

Unwilling 101

Chapter 101

David never came to the cellar or dungeon. So after eating the pizza and drinking some of the cans of soda, I found. I started looking around, hoping to find clues to where I was exactly. And hoping to find a way out or to find means of escape. Maybe even a weapon of some sort, but the dungeon was set up like a motel room. With a simple empty kitchenette, a bathroom with a toilet, and a shower without a mirror. The bedroom with the cheap dresser and cheap bed did hold more surprises. The only sunlight filtering in was coming from some kind of sunroof I could never reach.

Somehow there was electricity but I had no idea how. It most likely was a generator but I did not see one. Having learned there was no way out, I decided to rest more. There was no telling when David would come here, and I needed to be ready.

But sleep did not find me easily. I had seen it was at least a new day. That meant tonight I should have fallen asleep in Griffin's arms. Exhausted from finally being marked. Yet I

wasn't now I was falling asleep in a damp cellar. There was no way Griffin knew where I was, depending on what information he had he might not even know I was kidnapped.

My heart clenched when I realized he had probably been nervous that whole evening.

Waiting for me to finally text him, and then I never did. For some weird reason knowing he must be panicking and probably feeling guilty. Hurt me more than the hopelessness of being kidnapped by somebody as deranged as David. The tears that I had been able to hold back until this very moment now escaped.

As I lay down on the bed, on my side hugging my knees to my chest I just sobbed. I

sobbed so much that my eyes burned, my throat burned

and my ribs ached. I was promising Griff to do better when we found our way back to each other. That I would make it up to him that I believed him to be too good to be true. That I was so scared for the other shoe to drop that I didn't dare to let him in.

He would no doubt tell me there was nothing to make up. That he understood, because he was so patient with me. So kind and because I still was so scared to have my heart broken again and dying from it. I delayed everything between us. I could have been at his side

marked, and training to be the Queen with his mother now. In the end, the man that I trusted for so long, the man that I trusted for most of my life. Was the man that hurt me a second time, I should have been afraid of him all that time. How he acted the last time I saw him, and what he was doing now so soon after his parents died proved he was deranged, he just stopped hiding it.

I must have cried myself to sleep because the next thing I know I wake up from the sound of the door creaking open. David saunters in, a smug grin on his face. He is holding a brown bag that smells like food. Bacon, eggs, sausage, and hash browns.

“Morning Baby, I am so sorry I could not be here last night did you sleep well?” He asked like he was my actual mate that got held up in a meeting I didn’t attend.

“What the actual f uck is wrong with you? No, I did not sleep well I missed my through mate. Crown Prince Griffin, the wolf who gave you that limp ring any bell?” I snarl

Because I refuse to play along with his crazy mind games. He can’t be this deranged and if

he is, I will give him his much-needed reality check. Without saying a word he moves into the kitchen. Where he starts plating the food he brought in, in plastic containers.

Containers I realize are the packs, so I was right we must be very close to the Blood Moon pack.

“You poor thing you do not know, his pack members kidnapped you. I just rescued you from them. Even with the disruption in our matebond, I could still feel you were in danger.

But I guess you never saw the announcement on the website now did you” He smirks.

I don’t know what he is talking about, I am sure that it wasn’t the Silver Moon pack that kidnapped me. They would never, I understand that they might not all love me as their future Luna and Queen. But every single wolf in that pack adores Griffin and his parents.

So they would never go behind their back like that.

“What announcement are you talking about” I ask him because I need to have all the information he has.

I need to find out why he kidnapped me, even if I have an idea of what that is. And I need to know what announcement he has seen. So I can see what Griffin knows and the plan of

action to get me out of here. David pulls the phone out of his pocket with a shi t-eating grin.

Of course, he doesn't just hand it to me that would be too easy. He just types in something and then he shows me the royal website. The same one mine and Griff's picture was posted on a few weeks ago to introduce me as the new Princess, as Griffin's mate. The new article was a video of Griffin, captioned mateship ended. Just reading it hurt me but I soon enough noticed he was wearing Dad's sweater, the one I got him for Father's Day.

Even with the clip still static. Reveling in the hurt look on my face at the first glance David is quick to play the video clip.

"My dear subjects,

It is with regret that I have to inform you that Ayla Hemmings has chosen to break up with me." Griffin starts his announcement.

David pauses the clip addressing me "His pack kidnapped you and let him know you chose to be with me instead. And this man your so- called mate is not even giving you the

benefit of the doubt”

And to David, it must seem that way, Griffin is sitting there telling the entire kingdom that

I left him for David. What David doesn’t notice is that Griff has placed MY copy of Pride

and Prejudice in the center of the screen. Whilst he is sipping coffee out of the Mr. Right

mug, Jessa gave us when she heard about Griffin always bringing me coffee in bed. I have

a matching one saying, Mrs. Always Right. Wearing my dad’s sweater, I know my mate.

He didn’t even give up on me when I gave him every reason to give up on him. No matter

what David wrote in the letter, no matter the fact that I didn’t let Griff know I was at the

party the night before. We have never been closer and talking more than after my surprise

to him.

I let Daniël know in a voice memo how nervous but excited I was to finally be marked by

Griffin. I know my brother must have let Griffin hear it to reassure him I really wasn’t

walking away just like that. Knowing all of that I understand what Griffin is doing, he is

luring David into a false sense of security. He understood that I would get to see the clip

too so he filled it with little tokens of our love. Showing me my family is with him no doubt

to help him find me.

“Please, please David I need to see the rest of it” I plead hoping David will think I am desperately hurt knowing my mate just left me.

All I want is to see the entire clip to be sure I am not missing any important hints Griffin gives me. He does asking the subjects to not blame me for it and to treat me kindly. He is going over to the White Oak pack to discuss how this could have happened with the Alpha.

And to discuss some sort of settlement. I have to suppress a smile, he is going to the

White Oak pack to find out how this could have happened. It won't be long now before he

finds us and breaks me free

Chapter 102

That should have done the trick, she should have seen that lousy mate give up on her that easily. She would break down, and fall into my arms crying. Just like she did when we were

younger she is intent on making things difficult for herself and me. Even when he believed

my letter over her word. She looked at the screen with nothing but love and admiration in

her eyes for him. Yet with me, she was so quick to give up on me. Since I rejected her she

hardly spoke to me, ignoring me. Sure I knew we couldn't keep friends after it but she

should have been willing to try and the fact that she wasn't annoyed me.

"David, if his packmembers left him the letters, then why do you know exactly what is in

them" She asked me, annoying me even further.

"I have spies, what does that even matter" I snap at her.

She is always getting hung up on details. Maybe she will figure out that I was the one who

gave the order to kidnap her. But would that really make such a difference? Sure she

would not think I rescued her from a bigger worse evil. Still, Princeboy, the one that she

claims loves her like I never did. Takes the worth over anyone else over hers.

"Yes, I want to know if you will ever stop lying to me. No matter what Griff does, or doesn't

do I will never ever consider you to be my mate. He is the only one I would want to give a

second chance. Because you know what you were right, the Mo onGodde ss made a

mistake when she paired us together. You were never good enough for..."

The slap to her face stunned her for a good second. Most of the pack members had

respected her enough to not get physical with her. It was just Hannah and her friends who

beat her up on a daily basis. I never laid my hands on her either, not because I respected

her parents

enough. I was their future Alpha and thus they had to respect me. No, I just never felt the

need to punish Ayla. Figuring that a red mark on her cheek would only diminish her beauty.

Now seeing my claim, my punishment glowing on her face I saw it was far from that.

Knowing I had her under my control like that stirred something in me. My erection

straining against my jeans. Sadly I promised myself not to give in too soon, make her

crazy with lust, with want for my body. Only to then give it to her in a way that would not

be pleasing to her at all. My lustful thoughts were interrupted when I felt something wet

and warm drip down my face.

That bitch spat at me, eyeing the hand that had involuntarily gripped my erection.

“Disgusting, all although if it would not have been for your hand I would have hardly

noticed it” She smirked making a throwaway gesture towards my manhood.

I would show her how very noticeable it would be when I filled her up with every inch of it

when she was not slick enough yet.

“Laugh all you want you stupid whore, but you are mine now. Yes, I sent your Prince that letter and he believes me over you. How dare you still choose him over me if he does not want you?”

Angered probably both by the slap to her face and mocking her matebond with that weak Prince she tried to shift. Little did she know she could not shift anymore. I never heard of medicine like that and it makes sense it's something hunters use. A wolfsbane infused medicine that will violently turn you into a wolf. Only for the effects to work out leaving you unable to shift back to your wolf form as long as you had the poison in your body. Lucky for me the hunters are not exactly known for their morals. If you just pay them enough they are more often than not willing to help you deal with one wolf even if you are one yourself. I just had to send Jason to do the dirty work with them. As my beta to be he was more than willing to. He wasn't blind to see how this would benefit his sister either. Best of all he didn't even have to board the plane

either. So there were no ties to our pack.

As I stood there silently watching Ayla struggling unable to shift she found out herself that she could not shift anymore. The panic written on her face seemed to run deeper and deeper until she looked up at me again. Wild erratic eyes, I could hear the wild drumming over my heart, like it was about to give out any minute now.

“You finally figured it out, haven’t you, you will only be able to shift again when you agree to be mine” I smirked, she might hate me for this now.

As was evident with her screaming and crying, which was causing me to get a headache.

But in the end, she would realize that me taking everyone away from her, including Willow was the right thing to do. She would thank me for it in a few weeks when she had completed the mating process. I wish I could just complete it without needing her permission it would only make the process longer.

“I will leave you to your own devices now, I am not going to listen to you scream and cry here. Hopefully, you will behave better when I am bringing you dinner” With that I walked

out of the dungeon and made my way to the pack.

“Alpha, we need to talk” Hannah’s singing annoyed the fuck out of me.

“Just fucking come in,” I told her

Shit, I should have still been in the dungeon with Ayla making sweet sweet love to her. I

had honestly expected her to be happy I saved her,

she should have shown me some gratitude but all I got from her was that attitude. Her

parents raised her telling her respect was earned not freely given.

Her father might have been a good warrior but he was weak as a man. He practically

worshipped the ground that mate of his walked on. Raised his daughters to be just as

independent as his son is. Hell, he even let Kate train to be a warrior. A she-wolf as a

warrior, then again his parents were famed all over our community. But his mother had a

human mother, and his uncle was openly gay and his father never did anything about it.

That is not a family to raise strong men and loyal women. He would be punished for

betraying the pack anyway all of the Hemmings would. Maybe I would go mild on them to appease my mate but with how she is behaving in this moment I might just punish them even harsher just to make my point. Rubbing my hands over my face I try to release some of the tension that has given me a headache. I am a freaking wolf, I am too strong to suffer from small aches like this. And now just as I try to find some relief Hannah enters my office.

“Have you seen the news, he believes it like I told you he would.” Hannah all but dances into the office right up to my desk.

“S hit, she still hates your gut doesn’t she” Hannah states before bursting into a fit of giggles.

I am over those bit ches, Hannah is about to ruin my plans with her stupid behavior.

Running a pack needing to only use your Alpha commands is already draining as fuck.

Ayla has been screaming my head off like an ungrateful little bitch. And now this, I need to let this anger out, and I need a victim and I know exactly who it will be.

Chapter 103

By the time I finally could go to bed, I was exhausted, and I still didn't have an appetite.

Desperately wanting to feel closer to Ayla I decided to just go to sleep in the bed that still vaguely smells of her. When I find one of my shirts she wore to bed the last night we were together under her pillows I slip into it. Normally I would sleep tople ss but, having her scent envelop me is the most calming thing for me at this moment. I allow myself to close my eyes and imagine she is peacefully sleeping next to me. I know this will alone cause me more pain in the morning. But for now, I let it lull me into a peaceful sleep.

The next morning I woke up after a fitful sleep. Wearing a shirt that smelled of her helped me fall asleep peacefully. However, I should have known that it would never be enough to actually have a peaceful night. Even my subconscious misses the feeling of her in my arms when I am sleeping. I needed to get up though, we would travel to the White Oak pack shortly. After the announcement on the website, I let the pack know we were still actively searching for their Princess.

And after yesterday's hiccup, we now truly had the support of the entire pack and it meant

the world to me. Not only because it would make my life, and my mission to get the love of my life back to me so much easier. No, I wanted Ayla to have a warm, loving pack. That missed her, that believed her and fought for her to go home too. Being without our mates even without having completed the process was painful for any wolf. We had always managed to take the edge off with texting every day. Making sure we were surrounded by each other's scent. I highly doubt David would allow her any of those.

That's the dark place my mind keeps going back to. Trying to imagine what he is doing to her. How he is trying to break her because I know from my own experience just how strong she is. And just how stubborn she is, she will keep fighting him if not physically she will fight him mentally. I wish I could tell her to just go along with everything he is coming up with. That I would never blame her for acting like she prefers him over me. I know it is not true but, if that is what is going to keep her safe she should do it. Just hold out long enough for me to come and save her. Sadly I cannot reach her and she will be too stubborn, she loves me too much to speak badly about me.

With a body that feels like it's been run over by a tow truck, I shuffle towards the bathroom. Hoping that a hot shower will release some of the tension in my body. I feel like I have to be ready for anything, every second of the day now. So my body has been tensed up ever since reading that letter. Ready to pounce on whoever I need to pounce on. And it made my muscles sore, of course, the lack of nutrition doesn't help either. But how could I be stuffing my face when I am not sure that Ayla even gets to eat anything?

When I walk out of the shower Mom is waiting for me, a plate of scrambled eggs with bacon sits on my dining room table next to a mug of coffee.

"Honey, I know you don't want to but you need to eat something. The only way we are getting your mate back is by keeping our strengths up. You know Ayla would never want you to starve yourself" She adds the last words in a gentler tone.

She is right, I can practically hear Ayla scold me for not taking care of myself. It feels like nobody gets it though. Nobody seems to understand how much the simplest things like eating or even breathing feel without her. No one in my family or pack has ever been through something like this. So there is nobody here I can talk to.

“I know Mom, I just miss her so much that it hurts me” I can barely hold in my so bs.

Suddenly Mom’s arms are around me, it feels so comforting. Like it did when I was a little pup crying over a scraped knee or a missing toy. Only now I was an adult, set to take over the throne in a few years. And now it was my heart that was hurting and I lost my mate, not my favorite toy. So Mom’s hugs could only go so far. Still, it comforted me enough to attempt to eat breakfast. My mouth felt dry, and my throat was swollen. I had trouble with every bite I swallowed down. Feeling like the bit of fluffy eggs got lodged in my throat.

Two hours later I sat in the royal jet, heading towards the White Oak pack once more. Next to me was an empty chair, the chair where Ayla should have been seated. I should be flying to the White Oak pack not because I needed to find out what happened to her. No, we needed to be going there together to visit her family. Maybe even to go over to bring them some good news.

Still, I was glad to be out of the castle, looking for hints here would feel so much better

than just sitting at home. Staring at words or images on a computer screen to try and get more information. After landing we would go straight to the packhouse to speak with Alpha Cedric and the rest of his family, he was heartbroken about the news too. But as the Alpha, he couldn't just come over to the castle and leave the pack without a leader. More so because the kidnapping had taken place on his packground. Indicating a breach of security, something he had to look into. Both to keep the rest of the pack safe and to see if there are any hints to find out what happened to Ayla.

After we arrived we did as we planned, we spoke to Alpha Cedric and he had some news for us. Since it had been peace among the neighboring packs for so long there wasn't any security around the borders of the pack apart from the guards station at the entrance.

With the party and how well-loved Ayla was in this pack. almost everyone had attended the party so security was at an all-time low.

Some of the security cameras on the property had managed to capture three unknown wolves. He had also been able to track most of Ayla's route home, not all of it as the

security cameras were put into place to protect the heart of the pack better. And to

possibly form evidence if there ever was a fight between pack members.

It was better than nothing though because it meant there was a set path Ayla had taken to

her home. With our combined force we would research every inch of said path to look for

traces or hints of what had happened to her. Agreeing with the rest of us that the

BloodMoon pack had to be involved. David more specifically, Cedric asked everyone to

look at the wolves on the camera. Hopefully one of the former BloodMoon members could

confirm who it was. The council had already agreed with us that we had more than enough

evidence to act on our suspicions that it was David who kidnapped my mate.

So we didn't need to know who kidnapped her to be able to act upon it. It was still

valuable information. We could maybe use it to put some pressure on the kidnapper

hoping they would crumble underneath the weight of it. Confessing and pointing us out to

Ayla in return for a lesser sentence.

Upon seeing the security camera footage both Jessa and Dan jumped up stating they

knew who the wolf on the screen was. But I noticed something else as I closely monitored the videos for any lead that could bring Ayla back to me.

Chapter 104

“That’s Jason, Hannah’s brother and he was said to become David’s Beta, and I am sure he is now,” Jessa tells us

From the security images, and footprints the White Oak guards assumed the other men on the property were wolves too. But even on the grainy screen, I can see the hunter’s emblem on one of the men’s arms. This is bad news because David seems to be working with them. She is doing something on her phone, it’s not very clear to see but it seems like she sees something on her phone that annoys her before shuffling it back in her purse. Maybe her phone just died. We follow the route she walks and we can clearly see she seems a bit nervous. She is looking over her shoulders a few times. She must have felt something; for some reason, she didn’t feel scared enough to call for anyone.

But that is all the camera images tell us. So there is no use in staying in this office any longer. And there is not much to discuss with Alpha Cedric he has given me complete

freedom on the backgrounds. He wants his niece home just as much as I do. I need to go out, I need to feel like I am doing something, anything really just to get her home.

“Dan, Jessa, could you show me the place last seen on the camera and walk me to Ayla’s home?” I ask so I can go out and hopefully find some clues.

Dan is quick to jump up and agree, I have only gotten to know him a little bit. He is a lot like me so I can imagine he wants to get up and do something too. Alpha Cedric tells us he will send four warriors over so that they can help us look for clues. We could call upon the entire army but the thing is that might be a risk too. A lot of werewolves trampling all over the track might destroy more clues than we will end up finding,

“Oh and Griffin, we did some searching too, and we found her phone. The battery just died, so I charged it” Alpha Cedric tells me before handing over the phone.

Her phone is password protected and it feels off to try and guess her password. But it is the only thing we can do now. We need to try and find every clue there is. I’m still absolutely sure there is no way that she just up and left me. There is no way we are going

to find text confirming what the letter she supposedly sent said. Even a timeline of the place where she has been too could prove helpful.

“I know her password, I can just go through her phone if you guys go looking for more clues” Jessa suggests.

I am so happy she does, because A, there is a reason Ayla gave her the password. And B, I don't think I can focus enough to just read throughout her messages. I know I would drift back to just reading the messages between us. Going over how good it all was between us, reassuring myself of what I felt. What I thought we were is still very true. Since that is not what I need to do now, I thank Jessa and then make my way outside to the place where Ayla was last seen.

The others took a break to go have some lunch but I never did. I wanted to stay outside and be sure there was nothing we had missed. No clue I had missed, the others had come back and joined me again, and not the sun was going down. The rest wanted to go for

dinner, we were all invited to the pack meal. They must be tired and hungry but it feels

like I would be failing if I give up on searching. Still, I cannot bring myself to sit down, be

comfortable, and have a good meal. When I don't know if my mate even gets to eat.

"Griff, come on let's have dinner, so we can go over what Jessa found

on Ayla's phone" Dan suggests.

I would have loved to skip dinner but he makes a lot of sense. Mom and Dad stayed

behind they needed to rule the pack. The country and make sure it's not too obvious we

do not believe David. Mom won't be

watching me cat like a hawk. But the others will surely notice when I am actively not

eating during meals. They will scold me just as much as Mom did, maybe even worse and I

am just too tired to deal with it. Reluctantly I follow Dan to the pack kitchen where I eat

the smallest portion I can find. Which is hard to do during a werewolf dinner.

Comfort food is a thing, the tables are loaded with hearty portions of pasta. Fries, burgers,

pizza and casseroles. Sticking to just a burger I sit down next to Jessa. Wanting to talk to

her about what she found on the phone. Instead, she just eyes up my plate, pushes her

chair back, and walks away from the table. She comes back with a plate with another burger, fries, salad, and ketchup.

“She would never want this for you, and you know that. When we found out our mates were best friends we told each other how easy it would be to take care of each other’s mates if it would ever come to that. So here I am, taking care of you, making sure you eat like an adult werewolf should” Jessa tells me, putting the plate of food in front of me.

I want to start to object but she doesn’t let me. Warning me she would tell Ayla that I didn’t take care of myself. I smiled realizing how mad she would be and I could see her scowl when she heard about it. Weirdly enough that is somewhat reassuring. The knowledge that we are all so sure she is going to come back to me, to us.

Even if she doesn’t, Jessa is suffering just as much as I am. No doubt it helps her feel better to keep a promise she made with her best friend. So I nod and force down the two burgers, the fries, and the side salad. All while listening to Jessa telling me she actually

hasn't found all that

much, She stayed at the pack ground. The only exception was going to a photo service place and a Starbucks. The same Starbucks she went to, to ask Krys to be her mate so that wasn't much of a clue either.

It had gotten dark out after dinner, so we spent another three hours discussing plans for how to deal with David if he was to attack. What to do with the knowledge that at least one hunter was involved? I had been on the phone to update my parents, Alpha Cedric had been on the phone with neighboring packs to let them know of the war threat and find out what packs would be willing and able to help out. At the same time, Jay and Tessie had been desperately trying to contact their former pack members.

Things were starting and several Alpha's promised either their help when this would come to a war. Others had suggested searching their grounds for any clues, and all of them told us we were free to come over if we needed anything for the case. But it was nothing concrete yet. With that, the others were tired and wanted to go to sleep. I was tired too, I was drained but I felt scared to go to bed knowing it would be another night not knowing

where my Ayla was. Emmy suggested I should sleep at their place so I could sleep in Ayla's bed. Being in her room surrounded by her scent would soothe me somewhat. But I was so unsure about how I would react to seeing all her things packed up to take to me when we weren't sure she would make it back to me.

Chapter 105

David walked away and he didn't return for an entire day. I ate the breakfast that had gone cold now. From the sunroof, I could see that an entire day had passed. The sun was going down again. By now I was bored out of my mind, and starving. Two portions of a simple breakfast aren't enough to feed a werewolf. David knows this, I know he is punishing me for still not wanting him. For still defending Griff. But I would never stop doing that.

"Ayla, you need to be smart about this like our mate is doing" Hearing Willow's voice made me sag with relief.

When David told me I wouldn't be able to shift I was scared I would lose Willow. Being suppressed for too long can kill your wolf. And in most cases, your wolf dying means you

will die too. Or you will go insane, so there is hardly any good outcome to losing your wolf.

It means you will be missing a part of you for the rest of your often short life.

Willow was right of course, I needed to be smart about this. But I don't know how, I need

Griffin to hug me. To tell me things were going to be alright. I felt bad acting like I believed

David or pretending like I was disappointed in Griff. I have been so very vocal about not

trusting him, about not being able to love again. Now that I do, now that I am finally able

to tell everyone how much I love my mate. How good it is to be mated, I don't want to go

back. I don't want to tell anyone that Griffin is not good enough for me. Not even to David.

Yesterday I found a simple bar of soap and some old, rough, towels. Not much but it's

better than nothing and I desperately need a shower. Showering means getting undressed

though and it scared me. The other problem is the clothes, there are some clothes for me

here but by

the looks and smell of them, the clothes are David's. Wearing his clothes, feels off. It's the

cute kind couply thing I want to do with Griffin.

Things I do with Griffin, I wear his clothes to bed. They're big on me, soft and comfy. And I love feeling asleep surrounded by even more of his scent. My skin crawled thinking about falling asleep, surrounded by David's scent. However, my other options were washing my clothes, and hanging them out to dry in this damp musty room. Waiting for them to dry which will most likely never happen, sleep naked or wash myself only to wear the same dirty clothes. Clothes I have been wearing for two days straight. Clothes that weren't really mine either but they were female clothes at least.

In the end, I decide I need to take care of myself the best I can, keeping clean, eating, and resting when I can. It all is about taking care of myself. Keeping strong so that I can try and find a way out of here. With that knowledge, I drag a chair inside of the bedroom so I can block the door. Because conveniently it doesn't have a lock. The shower is cold and the water does not get warm either. I don't even know why I expected it to be warm. He kidnapped me and put me in a musty homemade dungeon. Of course, he didn't grant me a warm shower, but at least I was clean now. After having picked out the clothes that smelled like him the least I crawl back into the bumpy bed.

This is the first time since being here I actually try to get some sleep. The first few hours I was out of it. Because whatever it was they injected me with it was strong stuff. Yesterday I just cried myself to sleep, and now I am lying in this bed teeth still chattering. Shaking from cold and hunger sleep does not find me. All that does find me is the memories of my time with Griff. Or fears about what he is doing now, and if I am ever going to find a way out. Or if Griff is coming to find me which spirals me into fearing what he will think when he sees me wearing David's clothes, smelling of him, soundly sleeping in David's bed.

Realistically I know Griff wants me to do all I can to keep safe. My heart and mind just do not seem to agree. Until I find myself crying again.

Another morning where I woke up from the door creaking. After having cried myself to sleep. I hate how I am kind of relieved to hear David walk into the dungeon. Not because of him no. All that he accomplished by kidnapping me was that I hated him more than ever. Me the one who saved his pack from going to war so many times.

But when I take a deep breath I realize it is not David who walked into the dungeon. I have been up close and personal with this person more times than I count. More times than I would have wanted to. Being so up close to this wolf all the time, imprinted her scent on my mind. Hannah being involved doesn't surprise me at all.

"Look, who is pack, Queen of the pack right" She sneers at me.

Something in her voice brings me back to the moment I was kidnapped. The voice I heard when I was slipping in and out of conscience. That was Jason, Hannah's brother. The man said to

become the Beta the day David would become the Alpha. So it seemed like that had happened just like everyone thought it would.

"Does it hurt, knowing you will never measure up to the she-wolf you felt was the weakest? First David, then Griffin, and now David again." Sucks to be you right?" I smirk

"David rejected you because of me, I was the one who wanted more. I decided I wanted to become the Queen. I always get what, so I am about to get your second chance mate"

She mocked me.

“ENOUGHHHH” David’s voice boomed through the dungeon.

He scolds Hannah for harassing his mate. This man is delusional, the

two of them bicker. Unaware of the fact that I am still in the room. Turns out Hannah is

here, to help me get some clothes and toiletries. I would rather not accept this “kind”

gesture. The other option was to keep wearing David’s clothes and that was the worst of

two evils. So I let Hannah poke at me, making me turn around like a priced puppy. She was

just messing with me.

Tears threaten to spill from my eyes again, I cannot let them see me cry. But this is all so

hopeless, I am dependent on Hannah to get me clothes. David feeds me if I am kind

enough. Now the two people that made my life the biggest hell before this experience. Are

now the two people who can keep me alive? Who can keep me strong enough to find an

escape if I ever see one? Which at this point seems to be very unlikely too.

“Well, I am sure I can find some suitable clothes in the children’s department. Toodeloo”

Hannah giggles and all I can do is roll my eyes.

“Don’t look so sour, she is helping you out you know. Now, can you behave this time so we can have breakfast in peace together? I even brought you something to keep you entertained when I am gone. After all, it is a lot of work to be the Alpha. You should be grateful I could have a good few years before having to take over. But I had to make sure, that my parents wouldn’t come between us anymore.”

Nothing registers with me anymore, all I can think about is if he really just set what I thought he said. If he got rid of his parents, if he killed them thinking it would give him a chance with me. He was even more dangerous than I thought he was.

Chapter 106

I barely slept last night, I kept having nightmares about Ayla. Nightmares where she is laughing at me. Telling me she meant every word she said in the letter. Other’s more realistic where David, was abusing her, hurting her. Trying to break her and accept him as her mate. Dreams where she doesn’t survive the abuse and dies. Every nightmare woke me up gasping, drenched in sweat.

It’s 7 AM now I know there is a pack breakfast available from six- thirty. Still not that hungry but I could do without Jessa being on my case. And somehow reminding myself I

need to eat and take care of myself so Ayla won't be mad at me is comforting. It's like I

am forcing myself to believe she is going to make it back to me in one piece. Despite what my nightmares are telling me.

I sit up, ready to get out of bed. Again my eyes dart down the room, there is not a single thing she had not packed. Knowing she was so excited about living together with me that she didn't even need to pack on the last day, was both comforting and depressing.

Knowing she loved me this much, that we were both as excited for the future was comforting. It reminded me of the Ayla I loved. The she-wolf that could be a bit shy and reserved at first, but who when she loved. Love whole-heartedly. To know despite all that happened to her I had become the man to deserve that love still made me fly high.

Only she was not here with me, we weren't about to put the last boxes in our cars so we could drive home. Our home to our future. No, I had to sleep in the bed that once was hers because she was taken away from me. And I had no clue how to find her, Mo onGo ddes knows I've been trying. It had only been three days since she had been kidnapped. On the

one hand, it feels like an eternity without her. Without knowing how she is doing. Three

days where waking up feels difficult

because every time I do I realize she is not there breathing is difficult. The sense of

missing her is wrapping around my chest like cold bands of steel. Squeezing tighter with

every breath I take.

On the other hand, I realize he couldn't have taken her that far yet. We ruled out the fact

that they travel by a commercial airplane. There had not been any suspicious private

flights. Unless they flew without clearance but that would be impossible to track down.

This leaves us with two options, he either hid her somewhere close until the excitement

dies down. Or he is taking her home by car, but that would mean they would have had to

stop somewhere overnight. Tonight we are going to spread out and go to as many hotels

and motels as possible to show her picture there.

After my light breakfast which mostly consisted of coffee and some pastries. I spend more

time plucking at them than actually eating them. I make my way to the training ring as

Alpha Cedric requested, every available wolf that wants to help to try to see if Ayla stayed in a hotel or motel overnight would gather there. As I am getting closer I hear the low buzz of chatter. The kind of sad, quiet chatter that you hear during funerals. But it is loud like there are dozens of people gathered together.

When I turn the corner I see that's truly the case. There must be at least four dozen wolves ready to go out and try and find clues about Ayla's whereabouts. I choke up, seeing how many wolves love her. Love her enough to go out and spend their entire day, some even two to find her. Or to find any trace of her. When I reach Alpha Cedric, slowly because my legs feel just as heavy as my heart is. He clasps my shoulder and faces me.

"Your mate, my niece, your Luna, and Queen, she is loved by all as you can see. And that is why we are bringing her back home. To the place where she should be" He tells me and for the first time in three days I can share in his optimism a bit.

The permanent crease on his forehead, the bags under his eyes. There is no hiding his

worries. Nor do I think he is trying to. But he has a bit of hope left in him. Hope I lost but as I listen to him divide the wolves into pairs. Seeing the abundance of hands raised when he asks who wants to spend a night away from the pack so they can reach the motels further down the road. It's all so overwhelming and it makes me feel hopeful again too.

I want to save Ayla, but I am slowly understanding that I am not the only one. And that it means that I do not have to do it all on my own. All these wolves here are just as determined to get her back with us. The only risk of all of this is David finding out that my video announcement was just a ploy to get him off our backs.

"Prince Griffin, can I join you so that you are going with someone who can hear the pack's mindlink?" I look at the shy elderly woman in front of me.

She looks like she should be home, enjoying her well-earned rest. Yet she is here summoning her courage to ask me as her Crown Prince if she can join me because she thinks I am better off without someone from the White Oak pack as opposed to one of my friends or guards.

“Yes, I would love that under the condition that you just call me Griffin we’re a team

today,” I tell her, because I know she is right I need someone with me who can mindlink

others or hear a mindlink if something happens.

“My name is Dorothy, and I can see why Ayla loves you so much. You are just like her in a

sense” Dorothy answers giving me a motherly pat

on the arm.

I want to know what she means, and why she thinks I am just like Ayla in a sense. But it is

time to move to the cars. Cedric and I spent a few

hours last night to come up with a list of motels and hotels between the White Oak and

the Blood Moon pack. We made lists of three hotels each. Now with the almost fifty wolves

present. We would need no more than two days to reach all of them. Most of the time

would be spent on the road. Driving from one hotel to the other.

I had been right, we visited most of the hotels and motels on the list. Only the one further

away. The ones close to the BloodMoon pack were not questioned yet. Everyone either came back to the White Oak pack or booked a room for the night to travel to the other places in the morning. Because it was deemed wise for me to be on the pack ground in case there is any new information I returned.

Dorothy was a formidable old lady, I had found out she was a distant relative of Ayla. That determination and fierceness my beautiful mate has must be a family trait. Because Dorothy seemed to have it in abundance too. But it did not change the fact that we still didn't find any clue. That we still weren't any closer to finding Ayla. Leaving me so frustrated I was barely able to function anymore. So when my phone rang, and I saw it was my father for the first time in forever I wanted to decline the call and avoid talking to him.

Chapter 107

I know I cannot just decline a call from my father though. He doesn't deserve that and it would probably make him worry like crazy. Despite not wanting to I answer the call. Just as I expected he is just calling to see if there are any updates. As much as I love knowing my

parents are genuinely worried about Ayla because of how much they love her. It makes telling him, that I have been unable to find any clues to where she is.

“Son, I think there is something we are missing. He must have found a way to take her close to the BloodMoon pack, he is still the Alpha after all and it makes sense with how you’re telling me his packmembers are behaving” Dad tells me.

Thinking about it he might be right, an entire pack not being online can only be caused by two things. Either the Alpha requested them not to and they are willingly obliging because they honor and respect their Alpha. Or the worst option he has them all under his control using his Alpha voice. I can check with Tessie and Jay to find out which one of the two is the more likely option. For both, he would need to be close enough to the pack though.

“I don’t know why I didn’t see this before but you might be right,” I tell Dad, thinking this means I need to travel to the Blood Moon Pack tomorrow.

“Trying not to alert David, was a smart move but it is not doing us any favors now. I’ll arrive with the royal yet and a part of our army in the morning. I’m taking the yet, all you need to do is board with the wolves you want to bring with you and we fly to the

BloodMoon pack” It’s been a while since Dad just decided what we were going to do.

As I grew older, as I was getting closer to being the Alpha and King he started discussing things with me. Valuing my insights and opinions.. Not that I mind though because honestly, I am getting so overwhelmed. Even with how involved he is, he still isn’t as emotionally invested in this case as I am. No one is because the bond between mates is like nothing else.

Where all I could do was act like a hurt mate, he had the strength to take a step back and think as a king. With that, he came up with a great plan to hopefully finally be one step closer to finding her. After going over some more details I went to Jay and Tessie’s home, as they invited me over for dinner. Stating that I still needed to eat. I accepted because I didn’t want to refuse them, not because I was looking forward to having dinner. Now it suited me though as I was sure they wouldn’t mind me talking about my plans to find’ Ayla. And more so to ask them some questions about the Blood Moon pack to have a better understanding of what was happening.

“Honestly, I wanted to be mad with the pack. Most of them bullied Ayla. I still blame myself for never noticing. The only reason the pack did not abuse her was the respect most of them had for us. Just not Hannah and her goons” Jay started, still boiling with anger thinking back to what they put his daughter through.

“But there are some good eggs in the pack, honestly most of them just got caught up in how the pack was run. You know as much as I do good leaders can make or break the pack. I don’t believe all of them would be so willing to follow David that they would stop all outside communication” He ends, and with it, I have my answer.

If they are not willingly following David, he must have them under control using his Alpha voice. You need to be close to the pack to do so. And it takes up a lot of energy. Especially when controlling the

fat in tows

entire pack. I shudder when I think about what it says about David

An Alpha-to-be normally does not have the Alpha command just yet. But with me being a

royal wolf. The first heir to the throne I already have mine, but I hardly use it. Let alone address the entire pack with it. The last time I used it was the day I met Ayla when I told everyone to leave her alone. To not touch her, it was in a moment of desperation. To keep my mate safe, as it should be used. In times of need, just to give one simple command to keep someone safe. Whether it was the entire pack or just one wolf. Not to make the pack do your bidding, taking away their free will.

When all of this is over we are going to have to reassess and find a new Alpha for the BloodMoon pack. Not like David was going to come back soon, he would need to be punished but if it did not end in him getting executed he would still be the Alpha. Stripping someone from their Alpha title means you strip their entire family of it. Giving that power to someone else, the new Alpha's family would get all the power. Ayla told me once that David has a sister, who was a lot kinder than her older brother. If she were to be the last surviving member of the family she would be the next Alpha.

Either as a placeholder until David, finishes his sentence or permanently if David dies

during the fights or gets executed with his punishment. But abusing your Alpha power like that would

immediately get him stripped of all his power. For some reason, this all makes me a little hopeful. What if he has his pack under control so much that he can just live his normal life with Ayla as his Luna?

It's not like he would allow the pack to help her or let anyone know for that matter. I know she would hate it, but it would mean she was as safe as she could be in the current situation. And it would mean I would see her tomorrow this could all be over so much sooner than I expected.

"It is good finally seeing you a bit more hopeful, care to tell me what is on your mind?" Tessie asked me.

I notice the doubt on her face when I tell her my theory. But she doesn't say anything.

And just ignore it because honestly, I need a bit of hope. This dinner is the first one in a long time that actually tastes good. Sure Tessie is an extraordinary cook I already knew

that. But this is the first meal I have eaten where I have a bit of an appetite. All because of

the hope I feel of seeing Ayla again soon.

I'm choosing to give myself one night of hope, tomorrow in the plane to BloodMoon pack I will worry about all the possible outcomes. Tomorrow when I go there, I will try to convince myself that whatever happens, I will be one step closer to Ayla and that is all that matters.

So with dinner finished I make my way to Alpha Cedric to update him on the plans. And then I will have to tell the people from the Silver Moon pack who traveled with me, they would most likely all want to join me in traveling to the BloodMoon pack. When that was done the only thing left to do was to let Dad know how many people would board the plane with me. And then go to bed to hopefully have one good night's sleep so I will have my energy up for tomorrow.

Chapter 108

"I know you she-wolves like to nest, and I decided it would be better for our mate-bond if I stay here with you. I brought you a bunch of nesting s hit so here you go" David got me out of my stupor by throwing a bag filled with ratty blankets towards me.

The dull thud of the bag landing on the bed seemed to snap something in me. Like I

suddenly was done with all of it. There is no use for me in being sad, after all, Griffin showed me he was coming for me. I know he will and not just him, the BloodMoon pack treated me like sh it. Making me believe I was unloveable just for being smaller than the average wolf. But with moving packs, and getting to know yet another pack. I have learned I am loveable, I might not be it for everyone. But I am for the people who care about me. The people I need to love me.

Griffin won't be alone in his mission to rescue me. All these wolves risking so much to get me back. The least I can do is stop wallowing in self-pity. Stop crying myself to sleep every night and to stay strong. David can slap, hurt, and abuse me all he wants. He won't kill me.

Not because I trust him to not be a killer. I know he is, hell this man killed his parents as a way to win me over. The reason I know he is not going to kill me is because he thinks he is in love with me. In his mind, all of this is leading up to me becoming his mate again. It is clear he is prepared to put up a fight, thinking he can just wear me down. So I will give

him a fight, but not one he thinks he is getting.

“Wow, some ratty blankets that really would suit a nest for a mate like you. Lucky me you will never be my mate again” I scoff, walking up to him and grabbing the bag with the food from his hand.

Something I could only manage because he was too stunned with my reply. It was another half-cold breakfast left over from the pack breakfast. It is nothing special, but it would sustain me. Soon enough I would be having breakfast with Griffin in our kitchen again. Or maybe just in the pack kitchen I am sure I could get Milo to make me his waffles and chicken again soon.

Thinking about the meals I would soon be having I scarf down this breakfast. I am hungry and there is no need to pretend to be more elegant or to look good. I cannot wait for David to be put off by me again. I rather spend my time in solitude here than being with him all the da mn time. Besides he should spend time at the pack to lead his pack members.

Even with how most of them treated me I still wanted the pack to do well. The pack I once wanted to become the Luna of so I could lead them to a bigger and brighter future.

Of course, David is hot on my tail, steaming as he pulls his plate towards him and starts

eating. Glaring at me, but I have never been so unbothered as I am now.

“You know I could kill you right, I had my parents killed” He growls.

“No, you can’t, you won’t kill your mate you will have to beg on your knees to get a

second chance. Neither did you kill your parents you were too much of a coward. Like you

just said you had someone else do it” I scoff, the benefit of growing up with this poor

excuse of a man is that I know how to push his buttons. All of them.

He growls again not even speaking this time. There is a tick in his jaw, which he used to

have when his dad would scold him. I took some pleasure in knowing I was as annoying to

him as the man he killed to become his own man. Not that he would ever be a man. He is

a foolish little boy who obviously didn’t get the love he needed. Something I would

sometimes notice when we were growing up. I used to pity him and think he liked coming

over to my place because my parents had so much love to give. It was why in my mind I

figured we could turn

things around and change the pack for the better. But my sympathy for him had long vanished he was an adult now. He chose the path he was on, all by himself.

“If you are so sure, we won’t ever be mates again then why should I not kill you” He asked me, and as convinced as I was that he would not actually kill me.

I did need to tread carefully and make sure I didn’t upset him so much that he would attack me in a fit of anger. I remembered the clip Griffin posted on the royal website.

Making sure to leave me so many hints, acting like he believed the letter all to keep me safe. I needed to act like that too, I needed to give David just enough to keep him believing he was making some progress. Just placate him enough to not hurt me too badly, and for him to want to keep me alive. Swallowing down the bile because of what I was about to do I looked up at him.

“I am sorry David, I get you mean well but I am hungry, cold, and bored I have been rejected for the second time I am just a bit emotional,” I told him keeping my eyes focused on the plate like I was ashamed of myself. When in reality I did not want him to notice the burning hatred in them.

“That figures, you she-wolves are emotional. But I will be staying here now, so the shower will have warm water. You have company and I will get us regular meals” He half apologizes.

That son of a bi tch could have granted me warm showers, but only when he is here. Only when he needs to use the shower he turns on the heat. I am livid and as much as I want to get into another argument with him. I know that won't help my case at all. I just swallow down the treats and curses I want to scream at him and opt for a half-truth instead.

“There was a time I wanted you to reconsider me as your mate. But since rejecting me you have done so much to hurt me. I am not ready to just take you back you know.”

“I know I made some mistakes too, and with you being so emotional it makes sense that you couldn't cope. But I will make you see what you lost and have you crawling back to me. If Princeboy could, I have no doubt I can too since I am the one that was hand-picked for you, not him. Second chances mates are just the Mo onG oddess' slo ppy way of

getting rid of loose ends” He boasts and for the third time during this breakfast, I just

swallow his remarks not wanting to let on how much I still love Griffin. How much fate I

have in him and how good we fit together.

Arrogant as he is David takes my silence as a confirmation that he is right. Thinking I lost

the ability to say anything because he outwitted

Chapter 109

My trick helped, lying in a bed that smelled of Ayla. Thinking about reuniting with her the

next morning, finally made me get a good night’s rest. But when I woke up this morning,

the reality hit me like a ton of bricks. This could go two ways, we would have to fight and

proceed with a hostile takeover of the BloodMoon Pack and find Ayla there. Or we did but

David would have been smart enough to hide her somewhere else entirely.

Going in fighting could hurt our chances of finding Ayla. Something I wasn’t willing to risk.

But the chances of David allowing us to just walk in and talk about things were non-

existent. I sigh heavily, this day could be the day I have been looking forward to ever since

reading that letter. Or it could be the worst day of my entire life.

A small voice in the back of my mind reminded me of the third option. The option where Ayla would get caught in the crossfire and die. My stomach churned at the thought and I need to run to the toilet. I barely made it in time, and as my body was heaving. I hated myself for not being able to be in control of my thoughts and emotions. I was an Alpha wolf, and not any I was the Crown Prince.

My mate needed me to be strong and brave like she no doubt was. Yet here I am listening to the sound of last night's dinner splattering the toilet bowl. Gagging even more at the acid smell surrounding me now.

"Griffin, are you okay son?" A worried Quinn asked me.

He knew I was not alright, honestly, I don't think either of us is. But there is not a lot you can say when you find your grandson-in-law puking in your missing granddaughter's bathroom. Quinn was a comforting figure and an Alpha who had issues with his mate before

they completed the matebond. He had to fight a war with hunters and rogues just to keep his mate safe. Maybe he could give me some words of wisdom. Something to make me

feel ready to take on this new mission.

“Would it be rude to tell you I am scared shitless?” I shrugged, still kneeling in front of the toilet bowl. Scared of what would happen if I were to move.

“No, it would show me you are an amazing mate and future King.” He comforted me, patting my back and ignoring the stance that was filling up the small bathroom.

“How is not having my things in order, how is crumbling under the burden of missing my mate a sign that I am a good King or mate for that matter?” I asked him finally able to stand up again.

“Do you know why the Moon Goddess created mates?” Quinn seems to ignore my question but there must be something he wants to tell me.

In reply, I just shake my head and it is all he needs to continue.

“Because no matter how much she tried to perfect us she never could. She could not make us flawless. As a solution to that she gave us mates. A mate to counter your flaws

and strengthen your powers. All we need to do to be worthy of our mate is believe in the Moon Goddess and love them, unconditionally” Quinn’s words were somewhat shooting.

But it still seemed more like he was telling me why I was so flawed not as opposed to what made me so strong.

“I know what you’re thinking but to love your mate unconditionally, you need to think about them with your heart, not your mind. The fact that you’re mate is not here, and we don’t know if she is safe gets a different reaction from your brain than it does from your heart right?”

He asked me

At first, he didn’t make any sense. But when I gave it a bit of thought he was right. My brain was telling me I was the Crown Prince. That I am strong enough to overcome this. It was telling me the steps I should be taking to get her back. But I couldn’t because my heart was telling me to be scared, my heart was telling me there is no use to life if it was not with her in it. And the voice of my heart was loud enough to drown out the voice of my brain.

“It does, and my heart is way louder. Thanks, Quinn that helps a bit” I tell him as it did.

Maybe I have been looking at it the wrong way. Maybe this isn't a sign of weakness. If he is truly using his Alpha voice like we are suspecting him to, David is using his wits, not his heart. He is using his powers over his pack not the love between them. Right now there isn't a lot that is more reassuring than being reminded how different I am to him.

“Go brush your teeth, shower, brush your teeth again, and then come down for breakfast,”

Quinn tells me, like a father would his son, reminding me of the fact that I am a part of this family.

And that as a family we will not rest until we have our girl back with us. So I do as I am

told. Once I am downstairs I eat a normal breakfast. Not plucking at pastries, eating as

little as I can just to give off the appearance of eating to get some of the others off my

back. No, I eat enough to be strong, and full of energy to face whatever I will be facing

when I finally arrive at the BloodMoon pack. Knowing I am listening to my heart and not

my mind because that is how the Moon Goddess intended it gives me peace and hope.

Peace in knowing I am not weak, I am just flawed as we all are. Hope because she is an honest goddess and will not punish the ones who live as she intended us to. Still listening to my brain every now and then won't hurt me either. Some things you just need to be smart about.

After breakfast, we all make it to the airport, Alpha Cedric and his mates and kids are staying behind. They cannot abandon their pack. Especially since there still is a threat of war. David seems to be either delusional or deranged. So there is no telling what he is going to do next.

The rest of Ayla's family including Krystel are coming along, as are Dillion, Colin, Gerald, and Jessa. I have decided to ask the warriors who came along with me to stay behind.

Which they were more than willing to do. This way the White Oak pack is stronger in numbers even if they already have an impressive army. It also shows signs of the alliance between them and the royal family.

As I board the plane I see Mom and Dad again. And I can't help but notice how tired they

look. Like their bodies finally realized that they were aging. I hate the fact that David is hurting so many wolves. When all he had to do three years ago was realize what a gift he had been blessed with. He chose to reject the gift, to reject Ayla. Only for him to regret his decision when she found happiness with someone else. When we found happiness with each other. I swore to myself again that I would punish him for this.

But when we finally arrived at the BloodMoon pack I had no idea how to. Because He was gone, the pack was left without an Alpha. They were obviously still under his control. But he was nowhere to be found, so Ayla wasn't either. Even if he needed to be close to have such control over them. And from the look of disarray, it had been a while since he had been an active Alpha.

"F uck what are we going to do now?" Father asked me, cursing for the first time in forever.

Chapter 110

I have no idea what to do either, everyone in this pack looks like a zombie. Walking around, aimlessly doing what is expected of them. In that, they are keeping the pack

afloat but that's it. The pack is just barely afloat, it isn't lively and buzzing like a pack

should be.

"Can we not appoint a new Alpha to the BloodMoon pack? I mean as the royal family we

need to approve Alpha's and their behavior right?" I ask Dad because this is the first time

we had to do something like that.

"It is we can appoint a new Alpha by royal degree, we would need a very legitimate

reason. More so now that we have a personal conflict with the pack's original Alpha. But

this" Dad says waving his hand around the mess the pack is.

"This should be more than enough, using your Alpha command non- stop to make sure

they behave. To make sure they do not tell others about his odd behavior. And presumably

his crimes against the royal family. Is bad enough for us to come to that decree" Dad

agrees with

me.

Now we need to contact the council and break the pack bond. Have conversations with the

pack members to find out what happened. And to try and determine who the new Alpha is going to be. Preferably someone with ties to the pack. Because this will be a tough situation for all the involved parties.

It will take at least one day if not two, precious time I cannot spend looking for Ayla.

Knowing she must be close to me because David is no doubt keeping her close. And he needs to be close enough to the

pack to come over and talk to them at least once a day. Not to mention the fact that he

will feel the pack bond breaking. And it will alert him, of the fact we found out something

is happening. Only members of the royal family with permission of the council can break a

pack bond like that. It is not something we can do when we are at a distance too. Meaning

he will know that we have been to the Blood Moon Pack.

“You have given me daughter extra time, and with the hints in the video she no doubts knows you are coming for her” Jay addresses my worries before I even express them.

He is right again, and as much as I want to rescue my mate. As much as I long to have her in my arms again. I know what she would have wanted. She sacrificed so much to keep

this pack safe. Seeing the state it was in now would kill her. When I finally get her back

because I am sure I will. I want to look her in the eyes and tell her.

“Darling, it took me a little longer but I did everything I needed to do to keep your former

pack safe” And she would love me even more for

it.

“You should make the call Dad,” I tell my father knowing he is waiting for my permission.

Only he tells me to be the one to make the call, he wants me to be the one in charge of

this entire operation. I don’t know if I am worried about it or incredibly honored he thinks I

am ready to take on a task like this. Even if it is in line with my training, I am not at my

best right now so to know even now he has so much trust in me is reassuring.

“Okay, sure I can do that but it would be nice if there is an empty office I can use. But it’s

not like the rest of the pack will tell me” I start thinking out loud.

Surprisingly they have been very unaffected by us being here. Most have greeted us but

as if they didn’t really see who we were. Not even

the Hemmings who have been such an integral part of this pack are not acknowledged by them. Then again it is better than them being aggressive toward us. Fighting wolves who are not in their right mind isn't just hard it's unfair too. And something I would want to avoid at all costs.

"I have an office at our home you can use that." Tessie offers.

Weird with all that happened I almost forgot, that the Hemmings still have a home here.

They moved packs but it had to be so sudden they didn't have the time to pack. I

remember Ayla being so sad her parents could never go back to get their personal belongings.

Now their home still being intact will be my saving grace. I will make sure that whatever happens, they will have access to their personal belongings again. But I have another idea forming in my mind. Not wanting to get ahead of myself I'm not saying anything. For now, I just follow the Hemmings towards their home.

Reminding me of the days I spend here. The door I fixed when the former Luna angered me so. I wonder if that Hannah She-wolf really was involved or if she was under the

influences of the Alpha voice too. But I guess we will soon find out.

I spent an hour on the phone with the council just like we expected they were wary of us intervening in the matters of David's pack. In the end, they did see reason and agreed with us declaring the royal degree. Which now meant I needed to use my royal Alpha voice to have the entire pack gathered in front of me. Only when they are can I break the packbond. Of course, I do not have to address David so he won't be "summoned to the pack ground"

"Members of the BloodMoon pack, because of the atrocities your Alpha David Phillip Birch committed against not only the royal family but especially your pack. I know you release you from your burden. By breaking the pack bond by royal decree"

The break is successful because pack members are starting to look up. Like they are getting out of a daze. Some start screaming, others start crying and several run up to the

Hemmings. Hugging them and

welcoming them back. Most of them came up to the podium I stood on thanking me for freeing them.

But I need to move on, I need to talk to all of the pack members. Both to get their witness reports about what happened with David leaving the pack. The death of his parents, his sister gone missing. And of course, most importantly if they have any idea as to where Ayla is hidden.

Sadly I did not get the council's permission to use my Alpha's voice during questioning. So I have to be careful to look for any signs they are not being honest. Or if it seems like they are withholding information from me out of some kind of misplaced loyalty towards David.

Maybe it is wrong of me but I'm exactly convinced of the BloodMoon pack's honesty. Not with how most of them treated my mate. Trying to put my prejudice aside I asked all the pack members to come talk to me in the former Alpha's office.

Hours later I had spoken to the entire pack. With how Alpha Phillip and Luna Jenna ruled the pack its numbers had dwindled. Still, the hours spent interrogating the pack had been draining. All pack members had told me something along the lines of

“We don’t know what happened after his parents died, David did not handle it well. He used his Alpha voice a lot and I do not know where he or his sister are.” Some admitted to the high possibility of him kidnapping Ayla but no one was sure.

The one thing they all agreed to was to make Jay the Alpha. It would mean a lot of changes for my entire family-in-law That is why I asked all of them to come to the office so I could ask Jay if he wanted to be the BloodMoon’s pack new Alpha effectively making Dan his successor as he did not have a set function yet.