

Chapter 56 - Unscentable

Eddie POV

Watching Izzy contain Aspen, he didn't even see so much as a scratch on the woman, not one tiny little nick, all of Aspen's claws had retracted in fact, to make sure that he didn't hurt her. They loved her, he realised, way more than he'd thought, as much as their own mother in all likelihood.

He had not even survived unscathed, little Aspen was a ball of fury. The moment he'd seen Brad come into that plane's bedroom to collect Piper, he had not liked being separated from his mother at all.

Aspen and Brandon were calmer, and much so, with Izzy holding on to him, though watching her was a curiosity in itself. He had seen her snarl at both him and Cooper, even Timbers' head had been whipped up when she had done so back in Hawaii. Then to see her bow down here in the pack hospital, at Aspens Alpha Aura, he was rolling out of him unchecked at any and all wolves that he was seeing, all those wolves had freaked the poor kid out completely.

Izzy had bared her neck and then dropped right down on to her knees. It was not a human thing to do, though she was crying in pain from it, that was a human thing, he'd still be trying to contain the boy himself, from lashing out at the other wolves around him. All his claws were back out, and Izzy, though had been able to contain him at the airport, just stepped back away from him inside the pack.

She knew on pure instinct she was not going to be able to contain him, he couldn't help her and all the pack members at the same time while trying to hold on to the furious Alpha pup in his arms. He had tried to use a hand to push her away and out of the Aura, but found she was just outside of his reach.

Thankfully, Brad had come back and talked to the boy, redirected his attention and the boy's wolf's Aura had been solely directed at Brad himself, something he could clearly handle, unlike some of the wolves inside the hospital and Izzy herself, he had two nurses bared to him and Izzy on the ground.

Eddie stepped away from Brandon, there was nothing more he could do. Brad was going to have to deal with his son on his own, so he knelt down and picked her up off the floor the moment she was released from Aspen.

Watched as Brad had walked off with a still fighting Aspen, he'd taken two hits from his own sons wolf, all claws out and Eddie doubted very much this would be the only thing the man got. He knew Brad would not want to hurt the boy, so he had taken the hits without so much as a thought of punishing the boy, couldn't do it, would only build animosity between them and ruin any chance of a proper bond.

Izzy had looked up at him, and then just stepped right into him, hugged him to herself, not even said anything at all about what had just happened. Seemed to be just relieved to get up off the floor. It was odd, he was expecting her to be in excruciating pain, in need of medical attention even, but there was no blood dripping from her nose or ears, she didn't hold her head as though she had the worst headache in the entire world. Neither had she been rendered unconscious either, it was very odd.

It didn't seem like she needed a doctor at all, and when he asked her if she was alright, she'd just nodded and stated "I'm okay." not an ounce of pain in her, it was odd to say the least. Cooper had come down the hall some time later and told him he had to take Izzy up to his room and keep her there at Brads' order for now.

Eddie didn't mind the idea, and would love to have her all to himself for days on end, but he was curious as to why the order so had asked, but via the mind-link, in case it was not something he wanted Izzy to hear.

'She's not entirely human Eddie,' had come the reply.

'She is of no threat, Cooper. I might need her to contain Aspen later.'

'I am aware of that, just for now is all, till we understand what she is.'

'Alright.' Eddie hadn't really argued with the Beta, and being alone with Izzy was no chore for him or Timber for that matter. Liked being alone with her. Smiled to himself, she was going to sleep like a baby after they were done with her. Heard Timber chortle inside his mind and knew his wolf was more than happy about being locked in a room with their little human, not so human Mate.

His wolf felt something different about her too, likely she would turn on the next full moon. But as to what even Timber wasn't so certain of, though he did not care, only that he was going to have a counterpart himself to mate in shifted form, that excited him a lot. Though he had loved Mating Izzy in their

human form and had been well satisfied by her, it was always nice for their wolf to have their own shifter Mate.

They had not gotten to Mate Izzy on the full moon and he had known that she'd wanted to, she had been the one to instigate everything that night. If Piper had not run off, he and Timber would have let her Mate the hell out of them with all she'd had for as long as she had wanted to. Would have loved every damned minute of it, even knew she'd wanted to be in control. Likely would have let her, he supposed, though Timber snorted at that idea he was a very dominant wolf, liked to be in full control had loved dominating Izzy.

He walked her out of the pack hospital and to the pack-house. It was only next door, a short 5 minute walk across the front of the pack-house, watched her look around and smiled at her curiosity, heard her say "That's a nice hotel."

"Not a hotel." Eddie informed her. "It's the pack-house, where all the ranked members live, if they want to. You and I have a suite on the top floor."

Watched her look up to the top floor, the pack-house was only 3 storeys high, it was made of black brick and had black marbled columns out the front by the entrance, everything inside was ultra modern and kept updated with new technologies, the floors were all black marble tiles now, the walls were a soft cream to keep it from being too dark. Bradley had replaced all the windows two years ago with single pane glass, gave great views of the pack from wherever anyone stood, none of them actually opened, were all double insulated for the cold winter months.

They were not so large a pack that they needed a massive building for a pack-house. It housed only 60 members, most preferred to live in the low rise apartments built around the town, dotted around the lake, or in actual single dwellings with their family's.

"What?" she'd brought her eyes back to him.

"It's where we will live," he smiled right down at her "We have a whole house up there. So to speak, a 4 bedroom apartment you'll love it. Come on. I can't show you around the pack right now, but will do the minute I get permission."

"Permission?"

“Yes.” Eddie nodded to her, sighed just a little “Just you and me for now, that will likely change when Piper wakes up. She’ll over rule Bradley in your regard, I imagine.”

“Wait, what? I thought Bradley always got what he wanted?” sarcasm had dripped off the last part of the sentence.

“Please Izzy, don’t speak like that. Do you recall what happened the last time you decided to yell at Brad?”

She said nothing, but he could sense her anger on the rise. She was still mad at the man for always getting his way. It would seem that way to her, she didn’t yet understand the wolfen ways or laws. He might as well spend this time with her educating her on their rules and respect and who it must be shown to. Hope that she would understand.

He walked her up the three flights of stairs to the top floor, where he heard her mutter “don’t you have an elevator?”

Chuckled softly, “Yes baby we do, I just thought, the stair would give you a chance to see the pack-house in all its glory.”

“ Oh,” was her only remark.

“We’ll use the elevator next time.” he laughed and walked her down the corridor, and rounded the corner to go down to the Alpha and Alpha’s Unit quarters, only to find both his parents standing outside the door to his very suite. They both glanced at him briefly, smiling, then their eyes turned to Izzy. He saw his mother smile so very big and clutch at his father's arm.

Felt Izzy’s eyes on him, “My parents,” he told her.

Then they were on her. His mother Tia, was pulling the girl right in for a big hug and telling her how very happy she was to meet her, that she was glad she’d forgiven him for being a bit of a brute. Saw Izzy shrug it off with a chuckle herself.

His father was a bit more reserved and shook the woman’s hand, but greeted her warmly with a big happy smile. He shooed them away a few minutes later.

“They seem nice.” she smiled up at him as they walked into his suite, their suite now.

“They love you already.” he smiled right back at her.

“Does everyone just accept complete strangers around here?”

“No, but Mate’s yes. Your family now and not just to me, but to everyone, respect will be given to you automatically.”

“Because of who you are? Right!” she was frowning at him now.

He nodded, wasn’t going to lie to her about that one. “ You will make friends of your own. Though I will introduce you to Betsie, Harry’s Mate, and well, you have Piper already. Just waiting for Cooper to find his Mate, you are now part of the Luna’s unit.”

“What’s a Luna’s Unit?”

“Piper is now the Luna to this pack. Her right as Brads Mate. She is in charge as much as he is now. Usually, Izzy, you would hang out with the Alpha’s unit’s mates, a close knit group, Like Brad and us boys.”

“So Cooper doesn’t have a Mate?” she asked him.

“No, only Harry actually did, until we tracked Piper down and well.” he pulled her right into his arms “now I have you.” he growled playfully at her.

Saw her smile right up at her, even smelled her arousal bloom, she really did like it when they growled at her.

“Are you always this...”

“Yes,” he laughed. “I will always be a horny animal for you, will never say no to you, ever.”

Saw her laugh up at him, and there it was that slight flicker in her eyes, just a brilliance behind the brown, a slight glow of her own, no colour at this point, but come the full moon there likely would be. Felt Timber all happy inside of him.

“Can we shower and freshen up from the long flight?”

“Yes indeed we can.” he grinned right at her, and steered her through their living area, and into their bedroom. Stood and watched her look around. Their suite was large with aqua blue and soft grey furnishings. He was very partial

to the colour aqua blue. Their bedroom was large and had a big wooden four-poster bed in the centre of the room, a large walk-in and an en-suite. There was a soft grey two-seater couch by the window and it had a nice sized balcony with an outdoor setting. Not that he used it, usually only came in here to sleep.

Watched her head over to the bedside table and tilt her head at the sight of handcuffs on it. Picked them up and dangled them from one finger and turned to look at him questioningly.

Eddie laughed “Not what you think, I often have to haul unruly wolves to the cells in those.” his smile could not be hidden though, it was a nice idea. “Unless you want me to.” a smirk played on his lips, even Timber liked the idea.

Watched her drop them back on the bedside table and shake her head ‘no’. Pity he thought, but waved her towards their bathroom, she went willingly, even allowed him to undress her and pulled her into the shower with him.

Was laughing near the whole time, as she pushed his hands away and slapped at him to stop him from touching her while she tried to shower. Eddie was actually enjoying her trying to fend him off, though he was not going to be deterred by her. He wanted her, and it was all too clear for her to see. Though she did seem to be enjoying shoving him away from her naked body and telling him ‘no’ her tone implied she was just teasing and tormenting him, wanting him to wait.

Then she had both his hands in hers and stated firmly “No, you touch when I tell you to.”

Got his and Timbers undivided attention, he knew he was smiling at her, watched her step out of the shower, one hand on his chest to keep him in there, then let go and shut the glass door on him, held it shut so he was on the inside.

Pressed her pretty pouty lips to the glass as she looked up at him, giggled happily when he and Timber growled all desire at her, winked right at him, then she was gone running butt ass naked from them, out of the bathroom, and they were after her a second later.

Grabbed her around the waist and tossed her down on the bed. "Mine" he growled down at her as he dropped down on top of her, bloody woman enjoyed running away from him and his wolf, it seemed.

"Mine." she giggled right back, then her hands were in his hair and she was pulling his mouth to hers, kissed him hungrily and was arching up to him, moving her whole body against his "Eddie." she moaned a little later and he smiled down at her, knew what she wanted. Took her in one hard firm thrust and relished in the cry of pleasure that came from her. Loved that she wanted him so quickly, took all of him and his wolf for that matter.

Lay watching her sleep, the sun barely down in the sky, he'd spent the entire afternoon claiming what was his, as had timber. She was exhausted by them. She was laying right next to them, on her stomach, one hand on his arm, her face was relaxed in sleep, though he could see her eyes flicking under those eyelids, dreaming it would appear. She was such a cutie, leaned over and kissed her temple, both he and Timber were well sated by their Mate. They were going to have to talk to her about Marking her, so he could do so. Both he and Timber were certain she was going to let him, would just accept it, closed his eyes and relaxed in their bed. He was going to enjoy spending the rest of his life sleeping next to her.

All his instincts, on full alert for a threat, woke him. His eyes snapped open into the darkness of the room, he couldn't feel Izzy next to him, turned his head to see where she was. She had been right there next to him when he'd fallen asleep. Her perfect scent of Maple trees with roasted chestnuts and that cold crisp smell of freshly fallen snow had lulled him easily to sleep.

He could still smell her, though right this minute he couldn't feel her next to him, and he knew why, when his eyes met brilliant glowing blue ones, that were staring right at him, it was Izzy, crouched on the bed next to him, but it was also not Izzy at the same time, her beast on the surface fully and likely for the first time ever.

"Baby?" he asked gently, though he did not make a move towards her.

There was a barely audible growl coming from her beast, as it crouched there and looked right at him, then it was on him, so very fast. Her mouth on his, kissing him, devouring his practically, so hot and hungry, brought a deep growl of desire from him, reached up to grab her. Oh, he wanted this creature as did Timber.

Her hands slammed down on his upper arms, pinning them down, stopping him from touching her, but she was grinding herself against him hard and fast. Felt Timber surge forward. This was his Mate and she was all aggression. Eddie had been rendered to the back of his mind to watch only.

Then it was suddenly a battle for dominance between his wolf and her beast. Despite her tiny human stature, the beast within her was strong and even Timber was having issues pinning her down. She was not having any of it. Wanted full control of the situation, was all snarls and growling down at Timber, shoving at him with all she had to keep him pinned down underneath her, and then she just mounted him and held him down the whole time to Mated him furiously, taking what she wanted from him, till her head was thrown back and she cried out in orgasm. Then just sagged down on top of him and sighed softly, contented it seemed.

‘Timber?’ Eddie finally asked his wolf. Now they were done.

‘Wolf.’ he heard Timber state ‘Good and strong.’

‘Oh I got that.’ Eddie nearly laughed out loud, as Timber receded and allowed him control again. He looked down at Izzy lying on top of his body, she was out cold, sound asleep already. ‘Might want to talk to her.’

‘My Mate.’

‘Not Marked yet.’ Eddie commented and she wasn’t.

‘Mated by us both.’ he heard Timber reply, uncaring about the seeming unnatural appearance of this creature, which should not have happened till she was Marked. Seemed to just accept it. It was odd. Humans, if being turned, usually wouldn’t turn till after they were Marked, and then on the full moon after that happened. Might have to look into that.

Sighed softly, as he felt Timber settle inside his mind, his own Mate had overpowered him and not for lack of his wolf trying to take control. She was just simply stronger than he was. It was possibly that his Izzy, had some sort of dormant ancient werewolf gene, he supposed, that could account for the sudden appearance, all the aggression Brad had gotten from her, as she was changing after being Mated by he and Timber, likely activated that dormant gene.

Wondered how Izzy felt, or would in the morning, to have her wolf override her without knowing what had happened, take full control and Mate the hell out of Timber. Hoped she would not freak out, though she had seen it plenty at this point. So maybe she would just be okay with it. He hoped so.

It was nearly four in the morning when Luna Lilly woke him, a mind-link for him to come to the hospital. Piper was waking up and might be needed. He slipped from the bed and headed over there after pulling clothes on. Izzy didn't even budge, looked to be completely out of it. Locked his suite just in case she got up and went wandering off to find him. Didn't need that, though he was dead certain she wouldn't like being locked in, she did know she wasn't allowed free roam yet.

Chapter 57 - Unscentable

Bradley POV

Brad opened the door to the Luna's medical suite and saw Piper asleep in the bed with her arm around Brandon. Their boy was curled into her left side, the IV running into her right arm. He could see was still attached to her.

He wondered briefly if he should take a photo of the two of them resting together. It tugged at his heart a little, to know he was not welcome in that picture. Wondered how long the two of them would sleep, likely comforted by each others presence. He really did need to speak to her, to sort all of this mess out. Just couldn't it seem to catch a break.

His father had mind-linked him to inform him that Alpha Timothy and one of the Whitlock Elders were actually on their way here now. He'd already called Timothy to let him know that Piper was here once more within the Pack.

Timothy and the Elder would be coming directly here in wolf form, from their pack just on the other side of the border and would be here by noon. Bradley had been very unhappy about his news. Piper and Brandon had not even had time to adjust to being here and now the two of them were going to have to deal with Timothy. Something he was certain neither one of them would want to do, he just knew it was not going to go down well.

He was unlikely to have anytime to sort things out or even try to. He closed the door quietly after a few minutes of just watching them, and stepped away. They both appeared to be sleeping soundly, at least she had woken up and he knew that she was going to be okay. Found Dr Samuel and let him know

that he had to go and get ready for an Alpha who was coming to the pack in short order. That if Piper wanted to get up and walk about, she was allowed to if he judged her well enough to do so. That he did not want her movements restricted, but did want to know if she actually left the hospital.

Bradley could not only smell her now but he could also feel her through their half-realised Bond, so at least he would not only know where she went, he could actually track her through their Bond now. He had wanted to be there when she woke up.

Knew that Timothy did not like being kept waiting, was a bit of an impatient man, always had been, for as long as Bradley had known him. He also knew that Timothy was likely going to insist on seeing her to get those answers he wanted about Brandon's conception. He was going to be a complete pain in Brad's backside, seeing as Piper was now also Marked by him, while she had been unconscious. That was not likely to go down so well with the man, considering the contract between their packs.

Headed for the pack-house and up to his suite, trying to figure out a way to not get into a full-blown fight with the man over her and her state. Came down to; if Timothy hadn't scared her off, none of this would have happened. Was going to have to turn it on him. The man was not going to like that at all.

Turned the corner of the hall down to the Alpha quarters, to find Hadley standing down outside of Cooper's suite talking to him, looked more than annoyed to Bradley. They both turned and looked right at him, clearly to involved in whatever they had been talking about to hear him coming, or probably thought he was still in the pack hospital.

Hadley glared right at him and then at Cooper and stalked off down the hallway in the other direction, confused him, there was nothing down there, just a dead end and a set of omega stairs that led to the other floors and the basement. Watched her slam her hand right against it and bang on through it out of sight.

Bradley raised an eyebrow at Cooper. "What's going on?" He asked.

"Nothing you need to worry about. I can deal with it, you just focus on Piper."

"Timothy is on his way," Bradley commented "will be here by lunchtime."

Saw the man frown "Is Piper aware yet?"

“No.” Brad sighed “but she woke up about 4 this morning, currently sleeping again. Brandon is with her, in the bed.”

“Alright.” Cooper nodded and turned to go back into his suite.

“Cooper, Hadley?” Brad asked again.

“Boyfriend trouble.”

That got Bradley’s attention. “Since when does she have a boyfriend?”

“A little while, not till after her 18th birthday though.”

“Who’s the wolf?” Bradley frowned. “I’ll have words with him.”

“No need. He’s more than paranoid about your reaction. That seems to be her problem. I’ll handle it Brad, you have enough to deal with.”

“So he should be.” Bradley nodded and walked into his suite. Cooper was more than capable of handling one wolf, would like put fear into him as much as Bradley himself would. Left him to deal with it. It was also likely why Hadley had gone to Cooper and not him, smiled at the fact that the wolf was paranoid about his reaction.

Though it was more likely he should be worried about their father Benjamin's reaction. Thankfully, he didn’t have to worry about that in the future, he had a son and not a daughter.

Showered, a long scorching hot shower to try and help ease the tension in his body, dressed in dark navy blue slacks and a light blue dress shirt, then headed down to get some breakfast, though it was past the actual breakfast time here in the pack-house dining room, but there was always a buffet of fresh fruits and sandwiches laid out, no one starved around here in his pack.

Any and all pack members could stroll in here and graze on some sort of food all day. This also helped to keep the actual meal times not so hectic for the omegas he trusted to run the kitchen and cook for everyone. Found most of them sitting around drinking coffee and having something to eat themselves.

They all smiled up at him and the head Omega, a man named Calvin, stood to get him something to eat. Brad waved him off “I can get it.” he told him “Go

finish your break.” He could see them all looking at him, most of them were smiling at him, and several of them congratulated him on finding his Luna.

He smiled and nodded back to them, then sat himself down to eat, found just about every member who happened to stroll in to get a drink or food smiling at him and congratulating him as well. He nodded his thanks to them all, though there was still a part of him that was worried about what was going to happen, when he did try to talk to her, after what Brandon had told her last night, she knew it had been Benson his wolf and not Brad himself that had claimed her and marked her. Had no idea about her thoughts on that.

But he could only smile at his pack members and let them all think that everything was going to be alright. He didn’t need them showing concern about the situation or any of them deciding to go to her and asking her questions. Not that he thought that would happen. There would be formal ramifications for anyone he found harassing her. She was the Luna and respect would be given. The whole pack knew this, would abide by the rules, he told himself.

He took his coffee to his office and sank down at his desk, wondering if there was anyone she’d be comfortable with, Lilly had been up with her all night, and he couldn’t go asking her to do so again today. She was likely up in her suite sleeping now.

Found Eddie sitting in the chair across from him. “I don’t have time, Eddie.”

“You’ll have to make time.” he commented, looking right at him.

Bradley glared at him now. “Why? If you just want Izzy out of the room?”

“Izzy’s got her wolf.” the man stated flatly, seemed a bit annoyed with Bradley’s tone himself.

Bradley sighed “Sorry Eddie.” He apologised for his tone and lack of concern. This was actually a big issue. “When?” he asked now. Could his day get any more stressful?

“Last night,” Eddie stated, “I woke up to find it staring me down, in human form. All on the surface and in complete control of Izzy.” then the man smiled right at him, full amused now “Then it just all aggressively Mate the hell out of Timber.”

“Then the problem is?” Brad didn’t understand they were Mates, and wolves Mated each other all the time, was a good thing, created a better, stronger bond between them.

“Izzy woke up this morning with no knowledge of it. Or didn’t seem to, didn’t say anything at all about it. Odd.”

Bradley stared right at him. It was indeed odd. Thought about it long and hard, then shook his head “Mark her, see what happens.” he finally stated, and waved the man out of his office.

“Bradley?” Eddie frowned at him.

“Timothy is coming Eddie, I have much bigger concerns right this minute. If you Mark her, she’ll shift on the next full moon.”

“I understand that Bradley, but she has not seen any of us shift before.”

“Yes she has, didn’t Timber stalk her in Maine.” saw the man flinch, didn’t like being reminded of his screw up, it seemed.

“Saw Timber yes, but not the shift itself.”

“Then go and talk to her about it. Shift for her, you would anyway, before the full moon. This way she can see Timber meet him and not be afraid of him. She’ll also know what she’ll be in for when her wolf emerges.”

“Pack-house rules about shifting inside?”

Bradley sighed “Take her outside. I only put her in lock down because we didn’t know what she was. Though still might want to keep her away from Benson, a might still angry with her.”

“This could explain her reaction to you, Brad.”

“Agreed it could. Pack mentality. Find out what sort of wolf, if you can and get back to me.”

“Alright.” Eddie nodded “I can have her go and sit with Piper and Brandon afterwards.”

Bradley looked right at him, that would actually solve one of his problems. "Good idea Eddie." He nodded "Sorry I was short with you, just got a lot going on."

"I know." Eddie nodded right back "It'll be alright Brad."

"I hope so."

"No it will be. I got nothing bad from her this morning. Not even anger. Just seemed confused about how it happened. Marking her may have actually resolved some of her and Harper's fear of your never being able to scent them and therefore claiming and Marking them."

"So she seemed fine to you."

"Not exactly fine, but not angry or upset, that I could feel." he shrugged.

"Thanks Eddie."

"Your welcome." watched the man stroll out of his office.

Could anything else weird happen today? Shook his head.

Alpha Timothy arrived right at 12pm, Bradley's northern border patroller announced the man and his one guest. They both arrived in wolf form but shifted at the border to announce themselves, were escorted to the pack house and both were offered the chance to wash up and put on clean clothes.

He was sitting in his office with them both 15 minutes after they arrived to the pack-house. The Whitlock Elder was an older woman, but being an elder what did he expect, she had those light blue eyes of Alpha Timothy, had long grey hair, that was hanging loose down her back, went to the middle of her back, and though her hair was grey, denoting her age she didn't look a day past 50, but was likely nearly 100 he thought, a small woman who was fit had kept pace with Timothy and Brad knew they had ran at full wolfen speed to get here, she didn't scent of Alpha blood but that did not mean she wasn't.

Timothy introduced her as Annabella Whitlock, his great grandmother, and claimed she was also Pipers' great grandmother too. He didn't see any resemblance to Piper at all, but there were generations between them, so no real surprise there, he supposed.

Bradley informed them that as far as he was aware, Piper meeting either of them, was not going to go down so well. Piper had already expressed that to him, she was uncaring for a family that had abandoned her. Which brought him to ask.

How was it that none of them had come for the girl when her mother had died? Which was what his father had thought had happened.

Annabella sighed softly and shook her head sadly “Her actual grandmother, Jewel’s mother Ophelia, who would have felt Jewel’s death, died before Jewel did. Therefore, no-one in the pack knew anything was wrong at the time.”

Bradley turned his attention to Timothy. “Why didn’t you ask after them? You’re the current Alpha, surely you knew Jewel and Piper were here. Did you not, once in this pack or even when I visited yours, think to ask about your Aunt or cousin?”

“We have a very large family. I have many cousins, I’d never actually met Piper. Jewel came here long before I took over.”

“Still shouldn’t someone have asked?” his eyes moved back to Annabella. “Wasn’t Piper to be brought before the elders for an explanation of what she is, before she got her wolf? I believe that is what the contract states.”

Again the woman sighed “Yes, but Jewel did know what they were, she was more than capable of explaining this to her own child. But yes, we are also at fault.” the woman nodded “When can I see her?”

“When she wants to and not before,” Bradley stated flatly.

“Bradley, you knew this was going to happen,” It was Timothy and he was frowning deeply at him. “ Best you don’t delay it. If you want to know if she is your Mate.”

“She is my Mate and our Bond is in tact.” Bradley informed him.

“And how do you know this?” it was Annabella seemed curious now.

“Long story short, I touched her, and she felt it. Shocked the hell out of her.”

“Your wolf is not going to just take her word for it, Bradley.” Timothy rolled his eyes at him. “No wolf will.”

“Yes he was. But just to let you know, we have scented her already. I don’t understand how you do it, but when she was attacked by that Vampire, we smelled her blood and Benson recognised her as his mate instantly.” it was his turn to sigh now “Unfortunately, Benson, already claimed her. Marked her.”

“Unfortunately?” it was Annabella, “Do you not want her?” she was frowning right at him, sounded almost disapproving.

“I want her as does Benson.” Brad stated “Unfortunately, she was unconscious from the injuries she’d sustained and …” he shrugged “I have yet to talk to her about it, since it happened she’s been unconscious all this time, not long woken up.”

“So you’ve scented and Marked her.” Annabella nodded, seemed much happier with that knowledge “If she accepts you. You will need to understand about us, Whitlock’s.”

“I know, that pendant hides her scent right.” his eyes moved to Timothy. He’d seen this man in both human and wolf form, had never seen him once wear a pendant.

Timothy seemed to understand and raised his right hand, turned it over so Bradley could see the ring on his index finger, a blue assure jewel in it, “Ring for men,” he stated simply.

“So why the need?”

“Not unscentable, highly scentable and to every un-mated male wolf inside your pack or out of it.” Annabella told him.

“What?” he frowned, not understanding, but he already didn’t like the sound of it.

Annabella sighed heavily. “If I was to remove my pendant, you yourself would want to mate me right now.” she looked right at him “Your not Marked, so you would be affected. Only Marked and Mated wolves can resist the scent. We smell like we’re in heat all the time.”

Bradley was staring at her, bloody horrified by this news. All the thoughts that were suddenly rolling around inside of his mind. His eyes moved to her neck, she was Marked, had a Mate herself. Still had to wear that pendant even after being Marked and Mated it seemed.

He could now understand that clause within the contract, the reason why his father had told him not to let her take that pendant off around his unit, only Harry was Marked and Mate. The complete seriousness of the situation she was in, something she had absolutely no idea about.

His eyes moved back to the pendant Annabella wore. "So she'll smell like that all the time?" He didn't want that for her, that was horrible, one slip up and she could be set upon by all his un-mated wolves.

"Yes." Annabella nodded "She needs to know this, so she can understand the ramifications of taking that pendant off."

"I don't think that she will, it was her mothers and as far as we can tell, put it on at just 10, then just vanished from us all."

Timothy sighed now. "We in the Ice Moon Pack, are used to Whitlock's. Most females Mate off to others in the pack, gifted or chosen, so not really an issue. We're all trained from when we get our wolves to not use our wolfen senses inside the pack unless it's necessary, or in other packs."

"A heads up would have been nice, ever for Jewel." he frowned at the pair of them.

"It's not something we go around telling other packs, get the occasional kidnapping of Whitlock women, from those who would use them for their own sick pleasures. It's not nice."

Bradley could well imagine it would not be, scenting like they were in heat all the time and taken against their will to sate some sick bastard's sexual needs at any given moment for as long as he liked uncaring for her condition or consent. Rubbed a hand over his face.

"You can see why we don't go telling just anyone, yes?" Annabella asked.

Bradley nodded, he understood alright.

"Jewel was also Marked when she came here, so not an issue, had her Mate's scent on her all the time, so you all would have recognised her. Piper will scent of you from now on."

"So I don't need to lo-jack my Mate then?"

Saw and heard Timothy snort with full amusement “You might want to do that anyway, you got yourself a runner.”

Bradley ignored that, the man had no idea just how right he was, though on a different level, that woman could run, even outrun him. “Brandon?” he asked instead.

“Will be like us, will need a ring at 16, or...maybe sooner.” Timothy answered him “The minute his wolf emerges fully, he’ll be scentable. Annabella here has a ring for him, I believe.”

“I do, I hear he’s an early shifter, though has not fully shifted yet?”

“Not yet. It has come damned close a few times.” Bradley nodded.

“Best we get a ring on him now then,” she nodded.

“No.” Bradley shook his head “He’ll be invisible to this pack. I won’t have that. I can guarantee Piper will not stand for it, it’s how she felt after putting that pendant on.”

“He’ll have to wear it, from the moment of his first shift, regardless of age, he’ll be scentable to all the un-mated females in this pack.” Timothy informed him flatly.

Bradley stared at the man, horrified now. “He’s just seven.”

“Hence the very prompt visit.” Timothy nodded “A bit urgent now...though I can only imagine the boy, once he becomes a man, will have all manner of fun with it.” a smile touched his face “I know I certainly did.” he snorted, amused.

Watched Annabella hit him. “That is terrible Tim.”

Timothy smiled. “ It was just fun for me, for an Alpha male with needs to sate, un-mated and old enough to play around. I’m sure 18-year-old Brandon will have any and all the women he wants for as long as he likes, till he finds his Mate, that is.” sounded fully amused.

Bradley frowned at the man. Yes, he could see why he was amused, but he did not actually appreciate it right that minute. His boy was just seven and if he shifted would become unscentable the minute that ring was put on him.

Let it go for the moment “The Whitlock way of scenting your Mate?”

“Exactly how you did it.” Annabella smiled right at him. “Blood on the full moon.”

He frowned. “Elaborate”

“On the full moon, when a Whitlock scents out their Mate, one would simply just nick themselves, and their Mate would scent them back. It’s pretty simple. If you know what to do, that is.”

“You could have written that into the contract somewhere.” Bradley muttered.

“Whitlock’s mostly live in the Ice Moon Pack, protected there at all times. Most of them will actually insist on staying inside the pack, some are even known to reject their Mates if they will not agree to move to the pack.”

“That’s why your pack is so large,” he suddenly realised. They rarely lost pack members, just gain them.

Saw Timothy nod, “We grow bigger with every generation and tracking lineage is a must, don’t want any unwanted sex with family members. Why her lineage to us is important. I’ve already added her to the lineage. Brandon as well for when he comes to the pack as the future Alpha, wants to...” he shrugged.

“Jewel” Annabella sighed, “Very stubborn and headstrong, wanted to see another’s pack life and insisted on going to her Mate’s pack against all our wishes.”

Bradley sighed, likely where Piper got her stubbornness from.

Chapter 58 - Unscentable

Piper POV

Piper woke up to find Brandon sitting on the side of her bed, just watching her. She smiled up at him, actually felt a lot better, her headache was gone and though she could still feel Harper healing her not as much as before, most of her wounds probably healed now.

Wondered once again just how close it had been, glanced at the blood bag. It was nearly empty now, would be finished soon. Hopefully, the pack doctor or a nurse would come and talk to her. They should know how close it was.

Hadn't seen Bradley yet, that man appeared to be keeping his distance, though she knew he had been here earlier, when it was dark, had smelled him herself. It was possible that he was still sitting out there in the corridor, she guessed. Sat herself up "Have you eaten yet?" she asked Brandon.

"Yes," he nodded, "a nurse brought me lots of food to choose from, it was a massive breakfast."

Not really that surprising to her, he was Bradley's son and would want for nothing, here inside this pack, she supposed. Though he had not wanted for anything with her as his mother. She had made sure of that.

"Wolves generally eat a lot." she nodded at him.

"You never eat like that."

"I don't need to." she shook her head, and she didn't, only wolves who shifted needed to consume that much food for energy, or after the wolf healed you. Harper was going to need food at some point. Though she didn't seem concerned about it at this point, was still quiet inside her mind.

"Why not?" he asked right away.

"That's a big question, for when you're older," she commented. One thing at a time, though he had asked about Harper earlier, he was obviously curious to see her. She had no idea how to explain that to him. She would really have to think about that one, though she had told him she'd been sickly and dying, that could help, she supposed.

Changed the subject completely. "You called Bradley dad, but Aspen is still mad at him?" Wolves were usually aligned to their human counterparts' way of thinking or vice versa. A wolf could influence their human.

Saw him shrug "it's what he is."

Piper couldn't argue with that statement, but knew her boy well enough to know that there was more to it. "Brandon?"

“It’s not dad he’s mad at. It’s dad’s wolf.”

“Alright.” now she understood “You and Bradley are getting along then?”

“He seems nice, answered all my questions, answered some of Aspen’s too before...then he...and well...Dad seems nice to us.”

“Alright.” she nodded. It was clear to her, while she had been out, they had bonded. “How do you feel now, about being here?” she asked wanted to know what he thought.

“Aspen is very confused, very...uncomfortable and “ he shook his head, “was very angry when we got here.”

“Is he still angry?”

“Sleeping right this minute...I think he hurt Aunt Izzy, I’m not sure how. Dad said he was, he hurt dad too.”

“I’m sorry Brandon, it must be very difficult for you at the moment, Aspen being upset and angry.” It was likely her fault, if she’d not run off and come across that vampire, none of this would likely be happening, she supposed.

Watched the boy get down off the bed, and watched him walk over to the window in the room. It had a full view of the front of the pack, she could see a few houses and a couple of the two-storey apartment buildings that some lived in. It also had a view of the playground.

Piper looked at all the cables and cords running under her hospital gown, likely to set off alarms if she just removed them.

“Looks like a town mum.”

“That is does.” she agreed “There’s a school and everything out there.”

“Did you live out there somewhere?”

“Not really.” she shook her head. “I lived alone for the most part.” saw him turn and look at her with a frown. “Since I was ten,” she answered him, wouldn’t lie to him about it.

Saw his eyes go wide.

"I told you, remember, it wasn't good here for Harper and I." and it had not been, being lonely and invisible had not been fun at all.

"Will it be different now?" he asked her.

"I don't know." and she didn't, she had no idea at all how it would be to be out there in the pack once more. Didn't want to be still. Understood she needed to be here for medical reasons, but that didn't mean she was willing to step outside this room. She had never wanted to come back here, but was now here. She had no choice in the matter. Was just trying to deal with it without showing that to Brandon.

"There's a massive playground. I've never seen one so big mum." Brandon said, pointing to it, she could see it, it had been updated and expanded since she'd left, could see other children climbing all over it, wondered if Brandon wanted to go down there himself and try it all out. He was an active boy.

It was basically a kiddie version of an agility course, there was lots of climbing and rope walking, that she could see and kids were running in and out of tunnels, and she could see an actual proper rock climbing structure. It was like a large 2-story high pyramid, she could also see normal play equipment, wolfen children were no different to human children at this age, enjoyed swings and sea-saws and loved those roundabout spinners too.

There were over two dozen kids out there playing on the equipment and zipping around on scooters and bikes. It probably looked very enticing to Brandon, she could even see a group of kids kicking a ball around, that would definitely get his attention.

This pack might be small compared to others, but its members didn't really want for anything at all. This pack had always been wealthy, from what she recalled, there was an entire section of the pack-house dedicated to kids' entertainment. Movie theatres, gaming rooms with every imaginable thing they could want for she supposed. Even had a whole room full of just pinball machines of all types and sizes.

This pack was wealthy due to the human world business's it retained from generation to generation, likely would have been a really nice place to grow up in and be a part of, if she'd been normal, that was.

Turned at the sound of the door opening, a smallish woman came in, dark hair and even darker eyes, right at her “Good morning Luna. It’s good to see you awake. I’m penny, your nurse for the morning.

Piper just stared at her, the woman was definitely a wolf, though she had looked right at her, skipped over the way she had been addressed altogether. Penny was still looking at her, she realised, it was weird. Wolves never looked at her.

“Dr Samuel will be in soon. He wanted me to take some blood from you, to check your haemoglobin levels, may I?”

Piper knew that she had lost a lot of blood, nodded to the woman, smelled her as she came and stood next to the bed, was an omega, drew blood from her other arm, was quick and efficient at her job. Smiled right at Piper, looked her right in the eyes, when she was done, stated “Dr Samuel will be in to see you soon.” then strolled out of the room. It was weird.

It didn’t take Dr Samuel long to arrive. About 10 minutes, he looked right at her as well. “Silly girl, you shouldn’t go taking vampires on, on your own.” he shook his head.

“I did not start it.” Piper informed him, more than a little annoyed by his comment, she was not so stupid. “I even, tried to talk that woman out of it, for your information.” she glared right at him “I’m not totally stupid you know.”

Saw him stop walking and stare at her, then sighed “My apologies, I was just trying to make light of the situation, I see it did not come across that way.” he walked right over to the bed now. “You’ve lost quite a bit of blood, I’ve had to transfuse 3 units of whole blood since you got here. How are you feeling?” seems he’d turned all professional now.

“Fine.” she commented “When do these come off?” she asked, indicating all the ECG leads attached to her.

“Let me print out a reading. If it’s all good I’ll remove them.”

She waited for him to do so, got the all clear and she un-clipped them herself, didn’t want his hands on her and she knew neither did Harper. Was glad that she could get out of bed and move about.

“I’ll let the Alpha know you’re awake and doing better. He’s got an Alpha coming to the pack, I believe, or would not have left at all. He has not left the hospital since bringing you in.”

So everyone keeps telling her, like they had all been instructed to tell her that, “My restrictions?” She knew she would have them, wouldn’t be half surprised to find guards outside the room or half his Alpha Unit. Whether they would be to keep her here or to protect Brandon she was not sure of. Could well be both, she supposed.

“None, Luna...why would you not be allowed to move freely about in your own pack?” he was frowning right at her, then his eyes moved to Brandon “But...your son’s wolf, might be a bit of an issue out there.”

“What? Why?” she frowned right back at him.

“Didn’t take to the pack at all. From my understanding. You might want to discuss that with Lilly, she seems to understand better than anyone.”

“So I can just leave then?” she enquired.

“You can leave the hospital.” he nodded “Just...” his eyes moved to Brandon who was still over by the window. “I would be careful of his wolf’s reaction.” Then the man walked out of the room.

Piper’s eyes moved to Brandon and she wondered once again what had happened while she was unconscious. “Brandon?” she got out of the bed and walked over to him, “Aspen is not happy here?” she questioned him.

“No.” he shook his head “ Too many wolves, wanted...I don’t know.” he looked up at her “to make them all understand what he was, I think, he kind of just freaked out.”

Piper sighed, this could very well be her fault. He’d never had any interactions with wolves, until a few weeks ago, and none of it had been good. She didn’t know what to do about it, didn’t even know what she was going to do about being here herself at this point. This was not where she lived, not where she planned on ever living.

Food was brought in on a large trolley, and the young boy pushing it, maybe 15 years old, smiled right at her “The Alpha said to provide you with an array

of food to choose from Luna.” she frowned at him and saw him stiffen and then bow his head to her. “My apologies, if I did something wrong Luna.”

“You didn’t, I’m just confused. Don’t bow to me.” she told him, and saw relief on his face, before he left the room. Wondered if he would get in trouble, he certainly looked as though he was worried about it.

Every wolf that had come into the room, had looked right at her, they all saw her. It was odd to say the least, shook her head, waved Brandon over to come and eat with her as well if he was hungry. She was hungry and so was Harper.

She was sitting on her bed with Brandon watching TV had no real inclination to go outside at all, neither did Harper before she’d fallen asleep inside of her mind. She was tired from healing her and Brandon seemed happy enough sitting on the bed with her. The room had its own bathroom and a nice sized TV that had access to all the pay channels Brandon could ever want.

His eyes had lit up when he’d found his favourite channel, he was relaxed on the bed next to her watching an anime cartoon, when Izzy and Eddie strolled into the room, they both smiled at her. Izzy ran right over to her and hugged her. “Thank the goddess Piper. You really scared me.”

“Sorry Izzy, I didn’t mean to.” she hugged her back, but then frowned at the same time, turned and looked at her neck, expecting to find her Marked but saw nothing, looked at Eddie questioningly, she smelled like a wolf to Piper.

“Weird, I know.” he commented.

“What’s weird?” Izzy asked.

“You smell different,” Piper told her honestly.

Watched the woman shrug “Used Eddie’s body was I guess.”

“No that’s not it.” Piper shook her head, looked at Izzy again and actively smelled her, but couldn’t quite put a rank to it, but she was definitely no longer just human, looked at Eddie once more.

“When?” she asked.

“Last night,” he answered, sitting on the end of her bed, watched him tug Izzy right between his splayed legs to rest against him. “Doesn’t recall anything.” He shrugged.

“Recall what?” Izzy asked “what am I missing?” looked up at Eddie and then to Piper.

“Izzy, do you feel different?” Piper asked curiously.

Watched the woman think about it, then just shake her head ‘no’ “Just me as always why?”

“Has Edward explained Marking to you yet?”

“Yes.” She nodded “this morning, before we came here, wants to Mark me tonight. That’s also what Bradley did to you.” she muttered.

“Actually Izzy, that was Benson, not Brad.” Eddie corrected her, “and you incited his wolf into a full blown Alpha rage, that’s why it happened. Brad would never have done that, without Piper’s consent.”

“Is that why she’s in lockdown?”

Eddie shook his head, glanced at Izzy and then right at Piper and sighed “We didn’t exactly know what was going on, so better to be safe than sorry. Though Benson is still mad at Izzy, so still keeping her away from him at the moment.”

“Someone had to put him in his place,” Izzy muttered.

Watched as Eddie sighed looked right at Piper “Not exactly sure what type she is, but very aggressive.”

“My type, what?” Izzy sounded very confused.

Piper sighed this time, looked down at Brandon. He was sitting quietly, didn’t seem bothered by their conversation, but he was listening. She knew “Izzy, when you’re Marked and Mated you’ll get a wolf of your own. Not all humans do, but most will. You will, that’s what we’re talking about.”

Saw the woman’s eyes go wide “I will?”

“Got her already”. Eddie told her “She’s just not out yet. On the full moon I’m guessing baby.”

Izzy was frowning now “like Timber, this morning?”

“Yes.” Eddie nodded.

“Oh that’s gonna hurt.” she murmured.

Heard Eddie chuckle, “You’ll get used to it. After a few times, it doesn’t hurt at all.”

Watched as Izzy’s eyes moved to Piper questioningly “I’ve never seen Harper.”

“Mm, Harper doesn’t shift anymore.” Piper shrugged.

Actually saw pain in Eddie’s eyes as he looked right at her.

“Mum?”

She looked down at Brandon, at his questioning look. “Not since I was 20. Can’t anymore.” she finally told him.

“Piper I’m so sorry.” It was Edward. “I really did try to find you, all those years. I just... I couldn’t...thought I was broken.”

“It’s not you Edward.” she shrugged, and it wasn’t him, it was her and she knew it. No scent. How can you find something you don’t know about, or smell, didn’t even know existed “Can I ask you something?”

“Yes of course, Piper.” He nodded.

“Today, everyone has looked right at me...I don’t understand that.”

“Ah, yes, well you’re no longer hidden from the pack, smell like Bradley actually. The minute Benson Marked you, we could all smell you.”

Now she was staring at him, that was very odd. “How could his wolf Mark me, without scenting me?”

Eddie smiled, “I’ll let Brad explain that, but they actually did, I believe.”

“Not possible.” Piper frowned.

“There is a way. I believe it’s called the Whitlock way.”

Huffed in annoyance at just the thought of Alpha Timothy, “I am not going to have anything to do with Alpha Timothy.” she muttered.

“Hm, he’s your cousin and I believe he and your great grandmother are in a meeting with Bradley now, they’re going to want to see you. Need to discuss your bloodline with you.”

“I don’t care, Edward. I do not want anything to do with that man, he has done nothing but threaten me.”

“He’s an idiot, I agree. But we do need to understand about your type of wolf. If not for yourself, Piper,” his eyes moved right to Brandon, “for your son.”

Unfortunately, Piper could not even argue with that logic. She didn’t want Brandon to grow up like she had, wouldn’t wish that on anyone, not even an enemy wolf “So the man is here then?”

“Just arrived, yes.”

Huffed again, wondered how he’d feel about her and Harper punching him right in his stupid arrogant face. Letting him have it full wolf strength, for all the threats he’d made against her.

“Breath Piper.” It was Edward. Stupid Gamma could pick up on her anger, she guessed.

“No,” she snapped and didn’t want to.

Izzy giggled “She’s mad.”

“I know I can feel it,” Eddie commented.

“Me to.” Izzy leaned against him “It’s funny.”

Piper shook her head and wondered just what type of wolf Izzy was, thought her anger was funny, could feel it at that, interesting in itself.

“Can Harper and I punch him without repercussions, Edward?”

"I don't know." Eddie shook his head. "Might want to ask Brad that one. Though Timothy is an allied pack and considering your dealings with him," he shrugged, "you might not get back lash."

"I'll do it." Izzy stated in a gravelly tone, and when her eyes landed on Izzy saw almost iridescent blue eyes looking back at her, her wolf all on the surface. Saw Brandon move instantly, realised it was actually Aspen from the way he shot over to look at her, tilted his head and smelled her.

Even Eddie was looking at her now, shocked by the sudden rise of the wolf.

"Name?" Aspen asked.

"Fade, Alpha." she inclined her head "Nice to finally meet you."

"Welcome Fade." he inclined his own head, and then just came back to Piper and receded.

Saw Timber push forward and heard him growl all soft and playful, she thought, saw Fade turn and look at him, then just snort and recede away herself.

"Interesting," Eddie chuckled.

"What was that?" Izzy gasped.

"That was your wolf, Fade." Eddie smiled at her.

"Wow, she's..." Izzy shook her head. "I don't know, but that was really weird."

"Aligned to Aspen," Piper commented.

"Explains a lot." Eddie nodded, looking right at the boy, then he looked at Piper "Why don't we get you out of here and show Brandon and Aspen around."

"I don't know." Piper sighed, "Dr Samuel said."

"Ignore him. Aspen and Brandon were completely stressed out even before they got here yesterday. It'll be fine. I'll go and get you some clothes...Izzy." he tilted her face up to his "Stay here."

"Alright." she nodded.

Watched him stare at her for a long silent minute, heard her chuckle and then bit her lip, then he pecked her on the lips and got up and left.

Chapter 59 - Unscentable

Bradley POV

Brad was mind-linked by Eddie to tell him that Izzy did not freak out watching him shift into Timber for the first time, just tilted her head and then smiled right at Timber's large silver wolf, though he was more White than anything else only had a few silver streaks down his back and a slight slivering on his wolf's face, the rest of him was pure white.

She stared at him for a full minute and then just started to giggle. But both he and Timber had seen the flicker of blue in her eyes, before she'd giggled, indicative of her and her wolf talking to each other. Timber had rubbed himself all over her, happy with Izzy's reaction to him.

Even managed to get Izzy to run off into the woods for a little playful game of hunt the prey, she had laughed the whole time, with Timber chasing her. She seemed to be very free out there. Didn't even mind when Timber knocked her down and rolled around on the ground next to her, then popped his big head on her chest. Had cuddled him and called him a 'Sexy beast.'

That they had walked back to the pack-house side by side, Timber and Izzy, she'd rested her hand on his head the whole way, seemed very comfortable in his wolf's presence. Timber had only relinquished control when they'd come back to where Eddie had left his clothes.

Bradley was happy for the man, though there was still no answer about Izzy's type of wolf, only that it had brilliant blue eyes and was aggressive in nature, though seemed happy to let Izzy play with Timber. Then those two were off to visit Piper, that was right when Timothy had been arriving.

He'd also heard that Piper was awake, her blood work was finally good, the doctor was happy with her red cell count and blood volume, he'd want to take more blood in 24 hours to get a more accurate reading, but so far so good. That she'd been disconnected from the ECG all her readings were back to normal for her as well.

Didn't believe she needed more monitoring, but would likely still feel a bit tired, and that Harper was healing her up good from what he could see. Though

Piper had disconnected herself from the leads, she didn't want him to do that. Also report that the joke he'd tried to have with her had been taken the wrong way and she'd become annoyed with him.

Stated he could visit anytime he liked.

Easier said than done, Bradley had thought, with Aspen still mad at him. He was going to try again the minute he was done with Timothy and the Whitlock Elder.

That meeting had explained a lot, but he was very unhappy about Brandon having to wear that ring so early. Really did need to find a way to contain his wolf for as long as possible. Might need Piper and Harper's help on that one. They did have a really good bond.

Bradley liked how amongst all the turmoil of what was going on around them, those two could still smile and laugh with each other. It seemed that Piper never let anything of what she was actually feeling show to Brandon, other than her happiness and love for him that was.

She and Harper had raised Brandon to be a very happy boy, without any knowledge of her painful past. How? He did not know! She and Harper were strong to have survived everything they'd been through, even stronger to not let it show or filter down to Brandon. She had looked out for him, wanted him to be happy and healthy, and Bradley was certain that both of them had gone out of their way to make sure none of their pain ever filter to their son. Protected him for all of that.

It really did show, that they loved their boy with all they had. He could very well be the reason, that they had survived out there on their own. Was now hoping that with time she could feel secure inside this pack, now that others could scent her, though he knew it was unlikely she knew about that right this minute, but he intended to tell her right away.

He saw Annabella and Timothy to a suite on the first floor to rest for the afternoon, they had ran along way in wolf form to get here so quickly, and rest was a good thing, especially for Annabella, though she'd simply raised her eyebrow at him when he'd suggested it, stated "I'm no so old boy." but had gone none the less.

He was headed for the pack hospital a second later. Coming down the stairs to the pack foyer, when he saw Eddie walking in the direction of the Alpha Office, a deep frown on his face. "Eddie?" Bradley called out to him.

"Your office, Brad," Eddie had commented, didn't even miss a step, didn't look good. Something had happened, he just knew it.

Closed the door to his office. "What is it Eddie?"

Saw the man look at him for a solid minute and then sighed heavily "Harper has not emerged since Piper was 20, can't anymore."

Bradley stared at the man completely shocked, felt Benson go all quiet inside of his mind. They both knew what it meant for her wolf to no longer be able to emerge. The pain they'd suffered inside this pack had caused too much damage to Harper, broken her completely till she no longer had the strength or will to shift. He closed his eyes but didn't even know what to say to this news. It had always been a possibility, something that worried his wolf and he alike at the back of their minds. Something they had declined to think about right until this moment.

"I'm sorry Brad." Eddie said softly, sounded apologetic to the ear.

"Not your fault, Eddie." and it was not. The man had hunted for her a lot, thought he himself was broken, that his Gamma ability was defective. "Harper is still with her, didn't lose her completely at least."

"Would that matter to you if she did?" there was a slight edge to his Gamma's voice, anger tinged them ever so slightly.

Bradley looked right at him, frowned, the man should know him better than that. "No it would not, Eddie."

Saw him nod and then relax, leaned back on the couch in his office "I also know why Izzy tore strips off you."

"Go ahead." He was curious about that himself.

"Her wolf, already has an Alpha. Is aligned to young Brandon's wolf Aspen. So, by extension has a Luna as well. Piper being her Alpha's mother."

"Ah, made Piper the Luna to their little rogue pack."

“Yep, and you were doing everything against what Piper would have wanted. Set Fade off, or maybe brought her out of Izzy.” he shook his head.

“Fade?”

“Mm, Piper asked me if she could punch Timothy without repercussions. I didn’t know.” he shrugged “Fade pushed forward and said she would do it. That got Aspen up real fast. Demanded to know the wolf’s name. Wasn’t afraid of her at all. Introduced herself right to Aspen, I believe her words were “Fade, Alpha. Nice to finally meet you.” Then bowed her head to him. He bowed right back.”

“Sweet Goddess.”

“Mm, going to be a real handful. I don’t know how long Fade has been with Izzy, likely awhile I’m guessing.”

Bradley thought about it a while, it was likely, especially if Aspen didn’t react to her, he might have already felt something in the woman himself. “It’s likely that Izzy just thought it was her own subconscious thoughts, internal dialogue with herself. Handling it well?”

“Seems to be...but”

“But?”

“I don’t know if Fade will align to you with all that’s going on.”

Bradley sighed, the man was likely right on that, no wonder he’d been frowning when he came in, a lot to think about. Likely also worried about his own Alpha’s reaction to a wolf in his pack that may not be able to be assimilated into the pack properly. One that already didn’t like or was resistant to his own Alpha.

“Piper will be the key to that particular problem, Eddie.”

“Likely also accounts for why she just accepted everything in her stride, had dormant wolf genes.”

“Which activated when you and Timber Mated her, I guess.” Bradley nodded.

“Agreed.”

“What else, Eddie?”

“That’s about it. I offered to take Piper for a walk around the pack, just to feel her out a bit, doesn’t seem to keen on it at all. But I’m here to collect clothes for her. I will try again. Maybe if I can get Brandon outside she’ll follow.”

“Motherly instincts?”

“Mm, I’m hoping so.” Eddie nodded.

“Alright, let’s try it. Her and Brandon’s things are up in the Luna Suite, do you think she’ll see me?” he asked, hoping it would be a yes.

“I don’t know, still seems oddly quiet on her feelings other than anger with the knowledge that Timothy is here...She seems the same as earlier, unsure as to how to feel, just confused.”

Bradley nodded. “Guess I can only go and see. I’ll meet you over there, go and get her some clothes. Best not to have my scent on them, might not like that at this point.”

Eddie nodded and headed upstairs. Brad headed to the packs hospital. He had no idea how this was going to go, could feel that Benson was agitated himself, was prowling around inside his mind. Mates were supposed to love each other right away.

Stood outside the Luna’s medical suite and tuned his hearing into the room, frowned when he got nothing. No conversation was heard, just the TV was running, didn’t like it, what if she had up and left?

Pushed the door to the room open, needed to see for himself if she was still in there. The tension eased from his body the moment he found three sets of eyes on him, saw Aspen’s eyes right away, sighed internally.

“Afternoon.” He smiled, trying to ease the tension now in the room. This was also the first time he was in a room with Izzy and her wolf, glanced right at her, noted it was just Izzy, not her wolf Fade on the surface. Looked at her only briefly before moving his eyes to Piper. She didn’t look all that happy to see him, never really did though. But she was going to have to deal with him at some point. The sooner they dealt with their issues the better it would be for everyone.

“May I come in?” Bradley asked.

Getting permission would likely be the best way to go, none of them liked being told what to do, and none of them seemed to want him to have his own way either. He had been in a room with her before and on more than one occasion, so he was hoping that would help the situation.

She was also not alone in this room right this minute, so this should help to make her feel more comfortable with him in the room. He was also hoping that if Piper gave permission, this would settle Aspen and Fade.

Looking at the three of them altogether, Piper and Brandon in the bed and Izzy on the chair next to the bed. Piper was in the middle of the two of them, both her guards, he thought. Oh yes they were definitely a little rogue pack. He was willing to bet Izzy’s wolf was Beta, ranked to that little pack, and had tried to take control of the situation when her Luna and young Alpha were unable to. It was a Beta thing to do, automatically in charge with the leader out of action.

“I would prefer you to wait until I’m dressed properly.” Piper stated, she was only wearing a short sleeved hospital gown, he supposed. Also, the last time he’d touched her he’d gotten carried away and so damned quickly she would recall this.

He nodded, could deal with that, it was not a no. “Eddie is bringing you clothes now.” he replied and stepped out of the room to show her he would respect her wishes.

Though Bradley knew he would no longer get carried away when touching her, seems scenting her out, had taken away how hot and addictive she was to the touch. It was weird to not feel that at all anymore, really had liked it too. Though now when he touched her he got all those electric tingles and sparks on his skin of the Mate Bond, and though to others she now smelled like him apparently, he could still smell her scent so soft and delicate.

Seems Marking her allowed him to keep that scent of hers just for himself. Bradley did like this, and he was the only one to smell her true scent. Liked that too. She was solely his, meant for no other, not even her scent. Everyone would always know who she belonged to. There would be no mistaking who she was, ever.

Waited patiently outside her room for her to get dressed once Eddie brought clothes for her.

To his complete surprise, Eddie stepped outside the room with Brandon right on his hip. Bradley couldn't help but smile at the man, didn't know if it was just to get the boy and his wolf out of the room, or if it was because of the bond they had formed.

"Brandon, Izzy and I will head out to the playground for a bit of fun," Eddie told him.

"Alright." Bradley nodded. He knew that Piper would be able to see the playground from her room. "Though, I would like to be the one to show you around Brandon." he looked at the boy.

Brandon looked right at him for a long minute, then nodded his head slowly in acknowledgement.

"How's Aspen?" Bradley asked. He was worried about what Lilly had told him, though with only Omegas here in the hospital, Aspen hadn't rolled his Aura at anyone, so she was likely right.

"Tired, he wants to sleep...but."

Bradley understood, his wolf had likely been awake all this time, ready to defend his own mother. "Benson is of no threat to your mum. I promise you. Let him sleep."

Saw the boy nod, and when Izzy came from the room, she looked right at him, he stared right back at her, Alpha to Beta he was betting. Then Eddie took her hand and tugged her down the hallway.

Eddie was likely right. Fade might be a problem, walked over and pushed into the Luna's medical suite. Piper was dressed as always slacks and a blouse, looked good in cream and soft green. He wondered if Eddie had picked that green blouse for a reason. Bradley was partial to the colour green.

Piper was sitting on the bed. He walked over to her. "Piper, I'd firstly like to apologise for Benson's behaviour, Marking you without permission. Though it was our intention to claim you." he stated, wanting to make sure that she understood he wanted her, as did his wolf.

She just looked at him, didn't say anything, though didn't seem bothered by being in a room alone with him, and he was not getting any pain rolling off of her either. That was a good thing. Likely she was, as Eddie said, still uncertain as to what she wanted, he guessed.

"Did you want to go for a walk and talk?"

"Here is fine." She shrugged at him, still not keen again as Eddie said, that man was already able to read his Luna, something Bradley was glad of. Brad sat himself on the end of her bed, looked right at her. "Ask any questions you have. I will answer them."

"Is Timothy Avery still here?" Brad heard the slight edge to her voice, anger he thought.

"Yes." he nodded. "As is your great grandmother, her name is Annabella." saw her just turn and look away dismissively, had no interest in dealing with them still. Well, he had plenty of information he could impart to her now. Perhaps better for him to do it than to put her in a room with a man she clearly didn't want to see or a family she believed abandoned her.

"Apparently your grandmother passed away before your own mother did. Part of the reason why you slipped through unnoticed."

Her eyes moved right to his. "Unnoticed?" she rolled her eyes right at him.

"I'm sorry Piper, but they have explained quite a lot to me. I do think you need to hear it. My understanding is that your mother's pendant is what causes you to have no scent. It's a magical amulet that all Whitlock's wear once their wolves emerge at 16."

Watched as she frowned right at him, let it sink in, watched her after a moment pull it out from underneath her blouse and look at it, turn it over and stare at it.

"Don't take it off," he told her when it looked to him that she was thinking about doing so, got a raised eyebrow from her "I'm likely to try and Mate you, if you do. Or that is what your Elder states. You Piper, are not unscentable, your actually highly scentable to every un-Mated male in this pack, or out of it for that matter."

"I don't understand." She sounded very confused.

“Annabella, your Elder and great grandmother, stated to me that your kind of wolf, Whitlock’s, smell like you’re in heat all of the time.”

Watched her eyes widen as they snapped right to his, she understood right away what that meant. “What?”

“That pendant hides your scent, saved your life. I imagine a lot of times, you can’t ever take it off, Piper.” he sighed softly “Is dangerous for you not to wear it.”

Watched her for a solid minute and then saw her head whip around to look out the window. His eyes moved to it as well. He could see Eddie, Izzy and Brandon walking towards the playground, smiled at the fact that Brandon was getting a piggy-back ride from Eddie, could see the boy was laughing and talking with both Eddie and Izzy.

But he knew what Piper was thinking. “He’ll be fine Piper, only once Aspen emerges fully from my understanding and then...” he sighed.

“He’ll be like me...I only have one pendant, I...I don’t.” could hear the concern in her voice already.

“Annabella has a ring for him to wear. Brought it with her, Timothy had already told her about Aspen.”

“I don’t want him to be invisible.” She got up off the bed and walked over to the window. “Not ever.”

“He won’t be.” Bradley assured her as he got up and walked over to stand next to her “I won’t let that happen, now that I understand, we can make sure it doesn’t. We do need to keep Aspen inside of Brandon for as long as possible though, that would be the best thing.”

“I know that. He’s only seven. I’ve been trying to keep Aspen inside him ever since Timothy Avery threatened us in Whistler.”

Whistler? Must have been where their ski trip had been.

Bradley sighed “He went about all this the wrong way, Piper. I told him so, I was more than annoyed with him about it.”

She was just standing there watching their son, down in the park with Izzy and Eddie, quiet now.

“He’s got a good bond with Eddie,” Bradley acknowledged.

“I see that,” Piper commented.

“I’d like to have that type of bond with him.”

“Not up to me.”

Bradley sighed “Piper, something else, I think.” he reached out and put his hands on her shoulders and turned her to face him. She didn’t resist it, but he got glared at, probably still not ready to be touched by him yet. “You three are like a little rogue pack.”

“What?” she seemed confused again.

“One, Alpha. One, Luna and I believe Izzy or Fade, as I’m told, is the Beta to your little pack. It sounds a bit weird, but it is possible. Rogues do form packs at times and have a hierarchy.”

“I’m not a Luna.”

Bradley smiled right at her. “Yes you are. Not only are you my Goddess Gifted Mate Piper. I have claimed you. But you also birthed an Alpha pup. That to makes you a Luna.”

She frowned at him again. “No it doesn’t. Anyone can have an Alpha’s child, doesn’t make them a Luna.”

He couldn’t really argue that point of view: “You Piper, are a Luna. My Luna.” He told her gently had wanted to say that for a long time now.

Watched her turn away from him and look out the window once more, wasn’t certain if she didn’t want to acknowledge what he’d said or wasn’t ready to.

“Why’d you fight with Izzy?” Ignored his statement altogether.

“Izzy incite Benson into a full blown Alpha rage. I tried to contain him but unfortunately couldn’t in the end. Izzy told both of us, basically. That she would never allow us near you or pretty close to it.” he did not want to use the words Izzy had. “Benson took it as though she was actively going to talk you

out of giving us a chance to be with you. Eddie saved her, but Benson..." he sighed "became determined to claim you and then raged to claim what was his and nothing and no-one was going to stop him, regardless of the fact that you were unconscious, and they all did try to stop him. I'm sorry for how it happened, Piper. But not sorry that it happened."

Watched her turn and look right at him with a raised eyebrow. "So she's isolated because?"

Bradley frowned at her now, she'd just blipped over him claiming her again, let it go for now. He would instead answer her questions. While she was willing to talk to him, this was a start. He was just going to have to work with what he got.

"So Benson and I saw something during that argument she and I had. Eddie and Cooper saw something before it as well, none of us knew what she was, just a precaution. That being said, Benson is still somewhat mad at her."

"Get over it." Piper told him flatly. "she's Eddie's Mate and was likely just very confused, about how things work, was human still."

"Yes, but still Benson needs some time. We did not want to Mark you that way."

"You can take it back." She commented with a shrug.

"I will not be. I want you, Piper. I will never take it back."

"You know nothing about me."

"True, just how stubborn you are, how much you love our son. Raised him brilliantly Piper." he put his hands on her shoulder again and turned her to face him once more, "Thank you for that, for...not letting him see how much pain you're actually in all the time." and he did know she was, had to be, saw that raised eyebrow of hers, and just knew this was her defence mechanism. The way she was right this minute, hardly any emotion showing, she'd shut herself down to deal with him.

"I got very good at that at a young age." she shrugged "Even more so when I got older."

"Piper, I am sorry. I had no idea."

“I’m fully aware of that,” she acknowledged. Surprised him more than a little.

“I can only apologise.”

“I never asked you to. Have I once asked you to apologise?” She questioned him.

Bradley frowned now, as he looked down at her. “No,” he commented as he realised she had not once ever stated this was his fault, never asked for an apology “Why not?” He was now curious.

“It was not your fault, I know that.” She shrugged.

Bradley was just staring at her, so she didn’t actually blame him for all of this. That was good he could build on that. Maybe she didn’t even dislike him, was just closed off to everything, perhaps he just needed to get her to open up a little, to let him in.

though if she didn’t blame him, and he had thought she would, “Who do you blame? Surely you must.”

“Cursed by the moon goddess, I suppose.”

Bradley sighed, “Part of me feels that exact same way too, to be honest with you. To know you suffered so much and that I had no idea all that time, what I was doing to you.”

“Nothing you can do about it now.” she sighed herself and turned back to look out the window.

“May I ask you something, that is bothering me?”

“If you want to, your the Alpha. You’ll do as you please anyway.”

Now that made him frown, could come back to it shook it off. “Why will you not call me by my name?”

“Honestly...it hurts us.”

“I’ll never leave you Piper, not a single day since your rejection has gone by, that I have not wanted you, searched for you. I have wanted no other, will not want any other.”

“Thank you, I guess. Considering, I imagine I’d not have survived if you hadn’t. Don’t think Brandon would be here either.”

“Will you stay here in the pack? Before you answer, I do understand you don’t want to be here, that you have a very human life. Very public at that...but Piper, I am your Mate and I want you here with me always.”

Got silence from her only, not really much more he could expect. He knew he was asking a lot right this minute. But had to ask, wanted to know her thoughts on their current situation, she was not exactly forthcoming and she was too hard to read.

“Please will you consider it.”

“I guess, it’ll be up to Brandon,” She finally spoke.

His eyes moved to the playground, the boy was out there playing with the other children of his pack, being very sociable already, he noted that Eddie and Izzy were sitting watching him, not interfering in the boys’ interactions with the other wolfen children, allowing him to form his own opinion and bonds.

“What about what you want?” Brad asked.

“Only Brandon matters. I never got what I wanted.” she shrugged “I won’t let him want for anything.”

Bradley was frowning again and even Benson seemed confused by her comment. It sounded like if Brandon said he wanted to stay, she would stay. But that’s not what he wanted. He wanted Piper to want to be here, for her to choose that. Would leave it for now, she had a lot to absorb and as much as he and Benson wanted her and Harper to just claim them right here and now. It was not going to happen right this minute.

“Why don’t we go down to the park and watch Brandon?” he offered instead, wanted to get her out of this room and out inside the pack, he knew she didn’t want that, but if she would go, it would help in the long run.

He’d known this was not going to be easy, had to take it slow. One day at a time. Win her over bit by bit, get her to open up and feel comfortable first.

Chapter 60 - Unscentable

Piper POV

Go out there inside the pack, amongst other wolves? Wolves who she and Harper would recognise and none of them would her. Toyed with that pendant around her neck, she'd taken it off her mother at 10, because they were both supposed to have one, matching necklaces from when she was 16.

According to Bradley, if she ever took it off she would smell like she was in heat and all the un-mated wolves would come for her. She guessed her mother knew this, but had not wanted to tell her yet, being so young, likely didn't want to frighten her with this news and of course, it would to a 10-year-old girl.

She was not so stupid as to misunderstand his meaning, he was not Marked himself. He had told her not to take it off or he would even want to Mate her. All her life alone out there inside this pack because of a pendant, a magical charm that she had no idea she was even wearing. But now she knew if she'd not claimed it and worn it, had never wanted to take it off, felt connected to her mother through it.

The ramifications of taking it off would have been horrendous. She knew and understood what being in heat meant. School had classes on that for all the students, male and female, so that they could understand it for when they got their Mates.

Piper knew that he was standing watching her, she could feel his eyes upon her, was waiting on her answer to his question, but did not know if she wanted to be out there amongst all those wolves, to be honest. Harper was on edge with the thought of going out there, though wanted to be closer to Brandon. She had also not growled at Bradley for touching them, and he had several times now, was still quiet on the subject of her Mate though.

"You are scentable now Piper, to the rest of the pack, my scent is now yours apparently."

She knew that he was just trying to reassure her about being out there, that his pack would recognise her now. This accounted for why everyone who'd come in here looked right at her.

"Do I smell like you, to you?" She was curious about that herself.

Heard him chuckle softly “No, your scent is very delicate, to me you smell like orange flowers with honey and apricot nectar. Benson and I find it beautiful. We scented you. Well, your blood actually after that vampire attacked you, and apparently that is how it is done. A Whitlock’s blood on the full moon must be exposed to their Mate. A Whitlock would always scent their Mate first and with proper education.” he sighed, “which you did not get, you could have revealed yourself to me right away.”

“Brandon will be the same?”

“Yes, though Timothy said and you might not like this, but I won’t lie to you, he had a lot of fun with being a Whitlock male.”

Piper shook her head. “I can well imagine he did.” A male alpha with the scent of heat to use at will, he could have multiple women to sate his needs anytime he liked. “I do not want that for Brandon.”

“Neither do I, to be honest. What have you told him Piper, about us?”

“Not the truth,” Piper looked right at him “I knew from a very young age, that no-one could smell me, not even other children. So I knew you wouldn’t either. I’ve always known it was not your fault. So I left out what happened and just told him, it was a one-sided bond.”

“Thank you.”

“I will tell him the truth if he asks, as an adult. He is like me, so he will have more questions as he gets older. Aspen didn’t understand how I got him and we weren’t together.”

“Alright, I’d like to be there for that.”

“That will be up to Brandon, who he wants in the room.”

He was frowning at her now. “Piper, you are allowed to have things for yourself, do things for yourself.”

“I don’t need anything, grew up with nothing, learned to have just what I needed and nothing more.” she shrugged.

Actually saw pain in his expression at her words and waved it off. "Don't concern yourself with it. I learned how to deal with everything on my own, got used to being alone."

"It hurts me Piper, to hear you speak this way, I want to be able to give you everything, be here for you."

"I don't even know what I want. I never intended on coming back, not ever. And not just here, but any pack."

"Harper? How does she feel?"

Piper knew that question was more his wolf wanting answers than Bradley himself.

"I don't know, other than confused she is quiet, not really talking to me."

"At all?" he sounded concerned.

"Not since the hotel and your text." She shook her head.

"I'm sorry Piper, I pushed you, and I shouldn't have."

Piper sighed "What's done is done, I guess."

"Piper, when you left the country...did you run away from me or from Alpha Timothy?"

"Timothy...I thought you'd just leave and go away on your own, at some point, it was just a dress."

He was frowning down at her again "I had no idea about who you were, and sending Hadley in there with Beta, and the whole unit, I'm sorry...You know you really confused Cooper, stood up to him and he did not know what to make of you." a smile touched his face "Not many can stand up to a Beta like you did, he was more than annoyed about it."

"Well, he shouldn't go around trying to get his own way, all the time. That's not fair, it was very clear to me he was very used to getting his own way, you as well, all of you harassed Izzy and I."

"I know, not at all used to anyone saying 'no' to us, it was quite the shock to the system."

“Perhaps you shouldn’t get what you want all the time then,” Piper told him flatly.

“Piper?” his frown deepened “I’m not about to accept a rejection, if your going to voice one. I told you this already, I meant it.”

“I heard you the first time...I will not be making any decisions until Harper decides on what she wants.” Then she turned and walked away from him, headed for the door. She could feel Harper starting to fret about being so far from Brandon while in this pack, stepped out into the corridor and looked around. She’d never been in the hospital before or didn’t recall it anyway.

“To the right, for the exit.” Bradley told her “I’ll go with you.”

She looked at him and wondered if this was how it was going to be, him following her around all the time, sighed internally. She was used to being on her own, didn’t know how she was going to feel about him constantly being around.

Headed off down the corridor, he fell right into step with her, though didn’t touched her, just walked along next to her. She shivered, when stepping outside of the hospital, into the cold October air, had forgotten how cold it got out here, so close to winter.

“Do you need a jacket? I can have one brought to you.” Bradley asked,

“No, I’ll be fine, just forgot how cold it gets.”

“First snow due in about 3 weeks.”

Piper just nodded her head, and continued to walk towards the playground.

“You need to forgive Izzy, she means, well, got hurt by a man. It’s likely why she yelled at you is all. Doesn’t do so well with men ordering her around, her entire life has been like that, her father and his choice for her husband, Phillip.”

“She’s going to have to adjust, Piper.”

“Good luck with that,” She snorted.

“I might need your help on bringing her into the pack officially.”

“Why?” she looked up at him briefly “Eddie is here. She won’t leave him.” stepped into the playground and saw Brandon smile right at her, she smiled right back at him, he was sitting atop the climbing pyramid, had been climbing up it while she’d been walking there, had been watching him do so.

“Look,” he grinned down at her “No ropes mum.”

“I can see that.” she smiled, watched him climb all the way back down and then run over to her.

“I really like the park mum.” She could see how excited he was to be here already.

“There’s a bigger challenge here if I recall correctly. But you’re too young to try it.”

Watched him put his hands on his hips and stare up at her “I am not.”

“Yes you are.” She teased him “Want to see it?” She asked.

“Yeah.” He was grinning now, super excited, bouncing on the balls of his feet, now unable to sit still.

Nodded her head and looked at Bradley, was actively going to engage the man to play with his own son. Harper didn’t seem to mind the thought. “The agility course still where it used to be?” She asked him.

Saw him nod “He’s a bit young for that Piper.”

“I am not.” Brandon turned right to him and watched as he stared right up at Bradley and threw out a challenge “I’ll beat you.”

“I don’t think so son.” Bradley smiled down at the boy. “But, we can go over and see it if you like.” Brad’s eyes turned right to hers, as did Brandon’s.

“Go.” she nodded.

Saw Bradley smile at her then turn to look at Brandon. “I’d race you, son, but I have the advantage of knowing where it is. Come on.” Watched as the man reached down to pick the boy up and Brandon actually allowed it, sat right on the man’s hip still grinning. “I hold the current record.” He told Brandon.

Piper smiled to herself as Bradley turned and walked away and headed for the agility course. She herself doubted very much that he held the record. She had lived on that thing herself growing up. It was a good place to go to forget all that had going on around her, a good place to exhaust oneself, to push yourself until there were no thoughts at all of being alone, just felt so tired that all she had been able to do was think of sleep after being out here for hours.

She had used that course more often than anyone inside this pack, and when she had gotten her wolf she and Harper used it multiple times a day or night. If there was no-one on it, it had been fair game for them.

Found Eddie right next to her “You’re amused about something.”

She shrugged at him as they fell into step behind Bradley. “It happens on occasion, Edward.”

Looked around the pack. It was awfully quiet, she realised “Where are all the adults?” she’d only seen a handful of Omega’s about since leaving the pack hospital.

“Aspen doesn’t do so well with ranked wolves. Lilly thought it best to only have omega’s about while Brandon’s wolf adjusts.”

She frowned up at him “Why?”

“I don’t know, something about rogues in a pack. They don’t always handle it well. I presume he’s never been in one before now.”

“Correct.” Piper nodded her head.

“He looks happy Piper.”

“I can see that, Edward.” She commented right back, and she could. She and Harper may not like being here at this moment, but already Brandon was starting to like it here. Mostly because Edward was trying and succeeding in assimilating the boy. He seemed to know Brandon’s weakness, his need to compete and be on the go all the time. It might be a bit different when Aspen wakes up. Especially with Bradley carrying him around.

Heard Edward chuckle, could see Izzy was walking hand in hand with Edward, she looked happy to Piper, had finally found her Mr Right. He was exactly what the woman desired as well, blonde and muscled up. Wondered

what Fade would look like, wondered just how long that wolf had been with Izzy? She herself had not sensed anything different in Izzy, not til today when she'd woken up.

It likely happened on the full moon, hadn't shifted yet though, but Piper was willing to bet that would happen before the next full moon. Those bright blue eyes of her wolf, that was a curiosity, most wolves had green, though pure-blooded Alpha wolves had red and she had seen yellow before, and hers were white.

Wondered what other colours were out there and what they were indicative of. She'd never seen blue, was betting Fade was going to be something special.

Walked quietly along behind Bradley, Harper was lying inside her mind, head on her paws just watching, seemed somewhat interested but not interacting at all. Still not willing to voice her opinion. Piper was not going to push her. She'd talk when she was ready.

Watched as Bradley put Brandon down on the waist-high fence and then explained as he pointed out all the different things on the agility course, the hurdles to go over and the low hurdles to drop under, the tires to be stepped in and out of, the climbing wall and the abseil that was needed to come down the backside, the wooden walls of varied height that had to be jumped up and over or scaled if you were to short. The very steep mud slopes of a pit to go down and try to get back up the other side a good 20 feet either side. Monkey bars, and rope ladders that had to be climbed up and over and down the other side. There were four of those dotted around the course, all with different tensions to vary the degree of difficulty. The climbing ropes and then the final army climb under bamboo rods which turned into a giant mud pit when wet.

Brandon was fully excited by the course, was itching to get out there and give it a go himself, even though he was way too small to hit those climbing walls and hurdles, looked right at her all pleadingly, when Bradley told him he was too young for it.

Wondered if she should allow it and say yes. She'd used it from the age of ten and wasn't all that big, as long as you were careful it was alright. "I guess you can try some of it. Walk it, Eddie or your father can go with you." She finally stated.

She saw Bradley's eyes turn to her. She could see he clearly didn't like the idea. "I'd rather he didn't Piper, he is way too young."

“He wants to,” she stated simply. Rarely did she deny her boy anything.

“Still.” Bradley frowned at her.

“If you won’t, then I will.” she stepped forward “I lived on this thing from the age of 10, so I don’t see why not.”

“What?” Both Bradley and Eddie stated together, sounded completely shocked.

“I also doubt you hold the record.” she shot at him. “Harper and I likely still do.”

Saw Bradley’s mouth fall open as she walked round the fence and passed him. “Come on Brandon.” she reached out for him.

“Wait, a compromise instead.” Bradley said, putting a hand on her arm to halt her. “Eddie and I will run it, Brandon can watch.”

Piper looked at Brandon, he was pouting about not being able to get out there, but then nodded.

“Brad, we are not exactly dressed for this.” it was Eddie.

“Shoes and shirts off Gamma.” Bradley rapped out and order “Show your Mate just how good you are.”

She looked right at Edward, he was grinning now, shucking off his shoes already. He liked that idea, obviously Bradley knew what buttons to push.

Piper sat herself down, leaned back on the fence and motioned for Izzy to come sit with her. She did, pulled Brandon into her lap. She knew Bradley was likely to win against the Gamma, his alpha wolf would be stronger and faster. Whispered into Brandon’s ear “Tell them, no wolf assistance.”

Saw the boy grin, then he yelled out “Dad?”. Both Eddie and Bradley were headed over to the start of the course.

Bradley turned and looked at the boy, a smile on his face. He clearly liked how Brandon called him dad. “Yes son,” he called right back.

“No wolf assistance.”

Saw Bradley's eyes flick right at her, still wasn't used to him actually being able to look right at her. Although he'd been doing it now for a while, it still felt weird for him to be looking directly at her with purpose. He knew what Brandon had said was all her idea.

Heard Edward burst out laughing, he also seemed to get it. A fair match it was now. Let's just see who was better in agility. It was now possible for Edward to actually beat his Alpha.

"Count it out Brandon." Bradley called once they were over at the starting line.

The boy did, called out loudly, counting backwards from five and then yelled "Go Eddie."

Saw Bradley nearly stumble off the start line at the realisation that his own son was going to be cheering on the Gamma and not him. Piper couldn't help but chuckle at that, as did Izzy. She even heard Harper snort with amusement inside her mind.

Watching the two of them, they were evenly matched without wolves, it seemed. Piper popped Brandon into Izzy's lap when they were about a 3rd of the way through the course and got up, walked over and turned the sprinklers on, to make it just that bit more difficult, saw them both turn and look at her, she tipped an imaginary hat to both of them and went and sat back down. The last part of that course was an army crawl under those bamboo rods, and now it will be a mud pit when they got to it.

Heard Harper actually chortle inside her mind, she was fully amused now, it seemed.

"Mum?" Brandon asked, looking at her.

"More interesting this way." She smiled down at him.

"Will I get to do this sometime?"

"It is likely, but there are rules as to the age you can, you're not old enough at this point." she told him and he wasn't.

"So I have to wait until I'm ten?" he sounded very unhappy.

"13 actually." she informed him.

“What? But you said you were 10.”

“Yes, I had no-one to tell me no.” she shrugged and she didn’t.

Heard him mutter, that it wasn’t fair, saw Izzy hug him, she could likely sneak him out here and let him walk it with her assistance, though how Bradley would feel about that, when he found out about it?

‘Wait till he leaves for a meeting.’ Harper piped in.

‘Mm, could work.’ Piper agreed with her.

Watched as the two hit the crawl, a one hundred foot-long crawl through the mud, under those bamboo rods, a tight squeeze for both of them, females not so much. Their smaller builds were more suited to this part of the course, which allowed for the woman to catch up and over take some of the male warriors. She herself didn’t have any trouble with it, was only tiny in frame.

Brandon was up on his feet now, yelling for Eddie to move his backside. Izzy stood up and picked the boy up, and they were both cheering for Eddie to win. Saw Bradley emerge first but barely so. Eddie was killing himself laughing when he got out. He’d lost but was fully amused by all the cheering he was getting, it seemed.

Watched as Bradley shook his head and then shoved the man over and back into the mud, when he got up, Piper bit her lip fully amused “You should have let Brandon walk it.” she told him.

“Does he not know who he’s supposed to cheer for?” Bradley asked as he stepped up to her. They were sitting at the finish line, and both she and Bradley watched as Edward got up from the mud once more, waved his muddy hands at both Izzy and Brandon and then fainted at them. The two took off hand in hand laughing and Edward was chasing them a second later.

Piper and Harper snorted as Edward caught up with them and rubbed mud all over the two of them, then just picked them up one under each arm like they weighed nothing to him, carried them back to the mud pit and tossed them both in, laughing himself now.

“He does, just...” Piper looked up at Bradley, he was covered from head to toe in mud himself, “You wouldn’t let him on the course.” she shrugged.

Saw the man huff and shake his head. "The sprinklers? You thought that would be funny did you?"

"Perhaps," She nodded.

"I should toss you in the mud," Brad commented and eyed her off like he was really thinking about it.

Piper raised an eyebrow at him. "I probably wouldn't if I were you."

"Hmm."

"You didn't beat my time, just so you know."