

## **Unwilling 121**

### Chapter 121

“You look like you found something?” Jay did not beat around the bush as he led me into the Alpha’s office.

For a moment, I was taken aback by how much it had changed since the last time I was here. David had kept the office like his dad had before him. Modern, sleek, and cold. Jay had made the office his own, it was warm and homely, and I could recognize all the pictures from their home now adorning the walls in his office. Which included the pictures of Ayla and seeing her smiling looking in the camera. Happy and carefree, surrounded by her family, felt like a punch to the gut. Making me wonder if I would ever be able to think about her without feeling like this. But I shook those thoughts from my mind as soon as they came. I would, because soon she would be back with me where she belonged.

“Your daughter is a smart woman, she left me a message,” I told Jay and Tessie as I showed them the picture.

“Oh, that is the one she wanted to print out to hang in your guy’s living room.” Tessie’s

voice trembled.

“And they will my love, we just need the plan to find her right, Griffin?” Jay pleaded with me, desperate to cheer up his mate.

I couldn't refuse that, I know I would have said anything even remotely true if it meant cheering up Ayla. Forcing a smile I hoped seemed real enough, I looked up at the two of them.

“Yes, I'm here to see if we can come up with a plan together, you know this area so much better than I do. And Tessie, can you prepare a first aid kit?” I asked Tessie because she was so much like her daughter.

If they were worrying, keeping them active helped. I was the same, I needed to feel like I was helping. Like I was actually doing something to improve the situation, too. She got up right away to make the first aid kit I requested. As soon as the door closed, Jay thanked me.

“But you're actually here to come up with a plan to get my baby back, right?” He asked me.

Since I was, we discussed what the best approach was for hours. In the end, we figured we would make ten groups. Eight started on the outer edge. In all four cardinal and four intercardial directions. Two groups would run to the spot where I found the photo. I had 19 wolves with me when I found it, Each group would have two of the wolves that knew to find the direction of the photo. More so because I claimed a tree near the spot. All members of my pack should be able to find it now. It was a risk as it was a tree David and Ayla clearly passed and if he smelled I claimed it. He could be tipped about me being close, finding Ayla was crucial though. And it was highly unlikely that he would be out a lot with her. And if he would be, he would probably notice a hundred wolves patrolling through the forest.

Because that is what we decided to do with the groups patrolling. Each group would consist out of five wolves from either pack with an appointed Silver Moon and BloodMoon leader. The leaders would be each other's equals. This way, everyone could reach each other using the mindlink. And it would make the BloodMoon wolves who were a bit

hesitant about the Silver Moon pack feel safer. The same would be true for the few Silver Moon wolves who did not trust BloodMoon pack members, because of what some of them had done to their Luna and Queen-to-be.

“We should go patrol as soon as it is daylight, there is no time to waste. But we need to be sure we are able to find things if we are out in the woods.” I suggested, and Jay once again agreed with me.

Normally when two Alphas get along like we do, when two Alphas are family (in-law) the packs would completely trust each other. It was sad the situation with the BloodMoon pack had gotten so out of hand. When all of this was over. I would have to talk to my parents about making sure things wouldn't get out of control for any other pack like this anymore. I had no idea how we were going to realize that. All I knew was that we needed to, just because maybe in the future it could save someone for the same faith Ayla had.

The how and when was a worry for future Griffin. It was two am already, and after being on the road for ten hours. Spending nine of those hours actually driving. Only to go for a

run, and find something heartbreaking during that run, had worn present-day Griffin out.

I needed to be well rested and sharp early in the morning tomorrow. So, skipping dinner, I just said my goodbyes to Jay and went to the guest room assigned to me.

As I was walking out, I texted my parents with updates. I would mindlink the pack members with me here about our plans for the morning. Walking and texting was no talent of mine, I figured there wouldn't be anyone else in the halls right now anyway. Only I was mistaken, so I bumped into a middle-aged wolf, causing me to drop my phone.

The middle-aged wolf practically flew to the ground to pick up my phone. Handing me my phone, baring his neck to me. A sign of submission, every wolf knew what it was, and this wasn't the first time someone showed their submission to me.

Normally though there was a reason to do so, either because something else put me on edge. Showing your neck to an Alpha or Royal wolf when they were pissed off was a smart way to defuse any situation, the other situations where when you had done or asked something offensive or were about to. Not something like this where we both not watching

where we were going.

“I am so sorry Crown Prince Griffin, I was just going home I watched

some sports at my best friend’s place. He is the chef so he lives here,

sports at my best friend’s place. He is th normally there isn’t anyone walking down these

halls. I lost track of time, and I was running late and didn’t want to worry or upset my

mate. She hates it when I am late, but it was no excuse, though I know...” Raising one

hand, I stopped the man’s word vomit.

I wondered what the hell kind of rumors circulated about me for this healthy adult wolf to

fear me like that.

“Calm down man, I figured the hallways were empty too, so we both didn’t pay attention it

sucks, but it happens. We were both at fault” I told him thinking that would be the end of

it.

But it wasn’t because for some reason this man thought an Alpha could never be at fault.

Let alone a royal wolf, after a bit of pressure the man, who I found out was named Rob.

Had been taught by the Birches that the leaders of a pack can do no wrong. And again I

was reminded at how awful those people had been.

“So, what is your role here in the pack” I asked as I got an idea of how to not only reassure this poor guy.

But to help Jay, show the pack there was another way. Another style of leadership; a better one. A happier, more stable one.

“Warrior Sir, in fact, I volunteered to be on the team to find your mate. Ayla is such a sweet girl, you know. I never got why some of the pack members made such an issue about her height. It’s probably the fact that Alpha Phillip was such a freak about perfection. I do not agree with what David is doing now, and I never agree with murder...”

My body instantly grew numb and cold at his words, did this man know something I didn’t?

We had figured out most of the pack honestly had no clue about what happened to Ayla and David. And that if they would, they couldn’t tell us because of a lingering Alpha command. Maybe he knew more, but could only just now speak up. Because the Alpha command no longer controlled him now the pack had a new Alpha. He might have been a

bit anxious to tell Jay and with me reassuring him it might have just been the push in the right direction. So I didn't say anything not wanting to make him feel like he could not tell me. Because I needed to hear this no matter how much I feared what I was about to hear.

## Chapter 122

With how weak I was, I couldn't do much, still I managed to get the bedding off the bed. It left me breathless, and I just slumped down on the mess of dirty linen resting against the side of the bed.

"What the hell do you think you are doing" David snarled at me.

I was trembling with how much this took out of me. Still, I felt the need to scream at him.

A need I repressed because I needed to make him believe I was doing this for him, for us.

"We can't go on like this anymore, David, I wanted to change and make the bed for you.

But with how little I have been eating, I hardly have the energy." I told him, sticking as close to the truth as I could be, without angering him more.

"Well, whose fault is it, you haven't been getting more food?" He snarled again, not



waiting for the answers.

Still, his tone softened somewhat when he told me he was glad I was coming to my

senses. Ordering me to have it done before he was coming back to bed.

And I managed too, with all the breaks I required it took me the entire evening. But by the

time David got into bed, the bedding was clean, and the bed was made. David didn't say

anything, but he grunted appreciatively before going to sleep. As soon as his breathing

showed me he was actually sleeping, I let myself get some sleep too.

"She made the bed, see I told you this would be working, I might let her sleep in the bed

with me again tonight" David's booming voice

woke me up.

Hannah must be here with breakfast, I couldn't move, all the effort it took me to chance

the bed. Hoping it would earn me some breakfast, but no. He wanted me to sleep with

him, of course he did, how could I have been so naive. Of course, he would choose the

reward that fitted him the best.

"Well I am happy for you but think about it David, there is still a lot to clean around here,

this place is getting filthy.” Hannah pointed out.

Shit, even if it meant sleeping in the bed with him, which I absolutely despised, it would mean I was on the right track. In the end, the reward would consist of being fed more. And I was at the point that I would do anything to regain some of my strength. The feeling of Griffin being closer to me hadn't left me all night. It was the same feeling I always had when I reach Silver Creek as soon as I would drive on the pack ground. There was this feeling of coming home. And it was that feeling that still lingered with me now.

“I am well aware, but I am still and Alpha, I am still your Alpha. So what do you expect me to do about it” David seemed more on edge ever since last night than he had been for the entire period he had been here.

“Give her food, let her clean more, give her more food. Sleeping in the same bed as you seems like too big of a reward right away, don't you think?” Hannah asked, leaving me to wonder if she was so jealous of me she didn't want me in the bed with the wolf she so obviously loved. If she was pitying me, or if she simply had a modicum of logic left in that

otherwise vapid brain of hers,

Not that it mattered because David agreed with her logic and seconds after he did I heard

her footsteps coming towards my nest.

“Guess you earned yourself some breakfast” Hannah scoffed like she

was unhappy with it, when I knew she was the one suggesting it.

So I just nodded, and scoffed down the hash browns, and breakfast burritos Hannah

placed in front of me. It was an odd combination to say the least. And like all of David’s

favorite take-away foods, it was dripping with grease. Suddenly I realized ever since the

night that David acted too weird as I felt Griffin closer to us. Something definitely was

going on, and I was too tired to make sense of it.

All I did know was that it was Griff’s doing because he was coming for me. Because the

man I did not trust enough before. Was the one person I should have never doubted. He

must have felt David raping me, and he didn’t leave me for it. No he was here again, for

the rest of my life I would show him how much I loved him. And how much I regretted

being such a bi tch to him for the first few weeks.

Strangely enough, scoffing down this greasy burrito, the first real meal I had gotten in a week, was showing Griffin how much I loved him too. That was what I kept telling myself as I ignored the nausea. The clenching of my stomach that wasn't used to food anymore, and now had to deal with this heap of fat. But I managed to keep it down. And as soon as I was done eating, I curled around to a small ball on my bedding.

Hoping and praying, I would be able to keep the food down. As soon as I was feeling better, I would have to do more chores around the house to earn myself a lunch. As much as I hated doing anything for David, as much as I hated giving him the idea he was getting through to me. Finally being able to do something, being back to plotting my escape, gave me a sense of purpose.

It couldn't have been more than an hour before I was startled awake, because David was hissing in my ear.

"Did you call for them, why are they here with so many of them" He scream-whispered only adding to my confusion.

When I finally became aware of my surroundings, I noticed it too. The fact that there were wolves in the forest. And not just some wolves, there were a lot of them. From what I could sense, some of them were from the BloodMoon pack, but others were from the Silver Moon Pack. Were they fighting, had Griffin with an army found our location only to be ambushed by t only to be ambushed by the BloodMoon warriors? Or was something else going on?

With us being several feet underground and the wolves seemingly not directly above us, the sounds were very muted. But it didn't sound like they were fighting. I would almost say there was some sort of comradery going on. But then again, it was hard to hear what exactly was going on.

"What the hell did you do you bi tch" David was now full on screaming, shaking my by the shoulders.

"STOP, PLEASE JUST STOP" I screamed on the top of my lungs, not because I was scared of him.

No because I hoped that one of the wolves outside would hear it. That one of the Silver

Moon pack members heard the screaming, recognized my voice and alert Griffin.

"I haven't done anything, I was down here weak and miserable because you made me" I

answered, still screaming so loudly it left me a bit out

of breath.

And then, just as, David threw me back on my nest with an

exasperated sigh. A shadow fell over the both of us. As a silhouette of a wolf was standing

directly on the sunroof.

Was this it, did Griffin and our pack finally find me. I wanted to

scream, shout, anything to draw the attention of the wolf directly above me. But David

clamped his hand on my mouth and nose and pushed me back to the ground with so

much force my weakened body could not fight him off. So I just laid there, eyes glued to

the shadow that could very well be my savior.

Chapter123

I knew we had to be close, I sensed her, but I could not feel what side it was coming from.

We combed through every inch of the forest, but we didn't find any building where they

could be hiding. No, new pack forming, the most logical thing for them to do was to move to another territory, an unclaimed one. And build their new pack there, or their leftover pack for that matter. But for some reason, they hadn't there was no way I could still sense Ayla this strongly if she wasn't here anymore. For a moment, my heart fell to the floor when I noticed the shallow grave at the foot of the three I had marked. The fear he had killed her ever since I had been close, that the photo was her last goodbye had gripped my heart.

"Prince Griffin, it does not work like that you would know if your mate dies, you know that right!" Rob, the warrior I met the other night, had asked to be in the group with me and now calmed me down.

Talking to him had been somewhat useful, he wasn't sure of anything. However, he seemed to be one of the first Pack members who saw something was off with David. When his parents died, Rob was the first one to suspect David was involved he still was, same with David's sister going missing. Rob and his mate had been wanting out years ago. Rob

being a warrior though caused Alpha Philip to forbid him to move packs. He couldn't risk becoming a rogue not with a mate and two teenage children.

Even now that Jay was leading the BloodMoon pack, it was clear how much the pack was damaged. There was no telling if we could bring the pack back to how it was supposed to be. But the threat of someone so unstable, someone worse than the Alpha who brought an entire pack. to the brink of ruin. A wolf capable of killing his family to get what he wants.

Having kidnapped my sweet, gentle mate worried me more than

before. So every second I was coming up empty-handed, I felt more. and more desperate.

Hopelessness had settled in my chest like it was there to stay.

Not that I was about to give up, neither of us was. Still, for now, we had to retreat. We had been at it for four hours now, and we didn't find anything. Chances that we wouldn't find anything new were very high. We were however at risk of being discovered by David and his pack.

The marked tree had already served as a reminder to him, it was an action I already regretted now. Yesterday I was arrogant, thinking I would find her today. Not caring if



David noticed how close I was or not. Only now did I consider he could lash out and hurt

Ayla. But what's done is done. There was no way back anyway, so there was only one

thing left for me to do. Make sure I found her as quickly as possible, and that meant I

could not lose my cool. I could not stress out now, and I was about to. So when everyone

said we should go back to the pack home, I reluctantly agreed.

We said we would rest for about an hour or two, just to shower, eat and nap. After those

two hours, we would meet up and discuss a new plan. There had to be something we were

missing. Maybe a break and or a fresh set of eyes would do the trick. All I did in those two

hours was toss and turn in bed. Waking up so early after not getting a lot of rest the night

before left me tired and a bit drowsy. As soon as I stepped into my bed, anxiety drove

away my sleepiness.

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"You look rough, son, you need to rest, stay strong for her" Jay warned me as I walked into

his office.

It was the same thing everyone had been telling me ever since she went missing. Like I was not taking care of myself on purpose. When it was never like that, I just couldn't rest.

My mind kept racing about her, and my body kept aching for her.

"I know Jay, but that is easier said than done with how much I am missing her" Jay's gaze softened as soon as I told him what was bothering me,

I did not want to waste too much time, so I asked Jay what he thought we were missing.

We could estimate how old the picture was, or how long ago Ayla had left it. That couldn't have been more than a week for the scent to be so strong. We needed a way to drive

David out, to make him show himself. The problem was that he was so mentally unstable that there was no telling how he would react to whatever we were planning. None of us

wanted to risk Ayla even more, all of us were very aware of the fact that we were already putting her at risk, if only for a bit.

"Well, if we cannot lure him out, we need to keep looking. There must be something we are missing" Jay thought out loud.

He was right, but David had no ties left to this pack. When given the chance, nobody had

left to join David's pack. Of course, that could still very well be because they did not want to give his whereabouts away. Still, there was no sign of anyone not being loyal to Jay now. Not a single pack member had seemed shifty or extremely nervous when I spoke to them.

All of them had been a little nervous, like Rob freaking out the a night when he bumped into me. It was the fear that was pushed onto these wolves, the fear that leaders could punish you for even the smallest, little mistake. That was trauma, not the nerves one would get when you are trying to hide something from a higher-ranking wolf.

Jay and I just sat there in silence, unsure of what to do next, when there was a knock at the door. Since I was closer to the door, I stood up to open it. When I did, I stood face to face with a sweet-looking girl who was fidgeting with the hem of her sleeves. And an adult wolf behind her looks like the mirror image of the girl with a few more years on her.

"I am sorry to bother you, Prince Alpha, I am Marianne, Rob's mate" The woman was almost as nervous as the girl who must have been about fourteen years old.

“Ah. Marianne, I hope you did not give your mate a hard time after I kept him too long?” I

smiled at her, no matter the stress I was under I would always be a kind and

understanding leader and these wolves needed it more than anyone I ever met.

“No, how could I after the voice you sent” she chuckled, clearing thinking back about the

voice I had sent with Rob’s phone made her feel a little more at ease.

“I am just here to invite you to dinner at my home in an hour, Lizzy here thinks she might

have some news about David. But she has been scared to talk to you” Marianne’s words

were enforced by Lizzy’s trembling lip.

Anger swirled in my chest, how could so-called leaders of the pack put so much fear into

young and innocent children? I wholeheartedly believed in the fact that as leaders, you

were like the parents to your pack. All we needed to do was to guide and love them.

Swallowing down my anger, so as to not frighten the teenager more, I looked at

her.

“It’s very brave of you to come forward now Lizzy, and you know what I like your Dad a

whole lot. So it would be a pleasure to have dinner over at your house regardless, okay?” I

told her, and it wasn't a lie if Rob still wanted to leave the Blood Moon Pack's memories behind. after all of this I could use another warrior, and he would be welcome. to be a royal guard.

Lizzy nodded at me, a smile cracking through her pale and nervous. face as she said her goodbyes. They were going home to prepare dinner and I would be there in an hour. Once the door was closed, I turned to Jay to wrap up our meeting, and I was surprised to see him smiling at

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del singing on to the age that was rght and the hope

last

me.

"You are a good Prince Griffin and you will make a da mn good King, that is why my

daughter loves you. And that is why I believe the Moon Goddess will reunite the two of

you. Because the kingdom needs you, the two of you” He stated before dismissing me to get ready for my dinner.

And I did, clinging on to the hope that Jay was right, and to the hope that whatever Lizzy knew would actually be useful.

#### Chapter 124

It had been thirty minutes were the wolves were walking on top of our hiding place. Thirty minutes where I fought to stay awake. Silent tears streamed over my cheeks as I was getting breathless and dizzy since David was still clamping my mouth shut. And then they just left, they didn't see anything and they just walked away. Leaving me behind in this desperation, in this hell hole. And my body just gave up, the second I stopped battling to stay awake I passed out.

When I woke up I didn't know how long I had been passed out. It had to be the rest of the day for sure as it had been getting dark by the time I passed out, and it was light out again now. The plate of leftovers was waiting on me next to my nest. My stomach turned at the sight of the coagulated fat on the plate. Gluing David's half-eaten breakfast burrito

to my plate. Next to it was a plastic container with coleslaw. He must have gotten takeout

that had coleslaw as a side dish. David was

convinced that wolves did not need vegetables. According to him, we

are carnivores.

To some extent he is right and our diet needs a lot more proteins than a normal human

diet does. That doesn't mean we can have the exact same diet as a regular wolf would.

Not that I've ever seen a wolf enjoy a breakfast burrito with extra chipotle mayo either.

But that was just David's logic. I was not a big fan of coleslaw but at this moment I was

just happy to be eating some veggies. I stumbled to the kitchen to heat up my burrito. It

would make it taste the slightest bit better. When the food was warm I noticed an opened

can of soda unattended and I craved sugar. I craved a quick energy fix, and it seemed like

I was all alone.

David was no doubt spooked by the fact that the wolves coming to rescue me were so

close to the dungeon. He was probably out

fortifying the structure and instructing the pack members who still were loyal to him to

increase the security of this place. So I took a few quick sips of the soda, ignoring the

cramping in my

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stomach. Before making my way back to my nest to eat my meal.

The stomach cramping had been more common lately. Every time I ate or drank

something too greedily my stomach would cramp up. And I would have to lay there

praying for the cramps to subside. If not I would throw up and lose all the precious food I

had gotten. With only having earned one meal, and having been able to swipe a few sips

of coke and a candy bar. I still was weak, and I had to force myself to eat more. Because of

the stomach cramps it caused.

“Honestly, you trust me right David, you know I would never go against you” Hannah’s

shrill voice filling the dungeon alarmed me of the fact that I was no longer alone.

“Look who is up sleeping beauty” David scoffed striding towards me in big threatening

steps.



I knew this was coming he blamed me for Griffin and the others coming to look for me.

While I was happy with it myself, and I left the picture to give them a clue. It was not like I

could have communicated with them from this goddess-forsaken dungeon. All I needed to

do was stay calm and convince him of that. Preferably without snapping, about how dumb

he was, or how much I hated him. I still needed to earn some brownie points with him.

I needed to convince him to give me more meals, I needed to regain some strength and

then find a way out of here.

“What the hell did you do to get them to look for you here” He snarled as he lifted me

from the floor by my throat.

Cutting off so much of my air supply I could not even breathe enough to answer him. I was

clawing at his hands, coughing and rasping desperately. All he did

claimed to love me, to as watch me with cold unwavering eyes. He

have always loved me. He told me he killed his family because they came between us and

he was foolish enough before to let them.

I knew he didn't love me, not like you are supposed to love your mate. Not how Grillin and I loved each other. I had been quick to realize he never loved me, the only person he ever loved was himself. Still looking into his empty eyes chilled me to the core. Like a warning to remind me exactly how f ucked up he was. It was the last bone-chilling image was the last thing I saw before the big empty black hole swallowed me up again.

I was starting to feel comfortable in the empty darkness, when I first was kidnapped I had dreams. Happy dreams about a future with Griffin. I still hoped for at the time. Nightmares about being kidnapped, about Griffin believing the note. Or about him never finding me.

Now the moments where I was not awake were filled with nothingness. A comfortable emptiness that kept luring me in.

Only when I was awake I knew the reasons to stay strong, to stay alive, and to wait for my mate. But every time I was swallowed by this darkness I could hardly remember why I shouldn't just give up. It was Willow's voice that kept me from entirely floating away.

However, I was scared to find out how long that would keep me from giving up. Because my body and soul were growing so tired.

Sure I missed Griffin with all that I have, I missed my family. I knew I had an exciting and fun life waiting ahead of me. The problem was that my return to that life was getting less and less likely with every passing day. Leaving me to wonder how much longer I would have to suffer through the absolute hell my life had become now. Before giving up and making my peace with the fact that this was how it was going to end for me.

Make peace with the fact that because I had been so stubborn I would never be able to complete the mating process with Griffin. That I would die, young, cold, and lonely barren of his name on my collarbone. I would be disposed of like I was a nameless, mateless omega. My hopes of him finding me were slowly fading into hopes of him finding a third chance mate, they were unheard of I knew they were. And the thought of Griffin being with someone else was heartbreaking but I have never been good enough for him.

Ever since he was young Griffin dreamed of the whirlwind romances only true mates can have. I had already taken that away from him with the ghost from my past. Now that the ghosts had become so very real I knew I was ruining the chance of having a happy family

with his mate too. So no matter how hard it was, if I wasn't able to get back to the light again. If we were unable to find our way back to each other I could only hope he was still going to have the future he deserved.

Someone was shaking me, but I could tell from the scent that it wasn't Griffin. He hadn't arrived just in time to save me from the darkness. So why would I listen to the voice telling me to wake up before "he" was coming back?

#### Chapter 125

As I was getting dressed to have dinner with Rob, Marianne, and their kids, I felt I was getting out of breath. The sensation of hands wrapping around my throat as I was all alone in the room, was indication to why I was feeling this way. Somebody was choking Ayla again. This time it was all my fault, he must be lashing out at Ayla because he sensed how close we were.

Or they because for all I know, the about ten pack members that have gone missing ever since David had to. Are all living with Ayla in some sort of cult-like new pack. This time, unlike the last time I felt Ayla getting choked, I could not shake the feeling of being weak.

It was as if my muscles were trembling underneath my skin. My legs felt heavy and jelly-like.

I wondered what was happening to Ayla to make her feel like this. And if this was even because of what she was feeling. There is always a different edge to the pain you feel when it is your mate. They had taught me so during my education. Sadly enough, I had been well aware of the truth behind that statement. Having felt Ayla's hurt and pain so much the past few weeks. And this feeling weak was different, it felt like I was coming down with a fever.

But werewolves like I hardly get sick, and if we do, we are quick to recover. Meaning that either way I had no time to think about what it meant. It would not help Ayla, and learning what Lizzy had to say could be the hint we needed to find Ayla. If it was me getting down with some kind of sickness I would be all better in about two days. So that would mean I could just push through without getting any more. delaying in finding my mate..

Walking over to the cabin Rob and his family in took me longer than it should have. My legs felt like they were filled with lead. I was determined not to let my

hosts know though. They already seemed so jumpy around me. I knew that inviting me into their home, to cook for me. And to tell me something they had never before and could turn out to be essential in finding Ayla. Was already scary enough for them, they didn't have to worry about how I was feeling. And if it had anything to do with them and the food that they made me.

Another young girl opens the door when I finally arrive, she must be Lizzy's younger sister.

She is absolutely trembling.

"Hi, sweetheart I am sorry I am a little late I got held up, can I know your name?" I try to

keep the tremble from my voice and sound as gentle and sure as I can manage to.

After a bit of hesitation, she takes my outstretched hand in hers and nods.

"Yes of course I am, Jane" she stutters shaking my hand.

"That's funny, one of Ayla's favorite books is Pride and Prejudice do you know the names

of the sisters in that book?" I ask her, wanting to have a bit of small talk

to put her at ease.

Suddenly the hallway fills with Rob's deep chuckle out of all of his family members he seems the one who is most at ease in my presence.

"Go on tell him Jane" he prompts his youngest daughter.

"It's mom's favorite too so she named us after them" she now giggles.

And her giggling is a fast improvement from her trembling and stuttering. So I smile and chat a little about books and how much Ayla loves to read. All while sitting down at the table.

"It is nothing special, just mac and cheese, green beans, mash, and

comfort

foods,

I'm still feeling weak and shaky but the comfort food is helping. It is the first time in days I

have an actual appetite. Part of it is because this dinner is supposed to help me find Ayla

quicker and with that I do not feel as guilty to be eating when she is most likely going

hungry.

"First of Prince Griffin, I am so terribly sorry for not telling you I was so scared. I told Dad

when he came home telling me how kind you are. I wanted to tell you but I was still scared that you would get mad at me for waiting so long to tell you. Dad promised me you wouldn't though" Lizzy swallowed looking at her father hopefully.

Rob nodded, encouraging his daughter to continue. But she was still scared, so I decided to reassure her a little bit myself.

"Listen, Lizzy, you are almost an adult wolf so I feel like I can tell you. this. Leaders should make the other wolves trust them. You not being able to trust me is all on Alpha Philip and his family. I am just happy that I could show your father he could trust me. And I would never make a father break his promise to his daughter so you can just tell me" I explained, causing her to bite her lip and not with determination.

"Okay, well you see Kayla's younger sister Suzanne was my best friend, or maybe she still is. Kayla's family agreed with the Birches and have followed Alpha David to the new pack. Suzanne never wanted to, she complained to me about it. The Alpha command stopped us from talking about things like this to wolves outside our pack" As Lizzy was talking to me, I



was wrecking my brain to remember who Kayla was, but I couldn't.

"Hannah had always wanted to be the Luna, she is so in love with David that it's pretty embarrassing." Lizzy rolled her eyes, finally showing she was a teenage girl.

Ayla had told me as much, though, that Hannah, Kayla, Charlotte, and Taclyn bullied her for being so close to David. When Hannah had hoped they would be fated mates.

Suddenly it occurred to me that was the Kayla, Lizzy was talking about now. So with some effort, I focused back on what Lizzy was telling me.

"I would hate to have to live underground too, that is why I remembered it. Maybe

Suzanne was making matters worse than they were. And maybe they changed their plans

but well I figured maybe it would help you to know she might very well be kept

underground?" While telling me what she knew, Lizzy had gotten less sacred, which I was

happy about.

Because the fact that Ayla might be living underground was upsetting. Still, it was new

information and something we could look into. It could very well explain why I felt so close

to her in the woods, without being able to pinpoint the exact direction it was coming from.

“Thank you, Lizzy, that has been extremely useful, and of course thank you for being brave enough to do the right thing. If there ever is something I can help you with, be sure to let me know, and I will do what I can” I promised the young girl, something flashed behind her face, but she didn’t answer me.

The rest of the night I spent eating, three hours later I made my way back to the pack house, ready to collapse in my bed and hopefully wake up feeling better.

I just turned the corner, blocking Rob’s home from my view, when I heard someone call out for me.

“Please, Prince Griffin, wait for me” I recognized the voice as Lizzy’s. Maybe she had remembered something more, so I stopped in my tracks, waiting for her.

“I couldn’t ask you this with my parents here, but your Beta to be Dillion, he visited the pack before he mentioned, how his mate is a man is that true?” She asked if same-sex relationships were commonly accepted among werewolves.

After all, if the Moon Goddess blesses wolves with same-sex mates who are we to argue,

but I knew some Alphas still thought they knew better and did not accept it.

“Yes, he has, Colin is an amazing mate to my best friend why?” I asked in return but she just ran off crying leaving me utterly confused. And hopeful that one day she would tell me what this was all about.

A part of me was worried that she was against same-sex mates, and would now cause me trouble for accepting it. But she had seemed like such a sweet and kind girl that I pushed those thoughts away if only to make me feel better.

Chapter 126

“You need to wake up, Ayla, this might not be Griffin, but you know he is looking for you”

Willow howled at me.

She was right, I couldn't die, not like this. It took me a lot of effort, but I managed to open my eyes. Staring into Jason's angry face. I shook my head, thinking I was hallucinating.

Not that I had reasons to be happy about Jason being here.

“Here drink this it is a broth, for some dumb reason, my sister does not want you to die.

Even if the Alpha doesn't care. Some mate he is” Jason scoffed, there was a bitter edge to

his voice.

He was here willingly, if he wasn't there would be no way David would let him get so close to me. Not with how obsessed with me, he had gotten lately. Still, his unwillingness of being here seeped from his every pore. Jason had been rejected too, so he had known the pain I was going through. His reason was different, though.

He found his mate, a female, the connection was instant. The Alpha had wanted Jason as her Luna. Jason in turn had not issued with being a Luna. Since it was clear he was head over heels with her. Alpha Philip however had something to say about a man becoming a Luna. Telling Jason a Beta is a higher rank than a Luna. That he should go his mate and demand she gave him the Alpha title and in turn would become his Luna. Nobody knew what he asked or told her exactly.

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All the entire pack knew was that they had a huge fight everyone had been able to overhear snippets of it. At the end of the fight the Alpha had rejected Jason. It had almost cost him his life, he grew bitter ever since that moment. I used to pity him but when he

agreed with his sister rejecting an omega. When he applauded David, for rejecting me

so brutally for everyone to see. Especially when he knew how painful that was, had turned

my pity into hate. And of course him helping his sister and his coons to beat me up so

often did not help either.

But something had changed again, and maybe now I could use our joined pain to get

some more information out of him. He must be the one helping me by giving me some

food. Even with Hannah giving me the shot to make sure I didn't get pregnant, there was

no way she wanted me to have food. She would not stop at pointing out all my wrong

doing to David. Telling him exactly why I would still not make a good Luna.

"Thank you Jason, funny right we could have both been happy Luna's now but the Birches

made sure we wouldn't" I pretended to reminisce, to gauge his reaction.

I expected it to be hard to get through to him but to my surprise he sat down next to me

leaning his back against the edge of the bed.

"Well that is what those Birches do, selfish, spoiled rotten wolves ruining every thing. No

wonder that Prince of yours took the pack way from them” He growled obviously more upset than I expected him to be.

“He did what now” I yelled, which was a mistake.

Jason immediately retreated from me, giving me a dark look. And in the bed above us,

David started to stir. Jason quietly jumped to his feet, he shot me a pleading look. There

was a chance David would just kill him for being so close to me. Not only would I never be

despicable enough to not care about someone dying. I had been spending weeks trying to

find David’s weakness, and Jason might be it. As quick as I could I curled up like I was

sleeping screaming some more nonsense

about a he.

“I came to bring you your food Alpha, your mate screaming distracted

me. I think she is sleeping though” Jason covered for both of us.

As I kept curled up, focussing on keeping my breathing slow and steady like it would be

when I was sleeping. Pretending to kick me, Jason shouted at me to shut up. I jumped up

trying to act like I was just startled awake.

Not that I was much of an actress, but jumping up on little to no food in my stomach

helped as I immediately grew dizzy. Of course, looking back David had never been the

brightest wolf. So now sleepy from waking up like this he just grumbled at me to go back

to sleep and shut up. Commanding Jason to prepare dinner and wake him up in thirty

minutes. When David was laying back down Jason shook his head at

me.

Like I personally disappointed him, when he was the one helping the man he hates to

kidnap me. I bit my tongue though, I needed to find out why Jason was not David's little

helper and not Hannah. And I needed to have more quiet moments with him. Moments

where I could win him over, maybe I could get him to bring Griffin a message. I was sure

that if I asked him to Griffin would pardon him. Especially if he had been involved in

helping him find me. But suggesting that right now would be foolish. First I needed to

know why this man was so invested in helping the very family he hated. The family that

caused him to be rejected by the mate he clearly loved instantly.

I still needed to make David believe I was coming around to the fact that I was not getting out of this. Make him feel like I resigned to the knowledge I would be his mate. We passed the point of him believing I would actually ever fall in love with him again. Which was fine he didn't love me either, the man was incapable to love anyone else but him. I honestly do not think he needs me to love him, either.

He wants me to be the Luna of his ruins of the pack he still has left. A pretty little things on his arms he can show around. Because in his mind, he will no doubt still be seen as an Alpha when him and I build the new pack. And of course wear his mark and build his children. I had no illusion he wanted me to be happy while living that life. He might prefer it because it would stroke his ego, but it wasn't a priority to him either.

My nest had started to reek, since I had not washed it or myself. And while I cleaned his bed two days ago. His bed linen was still in the hamper with some more dirty clothes.

Using all my strength, I put my blankets in the hampers and dragged it to the bedroom.



Luckily, he placed a washer and dryer combination here. I managed to put the bedding and blankets in. It left me drained but with my best getting washed there was no where semi comfortable I could lay down and sleep on. I would just have to wait for it all to be done. I slumped down in the bathroom, hoping to catch my breath and regain enough energy to bathe myself.

But my peace was interrupted when David came into the bathroom, keys off the chains dangling from his right middle finger. What was he planning to do to me now?

Chapter 127

“I see you finally realize they are not coming for you. You deserve another reward” He told me as he unlocked the chain from the bedpost, never releasing it from my neck.

I hate how scared I have gotten of David now. Because every time I thought this was the worst thing he could do there is another layer. Yet another vile thing he has done. Leaving me afraid of what he is going to do next. To my surprise, he brings me to the table set for two. Where he chains me to the dining room table so that we can have breakfast together.

I would have preferred to eat my breakfast on the floor like I did the other day. I have been

out of it so much I cannot remember how long ago that was. Not that I am about to tell

David, and I won't tell him I would have preferred to eat away from him.

It's funny how love however misguided it might be, can make you overlook certain things.

The way this man eats is disgusting, I honestly to goddess do not know how he can make

so much sound while eating. pancakes and bacon. Glad to be getting some more food I

just stare at my plate, quietly eating my food trying to drown out the sounds of David's

slurping and chewing.

Jason gives us both a mug of coffee, it's black and bitter, but since it should help keep me

awake I gratefully accept it. Hannah would always just leave when she brought us over our

food. Giving me the chance to be alone whenever David would take a nap. And since he

did that so often I felt alone a lot. A fat better alternative than to be surrounded by wolves

I hate.

Even though I knew I needed to get through to Jason, I was annoyed at

the fact that he was still lingering here. Especially now that the cramps. were back.

Hindsight is twenty-twenty because, of course, it's not a smart idea to drink coffee when your stomach can hardly stand normal foods.

"David can you chain me back to the bed again, I want to bathe myself," I asked.

It was the truth for several reasons, I had more than my fill of being so close to both David and Jason. I had no place to lay down but I had to deal with these stomach cramps to stop myself from vomiting. Because I could not afford to lose what little food he was giving me.

And since I decided to stick to my "compliant mate" behavior and bathe and dress semi-cute. Now seemed like the perfect time to get said bath.

"It's about time you reek, and you should smell good for your mate. David told me ignoring the fact he always reeked of old sweat.

Sometimes I dreamt of being able to tell him every single thing that has been on my mind for the past weeks. Maybe I will get to when Griffin finally gets me out of this joint.

Because David was wrong, he figured the fact that my rescue team had been so close to me and yet did not find me, made me lose all hope. He saw it as the reason for my better behavior now. Which suited me perfectly. It's not like I could tell him I was earning meals,

so I could gain strength and help my only true mate get me out of here. If I felt Griffin so close to me, he must have felt me too. He would never give up on me, especially not when he could sense I was so close.

The best thing I could do was make up an excuse to go outside and leave another little hint. Closer to the dungeon. I mean, I was not sure Griff had found the picture of us, but with how organized the search right above us had seemed, it was very likely that he had.

Even if they didn't, it would still be a good idea for me to leave another hint. They had been close to us before, so the chance they would return was very likely.

Since I was still treading on thin ice, and I did not know if David actually had updated security, I needed to be a little patient though. I should get in his good favor more. Find a way to hint at getting out more, instead of asking him directly. Right now, I was doing a piss poor job of making David happy, as he loudly complained about the fact that I have been quiet. Not answering his question.

"I am sorry David and I know you have your reasons, but I am constantly hungry and

feeling weak. And it makes my mind feel like it is filled with cotton wool, I am hardly able to focus what did you ask?" I tried to keep my tone light and submissive and not let the hatred seep through.

"I asked if you wanted to watch a movie with me like we used to, before you ran off and let some other wolf fill your mind with lies. If you are so hungry, I will even get us a pizza to share. Like a date, since we're mates and all" He stated, obviously chuffed with his idea.

I wanted to yell at him, that I did not run away, that he rejected me. How I would be eternally grateful to the Moon Goddess that he did. because it was because of him that I found Griffin. Who would never call a quiet night in with fast food a date! Silent tears rolled down my cheek as I thought about the fact we never had our movie night on the new couch we got for our living room.

"Are you seriously crying because I asked you on a date" David growled as he yanked the chain pulling me closer to him,

"N-n-n-no, of course not, I just go sad thinking about our past and everything that

happened between us since you rejected me. That being said, I love to watch a movie with you after I bathed” My lies, seemed to placate David who muttered.

“If only you had given in that night, you would have given me a reason to fight for you.”

At this point, it was comical to keep finding new lows in this man’s ability to be self-aware.

All it did though was help me, his utterly misplaced self-esteem made him so blind to the truth all around him that it was easy for me to get away with a lot of s hit. It was easier for

him to believe I was on the brink of falling in love with him. That even with him

mistreating me, he would make a better mate than Griffin, that he never considered

second guessing what I was doing and the reasons behind them.

“I’ll come get you in an hour, so you better be ready by then” He warned me as he

chained me back to the bedpost.

His lazy as s was already getting tired of having to drag my chain around. Slowly an idea

fo around. Slowly an idea formed in my mind. Cleaning clearly was the way to win his

favor and with the current situation, I could never clean it all. And I was a long way from

him trusting me enough to unchain me. Maybe I could just act like I understood his reasoning, all while wearing him down.

As I was thinking this all over, I put in some soap and turned on the taps to make myself a hot bath. The second the water started pouring creating a noise, Jason and David started talking, seemingly unaware that I could still hear them.

“I honestly do not get why you are taking this risk, using my sister as a puppet, you don’t know what the Prince is going to do.” The anger in Jason’s voice was palpable.

I was as quiet as a mouse as I got in the tub because I needed to know what Hannah was going to do with Griffin

Chapter 128

The last thought in my mind before falling asleep yesterday was to tell Jay about Ayla possibly being underground. Part of me had wanted to get excavators and just started digging. The sensible part of me knew that would be a dumb thing to do. Without knowing where to dig, we could hurt Ayla and possibly innocent bystanders. Or we could just alert David and his new pack that we knew they were hiding underground. Causing them to

come up with a different hiding place. To give credit where credit was due, from hearing about him and interacting with him. I would have never been deemed capable of doing something like that.

But when I woke up this morning I was unable to move, I felt hot and shaky, and I noticed my bedding and pillows were soaked with sweat. It felt like someone had sprinkled glass splinters in every single joint. Making the pain of moving my heavy jelly-like limbs excruciating. I panicked, even when I quickly realized this had nothing to do with how Ayla was feeling. This was just my own body giving up on me.

“Dillion, Gerald, I am so ill I cannot move can you guys come to my room and help me” I mind-linked my best friends, aware of the fact that I would never make it out of this bed alone.

Like clockwork, they were in the room with me in three minutes. Where I expected them to pity me, and tease me a bit. And then help me get ready to go to my meeting with Jay.

They both gave me judgmental stares, Gerald even had his arms crossed. I rolled my eyes at them, hissing from the fact that even that slight movement hurt me.



“I know, I know, I should have taken better care of myself now, please help me get out of this bed, so I can shower and make it to my meeting with Jay.” I croaked out, getting my voice above a whisper was a struggle.

“Grill, I love you, but we won’t Dillion is going to the meeting as your Beta. And you are finally getting some rest. You’ve been running yourself to the ground” Gerald stated, like he was the one with the authority here.

“Stop messing around Gerald, I am still your Crown Prince, which makes me higher ranking. You need to do as I tell you” But even I could hear there was no authority in my voice.

“Ha Ha we thought about that too, technically all I need to do is call the King and ask him what he wants us to do” Dillion threatened, knowing very well Mom would panic. She would force Dad to bring me home until I was healed, in our pack hospital before letting me go back to the Blood Moon pack.

“You would never do that to me, you know what my mother would do” I protested.

“Look man, we both love you, and I don’t know what I would do if it was Colin that was kidnapped. What I do know is that you and Gerald would want me to take care of myself too” Dillion tried to make me see reason.

“And not just him and you, what about Fire Cra cker, I love her as a sister, our future Luna and future Queen but when she is mad she scares me a little bit Grifl” He chuckled and I knew what he was doing.

Trying to lighten the mood, and make it seem like it would be any day now we would see Ayla again. He was right she would be so upset with me right now if she saw me like this.

“If you feel her pain, she feels yours too so it is not fair on her either you know” Gerald offered some extra advice.

Gerald was almost soft-spoken, quiet, and reserved, not speaking until he thought things over. Until he was sure what he was saying. Dillion would blurt out everything trying to make light of every situation to keep our spirits high. They were both fiercely loyal and

protective of the ones they loved. The way they went about it was just vastly different.

And I believe it was what made us such good friends, and it would be what would make them a good Beta and Gamma as soon as I was King.

“You guys play dirty, I grumbled” as I had to admit defeat.

I quickly told Dillion all about what Lizzy had told me,

about Kayla and the probability that Ayla was being kept underground. He reassured me

he would tell Jav all about it. Look into ways to find her when she was underground and

keep me updated. As he left Gerald ran me a tub so I could get cleaned up. I barely

managed to find the strength to make it to the bathroom. Scared I would fall asleep again

and drown Gerald made my bed. Talking to me as he did, for a

moment I considered not answering just to see how fast he would come running in. But I

decided against worrying about my best friend. like that.

He was right I was feeling incredibly weak, and I should not mess around because if

something happened to me he might not come running. Thinking I was playing another

prank on him. Not to mention, the fact that I was worrying about how sick I was. I should have started my recovery as soon as I woke up, but nothing had changed since I had woken up. I knew what I had to do, even if I was reluctant to do so. The only thing that made me ask for more help was the thought that Ayla might be suffering even more because of me.

“Gerald, can you please get me the pack doctor, you know Tessie, Ayla’s mom?” I asked

Gerald as soon as he helped me put on my boxers and back into bed.

Gerald walking off to go and get Tessie was the last thing I remembered before I must have drifted back to sleep. Suddenly I felt the bed dip, it was probably Tessie sitting down next to me to check up on me. But I was so tired that I was unable to open my eyes.

“I am sorry Tessie, please give me ten more minutes, I am so” I tried to ask her to let me get a little more sleep.

I never expected her to stroke my hair, and that’s when the scent hit me. The smell of Ayla invaded my every sense.

“I’m not Tessie baby, don’t you recognize your mate?” Her voice was so different, but I couldn’t care less. All I needed was her back in my arms. I struggled to wake up to open my eyes. It was like something was wrong, her scent was a little different, and “baby” was weird too. But it felt as if the fever had boiled my brains and I could not get them to work properly anymore.

“Shhh, sleep baby I am tired too, let’s take a nap together” The voice. that claimed to be Ayla cooed at me.

Followed by a warm body snuggling up to me, I opened my arms, ready to finally embrace the love of my life again. Even her body felt different, it was longer and more slender. As the realization of what must be happening dawned on me, I finally managed to open my eyes, And just as I noticed it was Hannah who had crawled in bed with me. Dressed in one of my shirts, I had given Ayla to sleep in. Hannah must have found it somehow and slipped it on. I knew she did it on purpose, and I knew how this looked. But I had already heard the creaking of the door, and I knew who was about to come into my room.

“Sorry Griff, I put out one of Ayla’s shi.,” I could tell the exact moment she noticed I was in bed snuggled up to the girl, who tormented her daughter for the past few years.

I know I should have pushed her out of my bed, I should have her

sell Teese and he belong tee a me volt Pinnalt

arrested. But it has been so long since I saw Ayla. So I could not refuse what Hannah was

trying to offer me, I just wished I had been able to tell Tessie and Jay before they saw me

with Hannah.

Chapter 129

“Well, I guess you are over missing your mate, aren’t you? I hope David kills Ayla because

it would be more merciful than you breaking

her heart like this.” Tessie screamed at me. her heart like this.

She was right, this would break Ayla’s heart if it was true. They had to know right that I

would never replace Ayla. Let alone with the girl that hurt her. But if Hannah was involved

in kidnapping her, she knows where Ayla is. We need to know why she is here and what

motivates her, so we can get to Ayla. And I would do anything I needed to do. His mate’s

yelling had alerted Jay, who now ran into the room, Dillion hot on his tail.

Dillion knew me well enough to know I would never do this willingly, but Jay saw red. I

could see he was fighting to not let his wolf take over and kill me. The only way out of this

now was to use my Royal Alpha voice on my in-laws. I hated that I had to, but it was the

only way. I command them to go to Jay's office and wait for me there. They do as they are

told, but I can see the fire in Jay's eyes. A mixture of disappointment and pure hatred.

All I can hope for now is that they not only see my point. For now, I turn to Hannah,

struggling just as much as Jay and Tessie are not to hurt her.

"Hannah, I get what you're doing, but we need to talk you cannot just crawl in bed with

me. Your wing in the pack house is still intact. So I would advise you to go and wait on me

there" I tell her, it doesn't come out as sweet as I wanted it to be.

But it is the best I can do, and since she gives me what I can only imagine is supposed to

be a sultry smile, I guess I didn't do too bad.

"What the hell is going on Griffin" Dillion mindlinks me the second the door closes. Still

careful enough to make sure Hannah cannot overhear us.

“I trust you, and I know how much you love Ayla, but I swear to the Moon Goddess if you hurt our Firecracker I will never speak to you ever again!” He continues, at least he trusted me enough to not jump to conclusions.

And I cannot blame him for being a bit protective over Ayla. She isn't just his friend, she is his future Luna and Queen. So he should feel this sense of loyalty towards her.

Wanting to be safe, I answer him using our mindlink too.

“I need Hannah, to get my Darling back. Now I need to get dressed and talk to her parents, but I still feel weak, so please help me”

An understanding dawns on his face as he quickly helps me get into a pair of sweats and a shirt. There is no sense in dressing up for this meeting. I still want this to feel like a family meeting. Not like official. business, and I am fairly sure the Hemmings will see it my way when I explain to them why I did not have Hannah arrested right away.

When I am dressed, I make my way to Jay's office as quickly as I can to find Daniel there too. Which would have been a good thing if it was not for him punching me in the face.



With how weak I feel and it being a surprise attack, he knocks me to the floor. Luckily enough I did not pass out, although I could have done with Krystal screaming at him telling him, she regrets being his mate when he is clearly this aggressive.

This all is getting out of hand rapidly, and Dan seems conflicted between groveling at his mate's feet or punching me in the face again.

"Krys, he thinks I am cheating on Ayla with the she-wolf that tormented her. They all do, so it is my fault for obviously not being clear enough about how much I love my mate" I tell Krystal hoping to make the other's aware of how little trust they have given me.

"Listen, Griffin, I am sorry, the thing is I trusted you. After I first met you, back when Ayla was still conflicted about you, I have sung your praises so much I seemed like your damn cheerleader. If she goes through all of this, to find you having moved on with Hannah. She will die and so for a moment, I felt guilty about it. But you're right deep down I know you would never do something like that. Please can you forgive me" Dan rushes to apologize.

Truthfully, if the tables were turned, and I thought he had moved on from Krystal so

quickly, I would have been the same. And so I tell him exactly that. Before telling

everyone why, I need Hannah to think there might be something between us. I require her

to trust me enough, to at least be careless in going to visit David. Because I have no

illusions about her reasoning. The fact that she stole Ayla's shirt Tessie planned on

bringing to me to make me feel a bit better says it all.

At the same time, me being sick now is a great excuse to not talk to Hannah too much.

Just see what she was getting up to, find out more about her motives to suddenly claim

her place as my mate since Ayla had supposedly told me she would make a good Queen.

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The next day I woke up feeling a bit better after sleeping for most of the day. All I did the

day before was sleep and eat. Tessie who felt terrible for jumping to conclusions hovered

over me like my own Mom would have. To the point where I would not be surprised if she

sat in the chair to watch me sleep, just to make sure I was breathing evenly.

Now I was still feeling a little weak, but I was strong enough to go talk to Hannah and ask

her what was up with her suddenly coming back to her old pack. Not to mention slipping into bed with me, referring to me

as her mate. Even if she would pretend to be aware of what Ayla wrote me about her being a good Queen. Even choosing your chosen mate was something you had to do with care. And you would need to accept- each other first.

Jay had spent most of yesterday trying to find out how in the hell it had been possible for Hannah to get into the pack house. Turns out, since she had always been a part of the pack. Respected by most, even if that mostly had to do with her father's status. None of the guards thought about stopping her, or asking their new Alpha if she was welcome in the pack. With her not having accepted Jay as her new Alpha it had been a stupid thing to do..

It made all of us wonder if there was anything left to save as far as the Blood Moon pack was concerned. And with all the work piling up, finding Ayla became even more pressing.

It would not be long before I would have to return to my duties as Crown Prince. The search for Ayla would still continue, of course. But it would be without me, and that was

something I wanted to avoid at all costs.

Hence, the reason for me going to speak to Hannah to try to find out more about her motives. When I was still sick. We learned the hard way we couldn't put our trust in the BloodMoon pack, because at this moment the pack and the loyalty towards the pack even with their new Alpha and Luna was too broken. We could not expect them to behave like a pack when for so long they were not treated as one. And honestly, Jay did his best, he was a good Alpha and Tessie was a good Luna, but neither of them had their heart in it and it showed.

#### Chapter 130

She's all about you, she's never interested in Prince Griffin, you know that as much as I do.

Your father forced the two of you, so I never understood why you..." The shouting stopped just as I slipped into the warm bath.

I was ashamed of how murky the water was getting, but I needed to hear all of this, so I didn't dare to rinse off. Not that it helped because David had obviously used his Alpha command again. There was no way Jason would stop shouting mid-rant. Followed by a soft

“Yes Alpha” before he got out to get us pizza. At this point, I was wondering if Jason would be joining us for our movie night. Not that I would be too bothered with it. It might even be a barrier to make sure David wouldn’t take advantage of me again.

It was just weird because it had always seemed like David and Jason were close, too. And when David was not spending time with me and Jessa, he would spend time with Jason.

We lived in the same pack and were all about the same age. But we never did anything together. Not that I wanted to at the time, even before the abuse started, Hannah and I had never seen eye to eye. And even if Jason did not seem to be too fond of her friends.

As siblings, they were close, so hanging out with Hannah’s brother never appealed to me and Jessa much.

But thinking about it now would not help me get anything done. And it would be best to get out of the tub and rinse off now that I still had a little energy left. Because, no matter, how much I disliked the idea of having a movie night with David. Getting two meals in one day had turned into a luxury I could no longer refuse. Especially not since I felt like I had

minor flu, I could instinctively tell it was Griffin's illness I was feeling. I longed to be there with him, caring for him and nursing him back to health, but I knew I could not. And with that, I decided all

I could do to make him feel better was to be sure I was feeling the best that I could. If I could feel him being sick, he would feel all my pain too. I know it would make home worry even more. So tonight I would be extra careful not to anger David to avoid getting beaten up again.

Something that was probably for the best regardless of how Griffin was feeling. Time away from the Blood Moon pack had healed ninety percent of my scars. It also made my body capable of fighting off injuries again. Not that I had gotten into any major ones anymore.

Not before the night I got kidnapped, but now after being so close to losing Willow. Not being able to shift for weeks on end. Combined with all the abuse, and the lack of food. My body was starting to stop healing itself again. To my horror, this time it didn't even sear.

Some of the wounds still hadn't closed yet. And I had bruises still visible th should have healed a long time ago, even on a normal human body.

I was close to giving in on the physical front, and a lot of days, I was close to giving in on the mental side as well. I was so done with what my life had turned into. But on days I was at my lowest, Willow still managed to talk to me. Like she was saving all her strength for the moments of dire need. The moments where I required her most without even realizing I required her. In those moments, she would remind me how Griffin would feel if he would find me when he was too late. How he would feel if he found me dead? And every time Willow reminded me of Griffin, I pushed true. It all gave me a push to fight a little longer.

Holding on mentally meant I needed to take the best care I could take of my physical body. Even if it meant eating David's favorite overly greasy pizza and watching a movie he loved, sharing a blanket because he wanted to. Still, I kept as much distance as possible, no matter how much it annoyed him. He lashed out by telling me he was taking a nap, and I was not allowed to take one in the bed with him. I needed a nap too because I still was very low on energy. But the washer-dryer was done. So I remade my still-warm nest and

curled up in it, the health of

the freshly dried blankets lulling me into another deep sleep.

I woke up before, David, and Jason would be back with dinner soon. He would have to

wake up David. So I crawled over to the laundry basket, pulled it close, and started folding

it. Jason walked in to wake David when I was almost done.

“How, does he have she-wolves falling at his feet, waiting on his hand and feet” Jason

scoffed as soon as he saw me.

“Trust me, I would much rather be at home with my true mate. Sadly, here I need to fold

the laundry of the man who is ruining my life. To get fed” I snap back at him.

For a second he looks at me with a bit of pity, but his face hardens. again soon. He seems

to be just as annoyed with David as he is with me. Not that I can blame him, as an Alpha

you need to take care of your pack and lead it. To an extent, that means that you will have

staff to do simpler tasks for you. Tasks like cleaning, and cooking. Not being woken up

from all of your naps. Hell, most Alpha’s I know do not have the time to nap.

Now Jason has to wake up, the man who refuses to make his sister happy. After he has



been acting like he would make her happy. I wonder if Jason ever truly saw David as his friend because it would be better for me if he did not. It would be easier to get him to help me. He is hard to get a read on, though.

“Seeing as you did more laundry, you can have dinner with me at the dinner table,” David tells me as he walks past me. Chain in hand, like I am some kind of rabid dog he needs to take care of. Again, I cannot comment on what he is doing yet again. Griffin seems to be doing a little better, but I’m still not willing to risk causing him any more harm.

Dinner is a greasy takeout meal again, and this time I cannot help doubling over in pain.

For some reason, this annoys David.

“Why are you acting like such a little bitch, you know men don’t cook, so take out it is” He growls at me.

“I-I-I’m sorry David, since you punished me I get a stomach cramp every time I eat something” I stutter not out of fear but because my stomach keeps cramping up.

“Or you might be carrying my pup since we made love that same night,” David remarked

gleefully.

I shuddered at the thought that David called raping me, making love. I was sure it wasn't because I was pregnant. Not only that, but I knew it was because my stomach hadn't handled food for such a long time. And now eating so much food, and such fatty foods, was just too much. And Hannah gave me the injection from stopping me to conceive, with the circumstances of the rape making the chance of a pregnancy unlikely, to begin with.

But I couldn't tell David any of that.

"I am sure is not pregnant, and I can tell you why" Jason's statement felt like someone pouring a bucket of ice over me.