

Chapter 71 - Unscentable

Piper POV

Piper was sitting in the pack-house dining room with Brandon, Izzy, Bradley and his entire Alpha Unit. He'd knocked on her door this morning and very politely asked her if she would join him downstairs for breakfast along with Brandon. The boy had yelled about being hungry and headed right out the door, leaving her with not much choice in the matter.

Had stared at him, still annoyed with him from last night, as was Harper, was actually sitting in her mind glaring at their Mate before them. Got the impression she still wanted to sink her claws into them. That Brandon was the only reason she didn't.

Her spoon was halted halfway to her mouth as Lilly came running into the pack-house dining room calling out his name, excitedly waving a piece of newspaper around. It looked to have been torn out of someone's hand, by the frown on Benjamin's face and the rest of the paper he was carrying, it was likely she had ripped it right from him, while he'd been reading it and ran off with it.

"Bradley, Piper your in the paper." Lilly had yelled excitedly as she'd run right over to the table, then had taken a deep breath in and read out the head line "Helena's most eligible bachelor. Snapped up and off the market." then she turned the paper around so that they could all see the picture. It was a full colour photo of Bradley along with herself, and Brandon right in the middle. They were both holding his hand as they walked along.

Piper sighed, did not need this right this minute.

Then Lilly turned it back around and continued to read out the article which stated, that the trio had not only been seen shopping for several hours, but they'd had lunch together and that all of Bradley's close friends had also been there. That upon further investigation of the possibility that one Mr Bradley Drake was off the market or soon would be. They'd found out that the woman in the photo with him was one Miss Piper Harper, owner of the Goddess Gowns Bridal store's, a renowned wedding dress designer. That it has also been noted that Mr Drake himself had recently been in Portland on more than one occasion, and his last stay had been in a hotel for nearly a week, right out by the Goddess Gown store where Piper Harper herself worked from. Then it

stated in bold letters at the bottom “Sorry ladies, it looks like our Bachelor is taken.”

Piper was staring at the woman, did not know what to say at all.

Bradley plucked the paper from Lilly’s hands and read it himself, smiled “It’s a nice picture.” he stated “Thank you Lilly.”

“I’m so excited.” She was smiling at him “There is more, but Benjamin kept that bit. I had to rip this bit from him.”

“I wasn’t finished reading it, woman.” Benjamin shook his head.

Just great, Piper thought to herself. As the man handed the rest of the page over. There were more pictures of them together, even a picture of Eddie, who’d been snapped kissing Izzy. The reporter had also tracked down who Izzy was, right down to her father in Maine. Edward was all over it, even Izzy got up to look at their photos. He was happy himself to read out the caption under there photo. “Edward Patrick’s off the market as well Ladies.”

Found herself under Brads’ gaze, and she huffed. “Sorry, I can’t control what they write.” he stated, but was still smiling, and a part of Piper wondered if that man had set this all up.

Though, from the sheer excitement coming off of his stepmother Lilly, she had doubts. If it was planned she’d not have come running in like that all hopped up like she was full of sugar. She was too excited for it to have been planned.

“May I?” she asked and was handed over the rest of the article to peruse. There was some chatter about Harrison and his wife picking out baby furniture, so the speculation of a new baby on the way was there as well.

Brandon was leaning over her arm looking at it. “I’m in the paper.” he sounded very excited. “Can I call and tell my friends mum?”

“Of course you can, son.” Brad answered before she could.

“Sweet,” he was grinning now, “can I take a photo as proof, mum, they’ll never believe me otherwise.”

“Sure.” she sighed, she was certain they would believe him, or at least she thought so. Portland wasn’t even really awake yet, but she was likely going to be fielding calls from people she knew, once they were.

“Are you unhappy about this, Piper?”

“Annoyed.” She stated honestly, for although Harper had laid claim in their mind to their Mate, she’d not actually stated it out loud to the man. Though Piper was dead certain that Edward had told his Alpha what she’d said about Harper’s tantrum last night.

‘Not tantrum, rightful rage.’ Harper snorted at her.

‘If that’s what you’re happy with,’ Piper answered her, wasn’t going to argue with her wolf about it. They both had slightly different points of views on the subject of last night's meeting with Annabella and how it transpired.

“It’s just one article,” Brad commented.

“Maybe not.” It was Cooper. “Might want to google your and Piper’s names together.”

Piper closed her eyes and sighed now. Did she really want to ‘no’ she thought, but then pulled her phone out and did just that. There were even more photos of them online. Some of them from inside the place they’d all had lunch, even one of Brandon asleep in Brad’s arm, out the front of his head office, while she walked next to him. There were many more of their shopping trip, and a few of her and Izzy looking at real estate options, captioned ‘Is Goddess Gowns coming to Helena?’ Seems this photographer had trailed them all over the place. It was getting out of hand.

Just one day outside of the pack, with him and it was all over the place. Brad seemed happy about it though, not a care at all about all their photos splashed everywhere.

“Piper, I’m likely or my head of HR is going to be fielding calls about this, how do you want to handle it? How do you want me to respond?” he asked her.

She looked right at him, knew how he wanted to respond to it, he would just confirm it and she knew it. “You’ll do as you please, I imagine.” She muttered and got up from the table and walked away.

Heard him state “Izzy you got Brandon.” and Izzy’s “yes.”

Then he was walking after her out of the dining room. She knew he would, because he’d not been happy with her answer at all, likely wanted her to tell him to confirm it.

“Piper, I don’t want to deny this.” and there it was. What he wanted she thought, “You are my Mate, we are Mate’s. It’s just a matter of time. You know I won’t take no for an answer, I want you as my Mate.”

“I heard you,” she muttered, turned and looked at him “Barely two days, Bradley. And you’ve got it all over the news.”

“I did not organise this,” he commented.

“Then which one of your unit did?” she asked out right, it was too convenient for her liking.

“Piper, I’m in the paper all the time. People recognise me, and being a bachelor for the past eight years, not once ever seen with a woman on my arm, it’s bound to get people’s attention.” Brad replied calmly, but it sounded too prepared to her ear.

“Which one?” she didn’t believe him. Cooper had googled their names together pretty darn quick, to quickly now that she thought about it.”

He sighed “Cooper I believe.” the man actually answered her and owned up to it.

“Really your Beta...” She had leverage on that man, maybe it was time to use it. Turn his own Alpha’s attention to the man’s indiscretion with Hadley.

“Piper?” She turned her eyes to find Hadley standing there at the bottom of the stairs that led up to the higher floors, who knew how long she had been there, though from the tone of her voice, long enough to know that Piper could well out them it seemed “Are you alright? I heard what happened. Must be a shock for you.” though she looked nervously at Piper.

“Hadley just stay out of this.” Brad told her.

“Why?” She heard Hadley snap right back “the poor woman is still trying to adjust to being here inside the pack again and now is practically tied to you,

according to the press. It must feel like your pushing her to your own agenda. It's not right Bradley."

Now that was an interesting statement coming from Hadley, Piper actually wondered if the girl genuinely meant it or was trying to save herself from Piper, who knew about her and Cooper's little secret.

"I'm not pushing Piper, Hadley."

"Well, that must be how it feels for Piper. You shouldn't always get what you want, just because your the Alpha Bradley." the girl snapped and then stalked off towards the dining room.

Piper wondered just how long it was going to be before Cooper came to hunt her down, to make sure she wasn't going to out them to Bradley. Watched the man frown after his sister.

"Did you know Cooper was going to do it?" Piper asked and was willing to bet the answer was going to be a yes. She knew Cooper couldn't have done this without the Alpha's permission, they had likely planned it, even if it was Cooper who suggested it, Bradley had to agree to it and approve of it.

Stood and waited for his answer, his eyes seemed to linger on his sister longer than necessary, and when he finally did turn and look at her, she knew it was a yes. Didn't even need him to voice it, guilt was written there on his facial expression. Shook her head "So much for giving me time. You never meant that I see." Piper turned and walked away from him. She was more than annoyed.

"Stop following me." she snapped when she heard his foot fall behind her as she headed for the pack-house front doors.

"Piper please."

"No! I want to be alone, go away." and she did want to be alone. A small part of her actually missed being alone. Had always hated being alone, but was so used to it, that she'd gotten used to it, she supposed. Stepped out of the pack-house and strode away.

Stopped after fifty metres and turned to glare at him, he was still following her "If you don't stop following me, I'm going to let Harper have a piece of you."

she stated flatly, “and if you think she won’t or doesn’t want to. You’d be very mistaken.”

“Piper, I just want to make sure you’re alright.”

“Do I look alright to you?” she snapped, annoyed.

“Piper!”

“No!” she yelled at him. “Give me some freaking space, for just one bloody minute.”

Saw him blink a the way she yelled at him, but he didn’t get it, couldn’t understand it, loved his pack life, was likely very social with everyone.

But for her it had just been a decade of isolation and loneliness and then, when she left just her, Brandon and Izzy. Now, everywhere she went, he was there. His unit was there. She needed a freaking minute to herself. Likely more than a minute. It was clear to her that he thought just because she was here inside the pack everything was peachy. Well it wasn’t, not really.

Turned and stalked away from him, it wasn’t like she was going to go far. Brandon was still in the pack-house, if she intended on up and leaving right that minute, she would have to go back in there and get him first.

Finally didn’t hear any footsteps following her, marched herself off into the woods and just kept on going, didn’t really know where she was headed, just went where she felt like going, there was she noted no-one out here in the woods.

Found herself deep inside the woods, right outside her old cabin, it was still there, stood and stared at it for a long minute. Then just walked over and pushed through the door, it creaked a little and closed behind her with a tiny click like it always had. It looked much the same to her as when she’d been here. Just a little dustier and had some vines now growing up through one floor board and out the window. The glass was cracked and the plant had taken to it.

Walked on over and sat herself down on the old mattress, that had once been her bed for a long time and closed her eyes. It was always so peaceful in here, only that one window and not much sound got in, even the birds outside seemed to be quieted by the cabin.

No-one had ever found her here, not in the whole time she'd lived here. It was a part of the pack lands, but was so deep within the woods it was nearly dark all the time. She briefly wondered what this place had been before it was abandoned. It was not the first time she'd wondered. Never found any information on it in the pack library. Was just here.

It was so quiet out here, so deep in the woods, she felt peaceful and relaxed here in this place that was her home, she was already starting to feel better, calmer, even Harper felt calm right this minute. Guess it was home, she thought a little sadly. Wolves weren't creatures that did well on their own, but that's all Harper had ever known, really.

Piper had already been alone for 6 years when Harper had come along, and this tiny one-room cabin had been their solace, when they had been distressed or sad. Had stumbled upon it or into it, she couldn't really recall, during her flee from the pack house at the first pains of betrayal, had run into the woods and ended up here.

Turned and moved the dusty curtain aside and there was her name carved into the wooden wall of the cabin below the window 'Piper Harper Whitlock lives here.' not that anyone had ever known that. Slid her fingers over the letters, across the scratched indents of the wood, had used Harper's claw to engrave that into the wooden wall. If anyone ever actually found this place, it wasn't likely the only place they'd see that. She must have scratched her name into every nook and cranny of the cabin, over the years she'd been here. Piper could see from here at least a dozen of them.

Had wanted to believe that someone would come in here and find her, or at least this place and then look for her at least, no such luck. Felt tears well up, she'd never existed inside this pack, but had desperately wanted to, wondered if any of the other places she carved her name around the pack were still there going un-noticed by all.

Sighed and put the curtain back, unlikely, with all the upgrades she'd seen that had been made in the years away from this place. Likely they were all gone now. Though there was likely to be in the basement of the pack-house, she thought, she doubted it would have been remodelled.

Closed her eyes and just sat there, pushed all thoughts from her mind and allowed the quiet of the woods to fill her, just the sound of the trees blowing in the wind was all there was out here.

'Piper?'

Piper's eyes opened and she looked around her. Could have sworn she'd heard Izzy. "Izzy?" she called out, thinking maybe the girl was outside. Got nothing in return, frowned and shook it off, glanced at her watch and blinked, it was nearly 11 in the morning, must have dozed off at some point. That was something she'd always been able to do here. She slept really well inside this cabin, it was quiet, nothing ever disturbed her.

'Piper?' she felt the word pushed inside her mind, like a mind-link, did sound like Izzy, perhaps that was what had woken her.

'Izzy?' she asked back, reaching out along the tether she felt, definitely a mind-link, weird hadn't felt that sensation in years. Didn't even know if she'd be able to use it once more.

'Oh thank the Goddess, Piper. Where are you?' Sounded worried to Piper.

Stretched herself out and stood up. "In the woods," she answered, probably should get back had been gone for hours, it seemed.

'Where in the woods? Bradley is completely freaking out, can't find you.'

'What else is new?' she muttered. No-one in this pack ever found her.

'Where?' Izzy pressed the point.

'South woods.' Piper told her, and stepped outside the cabin to head back to the pack-house, was likely in for a yelling at, if he couldn't find her. Got all of about a hundred metres when a large black wolf could be seen running towards her. Knew it was Benson, had seen that wolf many times before. Came to a stand still and just watched it approach her, wondered why it was coming so damned fast, though, he did appear to be running at full speed.

Wondered why he was freaked out at all, surely he knew she'd not left the pack, his border patrol would have stopped her in all likelihood and reported it to him. That was a given.

He shifted back right in front of her, and was damn near yanked off her feet and he crushed her up against his naked body, "Goddess Piper, you scared the hell out of me." he was was hugging her so bloody tight it was almost hard to draw breath. "Where did you go?"

Piper frowned, did not understand him. “Why are you all freaked out?”

“You were gone from me.”

“Yeah, I walked off, but...”

“No Piper.” He pulled away from her a little. “You were gone. Literally gone, I just felt you, well stopped feeling you all of a sudden.” his hand was in her hair, and he was looking down at her like he was really worried.

Piper just stared up at him, didn’t understand it. “stopped feeling me?”

“Yes, you bare my Mark. I can feel or sense where you are now. Well, I could until you just vanished a few hours ago. I have a pack wide search underway.”

“What? I just went...” Piper frowned, she’d not heard people searching for her, no wolves running about, no one calling her name. Though now, when she and Harper focused on it, they could actually hear other wolves out and lots of them.

“Where did you go?” He asked “Did you leave the pack? You shouldn’t. It’s dangerous.”

“No... I just went where I used to live.”

He was staring at her now, a little more than shocked, and actually watched him look around the area. She knew it was deep in the woods. “Where? Show me, there is nothing out here Piper.” he sounded not just confused but a little concerned.

“A cabin.”

“What?” He was frowning down at her now.

Piper shook her head and turned away from him, pointed further south, “A hundred metres or so down there.”

His hand found hers and he was suddenly walking in that direction, pulled her into step with him. “Brad, your naked you know.” and he was, butt ass naked, walking in the woods.

“Yes,” he commented, “Feel free to ogle, what belongs to you.”

She shook her head, and walked along beside him, frowned up at him when he walked right by it. "Brad stop, it's right there." she pulled him up and pointed to it. Saw him frown and realised that he could not actually see it.

Shook her head, and pulled him towards it, stepped inside, heard him swear and then ducked down and rub his head, oops. He hit his head on the door frame, hadn't even thought of that. Then just felt his whole body still and he was looking around. "What the..."

"I don't understand, why couldn't you see it?" she asked him. "it was right there."

Watched him walk around and actually look at the place, looked at the mattress on the floor, the dusty curtains and then just grabbed her hand "Out." He suddenly said and tugged her outside. She went didn't understand why.

Watched him turn and look back at it after a few steps, frowned again "It's cloaked by magic." he sighed "No wonder Eddie could never find you."

"Can you see it now?"

"No." he shook his head, "Designed to protect who it belongs to, I'd say." turned and looked right at her.

"I didn't build it, just stumbled into it when I was 18."

Heard him sigh softly "I'm sorry Piper." then pulled her right back into his chest "Please don't come here again, it's a little on the creepy side to me."

"It's home to me."

Felt him hug her "Not anymore, your home is with me, with Brandon. Inside the pack-house. And when you're ready in our suite."

She heard movement and turned her head to see his entire unit coming, all just wearing shorts, obviously been out in wolf form looking for her. Copper was carrying a pair of shorts for Bradley, she supposed. He looked at her and then at Brad and smiled, tossed Brad the pants and only then did she recall he was butt ass naked and she was pulled into him.

Turned and looked away a little embarrassed while he put his pants on. Was asked to show them the cabin, when none of them could see it either. Eddie

seemed the most annoyed with this place, muttered something about bloody witches and then something else about it was no wonder he couldn't find her. He stalked around it and marked up several trees to be able to come back to find it later.

Then stood and stared right at her, seemed he was as annoyed with her as the cabin. It was not her fault, had blindly blundered into it at 18, had not known it was here or looking for it, just been desperately trying to find a place where no one could hear her cries of pain.

"Get your butt back to the pack-house." Eddie muttered, and then stalked off, himself.

Looked at Bradley questioningly "Not even Eddie could feel you, and he's tuned into you like a watchdog currently. Day and night, doesn't want to not be able to find you again. Then you were suddenly gone from me and him.

Chapter 72 - Unscentable

Brad POV

Watched Piper stalk off away from him, in the direction of the woods, had to let her go, she needed a minute. Was very mad at him yet again. Likely had a right to be this time. But at least he knew what he'd done. Had gone and pushed a head with the plan to go public in the human world, before she was ready for it.

Hadley was right, he was pushing her to get what he wanted. Had told himself he wouldn't, but likely had never actually stopped at all. Couldn't bloody help himself, it seemed, huffed annoyed with himself, for his own stupidity and arrogance. Found both Eddie and Harry staring at him.

"She needs a minute."

"More than a minute." Eddie nodded. "Is mad and annoyed."

"Just let her be for now, Eddie. She has a right to be mad and annoyed at me. She also grew up here in the pack, and won't get lost. I'll alert border patrol to watch for her, that's all."

"She won't leave Bradley." Eddie frowned at him. "Don't do that. Trust in her. You're right, we should all let her be. She'll come back."

Brad stared at his Gamma, looked at Harry. If he was standing next to Eddie, his Gamma instincts were also switched on. Harry just nodded and then turned and walked away. Brad headed for his office himself to leave her be.

He would busy himself with pack business till she returned to the pack-house, and was ready to talk to him. Just one more thing he had to apologise for, he supposed, that list was getting longer by the day. Though caused by his own arrogance.

He could feel her through the tether that was his Mark on her, couldn't mind-link to her, until that process was complete or she let him initiate her, didn't see that happening anytime soon. But at least he could feel roughly where she was inside the pack, appeared to be walking towards the south end of the pack, nothing but more woods down there.

Put in a call to the head of his HR team in Drake industries, a wolf named Connor and told him to make no official statement to any press contacts at that time. It was not what Piper wanted. Connor was a pack member, as were all who worked inside his head office building. The man knew who and what Piper was, the Luna to their pack.

Was quiet on the subject for a full 20 seconds and then just stated "Yes Alpha." Then asked him if he wanted it all shut down completely, in order to help make the Luna feel more comfortable.

Though Bradley did not answer the man, due to the fact that Piper was suddenly gone from him. That tether he'd been keeping a feeling for was gone. Brad damn near dropped his phone as he shot to his feet. Reached out for her tether, got nothing. Told Connor he'd call him back and hung up.

His heart was hammering inside of his chest, Benson was up inside his mind restless and agitated, itching to be out of him to go and find her. They weren't completely bonded and he'd felt no pain at the severing of her from him, had gotten injured, but that didn't mean something had not just happened to her.

Was heading out of his office when Eddie barrelled in through the door, nearly bowled him over. Moving at full wolf speed, the man looked as panicked as Brad and Benson felt.

"I know, I can't feel her either." Brad told him as he turned the man around "I last felt her in the south woods."

Heard Eddie curse out loud, "I could never find her in those woods." He muttered as the two of them headed outside. Brad sent out a pack wide mind-link to all his warriors to find their Luna. She was missing. Last felt in the south woods, gave a detailed description of what she looked like, and that she would scent the same as he did.

Then Benson was ripped out of him, and they were racing off through the pack into the woods, along the path they had seen her stalk away from him, had only been gone from his sight for maybe 40 minutes. He'd not been keeping track of the time, just her meandering through the woods.

Then she just bloody vanished. He knew she had still been well within the pack's borders when she'd vanished.

No reports had come in from his border patrols saying she'd left the pack either and they were all reporting every 10 minutes, since he'd felt her vanish.

Benson was tracking her scent through the woods, could smell her now, so surely they would be able to find her. Found his wolf face to face with other wolves. Including his own unit at times. They were all tracking his scent, which was confusing them.

Benson had to stop and resent her several times, her damned scent so delicate and with everyone else out here it was getting muddied up. It was too soft a scent and it just ended nowhere and again he'd have to back track. Could feel his wolf getting mad at not being able to find her. Tracked himself all the way back to the original starting point and tried again.

Send most other wolves from the area to help track her better, just him and his unit in the end all prowling around looking for her. Eddie was almost freaking out as much as Bradley was. He didn't like it. How could he not find her inside his own pack when he knew this was where she had last been? It didn't make any sense to him at all. Fear and dread were ebbing into him. What if something had happened to her? What if he never found her?

Timber was in front of him for the dozenth time, and Brad found himself yelled at by his own Gamma, came down the mind-link loud and clear. That this was what it felt like inside the pack last time, when he could never find her, just running around in circles unable to get to her, to find her.

Timber was standing right before Benson, snarled at him all anger and aggression before he ran off into the woods again. They were getting nowhere

at all. Still no signs of her at any border, it had been hours and there was just bloody nothing. Even Timothy and Annabella were out here in the woods now. Both, it seemed, were very unhappy, likely thought as he did, the worst.

What if someone found out what she was and took her? Was staring down at Annabella's wolf, wanted to talk to her and ask Annabella questions, but couldn't mind-link to her she wasn't a pack member, 'Eddie.'

'Alpha?' still sounded ticked off, though Brad knew it was not at him, but at the fact that he had once again lost the Luna.

'Izzy and Fade, can connect to anyone at will, that's what Annabella said.' it didn't actually dawn on him till Benson was staring at Annabella's silver wolf. 'Have them try to mind-link to Piper, find out where she is?'

'I'll ask, though other than me and Timber, I don't think she's connected to anyone yet. Might be difficult.'

'She has, Fade to Annabella, and she did to me last night briefly, have her try.'

Brad called the actual search to a full standstill to wait it out. He had no idea if Fade or Izzy would be hindered by all the movement within the pack, so everyone was not just standing still waiting for the outcome, wherever they had been.

Though he had found many of his warriors like his unit coming back to him because she scented like him to them, so they'd all ended up tracking him and Benson in the end, this was not a good thing. Might still have to lo jock his own Mate after all.

It took a solid 15 minutes before Eddie mind-linked to him 'She got her, in the south woods.'

'Where in the bloody south woods, Edward.' he snapped, 'have been for hours now.'

Then there it was, the tether to her connected to him, they could feel her and Benson was off at full wolf speed, using their half-realised bond to track her.

He saw her in the distance through the trees and relief flooded through him. She was just strolling along like nothing was wrong, stopped and stared at

Benson as his wolf shot towards her, shifted them the moment he stood before her, and just crushed her into his chest, to hold her, knowing that she was safe, could feel Benson smelling her for blood to see if she was injured in anyway, got nothing.

Held onto her, even though she didn't seem to understand what was going on, or why he was so worried about her. Obviously where ever she had been all this time, she was not in any danger and when she told him there was a cabin, he'd frowned at her. There was nothing out here in the woods. There was certainly no cabin that he knew of, never had been as far as he was aware. They had expanded the packs borders when he was like 20, and these woods had been investigated first. There had been nothing out here. Still wasn't as far as he was aware.

Couldn't help himself but tell her to ogle away at what belonged to her. He was more than happy for her to ogle him, and he did belong to her. She pretty much owned him now. He was completely naked and didn't particularly care, it was just what happened after a shift, everyone in his pack saw everyone naked all the time. No big deal.

Brad was more concerned about where she had been and why she'd been gone from him and Eddie, for that matter. Was walking in the direction she'd pointed when she pulled him up and stated 'There.' He saw absolutely nothing but woods around him, there was no cabin at all, he could not see what she was seeing.

Followed her now, cracked his head on something he didn't even see and swore, had to be a door way, ducked down and passed through it, and his whole body froze. As the woods around him suddenly vanished and he was inside a cabin, just like she said. It could not be seen from the outside, was looking around at it now, saw the mattress on the floor and felt sad, this was how she'd lived, alone out here all by herself. Didn't like it.

He could see many symbols carved into places around the cabin, they were etched into the window frame, the ceiling beams and around the floor, above the doorway and down its sides. Knew instantly that this place was protected by magic. Kept it hidden from unwanted prying eyes. If Piper had lived here all that time? It was no wonder Eddie could never find her.

Stepped outside, knew it was there but still couldn't see it, already knew why she could see it and no one else could. He'd seen that her name was carved into the wooden walls and on the floor in places all over that cabin 'Piper

Harper Whitlock lives here.' She had claimed it as her home and it had bound itself to her, due to her carving her name into it. Protected her when she was in it.

Hadn't liked seeing how many times she'd carved her name into that place, hurt to see it to be honest. She'd been crying out for anyone to know who she was, where she was and no-one had. He didn't want her to ever come back to this place. Told her as much and pulled her back into his chest and just hugged her.

She told him she found the place when she was 18. He did not need to ask her anything further. He was pretty certain it would have been the first time she'd felt pain and had run off to try and escape it. This place was very deep in the most dense part of the woods, no-one would hear her cries of pain out here.

Smiled as she looked away, suddenly embarrassed by the fact that she had been standing in his arms and he was all naked, when his Unit arrived. They were all shifted back and wearing pants now, kept her eyes down on the ground while he dressed. It was cute, he would never deny her his body. If she asked him to walk around butt ass naked every day, he likely would.

Had her show his unit the cabin, none of them knew it was there either. Eddie appeared to be even more ticked off now. Brad knew why and understood right away. This place was the very reason Eddie had gotten so turned around inside the pack and had been unable to find his Luna. Watched him stalk around and scratch markings into the trees to indicate where it was.

Bradley even knew why the man did it. In case she came here again, so they could all find her, Eddie didn't think she would stay away from here. Likely, in her anger and annoyance with Brad, it had drawn her to it. Now that he knew it was here and he thought about her stalking off into the woods, she'd pretty much walked a line from the pack-house to it. Definitely drawn to the place.

Bradley didn't even chastise the man. When he told her to 'get her butt back to the pack-house', he had sounded more than annoyed with their Luna but let it go. He understood the man's feelings about her being missing. It was highly likely he once again thought he was broken, where she was concerned.

Brad called off the pack wide search and declared the Luna had been found, allowed his Unit to walk off ahead of them, walked with her, though he did not rush strolled, wanted to spend some time with her. As did Benson, just the two

of them, this would be the first time that happened outside of the hospital room.

She really got no choice in him holding her hand, had been holding on to her hand since finding her. It seemed like she kind of understood and didn't try to pull her hand from his as they walked back to the pack-house. He was not letting go anytime soon. A part of him and Benson needed the contact to comfort them, they had feared the worst had happened. Did not like, not being able to mind-link to her.

Thankfully, Izzy had Fade a Gypsy type of wolf, who could at will connect to anyone she saw fit. It was weird, but he was really happy right now to have them in this pack. Everything she'd ever said to him and Benson, was now forgiven, because she'd been the one to find his Luna.

"Why'd you stay away for so long?" Brad finally asked her.

"I fell asleep was all," Piper told him.

He looked down at her, nearly shook his head, had likely felt comforted by that place and had been lulled to sleep. It had not escaped his attention that the sounds of the world had been dulled inside that place, it was a sanctuary of sorts, he guessed. She had likely been affected by the protective charms themselves.

"I didn't tell Brandon you were missing, but Izzy knew, she stayed with him the whole time." He told her, didn't want her to worry about Brandon getting upset.

"How'd she mind-link to me?"

"Who knows, to do with being an Arctic Wolf, a gypsy-type wolf, I suppose. Though it could also be to do with the three of you being a little pack of your own." Brad sighed. "Piper." He stopped walking and turned to look down at her, she was not going to like this "After what just happened, I think...it's a good idea to initiate you into the pack...I know you're not ready, but Benson and I...we thought the worst. I don't ever want to feel that again."

Piper stood just looking up at him, didn't really say anything much for a long time, then said softly "I don't want you in my head all the time, I'm not..."

“I understand. I will only use it if necessary, I will still come and knock on your door, or text you, or call you.” He smiled at her gently, was glad she didn’t outright reject the idea, seemed to be open to it and ready to accept it.

“I will need to talk to Brandon and Izzy.”

“Alright, I can initiate you all together, though Izzy may refuse.” according to what Annabella said it was likely.

Saw Piper nod her head, really wanted to lean down and kiss the woman right now, but didn’t. Couldn’t push his wants and needs on her anymore than he already had. Needed to let her breathe and give her space. That is what she wanted. He was going to have to deal with it.

Though it was lucky for her that she was already Marked by Benson, or it was likely he would have sank his fangs into her the minute he had found her himself. Benson would not have been able to stop him, anymore than he had been able to his own wolf.

“How long did you search for me?” Piper asked quietly.

“Hours.” Brad shook his head “I have been in the south woods with Eddie the whole time. Both of us just constantly getting turned around and confused, the warriors and my whole Unit kept tracking back to me, as did Annabella and Timothy.”

“Because I smell like you now?”

“Yes to them.” Brad nodded “You smell very sweet to me,” smiled down at her “Might have to lo jack you yet,” he stated playfully.

Heard her actually laugh softly and smiled right down at her, loved hearing that sound, “I’m serious.” He told her though.

Watched Piper shake her head “Not going to happen.”

“I’ll attach it while you’re sleeping one night.” he teased her. “ An ankle bracelet like a criminal.” Brad chuckled himself.

He felt her hit him, right in the arm. “Stop it,” but still laughed. He liked that he had made her laugh, it was a really good feeling, even Benson was happy right this minute.

“Hmm.” He thought mischievously “I could tether you to me.” and a playful growl erupted from his wolf at the thought. They were probably pushing their luck a little bit.

Saw her turn those gorgeous honey brown eyes up at him as they walked and they were more golden brown when the sun hit them through the tree canopy. So very pretty, he thought.

“And you think you could catch me, to get that on me, do you?”

“Yes,” Brad laughed softly “I think Benson and I could run you down in a short sprint, though clearly not going to win in a full on chase long distance...but and off the mark sprint, mm were pretty confident.”

“Interesting that you think that...you don’t know anything about Harper.”

“I don’t,” he nodded in acknowledgement. “why don’t we take this little walk as a chance for you to tell me and Benson, all about her.”

Watched her think about it, and saw that flicker of white, seemed to go on a fair bit as she talked to her wolf about this idea, then she shook her head “No, Harper states this is your punishment, you and your wolfs. For not telling us about that Alpha Duel, you could have ended up in. Harper is still mad at you both for that.”

“Fair enough.” Brad nodded, though he and Benson were both disappointed to hear this, they wanted to know about Harper, what she was like, not just what she looked like, but her temperament as well. What she had been like when in wolf form. Though Benson more so on what she looks like, being that she was his Mate.

Though he and Harper once bonded would be able to talk to each other all the time, and be able to Mate in human form. Brad still knew that Benson wanted to see her in wolf form. Benson couldn’t recall her, neither could Brad for that matter. No-one could, it seemed. It saddened them both.

They strolled along through the woods all the way, until the pack-house came into view, and then they stepped out of the forest and into view of other pack members. There were a lot out and about, and he wondered if they were all just wanting to see for themselves that their Luna was alright and safe. Many nodded and greeted them both.

It made him smile to hear so many of them state “Alpha, Luna.” in greeting, he really did like it. They were also seeing them for the first time holding hands and she didn’t yank her hand away from him, when they came into contact with other members.

Piper didn’t say much though, simply looked at them and nodded her head ever so slightly in return. Likely still not all that comfortable with the term, Luna. Though he hoped she would do soon. He liked hearing it a lot.

Chapter 73 - Unscentable

Piper POV

Izzy hugged her so very tightly, when Brad opened the Luna Suite door and stepped aside for her to go passed him, then he stepped out and closed the door.

‘Don’t ever do that again.’ Izzy mind-linked to her right away.

‘I’m sorry, I just fell asleep was all.’

‘Eddie told me already, so witches are real too?’

‘Yes.’ Piper nodded.

Stepped away from her and looked at Brandon, he was over by the window, “Mum you missed it, so many wolves running all over the place.”

“I’m sorry, I missed it,” she murmured. “ It must have been a sight to see.”

He ran right over to her. “It was.” he was smiling up at her “something was going on for sure, but Aunt Izzy said I had to stay here. Too many wolves out there.”

“Probably a good thing.” Piper nodded, and it probably was. She didn’t know how Aspen would have dealt with it. Though his wolf was handling eating in the dining room and had been fine with Annabella and all of Brad’s family yesterday. Was likely adjusting to the pack.

“Where were you?” he asked up at her.

“I went for a walk was all. Had a nap in the woods.”

He was frowning up at her now. "It's too early for a nap."

"Guess it wasn't. Maybe I'm still not fully recovered." she told him gently "I need you two to sit, there is something we need to discuss."

"I bet." It was Izzy and she sounded a bit annoyed, Piper realised. Let it go, the woman only got her wolf yesterday and was already having to mind-link to people at the Alpha's or Eddie's request, probably didn't like it.

The pair of them sat down and looked at her.

"Bradley has asked, due to today's event." That's what she'd decided to call it, because she'd not even known she was missing. How could she "That we all need to be initiated into the pack."

"What's that mean?" Brandon asked her. He'd heard Brad say it before and she'd gotten angry with the man about it.

She saw Izzy frown deeply and knew why, her wolf Fade would not like it or at least that's what Annabella had said about it. Though Piper did know Edward would want her to be a part of the pack, she wondered if he'd have more luck talking her into it. It did not look like her wolf was open to the idea, obviously knew what it meant.

"Brandon, it means you'll officially be a part of your father's pack," She answered him.

He stared at her for almost a full minute before speaking "Live here?" He asked.

"I guess so." Piper nodded "Do you want that?"

"Do you?" He asked right back, still frowning at her.

"That's...still in the air. But if you want to be here," She told him.

"No...What do you want mum?" He stated "you said you'd never come back. It's not good for you and Harper here. You got sick here."

"We did get sick here." Piper admitted. "Might be different now." She didn't want him to know all the ugly truth of why she'd gotten sick.

"What made you sick?" He asked.

Piper could not answer that question, not without him having a million more questions and it could ruin the bond he now had with Brad as well. "Several things, though it does seem most of those things are gone now."

He was quiet for a very long time. She could see he was actually talking with Aspen. They had heard Annabella's story and it was likely that Brandon didn't truly understand the ramifications. Aspen had understood it all. She could only sit and wait on them to be ready to talk to her again.

She moved her eyes to Izzy, who simply shook her head 'no'. No real surprise there. "Fade says no."

"Alright, you're bonded to Edward, and can mind-link to anyone you want apparently, so big deal."

"Is that all this is about?"

"Mostly." She nodded, looked right at Izzy and found she could establish a link to her with ease 'Brad wants to initiate me back into the pack, the link it will create with him, means he can talk to me anytime he likes, find me or ask me where I am, he can't at the moment. Didn't like that at all today.'

'Well, no surprise there, you vanished, Piper. Eddie was completely freaked out.' shook her head 'the whole pack was looking for you.'

'I heard.' Piper nodded, turned her attention to Brandon. The boy was just staring at her now.

"What do you want?" He asked again, though now he sounded a little sad, she noted. Wondered what he and Aspen had discussed.

"I guess, at some point, I would be coming here to live as well."

"So...you're going to stay...are you and dad going to be together?"

How did she answer that question? She already knew that Harper thought of Brad and Benson as her Mates, they had claimed her and it seemed to have changed Harper's view of their Mate. She did let Brad touch them and had not objected to him holding her hand all the way back, had even let him hug her twice today. Didn't seem to bother her wolf at all.

Though she still had not wanted Piper to talk to the man about her. Said it was to punish them, but Piper wondered if it was fear more than punishment. Talking about her might lead to one of them asking her to shift and she couldn't anymore.

"That still needs time, Brandon," She answered him honestly.

Saw his eyes move to her neck, to her Mark, his father's Mark. Looked at Izzy's for a moment and then he sighed "Will it hurt me? You and Harper?"

"Not really. For a moment, he'll have to cut your palm and his, press them together and then you'll feel much more strongly connected to him. Likely, with Aspen, you'll actually be able to talk to him even when he's not in the room. It's a special thing called a mind-link."

"Weird."

"Your telling me Kiddo." Izzy shook her head "Eddie's voice just pops into my head anytime he likes. Fade and Timber, little weirdo's both of them, always on about going out into the woods for..." stopped herself from finishing that sentence.

Piper smiled at her "I did tell you, not a minutes peace, and they're your weirdo's now."

"Yes they are. He put in a call to my father today too." shook her head.

"How'd that go?"

"Well Eddie, not happy with the man and I quote, 'you'll stay out of Izzy's love life or be dealing with me', then he just hung up, I'm still waiting on my father's call, it's not come yet."

Piper snorted, amused, didn't think it would take Edward long to put that man in his place. "Maybe your father has finally got the message."

"I can only hope," Izzy nodded.

Turned her attention back to Brandon "What do you want to do?" she once again asked him.

"Can I and not you?" He asked quietly.

“Yes,” she nodded, “but your father has requested me to do it as well.”

“Why? He said he’d wait?”

“When?” She frowned.

“On the plane, said you, and he would take time.”

“It will,” Piper acknowledged.

“But now he wants to...make you.”

“Kind of, I guess so. Has his reason’s.”

“What reasons?”

Piper sighed, “All those wolves running around...they were looking for me.” she told him, he was just going to keep asking questions till he understood.

“What, why?”

“He thought I got lost in the woods,” she told him. She’d not been lost but it was the best way to explain it to him. “If I’m part of the pack, he can always find me.”

“You told me you wouldn’t go running by yourself anymore.” Brandon suddenly accused her.

“I didn’t run off. Just walked away and then had a nap. He thought I was lost.”

The boy was frowning at her and didn’t look like he believed her “you were gone for hours.”

“I know.”

“No-one told me.” He turned his eyes on Izzy.

“I was asked not to by Eddie. They didn’t want you to get upset.”

He was now glaring at both of them now. Looked from one to the other, and was very angry, she realised. Then he just got up and stalked away, left the suite altogether. He didn’t have a room to go to himself.

Piper stood and followed him, as did Izzy. He didn't go far, though looked like he'd run down the hall, he was too far away from their room for him to have walked. Edward had him, had picked him up and Brandon was fighting to be put down. Heard Edward tell him "one lost today is enough, Brandon." even Edward seemed to know, what was going on. "Come on ladies, let's sort this out." He turned and headed off down the stairs. Brandon was still shoving at him and trying to get down. Until Eddie actually put him down.

Though kept a grip on the boy's hand, walked him all the way to the Alpha's office, where not only Brad was sitting behind his desk, but Cooper was leaning on the wall and Harry was sitting on a chair. They'd all been talking, it seemed.

Watched Brandon turn and kick Edward, right in the shin. Eddie finally let him go. Brad raised an eyebrow, everyone knew Brandon and Edward had a good relationship. Didn't look like it right this minute. Saw him run right across the room and climb up into Bradley's lap and into his open arms, he wanted his father right this minute.

Piper had to remind herself that despite Brandon being an Alpha wolf, he was just a little boy too, and dealing with a lot, like she was. He was mad at her and needed comfort, so he had run off to find his father. Brad had seemed to know, just opened his arms to the boy.

"What's wrong?" She heard Brad ask him.

"Mum got lost didn't she? Ran off all alone again."

"Lost yes. Run off, no. She asked me to let her go for a walk. I didn't see why not. Yes she got lost, it's been a long time since she's been here. She's back now. Didn't get hurt."

"Could have though."

Piper sighed, he was not mad, he was scared she was going to get hurt again. Brad looked right at her, said nothing was rubbing the boy's back trying to comfort him. "She's fine, and that's what matters." was all he said in the end.

"If she's part of the pack...you can always find her?"

"Yes." Brad nodded down at the boy, though frowned.

“Then do it. Make her part of your pack.” The boy stated flatly, shocked her quite a bit.

“Son.”

“No, it’s better, safer this way...Aspen agrees.”

Saw Brad’s eyes move right towards her questioningly.

Piper sighed softly, she’d have to do it at some point. “It’s fine.” she was also not going to upset her son any further. And she did like the idea of being able to mind-link to Brandon. Harper didn’t seem at all opposed to the idea either, hadn’t been even when he’d brought it up on their walk back through the woods.

“You understand Piper. Once I do this...”

She cut him off. “I get it.” she nodded, he was never going to let her leave, not that she thought he was going to anyway. “Harper is not opposed to the idea.” Saw him smile. “Now that does not mean, we’re at all ready for anything else.”

“Alright.” Brad nodded, though he seemed happy about Harper being willing.

Piper had done this before, though not when he’d been her Mate. When she’d been 17 and he’d taken over the pack, she knew what was going to happen, understood what to do and say.

Held her palm out to him, saw him stand and put Brandon in his chair, then reached for the pack ceremonial blade that was on his desk resting on a stand. Looked to her to always sit there. Saw Brandon’s eyes go wide. It was not a little blade. About half a foot long, thin and looked to be very sharp.

“It’ll be a tiny nick son.” he cut his own palm and then took Piper’s hand and cut hers too, saw Brandon bite his lip as he watched Brad press their palms together, felt her blood mesh with his. Kind of felt itchy to her.

“I Alpha Bradley Drake, of Black Haven Pack. Accept you Piper Whitlock, into my Pack as my Mate and Luna.”

Piper stared up at him, had not realised that was what he was going to say, but had to accept it now. “I, Piper Whitlock, pledge my loyalty to you, Alpha Bradley Drake and to your Pack. The Black Haven Pack...” saw him raise an

eyebrow at her hesitation, his hand did not let go of hers and she knew that cut was still open, still felt itchy. She had to finish as he had. Didn't really want to state that yet, but would have to or the wound would simply stay open "As your Mate and future Luna." felt the connection instantly to him, saw him smile and then he let go of her hand a moment later.

"Welcome home Piper, Harper." He bowed his head to her, surprised her more than a little. Then he turned to Brandon "Now Brandon. All I need from you is a little blood and the words 'I accept dad.'"

Saw Brandon nod and stood and watched as Brad cut his palm once more, lifted Brandon's little hand. "It'll only hurt for a second okay." Brad told him and nicked the boys palm and put it to his.

"I accept you, Brandon Whitlock, as my son and the future Heir to my pack. What say you?"

"I accept dad." Brandon answered him. Piper saw a shiver run through the boy as the connection to his father was made. "That's weird," he said as he looked down at his palm and watched the wound seal over, it left a tiny little scar, watched him touch it with his fingers.

Brad smiled down at him and ruffled his hair. "Welcome home son."

Then Brad's eyes moved to Izzy. "No." it was Fade, not Izzy and it was a firm statement.

"Alright." Brad simply nodded "Though Izzy, Fade. You are both welcome in this pack, it is your home now, always will be if you accept us." saw him bow his head slightly to her.

Watch as Fade stared right at him long and hard, a solid minute before she bowed slightly back to him, before receding and allowing Izzy control once more. Seems she was accepting of this being her home.

"Shall we have lunch?" Brad smiled as he wiped the blade on a black cloth and put it back.

"I'm hungry." Brandon smiled up at him.

Chapter 74 - Unscentable

Brad POV

The look on her face told him, Piper had not been expecting him to state my Mate and Luna. But she did bare his Mark and protocol did actually dictate that he was to say those words, he would have told her, had she not cut him off.

Likely thought it would be just like when she was 17, and just had to pledge loyalty to him. But now that she was his Mate, it was different. Brad even knew why she hesitated to finish her pledge, she was not yet ready to state those two words.

His whole unit was there in this room to witness it, and when she made that slight adjustment to his wording, it didn't really bother him. Luna, future Luna, meant the same thing really. Just meant he still had to wait, no real surprise there, she'd only been here a few days.

Brandon accepting him right away, made him very happy. He'd actually thought Aspen was going to have a problem with it. But it seemed his wolf wanted to be able to track his mother down as much as he did himself. Told him to initiate her for this very reason.

They were both here to say now, that was all that really mattered to him and his connection to the both of them, if felt amazingly strong, the tether between he and Piper also now allowed him to feel her emotions down through the mind-link. So he'd at least be able to read her, when she looked all impassive. Wouldn't have to rely on Eddie all the time anymore.

He found her voice inside his mind, as she connected to him for the first time during lunch. He'd told her he wouldn't invade her mind and was not going to, but was more than happy for her to invade his, even felt Benson's happiness at her willingness to connect to them. His beast damned near purred out loud.

'Did you really have to add that last part to my pledge?' Piper asked him, sounded a little annoyed to him.

Looked right at her as she sat across from him, allowed his eyes to move to the Mark on her neck before answering, it did not go unnoticed by her, where his eyes were. 'Yes, protocol was followed. You bare my Mark, Piper. You are my Mate and my Luna.'

'You could have told me that first.'

'You cut me off. I did try to tell you.' he commented, and he had been going to.

'You could have pushed a bit harder to explain.'

'Probably.' he admitted, but said nothing more on the situation. She cut the link before he did.

Brad had already seen her dismiss half a dozen phone calls in the past 20 minutes, frowned down at her phone each time, had read three text messages and declined to answer those as well. Watched as she flicked the incoming phone call away again. Saw her glare at Izzy when she went to answer her phone, Izzy sighed and dismissed it. Wondered what that was all about.

Then it was Izzy dismissing phone calls and reading text messages but not answering them.

Leaned back in his chair and watched as Izzy looked right at Piper, and then sighed "one of us needs to answer at least one phone call, Piper. It's going to get out of hand otherwise."

"Fine. No comment, is the answer." Piper had muttered finally.

Bradley suddenly realised her end of the world were seeing pictures of them together and they wanted to have answers to the questions about her relationship with him. The joy of being well known in the human world.

"Piper, if you want to use your office, to make some calls in private, I'll walk you up there."

"My office is in Portland." She told him flatly.

Brad sighed "Your office inside the pack, I mean. Would you like to see it?" He offered "You could use it as a base until the store here in Helena is built."

She was looking right at him now. Huffed I annoyance. This was what had made her walk off this morning. Waved his unit away, was pushing her too hard, would let it go "Alright, I'm pushing you...Why don't I take a step back. I have not yet shown you or Brandon around. How about we do that this afternoon, and you let your..." he looked at Izzy as she walked off with Eddie hand in hand. Smiled to himself, she did seem happy here and with Eddie. Waited until they were out of ear shot "Business partner, handle the press calls. I presume she always did from her annoyance at not being able to now."

“I haven’t had a chance to talk to Izzy about that yet. And yes, she would direct the other managers about what to say.”

“Then let her do her job, seems to me, she is itching to get back to work.”

Piper nodded her head, actually watched her eyes glaze over and smiled, using a mind-link to Izzy, he presumed. He was happy that she could mind-link to Izzy, though Fade, being an Alpha female, was likely going to cause him some trouble at times. They’d already butted heads, and before she’d had a fully realised Fade. Was likely always going to because she was aligned to Aspen and likely Harper. Those two wolves were her Pack and always would be.

“You know Piper, I am a lawyer, I could sit with you and draw up Izzy’s contract with you.” he offered, wouldn’t mind spending some time with her, alone. Also, it would give him a chance to get to know her a little.

“No thank you. I have a lawyer and Izzy’s contract is already underway. It...” She sighed “Excuse me, I need to make a phone call.” watched her get up and walk away from the table to use her phone to do just that.

Called her lawyer and organised for those contracts to be couriered here. To make sure the title was right and the store was the one to be built, here in Helena. Then she turned and looked right at him, a frown on her face, before asking him the address of his head office.

That made him smile, he told her without hesitation, smiled down at Brandon and murmured “I think you and your mum will be moving here permanently soon.”

“I know,” he said simply.

“Discussed it already have we?” Brad was curious, nine out of ten times the boy knew before he did. Piper was very big on telling him everything it seemed.

Saw his boy turn his hand over and look at the tiny scar. “That’s what this means.”

Brad smiled, he liked that Piper was honest with the boy. She sat back down after her phone call ended. “I know a really good architect if you need one. To design the store.”

“No thank you. I have a designer and an architect. They’re a little husband and wife company in Portland. Well were little when I first hired them.” she smiled to herself. “They’ve designed and remodelled all my stores.”

“You do recall I’m also in construction. I know the best people, Piper.”

“I like my people. Leave it alone. I will build my store, how I want, with who I want, stay out of my business.”

Brad blinked at her comment, wanted to object instantly, but reminded himself, she was used to doing everything on her own, all the time. Though he would much prefer she would do business with his preferred contacts and allied packs, he wasn’t going to push it.

“Are they human?” Brad asked instead.

“yes.”

“Piper, I would prefer.”

She cut him clean off. “I don’t care what you prefer, where my business is concerned. I have been using my people for years without any issues. Gloria and Daniel know what I like, leave it alone.” Watched as she stood up but was still looking at him “I have done this 4 times already and I trust my people. I will use my people and build my way. Or I won’t build at all and just go back to Portland to work.” She was glaring at him, challenging him.

“Build here, Piper. I was simply trying to offer a suggestion.”

“No you weren’t, you were trying to take control and I will not be allowing that. It’s my business, not yours. I built it on my own and will run it as I please, not as you want.”

Brad sighed, he had not been trying to tick her off, but that business of hers was a touchy subject he realised. “Alright, can I have a heads up, on when your humans get here.”

“Their names are Gloria and Daniel, please be respectful and use them.” She looked to Brandon. “You ready to go?”

Brandon nodded, Bradley stood “Am I allowed to show you around?” he muttered, seemed like she was on a mission to do everything herself, was not going to let him do anything for her.

“You did offer.” Piper nodded “Just stay out of my business please. Izzy and I can do everything without your help.”

“Alright,” He nodded, Brad didn’t like it but was going to have to deal with it he guessed, for now anyway. Surely at some point she would let him help.

Brad walked them both around the Pack-house, showed Brandon the gaming rooms, the movie theatre. Though he’d seen that last night, Brad wasn’t actually sure just how much of it. Definitely the candy bar. Walked them into the Library. It was pretty much the same, only had new floors and windows. Showed Brandon all the new computers to use. Everything in the actual library was wolfen related but the computers were all access to the human world. Walked them through the gym, watched Piper look at the treadmills. They were different to the ones she had in her home. She even turned one on and looked at it. He couldn’t tell if she was happy with them or not. They were only a few years old. In perfecting working order.

Showed them the indoor swimming pools, one for training and one for playing, had lots of pool playable equipment, and two water slides for the kids to have fun. Strolled out the back of the pack-house and to the outdoor sporting area. There were 4 tennis courts, two volleyball courts and a large oval for football and soccer to be played on.

Told Brandon that this was where most of the annual week of challenges that he held for his pack to have fun with were held. That the pack itself would split up into groups, and they had fun pitting themselves against each other in all manner of fun games and sports. Brad could see that Brandon was interested in that, asked right away if he was old enough to participate. He was, that made Brandon happy too.

Showed them around the town centre and then the school he would be attending though, he didn’t say that out loud, but did mention that both human and wolfen classes were attended. They stopped and got drinks at the local cafe, before moving on again. Allowed a short walk in the woods on the way back to the pack-house, just to show Brandon how deep and dark they could get.

Then strolled them back into the pack-house and walked Piper and Brandon up to the first floor and pushed open the Luna Office and stepped inside, wanting her to see her office. Only to come to a dead halt at seeing Hadley half naked on top of his Beta Cooper.

“What the hell?” He snapped out angrily.

Saw both their eyes shoot right to his, felt his anger rise at the sight of his little sister sitting half naked on his half naked Beta. Their lips had been locked and their hands had been all over each other.

Backed out of the room, a hand on Piper and pushed her and Brandon right out of the room, banged the door shut, was completely fuming. It was no wonder Cooper kept telling him, to leave it alone, that he would deal with it. ‘My office now’, he snarled down the mind-link to both his Beta and his sister.

He turned his eyes on Piper, who was standing staring at him, seemed more than amused by the sudden turn of events, and sighed to himself. Realised from her amusement, from the way Cooper had been with her in Helena, she’d been amused then too. She already knew and they knew she had something on them.

“I need a minute,” he muttered.

“Likely you’ll need more than that.” she half laughed “I’ll take Brandon back to our suite.”

“I’m sorry you had to see that Brandon.” and he was the boy was just 7, did not need to walk in on that.

The boy shrugged “I didn’t really see anything. Mum covered my eyes.”

He was glad to hear that, “I’m sorry Piper.” Brad sighed.

‘Don’t kill you Beta now.’ Her voice came down the mind-link, still sounded amused to him.

‘Beat him senseless maybe.’ Brad muttered back and walked off towards his office, as she walked to her suite with Brandon. How bloody stupid could the two of them be? Using the Luna’s office like that.

Brad was not just mad about the two of them having sex, but in Piper's office of all places. They both had bloody rooms of their own. But no, they had to go and defile the Luna's office, and not only had he seen it. So had she and Brandon was right there too.

Stalked into his office and banged the door shut as well. He now understood why Hadley's boyfriend was paranoid about him finding out, and didn't want to meet him. His own Beta and his little sister. He was really starting to think about everything now. Since her birthday. Looking back on Hadley and Cooper's interactions, Cooper had said it started after her 18th birthday.

Sat down at his desk and recalled the day he'd had the pair of them sitting next to each other on the other side of his desk, after he had finally agreed to let Hadley go to Portland to get that dress she wanted.

He'd been sitting here in his chair, the two of them across from him, she was all smiles, Cooper had been all Beta from what he recalled. Brad had been laying down the rules of what he expected of both of them while outside of this pack. Had told Hadley that Cooper was in charge while outside of the pack.

They'd both sat in front of him, and he'd actually told Hadley, she would be staying not in a suite of her own, but would have a two-room suite with Cooper, so he could keep an eye on her. That she had to do everything Cooper told her to do. Closed his eyes and huffed to himself as he now recalled her response, she had nodded her head and stated "Yes Bradley." sounded fully amused to him even then, though only now did he realise why.

He'd not realised why the amusement and had taken it that she had no intention of doing so and told her "I mean it, Hadley. You will do everything Cooper tells you to. Cooper is in charge of you the whole trip."

She'd smiled right at him, nearly laughed, he recalled, it had actually annoyed him to be honest even when again she'd said "Yes Bradley." and nodded her head, "I will do everything Cooper tells me to do." had even put more emphasis on the word everything.

Brad recalled staring right at Hadley for a long minute. She'd been more than amused, but he'd seen the longer he'd stared at her, she'd actually tried to curb her amusement. Then he'd looked right at his Beta, Cooper. He'd not seemed amused at all. Was in full Beta mode, it appeared to him.

Told that man "Don't let her out of your sight."

“Yes Brad.” Cooper had nodded, not shown anything other than his usual demeanour. Had not shown any amusement like Hadley had that day. It was clear to him now, those two were already at it before he’d sent them off to Portland. Hadley’s pure amusement at being told to do everything Cooper told her to do, said it all now.

Brad did not even want to think about what that man had told his sister to do, or that she had done, because he’d told her to follow every instruction, closed his eyes, he’d been none the wiser, had trusted his Beta to look after his sister, to take care of her. Guess he bloody well, had taken care of her, and she had likely sated all that mans needs to boot.

Chapter 75 - Unscentable

Brad POV

Bradley was sitting behind his desk when both Cooper and Hadley walked into his office. Hadley shoved right past Cooper to walk into his office first, looked quite annoyed herself. His eyes moved from his sister to his Beta. Cooper met his eyes, though only briefly, before going and sitting in the chair across from him on the other side of the Alpha’s desk. At least the man knew he was in trouble.

Any other day of the week, he would stand behind Brad or lean up against the wall just off to the right of Brad’s desk, showing his position of power, but right that minute he knew he was here to be reprimanded by the Alpha. “Sorry Bradley.” Cooper stated “I was...”

“Shut it Beta.” He snapped at the man. “I’m not ready to hear you speak.”

Hadley, however, was standing right next to his desk, her arms folded over her chest. Still looking annoyed at being called into his office to explain herself, he supposed. His eyes were on hers as hers were his, she looked as though she had nothing to explain, that she had done nothing wrong.

This was not the sweet little sister, Hadley, that he knew. No, this was Hadley the Alpha-blooded female, staring him down. “I’m not afraid of you,” She stated flatly.

He didn’t expect her to be afraid, but contrite would be nice. Raised an eyebrow right at her “I could well punish you both for this indiscretion. Certainly the Beta. Could put that man on the shaming post.”

Saw Cooper's head whip right up in his peripheral vision, felt the man's eyes on him. They didn't really use the shaming post anymore. Only at a family's request usually, and no-one wanted their family shamed that way. Hadn't been used in over a decade. Brad had never put anyone on it, since being in charge.

"The hell you will, Bradley, I'll fight you over it."

Bradley snorted right at her "You, fight me over it?" It was ludicrous to even say such things. Damn near laughed out loud at the idea of her who hated to fight, taking him on.

"I do train Bradley. I may not like to fight, but I train, I learned how and I am an Alpha and don't think I won't. You put Cooper on that post. It will be on, you and me." She was rolling her Alpha Aura right at him.

Felt Benson snarl inside his mind, his own sister challenging him. Ignored the challenge and got to the point of this meeting. "So what the hell do you think your doing with the Beta? He's not your Mate." Brad snapped.

"So what if he's not! I can sleep with whoever I want to." Hadley shot right at him.

"And so you just decided to pick the pack's Beta."

"Yes," she stated, sounding annoyed, "I'm alpha-blooded, as are you. I have needs, I need someone who can sate those needs. A Beta is perfect for that." waved a hand in Cooper's direction. "He's got stamina in spades."

"Don't you talk like that, Hadley," Bradley grated out, he did not need nor want those images in his head right this moment. He also didn't want to hear her talk like that.

"Why? It's the truth, I'm not different to you and your needs as an Alpha Wolf."

"You should bloody well wait for your Mate, Hadley. Alpha females should all wait for their Mates." He shot right at her.

"Are you fucking kidding me!" Hadley yelled right at him "I'm a girl, so I should just wait all prim and proper should I?..." glared right at him "So boys are allowed to go fuck around, but girls are not? That's insane."

“It’s how it is, Hadley.” He shot right back, annoyed by her tone.

“You’re a fucking hypocrite is what. Just because I’m a girl, I should wait to have sex...did you wait until you found your mate, Nooo you didn’t.”

“Enough Hadley.” Brad grated out at her, he did not want to go down that road with her.

“No it’s not. If you Bradley, Alpha to the pack.” She dripped with sarcasm “Had abided by those rules. Had waited for your Mate, and not gone and fucked anything and everything, you’d never have hurt Piper, would you have?”

“That’s enough, Hadley, I don’t need a lecture from you.” He snarled at her.

“Oh but I do, because I’m a girl. I’m not the one who caused my Mate to suffer and nearly die. Loose her wolf and can’t shift any more. No, you did that on your own by fucking around.”

“Enough.” Brad roared at her and shot to his feet.

“Enough!” Hadley yelled right back “It’s bullshit, You Alpha males, your all arrogant and want your Mates to be virgins, waiting on you to come along, but do you wait for your Mates? No, you don’t, you all got to go out and fuck any she-wolf that’ll open their legs for you. None of you care about defiling another’s Mate. You’re all a bunch of fucking hypocrites.”

Saw his office door open and his father burst into the room. “What the hell is going on? I can feel the two of you raging against each other.”

He was seething, at being spoken to like this. She had no damned right to come into his office and yell at him. He was the Alpha, not her.

Saw Hadley turn to their father, but her finger was pointed at him still, “Your son is a hypocrite, he can go and fuck anything he wanted to. But I can’t. I have the same Alpha needs and urges as all you Alpha men. And I will bloody well sate them, when I want to, where and with whoever I so blood choose.”

Then she walked around his desk and over to Cooper, grabbed that man by his shirt and kissed him right there in front of both him and his father. Noted Coopers hands stayed off of her.

Turned and looked right at him as she stepped away from Cooper. "If I want to fuck the pack's Beta, I will...At least I'm not hurting anyone doing it. Unlike you did, fucking around on your Mate."

He was up and over the desk, had had enough of her accusations. She bloody well knew he'd had no idea about Piper being his Mate, and just kept throwing it in his face, like he'd done it on purpose. Both he and Benson were furious at her words, her insults.

They knew how much pain he'd caused Piper and Harper. They'd had no control over the situation, both he and Benson were ready to rip into her. Both his and her Alpha blood were boiling over at this point.

He found his father and Cooper shooting forward to grab on to him, to stop him from attacking his own sister. They were shoving him backwards, flooding him with both their auras to keep him and his wolf back off the girl.

"Can't handle the truth, I see." Hadley snarled right at him.

"You want a fight, Hadley." Brad snarled right back at her "You want to take me on. Then Challenge me." He roared at her.

Saw Hadley frown right at him as though she'd not even thought that was coming. What the hell else did she think was going to happen, screaming at him like that, rolling her aura at him like that and tossing Piper and Harper's pain at him like it was all his fault, like he'd done it on purpose when he had not.

"Enough. The pair of you." Their father yelled, all his Alpha wolf on the surface, his aura rolling out into the room in full force "Get out Hadley." He yelled at his own daughter "Go to your mother now."

Watched as he was being held back, as Hadley stalked out of the office and banged the door shut behind her. Where had the sweet little sister of his gone? When had she turned into this foul-mouthed Alpha female? Who was now willing to defy everything?

"Calm down, Bradley son. She's just ticked off."

"Ticked off?" He snarled "She doesn't know what ticked off is. Get off me." He yelled at them.

“ Not till your calmer son.”

Bradley’s eyes moved to Cooper’s, his trusted Beta, his closest friend, a man he’d grown up with, didn’t even know if he knew that man anymore.

“Leave it son...Lilly knew about it, the whole time.”

Saw Cooper's eyes widen quite a bit in shock himself, at this news.

“Lilly is okay with it. So am I for that matter.”

“What? How can you be?” Bradley gasped, completely shocked himself now, by his father's words. He was okay with it, as was Lilly, the girl's mother.

“They’re likely Mates, just have not come across each other on a full moon yet...You know Hadley’s birthday came 4 days after the full moon. Then you and Cooper were out of the country for the last one. Just wait it out.”

“Let me go.” Brad muttered, frowning at his father.

Both Cooper and his father released him slowly, seemed more than a little bit reluctant to him, turned his eyes on Cooper “How the hell did this even start Cooper...I want an answer.” it was unlikely the man was going to want to talk about it, especially to him, but if he didn’t he was going to order it out of him, if he didn’t.

The man was literally twice her age, and yes, Bradley was well aware that Mates could have massive age gaps. Understood age didn’t matter in the wolfen world, that you could be 200 hundred years old and find your Mate to be just turned 18. A Mate was a Mate, but as far as he knew, they were not Mates at this point. So the man should have known better, should have said no and turned her away.

Heard Cooper sigh heavily and then go and sit down, “I started the night of Hadley’s 18th birthday party. I turned in around one in the morning, and woke up some time later to find Hadley climbing in my bed, on top of me actually.” He shook his head “I did not see it coming at all. I even asked her what the hell she thought she was doing. Told her to leave.

“Despite her small petite stature, she is still Alpha-blooded Brad. Is actually stronger than I am. It took me several minutes to realise that. She fought me

quite a bit, till she had me held down in my own bed. Rolled her aura right at me, just enough to make the Beta in me submit to her.” the man sighed.

“Crazy damned she-wolf,” shook his head, “then told me exactly what she was going to do to me. Brad...she’s stunning to look at, was butt ass naked, rubbing herself all over me and the things she was saying, very explicit. I’m un-mated and well. Can only resist a she-wolf so long.” he shrugged “I stopped fighting her and went with it, and well...here we are.”

“So it’s been going on ever since?” Bradley muttered.

Saw Cooper nod his head “I’m sorry Brad...I just...can’t seem to say no to her, and well...to be honest, I don’t want to say no.”

“Just bloody great...Portland?”

“Mm, might not want to get into that.” Cooper shook his head, guilt all over his expression.

“Son, just let it play out,” his father told him. “The next full moon will tell.”

“And if they’re not Mates.” Bradley huffed.

“Then...” his father shrugged “Leave it alone anyway. Hadley is not wrong to want to sate her Alpha needs and, unfortunately, only an Alpha or Beta is going to be able to do that, until she finds her Mate.”

Brad was not happy about this. She was not his daughter, so it technically was his father and stepmother's call and apparently they were okay with this arrangement.

“Bradley, if Cooper doesn’t turn out to be Hadley’s Mate, and is not complaining. He is un-mated himself. Is clearly willing. Just leave it be. It will sort itself out in the long run.”

“Just leave it be? Your daughter and the pack Beta, even if they are not Mates?”

“Yes son, It’ll stop when one of them finds their Mate or it’ll be they are Mate’s and from what Lilly said about Hadley’s phone call to Cooper on the full moon, it is highly likely they are Mates.

Moved his eyes back to Cooper, that man had left the hotel suite to make a private call back home, a personal matter he'd been told. Now he knew it was to Hadley. Bradley didn't like it at all. But there was nothing he could do about it.

"Piper? When did she find out about this?" He asked Cooper.

"Piper knows?" His father asked curiously.

"Yes, from what I saw in Helena and her amusement today at seeing them getting caught, in the Luna's Office, no less. I'd have to say yes."

They were both now looking at Cooper.

He sighed "The first night she spent in the Luna Suite, she saw Hadley coming out of my room."

"That's when you got her food? Did you threaten her to keep quiet about it?" felt his agitation rise. If the man had threatened her he was going to beat him senseless.

"No... I was going to ask her not to say anything, tell her I wanted to wait, tell you myself, find the right time. She told me she didn't care at all about it. Stated to me she wouldn't say anything to you."

"So who else knows?"

"I didn't even know Lilly and Benjamin knew." Cooper shook his head. "I only thought Piper knew."

Brad turned his eyes on his father. "How long have you and Lilly known?" wanted to know how long he'd been in the dark and who the hell was keeping secrets from him, in his own pack. He understood Piper, no trust there yet.

"Lilly, right away, Hadley told her, couldn't keep it in, apparently very excited about it, how it felt. Not been sated before is what I heard. I only found out when you mentioned she had a boyfriend. Lilly informed me." Shook his head.

"Not been sated before?" That was an odd statement.

"Cooper was not her first son. If that's what your thinking."

Brad sighed, apparently he didn't know anything about his little sister at all, looked right at Cooper.

"Definitely was not her first. She knew what she was doing, what she wanted."

"I don't want to hear that." Bradley frowned at the man. It was too much information about his sister and his Beta.

"Everyone out." Bradley muttered. He'd had enough.

"Son, Hadley?"

"I'll apologise, when I calm down, I want one as well for her cruel words about Piper." He looked at Cooper, huffed and turned away from the man. Heard them both leave the room and sat himself back down in his chair. Sighed and ran a hand through his hair, was likely really going to have to apologise, especially if they did turn out to be Mates.

Would have preferred to not have known at all, would have been better off in the dark on that matter. He didn't want to argue with Hadley or Cooper for that matter, just knew that now it was out he was going to see the two of them together, or her coming from the man's room.

If Piper had seen it, then he would, at some point as well, didn't exactly know how he felt about that at all, likely going to be annoyed by it for a while, especially if they were not Mates. So much for his nice afternoon with Piper and Brandon. Knew he was not going to be good company for the rest of the day.

Chapter 76 - Unscentable

Piper POV

Piper was sitting in the pack-house dining room, staring at Bradley and his father, Benjamin. They were staring at her. He'd just asked her to call and let the police in Portland know that the movers Brad had sent to her house were not thieves. She'd barely finished her breakfast.

They were both pushing this at her, Brad had asked, and when she'd just raised an eyebrow, Benjamin had put his two cents worth in, but she had yet to get an apology for his arrogance on this matter. For sending his men to break into her house and try and move her without permission.

“Why?” Piper finally said simply. “Just pay the fine. You did the crime, you should do the time.” then leaned back in her chair and stared right back at them, each one in turn, pointedly so.

“Piper please.” It was Brad, “the van is there. If you rescind your statement, the movers can not only bring your belongings here now, they can also collect Izzy’s at the same time.”

“Probably could.” Piper acknowledged and sipped her coffee.

“What will it take Piper?” It was Benjamin “to get your cooperation?”

Looked right at that man and then simply shook her head. It wasn’t really that hard to rescind her statement, but she did not want to. Brad had tried to move her and Brandon’s things without her knowledge, hell he’d brought them here to this pack without her knowledge as well. Though she did at least understand his bringing her here, she needed a pack hospital and all.

Perhaps she should teach them a lesson.

“No,” she stated flatly. “There are consequences to actions, I guess this is one of them. Figure it out yourself.” Piper drained the last of her coffee and stood up to leave.

“Piper, you are being unreasonable.” Benjamin shot at her.

“Am I...Hmm. How about I just pack you up and move you out of your home without telling you, or getting your permission? How would you react and feel?”

“It’s different now...you know this being Brads.”

Piper cut him off right there. “Is it?” she commented “Let’s see.” Turned and looked around the dining room, then walked over to the nearest omega
“Excuse me miss.”

“Yes Luna.”

“I want you to go and pack Benjamin and Lilly’s belongings, their leaving.”
Piper stated calmly.

“Piper,” Benjamin snapped, clearly annoyed by her words.

She saw the Omega stare up at her and then turned to look at Benjamin worriedly. She clearly didn't know what to do. He was the previous Alpha to the pack and on a technicality, Piper was now the Luna. Poor woman had no idea who held the higher rank.

"Don't mind him, he doesn't get a say...Take a dozen others with you. It'll be much quicker to move him out."

"You're being ridiculous Piper." Benjamin sounded angry now. "Patty, don't do that. I'm not going anywhere."

Piper turned to look right at him "What you don't like it?" She asked, had made her point, it seemed.

Brad was frowning at her now, with narrowed eyes, he was thinking she thought, but he said nothing at all, just sat and stayed out of it. Probably didn't exactly know what to make of it.

"So Benjamin, it's alright for me to be up and moved without my permission, but not you. Hmm...I see where someone gets their arrogance from."

"It's hypocritical," Hadley stated from her place at the table "They're both hypocrites Piper. Don't agree to rescind your order. Put them Alpha's in their places."

"Hadley enough." Benjamin snapped at her.

Found the omega touching her arm gently. "It's fine, I was just making a point, sorry you were caught in the middle." saw the woman nod her head and pretty much flee the room.

Piper's eyes moved to Hadley, this was a curious statement coming from her. She was sitting next to Cooper at the table and it had not escaped her attention that Bradley didn't like it.

The girl had stared at him for a solid minute and then just ate her breakfast. It now seemed she to was not happy with them herself, or hadn't been with Brad. Made Piper wonder just what had gone on yesterday afternoon.

It was likely that shit had hit the fan in that Alpha office yesterday afternoon, and this was the girls' way of getting back at them.

“Hadley please,” it was Bradley, “I’ve apologised for yesterday to you and Cooper.”

That was an interesting statement. He’d apologised, though still didn’t look happy about it. It seemed the girl and Cooper were going to be allowed to continue their relationship, out in the open.

“So, you had no right to even try and intervene. I’m not a child, I am 18 and I am not your child.” Hadley stood up looked right at Piper. “Don’t bow to them, they’ll expect it every time they want something, if you do.” Then she turned and walked away from the table.

Piper was not going to bow down to either of them, did not have to. Benjamin was not her Alpha, and not to Brad either. She was Marked by him, so should be seen as his equal, not subservient, and he had not yet to apologise for the error of his own ways, his arrogance in thinking he could do as he pleased with her because he was the Alpha. The man had no idea about her nature. It appeared the man still believed he was in the right trying to move her and Brandon here, because he thought as the Alpha, to the pack his word was law. Well, not to a rogue it wasn’t, though she was no longer that, not since he’d initiated her into the pack yesterday.

Found Brad’s eyes on her once more. “Piper please, it would be appreciated if you could call.”

“Mm, it would...” she nodded “but I’m not going to. You should not have done what you did. Had no right, in fact.” then she turned and walked away, did know she was going to have to send for her belongings at some point, half smiled to herself as she walked away. Perhaps she would just organise that herself and leave his van right there in the impound lot, might just put him squarely in his place. Show him she would be doing things her way on her terms. It was likely going to tick him off, she thought.

Sat in her suite, going through her emails, Izzy she knew had already contacted all her stores and told the store managers, the official word was no comment on her relationship with Bradley Drake. Izzy could say whatever she liked about herself and Edward, and she could confirm that there was going to be a Goddess Gowns store opening up in Helena.

The two of them had been working from her suite all morning now. Brandon seemed happy enough playing video games while they worked, he was going to have to be enrolled into the school and start attending classes soon. Likely

next week, Brad had not as yet brought it up and neither had she. It was Thursday and she saw no need to rush that, had only been here 4 days.

Brandon also didn't seem to mind not going, she also wanted him to be settled a bit more into the pack, adjust first, keep Aspen happy and calm. Wolfen school might stress him out a bit. And they did not need that.

The learning here inside the pack school would also be different from his school back in Portland, as would be the hours. Here in the pack school hours were nine to three, instead of eight thirty to three thirty, he was going to like that, an hour and a half less of school every day.

Brandon would also be able to walk to school, instead of catching the bus to and from, it was only a short fifteen or twenty minute walk. Though it was likely that, being the Alpha's son, he was going to be driven to school every day or until he made friends that walked.

She herself had walked everyday, trudged in the snow or in the heat of summer, had to walk, rain, snow or shine. It wasn't really that far a walk from the pack-house, there was no need to be driven, but she was certain that he would be. A lot of the ranked members children had been driven to and from school, when she had lived here.

'Piper.' it was Brad via the mind-link, she sighed, he'd told her he wouldn't use it. Would still knock on her door to talk to her, or text or call her on her phone, lasted all of a day.

'What?' she answered, allowing her annoyance to show.

'You're needed at the pack's gate, a courier needs your signature.'

'Fine.' she cut the link and got up, saw Izzy look at her questioningly.

"I have to go and sign for a delivery."

"I can do that, Piper." Izzy commented, getting up.

"No, it's actually mine they need." Piper told her, it was likely to be Izzy's new contract. Glanced at Brandon, he was happy enough, it seemed, headed out of her room and down the stairs, found Brad at the bottom waiting for her.

"I know where the gate is." She told him.

“I thought I’d drive you.” He commented casually.

“I could drive myself.”

He nodded “You’re mad at me, perhaps we could discuss why, in the car.”

Looked right at him still annoyed, “You said you wouldn’t mind-link to me, knock, text or phone call, and you completely disregarded that.”

He was staring at her now, seemed more than a little surprised “I’m sorry, I didn’t even think about it...just a natural thing to do I suppose, now you’re a pack member, I’ll try to not do it again.”

“Hmm, I guess we’ll see.” Held her hands out for the car keys he was holding. “Keys.”

“Piper, please, let me do something for you. It’s just one little thing.”

Stared right at him “Why do you need to do something, I’m a grown woman and can do everything by myself.” but walked outside.

“I want to be able to do things for you...look after you, provide for you.”

Raised an eyebrow at him questioningly, didn’t really see why he would need to do that. “Surely, you’ve got better things to do. Are busy yourself, running your pack and it’s businesses. Don’t concern yourself with what I do. I can handle my day to day things.”

He said nothing at all as he unlocked the car and opened the door for her. Piper got in and he closed it before she could, was frowning, she noted, as he walked around the car to the driver's side.

The courier was there to deliver Izzy’s new contract. Piper opened it and went over it in the car ride back to the pack-house, it was as she requested and had all the sign here stickers for both her and Izzy, smiled to herself as she slipped it back into the envelope.

“All in order?” Brad asked her.

“Yes. My lawyer Grey is on the ball.”

“Good to hear, do you think that Izzy will be happy?”

“I do.” Piper couldn’t help but smile, she herself was very excited about this, making Izzy a full partner. The woman had worked damned hard and earned this promotion.

“Um...Piper.” Heard the hesitation in him.

Turned and looked at him as he pulled the car up to the pack-house. “Yes.”

“Your business, it’ll have to be registered...to the pack.”

Frowned right at him instantly.

“I’m not trying to claim it. It is Wolfen law is all.”

Sighed and got out of the car, she did know this “Will there be trouble?” she asked, she did not want that wolfen council coming and taking her away from Brandon. Like Timothy had told her it could.

“I doubt it, you were a rogue and they are known to do as they please, you’re also my Luna now, so some leniency should be granted. I’ll handle it and let you know...if you like.” He told her as they walked into the pack-house.

“Fine, but I am not letting you take over my business.”

“Honestly, Piper, I would not even know how to run your business.” he shrugged, “Though if you could be open to it. I would like you to hire employees from the pack for the new store.”

“That’s fine, Izzy will interview and hire who she see’s fit. It’s her store.”

“Thank you. I only ask due to the location, only wolves work in the head office.”

“It’s fine.” Piper nodded “Let me know how it goes with the council.” she told him and headed off upstairs, had a contract to deliver.

Piper could feel him watching her as she walked away, glanced back at him when on the last landing, he was still frowning at her, she noted, obviously unhappy about something she’d said. Piper thought she had been pretty clear and honest with him, raised an eyebrow at him and when he said nothing, just turned and continued on to her room.

Izzy was sitting on the couch, her laptop in front of her, frowning down at it.

“What’s wrong?” Piper asked.

“Your getting a bit of backlash for not being at your appointments this week.”

“To be expected, Izzy,” she nodded. “I did make those calls myself this morning to apologise and a few were upset still, but Theodora will step up and go from the LA store to Portland today,” glanced at her watch “Should be arriving shortly in fact. Be there to cover my appointment for fittings and adjustments.”

“I know.” Izzy nodded. “The new customers are not so happy, you’ve had to cancel their appointments and book them in with Vera instead. Were expecting you.”

Again, that was something else she knew was going to happen. “Wait for the Sydney store to open, Izzy. I’m not there and should be.” she half sighed that was going to be even worse.

“We can’t go over for the opening?” Izzy looked up at her with a frown.

“It’s unlikely Brad will allow it.” she huffed a little more than annoyed herself about that one, she did not believe he would allow her half marked or fully marked at that to go half way around the world to attend a business opening, for a three month period. “I could talk to him I suppose, but Izzy I would not get your hopes up.”

“Eddie probably won’t like it either.” she huffed “He still just does whatever Brad tells him too.”

“Yes, and he will continue to do so. That is expected here Izzy, everyone around here will do what Brad tells them to. Let it go. I have your new contract for you to sign.” waved it at the woman with a smile. “A store of your own.”

Saw Izzy smile “Thank you for this Piper.”

“You earned it, Izzy. You worked for me and my company so long and hard, always diligent. I could not have built my company without you.” handed the envelope over to her “Now you’re stuck with me forever.” she half laughed.

Saw Izzy laugh “I was never going anywhere, anyway.”

Piper sat herself on the arm of the lounge and waited for her to read her contract. She had already reached for a pen, trusted that it would be the same as the last one she'd signed. "I made a few changes, you might want to read that through properly."

"Alright." Izzy nodded as she got it out, it was considerably longer than the previous one.

Saw Izzy's eyes widen at the contract title, turned and looked right at her, opened her mouth to say something but couldn't seem to get the words out, stuttered finally "W...Why?"

"Because you earned it, we've worked together for a long time and I was already planning on doing this, was going to let you know before I came home from Sydney, after you settled into your new roll, but now...seems like a good time."

"I...I don't know what to say."

"Say you'll accept it. Sign the contract and you did agree to me making some changes to your contract and said you would accept them all if I recall correctly."

Saw Izzy smile again. "I did." she nodded "thank you."

"Read it, take your time. If you don't like something, we can negotiate it."

Saw her nod her head and then turn to the contract in her hand, put the laptop aside to read it, looked at Piper a few times, with a shocked expression and occasionally bit her lip, but that was mostly to do with the money, perks and company shares she was about to receive Piper was certain. The woman was about to become very wealthy, was about to gain forty-nine percent of the company shares transferred into her name after she signed that contract, would want for nothing in the matter of a week. Might very well be wealthier than Edward now. Piper had no idea how much money that man made, would likely have access to unlimited pack funds she supposed.

But Izzy would now have her own money. Millions of dollars, wouldn't need a pack card which Piper knew was coming. It was likely already being organised, seeing as she was Marked and Mated by Edward, a pack member, even though she'd not pledged loyalty, was very happy with Edward. The woman smiled at him all the time. Their bond was good and strong.

She had finally found a man that would never even look at another, moved her eyes over the woman and smiled to herself. She would need a wedding dress very soon. Izzy was a pretty simple woman, wouldn't want anything too flashy, but would want something fitted, a mermaid-style dress Piper thought, all silk but not likely white, ivory maybe would suit her.

"Piper?"

"Mm." she blinked, pulling herself from her thoughts about making the woman a dress. "Sorry Izzy."

"Where were you?"

Piper smiled. "Designing your wedding dress I suppose, would you like that?"

Izzy laughed "Back to work for you, I see."

Piper nodded "Seems that way." saw Izzy hand the contract back and wondered just how long she'd been thinking about material choice and designs for Izzy's dress. Looked over the contract and signed her name to all the little signs here tags for herself "All done. Congratulations Izzy."

"Thank you Piper. I never really hoped for something like that."

Piper just smiled at her. "I'll get these back to Grey and he'll sort out the rest, the share transfers and everything else. There will be lots more things for you to sign in the coming week, I imagine."

"I imagine so too...Can I go tell Eddie?"

"Yes of course." Piper smiled at her, got a hug from the woman and then she was gone from the suite. There was no doubt Edward would be happy for her. Likely use it as an excuse to bed the woman, wondered briefly how long it would take them to get their first child, not long, she thought, with a smile.

Chapter 77 - Unscutable

Brad POV

Brad watched Piper walk into his office late that afternoon. His office door had been open, both he and Cooper were sitting working, he'd made the decision to actually leave her be. Give her actual space and not be constantly by her

side. It was not what he wanted, but he had told her he'd give her the time she needed and he had not done that as of yet.

He really had to sort out that van in the impound lot, but it was very clear she was not going to help him out, though he was hoping that with their pictures all over the internet the police would now believe him. Though he did still know she was going to have to call and speak with them, confirm he was not stealing her things.

Did not think it was going to happen anytime soon, she was clear about her intent. The way she had put his father right in his place. Showed him and his father how annoying and angry one got when they were being moved out of their home without permission. Had told him outright she believed he'd had no right to do that, she was right in one respect.

But he, as the Alpha, also had the right to bring her and Brandon here. They were his family, the boy had been easy to confirm as his own. She not so much. He thought that a part of her surely had to understand why he did what he did.

No Alpha in their right mind would leave their heir out there in the world unprotected with a rogue status, where anything could happen to him. Her still being his Mate, she too would come back to the pack at some point, so the logical thing to do was to move them and everything of theirs here to the pack. So that when they arrived they had everything they owned around them, and they would feel more comfortable here inside the pack, surrounded by their own things.

Brad smiled at her as she walked into his office. As annoyed as he was that she was not willing to help him out, he was still happy she was here and now an official pack member. Piper he noted, was carrying a notepad and pen. "I need some things from you, have a list."

That made him happy, she needed something from him and was actually asking him for it. "What would you like?"

"I need your head office ground floor and first floor building plans, with the area's your willing to provide for the new store marked out on them. Daniel will also need the entire building plans as well, for structural integrity or something, said you'd understand about that. So he can see what he's working with." Held out a piece of paper to him.

Brad sighed internally that was not what he'd been hoping for, had been hoping it was something personal, but he accepted the piece of paper on it was an email address.

"You can send it there. That's Daniel's email. I've spoken to him and he's happy to start the new project." held out another list to him.

Brad took that as well, even knew what it would be, he did oversee the construction side of the business, though it was Eddie and Harry, along with both their fathers, who actually ran that side of the pack business. His office was in the law firm on the fifth floor along with his father and Coopers. Although Cooper was not a lawyer, he held a business degree among others.

Glanced at the list, no real surprise. It was a request for building codes and compliance's that would be needed for him to get the work here in Helena underway. "I'll have Eddie and Harry get this to you."

"Just send it to Daniel and put my name or Goddess Gowns Helena in the subject line. I don't need it. You might want to give Daniel a contact number, he'll likely want to discuss many things. You are still happy to give some of the first floor for the loft space, yes?"

"Yes, Piper. How much would you like?"

"I'll let you and Daniel sort that out. He understands my requirements for a working studio, that both Izzy and I will want offices and a bathroom of our own."

"Alright, he'll likely deal with Eddie, he's in charge of the construction side along with Harry."

"Good, that will make it easier." saw her smile "Izzy will get whatever she wants out of that man."

She was not wrong on that. Brad agreed, "Piper, I will give you whatever you want as well, you know this right."

She looked right at him "I don't need anything. I have plenty of money to do as I please with...on that note, what is it going to cost me for that space? I'll need a figure, to cut you a check."

Brad was frowning now, “I’m giving you the space Piper, I want you to have it, I don’t want your money. As my Luna, what is mine is also yours.”

Saw her sigh, didn’t seem to either understand or like it. He couldn’t tell which.

“I can afford it, you know, am worth quite a bit.”

“I’m well aware of your net worth, damned near fell of the bed I was sitting on, when I found out.”

Saw her snort, amused by this it seemed. Obviously knew he’d not been expecting it. “Shocked were you?”

“I was, we all were.” He nodded “not often a rogue can accumulate that kind of wealth...I am glad you were able to do this for yourself. Be strong enough to survive everything you went through and build a happy life for yourself.” Brad told her honestly and he was very proud of her, and the way she’d managed to live. The way she’d raised Brandon so happy.

Doubted there were many out there that could survive what she had and not only pull herself together but thrive and then flourish and grow a multi-million dollar business as well.

“Izzy was happy with her contract, I see.” he smiled.

“Yes she was. More than shocked, didn’t see it coming.”

“Tend to do things on the sneaky side, do we?”

“No.” Piper shook her head “I’m up front mostly, but...” she shrugged. “that was always my plan, just hadn’t informed Izzy that was all.”

“Well, I’m glad she’s happy here and has a job she clearly loves, we should move her things here.” he brought up moving one of their things to the pack, had to start small.

“I believe she has already started sorting that out. Don’t worry about it.” watched her turn to leave his office.

“Piper, I have a moving van there, if you would only...”

"I don't think she's using it or wants to." he saw her turn and smiled right at him "Found a moving company on her own." Then she just walked out of his office with a slight bounce in her step.

Brad leaned back in his chair and sighed as he watched her go till she was out of sight, seemed happy to be telling him that he realized. Still trying to put him in his place, he thought.

"Might want to cut your losses on that truck. I don't think she is ever going to help you out."

Brad's eyes moved to Cooper. The man was likely right, would stop fighting it, would have to accept the charges and take the fine. Only then would they release his truck back to him, sighed "So stubborn."

"I don't think that is it. I think she is doing exactly what Hadley told her to do. Is trying to put you in your place. I didn't think it was a good idea to move her either, if you recall."

"I know," and Brad did recall Cooper telling him as much. The damage was done now though. "Too late now, I guess."

"Likely," Cooper nodded "Have you apologized for that?"

Brad looked right at him. "No, it's my right as the Alpha."

"Might want to rethink that. They were a pack of their own and you...I guess you might say, you strolled into their pack and tried to claim it for yourself."

Brad was staring at the man now, he'd not even considered that line of thought, he was the Alpha of a much larger and stronger pack, it could be that he was seen as an invading force. It did happen all the time, stronger packs stalking in and claiming and overtaking smaller packs, absorbing those who couldn't fight them off or have no chance at winning.

Being forced to submit to the larger, stronger pack's Alpha, no war or physical resistance during the take-over, to save pack members' lives. But there was still resistance and unhappiness about the take over and loss of control. Sighed heavily.

"I'm the invading Alpha."

“It could be seen that way. You don’t know her, or any of them that well, their thoughts on it.”

“I know, she’s so closed off to me still. Wouldn’t even tell me about Harper.”

“Maybe Brad, you won’t be able to get to know her until you resolve this problem. You might want to find out if that’s how she feels. Was brought here in an unconscious state. Had not accepted you, was in fact running away from you at the time.”

“I don’t think she was running away, Cooper, just freaked out or scared of the full moon and me wanting to see her. She would never leave Brandon, would have come back in the morning, I believe.”

“Agreed.” Cooper nodded “But still woke up here, inside the pack. Everyone in her pack moved here, no-one really had a choice in the matter.”

He had apologized a lot for the way things had been, what she had suffered here inside the pack and explained to her why he’d brought her here, needing a pack hospital, but he’d not apologized for trying to move her belongings.

Likely this was the problem, he thought, with how annoyed she got every time that his movers and moving van were brought up, she still told him he had no right to do that. It was how she felt, he could not change that.

He took dinner up to the Luna Suite himself. She looked at him with narrowed eyes, but let him in. Brandon smiled up at him and waved, he had a headset on and was playing a game, after acknowledging him, he went right back to his game and talked into the headset.

Glanced at Piper, “He’s online gaming with his friends in Portland,” she informed him. Took the plate for Brandon and placed it next to him so he could eat and game at the same time. He’d brought hot dogs for the boy. Brandon seemed pretty happy with the choice.

He had brought roast chicken dinners for himself and Piper. The tray he was carrying also had three slices of cake on it.

“I thought we could sit and chat, get to know each other.” Brad commented as he placed the tray down on the new coffee table.

Piper sank down on the lounge. "I need a bigger suite, and Brandon needs his own room, I also really need a proper table to work from." she told him pretty much right away.

Brad was tempted to offer their actual suite. It was across the hall and housed not just their bedroom, but also had an office she could use, and there were three bedrooms. Brandon could certainly take his pick of those rooms. There was also a kitchen and dining room which would allow them to eat a proper sit-down meal.

Refrained himself from doing so. "I can look into that tomorrow." He simply nodded.

"Good." She nodded right back.

"What do you like to do, Piper? When not working."

"Many things."

"A clue would be nice." He frowned at her, as he handed her, her dinner.

"You've been inside my house." She looked right at him, pointedly "You've seen what Brandon and I do in the photos."

Brad nodded, he couldn't deny it. "I have," he admitted. "I also noticed that Brandon is into nearly everything, your room, however..." Brad looked right at her.

"He is very active, yes."

"I saw...what do you like to do?"

" Whatever he wants."

"For yourself, Piper. Not for our boy."

"I like to run." She finally answered his question, and saw the smirk on her face. Likely thinking about the fact that she could outrun him and easily so. Though she'd not run once since being here inside the pack, likely still not recovered enough.

Wondered if she would be worried about the residual scars from her battle with that vampire, he knew she had some. Samuel had told him she would

have, that she'd always have the scar from the vampire feeding off of her. He had not liked that himself but there was nothing to be done about it.

“Other than running?”

“I work a lot, Brandon and I snowboard, do the occasional indoor rock climbing, we hike sometimes, the boy also likes to swim.”

“Do you do anything for yourself?” He frowned. It was all about the boy.

“I work and run. I don’t mind shopping, though...”

“Only buy things for Brandon.” He nodded, her part of the house was void of everything, other than clothes. “How come you don’t buy things for yourself?” Brad asked the question that had been bugging him since seeing her part of the house.

“I don’t need them, need very little personally, just clothes to wear.” she shrugged “I work, I run and I hang out with Brandon and Izzy, that is pretty much it.”

“Do you like movies?” she was not very forthcoming, needed to find a way to get her to open up.

Watched her turn and look at him. “Doesn’t everyone?”

He frowned at her, didn’t like how closed off she was.

Wanted to ask her about being here in the pack before turning eighteen? What her life had been like? Where had she lived? How had she survived? But did not want to do that with Brandon in the room. It might upset him and he didn’t want that.

“Could we take a walk later? You and I?” Brad asked casually.

Saw her eyes move right to him, and narrow on him, likely trying to figure out what he wanted “I just thought we could talk freely just the two of us.” his eyes moved to Brandon and then back to hers “I have some questions, I’d like to know the answers to, and I’m certain you have your own.”

She was just staring at him and then nodded "Alright."

Returned to her meal, wondered if she didn't have any questions at all or didn't really care about who he was, what type of person he was. He supposed she had grown up here, along with him. He was eight years older than her, she might very well have seen him, what he was like growing up and all the way up until she left. Might consider she knew him.

Chapter 78 - Unscentable

Piper POV

It was almost 8 that night when Brad returned after dinner to go for that walk. His father, Benjamin, was with him. She frowned at the man, but he only smiled right back at her, waved a PS5 game at her. "I'm here to hang out with my grandson." the man sounded very excited.

Even saw Brad roll his own eyes at his father, "I couldn't stop him, he vetoed everyone watching Brandon, so he could do it himself."

"Well, I want to spend time with my grandson. I've missed out on all his life. I won't be missing anything more." He was glaring right at Bradley.

Saw Brad's jaw tick at this, Piper stepped aside and let the man in to the suite "where's my grandson." he hollered as he walked pasted her, back to being excited it seemed.

There was no need to holler or shout. The boy was only a few feet from the door, it was pretty clear to her that Benjamin blamed Brad for him not having any contact with his grandson. That was more than a bit wrong. How was it actually Brad's fault? She'd never told him about the boy, never told anyone.

"Sorry Piper, Eddie and Izzy were up for watching Brandon, but..." his eyes moved to his father still looked annoyed with the man.

"I understand." Piper nodded, his father had likely put his Alpha boot down.

"I hope you're okay with this."

Piper turned to look at Brandon, he was already telling Benjamin he was going to beat him and they were teasing each other about who was going to be the better driver. Shook her head a little at the boys' antics. "Does your father play games?" Piper queried.

“Mm...not really, but on occasion with my brothers' girls, though...I've not seen him play a car game before. I believe he took that from Hendrix himself. Are you ready to go?”

“Yes, Brandon?” The boy looked right at her “Take it easy on your grandpa, he's old you know.” snorted with amusement at Benjamin's wide-eyed look, then stepped out of the room and chuckled, a little pay back for his own attitude.

“Like playing with fire, I see.”

“Hmm.” Piper shrugged “I think, the man needs to be put in his place.”

“What for exactly? If you don't mind my asking.”

Piper frowned up at him. “He clearly blames you for not knowing about Brandon...how could you have known, I didn't tell you.”

Brad looked at her quite a bit shocked by her words, it seemed “Thank you, I guess then.”

Piper shrugged it off. “If I don't blame you, for the past, how can anyone else?”

She felt his hand slip into hers a moment later and when she looked up at him he was smiling down at her gently, seemed he appreciated her sentiment on the situation.

“Where are we going?” She asked him.

“Well...I'd like for you to...” he sighed “Show me, where you lived while inside this pack, Piper. No-one here recalls you, our memories are all tied into our sense of smell unfortunately.”

“You saw the cabin.” Piper frowned.

“I did,” Brad nodded “but you said you found that...after you were 18.” sounded a little sad to her ear.

“I did.” Piper got the impression he already understood how and when she found it. Left that alone. He'd apologized a lot for all of those years, he'd never scented her out. She'd not asked him to, didn't see the actual need for him to

do so, didn't blame him for it, never had, she knew she'd been the one who was unscantable. It was not his fault.

"Will you show me...I know you don't want to talk about it, it's painful...but, I'd like to know, see where, if it's still there."

"It will be." Piper nodded, and she did feel different to being here now, than she had back then, and it was likely because the pack members now saw her, could look right at her and acknowledge her. They smiled right at her and could recognize who she was. It was the first time she'd felt this. Couldn't really recall her own childhood much anymore, it was overlaid with too much loneliness, she supposed.

Even Harper felt different now, they'd never really wanted to come back to pack life, but knew that was solely to do with feeling alone and invisible all of the time while here. They didn't really feel that anymore. They, both she and Harper, felt different now, it was a bit more like being in the human world. Where people could see her all the time.

Everyone addressed her by name, or called her Luna, something she was still trying to wrap her brain around. It felt weird to hear them say that. Had known once, it should have been her title, had learned over the years it would never be, to not even consider it or think about it, had come to hate the term Luna, in fact. But now it was their title, was weird to say the least.

"Where did you live, Piper?" Brad asked as they walked down the stairs.

"In the basement of the pack-house." She told him.

Brad stopped walking and turned to stare down at her, looked almost completely horrified, she realized "Better than out in the woods alone." Piper shrugged, "though for a year, I stayed in my parents' old house."

"Why didn't you stay there?" He asked right away.

Piper raised an eyebrow at him, she'd already yelled that at him in his hotel room. Maybe he'd forgotten already or had not really understood her.

Piper sighed, that had been a horrible day for her, coming home from school and finding the house cleaned out and emptied of all her things, of her parents' things. She had sat and cried on the backsteps for hours, had already been alone for a year and then that. Did not want to talk about it, not ever.

Pushed the pain that was hollowing out inside of her chest away and as deep down as she could before answering the question “Came home from school and everything was just gone.” her voice was almost completely emotionless. Piper could feel his eyes on her. “I don’t want to talk about it,” Piper stated before he started asking anymore questions and she knew he would. That’s why he didn’t want Brandon around, so the boy didn’t have to hear how she had lived here inside the pack.

Walked him all the way down through the pack-house and into the laundry room. It was quiet and dark at this hour. All the lights were out, the omega’s having gone home for the day. Piper reached out and flipped the light switch before he did. Saw that he was uncertain as to where they were.

Other than the updates to the equipment and working stations and a new lick of paint, the place was still the same as when she’d been here. Heard him sigh and looked up at him, half smiled “Never been in here have you?”

“Not really no.” Brad shook his head.

“I used to do all my washing late at night in here when everyone went home.”

“How’d you get clothes as you grew up?” Could actually hear the sadness in that sentence, sounded like he didn’t actually want to know.

Piper wondered if it was the Alpha in him, that was demanding to know answers or was it his need as her Mate to understand how she had grown up inside this pack, and he’d never noticed her.

“Lost property or the clothing donation bins.” she pointed them out to him. “there was always plenty of clothing around. Ranked members throw away a lot of perfectly good clothing, some of it barely worn.” She shrugged “and school uniforms.” she motioned to a whole section of open display racks where unused uniforms hung neatly on hangers “easy enough.”

“I’m sorry Piper.”

“So you keep saying, it was not your fault, please stop apologising for it.”

“It is the pack's fault, Piper, we lost you.”

“From my understanding of it now. No you didn’t, my mother's pendant hid me.”

“Still, my father he should have been more diligent, he knew Jewel had a daughter, you...he didn’t hunt for you properly.” heard him huff, sounded annoyed “you should have been found, returned to your mothers people as the contract states.”

“Likely we wouldn’t have met then.” Piper frowned.

“Yes we would have, and none of this would have happened to you or me. We would have been together properly. Annabella would have educated you likely at 10 and the first mating ball in Ice Moon Pack that I attended after your 18th birthday you’d have scented me out, been able to let me scent you back.”

Piper stood staring up at him, had never even once thought about that. Her life never turned out that way and she’d never really let herself wonder about the what if’s. That was a painful game to play. Learned that the hard way.

“I would have claimed you in a heartbeat, Piper.” his hand touched her face softly as he looked down at her.

Turned away from him, walked away, didn’t or wasn’t ready for that weird feeling she was getting in the pit of her stomach, thought maybe he wanted to kiss her, wasn’t entirely sure, but moved away from it quickly. Also didn’t want to go down the road of what their lives might have been like.

His hand was still in hers and he wasn’t letting go, it seemed, so as she walked away he was pulled along behind her, only a few steps, and then he once again fell instep beside her.

Piper pushed out of the furthest door in the back of the laundry room and into a long dark corridor, reached out and flipped several switches on the wall which turned all the lights on down here in the basement. Headed off down the corridor there were many rooms full of stored items, and a few other corridors that led to other store rooms. She walked along down the corridor and neither of them spoke.

It seemed that nothing down here had changed at all, not even a lick of paint, no remodeling either. It was exactly as it had been when she’d lived down here. Stopped and stood before a closed door in the furthest corner of the pack-house. “In there,” Piper told him.

There was a set of omega stairs behind them that led up into the western end of the pack-house near the library, and at the very end of this corridor was a

set of very wide stairs that led to large double doors and the outside world, how they got everything down in here.

Watched as Brad touched the door frame, it had not been painted in all the time she'd been gone, there by the door handle were her initials carved into the frame. PHW had done that after Harper had come along. She saw him turn and look at her. She said nothing. There were a lot more of those around the pack, he'd seen the ones in the cabin, she could presume, a lot more of those than he probably wanted to know about. Especially seeing as it looked like it was bothering him, it almost looked as though it was causing him pain.

"What was in here?" Brad finally asked, his voice was quiet, as he opened the door, likely wasn't going to want to be in there either. It was currently an empty room, she noticed as he pushed the door open. "It's where I found my family's things, so...it's where I belonged I guess."

Actually, saw the pain in his eyes on that one, but there was nothing that could be done about it now. Watched him step inside the room, glanced in there but did not go in, could see it had never had a fresh lick of paint from here, he turned the light on.

Watched him walk around the small room. It wasn't that large; a standard storage room, twelve by sixteen feet. Watched as he got to see just how many times she'd written on the walls, Piper Whitlock lives here, before Harper had come along, and then Piper Harper Whitlock lives here, once she'd gotten her wolf. It was everywhere in that room. In pencil, pen, texters and there were a few carved into the plaster with the use of Harper's claws.

Found his eyes on her, full of pain and sadness now, then saw him just step out of the room and just pulled her into his chest. "I'm so sorry Piper." he whispered "I will never loose you again."

She blinked in surprise at his words, they too were filled with pain.

He actually seemed to understand that she'd written those words, screaming to be noticed on the inside, the whole time she was here in the pack, her whole life just wanted to be seen by her pack. Be a part of the pack. Have someone take care of her.

Leaned into him, her actual Mate, he could see her now, had claimed her and wanted her. Allowed herself to be held by him, willingly slid her own arms

around his waist and just stood there, to take the comfort he was offering by holding her.

They stood for a long time, like that, before Brad murmured “Is there anything else I need to see?”

Piper shook her head slightly. “ No.” she answered him.

“Are you sure?” he sighed softly “Piper...I want to see everything no matter how small...or painful.”

Piper looked up at him, her chin resting on his chest and he turned those eyes so unique right on her, their blue-green so like opals in their magnificence, sparkled down at her. Felt Harper sit up inside her mind and wondered if Benson was somewhere near the surface too. It was possible “No.” she answered him “only my name, around the place.” she said softly.

Felt his hand touch her face, shivered a little when it slid to her hair, trailing tiny sparks across her cheek, saw his eyes move to her mouth and sucked in a breath as she realized Brad wanted to kiss her, felt her own heart race inside her chest.

Then his mouth was on hers, soft and gentle, felt her hands bunch in his shirt at his back, actually saw his eyes close as he pulled her that little bit closer to his body, leaned into him, to a kiss she’d longed for all her adult life. Dreamed about a million times, felt her own eyes flutter close and kissed him back.

It was the sob that erupted from her that broke the kiss, and she pulled herself from him “I’m sorry.” she whispered and turned her face away from him, could actually feel tears burning down her own face.

“Don’t you ever be sorry Piper.” Brad turned her face back to his, tilted her chin up to make her look at him, through her tears, felt him brush them gently away. “Not ever.” he said softly, gently “Feel how you want to feel.”

Stood there and looked up at him, had to blink a few times till they were gone. “I didn’t...I just...” couldn’t even explain why she was suddenly crying, while he was kissing her for the first time as his Mate. She understood why, but couldn’t seem to express it at all, was more than a little overwhelmed by her own emotions.

“Will you show me where?” he asked, changing the subject for her, she thought.

Piper just nodded her head up at him, and then he took her hand again. She spent a good few hours walking around the pack-house and the packs woods. A few places where she'd written her name were still there, in the library her initials were carved into a book shelf or a skirting board, told him it was where she'd sat to read or study, sometimes draw dresses.

It was in many trees around the woods when she'd been running, usually where she had fallen down exhausted. There was one on the agility course itself, along with her time, carved right into the last wooden support post for the bamboo rods to be crawled under, her initials and her fastest time in completing the course, along with her age she'd been 18. It was right before she'd scented him out.

Brad looked at it for a long time, then stood up and looked right down at her. “Challenge accepted.” He smiled right at her.

Piper smiled right back. “Good luck, I'm small and fast.”

“I'll never stop trying to beat you,” He chuckled.

“I'll sit and watch.” She actually chuckled right back at him “if you do manage to beat me, I'll accept it as a challenge to beat you once more.”

He was really laughing now, then he just yanked her into him and hugged her. “Deal.” put her away from him a little “now is this everything.”

Piper looked away from him and bit her lip. “No, there are two more inside the pack-house, if you haven't remodeled the rooms.”

He was frowning down at her now. “Where?” didn't look like he liked her hesitation.

“Might not want to know that. Punishable, I'm guessing.”

“I'm not going to punish you Piper. Not ever. Spoil you rotten if you'll let me, but never punish you.”

“Hmm...I don't know about that.” Piper stated, for there was one in his office and one in his actual bedroom, places no-one was allowed to go, let alone write your name into.

“Spill it.” He murmured.

Piper sighed “Your office and...” looked away from him, couldn't even get the other words out.

“My office...and” He was already tugging her along next to him, then he suddenly chuckled “Why Piper, did you lay claim to my bedroom?” Sounded fully amused to her.

“Maybe,” she whispered, a little embarrassed.

Heard him really laugh now. “Come on, I want to see where.” Brad sounded very happy to her. She was taken to his office, and stood watching him look around the room, shook her head, there had been some changes in here, a lick of paint and all new flooring, a new couch and coffee table, but his desk was still the same one he'd been using when she'd been here last.

He looked at her many times and she just bit her lip and tried not to laugh. If they had ever found it when she'd been here, likely would have ended up in the cells, was not going to help him out. It was funny watching him look around the room. It had been here for 10 years now and he'd not seen it. Likely wasn't going to either.

“Sit at your desk. It might help you find it from there.” was all she was going to tell him, said it after he'd been prowling around his office for ten minutes.

Saw him do just that, was looking at everything. “How often did you come in here?”

“In here, just once. Sat right in your chair.” Piper openly admitted.

He was frowning “Is it still in here? I remodeled a few years ago.”

“It is.” She nodded “Let me know when you find it.” Piper stated as she glanced at her watch and realized just how late it was, nearly midnight ‘I'm going to turn in.’

“Hey...wait, my suite?” Brad stated as he stood up.

“I’m not sleeping in there.” She frowned at him.

“No.” He shook his head. “Where in my suite?”

“Might not be there anymore. If you’ve remodeled,” Piper stated and headed out of his office.

Brad fell into step with her. “I have not. Kept it exactly the same as the last time you were in it.” his hand found hers once more.

That raised her eyebrows and her eyes moved to his questioningly.

“Wanted it to be the same for when I found you, brought you home.”

“Oh,” was all she said. “Let me know when you find it.”

“You could just tell me where it is.”

“I could.” Piper nodded, smiled to herself “Or let you search everywhere, and loose sleep over it. That is more fun, I think.”

“I will you know.”

“I get that feeling,” she chuckled.

Brad walked her back to her room, and opened the door for her. Benjamin was stretched out on the lounge, got up and smiled at them. “He’s a good boy, out like a light too.” strolled out passed them. And she heard him actively smell her, rolled her eyes. What he thought or was checking for had not happened.

Stepped inside her suite “Enjoy the hunt Brad.” Piper smiled right up at him.

He shook his head, but was smiling right back at her “Night Piper.”

Chapter 79 - Unscentable

Brad POV

It nearly broke Brad’s heart to see that room where she lived in the pack-house basement, so much pain and all her need to be seen and recognized everywhere he looked. He wanted to take all that pain away from her. His own

wolf Benson whined in pain inside his mind. It was no wonder Piper shut herself off emotionally and didn't want to talk about things. Her life here inside his pack.

Actually feeling her slide her arms around him, when he hugged her, wanting to accept what little comfort he could offer to her, when there was nothing else he could do about her past, was utterly amazing.

Piper was actually in his arms willingly for the first time and leaning into him. When she turned those eyes of hers up to him, the way she leaned her chin on his chest, seemed so comfortable, so natural a thing for her to do. All he could think about was kissing her, and she knew it. Did not take long for Piper to realize he was going to either.

She was his Mate and he wanted nothing more than to kiss her, hadn't even really been able to get close to her till now, so stand offish, and had good reason to be. He was a little surprised that she didn't bolt away from him, when he leaned down and kissed her.

Soft and gentle, slowly he kissed her. Even when she kissed him back, he didn't want to rush anything with her, he would take his time with her this time. Had practically devoured her the last time he'd had her, he would not do that again.

Felt the tears touch his thumb that was resting on her cheek, before he heard the sob that came from her, and then she was pulling away from him. Wouldn't let her leave. He was not embarrassed or bothered by her tears.

Knew when she could not explain them she was very overwhelmed and allowed her to be, did not want her to apologize to him for how she felt, wanted to see all her emotions on the surface, let it go for now.

One kiss was more than he had been hoping for tonight, though he had nearly kissed her in the laundry room, had thought about it, was pretty darn certain she knew it, she had turned away from him very quickly when she realized it.

Walked with her all over the place, allowed her to take him anywhere and everywhere around the pack. Walked all over the woods and her initials were carved all over the pack. Just trying to be seen anywhere she could be. It hurt more than a little. He'd never actually taken any notice of the names in the trees. Wolves were no different to humans in this regard, they liked to carve their and their mates names in trees.

Though that one on the agility course and the time along with it, she was fast. He was going to start a new challenge with her, one that would go on for all their lives. Made him smile when she said she'd sit and watch, would challenge him back if he managed to beat her. Liked hearing her say this, all words of his Mate, his Luna, willing to stay here with him, be with him.

Brad was going to issue a whole new challenge to the entire pack, for that matter, would have to sit down and think up a really good prize, for the one who could beat the Luna. He might just have to add a serious running challenge to those summer games he held every year. See if there was anyone in the pack who could out run his Luna.

When he saw the nervous way, she looked away from him and said there were two more places to see. Brad knew instantly they were places she should not have gone, but, being unscentable had gone anyway. Piper knew she would not get caught. One in his office. That intrigued him.

Knew right away the other was going to be in his suite, was damned curious about how many times she'd been in there, but Piper did seem quite embarrassed, so he let it go. Would hunt the office first.

Prowled around and looked at everything, he'd remodeled already, had to ask if it was still in here, didn't think it was likely, apparently it still was. Even Benson was looking from behind his eyes now, they got nothing. Wherever it was he'd yet to find it, not even when he sat behind his desk, could see she was fully amused by this.

Liked that she was happy, even if it was at his expense. She was smiling and trying not to laugh and it was just the two of them, no-one else around, could see they would be able to get along. They were going to be okay once everything was sorted out. Though got the feeling she was going to enjoy tormenting him.

It was getting late. Not even he realized the time, had been just happy spending time with her, holding her hand the whole time and walking about, made that comment about his suite and blinked at her response. Brad had not meant for her to think he wanted her to sleep in his bed. Though that kiss had been amazing, he was not at all about to ask her to climb into his bed. It was too soon for that.

Brad did like that she seemed comfortable enough to always let him hold her hand now. Their bond was growing slowly and he knew it would be good and strong. They were taking their time in coming together.

Piper seemed surprised that he'd kept his suite the same for her and he had. He wanted his Mate to come home to something familiar. It was the only place in the pack-house that had not been fully renovated. Only the windows and balcony doors had been replaced.

Frowned at his father who openly smelled Piper, he was more than annoyed about it, in fact. Turned on that man the minute her suite door was closed "Are you crazy?" Brad snapped right at his father.

"You were gone four hours," his father shrugged, "plenty of time to Mate her."

"And so you think it is appropriate to smell her, do you?"

"Calm down, Bradley."

"No I will not." Brad snapped "how the hell would you like it if another male smelled Lilly like that?"

Saw his father sigh "I just..."

"You'll bloody know when it happens," Bradley snapped, "cause I will bare her Mark afterwards, I imagine. Don't you ever smell Piper again, or I'll be ripping into you. I don't bloody care you were the former Alpha. I am the Alpha and that's the bloody Luna you just smelled. It's fucking disrespectful." He snarled the last three words.

Saw his father stare at him, then actually apologized. "Sorry son, I am just excited for you that she is here, hoping..."

"Stop it. She needs time. I'll be giving her all she needs and the next person. Regardless of rank to smell her will spend a week on the shaming post."

His father's eyes were wide now, obviously knew that included him, turned and walked away, banged into his suite and stood there, so much for his good mood. Took more than several minutes to calm himself down. Was tempted to put that man on the shaming post for a day just to make sure he didn't try it again. Wouldn't even bloody think about it.

Showered and lay down on his bed, let his eyes move about the room slowly, taking everything in, surely though if it was somewhere visible the omega that cleaned his suite would have brought it up, frowned to himself. So it was somewhere in here but not in plain sight.

He sat up and wondered to himself 'if I was going to write my name in here somewhere, not to be seen' got out of his bed 'where would I do that?' he thought, looked at his actual bed, no to obvious, he would have seen it for certain at some point over the past 8 years.

Strolled around the room and looked about, started moving furniture about to look for it, moved everything in that bedroom, found nothing. Strolled out of his bedroom and into his suite's office, again nothing. This was going to drive him nuts. He searched every room in his suite, moved all the furniture. The place was a right mess when he was done. Huffed in annoyance, still nothing.

Perhaps she was just toying with him. Maybe there was nothing here in the suite. It was possible she was playing with him, had told him he would loose sleep over it, and to enjoy the hunt. Slept very little, had stalked himself to his bed at 3 in the morning and begrudgingly climbed into it to get sleep, but just rolled around mostly frustrated.

He got himself out of bed at 0600, still frustrated by not having found it, and went and knocked on her suite door. When Piper opened it he huffed right at her and she burst out laughing right up at him, clearly knew he'd not found her name in his suite.

She was highly amused, yanked her clean out the suite's doorway and picked her up, tossed her over his shoulder and stalked off with her to his room. She was still laughing, finding his frustration and fruitless searching hilarious, it seemed.

Put her down in his bedroom doorway, and turned her around to face the room. "Where is it?" He asked.

"Did you not find it?" Piper was very amused, couldn't even hide it.

"Obviously not, give me a clue, at least." she could see the mess he'd made and not just in his bedroom but out there in the living room as well.

"Hmm," Piper turned and looked right up at him, smiling happily at him.

“What’s going on?” it was Brandon, and his voice came from right behind Brad. He turned and looked at the boy. “Morning son.” must have followed him across the hall and right into the Alpha suite.

“Your mum, left something in here years ago, I can’t find it.” turned his eyes back to Piper. “One clue is all I ask.”

Watched her raise her hand and hold up her thumb and pointer finger “It’s about this big.” the gap between them was about three inches. “Good luck, if you’ve never found it in the 9 years it’s been there, you’re not likely to.”

“Piper.” Brad huffed at her a little on the annoyed side, but only a little, she was. He realized not only playing with and having fun, she was actually standing inside his suite. In their suite, in his bedroom and was still smiling up at him, and their son was standing next to him.

His family was inside the Alpha suite, he realized suddenly. He’d not even thought about it, til this very minute. This was what it was going to be like. He smiled down at her, his annoyance gone completely, replaced by happiness at the realization that this was what he was going to enjoy when she was ready.

“You’re tormenting me.”

Piper nodded “I am...I’m also not going to tell you...ever.”

Brad’s eyes widened as she ducked around him and smiled down at Brandon. “Let’s go get breakfast.”

“What’d you leave in there?” he heard Brandon ask.

“My name is written on something.” she chuckled softly.

“And she won’t tell me where son. Help me out, won’t you.” Brad asked the boy, was smiling himself now, didn’t care at all, too happy at seeing them in his suite.

“No.” Brandon poked his tongue out at him “I’m with mum.”

No real surprise there, he thought to himself as he followed them out of the Alpha suite. “Can I join you for breakfast?” he asked.

“If you think you can find the dining room,” Piper laughed.

Brad growled right at her, all playful, couldn't help it. Even Benson was all happy inside and wanted to play with their Mate himself, saw her eyes shot right to his and he grinned at her "Torment away." he knew she'd see his wolf's eyes flickering they both really wanted to play with her.

Chapter 80 - Unscentable

Piper POV

Brandon and Aspen seemed much calmer now, had begun to settle into the pack nicely, he would talk to all that spoke with him and asked him questions, was happy to talk about his life so far to date, did enjoy talking about all their holidays and trips overseas, she did note that he was itching to hang out with other kids here, had brought it up before Brad had carried her off out of her suite, and had wanted to go and talk with the other kids at breakfast, had looked up at her questioningly.

She'd told him he could, but he'd come back when they'd all had to go off and get ready for school. A little pouty as it was a school day, and unless he wanted to be enrolled and attend school today. He was going to have to wait until after school got out. to hang out with the other children here in the pack.

He'd huffed, made nearly everyone at the Alpha's table chuckle when he'd declined to being enrolled and go today. Brad had smiled right at him and offered to take him down to the school, to enroll him to start on Monday. That way he still had a few more days to get used to things around here. He even told Brandon he would take him down during a school break, so that he could play with the other kids for a bit. That had made Brandon smile and nod.

Told Piper he would organize everything, on this end, if she un-enrolled him in his school in Portland. It did suit her, she had a lot of work to do and catch up on. She and Izzy would be making a lot of calls today and emailing their designer, Gloria, to get things underway for the store here in Helena.

Izzy was happy to hear that Edward would also be working from the same building, that had made her smile, had come and told Piper, with a smile on her face, their bond was flourishing very quickly. Piper had simply laughed and stated "Oh there will be no sneaking off during work hours."

Izzy had burst out laughing and murmured "Work will be my escape from his hands." and then they both laughed.

Piper herself was going to have to organize movers for all her and Brandon's things, though she was not going to use the pack's movers. She had ignored Benjamin's casual bringing up of the moving van, still in the impound in Portland. Had been about to tell him to deal with it, but Brad had actually beaten her to it. Told his father, to just let it go, that he had already dealt with it himself, that the van was to be released tomorrow and would be back here in the pack a day after that.

That had surprised Piper, but she'd been happy he'd let it go, and finally taken responsibility, stopped it seemed, trying to get her to rescind that his men had been stealing her things, and so by extension, so had he. Likely he had accepted the charges and would or had paid the fine and impound fees. He will likely have to have his lawyers defend his men in court though.

Sighed internally over that one, for as much as she enjoyed putting Brad and his father in their places, those movers were pack members and had just been following their Alpha's orders, it was not them she wanted to annoy or have punished.

She was going to have to put a call into and clear that mess up, wondered if she could get the men cleared but still have Brad himself or his company fined for overstepping his bounds. She doubted it but could ask, she thought. Would likely put her in his direct line of fire, but she could handle him.

Offered to let Brandon spend the day with Brad, she had a lot to do and it would give them good bonding time. Brad seemed surprised by her offer, but was more than happy to accept it. Both their eyes moved to Brandon to see what he thought. He'd looked from one to the other, and then asked her what she was going to be doing today, told him she had a lot of work to catch up on. Brandon had nodded and stated "I'll go with dad then." she knew he got bored easily and hated sitting in her office when she worked.

Walked him to Brad's office. The boy was between the two of them, a hand in hers and a hand in Brad's, he did seem to like having a father and holding hands with the both of them at the same time, had grabbed both of their hands. Brad was always happy about this. She just smiled, then told him "to be good"

"I'm always good." he'd huffed up at her, and he had been, until Aspen got stressed out and would shoot to the surface. Being here inside the pack was different for them, with the other wolves around. He'd run off into Brad's office

and she'd watched him climb into Brad's chair. "You might want to..." looked right at the boy pointedly as he spun the chair around.

"He's fine, I was always in dad's chair growing up."

"Hmm, you'd better take this today." Piper commented and slipped the ring that would one day be Brandon's off of her finger and handed it to Brad. "Just in case."

"Alright." Brad nodded, watched as he took it and turned it over to look at it, then just slipped it on his own little finger.

"NO!" Piper's heart was suddenly hammering inside her chest. "Don't put it on." tried to take it back, didn't want him suddenly being invisible to his own pack.

He had both her hands in his, smiled down at her "It's alright Piper, it won't work on me remember, only on the Whitlock gene. I don't have that. Take a breath, I'm still here, it won't be an issue."

Stood staring up at him, still worried about him wearing that ring "I don't know...I just.."

"I'm fine, Piper." then he leaned down and dropped a kissed right on to her lips, a brief peck to her lips before she had a chance to back away, "Go work." he released her hands. "Annabella wants to talk to Izzy today, about Izzy's family bloodline, so you might be on your own."

"I know, Izzy already told me, something about them being related, or Annabella thinks this."

"That's what I heard too, got yourself a cousin." he smiled, "one you actually like."

Piper nodded, it did seem that way, a distant cousin but family she was likely to be, if she was also related to Annabella. "I've got a million things to do today, I'd better go." looked at Brandon "He can be a handful, always needs to be on the move."

"Mm, that is typical of an Alpha child. I'm sure I can handle a day with him."

Piper nodded smirked a little “On little sleep, might get annoying.” Then she chuckled and walked off.

“Piper, feel free to use your Luna’s office today...I had it cleaned.” he called out after her as she walked away.

Strolled up the stairs and sighed, her office...was likely going to have to start using it at some point, they weren’t leaving and she knew it. Harper had claimed Brad and Benson as her Mate though only internally at this point, and she didn’t at all mind spending time with the man, watched him from behind Piper’s eyes. Seemed almost happy at times watching him.

Brandon and Aspen also seemed comfortable and they were both happy around Brad. Happy having their father around. She wasn’t exactly sure about Aspen and Benson, but Aspen had not shown aggression towards anyone in days now, and had allowed himself to be initiated into the pack.

Seemed that Aspen had relinquished his Alpha’s need to control everything around him and was doing as she asked, being just a boys wolf. That was a good thing. Aspen now had a father and a real blood connection to him. It might actually be helping him, those two wolves could well be talking and getting along with each other.

Piper walked into her suite and collected her things to take down to her office on the first floor. She wasn’t going anywhere, had also allowed herself to be initiated into the pack, had accepted somewhat begrudgingly to state the words Mate and Luna, hadn’t really been ready for all his unit to hear those words out loud, was still getting used to the idea herself.

But now that she was initiated into the pack it was a bit weird, that half realised bond of theirs felt stronger to her and she was starting to feel more connected to Brad now. Was actually quite comfortable in his presence now too.

Stood outside the Luna Office’s door, it was closed, she hadn’t really gotten a good look at it, Brad had been very quick to back them out of the room and bang the door shut. Apologized for what had been going on in there, she shook her head, the man was full of apologies, never knew an Alpha to be one to apologize for his actions or those around him, even for things that weren’t his fault.

Though he'd not apologized for that kiss downstairs in the basement, and knew he was not going to either, she'd kissed him back, sighed softly, had leaned right into the man. Harper had not even attempted to stop it either.

Piper knew Harper wanted her Mate. It was something they had both wanted for a long time, still did if she was completely honest with herself. She just wasn't yet ready to actually vocally claim him, seemed Harper was happy to wait on her, on that, they would do it when they felt the time was right.

Just didn't know how to handle it, what to do really, had always been alone and it was all new to both her and Harper, though she and Brad had both had a bit of fun this morning, or she had, he'd seemed a little on the annoyed side, that he couldn't find her name written in his suite, and a part of her was actually glad that he had not found it.

That one did not say Piper Harper Whitlock, it was the only time she'd ever allowed herself to write it as it should have been, or at least as what she'd wanted it to be, Piper Harper Drake, it read and when he did find it, it was highly likely the man was going to be on her in a flash. Wondered if she should sneak in there and get rid of it.

Heard Harper snort inside her mind amusingly 'He'll smell us now.'

Put an end to that thought, Harper was right. The man would scent out that she had been in his suite, in his walk-in at that. Though if he was to leave the pack and be gone all day, her scent would fade over the course of the day.

Shook it off, for another time. Pushed the Luna's office door open and stepped inside, nearly cringed at all the fluffy cushions and girly decor, this was not at all her style. Did not like the bright yellow at all, or the pale yellow walls. She guessed Lilly liked yellow a lot.

Walked across the room and sat herself at the desk, at least it was reasonable, but still not to her taste, wondered about getting rid of the stuff in here. It was way too bright and bubbly for her persona, she much preferred a minimalistic look. Just have what she needed in here.

Sat down and got to work, answered emails and made phone calls. Found that phone number Brad had given her for the police officer in Portland and placed a call, had to call him back with a video call, so he could actually see her, produce her ID to verify it was actually her as well. The man was very thorough.

Explained to the officer, that at the time of the incident she had been out of the country and had no idea that Brad had taken it upon himself to move her, admitted she not only knew him, but was in a relationship with him, as he'd told the officer. That though she was annoyed by his arrogance, being who he was, he just thought he was helping, called him an idiot and shook her head. Then she stated if she had known, yes she would have approved it, and was moving to Montana as Bradley Drake had told him she was.

It was a long conversation, and she answered all the man's questions, then he'd just sat and stared right at her through the screen, muttered she should have called and cleared this up days ago. To which Piper had actually replied "The man needed to learn, he can't just go and do as he pleases, because he's used to doing so." and the officer had actually smiled at her words, before telling her he'd close out the file over the next day or so.

Sat and organized movers finally. Really wanted Brandon to have all his things here, though where they were going to go at this point. Their suite was not big enough. Found herself a company that would move her first thing next week, then organized a courier to come and collect her house keys, so they could actually move her. She knew Izzy had organized for both her car and Pipers to be transported here, and should arrive on Monday with Izzy's belongings.

Headed off down to the pack gate to hand it over to the courier when she was informed there was one waiting for her. Found Cooper right next to her as she walked "Cooper?"

"Where are you going?" he asked, all casual like, both his hands were in his pockets.

"How did you even know I was going down here?" she asked in return.

"Brad can track you along the pack tether."

"Is he so paranoid?" She sighed.

"No, curious I think, more so than anything."

"And you're here because?"

"I'm the Beta, your the Luna." He stated as if that made complete sense.

Rolled her eyes right at him “I can take care of myself Cooper. Harper and I are more than capable, we were aiming for Elite Warrior Status, before...” left that unsaid.

“Thank you by the way. For saving Hadley, when you thought she was, well...”

Piper looked right at him, she was still confused about them. “How come you brought her into my store? For a Luna Gown! When the two of you are...well.”

Saw him smile “I’m not her Mate.”

“How’d that go down with your Alpha?” she was curious.

“Better than expected, I think he was more upset with Hadley than I...It also helped that Benjamin intervened and said he and Lilly were okay with it.”

“The hypocrite thing?” she smiled.

Actually saw Cooper snort with amusement, “Bradley had the stupidity to tell Hadley, that because she was a girl, she should have waited for her Mate.”

Piper stopped walking and stared up at the man, a frown on her face, that was indeed very archaic and hypocritical of the man. “Idiot, he didn’t wait for his Mate.” she muttered, he’d been with she-wolves even before she knew what he was to her.

“Mm, Hadley was not so nice about putting him in his place, stated that herself. Yelled it all Alpha, right in his face.” he nodded “So why are we headed to the gate?”

“I have the need to courier something.” she told him and continued on. But left the details out of it.

“Oh, and what might that be?”

“My business is what,” she stated, “which you and Bradley will be staying out of.”

“Fair enough.” was his only comment.

He however, did not leave, walked with her the rest of the way to the gate, and watched her hand over the sealed envelope. All it had on it was her

name. The courier had all the details, her envelope was put into one of the couriers' own plastic sleeve envelopes and she checked the details, signed and paid for it and it was gone.

Turned and headed back to the pack-house. "Are you going to follow me every time that I come down here?"

"It's likely," he nodded simply "Brad is concerned you'll vanish again. Bother's him greatly."

"He's enrolling Brandon in the pack school today, how far does he think I'm going to go?"

"He's not concerned you'll leave Piper, just vanish like you did the other day is all."

"Oh!"

"Now I hear you put your name in the Alpha's office years ago?"

"Leave him to find it Cooper, on his own." she smiled to herself.

"A game, is it?"

"Hmm..." she shrugged "Been there nearly 10 years, if he hasn't found it yet, not likely too. Let it drive him nuts."

"Ten years, that's long before you left."

"Yes it was." she nodded.

"Liked being able to go anywhere and no-one knew, did we?"

"Not particularly Cooper. But it was, what it was."

"Well, you can't do that anymore. He can smell you now. Only one that can I believe. There will be no hiding from Brad now." he chuckled, "though hiding from us, is likely easy enough, you smell like Brad to all of us."

Piper nodded, she already knew that, how they had all tracked back to Brad when out looking for her. "Must have been annoying to you."

“Not really.” Cooper shook his head. “Now I have one request of my Luna.” Piper frowned at him and he just smiled at her. “Mind-link to me when you need to go to the front gate, so I can walk with you, and not have to catch you up.”

“I might...I might not.” she answered him “Oh Cooper, my office?”

“That was all Hadley’s doing. It won’t happen again.” saw him shake his head.

“Looking to get caught, was she?”

“Yes! I believe so, didn’t like it being a secret, believes I will be her Mate.”

Now that got her attention. “Will you?”

“Who knows, I have not been near her on a full moon since she turned 18, to scent her out, though we did have a weird phone call on the last full moon, Steel was all...who knows,” he shrugged.

“Good luck then.” she left him in the pack-house foyer, and returned to the Luna’s office, shook her head it was way too girly in here. Walked about and collected all those extra fluffy and decorative pillows on the couch and took them down to the donation bins. All she needed was one desk and her studio office, sighed there was a lot to do to move her working studio.