

Unwilling 141

Chapter 141

“Why would I do that, I love Griffin with my entire being” I snapped at Selene.

Because it felt like she was playing with me. Before she could answer me, I heard a

different voice in the distance. I instantly recognized it as Krystal.

“Well, that was a productive week, although I could have done more. with your help. But I

will leave you be for now I know you and Griff like to have your weekend off” Krystal told

me.

I realized she was still acting as my Beta, having faith in me returning to them. It brought

a smile to my face.

“You are starting to hear them now don’t you?” Selene asked, ignoring my previous

question.

“I do, but it feels like I am still missing something, like there are things. that do not make

sense” I honestly answer hoping Selene will fill in the gaps for me.

“That is because time here goes by differently than it does on Earth. The hour we have

spent chatting with her has been ten days on Earth now. Soon Griffin is going to be forced to decide to let you go, if your soul does not return to your body” In this hour I had found out Selene had a range of smiles.

Like she could communicate with them, she had smiles that made you pity her. Ones that made you safe, or would make you feel alone like. she wasn't actually going to help you.

Now her smile seemed to tell me that it would be all right whatever decision I would make.

But there wasn't any decision to make. I needed to be with Griffin, I needed to make up for lost time.

“I know you love Griffin and your mind wants to be with him. Your heart might even but it is your soul that needs to go back to your body. You need to find out what your soul really wants. You fought against being Griffin's second chance mate. Not only that, but you have had doubts about wanting to be a Luna, let alone a Queen. Now is a chance to do some soul-searching. I owe you an out with all I have unwillingly put you through. Griffin might think he is not able to make it without you but he is. And I will be sure to make sure he has a wonderful life. with all he ever wanted” Selene offers me and then she stands up ready

to walk away.

I was about to ask her where she was going, and how she would know if I made my decision when another voice rang through the valley. The voices were getting louder this time. And I could clearly hear Dillion.

“Firecracker, please tell your man to go shower. I mean, it would be bad enough for a human, but with our wolf scent, my eyes are watering. Please squeeze his hand if you want him to shower and sleep?”

Again, I must have missed a part of the conversation, but if Griffin was not showering because of me, he was not taking care of himself. It was all I needed to know to want to give Griffin a sign.

“Please, Selene, tell me how I can squeeze his hand when I am here” I beg Selene as she turns away from me.

She looks over her shoulder before answering me, “If your soul wants to be with Grillin enough, it can control your body. Think about all that has happened between the two of

you”

With that, she walks away, in my mind is the soft rustling of her skirts as she walks off. I

am going to

the only answer to all the questio

need to find a way to get back to my body. For now, just being able to control my hand will

be enough. But what hand is Griff holding? What hand do I need to squeeze?

“Come on Griff, tell me what hand you’re holding” I focus all my energy and my thoughts

on him. Suddenly I can feel his hand holding mine. His fingers gently twitch like he is

nervous. Hoping I will actually squeeze his hand. So I try, I try the hand of this non-

corporal body, hoping my corporal body will follow suit.

I was holding my breath, waiting to find out if it had helped or not. So far I had felt Griff

squeezing my hand back. But I could not be sure if he had actually felt me squeezing his

hand. Or if he had squeezed my hand, hoping it would make me squeeze back. Dillion had

whispered something but it was so quietly that I did not hear what he said. A second later,

Griffin’s voice rang out, and while it was shaky and soft, I could hear him perfectly clear.

“Please Darling, can you squeeze me once more, if you do, I promise I will shower, sleep,
and then I will bake you your favorite?”

I smiled at the promise of his Snickerdoodle cookies and went to squeeze his hand. As I
was about to, I was hit with a flood of memories. Pictures of what my future with Griffin
would be like. I tried to squeeze his hand, but because of the images flooding my brain, I
could not. I shook my head, pushing the images back, I succeeded. and this time when I
squeezed his hand I could feel drops of water splashing on my face.

Griffin’s voice betraying him, telling me he was the one crying was loud and clear as he
told me.

“Okay, Darling everything for you, I will be back in two, two, and at half hours tops. You
won’t be alone, though, Dillion will be right here. with you. He misses you more than he
dares to tell anyone” He slightly chuckled as he teased Dillion, it was a sense of normality
that made
my heart soar.

“He is wrong you know, I’m not ashamed of how much I miss you Fire Cracker. There are just not enough words to describe it. I miss you as my future leader because of the faith I have in you to make the pack and the country even better. I miss you as my best friend’s mate which makes him so very happy, that fits in with our little group of best friends and mates so well. And I miss you as the other best friend I never knew I needed. I miss you as the platonic soulmate you turned out to be. But you are so much more, and there are no words to describe the more, and that is why I keep doing what we always do. Because I will not pity you when you finally come back to us. You are strong enough not to need my pity. I will be the chaotic best friend who needs to tell you the most random things at the most random times. So that is why I keep doing it even now because we are still like we were. And because I need to make myself believe that in fifty years from now, we will still be doing that.” Dillion’s words reminded me that it was not just Griffin I needed to get back to.

He kept speaking to me, but his voice started to drift to the background. Not the memories of all I had gone through both with Griffin and without him started flooding my

mind. Moments of my greatest joys. And then flashes of what the future would be like.

Happy, blissful moments with just the two of us. Moments as a happy family. And then

there were the moments where we fought, moments he made me sad, where we

screamed at each other. Moments where we were exhausted while trying to get our pups

to sleep in the middle of the night. Moments where we needed to make hard decisions for

our country. Moments were stressed, and family life stressed us out so much we barely

spoke.

It made me realize I did not need to go to Grillin, and our life together would not be

perfect. But it would be a happy life, filled with love and friends and family. And it might

not be what I need anymore. Not when I can just be here in the heavens. But having all of

that,

experiencing all of that with Griffin, it was that I wanted so I needed to

find my way back home.

Chapter 142

I had mindlinked the pack doctor on duty to go check up on Ayla. Explaining what had

happened. He let me know he would be going over to her in ten minutes. Then I called Jay and Tessie to let them know. Even if they knew better than to get too much hope from this. I could hear the relief in their voices. It was a good sign and we all appreciated it. Next I mindlinked, all of our close friends and family in the pack. So all of them would know too. Then I rushed to our personal chambers. Krystel had brought the framed picture over. The bigger copy of the picture I found in the forest that day. Without thinking about it, I took out my drill and hung up the picture. Above our couch, above the spot where I pictured us all snuggled up. I had avoided coming home and looking at pictures of Ayla for that matter. It reminded me of the future we were planning and how unsure it had become. That same future suddenly did not feel so impossible and unsure anymore. Next, I started on the dough for the Snickerdoodle cookies and turned on the oven so it could preheat. By the time my dough was done, the oven was hot enough so I flattened my cookies rolled them in the sugar cin namon mix, and popped them into the oven as I made myself a quick sandwich. Ten minutes later, the cookies are done and I set the tray

on the stove to cool down. Then I take a quick shower, followed by a short forty-five-minute nap.

Dillion was right, I did feel better and I had to admit I smelled better too. Before packing up the cookies, I mindlinked Dillion if everything was okay.

“Yes, nothing much has changed, I feel she looks more peaceful, but that could be on me though.” He tells me, and I choose to believe it is on him.

I am already feeling so happy, with the fact that she squeezed my hand. That I need to be careful and still protect my heart a little bit. Only when she has opened her eyes and talked to me, I can be sure she will make it out okay. After I have carefully wrapped up the cookies, I look at the clock to see I have been gone for two hours. I promised her I would be back in two-and-half hours tops. Meaning, I need to rush to make sure I won't break my promise.

Cookies,

“Griff, nothing is wrong but you need to hurry here” Dillion’s face. sounds happy, elated

even when he mindlinks me.

I was already at the hospital, so now I just ran through the hallways, storming into Ayla’s

room.

“Ever since she squeezed your hand, she seems to be more lively. The doc. even said she

had brain activity in parts of her brain where she didn’t have any since she was in a coma.

And now she is trying to say something but I don’t understand any of it” Dillion rushed to

say, taking my stuff from me so I can sit next to Ayla.

“What is it Darling, I am here now you can talk to me?” I say, stroking

her cheek.

Her face seems to relax like my touch is soothing. She doesn’t speak for a while as I sit

there silently stroking her cheek. All this time I have. been telling her about how much I

miss her. How much I cannot live without her. And while that is still very much true. The

moment she

reacted the most was Krystel talking about work. Dillion being Dillion, asking her to tell me off. So I decided to give that a chance.

I sit back next to her, holding her hand in mine. Telling her about making the cookies, and hanging up the picture and it seems to be working. Her eyelashes flutter like she is trying to open her eyes. Her hand twitches in mine. Dillion sees it too, he whispers his goodbyes.

But implores me to keep him posted.

Wanting to keep telling her about casual things, but not having done a lot since she went missing. I am struggling with things to tell her. Happy casual things, when I suddenly remembered how my human. gaming friends had asked to meet up with me.

“So my gamer friends missed me, I stopped gaming for a little bit since you know what?”

Anyway, I told them my fiancé was ill. They send you their best and they want to meet with both of us when you are feeling better. I know this is more my thing but if you join me we could always go to the bookstore after” I started talking about simpler things because it seemed to help Ayla.

Now I was smiling too. Maybe she was on to something, maybe I should not focus on

everything that went wrong. But focus on all the things we still have.

“Help me....”

“Don’t know”

“Love him”

She started mumbling moving her hands, for the first time since I laid her down here in

this bed she now seemed like she was dreaming. Suddenly I smelled her blood and I

panicked before I saw what was the cause. With moving around so much she had pulled

her IV out. The oxygen machine was beeping two. Causing the doctors to rush in.

“Can you tell us what happened, Alpha?” Doctor Paul asked me.

“You know how earlier today she seemed to be responding to us. Dillion said she seemed

to be wanting to speak since I got back from resting. Ever since I sat here talking to me,

she suddenly started moving around. And it caused her to rip the IV out.”

The doctors nod and they get to work on Ayla. Nobody tells me to leave the room so I just

stand back. Not wanting to get in the way of the doctors. But wanting to be in the room on

the off chance she would wake up now. Watching doctors checking her pulse, and her lungs, shining a small light in her eyes was terrifying. It reminded me of when she was first taken in at the BloodMoon pack when we had no idea if she would even make it or not..

Soon, two doctors walked out of the room, and Doctor Paul stayed behind to talk to me.

“She is getting more active and it means that we need to take her off the life support. It will be dangerous if she accidentally rips them out again. Especially the oxygen tube. And it doesn’t seem like she needs. it anymore but it is a risk. So ultimately it is up to you.” He tells me.

It is a scary decision to make because both could end up being fatal for Ayla. Not choosing could also be fatal. It felt like I was deciding if I believed her to be strong enough or not.

And that made my decision a bit easier.

“You can take her off life support, I am sure she can manage on her own,” I tell the doctor and he immediately goes to work..

Telling me, the next three days are going to be crucial. Then he walks off, leaving me alone in the room with Ayla. Before I can ask him my final question.

“I know you don’t like it when I talk about missing you. But I do you

know, it drives me crazy. So I decided to take this as a sign that you are making your way

back to me, darling. I’ll go talk to the doctor to see if this means I get to bring you home

now?” I tell her before walking off and finding the doctor again.

Chapter 143

Selene never came back to me and I heard everything that happened around me non-stop now. I know

I was back home in my own bed. The scent of Griffin surrounded me. I wanted so badly to open my

eyes. But I couldn’t, I had no idea how to get into my own body again. I had tried to shout for Selene, to

beg for her, and to cry. Nothing helped, she ignored me.

When I noticed another day had passed on earth, I decided to give up. on trying to get Selene’s help.

The rustling of the sheets I heard signaled that Griffin was getting up. Soon after I could smell fresh

coffee.

“I made you your morning coffee my love, so all you have to do is wake up,” Griffin told me.

Over what had been the last day on earth, I have heard him beg me, try to act casual, make me

promise. And now challenging me just to get me to wake up. Only this time I even felt the bed tip under

the weight of Griffin sitting back in the bed with me. Desperate I tried to open my eyes so that I could finally see my wonderful mate again.

Harsh light blinded me, forcing my eyes shut immediately. Still, I had managed to, because I soon as I opened my eyes it felt like I fell. Like that feeling, you have when you are about to fall asleep and it feels like you fall.

“Darling are you awake, did I really see you open your eyes” There was an urgency to Grillin’s voice.

“Lights” I mumbled, my throat feeling like it was burning.

It caused a coughing fit, and with every cough, it felt as if my brain. had come loose and was now bumping around against my skull. Giving me a terrible headache. Even the scraping of the curtain over the metal rod made me flinch in pain.

“The curtains are closed. Darling can you please look at me?”

Opening my eyes again is a struggle and everything hurts. But I am so happy to be able to see Griffin’s face again.

Where I had no pain and no issues with moving my body when I was in the heavenly valley, now I

struggled to lift my hand to stroke Griffin's cheek. Seeing my struggle and knowing me better than anyone else, he took my hand in his. And he placed it against his cheek before leaning in.

"I missed you so much my love how are you feeling?" He mumbled into the palm of my hand.

I meant to say that I was feeling bad, but that I was happy to be back with him. But as I listened to myself I only managed to get out

"Bad.... back you" Before getting another coughing fit.

"Take it easy Darling I will get the doctor to come over right away" I sensed he was mindliking someone he was still holding my hand that was now resting on the bed. I closed my eyes careful not to fall back asleep. Scared I wouldn't be able to get back to him again.

Griffin must share the same fear, as he keeps talking to me stroking my hair. Asking me yes and no questions so I can answer with a single word. Everything he does is keeping me awake and I am sure he is doing it on purpose.

"Are you sure the Princess has woken up Prince Griffin" I recognize this voice it is one of the pack doctors.

"Yes... h o....." I cough and stutter, unable to tell the doctor he is sure because I am still awake.

“Don’t speak Princess Avla, the breathing tube has damaged your throat I am so happy you’re back

with us Can I check up on you” She asks.

Following her advice, I just nod, and I lose my eyes again because keeping them open still takes too

much out of me

“I think I know the answer to this Princess Ayla but if you want Prince Grillin to leave you can just tap

my hand” The doctor tells me as she places her hand on the bed next to me.

She is right, she knows the answer because, of course, he can stay. There is nothing she can tell me

he cannot know of Not even if I would have been pregnant with David’s pup

“Well your body is very slowly recovering, we flushed out the medicine that stopped you from shuffling

Meaning that as soon as your body is strong enough again you are able to shift. There is no permanent

physical damage, recovering and healing will take a long time though. You just need to get a lot of rest

and good food. Don’t be scared you can sleep as much as you want. You will not slip back into a coma

again” Nothing is too surprising to me, I can manage a long. painful recovery,

As long as I still have Willow, and if I have Griffin I will be okay in the end. And I could sleep, it feels

weird saying this since I just woke up from a coma. But it feels like it's been so long since I've got a good sleep. The doctor advised me to eat something first. And the moment the doctor left Griffin gently pulled me against his chest.

"You will be okay Darling, I love you so much, since your throat hurts so much can I make you some porridge?" He breathes into my hair.

And the weight of everything that has happened suddenly becomes too much to bear. Burying my face in his chest inhaling the scent of cinnamon, cedar wood, and citrus. I let it all out, tears streaming down- my face as I kept sobbing. I felt Griffin's shirt getting soaked but I could not stop myself. I clung to him like I was afraid he would just disappear again. There was so much I wanted to tell him, to make him understand that he was the only reason I managed to pull through.

"Come on I will run you a bath, we can bathe together and then I help you get dressed, so you can have the porridge I'll make you." Griffin told me as he peeled himself away from me.

He walked off and soon I heard the tap running. If someone would have told me a year ago, that I would be this helpless. Having a mate take so much care of me I would have laughed at them. Now it felt oddly comforting to hear Griffin rummage about. Acting like nothing was wrong like I did not just

have a meltdown on his chest.

Two hours later I was lying down in our bed again. Drifting off listening to the sound of Griffin typing away on his laptop. Griffin had taken such good care of me. Everything he had done was laced with the love this amazing man felt for me. It had soothed me, the bath had left me feeling clean, and it warmed my aching muscles. Being surrounded by my mate was already healing. And all of his gentle touches had sped up the healing process. Not to mention how the porridge had made me feel full and sleepy. Just eating a healthy filling meal made me happy. Now Griffin had chosen to work in the bedroom with me so that I could rest knowing he was near.

The door slammed open, I struggled to open my eyes again now that I was startled awake.

"Fire Cracker, you're still awake, I came to tell Griffin I have an update about David, do you want to

hear it too?"

Chapter 144

I was finally taking care of Ayla again, it was awful to see her struggle like that. For a second, I feared that she would just slip back into a coma if I let her sleep for too long. I believed the doctor when she

said that would not be the cause. And from the relief on Ayla's face, she had the same fear before the doctor reassured us both.

I don't think Ayla ever knew how strong I think she is. However, I knew the truth, so feeling her break down in my arms. Feeling her tears soaking my T-shirt was like a stab to the heart. I hated seeing her so broken, and at that moment I had quietly promised her and myself that I would make her feel whole again. I would be the one that showed her how strong she was again. First, that meant taking extra care of her, if I could mend her broken body. To make her feel fit again, it would be easier for the rest to follow.

As I undressed her for the first time ever, my stomach churned at the sight of her naked body. Full of bruises and cuts, seeing her ribs as she stood there ready to get into the bath. The fingerprints on her hips. Indicating how David had held her down as he was having his way with her. I felt sad, disgusted, and furious all at once. But with how Ayla was feeling, there was no room for my emotions. She was my top priority now.

Scared she would fall asleep during bathing, I got into the tub with her. Letting her sit between my legs

as I gently washed every inch of her, Thanking the Moon, Goddess that my body did not have its usual reaction to seeing my perfect mate naked. To touching her soft bare skin. Now was not the time, I would not make her feel like that was the only thing I wanted from her.

If she would never be touched like that because of what David has

done to her. I would not love her less. I would stay loyal to her to my dying breath.

Now she was lying in the bed to me drifting off after we bathed and she had eaten the porridge I made her. She asked me to wear one of my shirts to bed. And of course, I had agreed, I had always loved seeing her wear my clothes. It always drove home the feeling of her being mine. Not to mention it was sexy as hell since my shirts were so big on her that they functioned as a mini dress. Now she looks more vulnerable than she does sexy. With how much weight she lost, they were even bigger on her now. And still, I could not help but feel so damn attracted to her. I had to remind myself that this was not the time. Ayla had too much healing to do.

For a second, Dillion rushing into our bedroom was a happy distraction. I figured he missed Ayla too.

And was now true to his word rushing in to just tell her something silly. Or show her something he had

bought her.

I don't know exactly what he said to her when I was gone, but the doctors were convinced that whatever it was had helped to bring her back to us. When he told us that he had news on David, my heart dropped. My anger soared at the fact that Dillion asked Ayla if she wanted to hear it too. Of course, she didn't she was far too weak to get involved in the pack business now.

But stubborn as my wonderful mate was, she pushed herself up, resting against the headboard.

Gesturing at her throat to indicate that she couldn't speak yet.

Dillion presented her with a small whiteboard with markers so she could join in the conversation without

needing to speak. She smiled at him and started writing on it before Dillion even said a word.

"Thanks, Dillion, this helps," she wrote and I swear Dillion puffed up his chest a bit like he was proud to hear Ayla thanking him.

Or well to see Ayla thanking him, the next thing she wrote was addressed to me. And her words made me fall in love with her even more.

“Don’t pout Griff, I am proud to be your Luna and Queen. I want to help” She needed to write it down

two times because the whiteboard was too small.

When she was done, I could only smile and kiss her forehead as I told her.

“And I am proud to be your Alpha and King, Darling but worrying about you is part of the job” Then I

settled into the pillows again resting against the headboard of the bed.

Ready to hear whatever it was, Dillion had to tell us.

“David has been spotted at an airport, along with Jason and the other members of his new pack. Sad

really that they left Hannah out, more so since she is carrying his pup. Poor girl really loves him, and I

honestly don’t see why. She is not my type but honestly, anyone could do better than that steaming

back of hit” He shrugged, causing Ayla to giggle.

Hearing Ayla giggle was the best sound, but I did not know how to feel about David escaping the

country. On the one hand, I wanted to punish him for all he had put Ayla and me through. On the other

hand, knowing he was so far away from us now meant Ayla was safe. He could not retaliate and kidnap

her again before we would find him. We could look at what country he had fled to and contact the royal

family there to make sure that they would expedite David and the rest of his pack to us. We would then be able to put them to trial and punish him. As evil as it was, I was considering if it would be enough reason to punish him worse. To come back to the agreement I made with Hannah, where I said I would spare both their lives in return for her telling me what happened to Ayla and David.

But Ayla hadn't known about Hannah's pregnancy yet, and I was scared to see how she would react to the news. When I looked at her, she hardly seemed to show any emotion.

"Darling, are you okay, I wanted to tell you about Hannah being pregnant with David's pup?" I asked her since I could not read her at all.

"I don't care about their future, only ours," She wrote on the little whiteboard.

Taking my hand in hers, squeezing it again, showing me she was either much stronger than any of us could ever imagine. Or she was so broken that she wasn't able or willing to let her emotions in. I hated not knowing what the reason was for her to be this casual about it. And as Dillion said his goodbye and Ayla snuggled back in the pillows, I could only hope I would know soon. So that I could help her the

way she needed.

Chapter 145

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needing to speak. She smiled at him and started writing on it before Dillion even said a word.

I loved how Griffin worried for me about being confronted with pack business. It was just like him. At

first, I fought it he always was so worried about me and tried to shelter me from it all. When we first

started to get to know each other, I figured it was because he didn't trust me. In my mind him being so protective of me was because like most of the wolves in my life had before he saw me as weak, unable to handle things.

I learned that it was not like that, all he wanted to do was to keep me safe. Not because he felt like I needed it. But because that is just how he shows his love. And how could I ever refuse to feel loved by this man?

He was partially right about this one too. While I would hate not being in the loop. Knowing David had escaped worried me. More than anyone else I knew exactly what the man was capable of and that was enough to scare me. Hannah being pregnant with David should not bother me at all. It was not like I wanted to be with David anymore and I still hated Hannah. The last thing I should do is pity the she-wolf that made my life into a living hell. Yet I could not help myself, I still wanted to raise a family with Griffin. Becoming a mother should be the most beautiful thing on this earth.

The moment that you're no longer just a couple but finally become a family. Needing to go through all of that alone must be horrible. But to think it was because David used her, and wanted nothing to do

with her because he honestly was insane must be even worse. Now she is imprisoned, I don't know when her trial is or when her punishment will be. But it must be terrifying to be in a prison cell. And even if I knew it was out of selfish reasons. Because she wanted David for herself. She did help me while I was in that dungeon.

I kept thinking of ways to help her when as I snuggled up in the bed. It didn't take long for me to fall into a peaceful sleep even with all the worries on my mind. All because of Griffin's presence next to me, it was so warm and soothing and it made me feel so safe.

"It is good to see you again my dear?" I whirled around at the now familiar face of Selene.

If I was seeing the Moon Goddess that only meant one thing. I had died or slipped back into a coma.

"Don't be scared you are still sleeping I just wanted to say my goodbye" She reassured me.

It did feel different than the last time I was here, it felt like I had little control over this body. Like I was tethered to somewhere else and I was just visiting her.

And it was not like I didn't have things I wanted to tell Selene. No matter how happy I am that I am back with Griffin and the rest of my life. Getting there was a struggle after she told me herself that I had suffered enough at the hands of her mistakes.

“You could have said goodbye before, you could have also told me how to get back to my body and not let me struggle like I did” I snapped at her.

For some reason the previous conversations we had made me feel more like Selene was a close friend. One you could get mad with if there was a good reason for it. Without the fight meaning a falling out.

“I understand you feel that way my child, but you were the one that had to make that decision. To leave

everything be, just focus all of your inner strength, all of your willpower on getting back. Not because you needed to, not because you were expecting the picture-perfect life when you got back there. No, because you knew life would never be

perfect. Because knowing that you chose to be with Griffin because you knew that all the good would outweigh all the bad. Having me present to answer all your questions would have been nothing than a hindrance.” Selene explained and strange enough it made sense.

“You will fully heal, and you and Griffin will have a wonderful life. I promise you because being with your

true mate means you accept my blessings. All of them” With those parting words the world seemed to shimmer and shake as the heavenly valley disappeared around me.

Hours later I woke up from an otherwise dreamless sleep. Or at least nothing worth remembering.

When I did wake up my throat felt a lot better. Griffin was still tapping away at his laptop. And I can only imagine how behind he got on his work while searching for me. It’s weird still not knowing so much of what happened from the moment I got kidnapped until this very moment. I had only been out of my coma for a few hours. Most of those hours I had spent sleeping but it was what the doctor advised and for the first time in my life, I wasn’t going to be stubborn. Deep down I was scared of the consequences it seemed miraculous I had come out of it all with no permanent damage.

Or at least not physical I have no idea how I will feel once I am able to get out and about again. And I tried not to think about it either. I needed to focus on getting physically healthy again. The next step was to shift again. I had missed Willow and not being able to shift for so long is terrible for both our human and wolf form. So the only way I would be completely healed is after shifting and letting Willow roam free again.

“Oh, Darling you’re awake, are you feeling hungry” Griffin had obviously noticed I was awake even if I just laid still wrapped up in my thoughts.

With wanted to see him smile again, and with my throat feeling so much better. I wanted to do something nice for him.

“I am more hungry for some snuggling with my wonderful mate,” I told him.

This time able to talk without getting another coughing fit. The doctor told me that with my werewolf healing. My throat would need to feel better within a few hours and it was another thing she was right about.

Griffin rushed to get the laptop off his lap, pulling me into his lap, in the spot where his laptop had just rested. Being in his arms again felt right, it made me feel strong like I could overcome everything the universe still had in store for me.

I wanted to kiss Griffin, tangle my hands in his her, and pull him closer to me. Sure I was still exhausted and could probably not do much more than just kissing him. But I would be fine with that. I just wanted

us to feel close, I wanted to show him my love and for us wolves, there is no way to better show your love than being physical. To say I was surprised and a little disappointed when Griffin pulled me into his chest, hugging me instead of kissing me was an understatement.

Chapter 146

Despite the awkwardness for a few seconds being back in Griffin's arms felt good. We stayed like that cuddled up together for about an hour when my stomach grumbled loudly. It was a good sign, that I was getting my appetite back but I still felt a little ashamed about it.

Especially since it already seemed like Griffin didn't see me like he used to before.

"Do you want me to cook for you?" Griffin immediately wants to take care of me again.

And I don't mind as long as he doesn't feel like he is demoted to some kind of caregiver and nothing more. I decided to give it some time though. It must have been traumatizing for him too. And I am sure he is tired too. For now, though I am craving being outside. It's cruel for a wolf to have to be inside all of the time. During my time in the dungeon, I hardly saw any sunlight not even through windows since the sunroof wasn't enough to light up the entire dungeon.

“Actually Griff, I am dying to go outside is there somewhere we can eat outside? Just go to a restaurant or something?” I ask hoping he won’t mind being seen outside with me in this state.

When he starts speaking he is a little hesitant not finding the right words. For a moment my heart sinks and I feel like he is going to tell me that he as a future Prince cannot be seen outside with his mate looking like this. I know he still loves me, but with being royalty you have a standard to hold on to. Not to mention the fact that I am very aware of the fact that I do not look like I used to before. Sure I have always been petite for a werewolf. I was happy with how I looked and all of that changed now.

“There is a food festival close by on human territory, it is supposed to have a lot of Mexican food stands. My parents wanted to take you there but I was unsure if you would be able to handle it with how tired- you seem” He tells me.

I cannot help but beam, at him. It’s not about him being ashamed to be seen with me. It’s not about his status because he is about to take me on a family outing amongst humans. At least our pack members knew what had happened to me unlike said humans. All this perfect wonderful man is scared of is my health.

“Well I don’t know how long I can stay, but I haven’t had good Mexican food since the day I went to the

White Oak pack to go pack my stuff" I answered.

There was a flash of guilt visible on Griffin's face, I know he blames himself for my kidnapping. Even if there was nothing he could have done to stop it.

"I'll ask my parents if they made plans or if they still want to go okay?" He suggested but I haven't spoken to Isabella or Rodrick for so long, and I have started to love them like I love my own family.

I'll tell them maybe they would like that?" I ask suddenly feeling a little unsure.

"They love it" Griffin's answer is short and sweet.

He then pecks my lips and wraps his arms around me tighter dispelling more of my fears.

"Isabella, Rodrick it's me Ayla did you still want to go to the food festival" I text the two of them.

They call back instantly which is a little overwhelming. That doesn't stop me from smiling at their genuine happiness to hear from me. Or

their genuine worry for me. They are not wanting me to overdo myself.

"I am sure, I am desperate for some fresh air, and some normalcy. So Griff, and I are going out to have dinner anyway" I try to reassure him.

“Then don’t you dare go without us, we can be ready in thirty minutes” Isabella rushes to say making me chuckle.

“I take it, my parents still want to go out with us” Griffin chuckles knowing his parents well

I nod and get up to get dressed in my clothes. The good thing about going out for food at a food truck festival is that it means I do not have to dress up. That way I can wear clothes that do not emphasize the scars and bruises on my body so much. A pair of skinny jeans, chunky sneakers, and a white T-shirt, and now the only thing I need is the lilac cardigan I bought with Krystal when I went shopping to surprise Griff.

But I cannot find it, I am getting more and more frustrated until reality hits me. I’ve worn that cardigan on one of the times I travel back to the White Oak pack. It’s been washed and folded. Waiting for me in one of my bags to be brought here for the permanent move. It is a silly little thing to be sad over, but it is a symptom of so much more. For all the things I lost, for the fact that my life has been put on pause.

By now I should have been Griff’s marked mate, I should have been looking for my Gemma to be.

Getting more lessons with Isabella.

Not sitting here in front of my closet realizing, my stuff isn’t here yet. All of it just causes me to break

down. By the time Griffin comes out of the shower, he finds me on the floor a sobbing mess. Of course,

he immediately worries rushing to me and pulling me against his still-wet body.,

“What is it Darling, did you hurt yourself?” His voice comes out squeaky, panicked and I hate myself

even more for worrying him like this.

“No, I am okay it’s just my lilac cardigan is not here yet, I wanted to wear it and now I don’t know what

to wear. It shouldn’t be like this Griff, we should have been so much further along in our future” I cry in

his chest for the second time today.

“Darling, I love you so much, we have the rest of our lives to build our future. I hate that all of this

happened to you, to us. But you are back with me now, and that is all that matters we will get there

TOGETHER” He tells me and then gets up without saying another word.

When he returns he has one of his jeans jackets in hand, his favorite

one.

“Here Darling, wear this, and to be honest I like knowing even the humans can see you are mine” He

smiles so brightly that I instantly feel better.

I slip on the jacket wash my face with cold water and reapply some of my make-up. Just wearing clothes I feel comfortable in, having done my hair and my make-up worn me out already. Griff seems to notice it, he is watching me like a hawk. But it hasn't just worn me out, it also made me feel better.

More like myself so I loop my arm in Griff's both to be close to him and to have a little support with walking. Ready to go out and see where the night takes us, as long as I don't collapse from exhaustion.

Chapter 147

Isabella and Rodrick were waiting for us at the front door. I can suddenly see where Griffin has his careful and worrying nature from. Where Rodrick rushes up to me and gathers me in a bear hug that has me feel like he is breaking my ribs. Isabella smacks her mate telling him to be careful and then fuzzes over me making sure I am alright.

It's a thirty-minute drive, Griffin surprises me when he suggests we go there in two separate cars.

Again Rodrick seems to want to speak up while Isabella stops him from doing so, agreeing with their son. Only when we get to the car I finally get his plan.

"Close your eyes, Darling sleep for thirty minutes it will do you some good," He tells me as he gets into his truck.

He just gave me an opportunity to rest a little more. A moment I needed so I do as he said and I curl up in the passenger seat. Where the rumbling of the car engine “sings” me to sleep instantly. Attentive as he is Griff wakes me up five minutes before we arrive at the food festival. Giving me the chance to feel less drowsy.

After parking he jumps out to open the door, something he has always done. Tonight it feels like a reminder of how good life can be with him. How special and cherished he makes me feel every day. I ignore the little voice in my head that I should be wearing his mark already. That I have no idea when I will be able to wear it because the thirty minutes of sleep in the car were far from enough. And a part of me regrets agreeing with this plan.

Maybe Griffin was right, maybe this is all too much, too soon. Still, I can't help but bask in the light of the setting sun. Enjoy the wind on my skin and the buzz of the night that is alive with happy people. Air is pregnant with the smell of various foods.

I am unsure if Rodrick does because he sees how tired I am. Or if just like his son, he is a gentleman.

But he suggests we get a table to sit down on every time we find something to eat. He spotted some tables you can reserve for a little money. While the lawn chairs won't be very comfortable this table at

least gives me a place to sit down when I need to. And pausing in between all rounds being able to sit and take my time eating will help too.

Two hours later we were on our way back, of course, I was the one who wanted to go home first. And at the end of the night, I was swaying on my legs with how tired I was. During the car ride home, I could not sleep because Griffin was clearly upset with me. Even if he said no when I asked him about it. The tick in his jaw, and his white knuckles because he was gripping the steering wheel too hard was all I needed to know.

This time he didn't just open the door for me and he carried me to the car. Still not saying a word. We had gotten into arguments before, when I was strong, when I felt safe. Now all that had happened to me left me feeling vulnerable and raw.

"Please Griff, I can tell you are upset please tell me how I can make it "up to you?" I begged not wanting to be so terrible at communicating

again that I would spiral.

Spiral into that dark place where I can't believe he loves me. Where I am so sure he is going to find

fault in who I am and what I do that he will leave me. The dark place where I want to spare myself from

that pain so much that I will find fault in everything he does just so he isn't the one to find fault in me.

The place where I was when we just met.

The place he healed me from and the one place where I never want to go back to.

"I'm not upset with you Darling, can we please talk about this in our room when we're in our bed" He
grits out through his teeth.

Leaving me with no choice but to believe him and just wait. Trying to stop myself from spiraling into that
dark place.

And I manage to when we reach our chambers and Griffin struggles to open the door because he
seems unable or unwilling to let me go. I am still not in that dark place, all I am is anxious about what
he will tell me. Being anxious is far better than being there. He eventually manages to open the door
and lays me down on the bed.

Taking off my sneakers, and getting a clean one of his shirts for me to sleep in. All without saying a

word.

“Please, I can’t stand this any longer I am so scared you don’t want to be with me anymore” I cry and

he comes to an immediate standstill.

“Darling, all I ever wanted was to be with you, even before I knew you. You were all I ever imagined

when I was dreaming about my mate.” He makes his way to the bed and sits down next to me before

he

continues.

“Remember how I said I loved that you’re so petite. I still do but I loved it because it made me feel like

the big strong Alpha wolf that could protect you. It is stupid because you never needed it. It was just a

feeling I loved” He falls quiet just staring at his hands like he doesn’t know how to go on.

The only comfort I can offer him is to put my hand on his thigh. What he just told me is nothing new, but

there is more to it, that much is clear. I just don’t know what to tell him either.

After two minutes in this awkward silence, he clears his throat and he

continues.

“And I failed it, when David kidnapped you, when it took me weeks to find out where he was. Then I stood on top of your prison, sensing you but I couldn’t rescue you. I hate myself for it and now I couldn’t keep you safe you from almost collapsing from being so tired. I should have just kept my mouth shut about the food festival.” He starts crying, I have never seen him cry before.

I have seen him on the verge of tears before, the time when he interrupted me rejecting him to get the cookies out of the oven. It was easy to forget that Griffin might have been traumatized too. He went through just as much as I did. Now I am the one who wraps my arms around him. Griffin just slumps down against me sobbing in my arms.

in between.

“Aren’t you mad with me or disappointed at me?” He asks in between sobs.

“I am not Griff, you were the one that made me pull through, with all the love you showed me.” I start and then I tell him all about what happened when I was in the coma.

How I had the choice to die, to just stay in the heavenly valley knowing I deserved to be there with the Moon Goddess and how I had made my way back to him. Hoping it would comfort him so that we could start healing together.

Chapter 148

I shouldn't have been the one losing it. Now Ayla was comforting me and no matter how good it felt, it wasn't supposed to be like that. I was supposed to be the one that is going to be strong for her. All this time I figured things would be okay once I would have her back here with me. And of course, things are so much better now that she is here with me and awake. But sometimes all we still have to do is overwhelming.

Not just my usual work as the Crown Prince, but everything to do with the trials coming up for Hannah. Needing to find out where David is and contact the royals ruling that country to get them to extradite him and the rest of his pack to us so we can punish them. Ayla's training which has been put on hold for too long meaning she has so much extra workload. Seeing how weak she still is today, how two hours at a food festival was more than she could deal with scared me.

She wasn't ready to get back to work yet, everyone knew. Nobody was pushing her into doing things she was not ready for. Not yet, but I know my stubborn mate, she would be the one pushing herself soon enough. After all she had pushed herself tonight. Just to go out with my parents and me. Only because I suggested it to her. I should have suggested to just stay on the pack ground. Have a picnic

out in the open. She was so happy to see my parents again, making them happy that she didn't take care of herself.

For so long she didn't trust me to be the mate she deserves, and I fought so hard to make her see that I am. I would have done everything to convince her to give me a chance. And when she had finally let me in so freely, I kept on /failing her. I should have kept her safe so she wouldn't have been kidnapped.

I have stood on the dungeon she was held captive in. Where she has seen a silhouette of a wolf, knowing we were so close but not finding her.

Then she escaped on her own without me being ready for her. Finding her so late that she had slipped into a coma. And now that she was pack I failed at protecting her making sure she was safe, cared for and well rested. It was just too much, I couldn't hold it back anymore.

"Griff, you got to let me make my own mistakes. We're equals I felt how sick you were when I was kidnapped. I did not keep you safe either but it's not our fault. I refuse to taking the blame for what David had done to us. It is not our fault, it's no ones fault that we underestimated how wicked that man is. Because you need to be evil yourself to imagine the lenghts he has gone through to get what he

thinks he wants” Her body might have still been trembling from her exhaustion, her voice was clear and powerful.

And even if it was hard to do, I had to believe her. I wanted to and we needed to moved past all of this.

She might not be willing to accept blame for what he has done. I refuse to let him ruin the future, I

refuse to let him break us so much that we cannot fulfill all of our dreams. I just needed a little reminder.

“You’re right, Darling, lets get ready for bed I am exhausted too maybe we can just watch a show in bed” I suggest, relieved to see Ayla nodding at me.

I missed her and while she has been close to me today, we hardly spent time together. I mean I couldn’t blame her for sleeping so much. I wanted her body to heal and the doctor has been very clear about needing rest to do so. And her loving my parents as much as they love her is one of the reason I am so in love with her. More proof that she is my perfect mate in all aspects life.

For now though I wanted us to just be together, spend some quality time. And as much as I love the nights where I am gaming and she spends her night reading next to me. We would still be in our own little worlds, being apart next to each other. What I needed now was

just to be in the moment.

Tonight at the food festival she told us that she missed healthy food options. Which explained her craving for fresh smoothies, salades and pokebowls. It baffled me more to know that David wants her as his mate, but proceed to treat her like she was less than nothing. A hindrance, an annoyance when he was the one to take her away from her life to force her to fall in love with him. Accept him as her mate when he gave her nothing to love. Ayla was right just know when she said we would never be able to understand her.

When we just met I felt this need to prove to her that I was better suited for her than David. Now that I make my way to our personal kitchen I do not feel that need anymore. I know I am going to give her something now that he hasn't but this time there isn't a little voice in the back of my head telling me "See this will prove to her that we are better than her first mate"

All I want to do now by giving her this fresh fruit salad is to cheer her up. All while giving her body the nutrients it needs to get healthy again. There is one more thing I want to do for her, but I cannot tell her about that yet. It's a bit of a risk I am taking but I think she will love it. If going out even if it was wearing her down helped her so much men tally this might be perfect. It should be less draining than going out

amongst so many people. This should be a lot less draining and hopefully it would heal her a lot more mentally. When I saw her breaking down over not having a specific cardigan here I knew I had to do something about it.

I was stupid enough to think it was just about the cardigan, it was even more than what she told me.

Every time now she would need something that was still at the White Oak pack it would remind her of all that happened to her. And to the horrid reason why her stuff still wasn't here. Why it still felt like she was just spending the night at

mine, instead of feeling like she was home. I was well aware of the fact

that my plan could backfire but it was a risk I was willing to take because if for once everything would go as planned it would be all worth it.

Chapter 149

I underestimated how much going out to the food truck festival would take out of me. When Griffin returned with a fruit salad and a fresh smoothie to watch our show, I felt so understood. And I told myself I would make it through at least two episodes. So that I could have some quality time with him.

But I never caught the ending of the first episode. Now I woke up in an empty bed.

Hating the knowledge that I still couldn't mindlink him, I got my phone to see if he texted me. He didn't and I could hear he wasn't in the rooms with me. That feeling of having lost him, of him having run away from me, was there for a split second. Where I used to let the fester months ago, I reminded myself of how good he was for me. How good our relationship was and I managed to calm myself down quickly.

He is probably just in his office, so maybe I could go ahead and surprise him by showering and bringing him his coffee. So I made my way to the kitchen where I found an already used coffee cup. Showing me, I was most likely right and Griff had just got up early to get some work done. It was not like he hadn't suffered from all that happened to me. Not to mention that I could see how busy he must have been with finding me, taking care of me, just sitting at my bedside. That he must be drowned in work. More so since I still was unable to help him.

"I will take better care of myself, heal the best I can so I can be the future Queen and Luna Griffin deserves as soon as I can," I told myself

And temporarily forgetting all about showering and making coffee, I got a notebook and set down at our

dining table. I wrote down all the things I needed to do. Perhaps I can ask one of the doctors for some sort of physical therapy to get stronger quickly. Since the pack knew what happened to me, I could probably find a comfortable spot to have

the Gemma interviews. So I wrote down a meeting with Krystal to go over Gemma's on the list too. Of course, I would ask Griffin if he had any tips. But I wanted to do this without him, so as not to burden

him

more.

It must have been thirty minutes, and the list seemed daunting but it felt good to have a list. And deep down I knew I had enough time to get it all done, there was no rush. Nobody expected me to work yet, everyone expected me to take a break. To rest until I was feeling better. I heard the door open, as I was about to look up and greet whoever was visiting me. Figuring it would probably be Dillion who never knocked or just Griffin coming in to check up on me. When I heard my wonderful mate whisper to someone.

"Quiet, she has not texted me yet she is probably still asleep, let's try to keep i..."

I could hear the exact moment he spotted me. I looked up, wondering what all the whispering and

secrecy was all about.

And that's when I saw it behind Griffin, my parents, and grandparents had come down to visit me.

Seeing as how Griffin is leading them into my chambers, I have no doubt that he is the one who set this

all up.

"What are you guys doing here?" I ask as I start to get up, and that is when I notice the rest of it. They

are all carrying boxes, there is one at Griffin's feet. He probably put it down to open the door.

"Hi, Sweetheart, we are here to help you finally unpack," Grandpa told

me.

In that sweet matter-of-factly tone like not happening. I have always loved when he did that in the

moments I was feeling lost with all that was happening around me. Unable to stop myself from smiling,

I make

my way over to my family to hug all of them. Everyone wraps me up in their arms at once. And it was

exactly what I needed. I needed to be with my family, surrounded by the people I love.

"Kate and Tim will be here later today, your parents and grandparents got in the car at six am to be

here on time," Griffin tells me before pecking my forehead.

It is such a chaste touch, nothing like how it was between us. Sure, he would not just give me a passionate kiss with my parents and grand present. But we would at least give each other a normal kiss. Just a peck on the lips, it was like Griffin was scared to touch me now. I shook the thought from my head, convincing myself we just needed to find our new normal. We both just needed to heal and this would all be over soon enough. We would soon be back to normal, so I was not about to let my own insecurities ruin the amazing gift Griffin had just given me.

"I am sorry for not texting you Griff, I wanted to surprise you by making you a coffee and bringing it to your office. But then I got distracted by making a to-do list of everything I need to do so I can start becoming the Princess you and our pack deserve." As I spoke those words, there was another spark of heat in my heart.

The sign of the pack bond growing, it was another thing I was desperate for. To be a part of this pack. My bond with the White Oak pack was still intact, so there was no risk of me becoming a rogue. And while I loved the White Oak pack, I made a promise to the members of the Silver Moon pack that I was going to be their Luna, their Queen. I was more than ready to fulfill that promise and become a true part

of this pack.

Griffin looked over at the notebook with my endless list. I could see him starting to worry again.

“Don’t worry Griff, they’re baby steps, you take a look when I finally

take a shower, okay?” I asked, my arms still wrapped around his waist.

I was met with another peek to the forehead like he couldn’t get enough of touching me. All while

holding himself back.

“Aunt Suzy, made you a cake sweetheart, I will go cut that up and make everyone a coffee to have with

your slice of cake” Grandma cut through the awkward tension between me and Griff.

I shot her a grateful smile, even if it was gnawing at me that the awkwardness was so obvious that my

grandparents noticed. As I stood under the shower, I was contemplating bringing this up with Griffin or

not. I did not want to pressure him into anything, and I didn’t want to make him feel bad. But there was

this small voice in the back of my mind that reminded me of how important it had been to Griffin that we

both saved ourselves for our mate. That neither of us had been with another wolf. The voice in the back

of my mind would then question if Griffin was put off from being intimate with me again, knowing that he

no longer was the only wolf I had been intimate with. Even if he should have felt that I never wanted it.

Chapter 150

In the end, I decided to give it a little more time. It was not like my body was ready for much more than

a bit of kissing. Griffin worries about me enough as it is. So it could easily just be him being too careful

with me. Treating me like a little porcelain doll. I would just show him how strong I still was, and then

things between the two of us were all right. All I needed to do was patient and remind myself of the fact

that Griffin was doing all of this out of his love for me.

Getting dressed was another reminder of how little clothes I have here. Most of the clothes I do have

here are for special events, I only have a few casual items here but they are summer clothes. It's not

exactly winter yet, but the days are getting chillier and with how tired and skinny I have gotten I feel

even colder than I normally would. Suddenly a pair of leggings catches my eyes. They are leather look

leggings Jessa made me buy on one of our shopping trips. I have never worn them because it is not

my style but it from trying them on in the shop I know how comfortable they are.

And not wanting to pressure Griffin didn't mean I could not show him what he was missing. So I

combined the black leather look leggings with one of his crisp white dress shirts. I know he loves it when I wear his clothes, so maybe this would do it for him. Or maybe I was just mean for teasing him like this, knowing that my body was too weak to do anything with the attraction I wanted to feel so badly.

When I walked back into our kitchen, everybody was seated at the table with steaming mugs of coffee and big slices of black forest cakes in front of them. I smiled, seeing how Aunt Suzy had remembered my favorite cake all these years. Griffin was busy going over the to-do list I made for myself like I suggested he did. He was so engrossed in it that he didn't seem to notice me coming back. Not until I told Grandma how good the cake looked.

He turned around to face me and his jaw went slack.

"Da mn. Darling, you look beautiful" He whispered like he was too spellbound to speak the words out loud.

And when he suggested, I follow him for a moment before we would have our coffee and cake, I felt

excited. Like he was making up an excuse to show me just how beautiful he thought I was dressed in his clothes.

Until he didn't, sure, he pecked my cheek this time and took my hand to lead me down the halls. But again there wasn't as much physical attention as I would normally get from him. Even with him seemingly unable to take his eyes off of me.

"I saw you had set up an office on your to-do list, but I had planned you a welcome home gift," He told me as we arrived in front of his office, I followed his hand with my eyes.

Only to notice the door with the big red ribbon and an envelope on it.

He had to have prepared this before the kidnapping when he was still expecting me to be with him that Friday afternoon. And my heart hurt for him to know that every time he would come out of his office, he would see that reminder of me not being home with him. At a loss for words, I walked over to the door and plucked the envelope off the door.

"My sweet Ayla,

I love you more than words can say and I am beyond excited about our future.

Both personally as mates, creating our own little family together.

And as the rulers of this pack and the kingdom, I just know you are going to be the best Luna and Queen this kingdom could ever want. So I find it only fitting to give you the perfect office.

All my love,

Griffin.

PS. It being so close to mine is an added bonus, don't you think?"

The note was sweet and kind and it reminded me of the way things were between us before all of this. I

knew enough before even opening the doors, I turned around and pulled Griffin closer to me. Pulling

him in for a kiss. To my relief, he kissed me back without any hesitation. Even if it was more of a short

sweet kiss and not as much a hot passionate kiss. He still kissed me without hesitation, pouring all of

his love into the kiss.

I even was the one to break the kiss, to open the door, curious to see what kind of office Griffin had

made for me.

As expected, the office was perfect, the lilac walls perfectly matched the gray carpet and all the

whitewashed furniture in there. Just like I wanted, he made a sitting corner, set up with a coffee maker, kettle, and everything else needed to have a coffee or tea. He had managed to create an office that was both professional and homely. It was far different from the sleek, modern business style of his office. Not only was this more my style, but as the Luna and Queen, I would have wolves come to me with problems of a more personal nature.

Conversations that called for a more homely environment to make them feel more comfortable. I smiled at the fact that he had placed some bookshelves too. Because he knew I would want some books in here too. On the desk was a smaller copy of the picture I had printed out, I wondered if it was the one he found in the woods. The one with a message written on it in blood. No matter how sweet this was, that would have been too much of an ugly reminder of the black pages in our story I wanted to forget as soon as possible.

He pulled me closer to his body, hugging me from behind, reassuring me that he had the picture printed again.

"I went back in to add the picture the rest has been done for weeks, I cleaned it myself Jessa is the

only other wolf who has seen this office. To be honest I needed her help with it” He chuckled the last bit.

I appreciated him asking Jessa to help him. After all, the bond you share with your best friend is different from the bond you share with your mate. And Jessa and I grew up together, so she knew what I liked most out of everyone. His leaving his ego out of the door to give me the perfect office was the sweetest.

And I cannot wait to sit here and finally be the Princess the Silver Creek pack deserves. The office is comfortable enough to sit here and have the Gemma interviews, I know Griffin wants me to take better care of myself without being too worn out. But I want to be there for him as he is for me, and to me, that

is more important than my own health is. He will just need to understand that.