his shoes on.

"Izzy bloody distracted him."

"You can't blame him for that, Brad, with the full moon on us and all."

"I'm aware, it's a bloody full moon Harry." and he was more so than any other one that had passed in his life time.

'Cooper any luck?' he asked his Beta

'Tracking the sound of running footsteps, but she's fast boss Harper, not Piper I think.'

Just bloody great, he thought, he'd seen Harper at 20klms an hour, that wolf could run like the bloody wind and for a long bloody time. 'Where are you?'

'I don't know, tracking my phone might be the best option. I need quiet.' he replied.

Brad understood that comment and cut the link, so his Beta could better focus. He could not listen to Brad down the mind-link and listen for the sound of running footsteps at the same time. This was a nightmare.

Though he had not said anything about Brandon, so presumably he was still up in the suite, sighed it was possible she was just out for a night run under the full moon. Wolves did like to run under the full moon, but his gut was telling him that this was not that.

She had been in her room, till he'd texted her. He'd scared her off and he knew it. He should have just waited, it was too soon, she'd only known about him and their bond still being in tact for a single day. He was an idiot.

He should have tried to get to know her first, let this moon pass, but he just couldn't. He had been looking for her for a very long time, wanted his Mate.

Wanted to see if he could scent her out now that he knew who she was to him.

Chastised himself for being too impatient, he was as bad as Eddie was, he now realised. Unable to bloody help himself, it seemed he just had to push to get what he wanted, just like Eddie had with Izzy.

Got a very apologetic look from his Gamma when he caught up with them in the lobby. "Sorry Alpha. I did check on her like 15 minutes ago."

"It's fine Eddie." Brad acknowledged him, he couldn't blame the man, "I'm the one who scared her off."

"What? How? How'd you even know she was gone?" Eddie asked him.

"Cooper was in the lobby, thought that he saw her. He wasn't sure, so I asked you."

"Alright...how'd you scare her off?"

Bradley looked right at him, could see the concern in his Gamma now, the man was worried about her, "I texted her. To let me see her." sighed "It's the full moon."

"Oh, I don't think she's ready for that yet, Brad." the man was now frowning.

"Clearly not," he nodded "now she's running away."

"I don't think so, Brandon's still up stairs. Maybe just freaked out over it. She'll come back."

"Where's Cooper?" Harry interrupted them. They'd passed through the lobby and were now outside on the foot path looking for any signs of the man.

"Tracking her as best he can. Don't mind-link to him. He can't scent her. Is actually tracking the sound of running foot fall. He needs to focus completely. Said to track his phone."

"On it." Harry nodded.

On the bright side, they could do that in real time nowadays. "Eddie, go get the car." he tossed the keys at him. "You'll be driving." Eddie was gone.

He turned and looked at Harry's phone. Loved the real time app. Created by some Alpha wolf to keep track of his Mate who was always defiant and going wherever she pleased when ever she wanted, without telling him. Thanked the Goddess that Alpha's were constantly paranoid about their Mate's being snatched away from them by a rival.

He frowned down at the line that was still moving, it was not even close to being straight. He sighed because he was right. This was not just some night run. "She's smart, knows if we can't see her, we can't track her." it looked like she was just turning random corners and quickly so, likely trying to stay out of sight.

Cooper was back tracking a bit on himself, from what he could tell, her constant changing of direction confusing him, but the man was still on the move it seemed.

"It's pretty busy out tonight," Harry commented.

"Only here, likely not there."

Their car pulled up and they got in, to go track Cooper. It took 30 minutes to do so. Couldn't exactly take their car down every road that he ran down. Some of them were one way. They had tried to use the GPS to his location, but because he was on the move, didn't really work with no set location.

When they did catch up to him, he was standing in the middle of the street pavement, his eyes closed and his head tilted slightly to the right. They pulled up right next to him, it was a quiet street, double parked the car.

"Cooper?" Brad asked him.

His eyes opened "Lost her, I think she stopped running." he sighed "Harper is too fast, and we all know she can run for ever."

"Is she close?"

"I think so," he nodded, "though I never actually saw her, not once. And she is running randomly, could be blocks away for all I know. I suggest we search on foot, calmly, so as not to alert her."

"She'll scent us quickly, if she is alert for us coming after her." Brad sighed.

“Yes.” Cooper nodded “But if we’re all listening for running foot fall, we’ll get her pinned down. Who’s with Brandon?” he asked as he looked in the car and realised the whole unit was here.

“Izzy.” Bradley sighed and got out of the car. “I need you all out here.” He didn’t think that even Piper would know where she was at the moment, just ran at full wolf speed out in the open for all to see, turned corner after corner, they were a good 10klm for the actual hotel.

“Guess her knee is better,” Cooper muttered. As Eddie actually parked the car.

They split into two groups, he and Cooper, Eddie and Harry. “If you feel anything Eddie, I want to know, no matter how slight.” he stared right at the man pointedly. The man had told him nothing for years and granted he had his reasons not to, but no longer would Bradley stand for that. Watched his Gamma just nod before walking away with Harry.

Turned and looked up the street in the other direction. “I pushed her Coop. To see me.”

“To soon for her, in other words,” the man commented, but said nothing else.

His eyes were open, shut his sense of smell down and Benson was alert for the sound of running foot fall. He did not like this, not being able to scent her. Was this how it was always going to be? Even inside the pack, presuming he could get her there. Never knowing where she was, if she was alright at any given point in time “I’m going to have to, lo jack my own Mate.” he muttered after 10 minutes of searching and getting nothing.

“Not once you Mark her, Brad.” Coop commented “You’ll be able to feel her through your bond then.”

“And till then?” Brad suddenly stopped and touched his jaw as it zinged him, frowned.

“What is it?” Cooper asked.

“I don’t know.” he shook his head, “it’s gone.”

“Piper?”

“Likely.” Brad nodded “Felt like I’d nicked myself shaving. Just brief.”

“That could help with finding her.”

“Maybe, I might be able to feel her physical pain, but that doesn’t mean I will be able to track her with it. And I don’t want her to be injured.” and he didn’t. There was no guarantee that her being injured meant he could feel a pull towards her, and if that was the case, they still couldn’t scent her, so she’d be injured and he’d not be able to find her, regardless of the pain he felt.

His head whipped around and a snarl ripped right out of him, all Benson, as pain shot through the pair of them.

“Brad?”

He was horrified at the feeling of his arm coming under vice like pressure and then felt multiple aches all over his body. “She’s in a fight somewhere. Find the sound of the fight.” he snapped out, closing his own eyes, trying to hear it with all of Benson’s Alpha hearing, it was more sensitive than others.

‘Alpha, I’m getting Anger, no...fury and rage.’ it was Eddie

‘Where? She’s in a fight?’

‘I don’t know...to my right.’

‘Go.’ Bradley snapped, though it was likely the man was already on the move.

He got nothing but more pain, gasped out loud when pain started to sear down his body in more places than one.

“Brad?”

“Feels like claws.”

“Other worldly?”

They were already heading back the way they came, to where they had last seen Eddie, but the man had said to the right of him, but he didn’t exactly know where his Gamma was right that minute. Used that tether to him, he was a fair way away and moving fast, though coming back this way towards them.

He could feel every damned blow she was taking, it was a serious fight, kept moving, stopped on every corner to listen, finally picked it up 3 blocks after the first pain had hit him, "I got it." he muttered and shot off the mark in the direction he could hear the fight, they were likely still a few blocks away though.

Heard the sound of a massive angry roar. It was high pitched and hurt his ears. It was no wolf, so not Piper or Harper.

"Vampire, Brad." Cooper snarled.

Bradley knew he was right. Not only did he detect it in that high pitched noise they made, which was still hurting his ears, he could now smell it, in the area as well. They breathed in deep to see how many. Only one scent he could detect, thankfully.

But could Piper and Harper handle one? He had no idea, not many could handle a Vampire one on one, they were super fast and strong, and that thing had sounded furious, likely she had injured it and it had not taken kindly to it.

Hit the ground, actually stumbled and fell down as pain ripped into his neck, fear struck him to the core as he realised it was feeding on her "GO." he roared she was losing the battle.

Felt Benson surge forward completely, pushed right past that pain of her life being drained away from her and forced them up off the ground.

With all his wolf's senses activated as Benson took complete control, they were suddenly hit with the smell of blood, so much blood both Vampire and Wolf. A massive snarl ripped out of him and they were gone. Benson shot passed Cooper as her scent hit him. They could smell her, her blood, to be precise, and along with it was the scent he'd never been able to smell.

It was so very sweet, his nose filled with the smell of apricot nectar, honey and orange blossoms, so very soft and delicate. They hit the lane way and Benson shot round the corner into it, there was so much blood, it was all over the place.

A tall female body lay on the ground about a quarter of the way down the alley. She was dead and he could already see that the body was turning grey and starting to decay. There would be no evidence within 5 to 10 minutes, that body would slowly disintegrate to nothing but ash.

They could see and smell Piper's blood on that foul creature's mouth, from where it had fed on their Mate. He was furious about that would have ripped its head clean off if it had still been alive for hurting her. Its lifeless eyes were staring down the alley at him, Piper or Harper had managed to kill it, it was gutted and the things neck had been snapped, but had they been too late?

Found her unconscious body slumped over on her side by the wall of the alley, she had bloodied wounds to both her shoulders, and fang marks in her neck where that foul creature had fed on her. Slash marks to her torso and both her arms, had bruises on both arms below the sleeves of her tee-shirt and that tee-shirt was pretty much torn to shreds.

Bradley knelt down in front of her Benson had receded, whined in pain at the sight of his Mate so very badly injured and unconscious. He touched her face gently. "Piper?" Her name came out as a bare whisper, it pained him just as much as his wolf to see her like this.

He picked up her heart still beating and she was breathing, shallow but still there. Still alive but so badly injured and there was no pack near by to take her to for medical treatment. He couldn't take her to a human hospital, no blood would match hers, and there would be a million questions he'd not be able to explain.

"Fuck." It was Cooper. He'd finally caught up just a few seconds behind Bradley. "Get the car." he heard his Beta roar, knew on some level he was yelling at Eddie or Harry, didn't care to look to see who.

"I can smell her Coop."

Cooper was next to him, reached out and touched her neck "This is not good, Bradley."

"I know, we need to move her."

"We need to get her back in the pack. She'd not going to like it though. You said you can smell her? You mean to scent her as your Mate?" Cooper was looking right at him.

"Yes," he nodded. The only difference between now and all those other times were her injuries. "Likely it's her blood, probably have to scent her blood to realise she's my Mate."

“Interesting. Could be how the Whitlock’s do that.” Cooper nodded.

Brad took his shirt off. “Help me change her to something half decent.”

They stripped her ruined tee-shirt off of her and Brad put his over her, picked her up ‘Med Kit?’

Cooper sighed and shook his head. “Still in her car, not ours.”

“We can’t very well walk her into the hotel like this,” Brad muttered. She was not just covered in her blood but that vampires as well, his eyes moved to the creature decaying on the ground. “How long do you think we have before others turn up?”

“I don’t know. That depends on how close to the pack we are, though I don’t feel as though we’re in someone’s pack territory. But we should hightail it out of here fast.” watched him looking the creature over, “I’m guessing it was young, didn’t attack from behind, so not trained well.”

“We’ll head right for the airport.” Bradley stated he was not interested in doing battle with vampires.

“Got to get that thing’s blood off her first, they’ll track the scent right to us otherwise. And when they find this alley, that’s what they will do.”

“Right.” Finally, the car pulled up, Coop opened the door and they got in. “Roll up the windows tight.” he ordered, they would keep the scent from escaping as best they could.

“Sweet Goddess. Brandon’s going to lose it Brad.” He heard Eddie’s concern.

“Our suite for cleaning and patching up. Then out of this country before we’re out numbered and we will be.”

Cooper was already on the phone, calling the pilot. He saw “Harry you’ll pack our suite and fast, Eddie.”

“I got it, Izzy and Brandon plus all their stuff, Alpha.” he stated before Brad could even get it out “What do I tell Brandon?”

“I don’t know.” he shook his head, and he didn’t know he needed more thought on that.

He saw Harry take Eddie's phone, and heard him call Izzy while Eddie was driving. He explained the issue to her as best he could. Eddie told her to pack everything and not to wake Brandon at this point. That they had to leave asap due to circumstances not to argue.

Chapter 50 - Unscentable

Bradley POV

The minute the car was parked, Cooper was out the door and going for the med kit. Brad got out and took Piper up the stairs. It was the only way to get her upstairs without any others seeing, Eddie and Harry were in front of him making sure the doors to other floors in the stair well were closed and kept that way on their way up.

Eddie peeled off on the 6th floor to head for Pipers suite, and help Izzy to finish packing and get both of them downstairs and out of the hotel. Izzy had sounded horrified over the phone, didn't seem to really understand, but had agreed to pack what she could. Said she wouldn't wake Brandon at this point. Agreed that he needed to be kept calm.

Brad did not want Aspen bursting out of him here in the hotel, though he was going to have to be told at some point, didn't even know if the boy knew vampires were real, didn't know what he thought at all about otherworldly creatures.

Likely the best person to explain this to him was going to be Izzy. Brandon trusted her completely, and though she, too, didn't understand everything yet. The woman had simply accepted Eddie being a werewolf, likely helped that she already knew two and could see they were not monsters. So hopefully she would understand and be able to explain. Maybe if Eddie was there that too would help.

Got to his suite and took Piper right to the bathroom, stripped off the shirt. She wasn't going to like the fact that they had tended to her and stripped her naked to do so, but was going to have to deal with it. They didn't have much choice though. Had to get to her wounds and to wash that vampire's blood off of her as well.

Cooper was already running water and dousing the hotel towel, so she could be washed down, dumped them on the floor next to Brad, then opened the med kit and started pulling out combine dressings and tape, used gauze to

wipe one wound at a time, she needed a few staples to her arms and side. Put pressure over the bite wound, to actually make it stop bleeding. It had mostly stopped but was still oozing slowly, Bard had been putting pressure on it himself the whole drive back to the hotel. Then it to was washed and dressed.

The med kit was filled with Primapore adhesive dressings of all shapes and sizes, and once every wound was cleaned and the edges realigned and pressed back together, dressings were applied. Then they set about actually completely washing her down.

Stripped her shoes, socks and jeans off, rinsed out her hair and put one of Brad's clean dress shirts on her, made sure it was a long sleeved one, so as to hide the various wounds from Brandon's eyes until everything could be explained to him.

Coop bagged all the bloody clothing, while Brad put Piper on the bed, stripped out of his blood-stained clothes and then tossed them at Cooper to be bagged as well. Then he showered quickly to get rid of any scent of that vampire's blood on him transferred from Piper's body to his as he'd carried her.

Stood looking at her, she'd not so much as even flinched while she'd been attended to. Unconscious still, it was likely that she had lost a lot of blood, they didn't pack blood, and it was unlikely that West would have any on his plane either. Transfusion's were always done inside pack hospitals and the closest one was 24 hours away, would have to land and then be driven to the closed allied pack. Though it was possible that West could have his doctor waiting at the airport.

Would have to call him once they were in the air. Bradley could only hope that she'd be alright, doubted Cooper had the medical training for such a thing anyway. Maybe he should have the man do that, even if they didn't carry blood, a live transfusion could be done, if the man knew how, and they had the gear to do it.

"Ready," Harry called out.

"Let's go then." Brad stated and picked Piper up once more. She still didn't flinch, though he could hear her heart beating still and her breathing was better. Looked at Cooper as they headed out the door. He was their Medic.

“She’ll likely be out a while, depending on how much blood she lost.” was all he said.

“Where’s Eddie?” he asked as he got in the car.

“On his way, he’s got Brandon, didn’t wake the boy, not properly anyway.”

“Probably for the best.” Brad nodded.

“Harry go with Eddie, you drive so he can stay with the boy. If he wakes up completely, Izzy is to tell him we’re headed home. That Piper is in our car, he can see her on the plane.”

“Right.”

The minute Cooper was in the car, they were gone. He was looking for signs of vampires as they drove out of the underground car park, saw nothing on the street, but that did not mean, shit wasn’t about to get real ugly.

He kept his eyes peeled, knew Brandon would be alright, there was no scent on that car at all. It was why he’d kept them separated. Bradley also knew Eddie and Harry would protect both Izzy and Brandon with all they had if something did go down.

Also knew Harry would not tail them directly behind, would travel further back and not look like the two vehicles were travelling together, in case he and Cooper were set upon, also knew that Harry would drive on past, would not stop his car to help till they were well passed. Likely get out and double back on foot, have Izzy drive Brandon away to the airport and the waiting jet, to keep them both safe.

It was not a long trip, thankfully, and there was only light traffic, being that it was near 2300 on a Sunday night, a good thing. Only 15 minutes. Both cars pulled up at the terminal and the pilot was waiting for them. “I’ll return the cars with Harry.” Cooper stated as he opened the door to let Brad out, and then hauled the luggage out.

He looked over at Izzy and Eddie getting out, her eyes were on him. Well, on Piper, she was still only dressed in one of his shirts, but she was tiny compared to him, so it was long enough to be like a dress on her.

“unconscious still.” he told Izzy as she came over.

“What happened to her?”

His eyes moved to Brandon. The boy was restless as Eddie carried him. “Let’s get them both settled Izzy, then you can get a full account of details.”

“Is she going to be alright?”

“I hope so.” he sighed. Because he had no idea if she would survive it or not.

Thankfully, West had a bedroom on his plane, so he could lay her down comfortably to help the healing process. Walked right onto the jet and to that bedroom, lay her down in the bed, Eddie put Brandon right next to her, and he watched as the boy rolled over and curled right into her like he knew she was there. Wondered if he could scent his own mother, it certainly did seem that way.

“Did you see anything, Eddie?”

“No. all clear at this point. But they will scent wolves, when they find that alley way.”

“I know, that’s why we are leaving.”

“We need to be wheels up Brad, like now. So they can’t track the flight.”

“I know, soon as Coop and Harry are back, we’re gone.”

It took another 20 minutes for them to come back. Bradley was pacing around inside the plane, Eddie was prowling around just outside the plane on the tarmac. They did not need vampires tracking them back to their pack and looking to seek revenge. He had no idea who had started the fight, though he doubted very much it would have been Piper.

She would not risk herself, not with Brandon to look after, and that first nick he’d felt, to his jaw, likely was the vampire. It wouldn’t have known what she was, unable to scent her, that nick was to taste her blood and see what she was, determine if she was drinkable. He was not happy about that thought.

Bradley was pretty darn certain there were no wolves here in Australia, or at least not that he knew of. But other creatures, who knew what else lived here? Vampires could blend in anywhere in the world, and likely out here, didn’t see

many otherworldly creatures that would be able to take them on, so a safe haven.

They were wheels up 15 minutes later after getting runway clearance, and still no sign of vampires that they could see or detect. Perhaps that creature was out on its own a long way from its pack, or perhaps, like Piper, it was a rogue always on its own. He sat in a chair and stared out the window.

This was not good. He was pretty certain from the injuries that it was a fight not to be fed on only, he did not think that the vampire was trying to turn Piper, likely only killing her, but that didn't mean he shouldn't worry about that bite. It was on the right side of her neck, at least away from where he would Mark her.

Bradley was tempted to get up and go in there and claim the woman even though she was unconscious. He had no idea when she would wake up, or if he'd be able to continue to scent her as he could now, once the full moon was over. Though usually once scented it did remain, he was hoping that now he had scented the woman, he would always be able to.

Eddie was sitting with Izzy, she was leaned into him and looked very comfortable with him, though she also looked very worried at the same time. He knew Eddie would be able to feel her worry, though not be able to use his Gamma's charm on her to ease her worry. Perhaps the man's presence was enough.

Izzy actually looked quite comfortable around the lot of them, had just accepted what they all were. Though he was pretty certain that was Piper's doing. That she had likely been talking to Izzy since she'd met Eddie and he'd not been able to charm her. Piper would have known what that meant and after Izzy's sister's wedding, Piper would have been certain she was Eddie's Mate.

Piper had helped Eddie on more than one occasion now, regardless of her own situation and her thoughts on wolves, she'd helped to assimilate Izzy into their world, her old world and in such a way that the woman had simply just accepted it. Perhaps, living with humans all this time, she just knew how to explain it to them. Without scaring them.

He stood and walked to the bedroom, stepped inside and closed the door, sank down on the bed next to her, sighed heavily as he looked at her and then

Brandon, his family, who didn't have anything to do with him. He hated that thought. The pair of them out there all alone.

Turned his eyes back to Piper. Her life it seemed, was never easy when around wolves, had a terrible up bringing inside his pack after the age of ten, neither his father, nor he when he'd taken over had done anything to help her.

Had been living a peaceful human life outside of the pack away from wolves, in the human world, and then once wolves appeared in her life yet again, became terrible once more. He brushed some of her hair from her face and just looked down at her. Seems she had a good reason to hate her own kind. To live away from them, he hoped he could change that for her, wanted too.

Bradley's eyes moved to his son, 7 years old and no life at all inside a pack, no good experience with wolves himself. A rogue status like his mother, though the boy did not smell to him like a rogue, likely was going to be just like his mother. Had the same colouring, the hair, the same persona. But he'd seen just how happy the boy was with her. In all those photos. Hoped he could be that happy inside the pack too.

Only when Brandon actually opened his eyes did he even resemble him at all, though he had seen himself in the boy when he smiled all big, like he had on the treadmill. The boy's smile was more him than Piper.

Brad had not yet really gotten to know Brandon, not gotten to spend any real time with him, he was attached to his mother and likely whatever she wanted he was going to want as well. He was so stubborn, just like her, the way he'd turned his eyes on him accusatory said it all, he was going to be a handful and always on his mother's side.

Bonding with Brandon was necessary, though he was very proud of his son for being so protective that one accusation at lunch had said it all. Not only was he ticked off, but so was his wolf about him, not loving their mother. Wondered just how hard it was going to be to bond with both of them.

He had certainly gotten all his mannerisms from Piper and Harper, though from what Alpha Timothy had said, Aspen was recent to the boy, but wolves were born with quite a bit of knowledge, including the Mate Bond. That was likely why he had looked at Bradley the way he had done.

Closed his eyes and relaxed as he sat there on the bed next to them, just breathed in her scent, so sweet and delicate, she smelled amazing. Opened

his eyes and looked down at her again. Smiled to himself, then just leaned right down to her ear and growled softly to her, both he and Benson together “Mine.” claiming her for themselves. Kissed her temple softly and then sat back up to keep watch over her.